



GANNAWARRA

Shire Council

Wednesday, 21 December 2022

10:00am

Senior Citizens Centre

Kerang

AGENDA

Council Meeting

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	Nil	
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Tom O'Reilly
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Playing of the Welcome to Country video clip.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

We, the Councillors of the Shire of Gannawarra, declare that we will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor, in the best interests of our community, and faithfully, and impartially, carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in us, to the best of our skill and judgement.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Meeting - 16 November 2022

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

General conflict of interest

Unless exempt under section 129 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) or regulation 7 of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, a Councillor or member of Council staff has a general conflict of interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the person's private interests (as defined in section 127(2) of the Act) could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

Material conflict of interest

Unless exempt under section 129 of the *Local Government Act 2020* or regulation 7 of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, a Councillor or member of Council staff has a material conflict of interest in respect of a matter if an affected person (as defined in section 128(3) of the Act) would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

Disclosure of a conflict of interest

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest and is attending a meeting of the Council must make a full disclosure of that interest by either advising:

- a) the Council at the meeting immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting; or
- b) the Chief Executive Officer in writing before the meeting –

whether the interest is a general conflict of interest or a material conflict of interest; and the nature of the interest.

Note: If a Councillor advises the Chief Executive Officer of the details under b) above, the Councillor must make a disclosure of the class of interest only to the meeting immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting.

In accordance with section 130 of the Act, a councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to the matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting, and any action in relation to the matter.

Failure to comply with section 130 of the Act may result in a penalty of 120 penalty units

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 9 NOVEMBER TO 13 DECEMBER 2022

Author: Mel Mathers, Executive Assistant - Chief Executive Office

Authoriser: Tom O'Reilly, CEO

Attachments: 1 Record of Councillor Briefing - 12 December 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings from 9 November to 13 December 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents to Council written records of Councillor Briefings in accordance with Clause 31 of the Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

COUNCIL PLAN

Council Plan 2021-2025: Be a creative employer of choice through our adherence to good governance and our inclusive culture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with Clause 31 of the Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules, a written record of a meeting held under the auspices of Council is, as soon as practicable, reported at a meeting of the Council and incorporated in the minutes of that Council meeting.

The record must include:

1. The names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending
2. The matters considered
3. Any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending
4. Whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest left the meeting.

CONSULTATION

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

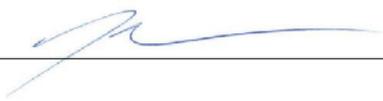
CONCLUSION

To ensure compliance with Clause 31 of the Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules, it is recommended that Council note the Councillor Briefing records as attached to this report.

RECORD OF A COUNCILLOR BRIEFING



Type of Meeting	Councillor Briefing
Date:	Monday, 12 December 2022
Time:	9:00am – 3:45pm
Location:	Kerang Senior Citizens Centre
In Attendance: (Councillors)	Cr Charlie Gillingham Cr Jane Ogden Cr Ross Stanton (9:10am – 12:45pm) Cr Kelvin Burt Cr Keith Link Cr Garner Smith
Apologies:	Cr Travis Collier
In Attendance: (Officers)	Geoff Rollinson, Phil Higgins, Wade Williams, Paul Fernee, Mel Mathers, Roger Griffiths, Alissa Harrower, Kellie Burmeister, Brooke Arnold
In Attendance: (Other)	Peter Vogel OAM, Chairman – GWMWater Mark Williams, Managing Director - GWMWater
Matters Discussed:	<p>Presentations: GWMWater</p> <p>Draft Council Agenda –December Meeting of Council Reports:</p> <p>7.1 MAV Delegate Arrangements 7.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 8 November, 2022 Meeting 7.3 Council Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer 7.4 Community Asset Committees 7.5 Community Asset Committees Appointment of Members 7.6 Revised 2022/2023 Fees and Charges – Childrens Services 7.7 Gannawarra Walking and Cycling Strategy 7.8 G05-2022 Kerang Stormwater Pump Upgrade 7.9 Local Law No. 1 Community Amenity 7.10 Petition – Fly the flag be the change 12.1 Awarding of 2023 Australia Day Awards 12.2 Chief Executive Officer Appointment</p> <p>Councillor Briefing Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2023/2024 – Rating Strategy Options Update • Rating Relief – Flood Affected Property • Draft 10 Year Capital Works Program • Council Electoral Structure Review • Childrens Services Update • October-November 2022 Flood Event • Climate Change Strategy and Policy Update • Future Listing Report <p>Councillor Strategic Briefing Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022/2023 Capital Works Program Update • Leitchville Recreation Reserve Lighting Upgrade: Update to Councillors • Strategic Projects – Towards 2025 Update <p>Councillor Issues Raised</p>

Conflict of Interest Disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/Officer making disclosure	Councillor/Officer left meeting Yes/No
7.10	Phil Higgins – Director Corporate Services	Yes
12.2	Geoff Rollinson – Director Infrastructure and Development	Yes
Completed By:	Geoff Rollinson – Director Infrastructure and Development 	



7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 MAV DELEGATE ARRANGEMENTS

Author: Alissa Harrower, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services
Attachments: 1 Council's MAV Delegate arrangements

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse Councillor Jane Ogden as the substitute delegate to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).**
 - 2. Formally notify the MAV of the appointment under Rule 7.1 of the Association's Rules.**
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council holds financial memberships for various committees, both locally and regionally, in the interests of advocating for and on behalf of the community. Council currently holds financial membership with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), a legislated peak body for councils and the voice of local government in Victoria.

Council's current MAV delegate Councillor Travis Collier was appointed by resolution of Council at its November 2022 meeting. The new MAV Rules 2022 require Council to also appoint a substitute delegate by formal resolution.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse a Councillor as a substitute delegate to the MAV in accordance with the requirements of the MAV Rules 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

Council's MAV Delegate Arrangements

DISCUSSION

The MAV Rules 2022 require each participating member council to appoint one of its councillors to be their delegate at State Council and one of its councillors as a substitute delegate.

At its November Meeting, Council resolved that Councillor Travis Collier undertake the position of Council's delegate to the MAV, however, did not nominate nor resolve a substitute delegate.

The MAV Rules 2022 state that delegate appointments must be made by resolution of the Council and Council must notify the MAV of those appointments on the notification of appointment form.

The role of the MAV delegate is to:

- Participate at State Council (voting on behalf of their council on matters);
- Report to their council on MAV matters and decisions;
- Have regard for any protocols published by the Board in relation to their functions as a delegate;

- Meet with and provide feedback to the Regional Board Director and other representatives from the region at MAV functions; and
- Participate in MAV strategic planning.

RELEVANT LAW

Municipal Association Act 1907

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At its meeting on 16 November 2022 Council resolved that Councillor Travis Collier be appointed as Council's MAV delegate the forthcoming year.

OPTIONS

As per the MAV Rules 2022, Council must nominate a Councillor as a substitute delegate for the MAV.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MAV membership supports Council's commitment to advocating in the best interest of the community and region.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable

COLLABORATION

MAV membership is voluntary, with all 79 Victorian council's current members of the MAV.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The adopted Annual Budget 2022/23 provides for expenses associated with subscriptions and memberships to, and Councillor representation on the various committees.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Each committee identified is governed by individual strategic plans and policies relevant to their charter and purpose.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021 - 2025

- Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services;
- Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy; and
- Achieve long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.



Information sheet

Council's MAV Delegate arrangements

With appointments of Councillors to advisory and external committees on the to-do-list for most councils at this time of year, the following information is provided to assist Councillors and officers (with reporting to council), regarding the appointment of your Council's MAV delegate.

The MAV in brief

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is a membership association. Formed in 1879, the [Municipal Association Act 1907](#) (the MAV Act) officially recognises the MAV as the legislated peak body for councils and the voice of local government in Victoria. Membership is voluntary, with all 79 Victorian councils' current members of the MAV.

The MAV's role is to:

- Represent and advocate local government (LG) interests
- Lobby for a 'fairer deal' for councils and long-term security
- Facilitate effective networks and inter-governmental co-operation
- Promote and improve community awareness of the capacity and capabilities of the LG sector
- Provide support to councils including policy development, strategic advice, and capacity building programs
- Provide insurance, procurement, professional development, and training services to the LG sector.

The MAV's governance structure

The MAV Act defines the purpose and operation of the MAV and empowers its members ('member councils') to make rules to further clarify its role and processes. The Rules prescribe amongst other matters:

- Membership participation and arrangements
- Appointment of MAV representatives (delegates)
- The MAV Board, its role, function and elections of the President and Board members (Directors)
- The MAV State Council, its role, and functions, and
- MAV management and administrative functions

New rules (the MAV Rules 2022) were approved by the Governor in Council on Tuesday 18 October 2022 and commenced when they were published in the Victoria Government Gazette on Thursday 20 October 2022.

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
LEVEL 12 60 COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE
GPO BOX 4326 MELBOURNE 3001
T 03] 9667 5555 F 03] 9667 5555 W www.mav.asn.au



Information sheet

State Council is the MAV's overarching governing body consisting of all the appointed representatives (delegates) of participating member councils.

State Council meetings are held at least twice a year to consider:

- The MAV's annual report and financial affairs, and
- Motions or other items of business proposed by member councils and the Board.

The Board is elected every two years by member council delegates that comprise the State Council. The next Board elections, for President and the ten Directors, are being held on Friday 3 March 2023.

Under the MAV Rules 2022:

- The Board will comprise the President and ten (10) Directors, with one Director elected from each of the five metropolitan regions and one from each of the five (5) non-metropolitan regions. (Nb: The MAV is currently undertaking a review of the regional groupings with final groupings of councils to be endorsed by the Board in December 2022.)
- The MAV President is elected by all council member representatives (delegates), whereas the ten (10) Directors are elected by the representatives (delegates) in the regional participating member council group within which their council is located.

It is important to note that for a Councillor to be eligible to vote in the MAV elections or to be eligible for election to the Board (as the President or a Director) a Councillor must be their council's appointed MAV delegate.

The President's role is to:

- Be the principal spokesperson for the MAV
- Promote the MAV & the LG sector
- Facilitate communication between MAV representatives, the Board and the organisation
- Chair Board meetings and State Council
- Attend MAV Insurance Board, Audit and Risk Committee meetings
- Represent the MAV at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)
- Maintain relationships with State/Federal Government Ministers, political parties and other key stakeholder groups
- Represent the Board at MAV events
- Be the conduit for feedback & input from members.

The Board's role is to govern the MAV's operations and includes:

- Developing and giving effect to the strategic direction of the MAV
- Oversight of the administration and financial management of the MAV
- Appointing and overseeing the performance of the MAV's Chief Executive Officer

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Information sheet

- Oversight of the provision of MAV services, risk management, adoption of the Annual Budget, and ensuring the legal and ethically integrity of the MAV.

The time commitment for a MAV Director typically involves attending monthly Board meetings, briefings, State Council, and preparation, with the review of business papers etc. MAV Directors also represent and advocate for their region on matters of state-wide and sector importance; attend meetings or functions in their region and participate on working groups and other committees as requested by the Board.

MAV Delegates

Each participating member council must appoint one of its councillors to be their delegate at State Council and one of its councillors as a substitute delegate. Appointments must be made by resolution of the council and must notify the MAV of those appointments on the notification of appointment form (refer attachment 1).

The role of the MAV delegate is to:

- Participate at State Council (voting on behalf of their council on matters)
- Report to their council on MAV matters and decisions
- Have regard for any protocols published by the Board in relation to their functions as a delegate
- Meet with and provide feedback to their regional Board Director & other representatives from the region at MAV functions.
- Participate in MAV strategic planning.

Substitute delegates act when their council's delegate is unavailable.

Further Information:

Further information about the MAV including our Rules, State Council and MAV services is available on the MAV website (www.mav.asn.au).

For enquiries about this guideline contact us by Tel: (03) 9667 5555 or Email: governancesupport@mav.asn.au.

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7.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - 8 NOVEMBER, 2022 MEETING

Author: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Authoriser: Tom O'Reilly, CEO

Attachments: 1 Audit and Risk Committee Self Assessment Evaluation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:-

- 1) Receive and note the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 8 November 2022; and
- 2) Accept the annual assessment of the Audit and Risk Committee's performance against the Charter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on Tuesday, 8 November 2022. The focus of the ARC meeting was to undertake the annual review of the ARC performance against the Charter. Other reports related to financial, governance, compliance and risk management matters.

PURPOSE

This report outlines the actions of the ARC to meet its responsibilities to: - ensure compliance with Council policies; monitor financial performance; monitor risk and fraud control and overview the audit functions. This report complies with Section 54 (4) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to review the ARC's performance against the Charter. This includes reporting on audit and risk issues as required by Section 54 (5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS

Audit and Risk Committee Self Assessment Evaluation.

DISCUSSION

Details of the 8 November 2022 ARC Meeting:

Member attendees:

John Campbell – Independent Member – Chair

Francis Crawley – Independent Member

Cr Charlie Gillingham – Councillor Representative

Cr Garner Smith – Councillor Representative

Also in attendance:

Staff

Phil Higgins – Director Corporate Services

Allison Peace – Administration Officer

Apologies:

Bradley Tarr – Independent Member

Geoff Rollinson – Acting Chief Executive Officer

Shanna Johnny – Chief Financial Officer

Alissa Harrower – Acting Manager Governance

The following items were considered by the ARC at the meeting:

Report	Item for Discussion	Recommendation/Outcome
Quarterly Budget Report	The Quarterly Budget Report for the quarter ending 30 September 2022	The ARC received and noted the report.
Financial Plan	The draft Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2032/33 was presented. This plan projects the long-term financial position of Council.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Proposed 2023/2024 Budget Timetable	The framework for the preparation of the 2023/2024 budget was outlined including key processes, indicative timelines and key people involved in the preparation and compilation process.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Emergency Arrangements Flooding Disaster	Under Policy 109 - Procurement the exemptions to tenders, quotations and EOI to provide immediate response to flooding disaster as per clause 7.3.2 was invoked by the Acting CEO	The ARC received and noted the report
Risk Management Report	Council's current Risk Management Framework requires quarterly reporting to the ARC. The report examined risk management progress and highlights from individual directorates for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Outstanding Internal Audit Items – Past Issues Review and Update	The list of outstanding internal audit items was reviewed. One item completed was reviewed and approved for removal from the list.	The ARC acknowledged the reviewed items and determined one item was resolved and can be removed from the list.
Compliance with legislation and regulations	An update to August 2022 on compliance with legislation and regulations was provided.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Regulatory and Integrity Agency Reports	Various reports were considered	The ARC received and noted the report.
Audit and Risk Committee Evaluation	ARC has undertaken an annual evaluation of their performance	The ARC acknowledged the self assessment survey and endorsed its presentation to Council
Audit and Risk Committee Charter Review	The ARC Charter underwent an annual review	The ARC Charter was reviewed and no changes were required.
Proposed ARC dates for 2023	Proposed dates were considered for the 2023 Meetings to coincide with relevant Council reporting deadlines and finalisation of the financial statements and draft annual report to the Minister.	The ARC meetings will be held at 8.30am on the following dates in 2023: 14 February, 9 May, 12 September, 14 November

Councillor Expenditure Report	A report of the expenses of Councillors and Delegated Committee Members was presented to the ARC for 1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Corporate Credit Card	Details of expenditure on credit cards and work related reimbursements for 1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022 was presented.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Annual Work Plan (AWP)	The Charter documents the tasks to be completed by the ARC and how often the tasks are to be undertaken. This report updates the status of each requirement in the AWP.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Internal Control Environment (ICE) Plan	The ICE Plan is a rolling four year plan. The report reviewed the items listed for 2022.	The policy reviews to be undertaken by Council in 2022 were linked to the ICE.

Attached is the Self Assessment evaluation of the ARC's performance against the ARC's Charter for the year ending 30 September 2022. This evaluation aims to cover the reporting requirements of Section 54 (4) and (5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 53 and 54 *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The ARC was established by Council at its meeting on 19 August 2020.

Council adopted the "in principle" 2022 Financial Statements and Performance Statement at its meeting on 21 September 2022.

OPTIONS

There are no specific recommendations for Council's consideration in this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The *Local Government Act 2020* gives the ARC a broader focus and a stronger emphasis on key responsibility areas in financial and performance reporting, internal control environment (ICE), risk management, fraud prevention, internal audit, external audit and compliance management risks.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The three independent members on the ARC ensure that there is involvement by key community members.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The self assessment report conducted by the ARC involves reviewing current practices to analyse whether there is a better way of doing things, which reflects a continuous improvement approach.

COLLABORATION

Reports from various agencies were included in the agenda.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The ARC is operating within the adopted budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

A review of Council policies is a key component of the ICE Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

Audit & Risk Committee Self-Assessment Survey

Performance for the Year Ended 30 September 2022

Rating Scale	1 = Strongly Disagree	2 = Disagree	3 = Neutral	4 = Agree	5 = Strongly Agree	N/A = Not Applicable
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Your Ratings of Performance

Comments are expected from respondents in the spaces provided at the end of each section where Ratings of 1. or 2. are given. This will assist in the identification of opportunities for improvement. It is expected that all questions will be applicable, so use of N/A ratings should be avoided wherever possible.

ID	Questions	Ratings [Tick boxes as appropriate]					
		1	2	3	4	5	N/A
A. Audit Committee Charter							
1	The Charter clearly articulates the Committee’s roles and responsibilities and provides it with the necessary authority to discharge them					X	
2	The Charter facilitates and supports the effective operation of the Committee					X	
3	During the past year, the Committee has adequately addressed all of its responsibilities as detailed in the Charter					X	
4	The Charter ensures the Committee is sufficiently independent from the management of Council					X	
Totals							
<i>Comments / Suggestions for Improvement</i> <i>Suggest we should look at charter on annual basis</i>							
•							
B. Skills and Experience							
5	The Committee has the desired mix of skills to allow it to effectively discharge its responsibilities					X	
6	The Committee has been able to analyse and critically evaluate information presented to it by management					X	
7	There is a clear process that Committee members can follow to access advice and /or training to improve their skills and knowledge			X			
8	The Committee’s collective skills are adequate in light of its responsibilities					X	
9	The Committee has responded appropriately where significant risks and/or control breakdowns have been brought to its attention					X	
10	The Committee has shown an openness to new ideas and different views in its deliberations				X		
11	The Committee has been sufficiently probing and challenging in its deliberations.				X		
Totals							
<i>Comments / Suggestions for Improvement</i> • <i>We should be advised when appropriate training available and also new advances in the role of audit committees</i>							

ID	Questions	Ratings [Tick boxes as appropriate]					
		1	2	3	4	5	N/A
C. Understanding the Business							
12	The Committee has an adequate understanding of Council's:						
	- Risk management framework and risk profile					X	
	- Internal control framework to mitigate significant risks					X	
	- Financial and statutory reporting requirements				X		
	- Legislative compliance requirements				X		
13	The Committee receives appropriate briefings on:						
	- Current and emerging business risks					X	
	- Changes in financial reporting requirements				X		
	- Changes in performance reporting requirements					X	
	- Integrity Body reports					X	
	- Changes in the business/regulatory environment					X	
Totals							
<u>Comments / Suggestions for Improvement</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Getting a briefing on any changes to accounting standards that affect the Council would be a positive step.</i> • <i>Receiving dot format report on changes and what they have replaced</i> 							
D. Meeting Administration and Conduct							
14	The Committee has had an appropriate number of meetings to properly discharge its responsibilities					X	
15	Agendas are structured to allow sufficient time to discuss all critical issues					X	
16	The Committee receives agendas and supporting papers in sufficient time prior to meetings					X	
17	Agendas and supporting papers are of sufficient clarity and quality to enable the Committee to make informed decisions					X	
18	Committee meetings are well run and productive					X	
19	Committee minutes are appropriately maintained and provided to Council on a timely basis					X	
Totals							
<u>Comments / Suggestions for improvement</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 							
E. Communications with Council							
20	Committee communications to Council about its deliberations and decisions are appropriate.			X			
21	Committee reports to Council on its activities are appropriate			X			
Totals							
<u>Comments / Suggestions for improvement</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If not done already suggest a covering report to Council with the minutes that go into more detail or perhaps an annual meeting with Councillors.</i> • <i>As a committee we are not privy as to how our minutes are presented to Council. Assume they are presented with our Minutes of Meeting?</i> 							
F. Management Commitment & Support							
22	Information and briefing papers presented by management meet the Committee's expectations in respect of:						
	- Council's risk profile and mitigating actions for key risks					X	
	- Maintenance of a strong internal control environment that is effective in mitigating key risks					X	

ID	Questions	Ratings [Tick boxes as appropriate]					
		1	2	3	4	5	N/A
	- Management of Council's compliance and regulatory obligations					X	
	- Council's external reporting requirements					X	
23	The Committee has a positive attitude to continuous improvement in its dealings with management				X		
Totals							
<u>Comments / Suggestions for improvement</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Believe the Committee has a positive attitude in it's dealings with Management</i> 							
G. Internal Audit							
24	The Committee reviewed and approved the internal audit plan					x	
25	The Committee considered the adequacy of internal audit resources					x	
26	The Committee reviewed and approved any significant changes to the internal audit plan					x	
27	The Committee considered the performance of the internal audit function				x		
28	The Committee reviewed all internal audit reports and monitored management responses to recommendations					x	
29	The Committee reviewed the Internal Audit Charter to ensure that appropriate structures, authority, access and reporting arrangements are in place for the internal audit function			X			
Totals							
<u>Comments / Suggestions for improvement</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>An annual review of the internal audit charter would be valuable</i> 							
H. External Audit							
30	The Committee reviewed and approved the external audit plan					X	
31	The Committee reviewed external audit reports and management letters and monitored management responses to findings and recommendations made by external audit					X	
32	The Committee provided feedback on the performance of external audit			X			
Totals							
<u>Comments / Suggestions for improvement</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 							
I. Other Comments [Please phrase your comments as opportunities for improvement]							
Please note here any other comments you would like to make about the Committee's performance:							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to have clarity with councillors about what should be referred to Audit Committee and what shouldn't and what process should be followed. 							
Grand Totals for all Responses							

7.3 COUNCIL DELEGATION TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**Author:** Alissa Harrower, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council, in the exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020, resolves that:

1. There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gannawarra Shire Council has functions and duties which it must perform and powers which it may exercise, pursuant to both the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Act 2020* (the 2020 Act), as well as a range of other Acts and Regulations. Section 11(1)(b) of the 2020 Act allows for a Council to delegate certain powers, duties or functions to the Chief Executive Officer.

Delegations eliminate the need for all functions and duties to be dealt with by Council resolution.

Council delegations are regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect current legislation and regulations and Council officer position titles.

The Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer was last reviewed in July 2022.

This report addresses a review of delegations to the Chief Executive Officer.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider delegations to the Chief Executive Officer.

ATTACHMENTS

Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer.

DISCUSSION

As a statutory entity, Council is only able to do those things which it is authorised by statute to do. As a legal entity and not a 'natural' person, Council can act in only one of two ways: by resolution or through others acting on its behalf. The power of Council to act by resolution is set out in section 59(1) of the 2020 Act:

"Where a Council is empowered to do any act, matter or thing, the decision to do the act, matter or thing is to be made by a resolution of Council."

Alternatively, Council can act through others. Section 11(1)(b) of the 2020 Act allows for a Council to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer any power, duty or function of a Council under both that Act and any other Act, other than the powers, duties and functions specified in section 11(2) of the 2020 Act. These matters are included in a list of Conditions and Limitations in the Schedule to the Instrument of Delegation.

The Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer was last reviewed in July 2022.

In addition to the legislative requirement to review delegations within 12 months after a general election, Council officers undertake reviews throughout the term of Council to ensure the delegations reflect current legislation and regulations and Council officer position titles; and conditions and limitations remain appropriate.

There are no proposed changes to the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer.

RELEVANT LAW

- Section 11 – *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Local Government Act 1989*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council most recently reviewed the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer at its meeting on 20 July 2022.

OPTIONS

The delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer must be reviewed regularly to maintain compliance with legislation and always within 12 months of a general election.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable

COLLABORATION

Not applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025: Sustainability – Be a creative employer of choice through our adherence to good governance and our inclusive culture.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declare that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

S5 Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer

Gannawarra Shire Council

Instrument of Delegation

to

The Chief Executive Officer

SCHEDULE

The power to

1. determine any issue;
2. take any action; or
3. do any act or thing

arising out of or connected with any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act.

Conditions and Limitations

The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing

1. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves
 - 1.1 entering into a contract exceeding the value of \$999,999;
 - 1.2 making any expenditure that exceeds \$200,000 (unless it is expenditure made under a contract already entered into or is expenditure which Council is, by or under legislation, required to make in which case it must not exceed \$200,000
 - 1.3 appointing an Acting Chief Executive Officer for a period exceeding 28 days;
 - 1.4 electing a Mayor or Deputy Mayor;
 - 1.5 granting of a reasonable request for leave under section 35 of the Act;
 - 1.6 making any decision in relation to the employment, dismissal or removal of the Chief Executive Officer;
 - 1.7 approving or amending the Council Plan;
 - 1.8 adopting or amending any policy that Council is required to adopt under the Act;
 - 1.9 adopting or amending the Governance Rules;
 - 1.10 appointing the chair or the members to a delegated committee;
 - 1.11 making, amending or revoking a local law;
 - 1.12 approving of the Budget or Revised Budget;
 - 1.13 approving the borrowing of money;

- 1.14 subject to section 181H(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, declaring general rates, municipal charges, service rates and charges and specified rates and charges;
2. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which is required by law to be done by Council resolution;
3. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council;
4. if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a
 - 4.1 policy; or
 - 4.2 strategy adopted by Council;
5. if the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing cannot be the subject of a lawful delegation, whether on account of s 11(2)(a)-(n) (inclusive) of the Act or otherwise; or
6. the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff.

7.4 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Author: Alissa Harrower, Manager Governance

Authoriser: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the report on activities and performance of its three Community Asset Committees being:

- 1. Quambatook Caravan Park Community Asset Committee**
 - 2. Leitchville War Memorial Swimming Pool Community Asset Committee**
 - 3. Community Halls Community Asset Committee.**
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provides for councils to establish Community Asset Committees for the purpose of managing community assets within the municipality and requires the CEO to submit an annual report to Council in relation to the activities and performance of Community Asset Committees.

This report relates to the activities and performance of Council's three Community Asset Committees in 2021/22, being the Leitchville War Memorial Swimming Pool Community Asset Committee, the Quambatook Caravan Park Community Asset Committee and the Community Halls Community Asset Committee.

PURPOSE

This report summarises activities and performance of Council's three Community Asset Committees during 2021/22 in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

In August 2020, Council established, and appointed members to the following Community Asset Committees in accordance with section 65 of the Act:

1. Leitchville War Memorial Swimming Pool Community Asset Committee
2. Quambatook Caravan Park Community Asset Committee
3. Community Halls Community Asset Committee.

Each of the committees had previously been managing the respective community assets in accordance with section 86 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

In accordance with section 47 of the Act, the CEO delegated a range of powers, duties and functions to members of the Community Asset Committees to facilitate management of each community asset.

Council acknowledges and appreciates the commitment of these community volunteers in supporting the management of these important community assets.

For the purpose of this report, Community Asset Committee 'activities' are summaries of general information and feedback provided by the committees, whilst 'performance' has been assessed against the respective powers, duties and functions formally delegated to members by the CEO.

Quambatook Caravan Park Community Asset Committee

Activities:

Quambatook Caravan Park patron numbers continued to increase after being impacted by COVID-19 restrictions with the park completely booked out a number of times throughout the year.

The Committee continued to undertake maintenance and improvements where possible including the installation of a television in the camp kitchen and improved lighting outside the camp kitchen area.

Performance:

The Committee has been able to operate within the powers, duties and functions delegated to its members, holding its AGM and a number of general meetings throughout the year. The Committee meet and keep in regular contact with Council staff who provide guidance and support as required.

The Committee also successfully completed the schedule of work requirements as per the Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2010.

At its July meeting, the Committee remembered and formally acknowledged the late Trevor Bennett's contribution to the Caravan Park and the Committee over many years.

Leitchville War Memorial Swimming Pool Community Asset Committee:

Activities:

The combination of COVID restrictions and changes to Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations and Water Quality Guidelines provided additional, significant challenges to the Committee's preparation for the 2021/22 season and resulted in a delay in opening the Leitchville pool by several weeks.

Council officers provided support to the Committee to complete a number of the tasks required to ensure compliance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations and Water Quality Guidelines, and to prepare for the 2021/22 season.

The Committee was able to maintain an adequate number of qualified lifeguards to support operation of the pool over both seasons and successfully navigated operational changes required to comply with COVID restrictions and directions.

Performance:

Although challenging with a small Committee, it has successfully been able to operate within the powers, duties and functions delegated to its members, holding its AGM and regular general meetings.

Whilst there were some issues with pool plant and water quality leading to a delayed opening, the Committee satisfactorily combatted these issues.

Community Halls Community Asset Committee:

Activities:

Like so many other facilities, Council's community halls continued to be impacted by COVID restrictions in the first half of 2021/22, resulting in decreased usage and revenue during this period.

At the most recent meeting of the Community Halls Community Asset Committee, held on 25 September 2022, members reported a positive increase in usage during the second half of 2021/22, with a number of regular hirers returning and an increase in ad-hoc event bookings across a number of the facilities. Events included monthly dinners, community meetings, Christmas functions, luncheons, graduations, old time dance and jazz high tea.

The Sub-Committees, which manage the day to day operations of each of the halls, have been active in ensuring regular maintenance of the halls are undertaken with a number of improvements being made including a new sprinkler system and table tops at the Murrabit Hall and barbeque shelter and photo board wall at the Myall Hall. Five of the six halls have now been fitted with a community accessible defibrillator.

Committee Chair, Cr Burt provides a delegate report to Council on Committee activities following each Committee meeting.

Performance:

The Committee has operated within the powers, duties and functions delegated to its members during this period, with all required meetings held.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At its meeting on 19 August 2020, Council established, and appointed members to the three Community Asset Committees.

OPTIONS

This report is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2020.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Community Asset Committees provide services that enhances the social fabric in our communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The make up of these committees adds to the community's involvement in the planning and decision making on services in the community.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable

COLLABORATION

Not applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021 – 2025 – Goal 1 Liveability

Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our community through partnerships, services and programs.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

7.5 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Author: Alissa Harrower, Manager Governance

Authoriser: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Appoint members of the Leitchville War Memorial Swimming Pool and Quambatook Caravan Park Community Asset Committees as summarised in this report, in accordance with Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for the ensuing 12 months.**
- 2. Appoint members of the Community Halls Community Asset Committee as summarised in this report, in accordance with Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for a two year period.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), a Council may establish a Community Asset Committee and appoint as many members to the Community Asset Committee as the Council considers necessary. A Council may only establish a Community Asset Committee for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipal district.

This report seeks to update the appointment of community members to the Leitchville War Memorial Swimming Pool, Quambatook Caravan Park and Community Halls Community Asset Committees.

PURPOSE

This report seeks to update the appointment of members to three Community Asset Committees.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

Under Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), a Council may establish a Community Asset Committee and appoint as many members to the Community Asset Committee as the Council considers necessary. A Council may only establish a Community Asset Committee for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipal district.

Further, section 47 of the Act makes provision for the Chief Executive Officer, by instrument of delegation, to delegate any power, duty or function of the Council that has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, to members of a Community Asset Committee, subject to terms and conditions specified by the Chief Executive Officer, which must include the following –

- the specified limit on any financial delegation and the specified purpose for which the financial delegation may be used;
- compliance with specified governance requirements to ensure appropriate standards of probity are met;

- (c) specified monitoring and reporting of the activities and performance of the Community Asset Committees.

This report seeks to update the appointment of the following community members to the respective committees:

Community Halls	Committee: Glenn Bottcher, Trevor Ibbs, Stuart Simms, Fiona Copland, Neil Hopkins, Jeanette Coulter, Alan Bott, Brian Fletcher, Stuart Richardson, Alan Pryor, Graham Cockcroft and Gary Napier.
Leitchville War Memorial Swimming Pool	Committee: Skye Perry, Caitlin Taylor-Irvin, Michelle Gladman, Brendon Hawken, Dawn Billman, Michelle Billman and Michael Walker.
Quambatook Caravan Park	Committee: David Hosking, Robyn Hosking, Briony Baker, Russell Waldron, Lionel Ritchie and Jackie Ritchie.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 65 *Local Government Act 2020*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

On 19 August 2020, Council established and appointed members to the three Community Asset Committees under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

OPTIONS

Community Asset Committees may be established under the Act and Council may appoint as many members to the committees as Council considers necessary. There are currently three Community Asset Committees appointed by Council. Council may choose to update the appointment of members or alternatively, decide not to update Community Asset Committee members at this time.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

These Community Asset Committees provide services to our community and therefore improve the social wellbeing of our municipality.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council officers maintain regular contact with Community Asset Committee members to support and monitor compliance, maintenance requirements and operational matters.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021 – 2025 – Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our community through partnerships, services and programs.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

7.6 REVISED 2022/2023 FEES AND CHARGES - CHILDRENS SERVICES

Author: Brooke Arnold, Manager Children's Services

Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the change to kindergarten fees for Council's 3 & 4 Year old Kindergarten programs from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023, in alignment with the Victorian State Governments 'Free Kindergarten' reform.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through the implementation of Best Start, Best Life State Government reform into Early years, Council will be implementing free kindergarten for both 3 and 4 year old's at its Centres from January 2023. This requires Council adjust its fees and charges for its kindergarten service from 1 January 2023 until 30 June 2023.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to revise kindergarten fees for Council managed 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs from 1 January 2023 until 30 June 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

The Victorian State Government earlier in 2022 released the Best Start, Best Life reform which is intended to help all Victorian children through increased access to quality early childhood education and care. A critical part of the reform is Free Kinder, which will support access to two years of kindergarten programs for all Victorian children by making this free. Free Kinder will be available for both 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten programs from 2023.

All early childhood education and care providers that deliver a funded kindergarten program in Victoria are eligible to receive Free Kinder funding from 2023, subject to meeting specified terms and conditions.

The Department Education and Training (DET) will make Free Kinder payments to participating service providers, not directly to families. These payments will be made through the Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS) as regular payments to ensure participating services can offer a free program.

Free Kinder payments to Council's for 2023 for a 15-hour program are as follows:

- Sessional (standalone) services will receive \$2,500 per child enrolled
- Services that offer a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program of less than 15 hours, will receive a prorata amount.

The Free Kinder payment will replace Kindergarten Fee Subsidy and the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy Ratio Supplement for participating services, and the Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) rate will be increased to reflect the move from KFS to Free Kinder for most services.

The pro-rata approach for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will be applied regardless of whether the program is delivered in a long day care or sessional (standalone) setting.

Funded sessional kindergarten service providers accessing this funding are required to:

- offer a free 15-hour kindergarten program for four-year-old enrolments and a free kindergarten program of between 5 and 15 hours for three-year-old enrolments
- not charge any compulsory out-of-pocket fees or levies to families, except for cost recovery for one off excursions (i.e. entry and transport costs) for children not eligible for KFS
- refund any parent fees that have already been paid for 2023 (excluding any agreed voluntary donations) maximise use of licensed capacity as required to meet demand for three- and four-year-old enrolments
- spend all additional funding in line with acceptable uses of kindergarten funding, including to promote increased participation and/or enhance program quality.

Currently, the adopted fees and charges for 2022/23 are outlined below in Table 1, with proposed revision to be altered to \$0 for each line item, to reflect the implementation of Free Kinder into Council's services.

Table 1:

Kindergarten Fees – Kerang		2022/23 rate	2022/23 Revised rate
4 year old kindergarten - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	Per week	\$60.00	\$0.00
3 year old kindergarten - 15 hours week - 1 January to 30 June 2023	Per week	\$60.00	\$0.00
Cohuna, Koondrook and Leitchville			
4 year old kindergarten - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	Per year	\$1,400.00	\$0.00
3 year old kindergarten - 15 hours week - 1 January to 30 June 2023	Per year	\$700.00	\$0.00

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted the 2022/23 Fees and Charges at its April 2022 Council Meeting.

OPTIONS

That Council endorse the changes to the 2022/2023 Fees and Charges to reflect the implementation of Free Kindergarten.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council will receive payments from the State Government per enrolled child to offset the reduced income from charging Kindergarten fees.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report reflects the implementation of the Best Start, Best Life State Government reform through the implementation of Free Kindergarten to Council's Service.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be presented in an open Council Meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

7.7 GANNAWARRA WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY**Author:** Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing**Authoriser:** Tom O'Reilly, CEO**Attachments:** 1 Gannawarra Walking and Cycling Strategy**RECOMMENDATION****That Council adopt the Gannawarra Walking and Cycling Strategy.****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Gannawarra Walking and Cycling Strategy has been under development since January 2022, with a number of community consultation sessions across the municipality in the development of the strategy and feedback has been received on the draft strategy. After a recent community feedback process on the draft strategy which saw 11 responses, with some minor amendments being made to address the feedback. The document is now presented for Council adoption.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is for Council to adopt the Gannawarra Walking and Cycling Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

Gannawarra Walking and Cycling Strategy

DISCUSSION

Tredwell Management Services were appointed to develop the Walking and Cycling Strategy.

A wide ranging community engagement process occurred in February and March 2022, including drop in sessions, surveys and stakeholder interviews. A summary of the engagement included;

- In-person community workshops at Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook;
- On-site meetings with stakeholders across the municipality
- An online survey
- An online workshop.

Background research, onsite auditing and GIS mapping has also been undertaken to inform the strategy recommendations.

Council endorsed a community engagement process at its August 2022 Council Meeting, in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy which was undertaken from 18 August 2022 to 15 September 2022.

At the conclusion of the community engagement process, Council received 11 submissions.

Submission No.	Feedback Summary	Comments
1	No safe options to ride around Lake Charm. A safe link between Kangaroo Lake, Racecourse Lake and Lake Charm,	Lake Charm proposed trail included in strategy. The link via Reedy lake is included as the Kerang Lakes Eco-Trail.

	with a link back via Reedy Lake to Kerang.	A link to Racecourse Lake has also been included.
2	In addition to upgrading the existing Leitchville Walking Track, would like to see a walking/cycling track that extends from Leitchville out to Kow Swamp.	Leitchville Walking Track is included. Leitchville to Kow Swamp is a complex project and not included within the strategy.
3	The open irrigation channel from Murray Valley Highway South of Kerang progressing up Garvey Rd, continuing around the back of the saleyards over Kerang Koondrook road and finishing near Lilac Avenue has been filled in and is a prime site for a walking, cycling track and needs to be closely looked at by the Council.	Link along Garvey road included. Trail through Saleyards was looked at, but link through Mitchell Street was identified as a higher priority project.
4	We desperately need a sealed cycle/walking track from Cohuna caravan park to the waterski area 5 km along the creek.	Ski Run project included.
5	Bitumen the cycle and walking track to the Cohuna ski run. Proper maintenance of the extension of gilrue walking track to O'Briens road along the channel.	Ski Run project included. Maintenance of existing trails identified in the strategy.
6	It would be great to link Golf Links Estate and Cohuna with a cycle/ walking track.	Golf Links Estate link was considered, but other projects in Cohuna, including the Ski Run and Barr Creek were prioritised.
7	<p>Opposed to development of any further walking paths around Lake Charm.</p> <p>Neither the Gannawarra Shire Council and / or the Lakes Community Development Group have been able to maintain the existing Lake Charm loop trail to a satisfactory standard. Most of this existing loop trail is overgrown and currently impassable and unsightly and there is no evidence of an appropriate maintenance plan.</p> <p>Do not create further public spaces, including walking paths without justifying the need for them, or conducting qualified, suitable and appropriate local ratepayer consultation including presentation of ongoing maintenance plans, you cannot expect ratepayers to maintain these assets, or be adversely</p>	<p>Lake Charm trail adjusted.</p> <p><i>"B5.3 Explore future opportunities to provide access around Lake Charm, being mindful of private and/or residential land."</i></p> <p><i>"B5.2 Work with local community and organisations to clear rubbish from the Lake Charm Loop bushland area behind the caravan park."</i></p>

	impacted by these developments for the benefit of a few.	
8	I agree with everything on Cohuna and would love to see further bushwalking and/or mountain biking paths and signage developed in Gunbower Forest that you can access from town. An addition for Cohuna would be to make a track from town to the golf links estate.	Golf Links Estate link was considered, but other projects in Cohuna, including the Ski Run and Barr Creek were prioritised.
9	Change B5.3 to "Explore future opportunities to provide access around Lake Charm, being mindful of private and/or residential land." Include a small trail from Lake Charm Public Hall to Racecourse Lake. Trail from Lake Charm boat ramp, along benjeroop-lake charm road to shop.	Feedback included in updated strategy
10	A number of naming updates and existing trails to be included.	Feedback included in updated strategy.
11	Concerns regarding a walking track around lake Charm, including impacts on; existing residential properties, lack of current maintenance on tracks around lake Charm, constant rubbish left around lake Charm and the potential of more. There is no support for the Lake Charm walking track by existing residents.	Lake Charm trail adjusted. <i>"B5.3 Explore future opportunities to provide access around Lake Charm, being mindful of private and/or residential land."</i> <i>"B5.2 Work with local community and organisations to clear rubbish from the Lake Charm Loop bushland area behind the caravan park."</i>

Much of the feedback has been incorporated within the updated strategy document, but it is worth noting that activities within the Lake Charm area, are not wholly supported. Therefore the proposed project around Lake Charm has been adjusted to *"Explore future opportunities to provide access around Lake Charm, being mindful of private and/or residential land."*

RELEVANT LAW

Council is required to have a Community Engagement Policy as highlighted in the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council undertook a 4 week consultation process in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council endorsed the Draft Gannawarra Walking and Cycling Strategy for community feedback at the August 2022 Council Meeting.

OPTIONS

Council could choose to adopt the strategy as recommended or not to adopt the strategy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council undertook a 4-week consultation process in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Any future development within the strategy would need to be considered in line with Council's annual budget and long-term financial plan.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Regional and State plans have been considered as part of the strategy development.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

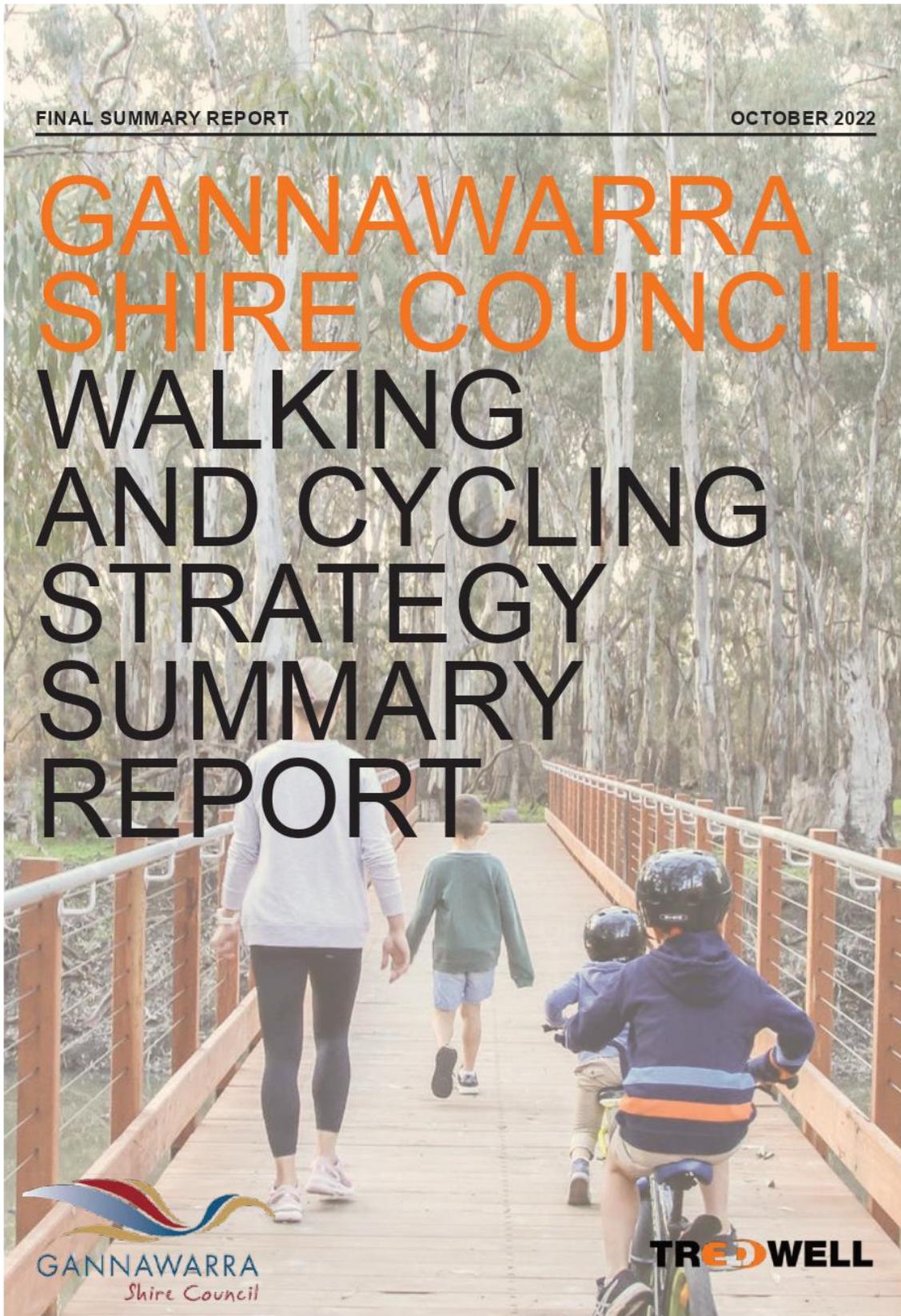
Council's Sport and Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 suggested Council undertake a Walking and Cycling strategy to help strategically plan tracks and trails across the municipality and is included in Council's Annual Plan – Year Two.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The report will be presented in an open Council Meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter



Contents

Acknowledgments

Gannawarra Shire Council and Tredwell acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands, pays respect to Elders, past, present and emerging, and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Gannawarra Shire Council.

Tredwell would also like to thank the following people for their contribution to the development of the Gannawarra Shire Walking and Cycling Strategy:

- Paul Fernee, Manager Community Engagement, Gannawarra Shire Council
- Katrina Thorne, Coordinator Community Partnerships, Gannawarra Shire Council
- Geoff Rollinson, Director Infrastructure and Development, Gannawarra Shire Council
- Stacy Williams, Director Community Wellbeing, Gannawarra Shire Council
- Wade Williams, Manager Projects and Property, Gannawarra Shire Council
- Roger Griffiths, Manager Economic Development, Gannawarra Shire Council

Cover Image: Gannawarra Shire Council

Revision	Date	Details	Authorised
-	31/10/2022	Final Gannawarra Shire Council Walking and Cycling Strategy - Summary Report	Neil Tredwell

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01 Introduction

Project Background and Scope

The following report provides a summary of key findings from the draft Gannawarra Walking and Cycling Strategy (GWCS). This Shire wide strategy has been developed to drive coordinated and target future investment in active transport, trail recreation and tourism opportunities within the Gannawarra Shire Council (GSC). The GWCS proposes walking and cycling trail developments, connections and extensions that enhance the way people move around the Shire, townships and communities, whilst attracting tourists and locals to explore the region's unique natural offerings.

The Walking and Cycling Strategy includes a review of relevant Council Plans/Strategies, an assessment of all existing walking and cycling infrastructure across the Shire and identifies opportunities to enhance connections to key services.

Consideration has been given to ensuring safe and accessible connections to the places people spend their time, including schools, workplaces, sporting clubs, parks and shopping precincts; whilst exploring ways to incorporate active recreation and tourism to enhance the livability of the community. With a strong connection to Gunbower Creek, Murray River, Loddon River and the Kerang Lakes, there is significant potential to utilise GSC's unique waterways to draw people in from surrounding towns, regions, and states and encourage them to stop, spend and stay in the Shire.

The strategy provides information and establishes recommendations to assist Council in ongoing development of walking and cycling assets. This has been achieved through determining the community's needs and demands, asset, management and maintenance requirements, and through the exploration of innovative walking and cycling opportunities at the forefront of national and international trends.

The GWCS has thoroughly considered the proposed development of the Murray River Adventure Trail, Koondrook to Kerang Rail Trail Project and the Kerang Lakes Eco-Trail Project which are being developed concurrently.

Project Methodology

The projects five stage methodology is outlined below, this was developed to ensure that the project incorporated relevant consultation, research and planning processes whilst meeting the project brief requirements.

The five stages are as follows:

Stage 1: Project Inception and Background Research

Stage 2: Community and Key Stakeholder Consultation

Stage 3: Audit, Data Collection and Mapping

Stage 4: Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy and Concept Plans

Stage 5: Final Walking and Cycling Strategy and Concept Plans



VISION STATEMENT

“A high quality, sustainable and community driven walking and cycling network that encourages considerate trail use, active lifestyles, provides social, economic and environmental benefits, whilst improving transport and showcasing Gannawarra’s unique natural flora, fauna and landscapes”.

02 Context

Overview of Gannawarra Shire Council

Gannawarra Shire Council covers an area of 3,735 square kilometres and has a population of 10,438 people (ABS 2021). Located in Victoria's north-west on the Murray River, the Shire is just 1.25 hours from Bendigo, 40 minutes from Swan Hill and 3 hours from Melbourne. It contains two large townships including Kerang and Cohuna and several smaller settlements including Koondrook, Quambatook, Leitchville, Lalbert, Lake Charm, Murrabit and Mystic Park (Kangaroo Lake).

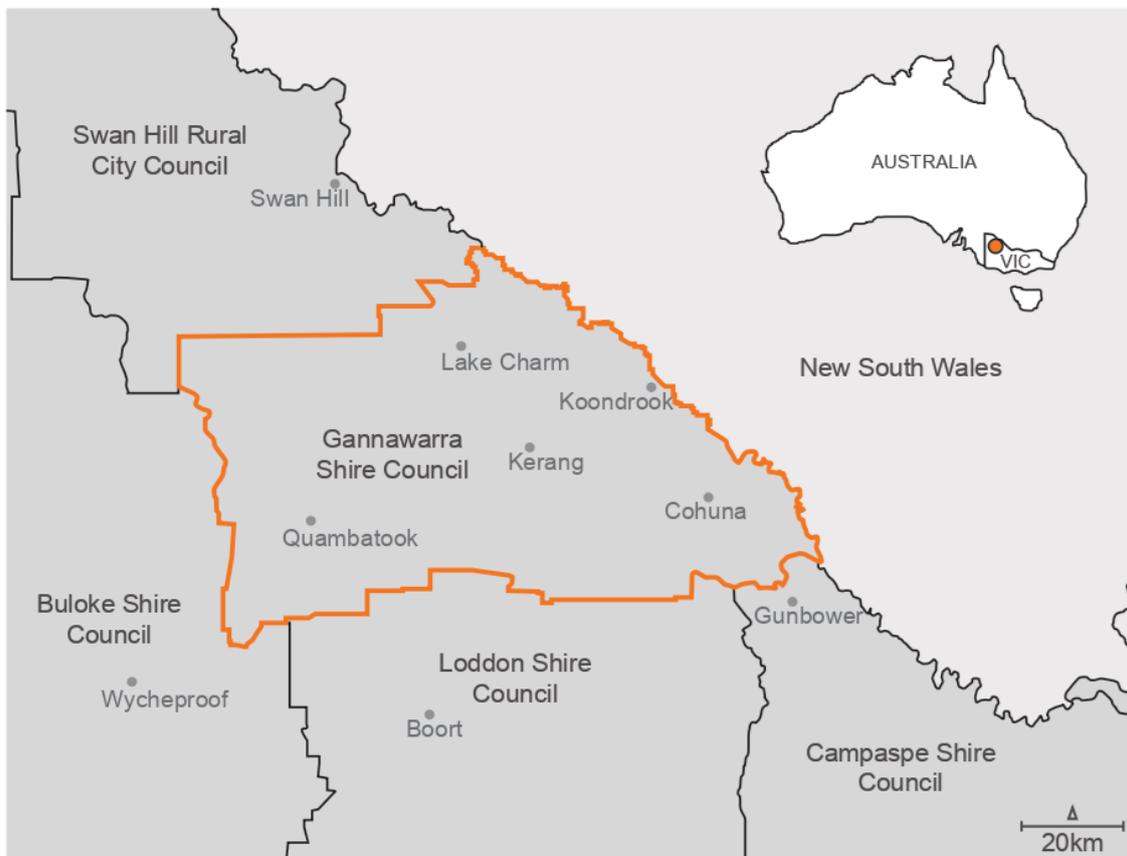
The GSC enjoys a diverse economy with representation across all sectors including dairy, cropping, livestock, retail trade, manufacturing, and government services such as healthcare and education. Emerging economic opportunities include nature-based tourism and renewable energy. The GSC is a place of strong community pride where

its communities motivate and inspire each other to make the region a great place to live, visit and do business.

Currently there is an extensive network of footpaths and tracks within the GSC that are maintained by Council and community groups. Many of these formalised trails are currently utilised heavily by locals residents and attract tourists to the GSC from neighbouring regions due to their unique flora and fauna and experiences offered. There are however many informal tracks and trails that are regularly utilised by the local community but are unknown to those outside of it, that have the potential to increase visitation to the region.

This report provides recommendations for the management and maintenance of these tracks and trails to aid in supporting GSC's tourism market.

Gannawarra Shire Context Map



02 Context

Literature Review

An important component in the development of the GWCS is the review of a wide range of background and strategic documents and policy positions to ensure that the Strategy aligns with wider objectives across the state, region and local areas.

The following documents have been reviewed for consideration in the development of the GWCS:

- Economic Development Strategy (2019)
- Cohuna Vision Study (2015)
- Sport and Recreation Strategy (2019)
- Gannawarra Waterfront Masterplans (2019)
- Council Plan 2021-25
- Tracks & Trails Strategy Plan (2005)
- Gannawarra Strategic Tourism Plan (2015)
- Murray River Adventure Trail Feasibility Study
- Kerang-Koondrook Rail Trail Feasibility Study (2014)
- Bushwalking Victoria Strategic Plan (2020)
- Victorian Trails Strategy (2014-2024)
- Victorian Cycling Strategy (2018-2028)

Demand and Trends

Understanding the rates of participation in walking and cycling related activities and trends which are likely to influence these rates, allows for the development of a forward-thinking strategy which can effectively plan for the future. A series of indicators and trends are outlined here to help identify potential implications for walking and cycling planning in the GSC.

Victorian Participation Rates

The latest release of AusPlay Participation Data for Victoria outlines that walking (recreational) is the most popular sport/physical activity among Victorian adults, with an estimated 3,023,000 people (53.6% of the population) participating at least once between January 2021 and December 2021.

Cycling (17.8%) and bush walking (8.1%) also featured among the 10 most popular sports/physical activities.

The following table displays this data with the corresponding participation rates for Victorian adults.

Rank	Activity	VIC Adult Participation Rate	Estimate ('000)
1	Walking (Recreational)	53.6%	3,023.0
2	Fitness/Gym	37.1%	2,091.7
3	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	22.7%	1,280.9
4	Cycling	17.8%	1,001.8
5	Swimming	14.4%	813.7
6	Bush walking	8.1%	456.5
7	Yoga	7.9%	445.2
8	Tennis	6.0%	340.8
9	Basketball	5.9%	330.3
10	Pilates	5.6%	316.3

AusPlay Sport Participation Table, Top 10 Adult Activities, 2021

Benefits of Walking and Cycling

Recreational walking and cycling offer a diverse range of benefits to communities. These benefits are clearly apparent when aligned to the existing infrastructure within the GSC.



Health

Improved physical and mental well-being.



Transport

Practical transportation corridors.



Conservation

Preservation of natural areas.



Economy

Positive economic drivers.



Cultural Identity

Access and awareness of historical & cultural features

03 Existing Trails Audit

Trail Audit

Existing trails which are Council controlled were audited through a process involving desktop research and on-ground assessments.

An on-ground assessment of trails across Gannawarra Shire Council was undertaken over

a one-week period in February 2022, using a GPS device to collect a range of information for both existing and potential trails. The information collected included the alignment of trails, records of key attributes and photographs.

Existing Trails Inventory

Map Ref	Trail Name	Primary Use(s)	Grade/Difficulty	Length
1	Town Swamp and Loddon River	Walk + Cycle	2	1.9km loop
2	ParkRun Kerang	Walk + Run	2	5km loop
3	Loddon River - Kerang to Old Kerang	Walk + Bike	2	950m
4	Historic Township Walk Kerang	Walk + Bike + Drive	1	5.1km
5	Gilrue Walking Track	Walk + Bike	2	2km
6	Cohuna Nature and Historical Walk	Walk + Bike	2	2.8km
7	Ski Run	Walk + Bike	2	3.8km
8	Cohuna Town Walk	Walk + Bike	1	2.5km
9	ParkRun Cohuna	Run + Walk + Bike	2	5km loop
10	Barr Creek	Walk	4	3.5km
11	Redgum Forest Walk (Turtle Loop)	Walk + Bike	3	9.1km return
12	Redgum Forest Walk (Eagle Loop)	Walk + Bike	3	13.2km return
13	Koondrook-Barham Redgum Statue Walk	Walk + Bike	1	2.4km
14	Goanna Walking Track	Walk + Bike	2	2.8km loop
15	Koondrook to Cohuna via Koondrook Track	Walk + Bike	2	15km one way
16	Gunbower Creek Canoe Trail	Canoe/Kayakers	N/A	5.2km return
17	Leitchville Town Loop	Walk + Bike	2	3.3km
18	Lake Charm Loop	Walk + Bike	2	2km
19	Railway Heritage Trail	Walk	2	2.7km
20	Murrabit Town Walk	Walk	2	2.7km
21	Avoca Trail Quambatook	Walk + Bike	2	1.5km
22	Kangaroo Lake Trail	Walk + Bike	TBC	3.7km one way

Kerang Regional Park Trails

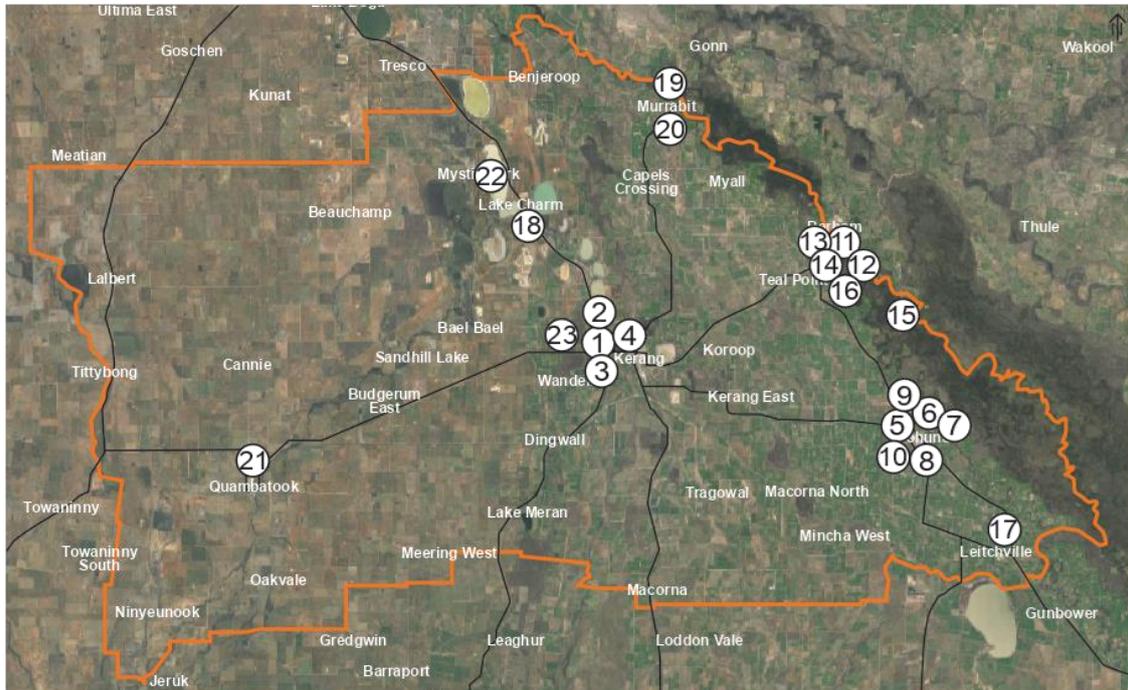
A number of additional trails were identified and audited, however, these were excluded from the study as they were in poor locations, inaccessible, poorly waymarked, or in very poor condition with large amounts of maintenance and construction works required to bring them to a compliant and safe standard. These are indicated on the following map (23) and include:

- Rotary Centenary Trail
- Fisherman's Loop along the Loddon River
- Swan Loop along the Loddon River

- Old Pool Loop
- Mill Drain Loop north of Mill drain
- West side of Loddon River from Swing Bridge to Whites Lane
- West side of Loddon River from MV Highway to Swing Bridge

03 Existing Trails Audit

Gannawarra Existing Trails Map



LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ① Town Swamp and Loddon River | ⑩ Barr Creek |
| ② ParkRun Kerang | ⑪ Redgum Forest Walk (Turtle Loop) |
| ③ Loddon River - Kerang to Old Kerang | ⑫ Redgum Forest Walk (Eagle Loop) |
| ④ Historic Township Walk Kerang | ⑬ Koondrook-Barham Redgum Statue Walk |
| ⑤ Gilrulle Walking Track | ⑭ Goanna Walking Track |
| ⑥ Cohuna Nature and Historical Walk | ⑮ Koondrook to Cohuna via Koondrook Track |
| ⑦ Ski Run | |
| ⑧ Cohuna Town Walk | |
| ⑨ ParkRun Cohuna | |
| | ⑯ Gunbower Creek Canoe Trail |
| | ⑰ Leitchville Town Loop |
| | ⑱ Lake Charm Loop |
| | ⑲ Railway Heritage Trail |
| | ⑳ Murrabit Town Walk |
| | ㉑ Avoca Trail Quambatook |
| | ㉒ Kangaroo Lake Trail |
| | ㉓ Kerang Regional Park Trails |

03 Existing Trails Audit

Other Trail Development Projects

Kerang Lakes Eco-trail

An emerging trail project is currently being explored in partnership with Kerang Landcare which seeks to link the townships of Kerang and Lake Charm through the development of a trail called the Kerang Lakes Eco-Trail. This trail will aim to explore the natural beauty of the area, by traversing through natural bushland and alongside RAMSAR listed waterways, commencing within Kerang Regional Park. The trail would connect to the Murray River Adventure Trail and will showcase the unique birdlife, scenery and cultural heritage of the Kerang Lakes and rivers, including the Little Lake Charm Wildlife Reserve and the Kerang Regional Park, highlighting Gannawarra as Victoria's nature based tourism destination.



Kerang to Lake Charm Eco-Trail Draft Alignment

Murray River Adventure Trail

The Murray River Adventure Trail will be a multi-sport adventure trail which extends along the length of the Murray River within the Murray tourism region in Victoria and NSW, using land and water to incorporate walking, cycling, kayaking/canoeing and other forms of water transport.

The trail plans to extend from Lake Hume, near Albury Wodonga in the east to Mildura, Wentworth in the West. The Trail will traverse secluded River Red Gum forests and major settlements along the length of the Murray River and provides opportunities for visitors to experience the Murray River in its natural setting, allowing immersion in the environment through active recreation.

Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail

What was once an important supply chain for early colonialists living on the Victorian-New South Wales border is set to become a popular outdoor adventure attraction for the Gannawarra Shire. The trail will follow parts of the former Kerang-Koondrook Tramways route, which delivered supplies to Kerang from the Koondrook Wharf. The Kerang and Koondrook Rail Trail is planned to eventually extend from Kerang out to the proposed Lake Charm Eco-trail.

The Victorian government has recently awarded \$500k funding to start the planning and design work for the 22-kilometre cycling and walking trail between Kerang and Koondrook.



Kerang to Koondrook Existing Tramway Alignment

04 Consultation

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

A series of consultation mechanisms were used to engage with the wider community and key stakeholders. These mechanisms were:

- Online Community Survey
- Internal Stakeholder Meeting
- Key External Stakeholder Meeting
- Community Trails Workshop
- Targeted stakeholder interviews (phone, emails, meetings)

- Linkages between major townships would be beneficial
- Tourism and commercial opportunities for the community to be explored
- Understand the usage of trails and required activation
- Creation of trail experiences unique to the area that will attract visitors from local, regional and state levels
- There is a need for mountain bike trails in the area

Workshop, Meeting and Interview Key Themes

Key themes derived from the Community and key stakeholder consultation engagement have been summarised below.

Community Consultation Key Themes

- There is dangerous traffic and fast paced traffic in areas and there is a need for more safe crossings and bike paths etc.
- Strong support for the development of the Kerang Lakes Eco Trail
- Consultation with landowners and other stakeholders will need to be undertaken for approval
- There are flood plain risks in areas in GSC
- Consideration will need to be made to the management of existing and future trails
- Ensure traditional landowners are involved where required
- Murray River Adventure Trail will be an excellent addition to the trails network
- Link the communities e.g. Kerang, Koondrook and Cohuna
- Bright is a good example for trail development and design
- Rail trails are ideal as there is already some existing infrastructure in place e.g. Kerang to Koondrook

Key Stakeholder Consultation Key Themes

- Planning for maintenance & governance of existing and future trails will need to be considered
- Opportunity to improve nature-based tourism within the Shire
- Land management and ownership will need to be considered

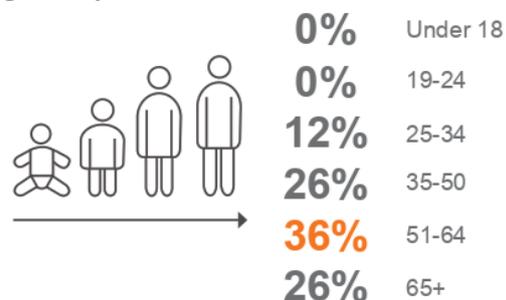
Online Survey Key Themes

The below infographics summarise some of the key results captured through the community online survey.

Total participants



Age Group



Where do you live?

52% - Kerang	2% - Wandella
23% - Cohuna	1% - Dingwall
6% - Koondrook	1% - Gannawarra
4% - Quambatook	1% - Kangaroo Lake
3% - Lake Charm	1% - Leitchville
2% - Murrabit	1% - Mincha West

04 Consultation

What type of activities do you have an interest in?



Have you used a path, trail or linkage for walking, cycling and/or trail based activity in the area in the past 12 months?



What type of walking, cycling and trail-based experiences and/or developments would you like to see offered in the Gannawarra Shire in the future?

Key themes:

- Cycling paths and linkages to avoid major roads
- Specific MTB trails, featuring single trails, jumps and obstacles
- Upgrades to trail infrastructure, signage, waymarking and improvement of management of current formal and informal trails
- Extension of Ski Run Trail in Cohuna
- Connection of townships via a shared use trail
- Promotion of current and potential canoe trails in the area
- Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail
- Improvements and further development of trails in Gunbower Forest
- Trails connecting Kerang Lakes (Kerang to Lake Charm Eco-trail)
- Addition of interpretation signs to current trails
- "I would like to see all the tracks and trails upgraded so that they are able to be used by residents and visitors, and then promoted as a high-quality visitor attraction and experience".

Comments on walking, cycling and/or active transport linkages and routes within the Gannawarra Shire.

Key themes:

- Maintenance and improvement of current trails
- Better promotion and information (maps, brochures etc.) on current and future trails across the LGA
- More support infrastructure e.g. toilets, bins and rest areas
- Development of linkages to schools and other community facilities
- Dedicated cycling paths and trails
- Weed and vegetation issues (Bindis)
- Walking and cycling paths suitable for children to schools within the LGA
- Making any future linkages accessible by all community members e.g. wheelchair and mobility scooters, families with prams and young bike riders
- Safety issues and traffic management

05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

Strategy and Action Plan Overview

A summary of the strategy and action plan has been provided below which identifies the overarching strategic outcomes and subsequent strategies. The actions required to achieve these strategies are included within the full GWCS report.

Strategic Outcome A: Integrated Planning & Management
Strategy A1: Upgrade existing Council-controlled trails, advocate for improvements to trails managed by other agencies
Strategy A2: Develop an integrated trail planning framework for Gannawarra Shire Council and its partners.
Strategy A3: Ensure public access to Council owned/managed land is maintained and seek to secure public access to additional land where this forms a strategic corridor for potential future trail/s.
Strategic Outcome B: Sustainable & Accessible Trails Network
Strategy B1: Enhance and develop the trail and support infrastructure within Kerang and surrounding suburbs and promote as an integral part of a shire wide walking and cycling network.
Strategy B2: Enhance and develop the trail and support infrastructure within Cohuna and surrounding suburbs and promote as an integral part of a shire wide walking and cycling network.
Strategy B3: Enhance and develop the trail and support infrastructure within Koondrook and surrounding suburbs and promote as an integral part of a shire wide walking and cycling network.
Strategy B4: Enhance and develop the trail and support infrastructure within Leitchville and promote as an integral part of a shire wide walking and cycling network.
Strategy B5: Enhance and develop the trail and support infrastructure within Lake Charm and promote as an integral part of a shire wide walking and cycling network.
Strategy B6: Enhance and develop the trail and support infrastructure within Quambatook and promote as an integral part of a shire wide walking and cycling network.
Strategy B7: Enhance and develop the trail and support infrastructure within Murrabit and promote as an integral part of a shire wide walking and cycling network.
Strategy B8: Ensure that up to date trail information is provided at strategic locations (i.e., information centers and trailheads) across the LGA. Ensure this information is consistent with other information sources, and appropriately reviewed & updated.
Strategy B9: Enhance and develop the trail and support infrastructure between Koondrook and Cohuna, through Gunbower Forest, and promote as an integral part of a wider trail network.
Strategy B10: Continue to progress with the development of a recreational trail along the old railway between Kerang and Koondrook.
Strategy B11: Upgrade existing mountain biking/off road cycling trails and assess feasibility of developing new mountain bike trails within the Shire.
Strategy B12: Continue to progress with the development of a recreational trail between Kerang and Lake Charm, showcasing the regions lakes and wetlands.

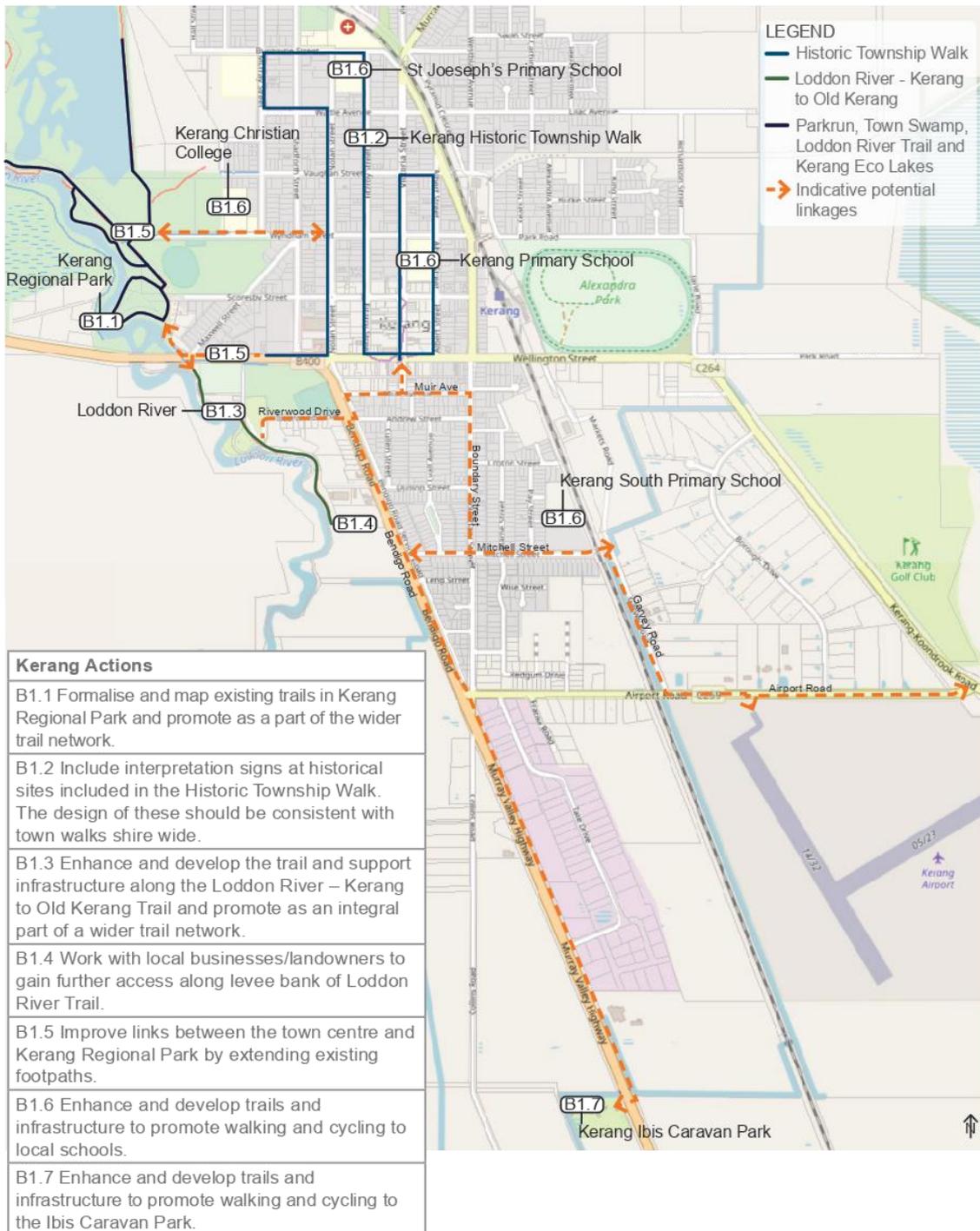
05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

Strategic Outcome C: Participation, Promotion and Marketing
Strategy C1: Improve health and wellbeing across the LGA through programs and events which promote regular physical activity and active lifestyles.
Strategy C2: Improve the provision of mapping and trail information across the Gannawarra LGA.
Strategy C3: Improve the provision of mapping and trail information across the Gannawarra LGA.
Strategic Outcome D: Development, Management & Maintenance
Strategy D1: Ensure the management and maintenance structures for all current and future trails are clearly defined.
Strategic Outcome E: Community, Tourism & Economic Development
Strategy E1: Use trail development and provision as an economic and community development tool.
Strategy E2: Foster partnerships relating to trail development, management, maintenance and promotion.

05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

Strategy and Action Maps

Kerang Strategies and Actions Map



05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

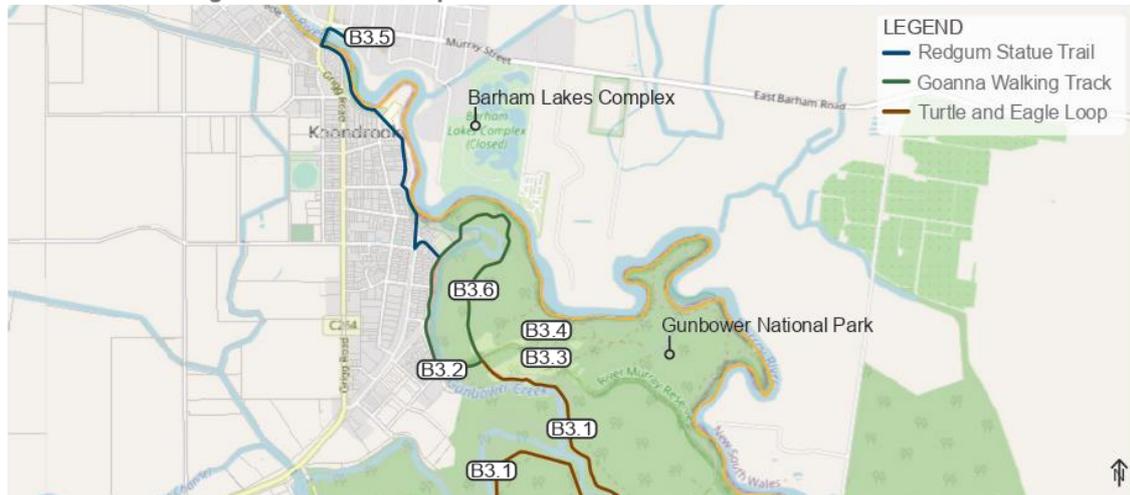
Cohuna Strategies and Actions Map



Cohuna Actions
B2.1 Develop and formalise the Barr Creek Trail, Cohuna and promote as a part of the wider trail network.
B2.2 Upgrade signage and waymarking, throughout Gilrule and Cohuna Nature Walk.
B2.3 Enhance and develop the Ski Run Trail and its support infrastructure.
B2.4 Develop consistent and clear signage throughout Cohuna to improve connectivity of trails network and linkages to key areas.
B2.5 Extend and link existing trails to Gunbower Forest, to improve access to natural features and neighboring townships.

05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

Koondrook Strategies and Actions Map



Koondrook Actions	
B3.1	Replace existing waymarker signage along the Turtle and Eagle Loop with modern waymarkers ensuring that trail alignment is clearly articulated.
B3.2	Install trailhead sign at Condidorios Bridge entrance to Gunbower Forest, include trail maps and relevant information on all nearby trails.
B3.3	Consider opportunities to include Technical Trail Features in Gunbower Forest to enhance the appeal for mountain bike riders.
B3.4	Work cooperatively with Parks Victoria and Landcare services to maintain and upgrade infrastructure within National Parks and State Forests.
B3.5	Install a trailhead sign at the beginning of the Redgum Statue Trail, including interpretation and relevant information.
B3.6	Further develop and formalise Goanna Walking Track, include waymarking and other suitable signage.

05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

Leitchville Strategies and Actions Map



Leitchville Actions
B4.1 Improve the trail surface along the Town Loop trail.
B4.2 Enhance design and placement of trail signage around the Town Loop trail, including interpretation at historical sites.
B4.3 Promote revegetation of appropriate areas surrounding the trail.

05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

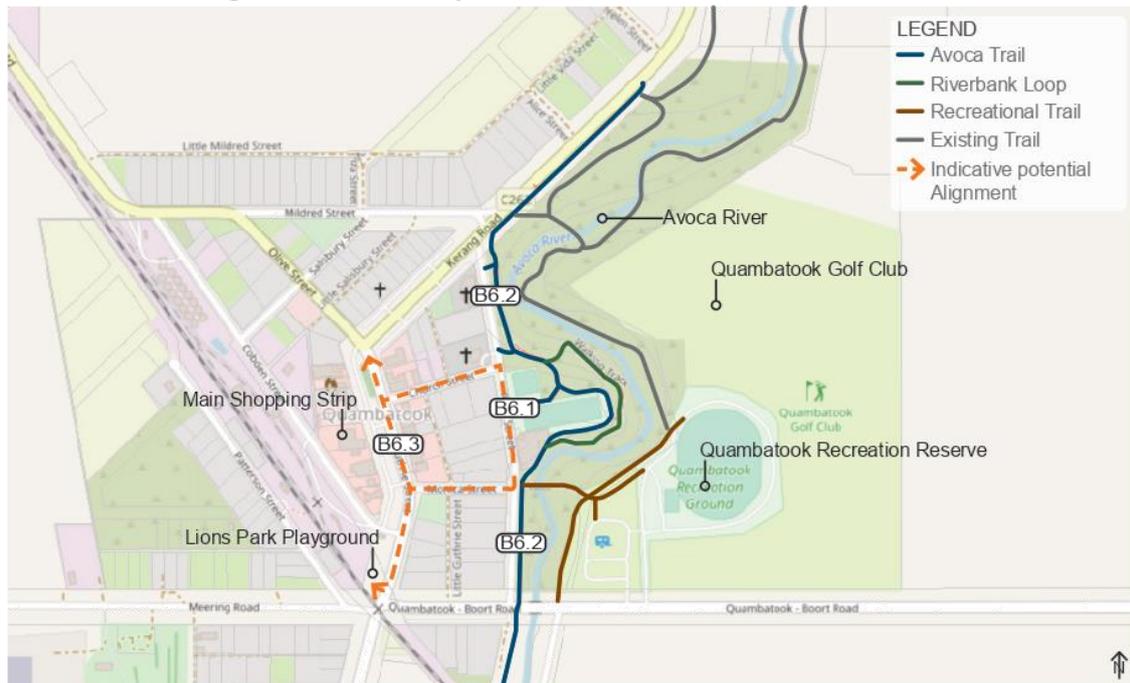
Lake Charm Strategies and Actions Map



Lake Charm & Kangaroo Lake Actions
B5.1 Promote and support the Lake Charm Loop trail as a part of the shire wide trails network.
B5.2 Work with local community and organisations to clear rubbish from the Lake Charm Loop bushland area behind the caravan park.
B5.3 Explore future opportunities to provide access around Lake Charm, being mindful of private and/or residential land.
B5.4 Continue to enhance and develop plans to extend Kangaroo Lake Trail to northern precinct/ caravan park area, as suggested in Gannawarra Waterfront Masterplans.
B5.5 Develop a recreational trail from Lake Charm Public Hall to the Public Recreation Reserve at Racecourse Lake
B5.6 Develop a trail from the Lake Charm Boat Ramp along Benjeroop-Lake Charm road to the Lake Charm Service Station (Shop, Post Office & Caravan Park).

05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

Quambatook Strategies and Actions Map



Quambatook Actions

B6.1 Install a trailhead sign at a central location, including interpretation and relevant information on trails in Quambatook.

B6.2 Continue to enhance and develop plans for the existing Avoca River Trail, as proposed by the Quambatook Progress Association (QPA) and in line with the Master Plan.

B6.3 Develop and promote linkages to town facilities and visitor destinations.

05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

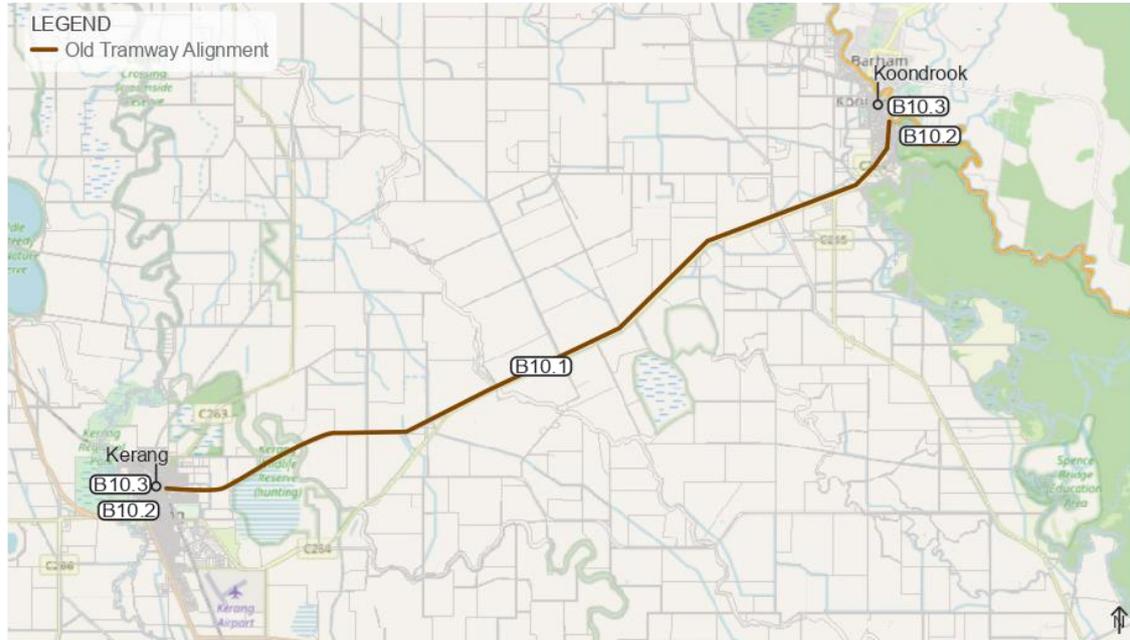
Murrabit Strategies and Actions Map



Murrabit Actions
B7.1 Promote both the Railway Heritage Trail and Town Walk as part of the wider trail network.
B7.2 Manage and maintain trail surface issues on the Railway Heritage Trail regarding weeds and related hazards.
B7.3 Enhance design and placement of trail signage around the Town Walk, including interpretation at historical sites.
B7.4 Investigate and enhance informal trails present in the area.

05 Strategy and Action Plan Overview

Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail Strategies and Actions Map



Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail Actions

B10.1 Continue to support the link from Kerang to Koondrook utilising the old tramway which recently received funding for detailed design in 2022.

B10.2 Enhance existing trails and develop new trails where possible in surrounding areas. Ensure that these trails are appealing to the anticipated visitors associated with the Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail.

B10.3 At the appropriate point of the progression of the Rail Trail project, develop trailhead infrastructure at Kerang and Koondrook, to provide information about the trail, other trail experiences and promote connectivity to the town centre.

Tredwell Management Services

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7.8 G05-2022 KERANG STORMWATER PUMP UPGRADE**Author:** Wade Williams, Manager Projects & Property**Authoriser:** Geoff Rollinson, Director Infrastructure and Development**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. Council award contract G05-2022 for Kerang Stormwater Pump Upgrade to Civil and Earth Australia Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount, not subject to rise and fall, of \$240,862.00 excluding GST.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project aims to improve the stormwater drainage system serving an area of the Kerang township by upgrading the Riverwood Drive pump station, located at the Lower Murray Water (LMW) treatment facility.

Council officers have completed a tendering and evaluation process and recommend the appointment of Civil and Earth Australia Pty Ltd as the successful tenderer for this contract.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider awarding tender G05-2022 for the Kerang Stormwater Pump Upgrade. The project aims to improve the operation of Council's storm water network and reduce maintenance costs.

ATTACHMENTS

G05-2022 Tender Evaluation.

DISCUSSION

This project aims to improve the stormwater drainage system serving an area of the Kerang township by upgrading the Riverwood Drive pump station, located at the LMW water treatment facility.

This pump predominately services the area consisting of Museum Drive, through the Kerang Caravan Park and along Riverwood Drive. Due to the unique interconnectedness of the underground drainage network, this pump aids dewatering a larger area encompassing Bendigo Rd, Mitchell Street and the southern end of Boundary Street.

Tenders for the development of the Kerang Stormwater Pump Upgrade were advertised through Council's E-Tendering Portal and closed on 18 November 2022. A total of two submissions were received and subsequently evaluated by a panel of three Council officers.

Two conforming tenders were received along with two alternate proposals from the preferred tenderer.

Proposal one meets Council's specification however it proposes a shallower pump well. Accepting this proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on pump operations or performance of the storm water network.

Proposal two offers a new pump, with a reduced capacity, that can be installed into the existing pump well.

Evaluation of the submission included weighted criteria demonstrating price, contractor capability, project experience, timeframe for completing the works, risk minimisation and local benefit, all of which were included in the tender specification package.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	RELATIVE WEIGHTING
Financial costs to Council - including rates for variations etc. and any additional overhead costs and/or liabilities Council could bear (such as WorkCover).	30%
Tenderer's and any nominated sub-contractors' resources, technical and financial capabilities to successfully complete the contract.	20%
Tenderer's and any nominated sub-contractor's experience on similar projects and standing, experience and skill within the industry.	25%
Tenderer's and any nominated sub-contractor's OH&S record and procedures and ability to minimise Council's insurance risks.	15%
Local Benefit (refer to Council Policy 109 for guidance)	10%

The table below provides the initial tender submissions received:

Tenderer	Evaluated Tender Price (excluding GST)
Tenderer 1	\$377,480.00
Civil and Earth Australia Pty Ltd	\$269,927.00

The negotiated final tendered price is shown in the table below:

Tenderer	Final Negotiated Price (excluding GST)
Civil and Earth Australia Pty Ltd	\$240,862.00

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

1. Award the tender Civil and Earth Australia Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount of \$269,927.00 excluding GST.
2. Accept a tender for a shallower pump well installation and maintain the desired 150 L/s discharge and use of available pump and control box for \$240,862.00
3. Accept a tender for a lower capacity installation capable of discharging approximately 110 L/s for \$150,908.00 ex GST.
4. Abandon the project.

Officers recommend proceeding with Option 2.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Maintenance:

Submersible pumps have proven to be less maintenance demanding than axial drive. The existing pump shed has required replacement of various timber elements of the last few years. Proceeding with the project will reduce maintenance costs.

- Social:

The project will improve amenity and liveability of residents covered by the areas described above.

- Environmental:

No anticipated advantages or disadvantages from this project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil around the specifics of the pump, however there is a history of complaints to Council regarding storm water in the affected areas.

Council has liaised with LMW about the pump replacement.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The proposed upgrade replaces inefficient and outdated technology with new, contemporary and environmentally friendly pumping technology.

COLLABORATION

Council has liaised with LMW about the pump replacement.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021 – 2025:

Goal 1. Liveability - Strategic Priority 2: Build unique transformational infrastructure that enhances liveability and passive and active recreation.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regard to this matter.

7.9 LOCAL LAW NO. 1 COMMUNITY AMENITY

Author: Kellie Burmeister, Manager Planning and Regulatory Services

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Director Infrastructure and Development

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Extend the community engagement for a further of 28 days; and**
- 2. Receives a report at a future Council meeting to consider the final Local Law No. 1 Community Amenity.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council resolved to endorse the draft Local Law No. 1 Community Amenity 2023 for community engagement for a period of 28 days at the November Council Meeting. In addition, Council was to consider the final Local Law No. 1 at the December 2022 Council meeting. Given the current flooding situation affecting the municipality, it is proposed to extend the community engagement to allow further public consultation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to extend the community engagement period for the draft Local Law No. 1 Community Amenity.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

The draft Local Law No. 1 Community Amenity was placed on public exhibition from 16 November 2022 for a period of 28 days. During this time, the municipality and community were dealing with a major flooding event. Given this, it is proposed to extend the community consultation period.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 71 of the *Local Government Act 2022*

Section 42 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Local Law No. 1 Community Amenity was presented to Council on 16 November 2022.

OPTIONS

1. To extend the community consultation period for a further 28 days and then to Council the final Local Law No. 1 Community Amenity at a future Council meeting.
2. Not to extend the community consultation period and to consider the final Local Law No. 1 Community Amenity at the December 2022 Council meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The draft Local Law was placed on public exhibition for 28 days on 16 November 2022. The exhibition period finishes on 14 December 2022.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable

COLLABORATION

Not applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not application

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 – Goal 1 Liveability – Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our community through partnerships, services and programs.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

7.10 PETITION - FLY THE FLAG BE THE CHANGE

Author: Alissa Harrower, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Tom O'Reilly, CEO
Attachments: 1 Petition - Fly the flag be the change

RECOMMENDATION**That Council:**

1. Receive the petition 'Fly the flag be the change' requesting a dove flag be flown from Gannawarra Shire Council installations for reconciliation on International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2023; and
2. Lay the petition on the table, until such time a Flag Flying Policy has been developed as per resolution made by Council at its 16 November 2022 Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition requesting for a dove flag to be flown from Council installations for reconciliation on International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2023, has been received by Council.

As per clause 104 of the Governance Rules, a petition or joint letter presented to Council must lay on the table until the next meeting of the Council and no motion, other than to receive the petition or joint letter may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless the Council agrees to deal with it earlier.

At its meeting on 16 November 2022, Council resolved to develop a Flag Flying Policy to address future requests to fly flags to promote causes within the municipality.

PURPOSE

This report seeks a resolution of Council to receive the petition and lay it on the table until such time a Flag Flying Policy has been developed.

ATTACHMENTS

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council – 'Fly the flag be the change'.

DISCUSSION

A petition containing 30 names, requesting for a dove flag to be flown from Council installations for reconciliation on International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2023, has been received by Council.

As per clause 104 of the Governance Rules, a petition or joint letter presented to Council must lay on the table until the next meeting of the Council and no motion, other than to receive the petition or joint letter may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless the Council agrees to deal with it earlier.

At its meeting on 16 November 2022, Council resolved to develop a Flag Flying Policy to address future requests to fly flags to promote causes within the municipality.

The Australian National Flag and the Australian Aboriginal Flag are currently flown outside Council's Kerang Office and Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre.

Council must comply with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australian National Flag Protocols, with the Australian Flags Booklet advising the following:

The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag should be flown on additional flagpoles, where available, next to or near the Australian National Flag on Australian Government buildings and establishments.

If there is only one flagpole available, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag should not replace the Australian National Flag.

If there are two flagpoles available, it is at the discretion of the authority concerned to determine which flag should be flown with the Australian National Flag.

RELEVANT LAW

Flags Act 1953

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At its meeting on 16 November 2022, Council resolved to develop a Flag Flying Policy to address future requests to fly flags to promote causes within the municipality.

OPTIONS

As per clause 104 of the Governance Rules, a petition or joint letter presented to Council must lay on the table until the next meeting of the Council and no motion, other than to receive the petition or joint letter may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless the Council agrees to deal with it earlier.

At its meeting on 16 November 2022, Council resolved to develop a Flag Flying Policy to address future requests to fly flags to promote causes within the municipality.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

At its meeting on 16 November 2022, Council resolved to develop a Flag Flying Policy to address future requests to fly flags to promote causes within the municipality. A draft policy will be presented to Council for consideration at a future meeting.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australian National Flag Protocols.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules – clause 104.

Council Plan 2021 – 2025:

Goal 1: Liveability – 1.1 Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our community through partnerships, services and programs.

Goal 3: Sustainability – 3.3 Be a creative employer of choice through our adherence to good governance and our inclusive culture.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This matter will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

From: Lloyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 5 December 2022 11:40 AM
To: Council <council@gannawarra.vic.gov.au>; Garner Smith <garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au>; Charlie Gillingham <charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au>; Ross Stanton <ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au>; Kelvin Burt <kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au>; Travis Collier <travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au>; Keith Link <keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au>; Jane Ogden <jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au>
Subject: GSG Petition to Council

Dear Council and Councillors

Please find the attached petition to council for the December 21 council meeting.

All the best
Lloyd Polkinghorne
[REDACTED]

Petition To Gannawarra Shire

'Fly the flag be the change'

Ratepayers and residents would like to bring Council's attention a request to fly a dove flag from Gannawarra Shire Council installations for reconciliation on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2023.

The day commemorates the 1948 UN General Assembly Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the ratepayer and resident signatories in the attached seek the flying of a dove flag in reconciliation following Gannawarra Shire's failure to 'ensure our communities are welcoming and inclusive'.

GSC 'promotes connectivity and accessibility across the Shire for all community members to fulfil their potential as equal citizens'.

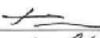
Unfortunately, through the last 18 months, a vulnerable minority were forfeited the 'quality of life for all people living in our Shire' that the Gannawarra Shire Council Social Inclusion Strategy 2019-2023 awards them.

If 'the Gannawarra Shire Council will continue to foster the spirit of inclusiveness' 'Council will (should) seek to identify and remove barriers that people face – particularly those within the Council's immediate sphere of influence'.

'Every individual is able to feel welcome in their community and have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of rural community life'

"Access for All" – principles are based on all aspects of the DDA and ensure that no-one is discriminated against directly or indirectly through the actions or inactions of Council. It also includes equitable access and inclusion within the Council to facilities, services and employment'.

The Gannawarra Shire Council Social Inclusion Strategy 2019-2023 is underpinned by the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986, Schedule 2—International Covenant on Civil and Political Right, PART III, Article 7, No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

PRINT NAME	FULL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
ALESMA MILLARD	[REDACTED]	
Tim Millard	[REDACTED]	
Lloyd Polkinghorne	[REDACTED]	
Lauren Polkinghorne	[REDACTED]	

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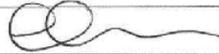
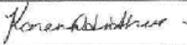
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PRINT NAME	FULL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
EMMA HOLLINGWORTH	[REDACTED]	
KAREN ARTHUR	[REDACTED]	

Petition To Gannawarra Shire

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PRINT NAME		SIGNATURE
RHONDA FOWLER	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
MARIE KEATING	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
DENNIS KEATING	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
MONIKA LOHNER	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
KARL LOHNER	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
Doss Brubay	[REDACTED]	[Signature]

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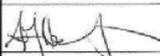
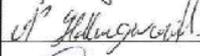
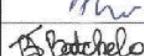
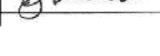
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PRINT NAME	FULL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
H. V. VETTE HOLLINGWORTH	[REDACTED]	
R. V. VETTE HOLLINGWORTH		
CHRIS D'SILVA		
BARBARA D'SILVA		
BERNADETTE BATCHELOR		

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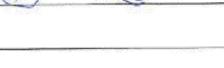
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PRINT NAME	FULL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Chris Konopka	[REDACTED]	
NADIENE KONOPKA		
Aiden Konopka		

Petition To Gannawarra Shire

'Fly the flag be the change'

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PRINT NAME FULL ADDRESS SIGNATURE

ASHTON WRIGHT



AShton

Petition To Gannawarra Shire

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PRINT NAME FULL ADDRESS SIGNATURE

Kyle Wilson

Kyle Wilson

Petition To Gannawarra Shire

'Fly the flag be the change'

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PRINT NAME FULL ADDRESS SIGNATURE

LISA WILSON



Petition To Gannawarra Shire

'Fly the flag be the change'

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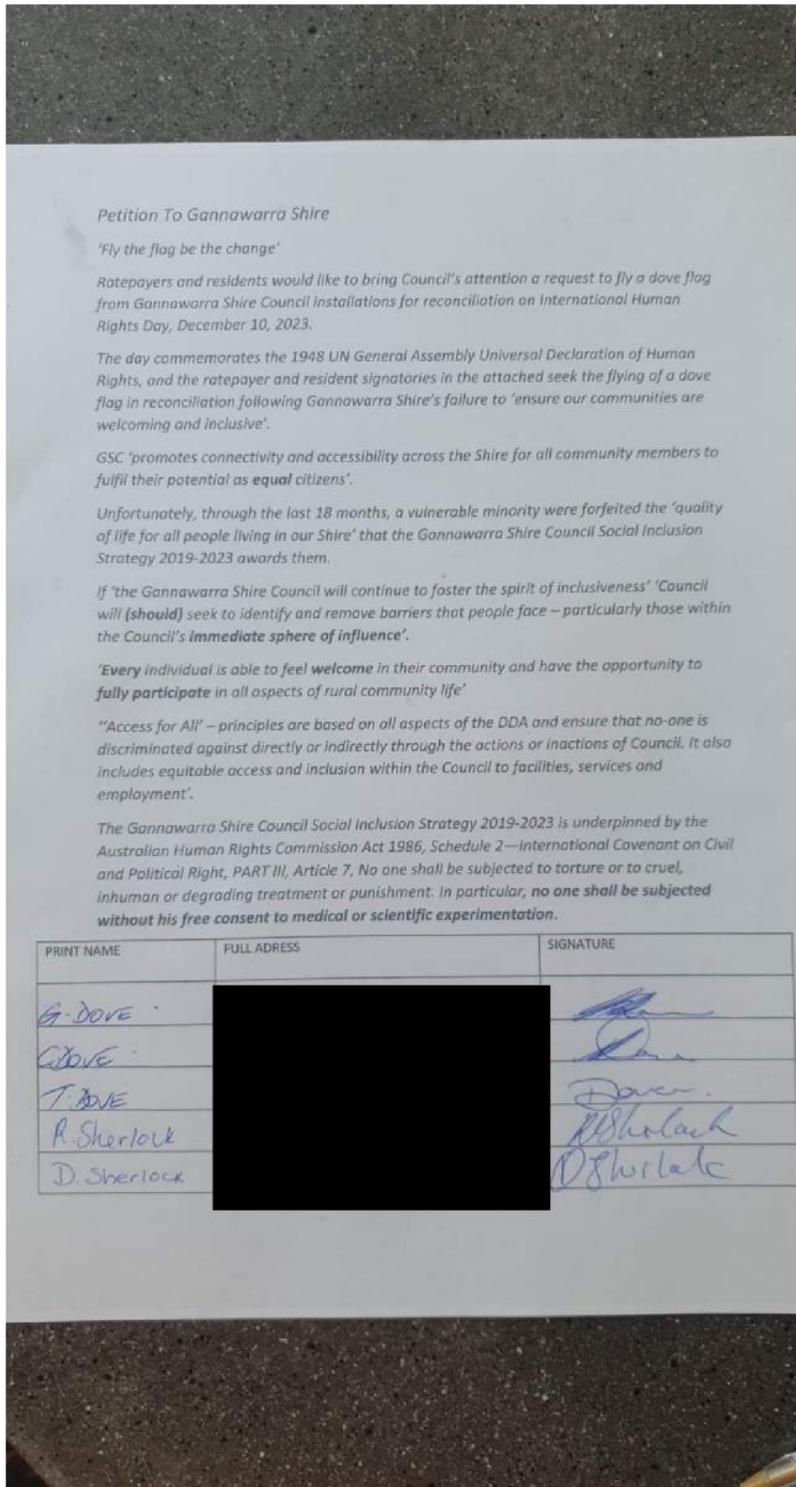
PRINT NAME FULL ADDRESS SIGNATURE

ALAN & CHERYL COOKE



A.J. Cooke

Cheryl A Cooke



8 URGENT BUSINESS

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 QUESTION TIME

Question Time provides an opportunity for members of the public to submit questions, in advance, to gain a response at the Council meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

Completed Question Time forms must be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer via email council@gsc.vic.gov.au no later than 5.00 pm on the day prior to the Council meeting.

A maximum number of two questions may be submitted in writing by any one person.

Questions will be read by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

The Mayor or Chief Executive Officer may indicate that they require further time to research an answer. In this case, an answer will be provided in writing generally within ten (10) business days.

Questions will be answered at the meeting, or later in writing, unless the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer has determined that the relevant question seeks confidential information defined in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020 such as:

- Council business information
- security information
- land use planning information
- law enforcement information
- legal privileged information
- personal information
- private commercial information
- confidential meeting information
- internal arbitration information
- Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information
- an issue outside the Gannawarra Shire Council core business

or if the question is:

- defamatory, indecent, abusive or objectionable in language or substance
- repetitive of a question already answered (whether at the same or an earlier meeting)
- asked to embarrass a Councillor or Council officer.

No debate or discussion of questions or answers shall be permitted and all questions and answers shall be a brief as possible.

11 DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

Author: Mel Mathers, Executive Assistant - Chief Executive Office

Authoriser: Tom O'Reilly, CEO

Attachments: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has memberships with peak Local Government associations, local and regional forums along with statutory committees. Some memberships require that a Councillor be appointed to act as a delegate to formally represent Council; typically in a voting capacity. This Agenda item provides an opportunity for Council appointed delegates to present a verbal update on any pertinent matters arising from Council's membership on the following associations.

Association	Appointed Council Delegate
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	Cr Stanton
Community Halls Community Asset Committee	Cr Burt
Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils	Mayor
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Collier
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC)	Cr Link
Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC)	Mayor
Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Stanton
Rural Councils Victoria	Cr Smith
Timber Towns Victoria	Cr Smith

NB: * Audit and Risk Committee - no delegate report is required as the Audit and Risk Committee formally reports back separately to Council in accord with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act):

12.1 Awarding of 2023 Australia Day Awards

This matter is considered to be confidential as defined by section 3(1) of the Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personal information.

12.2 Chief Executive Officer Appointment

This matter is considered to be confidential as defined by section 3(1) of the Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personal information.