



**Council Plan
- Research
Information
Report
2017**

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Our Vision

What do we want to achieve as a Council?

- To promote our Council area
- Improve liveability
- To make a great place even better
- Leadership and governance of council
- Funding and advocacy
- We believe in what we are doing
- We want to be
 - A united, focused group
 - Moving forward
 - Supporting our communities
 - Advocating priorities for Council and communities



Introduction

Why prepare a Council plan?

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that Council submits a Council Plan to the Minister for Local Government by the 30 June in the year following a municipal election. The Council Plan is a four year plan which guides the achievement of the long-term vision for the Gannawarra Shire as outlined in the Strategic Community Plan, Gannawarra 2025.

Developed in 2010, Gannawarra 2025, presents a vision for the future based upon the following key aspirations of the community:

1. To have an education system that offers state of the art facilities and a breadth of learning options.
2. To provide career pathways that keep our young people working locally in rewarding jobs.
3. To encourage the young professionals who have left the area to come back to raise their families.
4. To prevent chronic illness and deliver improved respite care and allied health care services for all citizens, especially those who are disadvantaged.
5. To have transport services giving our younger and older residents greater independence.
6. To achieve population growth and diversity, but without compromising our 'small town' values.
7. To have safe as well as attractive streetscapes, bridges and roads.
8. To build a tourism industry that creates jobs and infrastructure and allows us to proudly show our visitors the beauty of our natural environment and the depth of our aboriginal heritage.
9. To improve entertainment options, particularly for our youth.
10. To foster new ways of best practice farming in response to a lower water future.
11. To support our entrepreneurs and thinkers, celebrate their successes and help them lead us into new industries and initiatives.

12. To be able to enjoy the same richness of food, street life, lifestyle and culture that other Victorians enjoy.
13. To keep our smaller towns alive through social and sporting initiatives driven by the passion of community volunteers.
14. To recover our sense of optimism and self-confidence.

The community told us in 2010 to focus on the following six strategy platforms of Gannawarra 2025:



The Council Plan serves as a 'road map' to focus Council's activities over the next four years as we continue to work towards achieving Gannawarra 2025.

Introduction

What is a Municipal Health and Wellbeing plan?

The Local Government Act 1989 states in Part 3C(1) that 'the primary objective of a Council is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community.' Part 3C(2) sets out further objectives, the first being 'to promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipal district' and the second 'to improve the overall quality of life of people in the local community.'

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 more specifically states that Council's function is to seek to 'protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing by:

- Creating an environment which supports the health of members of the local community and strengthens the capacity of the community and individuals to achieve better health;
- Initiating, supporting and managing public health planning processes at the local government level;
- Developing and implementing public health policies and programs within the municipal district;
- Developing and enforcing up-to-date public health standards and intervening if the health of people within the municipal district is affected;
- Facilitating and supporting local agencies whose work has an impact on public health and wellbeing to improve public health and wellbeing in the local community;
- Coordinating and providing immunisation services to children living or being educated within the municipal district;
- Ensuring that the municipal district is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

Furthermore, under the provisions of S.26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, Council has been delegated the responsibility for local level public health planning and is required to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years, within the period of 12 months after each general election of the Council.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 sets down what Council must consider in developing either a stand-alone or integrated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan:

- Include an examination of data about health status and health determinants
- Identify goals and strategies based on evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health
- Provide involvement of people in the development, implementation and evaluation of the health plan

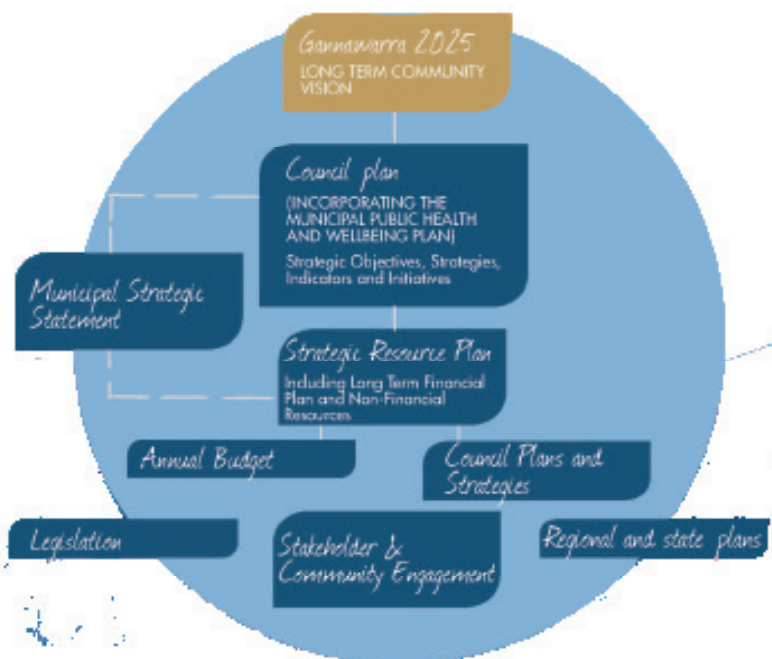
- Specify how Council will work in partnership with the Department of Health and other agencies undertaking public health initiatives, projects and programs to achieve the goals identified
- Be consistent with the Council Plan and Municipal Strategic Statement

In the Council Plan 2013-2017, Council exercised its ability for the first time to integrate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Council Plan.

The inclusion of health and wellbeing matters in the Council Plan strengthens reporting and accountability and reduces duplication of time and resources involved in having separate plans informing Council decision making processes.

Importantly, an integrated approach to planning provides a platform for Council to continue to lead the way in creating healthy and liveable communities that prosper into the future.

The following diagram shows where a Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plan fit within a Council's statutory planning framework:





Introduction

What is our Integrated Community plan?

The Integrated Community Plan was adopted in 2013 and establishes priorities for community development and planning activity via a framework which links local project activity to broader strategic and regional objectives. It complements other adopted policy guidance, particularly Gannawarra 2025, in setting a framework for sustainable change.

Most importantly, this plan provides the voice of the community into the challenges and opportunities facing the Gannawarra Shire and sets the direction for community planning and development activity.

The plan incorporates community profiles and project aspirations for the following townships/districts:

- Kerang
- Cohuna
- Koondrook
- Leitchville
- Murrabit and District
- Macorna and District
- Lakes District
- Dingwall and Lake Meran District
- Lalbert
- Quambatook

It also provides policy linkages to other Council plans and strategies and Gannawarra 2025, Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan and Loddon Mallee Regional Growth Plan.

The plan had a timeframe for review of November 2016 to coincide with the new Council Plan for the period 2017-2021.

The implementation of individual community plans should be a partnership approach between Council and community as we all work together to achieve the visions of Gannawarra 2025.



Process

What have we done so far?

Stage 3 - Community Messaging and Engagement Continued:

A community survey in hard copy and on-line enabled individual input as did conversation boards placed at flexible and fixed locations around the Gannawarra Shire. This was particularly beneficial in enabling input from community members who may not normally have their voices heard at community meetings or through surveys.

Stage 4 - Input of Council officers:

Running concurrently with Community messaging and engagement was meeting of two groups of Council staff:

Council Plan Working Group - focused on community consultation, documenting community feedback and ideas for future projects, communication with external partners, developing the reviewed plans, measurement and performance indicators.

Strategic Infrastructure & Economic Development Working Group – focused on reviewing information coming back from the community consultation and how this linked to other Council priorities, regional and state plans, government policy, funding opportunities and budgetary constraints.

Council's management team was also consulted throughout the process.

Stage 5 - Development of DRAFT Community Plan:

From the information received from individual community planning groups/progress associations and additional feedback relating to specific communities received through other means of community consultation, a DRAFT Community Profile and Priorities were presented back to each community for additional comment and feedback. Photographs from each community were collected and the profiles designed into a two to three page plan for each community. Communities were encouraged to communicate within their community networks to seek input into the process from as many as possible.

Stage 6: Development of the Research Report:

From information and feedback collected from the community survey, meetings with community planning groups and other stakeholder groups, Council staff and key partners, Councillor survey responses and current and emerging priorities, this Gannawarra Council Plan 2017-2021 Research Report was developed. This research report formally documented the process involved in developing the new Council Plan 2017-2021 (which will incorporate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021), collated all the feedback and ideas received, and analysed the data and documented emerging themes.

Consistent Messages

What are the key messages our community is telling us?

Community consultation with Community Planning/Progress Groups, service providers, Councillors, Council staff, and other stakeholders revealed the following priorities for the future of Gannawarra Shire.

Themes:

- Need to develop a clear vision so everyone knows the direction we are heading
- Up for a change - but community generally want to meld old with new – maintaining heritage and natural features
- Genuine community engagement, invest in community leadership and community champions who are willing to give up their time and expertise to develop others, coordinated community messaging – What’s on in Gannawarra and all communities contribute, volunteering and recognising the contribution that volunteers make locally.
- Celebrating what we have and every little improvement with the community. The community will be the best promoters for the area if they are excited and feel involved in decisions and projects. Community partnership are integral to success. Encourage positivity.
- Stronger Advocacy
- Maintaining, supporting and improving what we have (build on existing strengths), but also want some exciting projects
- Need a big ticket tourist drawcard theme
- Nature based tourism opportunities and bringing nature closer to towns
- Want to see some key projects finished and activated – eg. Koondrook Wharf, Murray Adventure Trail, plus smaller ones in communities - new tracks and trails, upgrade of existing tracks and trails, linking trails, promotion of trails both for tourism and lifestyle.
- Better visitor information across the board and better consistency of visitor information in each town
- Agriculture – diversification, adaptation to climate variability, irrigation water access, niche business development and support, intensive agriculture and better use of available land with lower water use
- Job creation, business growth, attracting industry and big business, online business opportunities, access to digital technology/NBN, business leaders who can share how to take a business and grow it
- Liveability for young people – education, transport, work opportunities, involvement in community, supporting young people to establish businesses, support young professional
- Access to education in general, on-line learning and life-long learning opportunities, libraries
- Beautification across the board – more shade, more seats, more green grass, more trees
- Better accommodation, better dining
- Not sure “Gannawarra” is the way forward
- Unification of towns – let’s all work together and support each other rather than compete for limited resources, events, visitors.
- Focusing on liveability and the social fabric of communities
- Supporting the ageing population but capitalise on this – a destination for retirees
- Art and culture – events, permanent (prominent) community spaces for arts, performance spaces, outdoor art installations, colour, vibrancy, support to local artists
- Reducing rural community disadvantage – education, employment, health, better access to health services, chronic disease.
- Transport – improved passenger rail service, increased access to education, employment opportunities and health services
- Disadvantaged children, family violence, social inclusion and access to support services locally particularly for special needs children and LGBTI
- Street lighting, roads, footpaths and safety
- Weeds, rubbish, pests, fire hazards
- Reduced ‘red tape’ and faster approval processes
- Take full advantage of funding opportunities, partner up with community to achieve even more.

Consultation results can be found in this report.



Data

What does the evidence tell us?

- In 13 years our population has declined by 1,910 people to 10,145 people as of the 2014 census.
- Our population continues to age with 26% aged 65 and over in 2014. By 2031 it is estimated that 39.2% of Gannawarra’s population will be aged 65 and over, compared to 24.2% for Victoria.
- Our median age is now 48.8 (compared to 37.3 years as the median age for Victoria and Australia).
- Life expectancy is increasing. People living alone is also increasing.
- Our birth rate is decreasing. An average of 54 less births per year over the last 17 years.
- Teenage pregnancy rates have decreased over the last 8 years but still remain high compared to Victoria.
- Multiculturalism although low continues to increase.
- Our rates of Indigenous people are higher than state average.
- 23.9% of employment is in agriculture in 2011 (down from 29.6% in 2006), 14.6% in manufacturing and construction and 10.5% in health care and social assistance.
- Our residents are more disadvantaged than the state average based on income, education, unemployment and skill levels. There are some areas of our Shire that are more disadvantaged than others:
- Income levels are low as are educational levels.
- People on low incomes are more likely to have a lifestyle that has more risk factors and less likely to use preventative and screening services. Risk factors include smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, poor diet, low levels of physical activity, and depression.
- When it comes to health outcomes, Gannawarra residents are more disadvantaged than the state average on a range of indicators:
 - Diabetes
 - Heart Health
 - Mental Health
 - Oral Health
 - Sexual Health
 - Cancer
 - Respiratory Health
- Dental conditions are the number one reason for hospital admissions across Gannawarra Shire.
- Family violence plays a significant role in outcomes, particularly for women and children. Family incidents have increased significantly from 9.9 per 1,000 population (2013) to 15.7 per 1,000 population (2015).
- Climate variability continues to impact on our community.
- Community strength indicators show that community strength is stronger in Gannawarra than the state average.
- Strong social networks are integral to maintaining healthy, happy and vibrant communities.

Area	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage
Kerang (North)	930.8
Kerang (South)	932.1
Rural North East – Koondrook	953.6
Gannawarra Shire	958.8
Regional Victoria	977.7
Cohuna – Leitchville and District	978.2
Rural South West – Quambatook	1001.3
Australia	1002.0
Victoria	1009.6

Note: The lower the number the higher the level of disadvantage. Source: *SEIFA Index of Disadvantage*.

Consultation Results

What has our community told us?

Council staff undertook a range of consultation processes with the community and stakeholders for the Council Plan 2017 – 2021, including surveys (online and written), conversation boards, and attending meetings to review the Integrated Community Plan across the municipality.

Snapshot:

- Nine Community Planning Groups – over 100 people (not including staff and Councillors)
- Seniors Advisory Group
- Children's Centre staff -14
- Kerang Traders Group - 7
- Youth Council-12
- GLAM* agencies -16
- ReSpark the Park event - 100
- Mental Health Carers Group – 7
- Online survey responses – 164
- Conversation boards across the municipality

Consultation results showed some emerging themes across the Shire, as well as relevant to specific towns and communities. These are reflected within the individual community plans contained within this document.

In addition, Council has developed a number of key strategies in recent times which have involved extensive community consultation, including the following:

Gannawarra Early Years Plan 2015-2018

Key Focus Areas:

- Shaping our shire with the input of children
- Healthy learning and development
- What our families need
- Value in diversity
- Effective partnerships

**GLAM: Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting - Council, Northern District Community Health, Kerang District Health, Cohuna District Hospital, Mallee District Aboriginal Service, Victoria Police and the Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership.*

Children and Youth Strategy 2016-2020

Key Focus Areas:

- Health and wellbeing
- Recreation, activities and events
- Education, careers and employment
- Leadership, volunteering and civic engagement
- Effective services and support

Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2020

Key Focus Areas:

- Connectivity
- Supporting Services
- Active Participation and Engagement
- Housing and accommodation
- Community connectedness
- Information and communication
- Partnerships and collaboration

Tourism Plan 2015-2020

Key Focus Areas:

- Brand positioning
- Infrastructure and environment
- Business and hospitality
- Marketing and promotion
- Events
- Industry development
- Communication and partnerships

Creative Arts and Activation Strategy 2016-2020:

Key Focus Areas:

- Community
- Facilities
- Marketing
- Major projects

It is important that the voice of our community as heard through these plans and strategies and the specific key focus areas and actions contained within are considered in the development of the new Council Plan/Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

A full list of Council Plans and Strategies can be accessed from:
<http://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au/Council/Documents-and-Publications>



Consultation Results

At a local level, Council works particularly closely with Northern District Community Health, Kerang District Health, Cohuna District Hospital, Victoria Police, Mallee District Aboriginal Service, and the Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership.

This partnership group known as GLAM operates under a memorandum of understanding which outlines how these health providers work together, share resources and support health initiatives that improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the residents of the Gannawarra Shire.

GLAM agencies have determined that the following health priorities will be focused on at a local level over the next 4 year period. These priorities have been informed by a thorough assessment of health population data, other evidence and legislative requirements:

- Vulnerable Children and Youth
- Oral Health
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Preventing Violence
- Aboriginal Health
- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Reducing alcohol and other drugs
- Sexual and reproductive health



Survey Results

What has our community told us?

The first survey was submitted on 22 November with the last survey received on 31 January. A total of 164 surveys were submitted by our community.

Of the respondents



Our respondents were aged

Under 15	1.2%
15 - 20	3.0%
21 - 35	12.0%
36 - 50	31.9%
51 - 65	29.8%
Over 65	22.1%

With their closest town being

Kerang	45.1%
Cohuna	23.2%
Leitchville	2.1%
Lake Charm	4.9%
Murrabit	4.2%
Koondrook	11.3%
Quambatook	2.1%
Lake Meran	0.7%
Macorna	1.4%
External to Shire	5.0%

Working in the field of

Professional	35.7%
Student	2.3%
Education	8.7%
Retired	23.1%
Disability Sector	0.8%
Health	5.6%
Agriculture	15.7%
Business	12.2%
Home duties	3.5%

Survey Results

What our community told us in summary..

What do you like about where you live?

- “Lakes and Waterways”
- “Heritage is preserved”
- “The natural beauty of this area needs to be maintained and focused on for tourism potential to be achieved”

What is it about where you live that you don't like or find challenging?

- “Lack of visual arts focus”
- “Public transport”
- “Lack of independent living facilities”
- “Lack of access to specialised professionals”
- “Little to no services for special needs children/adults”
- “Need more jobs and easier access to university education”
- “Lack of understanding of GLTBI issues and health with current doctors in Gannawarra”
- “Internet access”

What should Council be focusing on for the next 4 years?

- “Lobby the State Government for an increase in Rural Grants”
- “Council's role is to be a voice for those who don't have a voice at decision making tables, to provide services when no one else will provide them, to look after those who no one else cares about and to bring attention to issues that no one would know about or care about otherwise”
- “Work collectively and collaboratively with community to create the opportunities for all to enjoy optimum health and wellbeing”
- “Maintaining and developing what we already have with a focus on tourism to bring financial benefits to all ratepayers”
- “Fluoridation of water supply to improve oral health”
- “Investing and upgrading library spaces for engaging youth”
- “Encourage business growth in town”
- “Advocate and lobby for funding in regard to disability/ special needs persons”
- “Communication and consultation with the community”
- “More pathways for youth in education, work, social media, town development”
- “Talk to ratepayers before any MAJOR decisions are made”
- “Support and recognise agriculture 100%”

What are important issues you believe Council should be addressing on behalf of the community?

- “Independent living”
- “Council must re-focus and get back to their core function”
- “More money on roads”
- “Strengthen business, employment opportunities”
- “Respite and care for the elderly and disabled is critical”
- “WATER is the lifeline of Gannawarra Shire”
- “Our accommodation facilities and standards need to be upgraded to retain our visitors”
- “The loss of irrigation water”
- “Become a refugee welcome shire”
- “Investment in industry and aged care facilities”

What do we need to do to be a vibrant, connected, inclusive and proud community?

- “More age specific events, such as young adults”
- “Encourage folk from other towns to volunteer at Gateway Information Centre”
- “Get back to basics”
- “Recognition that everyone is equal and has valuable contributions to make”
- “Connectivity through NBN fixed wireless options for rural areas”
- “Promote business, employment and resident issues rather than beautify streets”
- “Encourage arts and culture”
- “Encourage new industry to the area”
- “Strong consultation with the community”
- “Get more young people volunteering”



Survey Results

What our community told us in summary..

What is your long term vision for Gannawarra Shire?

- “Healthy Schools, sports clubs and community organisations”
- “To be a place where all people feel at ‘home’, a comfortable place to raise a family and grow old in”
- “A place where the natural environment and agriculture coexist and meld together like the slow flow of the local rivers and majestic redgum forests”
- “The preservation of history amalgamated with new, exciting features”
- “To grow a beautiful area as a destination for tourists who may eventually settle in the area”
- “A caring community which is generous and appreciative of its freedom and rich heritage”
- “Have the biggest solar power system in Australia and produce the best irrigated agriculture products in the world”
- “Continuous promotion of agriculture in the region”
- “To prosper without losing the small town feeling”
- “Maintain, promote and enhance existing businesses, as well as encouraging new entrants”
- “Maintaining the lifestyle associated with living in the country but providing the amenities and services city people take for granted”
- “To be inclusive and proud”
- “New economic opportunities and diversity”
- “Council provides the core functions roads, rates, rubbish enabling communities to enhance the liveability of the area”



Survey Results

What our community told us in summary..

These are the top five things the community told us they liked about where they live:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Peace and Quiet | 77.4% |
| 2. Relaxed lifestyle | 75.6% |
| 3. Surrounding natural environment | 67.1% |
| 4. Friends and family | 61.0% |
| 5. Safety | 56.1% |

These are the top five areas the community told us they don't like or find challenging about where they live:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Declining population | 53.0% |
| 2. Employment opportunities | 41.5% |
| 3. Roads and footpaths | 37.8% |
| 4. Transport | 35.4% |
| 5. Access to tertiary education | 29.3% |

These are the top five things the community think Council should be focusing on for the next four years:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Roads | 45.7% |
| 2. Tourism and business development and investment opportunities e.g. renewable energy | 45.1% |
| 3. Appearance of towns, parks and gardens | 45.1% |
| 4. Maintaining community assets like public halls, recreation reserves | 43.3% |
| 5. Footpaths | 40.2% |

These are the top five things the community said are important issues for Council to address:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. A strong, diverse economy with a focus on job creation and bringing in new people | 68.3% |
| 2. A thriving tourism industry that brings visitors to our region and adds value to the local economy | 61.6% |
| 3. High quality services for our community e.g. aged care, children services | 60.4% |
| 4. Safe and high quality streetscapes, bridges and roads | 53.0% |
| 5. Population growth and increased diversity, without compromising 'small town' values | 52.4% |



Conversation Board Results

Summary

Conversation Boards were sporadically located across the municipality, and focused on asking four strategic questions. People answered on a sticky note providing anonymity and the freedom to be able to express their opinion.

The location sites were:

Internal

- Kerang Depot
- Kerang office
- Children's Centre, Kerang

External

- Children's Centre, Kerang
- Kerang Library
- Cohuna Customer Service/ Library
- Northern District Community Health Service - Kerang, Cohuna & Quambatook
- Mallee District Aboriginal Service, Kerang
- Gateway Centre, Cohuna
- Kerang Probus meeting
- Gannawarra Shire Youth Council

The four questions asked were:

1. What do you like most about where you live?
2. What is it about where you live that you don't like or find challenging?
3. In your community, what do you think Council should be focusing on?
4. What other things do we need to do to be a vibrant, connected, inclusive and proud community?

GATEWAY TO GANNAWARRA

1. What do you like most about where you live?

- Rivers and lakes

2. What is it about where you live that you don't like or find challenging?

- Need a new plan for new pool

3. In your community, what do you think Council should be focusing most on?

- Christmas Decorations – in partnership with shop owners
- Pedestrian crossing near the hospital and Aged Care village for residents, visitors etc.
- 'Keeping Place' for aboriginal artefact
- Recognition of Aboriginal artefacts and history
- Chinese elm trees in Cohuna
- POOL
- Street beautification
- Alternative truck route
- More trees along streets
- Elderly – residential care & facility upgrades
- Swimming Pool

4. What other things do we need to do to be a vibrant, connected, inclusive and proud community?

- NIL

COHUNA LIBRARY/CUSTOMER SERVICE

1. What do you like most about where you live?

- Lakes & Parks
- Family

2. In your community, what do you think Council should be focusing most on?

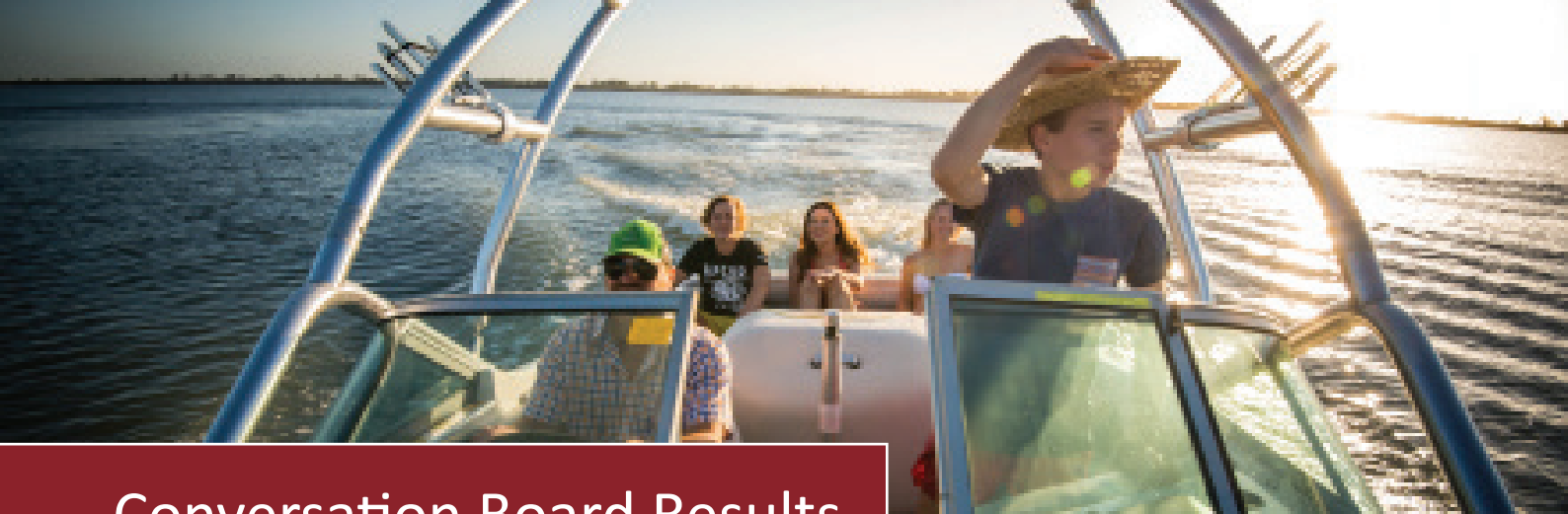
- Cutting rates

3. In your community, what do you think Council should be focusing most on?

- NIL

4. What other things do we need to do to be a vibrant, connected, inclusive and proud community?

- NIL



Conversation Board Results

YOUTH COUNCIL

1. What do you like most about where you live?

- The people, the freedom
- The opportunities presented to youth through Youth Council and the Freeza committee
- The facilities, people, environment, lakes & creeks
- The sport available and opportunities for young people to be involved
- Fresh air and space
- The Lake

2. What is it about where you live that you don't like or find challenging?

- Getting others involved using facilities that already exist
- Lack of opportunities e.g. performance, art, shows, educational
- Finding something to do
- Education/work opportunities for youth
- I don't like the lack of transport for youth and young adults without a license.

3. In your community, what do you think Council should be focusing on?

- Youth led activities and events
- Utilising what we have to offer in our shire e.g. facilities, creek and youth
- Mental health acceptance (social)
- Mental Health
- Volunteering and groups to support a LGBTBI culture
- Council should be most focused on education, work and volunteer opportunities for youth

4. What other things do we need to do to be a vibrant, connected, inclusive and proud community?

- Fun events, get people to smile more
- Be more connected through community/youth led projects
- To stay connected council needs to involve youth in local happenings
- To be a vibrant, connected community, art and music should be involved at events
- To continue youth led events and volunteer opportunities
- More community events
- People involved in what our community already offers
- Creative outlets and services to help youth with their dreams

GANNAWARRA CHILDREN'S CENTRE

1. What do you like most about where you live?

- Birdlife
- Lakes

2. What is it about where you live that you don't like or find challenging?

- Health Services

3. In your community, what do you think Council should be focusing most on?

- Family events
- One section of playground at Atkinson to be fenced for 'Active toddlers'

4. What other things do we need to do to be a vibrant, connected, inclusive and proud community?

- NIL

Conversation Board Results

KERANG SHIRE OFFICES

1. What do you like most about where you live?

- Big skies and Murray River
- Volunteering opportunities
- Affordable housing
- Quiet
- Open space
- Safety
- Night sky
- Country life

2. What is it about where you live that you don't like or find challenging?

- No Movie Theatre
- Gossip
- Live Theatre Space
- Transport
- Hard to make friends if not 3rd generation
- Boredom

3. In your community, what do you think Council should be focusing most on?

- Economy
- Infrastructure
- Health
- Agriculture
- Roads
- Rates
- Rubbish
- Recreation
- Helping isolated people
- Quality accommodation

4. What other things do we need to do to be a vibrant, connected, inclusive and proud community?

- Better food options
- Rainbow ticked
- NBN
- What others are doing in the community
- Movie theatre/cinema
- Communication
- Rainbow ticked
- Celebrate our aboriginal culture more
- Equality
- 1-4 HAT restaurant

KERANG LIBRARY

1. What do you like most about where you live?

- Peace & Quiet
- Atkinson Park area – something for all ages
- Volunteering youth based events and groups
- Friends
- People acknowledge each other when their paths meet
- The wetlands
- Easy parking
- Library
- The green grass, trees and flowering plants

2. What is it about where you live that you don't like or find challenging?

- Public transport
- Lack of jobs for youth
- Transport
- Education for people aged 16-25
- Lack of jobs for older people not just young people
- Not many options with education and work for youth
- Lack of job opportunities
- Lack of transport

3. In your community, what do you think Council should be focusing most on?

- Mental Health
- Health
- Infrastructure to provide for varied social-economic differences
- Youth Jobs
- Hard rubbish collection especially for aged/older residents
- Comedy

4. What other things do we need to do to be a vibrant, connected, inclusive and proud community?

- Need to host more free activities to engage youth and the community
- Young people could participate in community events e.g. Toy Run
- Recognise the importance of Ramsar convention-celebrate it!



Consultation with Community

SUMMARY

Over 100 community members were consulted at Community Planning Groups across the Shire.

Council staff reviewed all current community plans with each community group and feedback was provided on updates and additions required. Following this consultation, draft revised community plans were sent to all community planning groups for feedback.

Council staff met with each community planning group on 3-4 occasions to produce draft community profiles. Drafts of the community profiles are located within the Council Plan.



Community Profiles

Summary

Council staff met with nine Community Planning/Progress Associations on at least three occasions during the consultation phase, speaking to over 100 people and reviewed their individual Community Plans and project priorities.

From this consultation as well as feedback from the community surveys, conversation boards, councillor and officer feedback, draft community profiles for the following towns were developed:

- Cohuna
- Kerang
- Koondrook
- Leitchville
- Macorna and district
- Murrabit and district
- Lakes district
- Lalbert
- Quambatook

Further work is required with communities to ensure that the projects listed are specific and achievable and identify partnerships and resources required to achieve the projects listed.

Councillors made a decision to include the community profiles in the Council Plan 2017 - 2021, rather than as a separate Integrated Community Plan.

This ensures that community aspirations are considered in all decision making processes of Council over the next four year period.



Future

Where to from here?

The following provides an indicative timeline for the development of the 2017-2021 Gannawarra Council Plan, incorporating the 2017-2021 Gannawarra Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan:

20 February 2017: Councillors will work with a consultant to develop the Vision, Values and Key Focus Areas for the new Council Plan/Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. This will be done as a whole day planning session with this research information report informing the decision making process.

27 March 2017: Council staff will check in with Councillors at the Council Briefing Session with a template containing the overall concepts for the new Council Plan/Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

11 April 2017: Draft Council Plan/Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan presented to April Council Briefing.

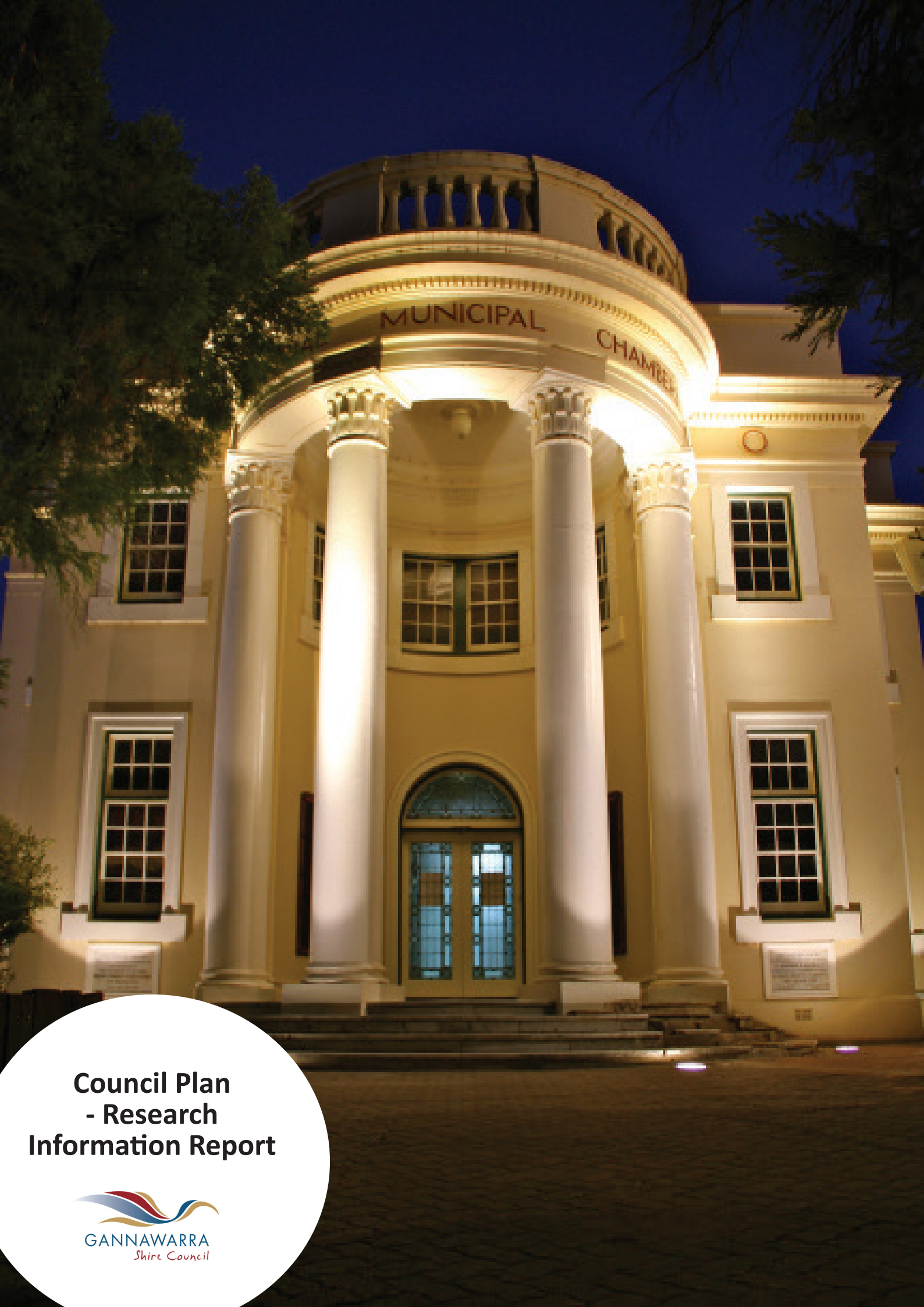
19 April 2017: Final draft Council Plan presented to April Council Meeting for endorsement to go out for public exhibition for 28 days.

20 April – 19 May 2017: Council Plan and Council Budget community engagement meetings.

28 June 2017: Council Plan presented to June Council meeting for final endorsement.

30 June 2017 or earlier: Final 2017-2021 Council Plan (incorporating Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) submitted to Minister for Local Government and Minister for Health as required.

Detailed Action Plans for each of the Key Focus Areas will be developed by Council officers.



**Council Plan
- Research
Information Report**

