



GANNAWARRA

Shire Council

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

10:00am

Senior Citizens Centre

Kerang

AGENDA

Council Meeting

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	Nil	

Geoff Rollinson

ACTING 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 - 21 September 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 - 14 SEPTEMBER TO 11 OCTOBER 2022

Author: Mel Mathers, Executive Assistant - Chief Executive Office

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: 1 Record of Councillor Briefing - 10 October 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings from 14 September to 11 October 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, 10 October 2022
Time:	9:00am – 4:45pm
Location:	Senior Citizens Centre, Kerang
In Attendance: (Councillors)	Cr Charlie Gillingham Cr Ross Stanton – 9:00am – 3:55pm Cr Kelvin Burt Cr Travis Collier – 9:00am – 12:30pm Cr Keith Link Cr Garner Smith
Apologies:	Cr Jane Ogden
In Attendance: (Officers)	Geoff Rollinson, Phil Higgins, Wade Williams, Paul Fernee, Alissa Harrower, Mel Mathers, Roger Griffiths, Kellie Burmeister, Leigh Hollingworth
In Attendance: (Other)	Georgie Ward, Macquarie Local Government Lawyers (Virtual) Site Visit to VHM Limited Office, Kerang: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham Howard- Managing Director • Jerom Bourne – General Manager, Commercial • Kurtis Noyce – Environment and Approvals Specialist • Emily Henry – Geologist • Louise Garwood – Manager, Procurement • Debbie Rice – Manager, Corporate and Community Development
Matters Discussed:	Presentations: 7.12 Local Law No. 1 – Macquarie Local Government Lawyers 1.2 VHM Mineral Sands Draft Council Agenda – October Meeting of Council Reports: 7.1 Council Policy Review 7.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 6 September, 2022 Meeting 7.3 Petition – Flying the Rainbow Flag 7.4 Annual Report 2022 7.5 Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday Future Options 7.6 2022 Community Grants Program – Community Support Grants 7.7 2022 Community Grants Program – Community Event Grants 7.8 2022 Community Grants Program – Major Community Project Fund 7.9 Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy 7.10 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 7.11 Draft Climate Change Strategy Councillor Briefing Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHM Mineral Sands • Proposed 2023/2024 Budget Timetable • Mayoral Election • Financial Plan • Future Listing Report • Executive Search Consultant Appointment Process Councillor Strategic Briefing Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020/2021 Capital Works Program Update • Strategic Projects – Towards 2025 Update

	Councillor Issues Raised	
Conflict of Interest Disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/Officer making disclosure	Councillor/Officer left meeting Yes/No
7.6, 7.7, 7.8	Cr Ross Stanton	Yes
7.6	Cr Travis Collier	Yes
7.8	Cr Charlie Gillingham	Yes
Completed By:	Geoff Rollinson – Acting Chief Executive Officer 	

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

Author: Narelle O'Donoghue, Manager Community Health

Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: 1 Preventing Family Violence Statement

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the reviewed Council document, Preventing Family Violence Statement of Commitment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that they are reflective of current practices. This report addresses the following Council document which has recently been reviewed:

- Preventing Family Violence Statement of Commitment

PURPOSE

This report addresses the recently reviewed Preventing Family Violence Statement of Commitment document for the consideration of Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Preventing Family Violence Statement of Commitment.

DISCUSSION

Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that they are reflective of current practice. Council policies are reviewed as needed, however most policies must be reviewed within either 12 months or two years after a General Election. Reviewed policies are presented to Council for endorsement, or for repeal if it has been determined the policy is no longer required.

Council policies provide guidance to staff, Council and the community and are published on Council's website.

Below is a summary of recommended adjustments to the recently reviewed Preventing Family Violence Statement of Commitment.

Policy No.	Policy Title	Comments
	Preventing Family Violence Statement of Commitment	This document outlines Council's Preventing Family Violence Statement of Commitment. The wording is the same as that on the plaque displayed in the Customer Service area of Council's Kerang Office, which aligns with Council's membership to the Loddon Mallee

		Collective Action on Respect and Equality (C.A.R.E.) Partnership through Women's Health Loddon Mallee. Recommended adjustments to this document reflect minor administrative changes only.
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RELEVANT LAW

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Gender Equality Act 2020

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council's Preventing Family Violence Statement of Commitment was last reviewed and endorsed by Council on 18 March 2020.

OPTIONS

Council may wish to endorse the recommended, or alternative adjustments or decide to not make any adjustments to the document at this time.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council policies provide guidance to Council, staff and the community in decision making and service delivery.

Policies are reviewed as required however most policies must be reviewed within either 12 months or two years of a Council election. Regular reviews of Council policies ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that they are reflective of current practices.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022

Royal Commission into Family Violence 2015

Ending Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change 2017-2027

Free From Violence: Victoria's Prevention Strategy

Free From Violence: Second Action Plan 2022-2025

Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023

Safe and Strong: Victorian Gender Equality Strategy

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021 – 2025:

- Be a creative employer of choice through our adherence to good governance and our inclusive culture.
- Improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community through partnerships, services, and programs.

Council Policy No. 141 – Public Transparency

Council Policy No. 143 – Community Engagement

Gannawarra Shire Council Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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



Preventing Family Violence

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges that violence against women is prevalent in the Gannawarra Shire.

Council recognises that while any person can be a victim or perpetrator of violence, violence is predominately perpetrated by men, and in family violence situations, women are predominately the victims.

Council understands that the underlying drivers of violence against women are gender inequality, rigid gender stereotypes and cultures that accept or excuse men's violence.

Council commits to working in our own organisation and in partnership with others to end violence against women.

This will be done by creating communities, organisations and cultures that are non-violent, gender equitable, non-discriminatory, and that promote respectful relationships.

In this way we will address the underlying drivers of violence against women and create a safer community.

STATEMENT REVIEW

Council will review this Statement as required but always within two years after a general election of the Council.

At the time of review, this Statement was compliant with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act* 2006.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Members of the public may inspect all Council policies at Gannawarra Shire Council's Kerang and Cohuna office or online at www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au.

Any enquiries in relation to this Statement should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer on (03) 5450 9333.

Records – Altus ECM No. 3.000518
Originally adopted: 18/03/2020
Reviewed 19/10/2022
To be reviewed: 2026

7.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - 6 SEPTEMBER, 2022 MEETING

Author: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 6 September 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on Tuesday, 6 September 2022. The focus of the ARC meeting was to review the draft Financial Statements and the draft Performance Statement. Other reports related to 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.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

Details of the 6 September 2022 ARC Meeting:

Member attendees:

John Campbell – Independent Member – Chair

Bradley Tarr – Independent Member

Francis Crawley – Independent Member

Cr Charlie Gillingham – Councillor Representative

Cr Garner Smith – Councillor Representative

Also in attendance:

Staff

Phil Higgins – Director Corporate Services

Shanna Johnny – Chief Financial Officer

Alissa Harrower – Acting Manager Governance

Allison Peace –Administration Officer

Auditor

Ryan Schischka – Johnsons MME for the 20222 Financial Statements and Performance Statement

Apologies: Tom O'Reilly – Chief Executive Officer

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

Report	Item for Discussion	Recommendation/Outcome
2022 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement	The 2022 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement were presented for 'in principle' endorsement by the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).	1. The 'in principle' 2022 Financial Statements and Performance Statement were endorsed. 2. Approved the 'in principle' reports subject to any changes made by VAGO.
Compliance with legislation and regulations	An update on compliance with legislation and regulations was provided.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Protective Data Security Plan (PDSP)	The PDSP due 31 August 2022 and has been submitted.	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 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Internal Audit Program Status Update	The program status and proposed reviews for 2022/2023 was considered.	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. Five items reviewed at the meeting held in May were approved for removal from the list. Two items completed were reviewed and approved for removal from the list.	The ARC acknowledged the reviewed items
Reports from VAGO, IBAC, Ombudsman and LG Inspectorate	Various reports were considered with the main item being a VAGO report on Fraud Control over Local Government Grants. The nine recommendations in this report were highlighted and a response from Council provided.	The reports were considered and noted.
Councillor Expenditure Report	A report of the expenses of Councillors and Delegated Committee Members was presented to the ARC for 1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022.	The reports were received and noted
Corporate Credit Card	Details of expenditure on credit cards and work related reimbursements for 1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022 was presented.	
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.	

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.
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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 following issues reflect initiatives on innovation and continuous improvement:

- The Framework of the Audit Plan and ICE Plan are being implemented.
- The ARC undertook a review of outstanding internal audit items themselves during the meeting.

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.

7.3 PETITION - FLYING THE RAINBOW FLAG

Author: Alissa Harrower, Acting Manager Governance

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: 1 Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council – Flying the Rainbow Flag

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the petition calling for the rainbow flag to be flown on the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition calling for the rainbow flag to be flown on the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) each year 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.

PURPOSE

This report seeks a resolution of Council to receive the petition.

ATTACHMENTS

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council – Flying the Rainbow Flag.

DISCUSSION

A petition containing 29 names, calling for the rainbow flag to be flown on the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) each year 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.

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.

Council's Draft Reconciliation Action Plan is currently being finalised with Elders and Reconciliation Australia and commits to flying the Australian Aboriginal Flag at Council and partnership agency facilities.

RELEVANT LAW

Flags Act 1953

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

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.

The Australian National Flag and the Australian Aboriginal Flag are currently flown outside Council's Kerang Office and Garden Park, Cohuna. There is not currently a third flagpole erected outside Council's Kerang Office. If Council approve the request to fly the Rainbow Flag, the following options will need to be taken into consideration:

1. Erect a third flagpole outside Council's Kerang Office to allow for the flying of community type flags, including the Rainbow Flag on 17 May annually;
2. Utilise current infrastructure with flagpoles available on the Bendigo Road median, Garden Park, Cohuna and Atkinson Park soundshell, Kerang;
3. Erect a new flagpole in an appropriate location allowing for community flags to be flown when requested.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The erection of a new flagpole/s will require funding in Council's Capital Works Program.

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.

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.

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

We, the residents and ratepayers of Gannawarra Shire, call on Council to join with sixty-eight other Victorian councils in flying the rainbow flag on 17 May to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

Name

Keith Morphew

Signature**Address**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Andrea Otto

Signature**Address**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

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Name

Thomas Conlan

Signature**Address**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

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Name

Tanya Tasevski

Signature**Address**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

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Name

Gael Hildebrand

Signature**Address**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

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Name

Laura O'DWYER

Signature**Address**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

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Name

Leanne Osgood

Signature**Address**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

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Name

Yvette Myhill

Signature**Address**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

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Name

Tylah Robinson

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name	Morris Sam
Address	<div></div>

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Rekay Webster

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Sharon Payne

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Raelene Farrant

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Rachel Farquharson

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Lauren Knuckey

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Louise Graham

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

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Name

Jan Milne

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

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Name

Peta Conroy

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

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Name

Savannah Sorensen

Signature**Address**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

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Name

Andrew Gibbs

Signature**Address**

Monday, September 19, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Carmel Flynn

Signature**Address**

Monday, September 19, 2022

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Name

Yvonne Fabry

Signature**Address**

Monday, September 19, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

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Name

Leanne Pepperell

Signature**Address**

Monday, September 19, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

We, the residents and ratepayers of Gannawarra Shire, call on Council to join with sixty-eight other Victorian councils in flying the rainbow flag on 17 May to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

Name

Cary Cullen

Address

Monday, September 19, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

We, the residents and ratepayers of Gannawarra Shire, call on Council to join with sixty-eight other Victorian councils in flying the rainbow flag on 17 May to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

Name

Catherine Trewin

Signature**Address**

Monday, September 19, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

We, the residents and ratepayers of Gannawarra Shire, call on Council to join with sixty-eight other Victorian councils in flying the rainbow flag on 17 May to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

Name

kristy pilgrim

Signature**Address**

Monday, September 19, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

We, the residents and ratepayers of Gannawarra Shire, call on Council to join with sixty-eight other Victorian councils in flying the rainbow flag on 17 May to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

Name

Shane Pilgrim

Signature**Address**

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

We, the residents and ratepayers of Gannawarra Shire, call on Council to join with sixty-eight other Victorian councils in flying the rainbow flag on 17 May to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

Name

Amanda Fidler

Signature**Address**

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Petition to Gannawarra Shire Council: Flying the rainbow flag

We, the residents and ratepayers of Gannawarra Shire, call on Council to join with sixty-eight other Victorian councils in flying the rainbow flag on 17 May to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia.

Name

Ellen White

Signature**Address**

7.4 MAYORAL ELECTION

Author: Alissa Harrower, Acting Manager Governance

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council hold an Unscheduled Council Meeting on Monday 7 November 2022 commencing at 9.00am at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre for the purpose of holding a Mayoral Election.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), at a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor, on a day that is as close to the end of the current Mayor's term as is reasonably practicable.

The current Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected on 8 November 2021.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to determine when to conduct the 2022 Mayoral Election.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

In accordance with the Act, at a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor, on a day that is as close to the end of the current Mayor's term as is reasonably practicable. As per section 20A of the Act, the Council may also establish an office of Deputy Mayor.

The current Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected on 8 November 2021.

In order to hold an unscheduled meeting of the Council for the purpose of holding a Mayoral Election, Council may by resolution call an unscheduled meeting of the Council, as per section 13 of the Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The current Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected at a meeting on 8 November 2021.

OPTIONS

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* at a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor, on a day that is as close to the end of the current Mayor's term as is reasonably practicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As per section 25 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Mayoral Election must be held at a Council Meeting that is open to the public.

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 Governance Rules – Part 2 – The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Acting Mayor.

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 ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Author: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: 1 Annual Report 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Receives the Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Report 2022;**
 2. **Ensures a copy of the Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Report 2022 is available on Council's website.**
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gannawarra Shire Council 2022 Annual Report, covering the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). In accordance with section 98 of the Act, the Annual Report contains a report on the operations of Council; the audited Financial Statements and audited Performance Statement.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the 2022 Annual Report.

ATTACHMENTS

Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Report 2022.

DISCUSSION

Council is required under sections 98 and 99 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) to prepare an Annual Report. Section 100 of the Act highlights the requirement to present the Annual report at a Council Meeting open to the public by 31 October on any year without a general election.

Copies of the Annual Report are currently being developed and will be available for viewing at Council's Customer Service Centres in Kerang and Cohuna, whilst a digital version of the report will be available on Council's website.

In 2021, the Annual report was prepared under the *Local Government Act 1989* under Local Government Minister direction. The 2022 Annual report is the first Annual report to be wholly prepared under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELEVANT LAW

The Annual Report 2022 was prepared as per the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

In order to comply with the requirements of the Act, Council must consider the Annual Report at the October meeting of the Council.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications through receiving the Annual Report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable. The Annual Report is a report of Council operations for the 2021-22 financial year.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Officers have revised the presentation of the Annual Report to further improve transparency and flow of information for readers, including rearranging certain sections and enhancing through visual appeal in alignment with the Act.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

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.



2 ANNUAL REPORT GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

WELCOME TO GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Gannawarra Shire Council's Annual Report provides our community with comprehensive and transparent information on Council's operational, financial, environmental and social performance during the 2021/22 year.

All councils are required by the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* to prepare an Annual Report each financial year which is compliant with the *Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF)*.

This Annual Report documents Council's highlights, our achievements and our response to emerging challenges.

NEED AN EXTRA COPY?

Additional copies of the Annual Report can be obtained by:

- Visiting our website www.gsc.vic.gov.au
- Calling us on (03) 5450 9333
- Visiting one of our Customer Service Centres
(See Contact Council section for locations)
- Emailing council@gsc.vic.gov.au
- Writing to Gannawarra Shire Council at PO Box 287, Kerang 3579

FEEDBACK

We welcome feedback regarding the production of our Annual Report.

Feedback provides us with the opportunity to continuously improve our methods for communicating the information contained within this report. If you would like to provide feedback, please contact us via the details provided in the Contact Council section of this report.

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COVER IMAGE: The Cohuna All Abilities Adventure Playground opened to the public in December 2021.

RIGHT: The Cohuna All Abilities Adventure Playground celebrates the town's links to the dairy industry.



About the Gannawarra



Located in northwestern Victoria, the Gannawarra boasts a diverse regional economy and significant natural assets such as Gunbower National Park, the Murray River, Gunbower Creek and Kerang Lakes.

Bordered by Swan Hill to the north, Buloke to the west, Loddon and Campaspe to the south and the Murray River to the east, the Gannawarra contains two central towns – Kerang and Cohuna - and numerous smaller settlements, including Koondrook, Quambatook, Leitchville, Lalbert, Lake Charm, Macorna, Murrabit and Mystic Park (Kangaroo Lake).

Serviced by the Loddon Valley and Murray Valley highways, the Gannawarra is 1.25 hours by car from Bendigo, 40 minutes by car from Swan Hill and 3 hours' drive from Melbourne. Regular passenger rail services also exist from Kerang to Swan Hill and Bendigo, with connections to Melbourne.

Due to its proximity to the Torrumbarry Irrigation System and the eastern fringe of the Mallee cropping region, the Gannawarra enjoys a diverse economy with representation across all sectors - including dairy, cropping, livestock, retail trade, manufacturing and government services such as healthcare and education. The Gannawarra also boasts emerging opportunities in areas such as nature based tourism and renewable energy.

The Gannawarra is renowned for its strong community pride, thanks to our communities' efforts to motivate and inspire each other to make the region a great place to live, visit and do business.

OUR PEOPLE

Our primary centres are Kerang and Cohuna. Smaller outlying communities include Koondrook, Leitchville, Quambatook, Murrabit, Lake Charm, Lalbert, Macorna and Mystic Park. Our small communities each have their own unique identity.

Our communities are



Population
10,683

*(Censusdata.abs.gov.au, 2021)



49.7%
Male



50.2%
Female



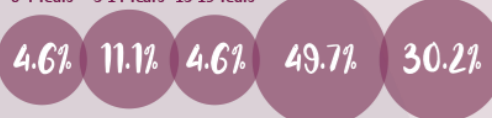
51
Median age



3,736 km²
Area

Age

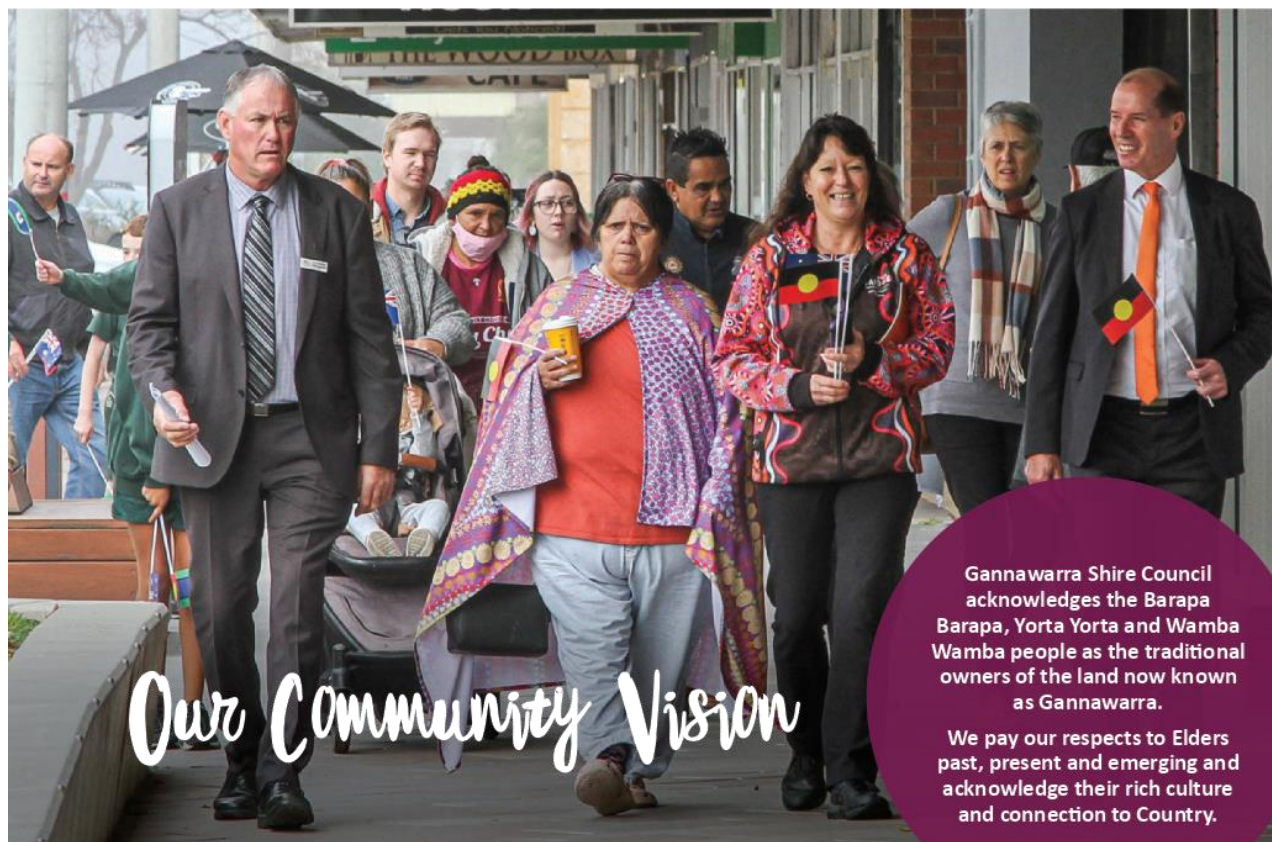
0-4 Years 5-14 Years 15-19 Years 20-64 Years 65+ Years



INTRODUCTION

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VISION STATEMENT

Our community will be proud, connected and inclusive as we actively seek opportunities that enhance lifestyle and liveability.

We will recognise and appreciate the value of the natural environment and how it connects our communities.

We will strive to be resilient to a changing environment through innovation and collaboration.

The Gannawarra will grow through encouraging economic diversity, creating unique tourism destinations, and embracing our cultural and natural assets.

KEY OBJECTIVES



STRATEGY STATEMENT

The Gannawarra will be renowned as an Australian destination and home of choice for its liveability and unique opportunities in innovative agriculture, renewable energy and nature-based tourism.

We focus on inclusive services and assets that enhance the health and wellbeing, cultural heritage, connectivity and productivity of our communities.

Values



Above: Gannawarra Shire Council co-organised the 2022 National Reconciliation Week walk, which occurred through the streets of Kerang in May 2022.

Mayor's Message

Welcome to Gannawarra Shire Council's 2022 Annual Report, which highlights Council's achievements during the 2021/22 financial year.

This Annual Report assesses Council's performance against the three goals outlined in the *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan*:



Council's role in achieving these goals involves:

- Acting as a representative government by taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision making;
- Providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring their achievement;
- Maintaining the viability of Council by ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner;
- Advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments;
- Acting as a responsible partner in government by taking into account the needs of other communities; and
- Fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.



HIGHLIGHTS

The 2021/22 financial year was one of growth for the Gannawarra. Despite the community enduring the COVID-19 pandemic, Council was able to deliver key projects and promote our strengths, leading to another period of population growth.

DEVELOPING KEY STRATEGIES

One of the major achievements of Council during 2021/22 was the adoption of the *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan*. This high level strategic document reflects the needs of our community and is helping the Gannawarra realise its full potential.

Developed in partnership with the community, this document outlines the three goals Council is striving to achieve between 2021 and 2025:

- Enhancing the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and access to services;
- Growing the Gannawarra by developing a diverse and broad economy; and
- Supporting long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

Council also began engaging with the community on what will be one of the most important documents to be developed during this municipal term – the *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy*.

This strategy will help shape the future of aquatic services in the Gannawarra, with a focus on modern and contemporary use rather than focusing on a model of service that was established when outdoor swimming pools were built throughout the Gannawarra more than 50 years ago.

My fellow Councillors and I have taken time to listen to the community's passion for our aquatic services and look forward to the continued development of this document during 2022/23.

TRANSFORMING THE GANNAWARRA

During 2021/22, Council was able to deliver numerous capital works projects that have transformed our towns and popular community assets. These include works at Cohuna and Kerang that connect these towns' central business districts to popular community spaces, construction of all abilities playgrounds at Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook, and improving valuable community facilities.

These transformational efforts will continue in the coming years, thanks to State Government support for

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projects such as *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* – a regional digital media and community meeting space to be located at Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library – and planning support for the Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail.

RECOVERING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Council continued to support the community as the COVID-19 pandemic entered a third year, providing key services during times when restrictions were in place and backing community and business efforts to reconnect social connections with communities.

It has been pleasing to see communities come together during the first half of 2022 and businesses adapting to trading outdoors, all made possible thanks to financial support Council received from the State Government's Community Activation and Social Isolation initiative.

ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Behind the scenes, Council continues to advocate for the community's needs, including the importance of financial stability and healthy communities. This is done both as an individual Council and via our involvement with groups such as the Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils and Murray River Group of Councils.

These efforts include our continued campaign for the Gannawarra to become the renewable energy capital of Victoria, which is closer to becoming reality following the Australian Energy Market Operator's call

for the development of VNI-West – known locally as KerangLink. This installation of electricity infrastructure that will connect Victoria and New South Wales' electricity network will also enable renewable energy projects to proceed across the municipality.

A STRONG TEAM

Many of the achievements highlighted in my message and throughout the *2022 Annual Report* would not be possible without the leadership of Council Chief Executive Officer, Tom O'Reilly and Council staff.

I also thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and passion for advocating for our communities.

LOOKING FORWARD

Council looks forward to continuing to deliver outcomes guided by the *Growing Gannawarra – 2021-2025 Council Plan* and advocating for the community's needs during 2022/23.

Council's 2022/23 Budget will assist to achieve this, with more than \$14 million allocated to a capital works program that will transform the liveability, recreational and tourism opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Cr Charlie Gillingham
MAYOR

Mayor Charlie Gillingham (left), Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Shaun Leane MLC and Gannawarra Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Tom O'Reilly at The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra funding announcement in January 2022.

CEO's Message

On behalf of Gannawarra Shire Council, it is a great pleasure to present Council's Annual Report for 2021/22.

I am proud of this organisation and its achievements in instilling hope and confidence throughout the Gannawarra.

I am also proud to be part of the Gannawarra Shire community – one that continues to excel and achieve the objectives outlined in the *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan*.

As Chief Executive Officer, I am responsible for:

- Establishing and maintaining an appropriate organisational structure for Council;
- Ensuring that the decisions of Council are implemented without undue delay;
- The day to day management of the Council's operations in accordance with the *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan*;
- Developing, adopting and disseminating a Code of Conduct for Council staff; and
- Providing timely advice to Council.



HIGHLIGHTS

The previous 12 months have been one of transformation for the Gannawarra reflected by the significant number of capital works projects which create a platform for future growth, development and enhanced livability.

TRANSFORMING THE GANNAWARRA

No matter where residents live in the Gannawarra, major projects that transform the way we live and interact proceeded or were completed in 2021/22.

It has been exciting to see major projects roll out within the Cohuna and Kerang central business districts. The second stage of the Cohuna Waterfront Development, completed in June 2022, has strengthened the links between the Cohuna CBD and the picturesque Gunbower Creek, with the creation of spaces where families can socialise through enhancements made to Apex Park.

Stage 2 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment, completed in early 2022, has opened up Scoresby Street and provides a visual connection between this space and the Victoria Square precinct, whilst the completion of the final stage of Kerang's Tate Drive Industrial Estate expansion has already reached capacity.

Our smaller communities are also benefiting. The transformation of Murrabit's open drain network to an underground drainage infrastructure system has beautified the town whilst mitigating the risk associated with arbovirus. Other transformational projects involve the preliminary work for the construction of the Quambatook Weir pool and connecting this Avoca River oasis to Quambatook.

One of the most exciting transformations has been the creation of spaces where people of all abilities can play. Cohuna and Koondrook have embraced all abilities playgrounds that opened during 2021/22, whilst the Kerang All Abilities Play Space and the first Changing Places facility in the Gannawarra – which will open in mid-2022 – will benefit visitors to Atkinson Park.

These projects are not possible without the support from our State and Federal counterparts, which underpins our ability as a small rural council to undertake these works.

It is important to remember that these transformation efforts occurred at a time where, as a community, we were transitioning out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, the efforts of our staff to provide valued and essential community services and deliver major construction projects has been truly inspirational.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2021 Census data showed that the Gannawarra is a place where people want to live, with our population increasing again compared to the previous five years. Our population also bucked regional trends during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing at a time when population figures for several municipalities in the north and west of Victoria were declining.

This growth can be attributed by our efforts to promote the 'ART of the Gannawarra' strategy – which aims to encourage diversification to our Agriculture sector, attract investment in Renewable energy projects, and promote our nature-based Tourism attractions.

Renewable energy and supporting climate change adaption initiatives has been a strong focus of Council, evident by our advocacy efforts to support the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) call for the development of VNI-West – known locally as KerangLink. The construction of this major electricity transmission infrastructure that will connect Victoria and New South Wales' energy network will also enable renewable energy projects to proceed across the municipality and help build the nation's largest renewable energy zone.

Meanwhile, the Gannawarra will soon be home to a regionally significant media lab and contemporary meeting space, thanks to the State Government. We were honoured to have the former Local Government Minister, the Hon. Shaun Leane MLC visit Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library in January 2022 to announce \$1.5

million for this project and extol its importance – one that will create a space for our regional communities to connect, collaborate, create and celebrate together.

AN INSPIRING TEAM

These transformational projects and advocacy efforts are made possible thanks to our outstanding team that is committed to the Gannawarra – one that is totally committed to delivering for their community.

This commitment is validated by the number of awards Council has received or been nominated for during 2021/22 – highlighted by three major accolades at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence. These awards, judged by our peers across the local government sector, heralds the work that our team do and shows that we are best practice in many areas of delivery.

Despite the challenges, our wonderful team are well positioned to continue to deliver hope and confidence for the greater good of the Gannawarra community.

I have been really proud to be part of our brilliant Gannawarra team and the community can look forward with great confidence and positivity to a bright and sustainable future for the Gannawarra.

Tom O'Reilly
Chief Executive Officer

Council Chief Executive Officer, Tom O'Reilly (left), Cr Jane Ogden, Cr Travis Collier, Cr Ross Stanton, Koondrook Development Committee President, Bryan Goble and Mayor Charlie Gillingham at the opening of the Koondrook All Abilities Playground in December 2021.

Year in Review

JULY



- re-Connect with your Gannawarra program launched, which supported mental health and wellbeing development during the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Leitchville Pre-School recognised for completing the Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs priority area of the Healthy Early Childhood Services Achievement Program**
- Council's Maternal and Child Health services supported a world leading child health research project
- Council services were impacted by State Government-implemented COVID-19 measures

AUGUST



- Inaugural Community Grants Forum held online
- *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan and Year One Action Plan* adopted
- **The Gannawarra Official Visitor Guide, showcasing key tourism and hospitality businesses within the Gannawarra, was published and distributed throughout northern Victoria and southern New South Wales**
- Council services continued to be impacted by COVID-19 lockdown measures

SEPTEMBER



- Koondrook All Abilities Playspace opened to the public
- **Council recognised the role its Meals on Wheels volunteers play in supporting this important program, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- In-person Council services resumed following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, with other services impacted by lockdown measures

OCTOBER



- Council held its first digital Australian Citizenship ceremony
- 24 events, projects and initiatives benefited from Council's 2021 Community Grants program
- **Council approved a proposal from Enel Green Power to improve lighting at the Leitchville Recreation Reserve**
- *Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31* adopted

NOVEMBER



- Cr Charlie Gillingham was elected Mayor for a second term, with Cr Jane Ogden elected Deputy Mayor
- **Walk to School Month held, involving all 10 primary schools located within the Gannawarra**
- Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, volunteers resumed supporting popular Council services
- Gannawarra Goes Orange campaign held, which encourages residents to call out all forms of family violence

DECEMBER



- **Koondrook All Abilities Playground officially opened**
- Cohuna All Abilities Adventure Playground opened to the public
- Council welcomed the Australian Energy Market Operator's recommendation for State and Federal governments to proceed with planning for VNI-West (KerangLink), which will connect electricity infrastructure into the national energy grid
- *Climate Change* policy adopted, which commits Council to transition to 100 per cent renewable energy and corporate net zero emissions by 2025, and net zero emissions at Council-managed landfills by 2040

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JANUARY



- Cohuna resident, Ross Bateman was named Gannawarra Shire Council's 2022 Citizen of the Year, with Leitchville resident, Taylah Clements the 2022 Young Citizen of the Year
- The State Government announced it would provide \$1.5 million of funding for the \$1.507 million *The Glasshouse* @ The Gannawarra project
- Changes to Council services were implemented after local COVID-19 cases impacted staff numbers

FEBRUARY



- Cohuna hosted the Campervan Motorhome Club of Australia Solos Network Rally, attracting more than 200 campervans to the Gannawarra
- Kerang CBD Redevelopment – Stage 2 completed
- Gannawarra Library Service presented with a copy of *'Jes' – A Dane in Australia*, which focuses on the Jorgensen family and their architectural influence on buildings throughout the municipality

MARCH



- International Women's Day morning tea held
- ACE Radio breakfast program, *The Morning Rush* held a live broadcast at the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre
- Council's COVID-19 Hardship policy incorporated into the Rates Relief policy
- Loddon Mallee Move It program, run locally in the Gannawarra – Active at Any Age! initiative – won the Outstanding Program or Project – Grant Based (externally funded) category at the 2022 LGPro Active Ageing and Wellbeing Awards

APRIL



- The State Government announced it would provide \$500,000 of funding for the planning of the Kerang-Koondrook Rail Trail
- Term 1, 2022 Warra Waders learn to swim program enrolments broke previous participation records
- Playable Street's musical installation, *The Plants* held at Cohuna and Kerang
- Director Community Wellbeing, Stacy Williams recognised in the annual Institute of Public Administration Victoria Top 50 Public Sector Women awards

MAY



- Annual *School Transition in Gannawarra* guide launched
- Mega 3D town name signs installed at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook and Quambatook
- 2022 *Australian of the Year* Exhibition opened at Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library
- Council joined Kerang Aboriginal Elders and Leaders Group, Northern District Community Health, Kerang District Health, Cohuna District Hospital, Mallee District Aboriginal Services and Victoria Police in signing a Partnership Agreement to maintain and enhance positive relationships

JUNE



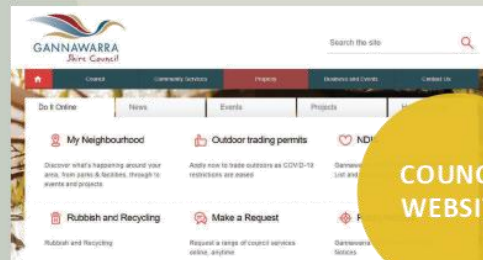
- Council won three awards at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence – the Outstanding Small Rural Council Initiative, the Community Assets & Infrastructure (\$2.5 million and under) Initiative and the Special Projects Initiative
- Council's popular Social Meals program resumed
- 2022/2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Budget adopted
- Draft *Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy* community sessions held across the municipality

Services Snapshot 2021/22



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 2,695 hours of Long Day Care a week
- 1,725 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten a week
- 350 hours of 3-year-old kindergarten a week
- 713 hours of Family Day Care a week



COUNCIL WEBSITE

- 67,716 users across 107,552 sessions
- Average session duration of 1 minute, 32 seconds
- 57.6% of visits made on mobile phone/tablet, with 42.4% of visits made via a desktop device
- Most popular pages were Home (34,457), COVID-19 portal (8,496) and Contact Us (6,312)



CUSTOMER SERVICE

- 37,089 incoming calls received, of these 56% were solved at first point of contact
- 4.6 second average to answer telephone
- 225 Live chats



COMMUNITY CARE

- 943 clients serviced in home
- 14,603 hours of domestic care
- 24,734 hours of personal care
- 21,227 hours of respite care
- 22,557 Meals on Wheels delivered
- 254 social meals provided
- 2,916 hours of property maintenance
- 1,074 hours of planned activity group events conducted
- 100 clients transported to medical appointments (GNETS)



IMMUNISATION

- 1,242 vaccinations were administered to 806 people through Council's immunisation program
- 39 immunisation sessions held
- 338 influenza shots administered as part of the 2022 influenza program

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LIBRARY

- 1,122 computer bookings
- 3,487 inter library loans from other libraries
- 5,519 loans to other libraries
- 266 new members
- 45,964 library collection item loans
- 2,695 new titles added
- 965 tourism enquiries answered
- 406 programs attended by 2,058 children and adults

LOCAL
LAWS

- 40 dogs and 21 cats released back to their owners
- 27 dogs and 114 cats re-housed
- 88 wild cats seized
- 60 Notices to Comply issued

MATERNAL
CHILD
HEALTH

- 93 babies born
- 33 families experienced the birth of their first baby
- 847 Key Ages and Stages consultations completed
- 273 additional consults made, with the top two reasons being feeding review and parental support



ROADS

- 16.7 kilometres of roads resheeted
- 4.5 kilometres of sealed road rehabilitation undertaken
- 1,105 square metres of footpath replaced
- 537 lineal metres of kerb and channel replaced
- 2,500 kilometres of roads graded
- Maintenance works conducted on 669 signs
- 4,064 kilometres of sealed roadside shoulders slashed
- 192,844 square metres of sealed roads resealed

SOCIAL
MEDIA

- 10% increase in Gannawarra Shire Council Facebook page followers
- 4% increase in Gannawarra Shire Twitter page followers
- 24% increase in Gannawarra Shire Council LinkedIn page followers
- 3% increase in Gannawarra Library Service Facebook page likes
- 11% increase in Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre Facebook page likes
- 57% increase in Creative Gannawarra Facebook page likes

SWIMMING
POOLS

- 17,317 visitors to Kerang Outdoor Pool
- 8,165 visitors to Cohuna Outdoor Pool
- 6,172 visitors to Kerang Exercise Pool



TOURISM

- 6,375 visitors to Gannawarra Shire Council-managed visitor centres (10% from interstate, 0.25% international travellers)
- Approximately 429 volunteer hours provided at the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre
- 12,440 visits to thegannawarra.com.au tourism website by 10,200 users

Finance Message

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	2021/22
Total revenue	\$40.61 million
Total expenditure	\$32.87 million
Surplus	\$7.74 million
Total assets	\$271.11 million
Total liabilities	\$12.87 million
Equity	\$258.24 million
Net cash from operating activities	\$15.5 million
Indebtedness ratio	7.48%

OPERATING POSITION

Council has achieved a surplus of \$7.74 million in 2021/22 - a decrease on the budgeted surplus of \$1.6 million. The reason for this decrease is partially due to additional employee costs in Community Care Services and Children's Services. Part of this increase in employee costs has been offset by reimbursements. Capital grants have been lower than budgeted due to some unsuccessful grant applications.

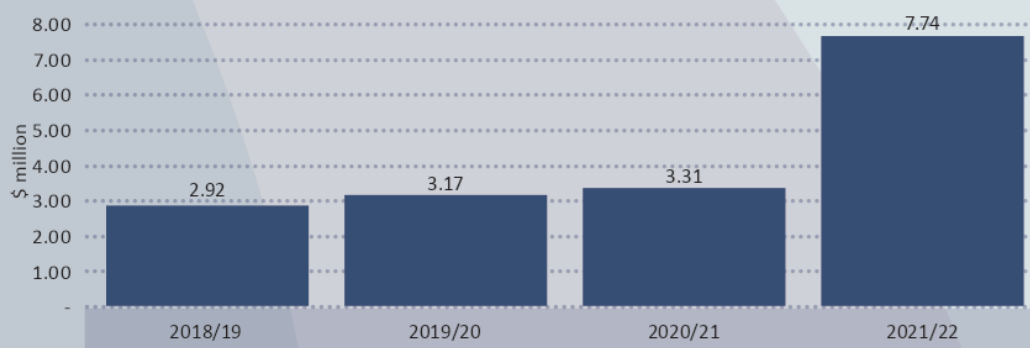
During 2021/22, Council received \$5.9 million as part of the State and Federal Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Part of this has been treated as unearned income in line with the Accounting Standards.

CAPITAL WORKS

Council aims to maintain its infrastructure assets at the expected levels while at the same time continuing to deliver the services needed by the community.

Council invested a total of \$12.26 million on renewing, expanding and upgrading existing infrastructure in the 2021/22 financial year. This included \$2.44 million for roads, \$1.26 million for footpaths and kerbs, \$1.49m on drainage works, and \$4.7 million for various recreation and leisure, parks and streetscapes projects across the municipality.

SURPLUS



YEAR IN REVIEW

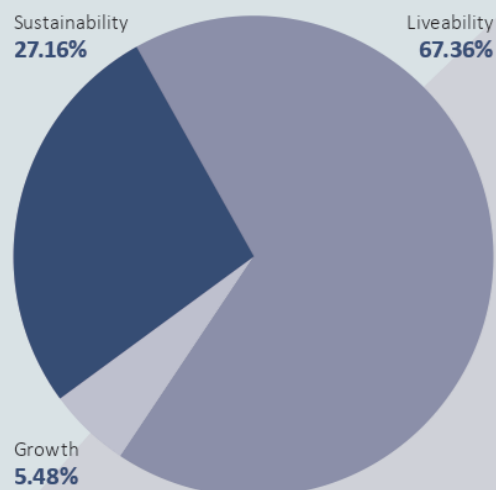
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COUNCIL EXPENDITURE

There are a variety of community services that Council operates alongside their Capital Works projects. In the 2021/22 financial year, total council expenditure was \$32.87 million, with 68 per cent being spent on enhancing wellbeing and liveability. Programs undertaken to achieve this strategic activity include roads and bridges infrastructure, community facilities, recreation reserves, community care services and children's services.

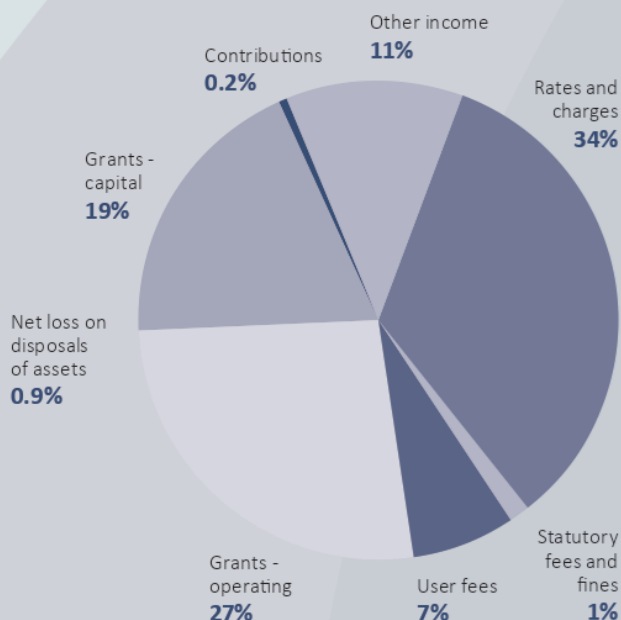
This included \$5.21 million being devoted to people in need within our Community Care sector, such as Home and Community Care, Brokered services and National Disability Insurance Scheme services, and \$3.55 million expended on Children's Services such as Kindergarten, Long Day Care, Family Day Care and Maternal and Childcare services.

Essential waste management services are a big part of Council's priority in creating sustainable living environments for the Gannawarra community, with \$2.09 million utilised in collection of kerbside and public bin waste in addition to the management of the local landfill.



STABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

Council receives income from a number of sources including rates, grants, user fees, fines and contributions. Rates and charges are one of Council's main sources of income, representing 34 per cent of total income. Following the advance payment by the Victorian Grants Commission, grants comprised 45 per cent of total income.



Major Capital Works



Tate Drive Industrial Estate expansion, Kerang: \$1.3 million (supported by \$900,000 from the State Government's Building Works package)

Completed in April 2022, expansion of the Tate Drive Industrial Estate, Kerang created an extra 13 lots along the southern section of the site.



Cohuna All Abilities Adventure Playground: \$700,000 (supported by \$1.7 million from the State Government's Crisis Committee of Cabinet – Infrastructure Stimulus Fund)

Completed in December 2021, the Cohuna All Abilities Adventure Playground features elements that are prominent in many popular all-abilities play spaces, including a carousel, seated swing, stand-up seesaw, flying fox, fencing, increased seating and sealed footpaths.



Koondrook All Abilities Playground \$520,000 (supported by \$390,000 from Regional Development Victoria's Regional Development fund)

Completed in September 2021, the Koondrook All Abilities Playground features elements that are prominent in many popular all-abilities play spaces, including a flying fox with an accessible harness, timber swings featuring accessible harness seating, an accessible carousel and in-ground trampolines.



Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre expansion: \$670,000 (supported by \$600,000 from the Victorian Schools Building Authority)

Completed in March 2022, the expansion of the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre enables the facility to hold 3-year-old kindergarten sessions, supported extra Long Day Care places available and increased the number of Maternal and Child Health consultation rooms.

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Cohuna Waterfront Development – Stage 2: \$3.4 million (supported by \$1.7 million from the State Government’s Crisis Committee of Cabinet – Infrastructure Stimulus Fund)

Completed in June 2022, Stage 2 of the Cohuna Waterfront Development aims to provide greater connections between the Cohuna central business district and Gunbower Creek.

Key components of the project included construction of deck pontoon on the banks of Gunbower Creek, the development of dedicated outdoor dining areas either side of the King George Street pedestrian crossing and the creation of a seated area at the intersection of King George and Sampson streets.



Kerang All Abilities Playground and Changing Places facility: \$1.1 million (supported by \$1 million from the State Government’s Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program)

Due for completion in July 2022, the Kerang All Abilities Play Space will feature elements that are prominent in many popular all-abilities play spaces, including in-ground trampolines, a log scramble area, water play areas and a wheelchair accessible sway fun swing.

This project also includes construction of the first Changing Places facility in the region. Featuring a height-adjustable adult-sized change table, ceiling track hoist system and a peninsular-structured toilet, the space will provide suitable facilities for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

Kerang CBD Redevelopment – Stage 2: \$1.317 million (fully funded by the Federal Government Local Roads and Community Investment Program)

Completed in February 2022, Stage 2 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment aims to connect the Kerang Railway Station, the award-winning Victoria Square precinct and the Kerang Open Space Precinct.

Inspired from the works undertaken by the development of the Kerang CBD Master Plan, works included footpath improvements along Scoresby Street between Fitzroy and Victoria streets and the creation of dedicated outdoor dining areas.



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Atkinson Park - A Safer Precinct for All: \$74,840
(supported by \$71,840 from the State Government
Community Safety Infrastructure Grant program)

Completed in July 2021, the Atkinson Park - A Safer Precinct for All project involved the installation of a wi-fi hot spot at the Kerang Skate Park and the addition of CCTV cameras at both the skate park and the Sir John Gorton Library. The project also involved improved lighting throughout Atkinson Park and the installation of a smart bench at the skate park, which features mobile phone and tablet charging facilities.



Morton Garner Pavilion redevelopment: \$600,000
(supported by \$475,000 provided from the Federal
Government's Regional Agricultural Show Development
Grants program to the Cohuna and District Agricultural,
Pastoral and Horticultural Society)

Completed in December 2021, the redevelopment of the Morton Garner Pavilion converted the former Cohuna and District Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Society pavilion into a multi-purpose facility that can be used for agriculture and community events.



Murrabit Netball Club change room redevelopment: \$328,000
(supported by \$219,000 from the State
Government's Female Friendly Facilities Program)

Completed in March 2022, the project involved the construction of a new netball change room, Umpire's rooms, an accessible bathroom and first aid room, as well as the renovation of the former netball change rooms.



Murrabit Stormwater Project: \$1.654 million
(fully funded by the Federal Government Local Roads
and Community Infrastructure Program)

Work on the Murrabit Stormwater Project – which will revolutionise the town's stormwater network by converting the town's open drain network to an underground drainage infrastructure system – began in October 2021.

These improvements, which are due for completion in July 2022, will reduce the risks associated with mosquito-borne disease and enable the capture and future use of reusable water.

COVID-19 Support & Recovery Efforts

Throughout 2021/22, Council worked in partnership with the community to support the Gannawarra through the COVID-19 pandemic and to lead recovery efforts.

These efforts, backed by State Government funding, aimed to support businesses to operate in a COVIDSafe manner, reactivate public spaces and build partnerships with local community groups to deliver projects.

Examples included

- Financial support for community events large and small to promote participation, inclusion and resilience
- Assisting organisers of community events to ensure COVIDSafe plans are incorporated in event planning process
- Installation of mega 3D town signs in Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook and Quambatook during May 2022
- Installation of musical sensory activity, *The Plants* in Cohuna and Kerang during April 2022
- Installation of permanent outdoor furniture to support businesses at Koondrook, Leitchville and Quambatook to operate in outdoor settings in a COVIDSafe manner
- Fostering the development of community-led and school-based food gardens across the municipality
- Organising art workshops to promote positive mental health and wellbeing through social connections

- Supporting community digital connectivity and literacy through three local neighbourhood houses
- Providing businesses with support to navigate COVID requirements at a local level. This included assisting with funding applications, accessing financial support, and developing COVIDSafe plans
- Hosting workshops for businesses wanting to improve their online presence
- Providing signage regarding social distancing, customer quotients, practicing good hygiene and cleaning logs

Council also supported ratepayers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the *COVID-19 Hardship Policy* enabling Council to hold interest on any debtor or rates accounts and to cease debt recovery processes on any outstanding debts or to defer payments. This policy was absorbed into Council's *Rate Relief* policy in March 2022.

Council will continue to work with the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee to implement the *Gannawarra Community Resilience Action Plan 2021-2023* that will support social, economic and environmental recovery across the Gannawarra.

Council worked in partnership with the community to support the Gannawarra through the COVID-19 pandemic and to lead recovery efforts. This included supporting businesses wanting to improve outdoor trading opportunities (left) and promoting the re-activation of public spaces (right).





Engagement with the Gannawarra community is important, as it ensures Council continues to respond to community needs and expectations. Council's *Community Engagement Strategy 2020-2025* and *Community Engagement Policy* guides how Council engages with the community on projects and services.

Council engaged with the community regarding the following projects, policies and strategies during 2021/22:

- 2022/23 Gannawarra Shire Council Budget
- *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy*
- *Gannawarra Shire Council Asset Plan 2022-2032*
- *Creative Gannawarra Strategy 2021-2025*
- *Draft Cohuna Recreation Reserve Masterplan*
- Council Policy No. 65 - Trees
- *Gannawarra Shire Council Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31*
- *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan*
- Kerang Lakes Eco-Trail Feasibility Study
- *Public Art Policy*
- Planning Permit Application P21147
- *Road Management Plan*
- *Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy*

A community pop-up session to assist with the development of Council's Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy occurred at Atkinson Park, Kerang in February 2022.

Community Satisfaction

2022 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Each year the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions coordinates a Statewide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey throughout Victorian local government areas. Held annually, this survey asks the opinions of local people about the place they live, work and play and provides confidence for councils in their efforts and abilities.

A total of 400 Gannawarra Shire residents over the age of 18 were interviewed by telephone in February and March 2022, with results provided as indexed scores out of 100.

The survey found that perceptions of Council's performance in most service areas declined in the 12-month period, including Overall Performance (54).

However, Council managed to maintain much of the gains it made in overall performance in 2021, following the steep decline of 2020.

Council's performance in eight of the 18 service areas was equal to or above the Small Rural and Statewide average - Appearance of Public Areas (75), Elderly Support Services (73), Waste Management (72), COVID-19 Response (69), Family Support Services (67), Enforcement of Local Laws (64), Business, Community Development and Tourism (63) and Value for Money (54).

More than one in three residents (36 per cent) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. A further 38 per cent rate Council as 'average' on this measure.

OVERALL COUNCIL PERFORMANCE

Results shown are index scores out of 100



Gannawarra 54



Statewide 59



Small Rural 58

The three areas where Council performance is significantly higher by the widest margin

The three areas where Council performance is significantly lower by the widest margin

Compared to Statewide average		Elderly support services		Community decisions
		Appearance of public areas		Consultation and engagement
		Waste management		Lobbying
Compared to Group average		Waste management		Consultation and engagement
		Elderly support services		Community decisions
		Family support services		Lobbying



Major Grants Received



The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra concept artwork.

Federal Government Local Roads and Community Investment Program (\$2.636 million)

The Federal Government announced in November 2021 Council would receive \$2.636 million from the third phase of the *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program* to support local jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council announced in November it would allocate \$500,000 to fully fund Stages 5 and 6 of the Murrabit Stormwater Project, with \$2.136 million to support Stage 3 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment.

Construction of Stages 5 and 6 of the Murrabit Stormwater Project began in mid-2022, with work on Stage 3 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment to begin in the second half of 2022.

State Government Living Libraries Infrastructure Program 2021 - Major Works Program (\$1.5 million)

State Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shaun Leane MLC visited Kerang in January 2022 to announce that Council would receive \$1.5 million from the *Living Libraries Infrastructure Program 2021 - Major Works* program to support the \$1.507 million *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* project.

To be built on the western side of Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library, *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* will feature a media lab designed to support movie making, sound and music recording and other creative digital technology projects, new meeting spaces to support community groups and events, and a glass façade that will enable the opportunity for evening activation using light projection and sound.

Construction of *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2022 and be completed by mid-2024.

State Government Rural Councils Transformation Program – Round 2 (\$750,000)

In May 2022 Council received notification an application developed in conjunction with Buloke Shire Council and Swan Hill Rural City Council for the implementation of a shared Total Strategic Asset Management System had been successful.

The management system, which includes Geographic Information System mapping capabilities and linkages to customer request and finance systems, will operate across the three rural municipalities.

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GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL**State Government Regional Development Victoria Investment Fast Track Fund (\$500,000)**

Member for Northern Victoria, Mark Gepp MLC visited Koondrook in April 2022 to announce that Council would receive \$500,000 from the *Regional Development Victoria Investment Fast Track Fund* to support the planning stage of the Kerang-Koondrook Rail Trail.

The funding will be used to assist with the planning, cultural assessment and design of the 22-kilometre cycling and walking trail between Kerang and Koondrook.

As of 30 June 2022, Council was actively seeking further Federal and State Government assistance to support this project.

State Government Recreational Boating Structure Maintenance Program (\$240,000)

In May 2022 Council received notification it had been successful in applying for \$240,000 from the State Government's *Recreational Boating Structure Maintenance Program* to install a jetty at the northern end of Kangaroo Lake.

This structure will replace the former jetty, which was closed in 2020 after inspections found the former jetty was wave damaged.

State Government COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund – LGA stream (\$200,000)

During November 2021 and June 2022, Council used \$200,000 from the State Government *COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund – LGA stream* to support the Gannawarra's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council utilised \$100,000 of this funding to install outdoor dining furniture at businesses in Leitchville,

Koondrook and Quambatook to enhance operation in a COVIDSafe manner.

The remaining \$100,000 supported outdoor activation initiatives that aimed to reactivate community spaces and encourage the community to return to outdoor activities.

State Government 2021-22 Building Blocks Grants - Inclusion, Buildings and Playgrounds Stream (\$199,690)

In May 2022 Council received notification it had successfully applied for \$199,690 of funding from the State Government's *2021-22 Building Blocks Program - Inclusion, Buildings and Playgrounds Stream* to redevelop the outdoor space at the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre, Kerang. These funds will deliver an inclusive space for all abilities, whilst providing several modern designed zones that support childhood development.

These improvements are scheduled for 2022/23.

State Government 2021/22 Building Blocks Grants - Planning (\$65,800)

The State Government announced in December 2021 Council would receive \$65,800 from the *2021/22 Building Blocks Grants - Planning* program to explore future kindergarten service delivery and models of care for Cohuna, as well as the potential to also provide Long Day Care in the town.

This funding will enable Council to explore a children's hub model, bringing together 3-year-old kindergarten, 4-year-old kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health services, Supported Playgroup and Long Day Care.



Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail planning funding announcement, April 2022.

Award Recognition 2021/22

- * Koondrook Retreat won the Outstanding Small Rural Council Initiative Award at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence
-
- * Koondrook Retreat won the Community Assets & Infrastructure (\$2.5 million and under) Initiative Award at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence
-
- * Council's Drought Communities Programme won the Special Projects Initiative Award at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence
-
- * The Cohuna Waterfront Development was Highly Commended in the Community Assets & Infrastructure (projects over \$2.5 million) Initiative Award at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence
-
- * Council's Team Leader Rural Roads, Jon Haw was Highly Commended in the 2022 LGPro Young Achiever of the Year Award
-
- * Loddon Mallee Move It program, which Council participated in, won the Outstanding Program or Project – Grant Based at the 2022 LGPro Active Ageing and Wellbeing Awards
-
- * Aquatics Officer, Kieran Schneider was a finalist in the 2021 Local Government Professionals Australia Emerging Leader Award
-
- * Cohuna Waterfront Development – Stage 1 was a finalist in the 2021 National Awards for Local Government Boosting Productivity Through Infrastructure category
-
- * Koondrook Retreat was a finalist in the 2021 National Awards for Local Government Contributing to Regional Growth category
-
- * Gannawarra Goes Orange campaign was a finalist in the 2021 National Awards for Local Government Addressing Violence Against Women and their Children category
-
- * Council's NDIS program was a finalist in the 2021 National Awards for Local Government Cohesive Communities category
-
- * Creative Gannawarra program was a finalist in the 2021 National Awards for Local Government Creativity and Culture category
-
- * Koondrook CBD Redevelopment was a finalist in the 2021 Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia – Victoria Excellence in Public Works Project < \$2m category
-
- * Council's Operations Team's implementation of a paperless OH&S management system was a finalist in the 2021 Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia – Victoria Excellence in Innovation – Regional category
-
- * Council's Sustainable Gannawarra initiative was a finalist in the 2021 Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia – Victoria Excellence in Environmental Sustainability category
-
- * Manager Project and Property, Wade Williams was a finalist in the 2021 Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia – Victoria Emerging Public Works Leadership Award
-
- * Silver Award in the 2022 Australasian Reporting Awards for the 2021 Annual Report
-

Council Contributions and Donations

During 2021/22 Council distributed \$411,784.91 to community groups, organisations and service providers across the municipality.

This funding ranged from Council's annual Community Grants Program – which made up more than 50 per cent of the annual contributions and donations figure – to funds provided by the State Government to support the Gannawarra's social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contributions were also provided to support Australia Day celebrations, school awards and assist communities maintain community-managed recreational facilities.

MAJOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND – 2021 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Cohuna Neighbourhood House	\$25,000.00
Koondrook Recreation Reserve Committee	\$10,945.00
Lake Charm Foreshore Committee of Management	\$70,000.00
Riverside Park Committee of Management, Kerang	\$46,421.71
TOTAL	\$152,366.71

ANNUAL RECREATION RESERVE MAINTENANCE CONTRIBUTION

Alexandra Park Trustees, Kerang	\$11,500.00
Koondrook Recreation Reserve Committee	\$5,600.00
Lalbert Recreation Reserve and Community Group	\$5,600.00
Leitchville Sporting Complex Committee	\$8,767.53
Macorna Public Park and Recreation Reserve Committee	\$4,545.45
Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee	\$5,600.00
Quambatook Football Netball Club	\$6,160.00
Riverside Park Committee of Management, Kerang	\$24,800.00
Wandella Football/Netball Club	\$5,000.00
TOTAL	\$77,572.98

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS – 2021 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Barham Koondrook Historical Society	\$3,500.00
Cohuna Golf Club	\$5,000.00
Cohuna Lions Club	\$4,000.00
Kerang Cemetery Trust	\$2,650.00
Kerang Neighbourhood House	\$5,000.00
Kerang Guide Association Support Group	\$3,245.00
Kerang Historical Society	\$5,000.00
Kerang Group of Legacy	\$1,980.00
Leitchville Men's Shed	\$4,000.00
Murrabit Public Hall	\$5,000.00
Murray Human Services	\$3,552.90
Northern District Dance Association	\$5,000.00
Riverside Park Committee of Management, Kerang	\$4,800.00
TOTAL	\$52,727.90

COVIDSAFE OUTDOOR ACTIVATION FUNDING

Bower Tavern Cohuna	\$5,000.00
Cohuna Farmers and Makers Market	\$5,000.00
Exchange Hotel Kerang	\$3,500.00
Jettin Vic	\$1,000.00
Kerang Community Market	\$500.00
Kerang Sports and Entertainment Venue	\$5,000.00
Leitchville Hotel	\$5,000.00
Mid Murray Flying Club	\$1,500.00
Murrabit Advancement Association	\$5,000.00
Mystic Park Hotel	\$5,000.00
Royal Hotel Kerang	\$5,000.00
Ski Racing Victoria	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$42,500.00

**COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS –
2021 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM**

Bendigo Diocesan Trusts Corporation	\$5,000.00
Cohuna Neighbourhood House – Cohuna Community Art Gallery	\$1,500.00
Cohuna Progress Association	\$5,000.00
Lake Meran Public Purposes Committee	\$3,000.00
Mid Murray Flying Club	\$5,000.00
Murrabit and District Lions Club	\$5,000.00
Northern District Community Health	\$5,000.00
TOTAL	\$29,500.00

DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP

Barham-Koondrook Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Society	\$500.00
Cohuna Bowls Club	\$181.82
Cohuna Bridge to Bridge	\$1,000.00
Cohuna Golf Club	\$750.00
Cohuna Lawn Tennis Club	\$150.00
Cohuna/Leitchville Returned and Services League Club	\$500.00
Kerang and District Agricultural Society	\$5,000.00
Kerang Traders	\$150.00
Kerang Turf Club	\$1,818.18
Miscellaneous contributions to community causes	-
Rotary Club of Kerang Art Show	\$1,500.00
Ski Racing Victoria	\$2,272.73
Victorian Outboard Club	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$14,322.73

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Barham Koondrook Lions Club	\$400.00
Cohuna Lions Club	\$700.00
Lalbert Recreation and Community Group	\$400.00
Leitchville Lions Club	\$400.00
Lions Club of Kerang	\$600.00
Murrabit and District Lions Club	\$400.00
Quambatook Lions Club	\$400.00
Rotary Club of Kerang	\$600.00
TOTAL	\$3,900.00

**COMMUNITY ACTIVATION AND SOCIAL
ISOLATION (CASI) INITIATIVE**

Cohuna Kangas Football Netball Club	\$320.00
Cohuna Neighbourhood House	\$1,000.00
Cohuna Neighbourhood House – Cohuna Men's Shed	\$1,440.91
Cohuna Consolidated School	\$200.00
Kerang Christian College	\$200.00
Kerang Golf Bowling Club	\$320.00
Kerang Landcare Group	\$2,773.00
Kerang Neighbourhood House	\$3,000.00
Kerang Primary School	\$200.00
Kerang South Primary School	\$200.00
Kerang State Emergency Service (SES) Unit	\$530.00
Kerryn Finch - Artist	\$1,000.00
Koondrook Lawn Tennis Club	\$700.00
Koondrook Primary School	\$200.00
Koondrook Swimming Pool Committee	\$1,000.00
Lake Charm Arts and Culture Group	\$1,000.00
Lake Charm Primary School	\$200.00
Leitchville Bunyips Sporting Club	\$700.00
Leitchville Primary School	\$200.00
Macorna Football Netball Club	\$1,000.00
Murrabit Group School	\$200.00
Murrabit Lawn Tennis Club	\$1,000.00
Murrabit Men's Shed	\$210.00
Murrabit Public Hall Committee	\$700.00
Northern District Community Health	\$7,000.00
Quambatook Community Resource Centre	\$1,000.00
St Joseph's Primary School, Kerang	\$200.00
St Mary's Primary School, Cohuna	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$26,693.91

**FOUNDATION FOR RURAL AND
REGIONAL RENEWAL (FRRR) GRANT**

Murrabit Public Hall Committee	\$3,390.00
TOTAL	\$3,390.00

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RATES SUBSIDY

Cohuna and District Historical Society	\$641.03
Cohuna Masonic Lodge	\$595.88
Cohuna Squash Club	\$334.06
Leitchville Bowls Club	\$233.28
Leitchville Bunyips Sporting Club	\$69.22
Quambatook Historical Society	\$568.80
TOTAL	\$2,442.27

DROUGHT MENTAL HEALTH
SUPPORT – COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER PRINTING

Cohuna Neighbourhood House	\$500.00
Kerang Neighbourhood House	\$500.00
The Lakes Chatter	\$500.00
Leitchville and District Progress Association	\$500.00
Murrabit Advancement Association	\$500.00
Quambatook Community Resource Centre	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$3,000.00

HIGH SCHOOL/SECONDARY
COLLEGE BURSARY

Cohuna Secondary College	\$600.00
Kerang Technical High School	\$600.00
TOTAL	\$1,200.00

GANNAWARRA GOES ORANGE

Northern District Community Health	\$1,091.91
TOTAL	\$1,091.91

JAZZ HIGH TEA PROCEEDS

Lake Charm Hall Committee	\$1,076.50
TOTAL	\$1,076.50

TOTAL DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2021/22	\$411,784.91
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Below: Council supported numerous community groups and organisations during 2021/22, including the Cohuna Neighbourhood House.



**JULY**

- Astrophotography workshops
- Gannawarra Library Service school holiday program

SEPTEMBER

- Vivid Disability Service Mini Village Exhibition, Kerang

OCTOBER

- Seniors Festival Active Minds Morning Teas, Cohuna and Kerang

NOVEMBER

- *The ART of Gannawarra* workshop, Cohuna
- Gannawarra Goes Orange story time
- Magiclay Art Workshops
- Watercolour and Charcoal Nature Portraits Workshops

DECEMBER

- Gannawarra Goes Orange story time
- Kerang Combined Churches Outreach Ministry Christmas Tree and Nativity display, Kerang
- Koondrook All Abilities Playground official opening

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JANUARY

- Australia Day Awards presentation
- Australia Day community celebrations
- Hottest 100 pool party
- *Folkie Dokey Puppet Show*, Kerang
- Gannawarra Library Service Big Summer Read challenge drop-in sessions
- Gannawarra Library Service school holiday program
- *Life in the Sun – 1-100 Exhibition*, Kerang

FEBRUARY

- *Life in the Sun – 1-100 Exhibition*, Kerang

MARCH

- International Women's Day morning tea, Kerang
- Grow Your Online Sales workshop
- *The Morning Rush* live broadcast, Cohuna

APRIL

- *Dress Up Box* by The Kazoos, Kerang
- Gannawarra Library Service school holiday program
- *The Plants*, Cohuna and Kerang
- Kerang and District Family History Group Lester Smith Water Tower open day, Kerang

MAY

- *Jazz High Tea*, Lake Charm
- National Reconciliation Week walk, Kerang
- *2022 Australian of the Year Exhibition*, Kerang
- National Volunteer Week morning teas, Cohuna and Kerang
- Cuppa with a Cop morning teas, Cohuna and Kerang
- National Simultaneous Storytime celebrations
- *School Transition in Gannawarra* guide launch, Koondrook

JUNE

- *Circling Time* by Kutcha Edwards, Kerang
- Gannawarra and Surrounds Professionals Network Winter Mingle, Cohuna
- *2022 Australian of the Year Exhibition*, Kerang
- Gannawarra Library Service school holiday program

ONGOING

- Citizenship ceremonies
- Councillor representation at Progress Association/ Development Committee meetings
- Creative Gannawarra Art Salons
- Social Meal program

NOTE

Numerous events scheduled to occur during the 2021/22 financial year were cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Youth and health promotion events delivered in partnership with Northern District Community Health. Art and Culture events delivered in partnership with Regional Arts Victoria.

Council supported events for all ages and interest during 2021/22, including Jazz High Tea (main photo) and the Folkie Dokey Puppet Show (below).





Gannawarra Shire Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. Section 8(1) of the Act states the role of Council is "to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community".

This is achieved by adhering to the following governance principles:

- Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;

- Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- Regional, State and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making; and
- The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities.

The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making processes including community consultation, public forums and the ability to make submissions to Council.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings. Council delegates most of its decision-making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with the Act and a range of other acts and regulations.

Our Councillors

GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR WARDS

AVOCA

including Lake Charm, Lalbert, Benjeroop, Mystic Park and Quambatook

MURRAY

including Koondrook, Myall and Murrabit

PATCHELL

including Kerang, Mead and Macorna

YARRAN

including Cohuna, Leitchville and Horfield



Avoca Ward



CR CHARLIE GILLINGHAM Mayor

First elected October 2016

Charlie has lived in the area for more than 50 years and operates a family farm at Lake Charm.

Charlie is currently interested in the local environment, agriculture, health, irrigation and sporting groups.

With our numerous existing assets, Charlie believes that the area we live in is very dynamic and has huge potential for further innovative agricultural pursuits, nature-based tourism opportunities, new industry, renewable energy prospects and increased residential development around our lakes and waterways.

With a proactive Council, Charlie is looking forward to working with his fellow Councillors and the community for the benefit of the whole Shire. He believes that with a common-sense approach, these goals can be achieved, and we can continue to make the Gannawarra a fantastic place for all.



Patchell Ward



CR JANE OGDEN Deputy Mayor

First elected October 2020

Jane has lived in Kerang since 2006 and is a first-term Councillor for the Gannawarra Shire Council. She is not new to Local Government, having worked for the Shire in many roles, including as Coordinator Community Engagement and Community Development Officer. Jane was elected Deputy Mayor in November 2021 and is passionate about encouraging and supporting more rural women to run for council.

Jane is also Deputy Mayor of the Rural Councils Victoria committee, representing six councils in the Rural North Central Region. She

is passionate about advocating to State and Federal Government on behalf of rural councils and the issues that rural councils face.

The Circular Economy and Climate Change are high on the list of areas of advocacy and passion for Jane. She has learned how important just one person can be in making a difference to the care of our planet, by changing how we see "waste" and therefore learning to re-use, repair and recycle.

Jane has also recently joined the committee of the Australian Local Government Women's Association – Victoria and she looks forward to having a positive voice on the committee for rural women.



CR TRAVIS COLLIER

First elected October 2020

Since moving to Kerang in 2011, Travis has been an active member of the community in a variety of different roles.

Travis is currently President of the Kerang Technical High School Council and Murrabit Netball Club, Vice President of the Kerang Girl

Guides, and is involved with the Murrabit Tennis Club, Kerang-Swan Hill Rams AFL Masters football team, Rotary Club of Kerang and the Murrabit Advancement Association.

Travis is looking forward to working alongside his fellow Councillors to develop a strategic plan that makes our Shire a destination for tourists and businesses alike.



CR KELVIN BURT

First elected October 2020

Kelvin has lived and worked in the Gannawarra for most of his life.

After leaving school, the family farm was his first passion. This then led him to becoming a fencing and hay carting contractor. Many other jobs followed, including wood merchant, barman, backhoe operator,

Mawsons Concrete employee and a management role with Lipps Bulk Super in Wakool.

Looking for a stable future, Kelvin returned to Mawsons, where he worked up until March 2022.

A love of the Gannawarra and a passion for the community led Kelvin to become President of the Kerang Progress Association for five years and, in 2020, a Councillor.



OUR COUNCIL

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Murray Ward

**CR ROSS STANTON****First elected October 2020**

Ross was born in Cohuna and spent most of his life living and working in the Gannawarra. Ross has recently retired after 31 years with Goulburn-Murray Water.

Ross classifies himself as a volunteer, always willing to step in when help is needed. He is the current Chair the Central Rivers Football/Netball Board and is a life member of the Murrabit Football Club, having served

previously as president of the football and netball clubs. Ross likes to relax with a game of golf and fishing, neither successfully!

Ross believes the Gannawarra is a great place to raise a family and enjoy all the assets this area has available. He sees his role in Council as part of the wider "Gannawarra Council Team", with a focus on the strategic side of local government and looks for ways to enhance the opportunities for

our youth and maintain our link to agriculture, renewable energy and environmental based tourism.



Yarran Ward

**CR KEITH LINK****First elected October 2020**

Keith grew up in Melbourne and in 1976, together with his wife, made a "tree change" and brought a small farm in Leitchville.

Over the next 40 years the Links expanded and developed their farm during which time Keith was involved in many service clubs

and community organisations. He has since semi-retired although it seems farmers never retire.

Keith continues to study at university online and is close to completing his degree. Aviation is still his main hobby, flying his Cessna 172 when time permits, and overseas travel and caravanning when COVID-19 permits.

**CR GARNER SMITH****First elected October 2020**

Garner was raised on a dairy farm in Leitchville and completed his HSC at Cohuna High School in 1989. Garner undertook tertiary studies at Melbourne University, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) and undertaking a Postgraduate Honours year in Economics.

Garner has had significant experience in working in politics, as an Electorate Officer for Senator Julian McGauran and Ministerial Advisor to the Hon. Bill Baxter in

the Roads and Ports portfolio. In addition, Garner was the Young Nationals State President for two years, the National Party Victoria Junior Vice President for a year, undertook a delegation to Shanghai, China as part of the Young Leaders Conference and completed a Political Exchange Tour of Japan. In 2021, Garner was elected to the Victorian Farmers Federation Water Committee.

Currently, Garner and his wife are busy running their businesses, Riverland Milk and Trading, Rural

Supplies in Cohuna and Gunbower, as well as irrigated beef farms in Cohuna and Leitchville.



Meetings of Council

Council conducts open public meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery or watch proceedings via a live broadcast available on Council's website.

As Council was operating in accordance with the *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020*, meetings were held virtually via Zoom between September 2021 and May 2022, however each meeting was livestreamed via Council's website.

Council meetings also provide the opportunity for community members to submit questions to Council or provide feedback on items in line with Council's *Community Engagement Policy*.

For the 2021/22 year, Council held 13 Council Meetings – 11 monthly meetings, one to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and one to adopt the 2022/2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Budget.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

A – Apology

COUNCILLOR	21/07/21	18/08/21	15/09/21	20/10/21	08/11/21	17/11/21	15/12/21	16/02/22	16/03/22	20/04/22	18/05/22	15/06/22	29/06/22	TOTAL
Cr Kelvin Burt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	12 of 13
Cr Travis Collier	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13 of 13
Cr Charlie Gillingham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13 of 13
Cr Keith Link	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13 of 13
Cr Jane Ogden	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13 of 13
Cr Garner Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13 of 13
Cr Ross Stanton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13 of 13

Councillor Committee Membership

Councillor portfolios as determined during 2021/22

COUNCILLOR	COMMITTEE
Cr Kelvin Burt	Community Halls Community Asset Committee
Cr Travis Collier	Municipal Association of Victoria
Cr Charlie Gillingham	Audit and Risk Committee Murray River Group of Councils – as Mayor Loddon Campaspe Councils – as Mayor
Cr Keith Link	Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee
Cr Jane Ogden	Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group (LMWRRG) Forum
Cr Garner Smith	Audit and Risk Committee Rural Councils Victoria Timber Towns Victoria (from August 2021)
Cr Ross Stanton	Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) Rail Freight Alliance

Councillor Allowances and Expenses

COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

In accordance with relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a 16 November 2016 decision of Council to set Gannawarra Shire Councillor allowances at the maximum for Category 1 continued to apply from 1 June to 17 December 2021.

For the purpose of these allowance limits, councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each council. Gannawarra Shire Council is classified as a Category 1 Council.

The Category 1 Councillor allowance was fixed at \$21,049 plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee of 10 per cent of the allowance.

The Category 1 Mayoral allowance was fixed at \$62,884 plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee of 10 per cent of the allowance.

On 7 March 2022, in accordance with Section 23A of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* (Vic), the Tribunal made the Allowance payable to

Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Determination No. 01/2022. The allowance values took effect from 18 December 2021.

For the purpose of these allowance limits, councils are divided into four categories based on the income and population of each council. Gannawarra Shire Council is classified as a Category 1 Council.

The Category 1 Councillor allowance from 18 December 2021 was fixed at \$24,080, inclusive of any Superannuation Guarantee Contribution.

The Category 2 Deputy Mayoral allowance from 18 December 2021 was fixed at \$37,353, inclusive of any Superannuation Guarantee Contribution.

The Category 1 Mayoral allowance from 18 December 2021 was fixed at \$74,706, inclusive of any Superannuation Guarantee Contribution.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors have the option to be provided with internet access, a mobile telephone and a laptop. All Councillors have access to a computer, printer and fax machine at Council's offices. The Mayor is also provided with a vehicle.

COUNCILLOR EXPENSES

In accordance with the Act, a Council must:

- Reimburse a Councillor for out-of-pocket expenses the Council is satisfied are bona fide expenses; have been reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor; and are reasonably necessary for the Councillor to perform that role.
- Provide details of all such reimbursements to the Audit and Risk Committee.
- Adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors.

Council reviewed and endorsed *Policy No. 092 – Councillor Allowances and Support* on 18 May 2022.

Council also publishes in its Annual Report the details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor.

The details of the expenses including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor paid by Council for 2021/22 are set out as below:

	Conferences & Training Expenses	Travel Expenses	Car Mileage Expenses	IT & Communication Expenses	TOTAL
Cr. Charles Gillingham	\$3,759	-	\$6,370	\$300	\$10,429
Cr. Garner Smith	-	\$490	-	\$300	\$790
Cr. Jane Ogden	\$2,930	\$507	\$593	\$271	\$4,301
Cr. Keith Link	-	\$1,202	-	\$300	\$1,502
Cr. Kelvin Burt	-	-	-	\$300	\$300
Cr. Ross Stanton	-	\$934	-	\$300	\$1,234
Cr. Travis Collier	\$229	-	-	\$300	\$529
	\$6,918	\$3,133	\$6,964	\$2,071	\$19,085

CODE OF CONDUCT

On 17 February 2021, Council reviewed and adopted *Policy No. 078 – Councillor Code of Conduct* in accordance with section 139(4) of the Act. The reviewed Councillor Code of Conduct includes four new mandatory standards of Council conduct (conduct standards) to provide greater clarity around the behaviour expected of Councillors and a consistent framework for handling complaints alleging misconduct under the Code.

The Code of Conduct documents Gannawarra Shire Councillors' commitment to working together in the best interests of the people within the municipality and to discharging their responsibilities to the best of their skill and judgement.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillors are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community. This is a position of trust that requires Councillors to act in the public interest. When a council delegates its powers to a Council officer or a committee, the officer or committee must also act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it.

Council has a comprehensive procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest. Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standing agenda item for all Council meetings.

While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflicts of interest.

During 2021/22, 11 conflicts of interest were declared at a Council meeting.



OUR PEOPLE

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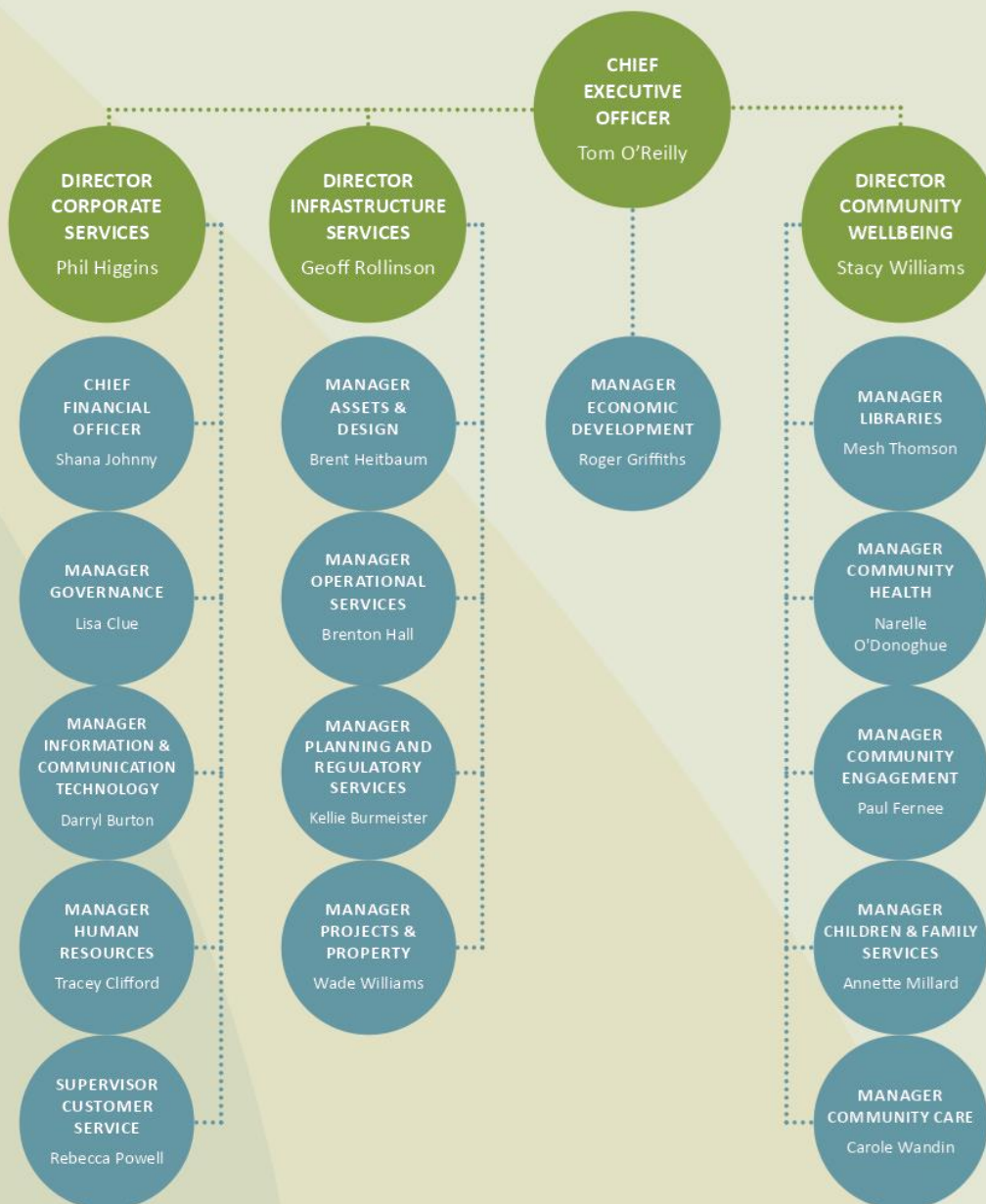


Our People

*Gannawarra Shire Council plays a key role in
protecting the health of the community.*

Organisational Structure

Council has three directorates reporting to the Chief Executive Officer - Corporate Services; Community Wellbeing; and Infrastructure and Development. Each of these directorates is made up of individual units, each led by a senior officer. The Chief Executive Officer is directly accountable to the Mayor and Councillors, who are elected by Gannawarra Shire ratepayers.



OUR PEOPLE

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Executive Leadership Team

TOM O'REILLY Chief Executive Officer

Tom joined Gannawarra Shire Council in the role of Director Corporate Services in March 2016, taking up the position of Chief Executive Officer in December 2017.

Prior to his employment with Council, Tom was a consultant with the CT Management Group, undertaking local government assignments with the Shire of Buloke, Moira Shire Council, Latrobe City Council and King Island Council.

Tom was employed with the Greater Shepparton City Council for 11 years – six years of that time as Director Business and Finance.

He has also worked in the private sector with four years as CEO of Metzke+Allen Chartered Accountants, based in Shepparton.

His career in Northern Victoria is extensive given he also worked with Goulburn-Murray Water for 11 years, along with seven years with Goulburn Valley Water.

Tom has a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) degree and is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA).

He has served on the Board of Northern District Community Health, is a Fellow of CPA Australia and also a Fellow of the Goulburn Murray Community Leadership Program Inc.

Areas of responsibility:
*Council Planning and Performance;
Councillor Support; Economic
Development and Tourism.*



Gannawarra Shire Council won three awards at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence, announced in June 2022.

PHIL HIGGINS
Director Corporate Services

Phil joined Gannawarra Shire Council as Director Corporate Services in November 2018.

Phil has worked for several councils over the past 35 years across three states, predominantly in the Director Corporate Services role.

Phil's extensive experience is supported with a Masters of

Business Administration, majoring in Finance; Bachelor of Business Local Government; and a Graduate Certificate in Business Excellence.

Areas of responsibility:

Finance and Budget; Audit; Rating and Valuation; Information Communication Technology; Governance and Risk; Human Resource Management; Records Management; Customer Service; Emergency Management.

**GEOFF ROLLINSON**
Director Infrastructure and Development

Geoff's earliest qualifications and experience are in agriculture.

He gained extensive experience and knowledge in local government when working with both the former Borough and Shire of Kerang and then the Gannawarra Shire upon amalgamation in 1995.

He has a Diploma of Civil Engineering and held the positions of Works Engineer and Manager of Operational Services with Gannawarra Shire from 1995 until he started in his current role in 2011.

Areas of responsibility:

Major Projects; Operational Services; Engineering; Waste Management; Landfill and Transfer Stations; Local Laws; Flood and Fire Management; Building; Planning; Aquatic Facilities; Climate Change Adaptation.

**STACY WILLIAMS**
Director Community Wellbeing

Stacy joined Gannawarra Shire Council as its Director Community Wellbeing in November 2017.

Prior to her employment with Council, Stacy held a range of roles in management and coordination of community services at Campaspe Shire Council, including the role of Community Care Manager and Business Integration Manager.

Stacy holds a Bachelor of Social Work, Graduate Certificate in Business and completed the 2019 LGPro Executive Leadership Program. Stacy has previously been a member of the Australian Local

Government Professionals Women's Advisory Group and team mentor in the Gannawarra Australasian Management Challenge team.

In 2022, Stacy was named as an emerging leader in the 2021 IPAA Top 50 Public Sector Women acknowledging her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Areas of responsibility:

Community Care Services; NDIS; Maternal Child Health; Community Health; Children and Family Services; Immunisation; Community Transport; Libraries; Arts and Culture; Recreation and Aquatic Services; Environmental Health; Community Engagement and Communications.



OUR PEOPLE

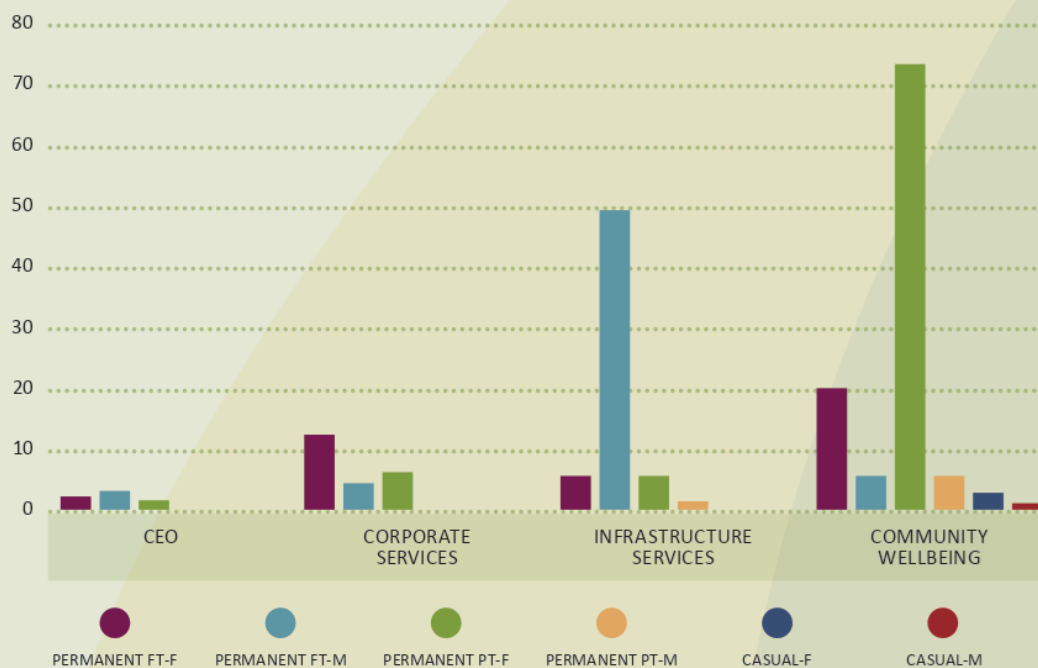
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Our Workplace

Below is a summary of full-time equivalent (FTE) Council staff by organisation structure, employment type and gender.

FTE BY GENDER, DEPARTMENT – AS OF 30 JUNE 2022

EMPLOYMENT TYPE	GENDER	CEO	CORPORATE SERVICES	INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES	COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Permanent FT - Female	Female	2.00	12.00	5.00	20.00
Permanent FT - Male	Male	3.00	4.00	50.00	5.00
Permanent PT - Female	Female	1.63	5.82	6.77	73.35
Permanent PT - Male	Male	0.00	0.00	1.00	5.16
Casual - Female	Female	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50
Casual - Male	Male	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Total		198.23	6.63	21.82	107.01

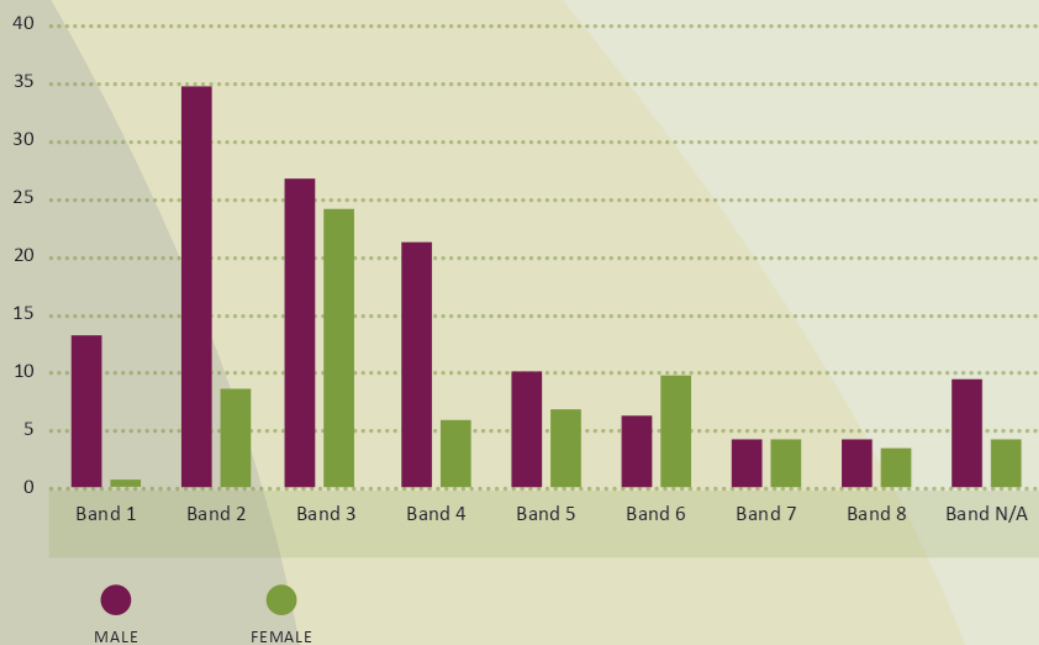


Our Workplace

Below is a summary of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by employment classification and gender.

FTE BY BAND LEVEL, GENDER – AS OF 30 JUNE 2022

	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL EFT
Band 1	13.10	0.50	13.60
Band 2	35.00	8.70	43.70
Band 3	27.10	24.00	51.10
Band 4	21.20	6.00	27.20
Band 5	10.30	7.00	17.30
Band 6	6.80	10.00	16.80
Band 7	4.00	4.00	8.00
Band 8	4.00	3.00	7.00
Band N/A	9.60	4.00	13.60
Total	131.10	67.20	198.30



OUR PEOPLE

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With the current Enterprise Agreement expiring in 2022, negotiations between management, staff and union representatives commenced in April 2022. Once approved, this new Agreement will set the pay and conditions for staff for the next three years.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Council's workforce plays a vital role in ensuring that Council meets current and future business needs. Council is committed to continually developing and improving the skills and capacity of its staff by providing access to a range of professional development opportunities.

This year Council continued to focus on leadership development with staff participating in the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program, the LGPro Emerging Leaders Program and the LGPro Executive Leaders Program. Skill development also occurred by way of certificate training with Council's Operational staff working towards the nationally recognised qualification Certificate III in Civil Construction.

Staff maintained and expanded their technical skills through a variety of online webinars and forums relevant to their fields of expertise.

TRAINEESHIP AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Council supports pathways for local students by providing work experience and traineeship opportunities.

Council's work experience program allows for students from across the municipality to experience working in a variety of Council departments. This allows young people to see the many career opportunities available in local government and to also increase awareness of Council's operations.

During 2021/22, traineeships occurred in the areas of Civil Construction and Early Childhood Education.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Council is committed to the principles of equal employment opportunity and will ensure that all workplace employment matters reflect this.

Supported by various policies, new staff inductions and training, Council ensures that the work environment is respectful and free from discrimination, harassment and bullying.

GENDER EQUALITY ACTION PLAN

As part of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, Council has an obligation to promote gender equality.

To assist with this obligation, Council developed its *Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025*. Developed during a six-month period following communication and consultation with management, employees, Councillors and staff union representatives, the action plan includes the results of a workplace gender audit and strategies and measures for promoting gender equality in the workplace.

The action plan has two key strategies:

- To improve our understanding of the gender and diversity profile of our workforce; and
- To raise awareness of gender equality and intersectional gender inequality.

WORKFORCE PLAN

As part of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to develop a workforce plan which describes Council's organisational structure, specifies projected staffing requirements for a period of at least four years, and sets out measures to seek and ensure gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness.

Adopted in December 2021, Council's *Workforce Plan 2021-2025* was developed in line with the *Growing Gannawarra – 2021-2025 Council Plan* objectives and, along with Council's *Gender Equality Action Plan*, will guide Council's human resource practices for the next four years.



Health and safety within our workforce is our number one priority, as it contributes to making Gannawarra a workplace of choice; a workplace where our people have a strong connection and involvement; and a place where our staff enjoy coming to work each day.

We strive to foster a safety culture that supports an incident and injury-free workplace for all employees, volunteers, contractors and visitors.

Council's Occupational Health and Safety Committee meets regularly and continues to work to make the organisation a safe and healthy place for all staff. Our committee, including staff health and safety representatives, receive regular refresher training and safety updates.

Accident and incident reporting is a standing agenda item at Management Team meetings, with data regularly reported to Council's Audit and Risk Committee in accordance with Council's risk framework.

A bimonthly staff survey was conducted through the year. The survey seeks feedback from staff around expectations, recognition, communication, team satisfaction, future of the organisation, workplace safety, and resources and tools available.

Council continued its proactive approach to encourage Council staff to protect themselves and others from influenza. Council provides free vaccination against influenza to its workforce on an annual basis with 62.2 per cent of staff, including casual employees, taking the opportunity to be immunized against influenza in 2021/22.

Council continues its commitment to becoming recognised under the Victorian Healthy Workplaces Achievement Program. This Statewide health

promotion program encourages best practice in workplaces around Mental Health and Wellbeing, Physical Activity, Smoking, Healthy Eating, and Alcohol and Other Drugs. Council has received recognition in four out of the five priority areas.

The following initiatives took place in support of the Healthy Workplaces Achievement Program during 2021/22:

- Consistent use of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing to promote good Mental Health and Wellbeing across the organisation and encourage self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Participating in Dry July to encourage staff to ditch alcohol for the month while raising funds for cancer research.
- Promotion of R U OK? Day in September 2021 and providing practical strategies for staff to have conversations when someone says they are not okay.
- Participation in Gannawarra Goes Orange Day in November 2021 to raise awareness about family violence.
- Participation in the Victoria Against Violence 16 Days of Activism campaign in December 2021 across all worksites.
- Council hosted an International Women's Day Morning Tea in March 2021.
- Consistent promotion of the Get Active Victoria and Cook Well, Eat Well resources to support active living and healthy eating throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Above: Council supported the Victoria Against Violence 16 Days of Activism campaign in December 2021.

OUR PERFORMANCE

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Planning and Accountability Framework

As outlined in Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, councils are required to prepare the following planning and reporting documents:

- A Community Vision for at least the next 10 financial years
- A Council Plan for a period of at least the next four financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. This document must include
 - The strategic direction of the Council;
 - Strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction;
 - Strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next four financial years;
 - Strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;
 - A description of the Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity; and
 - Any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

- A Financial Plan for the next 10 financial years
- An Asset Plan for at least the next 10 financial years
- A Revenue and Rating Plan for at least the next four financial years
- A budget for each financial year and subsequent three financial years
- A quarterly budget report
- An Annual Report in respect of each financial year
- Financial Policies

The Act also requires Councils to prepare a Workforce Plan, which includes projected staffing requirements for at least the next four years.

The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework for local government. It also shows that there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input and feedback.



Growing Gannawarra



2021-2025 COUNCIL PLAN

The *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan* identifies three priority areas, each featuring a set of strategic priorities and success measures.

The three priority areas are:

Liveability

Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

Growth

Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy.

Sustainability

Achieve long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

The *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan* is supported by an annual Action Plan for each of these three priority areas.

ASSESSING OUR PERFORMANCE

Each year, the Council Plan undergoes a review process against the actions set for the 12-month period in the annual Action Plan.

Liveability

Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

Strategic Priority 1.

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

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Review Council's Family Violence Statement of Commitment	Family Violence Statement of Commitment reviewed	Partially Completed	Adopted by Council in March 2020, Council's Family Violence Statement of Commitment will be reviewed by Council in the second half of 2022.
Review <i>Gannawarra Free from Family Violence Action Plan</i> to include measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims	<i>Gannawarra Free from Family Violence Action Plan</i> reviewed and implemented	Completed	<i>The Gannawarra Free from Family Violence Action Plan 2020-2022</i> has been reviewed and is being implemented.
Develop and implement the <i>Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting (GLAM) Action Plan 2021-2025</i> including the priorities of improving mental wellbeing (through reconciliation and resilience), working towards gender equality and preventing family violence, and tackling climate change and its impact on health and wellbeing. A focus of partnership work will be on Aboriginal health and well-being and vulnerable children and young people	<i>GLAM Action Plan</i> endorsed and number of initiatives achieved	Completed	<i>The Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting (GLAM) Action Plan</i> was completed and submitted to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for approval in November 2021. Eleven actions were implemented by 30 June 2022.
Adopt the <i>Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan</i> in partnership with the Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting (GLAM) and Kerang Elders Group	<i>Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan</i> adopted and number of initiatives achieved	Partially Completed	A workshop with the Kerang Elders and Emerging Leaders Group was facilitated in March 2022. Further consultation occurred through to April 2022, with document review process continuing as of 30 June 2022. An updated Partnership Agreement was re-signed in May 2022 as part of National Reconciliation Week celebrations.
Partner to deliver the <i>Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Population Health Implementation Plan</i> including preventative measures to improve the health priority areas of heart and respiratory health, diabetes, mental health and oral health	Number of actions from the <i>Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Population Health Implementation Plan</i> achieved	Completed	Numerous actions have been achieved from the Plan, including the award of \$75,000 State Government funding to deliver a Smoking Prevention research project, and the delivery of an Annual Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Heart Health Community Campaign during June 2022. Council continues to partner with local agencies, including NDCH and local hospitals, to deliver key actions identified.

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Strategic Priority 2.

Build unique transformational infrastructure that enhances liveability and passive and active recreation.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Develop a Walking and Cycling Strategy	Walking and Cycling Strategy adopted	Partially Completed	<i>Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy</i> developed, with further consultation to be conducted during the second half of 2022.
Adopt Aquatic Strategy	Aquatic Strategy adopted	Partially Completed	Council endorsed the <i>Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy</i> to proceed to community engagement stage at Council's December 2021 Council meeting. Community engagement program began in May 2022 and will continue throughout the second half of 2022.
Deliver the Cohuna Waterfront Connections project and Murrabit Stormwater project	Cohuna Waterfront Connections project and Murrabit Stormwater project completed	Completed	Cohuna Waterfront Project completed June 2022. Stages 1-4 of the Murrabit Stormwater Project completed in early 2022, with Stages 5-6 scheduled for completion by September 2022.
Explore the feasibility of the Kerang Lakes Eco Trail with key stakeholders	Kerang Lakes Eco Trail feasibility study commenced	Completed	Development of feasibility study commenced, with a draft version of this document to be presented to Council in late 2022.

Strategic Priority 3.

Construct a regional community wellbeing centre.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Commence community engagement to explore the concept of a Regional Community Wellbeing Centre	Community engagement plan developed for a Regional Community Wellbeing Centre	Completed	<i>Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy</i> community engagement process commenced, which is exploring the wider implications of shifting to a different model of aquatic provision, including the development of a Regional Wellbeing Centre in Kerang.

Strategic Priority 4.

Respond to key community needs through innovative, commercially focused services including aged care and early childhood services.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Review existing framework for Community Planning to identify community needs	Community Planning Framework reviewed and endorsed	Completed	Connecting Gannawarra Framework developed in March 2022
Develop the GROW Gannawarra and Strong Youth Strong Communities place based projects to reduce disadvantage across the age ranges of 0-18 years	GROW Gannawarra and Strong Youth Strong Communities project framework established and State of Gannawarra's Children and Young People report completed	Partially Completed	Council will co-host the Connecting Communities for Change Forum in July 2022, which will continue the work of the Strong Youth, Strong Communities project. Data collection and the <i>Gannawarra Advocacy Strategy</i> to address service gaps is now underway. State of Gannawarra's Children and Young People report currently in development.

Growth

Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy.

Strategic Priority 1.

Facilitate infrastructure, programs and policies that support economic development and productivity, whilst considering our natural environment.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Continue to implement adopted Waterfront Masterplans	Percentage of projects completed from the Waterfront Masterplans	Completed	Cohuna Waterfront Project completed June 2022.

Strategic Priority 2.

Facilitate the implementation of new energy infrastructure and energy projects.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Continue to advocate for delivery of KerangLink	KerangLink named as preferred transmission line	Partially Completed	In December 2021 AEMO named KerangLink – also referred to as VNI-West – as its preferred National Energy Grid transmission line option.
Facilitate new energy projects in Gannawarra	Number of approved planning permits for new energy projects	Completed	New projects in wind, solar and battery are currently being facilitated with potential businesses.

Strategic Priority 3.

Advocate for improvements in digital connectivity and services.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Review community digital connectivity needs and map identified gaps	Digital connectivity needs analysis undertaken and gaps identified	Completed	Gap analysis complete. Working with suppliers (Telstra) about improving access to digital connectivity through grant funding for upgrades.
Explore options for public wifi	Public wifi plan developed	Partially Completed	Review of public wifi within Cohuna undertaken. Further planning to be undertaken.

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Strategic Priority 4.**Support the creation of destinations in the Gannawarra to attract visitors to our region.**

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Implement relevant strategies that support destination development	Number of actions implemented from <i>Tourism Strategy, Economic Development Strategy and Retail Strategy</i>	Completed	Thirty-one actions have been completed which has seen significant growth in the industrial sector, tourism infrastructure, population growth, jobs growth, residential growth, agricultural diversity and marketing.
Adopt and commence implementation of the Gannawarra Arts Trail	Gannawarra Arts Trail adopted and implementation commenced	Partially Completed	Consultation with key stakeholders regarding the Gannawarra Arts Trail is ongoing.

Strategic Priority 5.**Continue to support existing, and facilitate diversification of agriculture to improve regional productivity through sustainable planning.**

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Continue to facilitate new industry projects which diversify agriculture	Number of new industry projects developed to diversify agriculture	Completed	Diversification continues with various projects in the planning and development phase.
Support existing agricultural businesses to diversify and enhance their long term sustainability	Number of programs supported and promoted for agricultural businesses	Completed	Staff are working within the agriculture sector on a range of activities including energy loans, product development, and expansion and workforce issues.

Strategic Priority 6.**Support growth through land rezoning for future residential development opportunities.**

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Review the <i>Gannawarra Planning Scheme</i>	Submit the review of the <i>Gannawarra Planning Scheme</i> to the Minister for Planning	Partially Completed	A consultant has been appointed to undertake further strategic work to support the review of the <i>Gannawarra Planning Scheme</i> .
Review <i>Urban and Rural Land Use Strategy</i>	<i>Urban and Rural Land Use Strategy</i> review commenced	Completed	Application for funding support has been submitted to support the review, planned for late 2022.

Sustainability

Achieve long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

Strategic Priority 1.

Generate additional revenue through new energy infrastructure and commercially viable services.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Support to develop Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) certified energy farms across Gannawarra	Increase number of approved planning permits for energy projects	Completed	New wind, solar and battery projects continue to be facilitated.
Active pursuit of grants to assist in delivery of Council's capital and operational service delivery	Number of grants applied for versus successful grants	Completed	Twenty-nine non-recurrent grant applications were submitted during 2021/22. Out of this, 17 were successful, one application was withdrawn, three are awaiting an outcome and one project was fully delivered.
Develop a long-term business plan for NDIS/Aged Care Service provision	Long Term Business Plan for NDIS/ Aged Care Service provision developed	Partially Completed	Consultants have commenced working with Community Care department, ELT and Councillors on the business plan.

Strategic Priority 2.

Carefully monitor expenditure to ensure value for money and monitor the long term financial plan to maintain financial sustainability.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Adopt a Long Term Financial Plan	Long Term Financial Plan adopted	Completed	Update on plan provided in June 2022.
Adopt an Asset Management Plan	Asset Management Plan adopted	Completed	Asset Management Plan adopted by Council in June 2022.

Strategic Priority 3.

Be a creative employer of choice through our adherence to good governance and our inclusive culture.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Adopt a Workforce Plan	Workforce Plan adopted	Completed	Workforce Plan adopted December 2021.
Develop a Gender Equality Action Plan	Gender Equality Action Plan developed	Completed	Gender Equality Action Plan completed.

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Strategic Priority 4.

Support community resilience through climate adaptation, clean energy, environmental sustainability and waste management programs.

Action	Measure	Status	Comments
Develop a plan for the rollout of the Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) system to reduce waste to landfill	FOGO rollout plan developed	Partially Completed	Currently being developed for a future year delivery. This plan forms part of Council's existing waste contract. Statewide program to commence 1 July 2027.
Analyse the viability of transitioning to green energy powered plant and fleet	Viability report produced	Completed	Proposed Action in the current <i>Climate Change Adaption Strategy</i> is to review and plan to transition to electric vehicles by 2035.
Implement the <i>Gannawarra Community Resilience Action Plan</i> in partnership with the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee to support the community through rural change and the COVID-19 pandemic	Community Resilience Action Plan reviewed and implemented	Partially Completed	Implementation of <i>Gannawarra Community Resilience Action Plan</i> progressing in partnership with the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee, a network of 28 agencies who are working together to support the Gannawarra community. A review of the Action Plan is scheduled for July 2022.
Develop Council's Climate Change Adaptation Plan which considers impacts on health and wellbeing	Climate Change Adaptation Plan developed	Partially Completed	<i>Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy</i> currently being developed.

Local Government Performance Reporting Framework

WHAT IS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK?

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. It ensures that councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector.

The framework is made up of a range of measures, including roads, planning, animal management and

waste. It is complemented by a Governance and Management checklist of 24 items, which shows the policies, plans and procedures in place at each council. Together, they build a comprehensive picture of council performance.

This data can also be viewed via the State Government's Know Your Council website – knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au - an interactive resource that enables the community, councils and the State Government to benchmark and compare similar councils.



The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is made up of a range of measures, including aquatic facilities.

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ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Provision of animal management and responsible pet ownership services to the community including monitoring, registration, enforcement and education.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to action animal management requests</i>	1.79	1.74	2.14	2.96	Council Local Laws Officers continue to respond promptly to animal management requests. Whilst results suggest a slightly longer response time than previous years, the average response time is less than three days.
[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]					
Service Standard					
<i>Animals reclaimed</i>	80.00%	19.66%	26.40%	29.85%	A total of 201 animals were collected by Council officers in 2021/22, with 60 of those animals released back to their owners and 141 rehomed.
[Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100					
<i>Animals rehomed</i>	<i>New in 2020</i>	75.64%	79.20%	70.15%	A total of 201 animals were collected by Council officers in 2021/22, with 60 of those animals released back to their owners and 141 rehomed.
[Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected] x100					
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of animal management service per population</i>	<i>New in 2020</i>	\$10.02	\$9.54	\$10.26	There was a slight increase in the cost of the animal management service which is attributed to the use of a contractor Local Laws Officer due to staff leave.
[Direct cost of the animal management service / Number of registered animals]					
Note: This measure replaces 'Cost of animal management service' which was based on cost per number of registered animals. For more information, please see Retired Measures.					



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Provision of animal management and responsible pet ownership services to the community including monitoring, registration, enforcement and education.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Health and Safety					
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i>	<i>New in 2020</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	There were no animal management prosecutions in 2021/22.
[Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100					Note: This measure replaces previous 'Animal management prosecutions', which was a measure of number, not proportion. For more information, please see Retired Measures.

RETIRED MEASURES The following indicators were retired in the year ending 30 June 2020

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019
Service Cost	
<i>Cost of animal management service</i>	\$41.40
[Direct cost of the animal management service / Number of registered animals]	
Note: This measure was replaced by <i>Cost of animal management service per population</i>	
Health and Safety	
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i>	2
[Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	
Note: This measure was replaced by <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> , which is a measure of proportion, not number	

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AQUATIC FACILITIES

Provision of indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities to the community and visitors for wellbeing, water safety, sport and recreation.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Service Standard					
Health inspections of aquatic facilities	1.33	1.00	1.00	1.00	Gannawarra Shire Council operates one indoor aquatic and two outdoor seasonal aquatic facilities. All three facilities were inspected during the reporting period.
[Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]					
Health and Safety					
Utilisation of aquatic facilities	4.61	3.45	3.27	3.03	Utilisation of aquatic facilities saw a slight decrease in 2021/22 as services were partly closed due to COVID-19 restrictions and directions.
[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]					
Service Cost					
Cost of aquatic facilities	New in 2020	\$10.96	\$12.31	\$17.01	Council has focused on strengthening the operations of its facilities to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice, Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations and the State Government's COVID-19 Safe Directions. Combined with a decrease in utilisation due to the pandemic, the cost of aquatic facilities has increased.
[Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]					
					Note: From 2020, this measure replaced two previous measures: 'Cost of indoor aquatic facilities' and 'Cost of outdoor aquatic facilities'. For more information, please see Retired Measures.
RETIRED MEASURES The following indicators were retired in the year ending 30 June 2020					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019				
Service Cost					
Cost of indoor aquatic facilities	\$5.71				
[Direct cost of indoor aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to indoor aquatic facilities]	Note: This measure was replaced by Cost of aquatic facilities				
Cost of outdoor aquatic facilities	\$4.81				
[Direct cost of outdoor aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to outdoor aquatic facilities]	Note: This measure was replaced by Cost of aquatic facilities				

**FOOD SAFETY**

Provision of food safety services to the community including registrations, education, monitoring, inspections and compliance.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to action food complaints</i>	1.00	0.00	0.20	1.00	Council received a total of four food complaints in 2021 and all were actioned within 24 hours.
[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]					
Service Standard					
<i>Food safety assessments</i>	100.00%	100.00%	12.86%	100.00%	All registered Class 1 and Class 2 food premises received an annual inspection.
[Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i> / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i>] x100					
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of food safety service</i>	\$305.08	\$305.08	\$378.57	\$227.95	A reduction in the cost is attributed to reduced hours spent on the food safety service.
[Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i>]					
Health and Safety					
<i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i>	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	Five major non-compliance outcome notifications for a food premises were received and followed up in accordance with the Food Act 1984.
[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major noncompliance notifications about a food premises] x100					

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GOVERNANCE

Provision of good governance to the community including making and implementing decisions with reference to community engagement, policy frameworks and agreed practice.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Transparency					
<i>Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public</i>	4.08%	2.94%	3.42%	2.94%	The number of matters considered at meetings closed to the public has decreased by one, from four to three. This small number reflects a high level of transparency and accountability in the decision making process.
[Number of Council resolutions made at Ordinary or Special Meetings of Council, or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at Ordinary or Special Meetings of Council or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of Councillors] x100					
Consultation and Engagement					
<i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i>	55.00	43.00	56.00	46.00	There were a number of contentious projects, planning matters and strategies that the community were concerned about in 2021/22 that may have contributed to this result.
Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement					
Attendance					
<i>Councillor attendance at Council Meetings</i>	96.43%	91.21%	94.05%	98.90%	Councillor attendance at Council meetings remained steady in 2021/22.
[The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Ordinary and Special Council Meeting / (Number of Ordinary and Special Council Meetings) × (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100					



GOVERNANCE

Provision of good governance to the community including making and implementing decisions with reference to community engagement, policy frameworks and agreed practice.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of elected representation</i>	\$42,703.93	\$43,818.96	\$36,020.55	\$41,335.36	An increase in the cost of elected representation is attributed to the Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Determination No. 01/2022. The Determination took effect from 18 December 2021 and saw an increase in the allowance of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors.
[Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]					
Satisfaction					
<i>Satisfaction with Council decisions</i>	52.00	39.00	55.00	46.00	There were a number of contentious projects, planning matters and strategies that the community were concerned about in 2021/22 that may have contributed to this result.
Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community					

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LIBRARIES

Provision of print and digital based resources to the community in a variety of formats including collection services, e-services, research tools and interactive learning programs.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Utilisation					
<i>Physical library collection usage</i>	2.01	1.64	1.23	1.39	A slight increase in the library collection usage can be attributed to when libraries re-opened following COVID-19 lockdowns.
[Number of library collection item loans / Number of library collection items]					Note: From 2019/20, this indicator measures the performance of physical library items as a subset of the wider library collection.
Resource Standard					
<i>Recently purchased library collection</i>	41.85%	38.51%	34.93%	32.17%	There was a small reduction in purchasing new items for the collection in 2021/22. Gannawarra Shire Council is committed to continuing to withdraw older stock and increase the standard of the collection.
[Number of library collection items purchased in the last five years / Number of library collection items] x100					
Participation					
<i>Active library borrowers in municipality</i>	16.75%	16.65%	13.50%	11.47%	A reduction in the number of active library borrowers is attributed to the temporary closure of library branches due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Gannawarra Library Service is committed to the Public Libraries Victoria 'Return Yourself to the Library' campaign to increase library membership.
[Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / The sum of the population for the last three years] x100					



LIBRARIES

Provision of print and digital based resources to the community in a variety of formats including collection services, e-services, research tools and interactive learning programs.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Service Cost					
Cost of library service per population	New in 2020	\$54.65	\$57.04	\$61.36	The cost of the library services remained steady in 2021/22, with a small increase recorded.
[Direct cost of the library service / Population]					Note: This measure replaced the previous 'Cost of library service' indicator, which measured based on number of visits. For more information, please see Retired Measures.
RETIRED MEASURES The following indicator was retired in the year ending 30 June 2020					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019				
Service Cost					
Cost of library service	\$7.64				
[Direct cost of the library service / Number of visits]		Note: This measure was replaced by Cost of library service per population			

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MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Provision of universal access to health services for children from birth to school age and their families including early detection, referral, monitoring and recording of child health and development.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Service Standard					
Infant enrolments in the MCH service	97.25%	101.28%	101.02%	101.09%	Infant enrolments in the Maternal and Child Health Services continues to remain high and consistent with previous years.
[Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100					
Service Cost					
Cost of the MCH service	\$65.05	\$81.64	\$84.92	\$92.36	There was a small increase in the cost of the Maternal and Child Health Service due to additional hours worked compared to 2020/21.
NOTE: Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses					
Participation					
Participation in the MCH service	70.95%	86.88%	85.60%	80.77%	Participation in the Maternal and Child Service was down slightly due to COVID-19. Services were restricted at times throughout the year, with young and vulnerable families prioritised.
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
Participation					
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children	61.90%	100.00%	97.37%	83.33%	Participation in the Maternal and Child Health Service by Aboriginal children has slightly decreased. Staff will continue to work in partnership with Aboriginal services to encourage participation
[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Provision of universal access to health services for children from birth to school age and their families including early detection, referral, monitoring and recording of child health and development.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Satisfaction					
Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit	New in 2020	101.28%	94.90%	105.43%	Participation increased in young children as families began to reengage with services after restrictions were lifted.
[Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100					

RETIRED MEASURES The following indicator was retired in the year ending 30 June 2020

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019
Service Cost	
Participation in first MCH home visit	97.25%
[Number of first MCH home visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	
Note: This measure was replaced by <i>Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit</i>	

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ROADS

Provision of a network of sealed local roads under the control of the municipal council to all road users.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Satisfaction of Use					
<i>Sealed local road requests</i>	20.73	9.21	12.67	36.85	There was an increase of sealed local road requests from 66 in 2020/21 to 204 in 2021/22. The increase can be attributed to wet weather and resident concerns regarding unsealed roads. Council continues to encourage the community to submit a customer action request in order to lodge issues with Council maintained roads.
[Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100					
Condition					
<i>Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards</i>	99.23%	99.42%	99.50%	99.42%	Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards has remained steady due to an increased focus in maintaining the local sealed roads to provide a better, safer network for the community.
[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100					
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of sealed local road reconstruction</i>	\$40.65	\$44.30	\$37.46	\$38.41	A decrease in the cost of sealed local road reconstruction is attributed to work sites being closer to quarries, which has reduced travel time. Council has a new road sealing contractor which has resulted in reduced sealing rates.
[Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]					

**ROADS**

Provision of a network of sealed local roads under the control of the municipal council to all road users.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of sealed local road resealing</i>	\$4.93	\$5.42	\$4.80	\$4.52	A decrease in the cost of sealed local road resealing is attributed to aggregating work areas to have larger areas, which results in discounted unit rates from the contractor. Council has a new road sealing contractor which has resulted in reduced sealing rates.
[Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]					
Satisfaction					
<i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i>	50.00	47.00	54.00	50.00	Results for community satisfaction with sealed local roads has seen a decrease of four points. Council is aware that residents find it difficult to ascertain a council maintained road compared to roads maintained by other authorities.
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]					

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STATUTORY PLANNING

Provision of land use and development assessment services to applicants and the community including advice and determination of applications.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to decide planning applications</i>	35.00	37.00	33.00	64.00	An increase in the time taken to decide planning applications is attributed to resource and software issues.
[The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]					
Service Standard					
<i>Planning applications decided within required time frames</i>	83.22%	88.52%	90.75%	64.75%	A decrease in planning applications decided within the required timeframe is due to resource and software issues.
[(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100					
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of statutory planning service</i>	\$2,028.48	\$1,851.17	\$1,533.56	\$1,880.64	An increase in the cost of statutory planning services can be attributed to the decrease in applications received and decided on during 2021/22.
[Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]					
Decision Making					
<i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	There were no VCAT appeals in the 2021/22 financial year.
[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100					



WASTE COLLECTION

Provision of kerbside waste collection service to the community including garbage and recyclables.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Satisfaction					
<i>Kerbside bin collection requests</i>	37.50	42.18	90.42	107.18	There was an increase in bin collection requests from 368 in 2020/21 to 573 in 2021/22, with an increase in repairs from 103 bins in 2020/21 to 170 bins in 2021/22. An increase in kerbside bin collection requests is attributed to community requests for replacement of stolen and damaged bins, as well as high numbers of termination or change of service requests.
[Number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests / Number of kerbside bin collection households] x1000					
Service Standard					
<i>Kerbside collection bins missed</i>	1.64	2.51	2.57	2.21	There was a decrease in the number of kerbside collection bins missed due to contractor stabilisation.
[Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000					
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service</i>	\$55.50	\$61.51	\$65.58	\$71.06	The cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service has remained steady, with a small increase attributed to CPI and increases in State Government waste levies.
[Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]					

OUR PERFORMANCE

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WASTE COLLECTION

Provision of kerbside waste collection service to the community including garbage and recyclables.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations and Comments
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service</i>	\$37.75	\$41.97	\$42.11	\$70.24	The cost to process recycling at Veolia's Echuca MRF has increased significantly (128%). There has been an increase in the lift rate in line with Council's new waste contract.
[Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]					
Waste Diversion					
<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i>	42.16%	37.15%	44.88%	39.77%	There has been a reduction in the amount of recycling collected in 2021/22 compared to the previous year. Council attributes this to the introduction of new glass drop off services and the impact of COVID-19 restrictions in 2020/21, resulting in increased recycling from the community. Council has a strong focus on reducing waste and continues to support the community in waste education.
[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100					

Governance and Management Checklist

	GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ITEM	STATUS	YES NO	DATE APPLICABLE (single item date)	SUPPORTING COMMENTS (multiple items/dates)	REASON FOR 'NO' RESPONSE
GC1	Community engagement policy (policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act	YES	17/2/2021		
GC2	Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Current guidelines in operation	YES	16/9/2020		
GC3	Financial Plan (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act	YES	20/10/2021		
GC4	Asset Plan (plan that sets out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act	YES	15/6/2022		
GC5	Revenue and Rating Plan (plan setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act	YES	16/6/2021		
GC6	Annual budget (plan setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required)	Budget adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act	YES	29/6/2022		

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GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ITEM	STATUS	YES NO	DATE APPLICABLE (single item date)	SUPPORTING COMMENTS (multiple items/dates)	REASON FOR 'NO' RESPONSE
GC7 Risk policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	Current policy in operation	YES	21/7/2021		
GC8 Fraud policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Current policy in operation	YES	18/5/2022		
GC9 Municipal emergency management plan (plan under section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i> for emergency prevention, response and recovery)	Prepared and maintained in accordance with section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i>	YES	19/5/2020		
GC10 Procurement policy (policy outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods and services by the Council)	Adopted in accordance with section 108 of the Act	YES	15/12/2021		
GC11 Business continuity plan (plan setting out the actions that will be taken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Current plan in operation	YES	28/1/2021		
GC12 Disaster recovery plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Current plan in operation	YES	31/3/2022		
GC13 Risk management framework (framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Current framework in operation	YES	25/4/2022		

	GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ITEM	STATUS	YES NO	DATE APPLICABLE (single item date)	SUPPORTING COMMENTS (multiple items/dates)	REASON FOR 'NO' RESPONSE
GC14	Audit and Risk Committee (advisory committee of Council under section 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act	YES	19/8/2020		
GC15	Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	Internal auditor engaged	NO			An internal auditor was appointed up until December 2020. Council has adopted a more targeted internal audit program focusing on efficiency and business gains. Auditors are appointed on an individual case by case scenario based on experience and qualifications in the relevant field of the audit.
GC16	Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	Current framework in operation	YES	6/12/2021		
GC17	Council Plan report (report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year.	Current report	YES	7/2/2022		
GC18	Quarterly budget reports (quarterly reports to Council under section 97 of the Act, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	Quarterly reports presented to Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the Act	YES		17/11/2021 16/02/2022 18/05/2022	

OUR PERFORMANCE

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GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ITEM	STATUS	YES NO	DATE APPLICABLE (single item date)	SUPPORTING COMMENTS (multiple items/dates)	REASON FOR 'NO' RESPONSE
GC19 Risk reporting (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Risk reports prepared and presented	YES		09/11/2021 08/02/2022 10/05/2022	
GC20 Performance reporting (six-monthly reports of indicators measuring the results against financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	Performance reports prepared	NO			Reported once annually, being 20/10/2021.
GC21 Annual report (annual report under sections 98 and 99 of the Act containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	Annual report presented at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act	YES	20/10/2021		
GC22 Councillor Code of Conduct (Code setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters.)	Code of conduct reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act	YES	17/2/2021		
GC23 Delegations (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff)	Delegations reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act	YES	20/4/2022		
GC24 Meeting procedures (Governance Rules governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act	YES	19/8/2020		

Audit And Risk Management

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit and Risk Committee's role is to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of Council in carrying out its responsibilities for accountable financial management, good corporate governance, maintaining an effective system of internal control and risk management and fostering an ethical environment.

Council's five-member Audit and Risk Committee consists of three independent members – John Campbell, Bradley Tarr and Francis Crawley - and two Councillor representatives, being Cr Charlie Gillingham and Cr Garner Smith.

Independent members are appointed for a three-year term. The Chair must be an independent member and is elected by the committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee meets at least quarterly, with four meetings held during 2021/22. The Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) audit service provider and the Chief Executive Officer and Director Corporate Services are invited to attend all Audit and Risk Committee meetings. Other management representatives attend as required to present reports.

Recommendations and outcomes from each Audit and Risk Committee meeting are subsequently reported to and considered by Council.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance to the Audit and Risk Committee that appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council.

In December 2020 the approach for the internal audit function was changed to focus on more strategic business reviews. An annual internal audit plan was developed for 2021/2022, with the focus being on the following two reviews:

- Cybersecurity review of our Information Communication Technology environment. This review was completed; and
- Community Care Business review. This review is in progress.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO). The annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement for 2021/22 was conducted by the VAGO appointed audit service provider, Johnsons MME.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Council officers continue to encourage and provide support for proactive and embedded risk management throughout the organisation.

During 2021/22, Council's Audit and Risk Committee received four Risk Management Reports, in accordance with Council's Risk Management framework (Council Opportunity and Risk Evaluator – CORE).

No CORE assessments were undertaken however a number of risk assessments were undertaken prior to the addition of each project to the Capital Works Program during preparation of Council's proposed 2022/23 Budget.

Council's *Business Continuity Plan* was activated once during 2021/22. Regular reviews and test exercises were undertaken on both the Plan and department sub-plans.

Statutory Information

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applicable to Council.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

The following prescribed documents were available for public inspection, or copies of the documents were able to be obtained at 47 Victoria Street, Kerang:

- A document containing details of overseas or interstate travel (other than interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by any Councillor or member of Council staff in the previous 12 months.
- Agendas for, and minutes of, Council Meetings other than those agendas and minutes relating to part of a meeting which was closed to members of the public under the Act and are confidential information within the meaning of Section 3(1) of the Act.
- A register of delegations including the date on which the last review took place.
- A document containing details of all leases involving land which were entered into by the Council as lessor, including the lessee and the terms and the value of the lease.
- A register of authorised officers appointed under that section.
- A list of donations and grants made by the Council in the previous 12 months, including the names of persons who, or bodies which, have received a donation or grant and the amount of each donation or grant.

BEST VALUE

Council is committed to the principles of the Business Excellence Framework, which is an integrated leadership and management system that describes the elements essential to sustainable organisational excellence.

The objective of Business Excellence is to use quality management principles and tools in business management with the goal of improving performance based on customer focus, stakeholder value and process management. Council has integrated these principles into its everyday organisational environment.

Council adopted the *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan* to define the goals of the organisation over a four-year period as required by the *Local Government Act 2020*. The *Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Council Plan* contains three goals, each

featuring strategic priorities and success measures:

- Liveability
- Growth
- Sustainability

Council progressively monitors the provision of best practice service against success indicators using reports provided by the Executive Leadership Team. Shortfalls against these indicators can then be seen as areas for improvement.

CARERS RECOGNITION

In accordance with the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*, Council is required to report annually on its care measurement obligations under Section 11 of that Act.

Council has taken all practicable measures to comply with its responsibilities outlined in the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*. Council has promoted the principles of that Act to people in care relationships who receive Council services, to people in care relationships, and to the wider community by:

- Facilitating a monthly Carers Group;
- Recognising National Carers Week;
- Providing respite services to carers;
- Distributing information through Council services and community newsletters; and
- Working in partnership with other organisations and community groups.

CONTRACTS

Council entered into the following contracts between 1 July 2021 and 15 December 2021:

Contract name	Tender number	Contract signed
Waste and Recycling	G03-2021	12/08/2021
Road Sealing Program	G06-2021	15/09/2021
Packaged Meals Service	G06-2020	1/11/2021
Cohuna CBD and Waterfront Connections	G07-2021	1/11/2021
Atkinson Park Play Space & Changing Places Facility	G08-2021	18/11/2021

Following the adoption of Council's *Procurement Policy* on 15 December 2021, Council invited tenders or sought Expressions of Interest under its *Procurement Policy* from 16 December 2021 to 30 June 2022:

Contract name	Tender number	Contract signed
Murrabit Township Stormwater Stages 5 and 6	G11-2021	18/01/2022
Electricity Supply Large Market	REA18022020	28/01/2022
Cohuna Island Road and Garden Park Landscaping	G12-2021	28/01/2022
Electricity Supply Small Market		28/02/2022
Sustainable Recreational Water for Quambatook	G10-2021	24/06/2022
Koondrook All Abilities Playground	G07-2020	29/06/2022
Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail - Murray River Adventure Trail Design	G02-2022	29/06/2022

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

In accordance with Section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006*, Council is required to report on the implementation of its *Disability Action Plan* in the Annual Report.

During 2021/22, Council continued enacting its *Social Inclusion Strategy 2019-2023*, which was adopted by Council in February 2019.

This Strategy is Council's commitment to reducing barriers for groups most at risk of being excluded from the community. This includes those with disability, who are culturally or linguistically diverse, who are Indigenous, who identify as LGBTIQ+, young people, older people and community members facing socio-economic disadvantage.

The strategy was developed with input from the community, service providers and Council staff. It incorporates an implementation plan with actions to be completed across the life of the strategy.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to prepare and implement a *Domestic Animal Management Plan* (DAM Plan) every four years, and evaluate its implementation in the Annual Report.

Highlights during 2021/22 include:

- Working with local veterinary clinics to encourage responsible pet ownership.
- Installing additional cat cages at the Kerang Pound.
- Purchasing additional cat traps.
- Continued rehousing of surrendered domestic animals the community could no longer care for.

FOOD ACT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

In accordance with Section 7E of the *Food Act 1984*, Council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year in its Annual Report.

No Ministerial Directions were received by Council during 2021/22.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* provides individuals and organisations with a general right of access to information held by the Gannawarra Shire Council. It also provides a right of appeal to the Victorian Information Commissioner to review decisions to refuse access to information.

Requests for access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* should be lodged on the FOI application form and sent to the Freedom of Information Officer, Gannawarra Shire Council, PO Box 287, Kerang VIC 3579.

Whilst several requests for documents were received, one valid Freedom of Information request was received during 2021/22.

PROTECTED DISCLOSURE PROCEDURES

In accordance with Section 69 of the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*, a Council must include in its Annual Report information about how to access the procedures established by the Council under Part 9 of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosure complaints investigated during the financial year.

The *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and provide protection for people who make disclosures. Procedures on how to make a disclosure are outlined in *Policy No. 107 - Public Interest Disclosure*, which is publicly available on Council's website.

During 2021/22, no disclosures were notified to Council officers appointed to receive disclosures, or to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

ROAD MANAGEMENT ACT MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

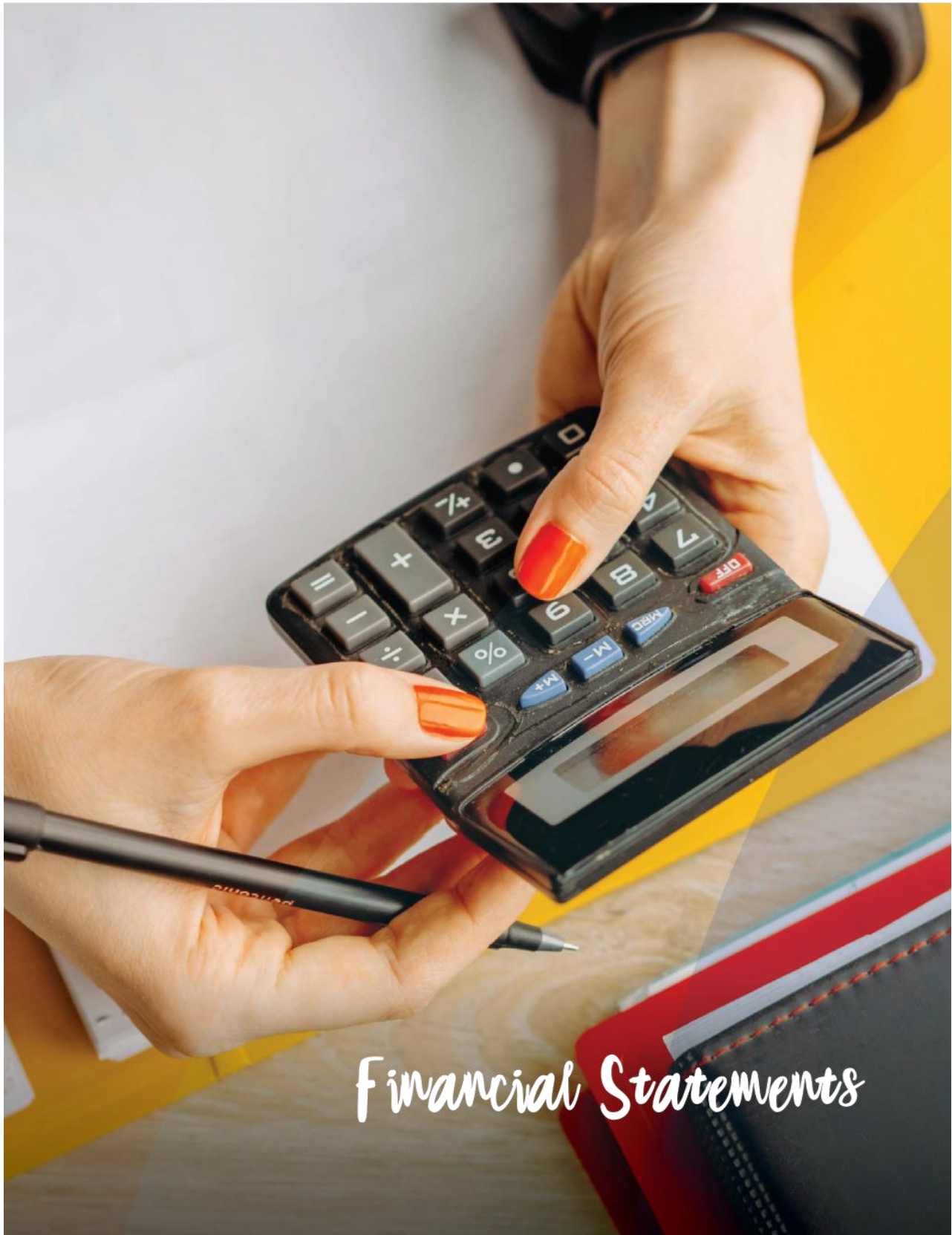
In accordance with Section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, a Council must publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial direction in its Annual Report.

No Ministerial Directions were received by Council during 2021/22.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

In accordance with Section 46GM and 46QD of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a Council that is a collecting or development agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on infrastructure and development contributions including levies and works in kind. The report must be published in a Council's Annual Report.

No infrastructure and development contributions were received by Council in 2021/22.



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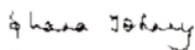
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Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Shana Johnny, CPA
Principal Accounting Officer

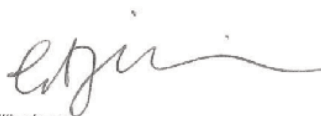
Date : 21-Sep-22

Kerang

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of Gannawarra Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2022 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Charlie Gillingham
Councillor

Date : 21-Sep-22

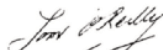
Kerang



Garner Smith
Councillor

Date : 21-Sep-22

Kerang



Tom O'Reilly
Chief Executive Officer

Date : 21-Sep-22

Kerang



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Gannawarra Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Gannawarra Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2022 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2022 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

**Auditor's
responsibilities
for the audit of
the financial
report**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



MELBOURNE
28 September 2022

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCILComprehensive Income Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Income			
Rates and charges	3.1	13,935	13,490
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	409	527
User fees	3.3	2,910	3,122
Grants - operating	3.4	10,924	10,399
Grants - capital	3.4	7,552	5,850
Contributions - monetary	3.5	90	150
Contributions - non monetary	3.5	-	83
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	360	(954)
Fair value adjustments for investment property	6.2	-	49
Other income	3.7	4,432	3,558
Total income		40,612	36,273
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	17,374	16,092
Materials and services	4.2	8,620	9,942
Depreciation	4.3	6,381	6,350
Bad and doubtful debts	4.4	176	119
Borrowing costs	4.5	18	26
Other expenses	4.6	303	432
Total expenses		32,872	32,961
Surplus for the year		7,740	3,312
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation increment	6.1	27,642	7,573
Total other comprehensive result		27,642	7,573
Total comprehensive result		35,382	10,885

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1 (a)	13,110	12,510
Trade and other receivables	5.1 (c)	2,961	2,879
Other financial assets	5.1 (b)	5,709	2,503
Inventories	5.2 (a)	356	150
Other assets	5.2 (b)	299	262
Total current assets		22,435	18,304
Non-current assets			
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	247,644	214,458
Investment property	6.2	1,030	1,030
Total non-current assets		248,674	215,488
Total assets		271,109	233,792
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3 (a)	1,391	991
Trust funds and deposits	5.3 (b)	559	813
Provisions	5.5	3,707	3,599
Unearned income	5.3 (c)	5,466	3,768
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	95	106
Total current liabilities		11,218	9,277
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.5	1,494	1,404
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	155	250
Total non-current liabilities		1,649	1,654
Total liabilities		12,867	10,931
Net assets		258,242	222,860
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		102,325	94,585
Reserves	9.1	155,917	128,275
Total Equity		258,242	222,860

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCILStatement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000
2022				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		222,860	94,585	128,275
Surplus for the year		7,740	7,740	-
Net asset revaluation increment	6.1	27,642	-	27,642
Balance at end of the financial year		258,242	102,325	155,917

		Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000
2021				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		211,975	91,273	120,702
Surplus for the year		3,313	3,312	-
Net asset revaluation increment		7,573	-	7,573
Balance at end of the financial year		222,860	94,585	128,275

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2021 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		13,860	13,885
Statutory fees and fines		409	527
User fees		2,913	3,254
Grants - operating		11,191	10,375
Grants - capital		8,982	9,347
Contributions - monetary		90	150
Interest received		15	30
Trust funds and deposits taken/(repaid)		(253)	96
Other receipts		4,400	3,573
Net GST refund/(payment)		(187)	285
Employee costs		(17,219)	(15,559)
Materials and services		(8,403)	(9,351)
Other payments		(303)	(451)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9.2	15,495	16,161
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	(12,235)	(11,673)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		670	559
Sale of / (Payments for) investments		(3,206)	1,968
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(14,771)	(9,146)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance costs		(106)	(26)
Repayment of borrowings		(18)	(100)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(124)	(126)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		600	6,889
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		12,510	5,621
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		13,110	12,510
Financing arrangements	5.6	350	456
Restrictions on cash assets	5.1	560	813

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Property			
Land		268	171
Land improvements		91	1,743
Total land		359	1,915
Buildings		699	147
Building improvements		100	33
Total buildings		799	180
Total property		1,158	2,095
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment		663	611
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		106	-
Computers and telecommunications		103	274
Library books		96	69
Total plant and equipment		969	954
Infrastructure			
Roads		2,442	3,447
Bridges		-	570
Footpaths and cycleways		1,132	210
Kerb and channel		128	144
Drainage		1,490	89
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		1,571	240
Waste management		123	7
Parks, open space and streetscapes		3,128	2,864
Other infrastructure		121	1,059
Total infrastructure		10,137	8,630
Total capital works expenditure		12,264	11,678
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		5,140	4,107
Asset renewal expenditure		5,163	5,971
Asset expansion expenditure		1,106	489
Asset upgrade expenditure		855	1,111
Total capital works expenditure		12,264	11,678

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Gannawarra Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20 January 1995 and is a body corporate.

The Council's main office is located at 47 Victoria Street, Kerang.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the Local Government Act 2020, and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Significant accounting policies

(a). Basis of accounting

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

(b). Impact of Covid-19

On 16 March 2020 a state of emergency was declared in Victoria due to the global pandemic COVID-19 virus, known as coronavirus. A state of disaster was declared on 2 August 2020. The state of disaster was withdrawn on 28 October 2020 and the state of emergency on 15 December 2021. Council has noted the following significant impacts on its financial operations, in respect to the year ended 30 June 2022.

*** Additional Revenue include**

Community services grants of \$285k.

Business support grants of \$60k.

Working for Victoria grant of \$153k.

Infrastructure stimulus capital grants of \$5.36m of which unearned grants at 30 June 2022 is \$1.25m.

*** Revenue Reductions include**

Reduction in swimming pool income due to a significant decrease in attendance along with the impact from reduced operating hours due to staff affected by Covid isolation rules.

Reduced income due to the social meal and social support group programs being suspended during the covid restriction period.

Council's COVID-19 Hardship Policy adopted on 15 April 2020 provided relief to ratepayers experiencing temporary financial hardship by withholding interest on outstanding rates.

*** Additional costs -**

COVID-19 grant funding has been offset by expenditure to provide additional services.

Council has also incurred additional cleaning costs associated with the pandemic.

*** Asset Valuations -**

Council has undertaken the Land & Buildings revaluations as at 30 June 2022.

The real estate market has been impacted by the uncertainty that the COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease) outbreak has caused. As at the date of valuation, the valuers state that there is a significant market uncertainty and this valuation is current at the date of valuation only. The value assessed may change significantly and unexpectedly over a relatively short period of time (including as a result of factors that the Valuer could not reasonably have been aware of as at the date of valuation). There is not yet any comparable market evidence available to determine what, if any, impact the current COVID-19 pandemic may have on the value or marketability of the valued properties, particularly in the short and medium terms.

Council has assessed the impacts of COVID-19 on the value of roads, bridges, footpaths & cycleways, kerb & channel and drainage classes of assets. Though these assets were revalued as at 30 June 2021, there has been a significant increase in road & bridge construction cost. As a result, a management adjustment of 8.3% indicative of this increase has been made to these asset classes as at 30 June 2022.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold on the variance of higher of 10 percent and \$50k where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

2.1.1. Income and expenditure	Budget 2022 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Income					
Rates & Charges	13,740	13,935	195	1%	1
Statutory fees and fines	399	409	10	2%	
User fees	3,359	2,910	(449)	-13%	2
Grants - operating	10,477	10,924	447	4%	3
Grants - capital	8,781	7,552	(1,229)	-14%	4
Contributions - monetary	60	90	30	51%	5
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	365	360	(5)	-1%	
Other income	3,747	4,432	685	18%	6
Total income	40,928	40,612	(316)	-1%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	16,065	17,374	(1,309)	-8%	7
Materials and services	8,498	8,620	(122)	-1%	8
Depreciation	6,639	6,381	258	4%	9
Bad and doubtful debts	3	176	(173)	-5262%	10
Borrowing costs	20	18	2	11%	
Other expenses	320	303	17	5%	
Total expenses	31,546	32,872	(1,327)	-4%	
Surplus for the year	9,382	7,740	(1,643)	-18%	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

(i) Explanation of material variations

1 Rates & Charges

Supplementary valuations processed during the year and additional bin services have generated additional rates income (\$115k). 2021/22 budgeted interest on rates was set at a conservative estimate in line with the COVID relief policy. Actual interest on rates has been higher than the conservative estimate (\$79k).

2 User fees

The decrease in user fees primarily relates to lesser than anticipated income from long day care services (\$239k). Budgeted internal allocation of cleaning costs across the organisation has been removed at year end (\$460k). These decreases have been offset by increase in user fees from family day care services (\$289k).

3 Grants - operating

Increase in operating grants is primarily due to advance payment of 2022/23 Victoria Grants commission annual allocation (\$1.67m). This increase is offset by reclassification of Roads to Recovery annual allocation (\$1.3m) to capital grants. Council also received COVID safe outdoor activation funding to support businesses (\$130k). Grants operating also takes into account unearned income brought forward from 2020/21 and is reduced by unearned income carried forward into 2022/23.

4 Grants - Capital

Roads to recovery allocation (\$1.3m) has been reclassified as capital grants.

Part of the decrease is related to unsuccessful grant applications for projects including Apex Bridge (\$150k) and Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail (\$2.2m). It must be noted that Council has been successful in grant funding for design works on Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail (\$500k) which is treated as unearned income.

5 Contributions - Monetary

Increase in contributions relate to public open space contributions received.

6 Other Income

The increased demand in National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) services and Community Care Brokerage services has generated additional income of \$243k and \$176k respectively. Workcover reimbursements during the year total \$171k. This item is unbudgeted.

7 Employee costs

The major increase in employee costs relate to the following services - NDIS (\$587k), Community Care Brokerage Services (\$146k) and Children's services (\$314k). Workcover payments (\$171k) are offset by reimbursements from the Workcover provider.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

8 Materials and services

The major increase in materials & services relate to family day care educator payments (\$290k) which is offset by user fees mentioned above. Fuel costs have also contributed to this increase (\$91k). These increases are offset by operational efficiencies across the organisation. Budgeted internal allocation of cleaning costs across the organisation has been removed at year end (\$457k).

9 Depreciation

Variance in depreciation is a result of carryforward of capital works.

10 Bad and Doubtful debts

Provision for bad and doubtful debts have been increased to allow for long outstanding NDIS debts.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

2.1.2 Capital works	Budget 2022 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Land	-	268	268	100%	1
Land improvements	229	91	(138)	-60%	2
Total land	229	359	130	57%	
Buildings	475	699	224	47%	3
Building improvements	920	100	(820)	-89%	4
Total buildings	1,395	799	(596)	-43%	
Total property	1,624	1,158	(466)	-29%	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	731	663	(68)	-9%	5
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	50	106	56	112%	6
Computers and telecommunications	170	103	(67)	-39%	7
Library books	100	96	(4)	-4%	
Total plant and equipment	1,051	969	(82)	-8%	
Infrastructure					
Roads	3,964	2,442	(1,522)	-38%	8
Bridges	300	-	(300)	-100%	9
Footpaths and cycleways	2,504	1,132	(1,372)	-55%	10
Kerb and channel	-	128	128	100%	11
Drainage	1,314	1,490	176	13%	12
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	3,092	1,571	(1,521)	-49%	13
Waste management	60	123	63	105%	14
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,110	3,128	1,018	48%	15
Other infrastructure	523	121	(402)	-77%	16
Total infrastructure	13,867	10,137	(3,730)	-27%	
Total capital works expenditure	16,542	12,264	(4,278)	-26%	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	8,048	5,140	(2,908)	-36%	
Asset renewal expenditure	6,544	5,163	(1,381)	-21%	
Asset expansion expenditure	983	1,106	123	13%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	966	855	(111)	-12%	
Total capital works expenditure	16,542	12,264	(4,278)	-26%	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

(i) Explanation of material variations

1 Land

Industrial estate expansion at Tate Drive, Kerang has been moved from land improvements to land.

2 Land Improvements

Decrease relates to industrial estate expansion at Tate Drive, Kerang being moved from land improvements to land (\$268k). This decrease is offset by grant funded outdoor dining projects (\$73k) - grant funding was received post adoption of the budget.

3 Buildings

Increase primarily relates to the continuation of works at the Kerang Children's centre. The project commenced in 2020/21.

4 Building Improvements

Works on the Morton Garner Pavillion has been moved into recreation & leisure asset class.

5 Plant, machinery and equipment

Global supplies of plant & machinery has been impacted due to COVID-19. Part of this program has been deferred due to supply constraints.

6 Fixtures, fittings and furniture

Variance relates to office renovations undertaken as part of return to work modifications - this was budgeted under building renewals.

7 Computers and telecommunications

There has been delays in lead time between placing orders for IT equipment and delivery. Confirmed orders are in place for equipment to be delivered in 22/23.

8 Roads

Kerang CBD improvements were primarily works on footpaths and has been capitalised into the footpaths class of assets. Remaining unspent funds have been earmarked for the continuation of the Beautification Murrabit project and is part of carried forward funds.

9 Bridges

Apex Bridge project has not been successful in receiving grant funding.

10 Footpaths and cycleways

Decrease relates to the budgeted Kerang to Koondrook rail trail project (\$2.2m) which has not been successful in receiving grant funding. This decrease has been partly offset by Kerang CBD improvements being moved to the footpaths class (\$953k).

11 Kerb and Channel

Kerb and Channel was included under the asset class - other infrastructure - in the 2021/22 Budget.

12 Drainage

The increase relates to continuation of the Murrabit Stormwater (Stages 5 & 6) project which received grant funding under the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program Stage 3 - grant funding was received post adoption of the budget. This is a multi-year project.

13 Recreational, leisure and community facilities

Cohuna CBD improvements were primarily works on parks, open space and community facilities and has been capitalised into the parks, open space and streetscapes class of assets.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

14 Waste Management

Increase relates to grant funded transfer station upgrades - grant funding was received post adoption of the budget.

15 Parks, open space and streetscapes

Increase relates to the Cohuna CBD improvements works on parks, open space and community facilities being capitalised into this class of assets.

16 Other Infrastructure

The decrease is on account of budget for strategic program development being used for preplanning of infrastructure works across all asset classes.

Kerb and Channel was included under the asset class - other infrastructure - in the 2021/22 Budget.

There were a number of multi-year projects underway at 30 June 2022. Please refer note 5.3 (c) regarding funds carried forward to facilitate completion of these projects.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

2.2.1 Programs

Liveability

To achieve our objective of Liveability, the following are our strategic priorities:

1. Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our community through partnerships, services and programs.
2. Build unique transformational infrastructure that enhances liveability and passive and active recreation.
3. Construct a regional community wellbeing centre.
4. Respond to key community needs through innovative, commercially focused services including aged care and early childhood services.

Growth

To achieve our objective of Growth the following are our strategic priorities:

1. Facilitate infrastructure, programs and policies that support economic development and productivity, whilst considering our natural environment.
2. Facilitate the implementation of new energy infrastructure and energy projects.
3. Advocate for improvements in digital connectivity and services.
4. Support the creation of destinations in the Gannawarra to attract visitors to our region.
5. Continue to support existing agriculture and facilitate diversification to improve regional productivity through sustainable planning.
6. Support growth through land rezoning for future rural residential development opportunities.

Sustainability

To achieve our objective of Sustainability, the following are our strategic priorities:

1. Generate additional revenue through new energy infrastructure and commercially viable services.
2. Carefully monitor expenditure to ensure value for money and monitor our long term financial plan to maintain financial sustainability.
3. Be a creative employer of choice through our adherence to good governance and our inclusive culture.
4. Support community resilience through climate adaptation, clean energy, environmental sustainability and waste management programs.

Rates and charges

To achieve a fair and equitable distribution of rates across all rating categories.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2.2.2 Summary of revenues, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

	Income	Expenses	Surplus	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2022					
Liveability	15,866	22,143	(6,277)	9,456	201,262
Growth	1,103	1,801	(698)	60	9,097
Sustainability	2,140	8,928	(6,788)	1,391	60,750
Rates And Charges	13,935	-	13,935	-	-
Victoria Grants Commission	7,568	-	7,568	7,568	-
	40,612	32,872	7,740	18,475	271,109
	Income	Expenses	Surplus	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2021					
Connectivity	1,013	1,703	(691)	984	1,343
Economic Diversity, growth and prosperity	654	1,498	(844)	62	8,646
Sustainable natural and built environment	5,290	12,209	(6,919)	4,389	178,065
Good governance and a healthy organisation	3,985	5,994	(2,009)	4,550	23,854
Strong healthy organisation	11,903	11,557	346	6,264	21,883
Rates and charges	13,430	-	13,430	-	-
	36,273	32,961	3,312	16,249	233,792

Note:

The Council Plan 2021-2025 was adopted on 18 August 2021 and the 2022 data is based on the strategic objectives in the current Council Plan. The 2021 data is based on the strategic objectives in the previous Council Plan.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services	2022	2021
3.1 Rates and charges	\$'000	\$'000

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is its value at which the unencumbered land might be expected to realise in an open market at the time of the valuation.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2021/22 was \$1,989 million (2020/21 \$1,841million).

	2021-2022 cents in the dollar	2020-2021 cents in the dollar
General rates	0.006019	0.632300
Commercial/industrial	0.006415	0.649600
Farm irrigation district	0.005168	0.531800
Farm dryland	0.003879	0.429200
Cultural and recreational	0.003010	0.316100
General rates	10,935	10,651
Municipal charge	648	642
Waste management charge	2,077	1,973
Interest on rates and charges	154	104
Revenue in lieu of rates	121	120
Total rates and charges	13,935	13,490

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2022, and the valuation will be first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2022.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2. Statutory fees and fines

Animal control	93	109
Health and preventative services	-	8
Town planning and building control	308	403
Other	8	6
Total statutory fees and fines	409	526

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

3.3. User fees	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Aged and health services	295	319
Child care/children's programs	1,842	1,824
External Works	313	559
Hall hire	12	4
Health and preventative services	52	50
Library, arts and culture	6	4
Office services	31	37
Recreation	113	94
Tourism	11	7
Waste and environment	206	187
Other fees and charges	29	37
Total user fees	2,910	3,122
User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised at a point in time	2,910	3,122
Total user fees	2,910	3,122

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

3.4. Funding from other levels of government	2022	2021
Grants were received in respect of the following :	\$'000	\$'000
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	12,931	10,678
State funded grants	5,545	5,571
Total grants received	18,476	16,250
(a) Operating Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Financial Assistance Grants - unallocated	4,756	3,877
Financial Assistance Grants - local roads	2,812	2,056
Children and families	87	124
Aged Care	934	1,039
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Libraries	144	139
Children and families	1,217	1,635
Heritage and culture	6	1
Preventative services	50	35
Community services	31	159
Aged care	307	448
School crossings	25	24
Children and families - COVID-19	-	45
Municipal emergency	73	133
Roadside weeds and pest control	68	62
Recreation	22	225
Other	46	53
Total recurrent operating grants	10,578	10,055
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Australia Day	-	20
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Working for Victoria	153	202
COVID Support	60	62
Office equipment	-	50
Other Non-Recurrent State	133	10
Total non-recurrent operating grants	346	344
Total operating grants	10,924	10,399

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
(b) Capital Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Roads to recovery	1,357	1,977
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Library	6	6
Total recurrent capital grants	1,363	1,983
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Buildings	460	-
Bridges	-	122
Drainage	1,285	-
Recreation	286	185
Parks and streetscapes	854	391
Community Resilience Support Program	100	786
Other	-	100
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Land improvements	262	958
Buildings	-	-
Building improvements	604	73
Recreation	1,799	799
Office equipment	7	119
Drainage	-	21
Waste management	100	-
Parks and streetscapes	432	244
Other	-	70
Total non-recurrent capital grants	6,189	3,867
Total capital grants	7,552	5,850
(c) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner		
<i>Operating</i>		
Balance at start of year	128	411
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	396	128
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(129)	(411)
Balance at year end	395	128
<i>Capital</i>		
Balance at start of year	3,639	687
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	5,070	3,639
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(3,639)	(687)
Balance at year end	5,070	3,639

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

(d) Recognition of grant income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities		
General purpose	7,568	5,934
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	7,552	5,850
Other specific purpose grants	779	596
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Specific purpose grants	2,577	3,869
	18,476	16,250

3.5. Contributions

Monetary	90	150
Non-monetary	-	83
Total contributions	90	233

Contributions of non monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes.

Land Improvements	-	83
Total non-monetary contributions	-	83

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as revenue at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

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3.6. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Proceeds of sale	670	559
Written down value of assets disposed	(310)	(1,513)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	360	(954)

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.7. Other income

Interest	32	23
Investment property rental	263	244
Reimbursements - welfare and childrens services	3,734	3,104
Reimbursements - garbage collection and recycling	15	-
Reimbursements - other	354	174
Other	34	13
Total other income	4,432	3,558

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

Note 4. The cost of delivering services	2022	2021
4.1. (a) Employee costs	\$'000	\$'000
Wages and salaries	12,560	11,937
WorkCover	390	170
Superannuation	1,415	1,259
Fringe benefits tax	112	144
Annual leave and long service leave	1,550	1,597
Other leave	1,311	1,030
Salaries capitalised	(95)	(252)
Other	131	206
Total employee costs	17,374	16,092
(b) Superannuation		
Council made contributions to the following funds:		
Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	43	49
	<u>43</u>	<u>49</u>
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	759	671
Employer contributions - other funds	612	539
	<u>1,371</u>	<u>1,210</u>
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-
Total superannuation costs	1,415	1,259
Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.		

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4.2. Materials and services	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Operational materials	1,602	1,697
Operational services	3,713	4,654
Contract payments	340	239
Building maintenance	71	91
General maintenance	8	11
Utilities	361	385
Office administration	285	273
Information technology	505	477
Insurance	460	427
Consultants	591	338
Contributions	411	1,078
Bank charges	37	39
Other	236	234
Total materials and services	8,620	9,942

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

4.3. Depreciation**Property**

Land improvements	140	97
Buildings - non specialised	509	507
Building improvements	35	34
Total depreciation - property	684	638

Plant and equipment

Plant machinery and equipment	935	979
Computers and telecomms	243	203
Library books	74	70
Total depreciation - plant and equipment	1,252	1,253

Infrastructure

Roads	2,742	2,810
Bridges	252	252
Footpaths and cycleways	136	142
Drainage	259	260
Waste management	53	52
Recreation, parks and open spaces	420	357
Aerodromes	44	78
Kerb and channel	242	223
Other infrastructure	297	285
Total depreciation - infrastructure	4,445	4,459
Total depreciation	6,381	6,350

Refer to note 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

4.4. Bad and doubtful debts	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Local laws	9	4
Rates debtors	17	100
Other debtors	150	15
Total bad and doubtful debts	176	119

Movement in provisions for doubtful debts

Balance at the beginning of the year	372	271
New provisions recognised during the year	176	106
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	-	(5)
Balance at end of year	548	372

Provision for doubtful debt is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

4.5. Borrowing costs

Interest - Borrowings	18	26
Total borrowing costs	18	26

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are capitalised as part of a qualifying asset constructed by Council.

4.6. Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	58	54
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	4	27
Councillors' allowances	221	198
Valuations	17	11
Election expenses	1	98
Councillor induction	-	34
Council plan	2	10
Total other expenses	303	432

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 5. Our financial position		
5.1. Financial assets	2022	2021
(a) Cash and cash equivalents	\$'000	\$'000
Cash on hand	2	2
Cash at bank	3,199	2,700
Term deposits	9,909	9,808
Total cash and cash equivalents	13,110	12,510
(b) Other financial assets		
Term deposits - current	5,709	2,503
Total other financial assets	5,709	2,503
Total financial assets	18,819	15,013

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:

- Trust funds and deposits (Note 5.3)	559	813
Total restricted funds	559	813
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	12,551	11,697

Intended allocations

Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:

- cash held to fund carried forward capital works	981	448
- cash held to fund carried forward community grants project	100	-
- Grant monies received but not yet expended	5,465	3,768
Total funds subject to intended allocations	6,546	4,216

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
(c) Trade and other receivables		
Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Rates debtors	2,056	1,981
Provision for doubtful debts - rates	(290)	(272)
Fire services debtor levy	301	283
Net GST receivable	187	-
Infringement debtors	40	48
Provision for doubtful debts - infringements	(36)	(27)
Other debtors	925	938
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(69)	(72)
Provision for doubtful debts - NDIS	(153)	-
Total current trade and other receivables	<u>2,961</u>	<u>2,879</u>

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Ageing of Receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

Current (not yet due)	540	450
Past due by up to 31 and 60 days	74	122
Past due between 61 and 90 days	5	86
Past due by more than 90 days	84	208
Total trade and other receivables	<u>703</u>	<u>866</u>

(e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$222k (2021: \$72k) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$222k (2021: \$72k). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Past due by more than 1 year	222	72
Total trade & other receivables	<u>222</u>	<u>72</u>

**Notes to the Financial Report
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5.2. Non-financial assets	2022	2021
(a) Inventories	\$'000	\$'000
Inventories held for distribution	356	150
Total inventories	356	150

Inventories held for distribution represent gravel stockpile and are measured at chargeout rates based on gravel extraction, processing and cartage rates.

(b) Other assets

Prepayments	278	257
Accrued income	22	5
Total other assets	299	262

5.3. Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue

(a) Trade and other payables

Trade payables	639	889
Accrued expenses	752	102
Total trade and other payables	1,391	991

(b) Trust funds and deposits

Refundable deposits	72	37
Fire services levy	303	588
Retention amounts	137	147
Other refundable deposits	48	41
Total trust funds and deposits	560	813

(c) Unearned income

Grants received in advance - operating	396	128
Grants received in advance - capital	5,070	3,639
Total unearned income	5,466	3,768

Unearned income/revenue represents contract liabilities and reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of grants received. Unearned income/revenue are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Purpose and nature of items

Refundable Deposits - Deposits are taken by Council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to building works, tender deposits, contract deposits and the use of civic facilities.

Fire Service Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

Retention Amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

5.4. Interest-bearing liabilities

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Current		
Borrowings - secured	95	106
	95	106
Non-current		
Borrowings - secured	155	250
	155	250
Total	250	356

Borrowings are secured by rates.

(a) The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:

Not later than one year	95	106
Later than one year and not later than five years	155	250
	250	356

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities, net of transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the Council has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through the profit and loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value is recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest bearing liabilities. The Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities at initial recognition.

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GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCILNotes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

5.5. Provisions

	Employee	Landfill restoration	Total
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
2022			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	3,821	1,182	5,003
Additional provisions	1,751	196	1,947
Amounts used	(1,240)	-	(1,240)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(357)	(152)	(509)
Balance at the end of the financial year	3,975	1,226	5,201
2021			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	3,288	900	4,188
Additional provisions	1,749	403	2,152
Amounts used	(922)	-	(922)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(294)	(121)	(415)
Balance at the end of the financial year	3,821	1,182	5,003

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	1,020	1,024
Long service leave	1,785	1,689
	2,805	2,713
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	307	323
Long service leave	595	563
	902	886
Total current employee provisions	3,707	3,599
Non-current		
Long service leave	268	222
Total non-current employee provisions	268	222
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	3,707	3,599
Non-current	268	222
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	3,975	3,821

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- nominal value if the Council expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:	2022	2021
- discount rate	3.69%	1.49%
- index rate	3.85%	2.95%

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GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
(b) Landfill restoration		
Non-current	1,226	1,182
	<u>1,226</u>	<u>1,182</u>

Council is obligated to restore Denyer's site to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

Key assumptions:	2022	2021
- discount rate	3.69%	1.49%
- index rate	6.14%	3.80%

5.6. Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2022.

Credit card facilities	100	100
Loans	250	356
Total facilities	<u>350</u>	<u>456</u>
Used facilities	270	382
Unused facilities	<u>80</u>	<u>74</u>

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

5.7. Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

a) Commitments for expenditure

	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2022					
Operating					
Interest on loans	14	8	2	-	24
Garbage & Recycling Collection	916	992	3,499	2,846	8,253
Major Community Project Fund	100				100
Total	1,030	1,000	3,501	2,846	8,377
Capital					
Recreation and Community	2,845	-	-	-	2,845
Office Equipment	75	-	-	-	75
Total	2,921	-	-	-	2,921

	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2021					
Operating					
Interest on loans	21	24	-	-	45
Total	21	24	-	-	45
Capital					
Recreation and Community	5,070	-	-	-	5,070
Total	5,070	-	-	-	5,070

b) Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold office complexes. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Not later than one year	263	285
Later than one year and not later than five years	313	424
Later than five years	154	160
Total	730	869

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2022Note 6. Assets we manage
6.1. Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2021 \$'000	Additions \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Depreciation \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Carrying amount 30 June 2022 \$'000
Property	26,527	1,050	-	7,093	(684)	(273)	5,020	38,734
Plant and equipment	5,634	969	-	-	(1,252)	(37)	-	5,314
Infrastructure	179,856	8,501	-	20,548	(4,445)	-	(2,973)	201,488
Work in progress	2,440	1,744	-	-	-	-	(2,076)	2,108
	214,458	12,264	-	27,642	(6,381)	(310)	(29)	247,644

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP \$'000	Additions \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Closing WIP \$'000
Property	1,193	113	(1,084)	222
Infrastructure	1,247	1,631	(992)	1,886
Total	2,440	1,744	(2,076)	2,108

Notes to the Financial Report
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(a) Property											
Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Land improvements specialised	Land improvements - non specialised	Land under roads	Total Land & Land Improvements	Buildings - non specialised	Building improvements	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property	
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
At fair value 1 July 2021											
3,248	1,580	4,916	514	3,800	14,057	27,563	878	28,461	1,193	43,711	
-	-	(1,068)	(94)	-	(1,162)	(14,576)	(253)	(14,829)	-	(15,991)	
3,248	1,580	3,848	420	3,800	12,895	13,008	624	13,632	1,193	27,720	
Movements in fair value											
-	268	73	-	-	341	699	10	709	113	1,163	
522	558	531	-	700	2,310	3,213	50	3,263	-	5,572	
-	(273)	-	-	-	(273)	-	-	-	-	(273)	
1,374	3,609	514	(514)	-	4,983	37	-	37	(1,084)	3,936	
1,896	4,162	1,118	(514)	700	7,361	3,949	60	4,009	(971)	10,398	
Movements in accumulated depreciation											
-	-	(140)	-	-	(140)	(509)	(35)	(544)	-	(684)	
-	-	(91)	-	-	(91)	1,657	(45)	1,612	-	1,521	
-	-	(94)	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	(325)	94	-	(231)	1,148	(80)	1,068	-	837	
At fair value 30 June 2022											
5,144	5,742	6,034	-	4,500	21,419	31,532	937	32,469	222	54,110	
-	-	(1,393)	-	-	(1,393)	(13,428)	(333)	(13,761)	-	(15,154)	
5,144	5,742	4,640	-	4,500	20,025	18,104	604	18,708	222	38,955	
Carrying amount											

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(b) Plant and Equipment					
	Plant machinery and equipment \$'000	Fixtures fittings and furniture \$'000	Computers and telecomms \$'000	Library books \$'000	Total plant and equipment \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2021	10,062	110	2,431	1,533	14,135
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2021	(5,900)	(104)	(1,604)	(893)	(8,501)
	4,162	6	826	640	5,634
Movements in fair value					
Additions	663	106	103	96	969
Disposal	(475)	-	-	-	(475)
	188	106	103	96	494
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation and amortisation	(935)	-	(243)	(74)	(1,252)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	438	-	-	-	438
	(497)	-	(243)	(74)	(814)
At fair value 30 June 2022	10,250	216	2,533	1,629	14,629
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2022	(6,396)	(104)	(1,847)	(968)	(9,315)
Carrying amount	3,854	112	686	662	5,314

Notes to the Financial Report
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(c) Infrastructure		Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Waste Management	Recreation, parks and open spaces	Aerodromes	Kerb and channel	Other Infrastructure	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2021		183,741	24,792	10,305	20,745	3,399	24,902	2,680	19,398	16,168	1,247	307,377
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2021		(75,327)	(8,265)	(3,774)	(9,489)	(947)	(9,439)	(1,337)	(7,364)	(10,337)	-	(126,274)
		108,414	16,527	6,531	11,256	2,452	15,463	1,343	12,034	5,832	1,247	181,103
Movements in fair value												
Additions		2,442	-	1,051	1,183	123	3,457	3	128	114	1,631	10,132
Revaluation		15,251	2,058	855	1,722	251	2,229	335	1,610	2,221	-	26,532
Transfers		650	-	-	171	(682)	(2,261)	(270)	123	(704)	(992)	(3,965)
		18,343	2,058	1,906	3,076	(307)	3,425	68	1,861	1,631	639	32,699
Movements in accumulated depreciation												
Depreciation and amortisation		(2,742)	(252)	(136)	(259)	(53)	(420)	(44)	(242)	(297)	-	(4,445)
Revaluation		(6,252)	(686)	(313)	(787)	(139)	(72)	(115)	(612)	2,992	-	(5,984)
		(8,994)	(938)	(449)	(1,046)	(192)	(492)	(159)	(854)	2,695	-	(10,429)
At fair value 30 June 2022		202,084	26,850	12,211	23,821	3,092	28,327	2,747	21,259	17,799	1,886	340,076
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2022		(84,321)	(9,203)	(4,224)	(10,530)	(1,139)	(9,931)	(1,496)	(8,218)	(7,642)	-	(136,703)
Carrying amount		117,763	17,647	7,987	13,291	1,953	18,396	1,251	13,041	10,157	1,886	203,374

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit
	Years	\$'000
Land & land improvements		
Land	Not depreciated	2,000
Land improvements	40 - 50 years	5,000
Buildings		
Buildings	50 years	5,000
Building and leasehold improvements	50 years	5,000
Plant and Equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	2 - 10 years	2,000
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	2 - 10 Years	2,000
Computers and telecommunications	2 - 10 Years	2,000
Library books	15 - 20 years	1,000
Infrastructure		
Roads - pavements, substructure, formation and earthworks	15 - 100 years	10,000
Roads - kerb, channel and minor culverts	80 years	5,000
Bridges	100 years	5,000
Footpaths and cycleways	20 - 40 years	5,000
Drainage	80 years	10,000
Aerodromes	40 - 90 years	5,000
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	40 - 90 years	5,000
Parks, open space and streetscapes	40 - 90 years	5,000
Waste management	40 - 90 years	5,000

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value. Valuation of land under roads was undertaken by a qualified independent valuer, Preston Rowe Paterson Horsham & Wimmera Pty. Ltd. Land under roads has been valued based on land sales, sales of unused roads and sales of channel easements with adjustments made for location and overall land area.

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer, Preston Rowe Paterson Horsham & Wimmera Pty. Ltd. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Land & Buildings revaluation at 30 June 2022 has been assessed for the impact of COVID-19. This revaluation also includes land & buildings within the following asset classes - waste management, recreation, parks and open spaces, aerodromes and other infrastructure.

The real estate market has been impacted by the uncertainty that the COVID-19 outbreak has caused. As at the date of valuation, the valuers state that there is a significant market uncertainty and this valuation is current at the date of valuation only. The value assessed may change significantly and unexpectedly over a relatively short period of time (including as a result of factors that the Valuer could not reasonably have been aware of as at the date of valuation).

There is not yet any comparable market evidence available to determine what, if any, impact the current COVID-19 pandemic may have on the value or marketability of the valued properties, particularly in the short and medium terms.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

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Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2022 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level2	Level 3	Date of Valuation
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Land	-	5,742	5,144	30/06/2022
Land Improvements	-	-	4,640	30/06/2022
Land under roads	-	-	4,500	30/06/2022
Buildings	-	-	18,104	30/06/2022
Building Improvements	-	-	604	30/06/2022
Total	-	5,742	32,992	

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with a valuation undertaken by Council staff using Confirm asset management software.

The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

The valuation is at fair value based on replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation. Council has assessed the impacts of COVID-19 on the value of roads, bridges, footpaths & cycleways, kerb & channel and drainage classes of assets. Though these assets were revalued as at 30 June 2021, there has been a significant increase in road & bridge construction cost. As a result, a management adjustment of 8.3% based on ABS construction indices indicative of this increase has been made to these asset classes as at 30 June 2022.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2022 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level2	Level 3	Date of Valuation
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Roads	-	-	117,763	30/06/2021
Bridges	-	-	17,647	30/06/2021
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	7,987	30/06/2021
Drainage	-	-	13,291	30/06/2021
Waste management	-	-	1,953	30/06/2022
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	18,396	30/06/2022
Aerodromes	-	-	1,251	30/06/2022
Kerb and channel	-	-	13,041	30/06/2022
Other infrastructure	-	-	10,157	30/06/2022
Total	-	-	201,487	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 30% and 80%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$7.50 and \$425 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$330 to \$5,500 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 4 to 50 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 15 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of specialised land		
Land	5,144	3,248
Land improvements	4,640	3,848
Land under roads	4,500	3,800
Total specialised land	14,284	10,896

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

6.2 Investment property	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at beginning of financial year	1,030	1,152
Transfers	-	(171)
Fair value adjustments	-	49
Balance at end of financial year	1,030	1,030

Investment property is held to generate long-term rental yields. Investment property is measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefit in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the Council. Subsequent to initial recognition at cost, investment property is carried at fair value, determined annually by independent valuers. Changes to fair value are recorded in the comprehensive income statement in the period that they arise.

Valuation of investment property

Valuation of investment property has been determined in accordance with an independent valuation in 2021 by Eishold Property (Simon Eishold, Certified Practising Valuer) who has experience in the location and category of the property being valued. The valuation is at fair value, based on the current market value for the property as at 1 June 2021.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
Note 7. People and relationships		
7.1. Council and key management remuneration		
(a) Related Parties		
<i>Parent entity</i>		
Council is the parent entity.		
<i>Subsidiaries and Associates</i>		
Mystic Park Cemetery Trust has not been consolidated into the accounts of the parent entity as the level of transactions is immaterial.		
(b) Key Management Personnel		
Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Gannawarra Shire Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Directors are deemed KMP.		
Details of KMP at any time during the year are:		
Councillors		
Councillor Charlie Gillingham (Mayor)		
Councillor Jane Ogden (Deputy Mayor 8 November 2021 - Current)		
Councillor Ross Stanton		
Councillor Kelvin Burt		
Councillor Travis Collier		
Councillor Keith Link		
Councillor Garner Smith (Deputy Mayor 23 November 2020 to 8 November 2021)		
Chief Executive Officer		
Director - Corporate Services		
Director - Community Wellbeing		
Director - Infrastructure and Development		
	No.	No.
Total Number of Councillors	7	13
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	4	4
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	<u>11</u>	<u>17</u>
(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel		
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	991	933
Long-term benefits	17	16
Post employment benefits	72	65
Total	<u>1,080</u>	<u>1,014</u>

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Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
\$0 - \$9,999	-	5
\$10,000 - \$19,999	-	6
\$20,000 - \$29,999	5	1
\$30,000 - \$39,999	1	-
\$40,000 - \$49,999	-	1
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	-
\$180,000 - \$189,999	-	2
\$190,000 - \$199,999	2	-
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	-	1
\$260,000 - \$269,999	1	-
	<u>11</u>	<u>17</u>

(d) Senior Officer Remuneration

A Senior Officer is an officer of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, who:

- a) has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive; or
- b) whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$151,000

The number of Senior Officers are shown below in their relevant income bands:

Income Range:	No.	No.
Less than \$151,000	-	1
\$151,001 - \$159,999	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	\$'000	\$'000
Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above, amounted to:	144	137

7.2. Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties.

Nil Nil

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

The following balances are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties

Nil Nil

(c) Loans to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party as follows:

Nil Nil

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are as follows:

Nil Nil

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 8. Managing uncertainties

8.1. Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. At balance date, Council held the following bank guarantees for contract works being undertaken.

	Start Date	Amount \$'000
CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd - G10-2020 (Practical Completion)	11/06/2021	15
CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd - G10-2020 (Defects Liability)	11/06/2021	15
David Knight Building Services Pty Ltd - G04-2021 (Defects Liability)	5/08/2021	30
S & R Engineering - G08-2020 (Defects Liability)	19/11/2021	30
Boral Asphalt - G06-2021 (Practical Completion)	21/12/2021	45
CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd - G07-2021 (Practical Completion)	13/12/2021	28
CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd - G07-2021 (Defects Liability)	13/12/2021	28
CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd - G08-2021 (Practical Completion)	16/02/2022	24
CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd - G08-2021 (Defects Liability)	16/02/2022	24

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
 - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Insurance claims

Council is unaware of any major insurance claims that could have a material impact on future operations.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Legal matters

Council is unaware of any major legal matters that could have a material impact on future operations.

Building cladding

Council is unaware of any potential contingents that may exist in relation to rectification works or other matters associated with building cladding that may have the potential to adversely impact on Council.

Liability Mutual Insurance

Council is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

(c) Guarantees for loans to other entities

The amount disclosed for financial guarantee in this note is the nominal amount of the underlying loan that is guaranteed by the Council, not the fair value of the financial guarantee. This amount is determined by the Environment Protection Authority to cover the Council's landfill rehabilitation requirements.

Financial guarantee contracts are not recognised as a liability in the balance sheet unless the lender has exercised their right to call on the guarantee or Council has other reasons to believe that it is probable that the right will be exercised.

The following Bank Guarantee is held by State of Victoria - Environment Protection Authority on behalf of Council:

	Start Date	Amount \$'000
Kerang Landfill Financial Assurance	11/04/2013	247

8.2. Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2022 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2022 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2023 that are expected to impact Council.

8.3. Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes council to fair value interest rate risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal with;
- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

Given rate debtors are secured by charge over the rateable property, any increased credit risk as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic is not considered to be significant in relation to financial assets. There are no indicators of increased impairment of debtor balances at 30 June 2022 as the result of COVID-19.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(b), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 5.4.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of +1.5% and -1.5% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 2.75%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

8.4. Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 3 to 4 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5. Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

Note 9. Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
9.1. Reserves			
(a) Asset revaluation reserves			
2022			
Property			
Land and land improvements	1,320	2,219	3,539
Buildings	5,678	4,874	10,552
	6,998	7,093	14,091
Infrastructure			
Roads	97,038	8,998	106,036
Bridges	6,207	1,372	7,579
Footpaths and cycleways	2,605	542	3,147
Drainage	5,051	935	5,986
Waste management	71	112	183
Recreation, parks and open space	1,193	2,158	3,351
Aerodromes	599	220	819
Kerb and channel	5,619	998	6,617
Other infrastructure	2,893	5,213	8,106
	121,276	20,548	141,825
Total asset revaluation reserves	128,275	27,642	155,917
2021			
Property			
Land and land improvements	690	630	1,320
Buildings	5,678	-	5,678
	6,368	630	6,998
Infrastructure			
Roads	90,320	6,718	97,038
Bridges	6,659	(452)	6,207
Footpaths and cycleways	3,448	(843)	2,605
Drainage	5,043	8	5,051
Waste management	71	-	71
Recreation, parks and open space	1,193	-	1,193
Aerodromes	974	(375)	599
Kerb and channel	3,733	1,886	5,619
Other infrastructure	2,893	-	2,893
	114,334	6,942	121,276
Total asset revaluation reserves	120,702	7,572	128,275

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

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	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
9.2. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus		
Surplus for the year	7,740	3,313
Profit/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(360)	954
Depreciation	6,381	6,350
Borrowing costs	18	26
Fair value adjustments for investment property	-	(49)
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	-	(83)
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(83)	912
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(21)	(41)
Increase/(decrease) in accrued income	(17)	704
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	400	(226)
Increase/(Decrease) in unearned income	1,697	2,814
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	(253)	96
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(206)	576
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	199	815
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	15,495	16,161

9.3. Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2022, this was 10.0% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2021: 9.5%)).

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119 Employee Benefits.

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary.

As at 30 June 2021, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category.

The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 109.8%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

- Net investment returns 4.75% pa
- Salary information 2.75% pa
- Price inflation (CPI) 2.25% pa.

As at 30 June 2022, an interim actuarial investigation is underway as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is expected to be completed by 31 October 2022.

Vision Super has advised that the VBI at 30 June 2022 was 102.2%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021). The financial assumptions used to calculate this VBI were:

- Net investment returns 5.5% pa
- Salary information 2.5%pa to 30 June 2023, and 3.5% pa thereafter
- Price inflation (CPI) 3.0% pa.

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2021 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Employer contributions***(A) Regular contributions***

On the basis of the results of the 2021 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2022, this rate was 10.0% of members' salaries (9.5% in 2020/21). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2020 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(B) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The 2021 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2021 and the last full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2021 (Interim) \$m	2020 (Triennial) \$m
- A VBI Surplus	214.7	100.0
- A total service liability surplus	270.3	200.0
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	285.2	217.8

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2021.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2021.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2021.

Council was notified of the 30 June 2021 VBI during August 2021 (2020: August 2020).

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2023 is \$45k

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The 2022 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2022 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2022. Council was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021).

10. Change in accounting policy

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2021-22 year.

There are no pending accounting standards that are likely to have a material impact on council



Council's Performance Statement highlights the performance of key Council services, including local libraries.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

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GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL**GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
PERFORMANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022****DESCRIPTION OF MUNICIPALITY**

The Gannawarra is a region loaded with natural features; our rivers, lakes, swamps, marshes and wetlands, all surrounded by majestic forests.

These special natural places of interest in The Gannawarra are all within a three-hour drive from Melbourne and around one hour from the neighbouring centres of Swan Hill, Echuca and Bendigo.

Our Mediterranean climate has seen us take advantage of the sun for renewable energy activity – in fact The Gannawarra is home to Australia's largest integrated solar farm and battery storage facility.

Our primary centres are Kerang, Cohuna and Koondrook. Smaller outlying communities include Leitchville, Quambatook, Murrabit, Lake Charm, Lalbert, Macorna and Mystic Park, making up a population of 10,438, covering 2,278 kilometres.

Gannawarra is a place of strong community pride where our communities inspire each other to make The Gannawarra a great place to live, visit and do business.

OVERVIEW OF 2021/2022

During the financial year, Council experienced restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the temporary closure of a number of facilities including Council's Aquatic and Library facilities. Council continued to review and amend its COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy to assist ratepayers impacted by the pandemic.

Despite the above restrictions, the Council completed a significant number of community and capital projects during the year, which have enhanced the liveability of our communities.

SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY INDICATORS

For the year ended 30 June 2022

SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY INDICATORS					
Indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations
Population					
<i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i>	\$2,543.34	\$2,832.51	\$3,169.33	\$3,149.26	The continued growth in Community Care Services has increased this indicator over the years. The decrease between 2020/21 and 2021/22 relate to Drought Communities funded projects in 2020/21.
[Total expenses / Municipal population]					
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i>	\$17,654.12	\$18,220.40	\$19,380.96	\$21,806.76	The increase between 2020/21 and 2021/22 is as a result of land and buildings revaluation and management adjustment increase to the roads, bridges and drainage classes of assets as a result of significant increase in road and bridge constructions cost.
[Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]					
<i>Population density per length of road</i>	4.64	4.58	4.55	4.58	Council road length and population have remained stable.
[Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]					

SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY INDICATORS					
Indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations
Own-source revenue					
<i>Own-source revenue per head of municipal population</i>	\$1,711.77	\$1,786.96	\$1,866.92	\$2,112.09	An increase is attributed to continued growth in Community Care Services and Children's Services.
[Own-source revenue / Municipal population]					
Recurrent grants					
<i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i>	\$919.50	\$1,053.00	\$1,157.50	\$1,144.09	Recurrent grants increased in 2021/22, due to the early payment of the Federal Assistance Grants of 75 per cent of the 2022/23 annual allocation. Recurrent grants were higher in 2020/21 due to additional Roads to Recovery funding in 2020/21.
[Recurrent grants / Municipal population]					
Disadvantage					
<i>Relative socio-economic disadvantage</i>	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	There has been no change in Council's Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage.
[Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage by decile]					
Workforce turnover					
<i>Percentage of staff turnover</i>	13.6%	12.1%	9.0%	11.48%	An increase in staff turnover rate is due to a higher number of resignations in 2021/22 than anticipated.
[Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x 100					

DEFINITIONS

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than:

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above

"infrastructure" means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"population" means the resident population estimated by council¹

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"relative socio-economic disadvantage", in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA

"SEIFA" means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

¹ Council has utilised the March 2022 Australian Bureau of Statistics release for population estimate.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

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GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

For the year ended 30 June 2022

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations
Aquatic facilities					
<i>Utilisation</i>					
Utilisation of aquatic facilities	4.61	3.45	3.27	3.03	Utilisation of aquatic facilities saw a slight decrease in 2021/22 as services were partly closed due to COVID-19 restrictions and directions.
[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]					
Animal management					
<i>Health and safety</i>					
Animal management prosecutions	New in 2020	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	There were no animal management prosecutions in 2021/22.
[Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of Animal management prosecutions] x100					
Food safety					
<i>Health and safety</i>					
Critical and major non-compliance notifications	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	Five major non-compliance outcome notifications for a food premises were received and followed up in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i> .
[Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100					
Governance					
<i>Satisfaction</i>					
Satisfaction with council decisions	52.00	39.00	55.00	46.00	There were a number of contentious projects, planning matters and strategies that the community were concerned about in 2021/22 that may have contributed to this result.
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]					

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GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations
Libraries					
<i>Participation</i>					
<i>Active library borrowers in municipality</i>	16.75%	16.65%	13.50%	11.47%	A reduction in the number of active library borrowers is attributed to the temporary closure of library branches due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Gannawarra Library Service is committed to the Public Libraries State wide 'Return Yourself to the Library' campaign to increase library membership.
[Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / The sum of the population for the last three years] x100					
Maternal and Child Health					
<i>Participation</i>					
<i>Participation in the MCH service</i>	70.95%	86.88%	85.60%	80.77%	Participation in the Maternal and Child Health Service is down slightly due to COVID-19. Services were restricted at times throughout the year with young and vulnerable families prioritised.
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
Maternal and Child Health					
<i>Participation</i>					
<i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i>	61.90%	100%	97.37%	83.33%	Participation in the Maternal and Child Health Service by Aboriginal children has slightly decreased. Staff will continue to work in partnership with Aboriginal services to encourage participation.
[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

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SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations
Roads					
<i>Satisfaction</i>					
<i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i>	50.00	47.00	54.00	50.00	Results for community satisfaction with sealed local roads has seen a decrease of four points. Council is aware that residents find it difficult to ascertain a council maintained road compared to roads maintained by other authorities.
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]					
Statutory Planning					
<i>Decision making</i>					
<i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	There were no VCAT appeals in the 2021/22 financial year.
[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100					
SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2019	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Material Variations
Waste Collection					
<i>Waste diversion</i>					
<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i>	42.16%	37.15%	44.88%	37.99%	There has been a reduction in the amount of recycling collected in 2021/22 compared to the previous year. Council attributes this to the introduction of new glass drop off services and the impact of COVID-19 restrictions in 2020/21, resulting in increased recycling from the community. Council has a strong focus on reducing waste and continues to support the community in waste education.
[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100					

DEFINITIONS

"Aboriginal child" means a child who is an Aboriginal person

"Aboriginal person" has the same meaning as in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

"active library member" means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library

"annual report" means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act

"CALD" means culturally and linguistically diverse and refers to persons born outside Australia in a country whose national language is not English

"class 1 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"class 2 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"critical non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health

"food premises" has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"major non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

"MCH" means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age

"population" means the resident population estimated by council ²

² Council has utilised the March 2022 Australian Bureau of Statistics release for population estimate.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

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FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

For the year ended 30 June 2022

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS										
Dimension/ indicator/ measure	Results					Forecasts			Material Variations	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
Efficiency										
Expenditure level										
Expenses per property assessment	\$3,877.29	\$4,339.72	\$4,708.71	\$4,696.00	\$4,913.71	\$4,983.86	\$5,112.14	\$5,188.71	The number of assessments is anticipated to remain fairly constant, with most costs in line with market forces. The continued growth in Community Care Services has increased this indicator. The decrease between 2020/21 and 2021/22 relates to extra grant funding received in 2021 for COVID support and Drought Communities support.	
[Total expenses / Number of property assessments]										
Revenue level										
Average rate per property assessment	New in 2020	\$1,611.12	\$1,613.29	\$1,654.71	\$1,701.43	\$1,733.60	\$1,766.41	\$1,799.88	This increase is in line with the rate cap.	
[General rates and Municipal charges / Number property assessments]										
Liquidity										
Working capital										
Current assets compared to current liabilities	272.15%	255.12%	197.32%	199.99%	291.46%	296.72%	293.82%	290.72%	Position sound and aided by the increase in cash due to the early payment of Federal Assistance Grants of 75 per cent for the 2022/23 annual allocation. Current liabilities are higher than previous years due to the receipt of capital grants in advance which have been treated as unearned income. There is a corresponding increase in current assets as a result of the early payment of Federal Assistance Grants and capital grants in advance. The indicator increases in the forward years as Council does not budget for unearned grants which is an unknown factor.	
[Current assets / Current liabilities] x100										

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PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS										
Dimension/ indicator/ measure	Results					Forecasts			Material Variations	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
Liquidity										
Unrestricted cash										
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities	70.05%	48.76%	80.64%	54.41%	174.08%	180.01%	177.47%	176.41%	Unrestricted cash is sufficient to cover Council's current obligation towards employee provisions, loan liabilities and trade payables. Unrestricted cash excludes Other Financial Assets i.e. term deposits with maturity greater than 90 days. Other Financial Assets are higher in 2021/22 and as a result, this indicator is lower than prior year.	
[Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100										
Obligations										
Loans and borrowings										
Loans and borrowings compared to rates	4.42%	3.46%	2.64%	1.79%	1.08%	0.36%	0.00%	9.81%	Council has a low level of debt. Based on current borrowings, Council will be debt free in 2024/25. Council's Adopted Budget 2022/23 proposes new loan borrowings for the construction of the Regional Wellbeing Centre in 2025/26.	
[Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100										
Loans and borrowings										
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates	1.11%	1.07%	0.93%	0.89%	0.76%	0.75%	0.37%	0.89%	Council has a low level of debt. Based on current borrowings, Council will be debt free in 2024/25. Council's Adopted Budget 2022/23 proposes new loan borrowings for the construction of the Regional Wellbeing Centre in 2025/26.	
[Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100										

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

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FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS										
Dimension/ indicator/ measure	Results					Forecasts			Material Variations	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
Obligations										
Indebtedness										
Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue	8.35%	7.71%	8.36%	7.48%	6.16%	5.97%	5.92%	10.99%	Council has a low level of debt. This debt is reducing and rates income is increasing in line with the rate cap. In 2020/21, this indicator was higher due to the increase in landfill rehabilitation provision to meet the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) obligations. Council's Adopted Budget 2022/23 proposes new loan borrowings for the construction of the Regional Wellbeing Centre in 2025/26.	
[Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100										
Asset renewal and upgrade										
Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation	New in 2020	112.16%	111.53%	94.31%	113.30%	100.29%	144.10%	173.29%	The 2021/22 result is lower than previous years due to the continuation of multi-year road projects into 2022/23. Funds have been earmarked for the completion of these projects. This indicator increases in 2024/25 and 2025/26 on account of budgeted renewal and upgrade works on Kerang CBD and the Regional Wellbeing Centre in 2024/25 and 2025/26.	
[Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100										

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PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS										
Dimension/ indicator/ measure	Results					Forecasts			Material Variations	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
Operating position										
Adjusted underlying result										
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	2.96%	-0.26%	-2.23%	4.45%	-3.47%	0.32%	-0.25%	0.20%	This result is higher in 2021/22 due to the early payment of 75% of the 2022/23 annual allocation of Federal Assistance Grants (1.6M). The corresponding decrease in 2022/23 is due to the recognition of this early payment in 2021/22.	
[Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100										
Stability										
Rates concentration										
Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue	46.09%	44.51%	41.84%	40.50%	43.05%	41.83%	41.83%	41.85%	Rates proportion of adjusted underlying revenue has been declining due to growth in community services.	
[Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100										
Rates effort										
Rates compared to property values	0.76%	0.73%	0.72%	0.69%	0.55%	0.55%	0.55%	0.56%	Rates compared to property values remains consistent due to rate capping.	
[Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100										

DEFINITIONS

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than:

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and

- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above

"adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)" means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure

"asset renewal expenditure" means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability

"current assets" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"current liabilities" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"non-current assets" means all assets other than current assets

"non-current liabilities" means all liabilities other than current liabilities

"non-recurrent grant" means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"population" means the resident population estimated by council³

"rate revenue" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges

"recurrent grant" means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant

"residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties

"restricted cash" means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

³ Council has utilised the March 2022 Australian Bureau of Statistics release for population estimate.

FORMER MEASURES

The following indicators were retired in the year ending 30 June 2021

FORMER MEASURES				
Service/indicator/measure	Results 2018	Results 2019	Results 2020	Material Variations
Animal Management				
<i>Health and Safety</i>				
Animal Management prosecutions	0.00	2.00	Retired in 2020	Retired in 2020
[Number of successful animal management prosecutions]				
Efficiency				
<i>Revenue Level</i>				
Average residential rate per residential property assessment	\$1,158.40	\$1,272.31	Retired in 2020	Retired in 2020
[Residential rate revenue / Number of residential property assessments]				
Obligations				
<i>Asset Renewal</i>				
Asset renewal compared to depreciation	92.72%	99.11%	Retired in 2020	Retired in 2020
[Asset renewal expense / Asset depreciation] x 100				

OTHER INFORMATION

For the year ended 30 June 2022

1. Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the council's strategic resource plan. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

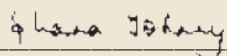
The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by council in its strategic resource plan on 29 June 2022 and which forms part of the council plan. The strategic resource plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements. The strategic resource plan can be obtained by contacting council.

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

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CERTIFICATION OF THE PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.



Shana Johnny, CPA
Principal Accounting Officer


Dated: 21/9/2022

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Gannawarra Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2022 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

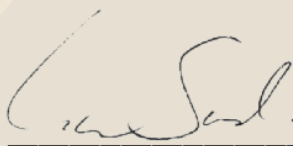
At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this performance statement in its final form.



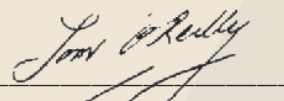
Cr Charlie Gillingham
Councillor

Dated: 21.9.2022



Cr Garner Smith
Councillor

Dated: 21/9/2022.



Tom O'Reilly
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 21/9/2022



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Gannawarra Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Gannawarra Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2022 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2022 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2022 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2022 • other information and • certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of Gannawarra Shire Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2022 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT 153
GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL**Auditor's
responsibilities for the
audit of the
performance
statement**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
28 September 2022



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Glossary

ADVOCACY - Lobbying for the needs of the community through reasoned argument to the relevant authorities.

ASSET - A physical component of a facility that has a value, enables a service to be provided and has an economic life greater than 12 months. Roads, halls and footpaths are assets.

ASSET MANAGEMENT - The processes by which Council collects and maintains a comprehensive database of asset conditions and uses this information to prioritise works funding and maintain existing assets at desired condition levels.

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK - A framework or foundation used to create an environment for continuous improvement that leads to sustainable organisational success.

CAPITAL WORKS - Work undertaken to either renew, upgrade, or construct assets owned by the Gannawarra community. Renewal capital works extend the functional use of an existing asset by complete or part refurbishment or replacement. These works are usually carried out on an asset which is deteriorating to an unacceptable service level. Upgrade capital works intentionally improve the level of service provided by an existing asset, due to performance requirements having increased beyond current capacity.

CODES OF CONDUCT - Statements of how the Councillors and/or staff will interact and work with colleagues and the community.

COMMUNITY PLAN - Plan developed by a community that outlines the community's priorities.

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY - An independent annual survey of community satisfaction, jointly sponsored by the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and local governments.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT - Process of ensuring that review and improvement practises are built into operational activities.

DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION - An expense which recognises the value of a fixed asset as it is used up over time.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - Relates to wages and salaries, casual staff payments, annual leave, long service leave, superannuation, fringe benefits tax, Work Cover and redundancy payments.

EQUITY - Residual interest in the assets of Council after the deduction of its liabilities, which is made up of accumulated surplus and reserves. Total equity is also equal to net assets.

EXPENSE - An outgoing payment made by Council.

GOVERNANCE - How Council operates as a decision making body, its relationship with the administration, and the ways that Council engages with its community in this process.

GROWING GANNAWARRA – 2021-2025 COUNCIL PLAN - Plan written to guide Council's activities for a four-year period. Details the strategic directions and objectives for the municipality, and underpins all the decision making processes, policies and procedures of Council.

INFRASTRUCTURE - Physical assets required to enable the community to be connected and operational. This includes roads, drains, footpaths and public open spaces, as well as public facilities and buildings.

LIABILITIES - Future sacrifices of economic benefits that Council is presently obliged to make to other entities as a result of past transactions or other past events.

REVENUE - The amount of money that Council actually receives from its activities, mainly from rates, grants and services provided to customers and ratepayers.

RISK MANAGEMENT - Discipline for developing appropriate procedures to reduce the possibility of adverse effects from future events.

ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN/ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - The plan developed to establish a management system for the public road functions that are the responsibility of the Council. The management system is based on policy and operational objectives and at the same time recognises resource limitations in undertaking the necessary levels of service and performance standards outlined in the plan.

WARDS - The geographical area of Gannawarra Shire is broken into four electoral divisions named wards. Each ward has elected representatives.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	HSC	High School Certificate
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator	IPAA	Institute of Public Administration Australia
AAS	Australian Accounting Standard	KM	Kilometres
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse	LGA	Local Government Area
CASI	Community Activation and Social Isolation Initiative	LGPRF	Local Government Performance Reporting Framework
CBD	Central Business District	LGPRO	Local Government Professionals
CCTV	Closed-circuit television	LGV	Local Government Victoria
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	LMWRRG	Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group
CORE	Council Opportunity and Risk Evaluator	MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
CPA	Certified Practising Accountant	MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
CPI	Consumer Price Index	MCH	Maternal and Child Health
CR	Councillor	MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
CVGA	Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	MPHWP	Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
ELT	Executive Leadership Team	MSS	Municipal Strategic Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority	NDCH	Northern District Community Health
FOGO	Food Organics, Garden Organics	NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
FTE	Full Time Equivalent	OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
GLAM	Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting	PiLoR	Payment in Lieu of Rates
GNETS	Gannawarra Non-Emergency Transport Service	RSL	Returned and Services League
GST	Goods and Services Tax	SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
HON.	Honourable	SES	State Emergency Service
		VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Contact Council

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7.6 MELBOURNE CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY FUTURE OPTIONS

Author: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Undertake a community consultation process across the municipality to gauge the level of interest in changing the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday in 2023 for the Kerang Show;
2. Consider various models including full day or part day public holiday alterations as part of the future consultation process;
3. Officers present a future report to Council by April 2023 on the outcomes of the engagement process and recommendations for the future public holiday.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the August 2022 Council meeting, Council considered a request from the Kerang & District Agricultural Society Inc to alter the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday in 2022 to support the Kerang Show. The *Public Holidays Act 1993* (the Act) provides non-metropolitan Council's an opportunity to change the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday to an alternate day or two half days, but due to the timing of the request, the change was not possible.

Section 8A of the *Public Holidays Act 1993* allows Council to request a substitute holiday for Melbourne Cup Day.

Council also requested a report with options be presented to the October Council Meeting. Considering the various options available and no recent consultation has been undertaken, it has been recommended Council undertake some municipal wide community engagement to assist in determining a future option.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present options for the future of the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday within the Gannawarra Shire.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

DISCUSSION

On the 13 July 2022, Council received a request from Kerang & District Agricultural Society Inc. requesting Council move the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday from Tuesday 1 November 2022 to Kerang Show day on Monday 3 October 2022. A report was presented to Council at its August 2022 Council Meeting regarding the request.

The *Public Holidays Act 1993* states that any request for permission to declare alternative arrangements to Melbourne Cup day must be received 90 days prior to Melbourne Cup Day

(Section 8A (2a)). Given this timing requirement, no change was made to 2022 but Council requested a report be presented to the October meeting to consider future options for the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday.

As highlighted in the August 2022 report to Council, in 2015/16, consultation was undertaken which enabled a Council decision to retain the Melbourne Cup Day full day on the first Tuesday of November each year for five years.

There are various options that Council can explore under the Act including;

- A full day on Melbourne Cup Day across the municipality;
- A full day on Kerang Show Day across the municipality;
- A full day on Kerang Show Day within the Kerang area;
- A half day Melbourne Cup Day and half day Kerang Show Day;
- Another alternative option.

Since there has been no widespread community consultation on the public holiday since 2015/2016, it is recommended Council undertake a community engagement process across the municipality to seek feedback on the community's preferred option.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 8A of the *Public Holidays Act 1993* allows Council to request a substitute holiday for Melbourne Cup Day.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At the August 2022 Council meeting, Council retained the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday for 2022 on Tuesday 1 November 2022 and requested a further report to the October Council Meeting to consider future options for the public holiday.

OPTIONS

There are various options in how the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday could be determined across the municipality and therefore it is recommended Council undertake community engagement to determine the best approach for 2023 and beyond.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been no engagement with the community since 2015/16 regarding the potential movement of the public holiday from Melbourne Cup Day to Kerang Show Day. It is recommended that an engagement process is undertaken to gauge the level of interest within the municipality to change the date of the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

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;

Goal 2: Growth – Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy

Strategic Priority 1 – Facilitate infrastructure, programs and policies that support economic development and productivity, whilst considering our natural environment.

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 2022 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM - COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

Author: Shae Dixon, Acting Coordinator Community Partnerships

Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: 1 2022 Community Support Grant Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the allocation of the 2022 Council Community Grants – Support category, totalling \$33,980.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Community Grants Program saw 27 applications received across the three available categories (Community Support, Community Events and Major Community Projects), totalling \$477,544.76.

An assessment process has been undertaken for each grant category, with independent assessments undertaken from a cross-departmental panel, taking into consideration the responses to the essential criteria of each category. From this, Council officers have developed the attached recommendations for funding that are within Council's Annual Budget for the program.

This report is presented to Council for endorsement of the recommendations for funding of 8 Community Support projects.

PURPOSE

This report is presented for Council endorsement of successful 2022 Community Grant Program applications - Community Support projects, within the available Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Community Support Grants - recommendations

DISCUSSION

The 2022 Community Grants Program was promoted from mid-July, with applications open from 1 August 2022. Grants were open for a four week application timeframe with applications closing on Wednesday 31 August 2022.

The framework for Council's 2022 Community Grants Program is outlined below:

Category	Adopted Budget	Total of applications received this round
Community Support and Events	\$82,000	\$67,917.36
Major Community Projects	\$250,000	\$409,627.40
TOTAL	\$332,000	\$477,544.76

A list of applications recommended for funding is included as an attachment to this report.

Community Support category

It is recommended that 8 of the 10 applications submitted to the Community Support category be endorsed by Council. Each of these applications demonstrated strong alignment with the Key Essential Criteria requested as part of the application process and were assessed as meeting the eligibility criteria set by Council in the grant guidelines.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Funding recommendations have been made to Council for the three available categories in Council's 2022 Community Grants Program, in line with the adopted budget available to support the program. These recommendations have been made as a result of independent assessments from a cross-departmental panel of Council officers, and it is recommended Council endorse the allocation of the funds as outlined within the attachment provided with this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Funding provided through this program supports economic and social sustainability within small communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2022 Community Grants Program was advertised and promoted across a range of platforms from mid-July 2022. This included Council's regular print advertisement in local newspapers (Gannawarra News), online platforms (Facebook) and direct email marketing via our email distribution database in Mailchimp.

Throughout the month of August while applications were open, regular online promotion was undertaken.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council's Community Grants Program underwent a review process in early 2021. The focus of this review was to ensure consistency, clarity and efficiencies in the execution and administration of the program, as well as reviewing and adjusting the essential criteria to better reflect and align with the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan and Community Vision.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The 2022 Community Grants Program budget allocation is included in Council's 2022/23 Adopted Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Community Grant applicants were required to identify how their projects aligned with the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan as one of the essential criteria. Applicants were also encouraged to identify linkages to other key Council strategic documents.

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.

App ID	Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Total Requested	Total Project Cost	Location	Funding Recommendation	Quotes	Letters of Support
CS2022-003	Cohuna Cemetery Trust	Drain Safety Fence	With the extension of the new Cemetery area, the Shire Drain is exposed and is a O.H. & S. risk to members of the public and Cemetery workers. As a result the area needs fencing to match the other side of the drain with gates and secure fencing for the safety of children and the public at all times. We anticipate to use the CCAV (Cemetery) grant for the major development of the new section, such as, Drainage, Roads, Lasereng, Concrete slabs, & Watering System.	\$4,500.00	\$4,994.00	Cohuna	\$4,500.00	Yes	No
CS2022-005	Barham Koondrook Men's Shed Incorporated	IMPROVED STORAGE OUTCOMES FOR THE BARHAM KOONDROOK MEN'S SHED	The Men's Shed will purchase industrial shelving for installation within the shipping container for storage of timber donated by the local community for protection from the weather, for security reasons and for the safety of all Shed members.	\$1,480.00	\$2,080.00	Koondrook	\$1,480.00	Yes	Hon Peter Walsh Mick Hollingworth (President KRR)
CS2022-006	Northern District Dance Association Inc	Kitchen and Servery area upgrade	Our aim is to complete stage 2 of a kitchen upgrade at the Kerang Band Hall. Whilst completing stage 1 of this project it was found that the plumbing was extremely unsatisfactory. Therefore we needed to replace all of the plumbing back to the take off point at street level. the cost of this was far outside the scope of the grant we had for stage 1 and as stage 1 could not be completed without the plumbing being done we used club funds of \$3280 to do this. To ensure functionality, a safe work space and compliance with modern building regulations we now need to replace an old stove and continue with benchtop and new cupboards. In order to complete this project satisfactorily the stove, which no longer functions, needs to be replaced and old narrow cupboards and narrow benchtop also need to be replaced by a professional cabinet maker. The replacement of the outdated plumbing by a professional plumber is included as it was impossible to complete our previous project with the funds from the previous grant.	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00	Cohuna	\$5,000.00	Yes	Max Fehring on behalf of Peter Beet (President of Kerang Dance Club)
CS2022-008	Dingwall Community Hall	Dingwall Community Hall "OUR PLACE" mosaic	Installation of a Community mosaic project designed, made and enjoyed by the entire community. The opportunity for the whole community to be involved will greatly help the mental health of those involved. The purchase of tiles and other materials to create the mosaic, and the other costs incurred with the installation.	\$5,000.00	\$10,863.00	Kerang	\$5,000.00	Yes	Caren Coates (Secretary Kerang & District Vintage Motor Club) Margaret Mowet (Coordinator Dingwall Ladies Group) Sandra Fletcher (Sinning Yarns Member) Irene Martin (The Gardeners Member)
CS2022-009	KERANG CEMETERY TRUST	Kerang Cemetery Trust Shade Shelter	The Cemetery Trust would like to erect a 'shade shelter' in our new lawn section area. This area is of great importance to us, as we have dedicated the area to recognising our indigenous heritage. We have been working closely with local elder Esther Kirby who has designed, and is currently painting, a laser cut-out of an eagle which we intend will form part of the back wall of the structure. The shade structure would be complimented by a garden including native trees and vegetation. The area is of great importance to us, not only for beautification, but to provide an environment that will allow the community to have a nice space to meet and reflect whilst mourning their loved ones.	\$5,000.00	\$6,500.00	Kerang	\$5,000.00	Yes	No
CS2022-011	Kerang Girl Guide Support Group	Kerang Girl Guides Front Entrance Upgrade	The Kerang Girl Guides Support Group would like to install a ramp at our halls entrance and replace the concrete leading to the entrance. This will achieve a disabled access for not only our younger members, but leaders and the older community who attend or hire the hall. The concrete at the entrance is very uneven and poses a hazard, it can also be slippery in the wet weather, so the replacement of this will alleviate this hazard and make sure our community members are safe. Our Girl Guides meet at the hall once a week. It is also used for the wider community, we have had community first aid courses run there and the Electoral Commission uses the hall whenever there is a state or federal election. We hire our hall out for private functions as well which acts as a fundraiser for our organisation in order to cover the costs of keeping our space.	\$5,000.00	\$6,022.00	Kerang	\$5,000.00	Yes	No
CS2022-012	Cohuna Lions Club Inc.	DETAILING THE NEW CATERING TRAILER	The Cohuna Lions Club have commissioned a new catering trailer and are seeking funds to assist with the cost of painting & identifying signage.	\$4,000.00	\$5,500.00	Cohuna	\$4,000.00	Yes	No
CS2022-013	Cohuna/Leitchville R S L	Cohuna/Leitchville RSL Switchboard and Electrical Lighting Upgrade	Our project will enhance the safety, health liveability of the community. Our ageing switchboard is not up to days expected standards and because of this can be considered hazardous. The users of our premises are in the main mostly senior citizens. Our RSL members, the card playing group and our billiard table user all require adequate lighting.	\$4,000.00	\$4,323.00	Cohuna	\$4,000.00	Yes	No
							Total		
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING							\$33,980.00		

with conditions

7.8 2022 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM - COMMUNITY EVENT GRANTS

Author: Shae Dixon, Acting Coordinator Community Partnerships

Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: 1 2022 Community Event Grant Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the allocation of the 2022 Council Community Grants – Event category, totalling \$26,114.50.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Community Grants Program saw 27 applications received across the three available categories (Community Support, Community Events and Major Community Projects), totalling \$477,544.76.

An assessment process has been undertaken for each grant category, with independent assessments undertaken from a cross-departmental panel, taking into consideration the responses to the essential criteria of each category. From this, Council officers have developed the attached recommendations for funding that are within Council's Annual Budget for the program.

This report is presented to Council for endorsement of the recommendations for funding of eight Community Event projects.

PURPOSE

This report is presented for Council endorsement of successful 2022 Community Grant Program applications in the Community Events category, within the available Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Community Events Grants – recommendations

DISCUSSION

The 2022 Community Grants Program was promoted from mid-July, with applications open from 1 August 2022, closing on Wednesday 31 August 2022.

The framework for Council's 2022 Community Grants Program is outlined below:

Category	Adopted Budget	Total of applications received this round
Community Support and Events	\$82,000	\$67,917.50
Major Community Projects	\$250,000	\$409,627.40
TOTAL	\$332,000	\$477,544.76

A list of applications recommended for funding is included as an attachment to this report.

Community Events category

It is recommended that 8 of the 8 applications submitted to the Community Events category be endorsed by Council. Each recommended event application demonstrated strong alignment to the

Essential Criteria of the program guidelines, as well as reasonable adaption to the COVID-19 roadmap restrictions.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Funding recommendations have been made to Council for the three available categories in Council's 2022 Community Grants Program, in line with the adopted budget available to support the program. These recommendations have been made as a result of independent assessments from a cross-departmental panel of Council officers, and it is recommended Council endorse the allocation of the funds as outlined within the attachment provided with this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Funding provided through this program supports economic and social sustainability within small communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2022 Community Grants Program was advertised and promoted across a range of platforms from mid-July 2022. This included Council's regular print advertisement in local newspapers (Gannawarra News), online platforms (Facebook) and direct email marketing via our email distribution database in Mailchimp.

Throughout the month of August while applications were open, regular online promotion was undertaken.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council's Community Grants Program underwent a review process in early 2021. The focus of this review was to ensure consistency, clarity and efficiencies in the execution and administration of the program, as well as reviewing and adjusting the essential criteria to better reflect and align with the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan and Community Vision.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The 2022 Community Grants Program budget allocation is included in Council's 2022/23 Adopted Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Community Grant applicants were required to identify how their projects aligned with the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan as one of the essential criteria. Applicants were also encouraged to identify linkages to other key Council strategic documents.

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.

App ID	Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Total Requested	Total Project Cost	Location	Funding Recommendation	Quotes	Letters of Support
CE2022-002	Kerang District Health	Men's Health Luncheon	The event will bring together local men to promote discussion on health and wellbeing in a relaxed social environment. The luncheon will be held in the Kerang District Health Community Garden and facilitated by medical practitioners. The men's shed participants and local tradesmen will be invited to the event.	\$500.00	\$500.00	Kerang	\$500.00	No	No
CE2022-005	Mid Murray Orchid Club Inc.	The Country Orchid Clubs Challenge Inc.	The Mid Murray Orchid Club Inc. will be hosting The Country Orchid Club Challenge, This entails 11 orchid clubs from around Victoria. We come together on the first weekend in July every year and the show is hosted by a different club each year.	\$5,000.00	\$29,480.00	Kerang	\$5,000.00	No	No
CE2022-006	Barham Koondrook Historical Society Incorporated	OPENING AND RE-NAMING OF THE KOONDROOK BAPTIST CHURCH AS A MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY	The Barham Koondrook Historical Society's event is to have an official opening of the Koondrook Baptist Church and re-naming to the Stan Roberts Multipurpose Facility, including entertainment, catering and historical displays, a one day event to be held on 4th November 2022.	\$4,400.00	\$5,517.00	Koondrook	\$4,400.00	Yes	Anne Webster Helen Campbell Michelle Wilson Ross Stanton Melissa Sincok
CE2022-008	Rotary Club of Kerang Inc	Attaching Plaques of details on Historical Buildings Project No 2ings	It will enable local and visitors to read of the history of buildings of historical interest. This is a continuation of a "SMARTY GRANTS" granted last round of Grants.	\$2,400.00	\$2,828.00	Kerang	\$2,400.00	Yes	No
CE2022-009	Barham Koondrook Men's Shed Incorporated	OPENING OF THE BARHAM KOONDROOK MEN'S SHED SHOWROOM/SHOP	Our event is to open the newly built showroom/shop which is located at the Men's Shed at the Koondrook Recreation Reserve, including catering in March 2023.	\$1,600.00	\$2,360.00	Koondrook	\$1,600.00	Yes	Hon Peter Walsh Keith Ellis Mick Hollingworth (KRR President) Shed members
CE2022-011	Koondrook Development Committee Inc	RedGum Statue Unveilings - additional statues will be added to the existing RedGum Statue Walk in Koondrook	A further 2 RedGum statues will be added to the existing RedGum Statue Walk. An unveiling event of both the Sid Reed and Roy Higgins statues will take place. Descendants and families of Reed and Higgins will be invited to the unveiling as are local politicians and the general community.	\$2,214.50	\$5,096.50	Koondrook	\$2,214.50	Yes	No
CE2022-012	Kerang Progress Association Incorporated	Kerang New Year's Eve Party in the Park 2022	Provide a community celebration on New Year's Eve 2022. Utilising Atkinson Park and it's facilities to provide an all inclusive, family event - with the provision of food vendors and entertainment for all to enjoy. Our objective is to promote and foster the wellbeing of resident's and visitor's to our local community.	\$5,000.00	\$13,000.00	Kerang	\$5,000.00	Yes	Gwen Mannix (Rotary Club of Kerang) Lorraine Morris (Kerang & District Agricultural Society) Greg Gin (Lions Club of Kerang)
CE2022-013	Mid Murray Flying Club	Wings Over The Gannawarra.	Wings Over The Gannawarra is a charitable one day event hosted by the Mid Murray Flying Club. This event is aimed to attract visitation of the public from around Australia to our Shire. We will be working in partnership with community groups which comprise of: Kerang Lions Club, Kerang Progress Association, Rotary, SES, Air Ambulance and local businesses. This event will feature an airshow with displays of antique and modern aircraft, various car and motor bike clubs, which will both entice and attract visitors to the Kerang region.	\$5,000.00	\$10,110.00	Kerang	\$5,000.00	No	No
							Total		
							TOTAL AMOUNT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING	\$26,114.50	

7.9 2022 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM - MAJOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND

Author: Shae Dixon, Acting Coordinator Community Partnerships

Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: 1 2022 Major Community Project Fund Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the allocation of the 2022 Major Community Projects Grants category, totalling \$256,850.50.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Community Grants Program saw 27 applications received across the three available categories (Community Support, Community Events and Major Community Projects), totalling \$477,544.76.

An assessment process has been undertaken for each grant category, with independent assessments undertaken from a cross-departmental panel, taking into consideration the responses to the essential criteria of each category. From this, Council officers have developed the attached recommendations for funding that are within Council's Annual Budget for the program.

This report is presented to Council for endorsement of the recommendations for funding of five Major Community projects.

PURPOSE

This report is presented for Council endorsement of successful 2022 Community Grant Program applications - Major Community Projects, within the available Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Major Community Project Fund – recommendations

DISCUSSION

The 2022 Community Grants Program was promoted from mid-July, with applications open from 1 August 2022. Applications open for a four week timeframe with a closing date of Wednesday 31 August 2022.

The framework for Council's 2022 Community Grants Program is outlined below:

Category	Adopted Budget	Total of applications received this round
Community Support and Events	\$82,000	\$67,917.36
Major Community Projects	\$250,000	\$409,627.40
TOTAL	\$332,000	\$477,544.76

A list of applications recommended for funding is included as an attachment to this report.

Major Community Project's category

It is recommended that five of the nine applications submitted to the Major Community Projects category be endorsed by Council. These projects were all assessed as meeting the eligibility criteria and strongly aligned with the purpose of the program.

Applications recommended for endorsement would find it difficult to compete for support from external funding sources or have made unsuccessful attempts to secure other funding in the past.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Funding recommendations have been made to Council for the three available categories in Council's 2022 Community Grants Program, in line with the adopted budget available to support the program. These recommendations have been made as a result of independent assessments from a cross-departmental panel of Council officers, and it is recommended that Council endorse the allocation of the funds as outlined within the attachments provided with this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Funding provided through this program supports economic and social sustainability within small communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2022 Community Grants Program was advertised and promoted across a range of platforms from mid-July 2022. This included Council's regular print advertisement in local newspapers (Gannawarra News), online platforms (Facebook) and direct email marketing via our email distribution database in Mailchimp.

Throughout the month of August while applications were open, regular online promotion was undertaken.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council's Community Grants Program underwent a review process in early 2021. The focus of this review was to ensure consistency, clarity and efficiencies in the execution and administration of the program, as well as reviewing and adjusting the essential criteria to better reflect and align with the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan and Community Vision.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The 2022 Community Grants Program budget allocation of \$250,000 is included in Council's 2022/23 Adopted Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Community Grant applicants were required to identify how their projects aligned with the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan as one of the essential criteria. Applicants were also encouraged to identify linkages to other key Council strategic documents.

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.

App ID	Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Total Requested	Total Project Cost	Location	Funding Recommendation	Quotes	Letters of Support
MCPF2022-002	Wandella Cricket Club	Riverside Park Kerang Cricket Nets Upgrade	Our project is to replace the existing wire netting practice facility at Riverside Park Kerang, with a new facility that will provide improved training facilities to allow our clubs to increase participation across all levels from juniors, seniors and girls. Replacement of the nets will also improve safety during training as the soft netting and removal of poles will stop ricochets which have caused injuries in the past. The scope of works for the project include removal of all existing poles, wire and synthetic pitches from the area and site preparation. New facilities will include - 3 new synthetic practice wickets - artificial grass over the entire concrete area - fixed soft netting around the entire outside (10.8m) of the nets - removeable interior netting for the two internal walls The new facilities will be built to Cricket Australia standards and all works will have engineering design and certification.	\$30,247.50	\$65,967.50	Kerang	\$30,247.50	Yes	Jacob DeArango (Cricket Manager Mallee Murray & Northern Rivers) Bob Sutterby (President Kerang Cricket Club) Rhonda Allan (NDCA League Secretary) Chris Mitchell (Principal St Joseph's Primary School)
MCPF2022-005	Lalbert Football Club	Mallee Eagles Netball Courts & Lights Project	The Mallee Eagles Netball Court and Lights project will replace the netball court lights with new LED light fittings and will redevelop the two netball courts with asphalt at the Lalbert Recreation Reserve. The new lights will enable netballers to safely train and play at night. The existing courts are deteriorating and pose significant OH&S issues for players and umpires. Redeveloping the courts will enable the Mallee Eagles to meet the requirements of the Central Murray Football Netball League playing surface standards. It is envisaged this project will develop a safe and accessible facility that supports increased female participation at the Mallee Eagles for the Lalbert and surrounding communities. Local trades and contractors will undertake these works along with a significant in-kind contribution from the Club.	\$104,000	\$169,000	Lalbert	\$100,000	Yes	Taylah Morris (CM&GRFNC League Manager) Dave Doolan (President Lalbert Golf Club) Tony Holloway (Board Member Mallee Eagles FNC)
MCPF2022-007	Cohuna Pistol Club	Cohuna Pistol Club Redevelopment Stage 1- Secure Boundary fencing	The project is Stage 1 of a multi stage plan to secure and reinvigorate the immediate aesthetic environment and provide better facilities to the members of the club and to ensure safe passage of community members and visitors who use the adjoining walking tracks. The preliminary works have also allowed the club to build upon relationships with our neighbours DELWP who have assisted in responsibly clearing of the fence line boundary from "exotic" weeds and pruned other native species. The fence will also serve as a physical sign to our other neighbours that the club is keen to participate as a responsible community member by maintaining assets to an aesthetic level suitable to the local environs. The works will engage a local contractor who uses local suppliers.	\$11,603	\$12,603	Cohuna	\$11,603	Yes	No
MCPF2022-008	Kerang Turf Club	Kerang Turf Club Shade Project	The Kerang Turf Club Shade project will develop a permanent shade structure in front of the members' lounge and thoroughbred racing precinct i.e stipendiary stewards' rooms and jockey athlete change rooms located at Alexandra Park, Kerang. This project will be of great benefit to the Kerang and surrounding communities as it will provide much needed additional shade for patrons who utilise the facilities at the Alexandra Park, Showgrounds and Racecourse. This is particularly important on the two gazetted race days at Kerang on boxing day and Easter Saturday where shade is much needed on these days. This project will also offer an increased standard of customer facilities for many groups in the community who wish to use Alexandra Park for non race day events and functions.	\$119,840	\$213,840	Kerang	\$100,000	Yes	Lorraine Morris (Secretary Kerang & District Agricultural Society) Sandra Peacock (Secretary Kerang Pony Club) Carl Hufer (Country Racing Victoria) Colleen Shay (President Kerang Turf Club) John Poole (President Kerang Show and Shine Committee)
MCPF2022-014	Wandella Football Netball Club	Wandella Recreation Reserve - Power Supply Upgrade	A few years ago the club received support from Council and the State Govt to upgrade the netball court lights to support our female participants. Recently some lights on the oval were replaced with LED lights as the some of the old ones had failed and the others were old, dull and inefficient. However, this has brought to light a problem whereby the site is overloading the supply transformer. This was identified as the LED lights are more sensitive to voltage fluctuations and flicker. The existing site supply is 40 amps and the site is currently drawing approx. 60 amps. Upgrading the supply to the site to 80 amps will alleviate this problem and also facilitate future projects such as the planned construction of new netball and umpire changerooms and the installation of air conditioning which are actions in our Master Plan. It also opens the possibility of installing an electronic scoreboard in the future.	\$15,000	\$15,353.80	Kerang	\$15,000	Yes	No
							Total		
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING							\$256,850.50		

7.10 DRAFT GANNAWARRA AQUATIC STRATEGY

Author: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: 1 Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy
2 Consultation Stage 2 - Summary

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the revised Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy for community consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since September 2020, Council has been developing the Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy with consultancy firm Otium Planning Group. Council endorsed a draft Aquatic Strategy at its December 2021 Council Meeting and committed to undertake additional consultation in 2022. With the second stage engagement process undertaken, the Draft Strategy has been revised, and Council's endorsement to seek community feedback on the revised draft Aquatic Strategy document is to be sought.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the revised draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy for community consultation.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy

Consultation Stage 2 - Summary

DISCUSSION

The development of the Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy has been underway since September 2020 with Otium Planning Group and has incorporated;

- Technical assessments of aquatic facilities;
- A community survey and interviews with aquatic stakeholders;
- A demographic analysis and needs analysis through assessment of operational information;
- Four briefing sessions with Councillors to run through ideas and present emerging recommendations and options;
- Financial and operational modelling of an indoor integrated facility at either Kerang or Cohuna;
- Strategic Directions Options Analysis Report;
- Consultation process – Stage 2.

The Strategy development has broadened in scope, as the recommendations have evolved to incorporate an indoor integrated facility that services an all year round warm water market, which

has strongly emerged over the development of the strategy to address the Gannawarra's needs over the coming decades.

The draft Strategy document (attached) highlights the extensive research and evidence based references that have informed the recommendations for the Strategy and proposes a bold change to the provision of aquatics within the Gannawarra, with a focus more on modern and contemporary use, rather than focusing on retaining a model of service that was established when the outdoor facilities were built over 50 years ago.

At the December 2021 Council meeting, Council endorsed an initial draft strategy and to undertake a further broad community engagement process.

The stage two consultation process invited key stakeholders, interest groups and the community to provide feedback on the Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy. The engagement findings were presented to Councillors with changes made to the Strategy.

The engagement process involved:

- Key stakeholder interviews and workshops

Councillors, Council staff and consultants met with the swimming pool management committees and progress associations / development committees across all Gannawarra townships during April and May.

Interviews also occurred with Northern District Community Health and other health agencies, schools, interest groups and advisory groups.

- Community surveys

A 12-question survey was designed to seek the broader community feedback on what they liked or disliked about the Draft Strategy.

Overall, 520 community surveys were received from a wide range of community members and across Gannawarra townships.

- Community drop-in sessions

There were five community drop-in sessions held between 20-24 June 2022 at Quambatook, Kerang, Cohuna, Koondrook and Leitchville.

The feedback and recommendations from the engagement report (attached) suggested a number of changes to the draft strategy including;

- Continue to support the community operating the Leitchville, Quambatook and Koondrook Swimming Pools;
- Alteration of the 'lagoon style' pool in Cohuna to develop a 25m lap pool that supports the current and future users;
- Update of the demographic data within the report highlighting recent growth within the Gannawarra Shire.

There was also broad support for a number of the other recommendations including: improvements to the Koondrook Swimming Pool and addressing the significant unmet demand for warm water with a proposed integrated aquatic and wellbeing centre in Kerang.

With the changes undertaken as recommended to the draft strategy it is now presented for Council to endorse to undertake a further four week feedback process with the community.

RELEVANT LAW

Not Applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council endorsed the draft Aquatic Strategy at its December 2021 meeting and to undertake further community engagement in 2022.

OPTIONS

It is suggested Council endorse the draft Strategy for further community consultation to gain feedback on the draft strategy revisions.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An extensive stakeholder engagement process occurred in the development of the Draft Aquatic Strategy directions, including a wide reaching survey during the 2020-21 summer season and individual stakeholder interviews with aquatic users and interested parties by Otium Planning Group.

The second stage engagement process was undertaken from April to July 2022 to seek broader community feedback on the draft strategy.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The draft Aquatic Strategy suggests an innovative approach to the delivery of aquatics within the Gannawarra, including consideration of emerging tourism markets and the infrastructure to support this, whilst also highlighting the 'service hub' opportunities that exist with an integrated delivery model.

COLLABORATION

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) are the Landowners at Quambatook and Koondrook community pools and have been engaged in the process, alongside swimming pool committees.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The strategic recommendations highlight a significant financial investment to construct and manage aquatic facilities. Council will be unable to meet the communities' needs without significant investment into this service over the longer term.

The provision of any new aquatic infrastructure or upgrades will require significant external funding to develop.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Gannawarra Shire Council Council Plan 2021-2025

Goal 1: Liveability - Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

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

Strategic Priority 3: Construct a regional community wellbeing centre.

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.

GANNAWARRA AQUATIC STRATEGY



Prepared by Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd
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Otium Planning Group acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our company is located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and to Elders, past, present and emerging. Otium is committed to national reconciliation and respect for indigenous peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas, and their rich contribution to society.



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INTRODUCTION

Gannawarra Shire Council is committed to investing in its aquatic and leisure facilities to encourage healthy and active lifestyles and to improve the health and wellbeing of the community.

Council recognises the importance of these facilities in supporting the physical and mental health within the community, by offering safe and healthy environments for people to come together to exercise and build social connections.

In order to meet the community's changing expectations and contemporary aquatic and recreational needs, the Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy has been developed to provide a road map for the future aquatic and leisure facility development in the Gannawarra Shire for the next 10 years.

The Strategy is a summary of market research, facility operating information and stakeholder consultation. It considers the upgrade and renewal requirements of the existing facilities,

the current and future needs of residents, population growth and demographic shifts, emerging usage trends and the financial impacts for Council.

The Strategy is consistent with the Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 Goal 1: Liveability. Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.



2. WHY DO WE NEED AN AQUATICS STRATEGY?

Recognising that aquatic and leisure activities continue to evolve, this Strategy has been developed to guide the future direction and decision making to ensure the future provision of facilities and services offered address the current and future needs of the Gannawarra community.

There are six public aquatic facilities located in the Shire of Gannawarra. Three are owned and operated by Council and three are located on crown land operated by Committees of Management:

- Kerang Outdoor Pool
- Cohuna Outdoor Pool
- Kerang Exercise Pool
- Leitchville Outdoor Pool
- Quambatook Outdoor Pool
- Koondrook Outdoor Pool.

The five outdoor pools are reported to be past their end of life, and the Kerang Exercise Pool no longer adequately services a growing demand for learn to swim and use by an ageing demographic. It is because of these reasons that a long-term strategic plan for aquatic provision

into the future was recommended in Gannawarra Shire Council's Sport and Recreation Strategy 2019.

The Gannawarra Shire Pools Strategic Plan 2009 reviewed the condition of each pool, identified strategies to increase community use of pool facilities and design a maintenance and improvement plan.

The plan found:

- All pools require significant maintenance and/or redevelopment works if they are to be retained in the longer term. The cost of these works alone is about \$1.9M and will require ongoing investment.
- The technical and maintenance works will only keep the facilities operational. They will not provide optimum service for they are outdated and lack quality support facilities and programs. They are failing to attract the youth market and cannot meet the health and wellbeing needs of an ageing community.
- Improvements to disability access, improved shade and windbreaks, more seating and provision of indoor program spaces were recommended to support a wider range of uses and new programming.
- The lack of promotion and programming, together with the slow decline in the Shire population have meant the facilities are increasingly marginal from a recreational, financial and operational perspective.

- New leisure, recreation, social, health and wellbeing opportunities should be provided at the facilities for them to be more effective. Recommended initiatives include multi-purpose program rooms, health and fitness gym, consulting suites, indoor/outdoor water play, café and an indoor pool at one venue.

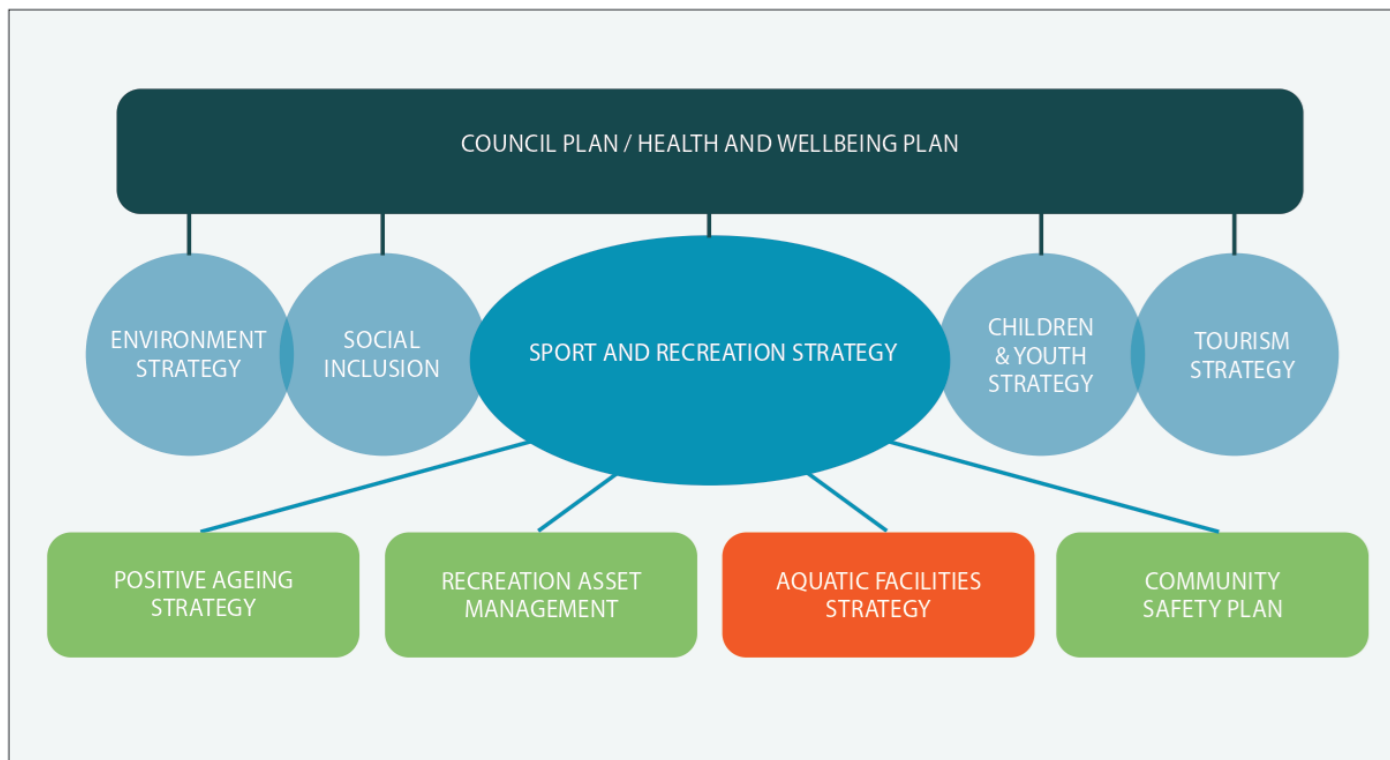
- Maintaining the existing pools is the priority in the immediate to medium term. However, if the cost of these works cannot be afforded over the long term, Council may be forced to close one or more of the existing pools. If this is the case, Council should consider enhancing the quality, attractiveness and programming of the remaining venues.



Council Strategic Links

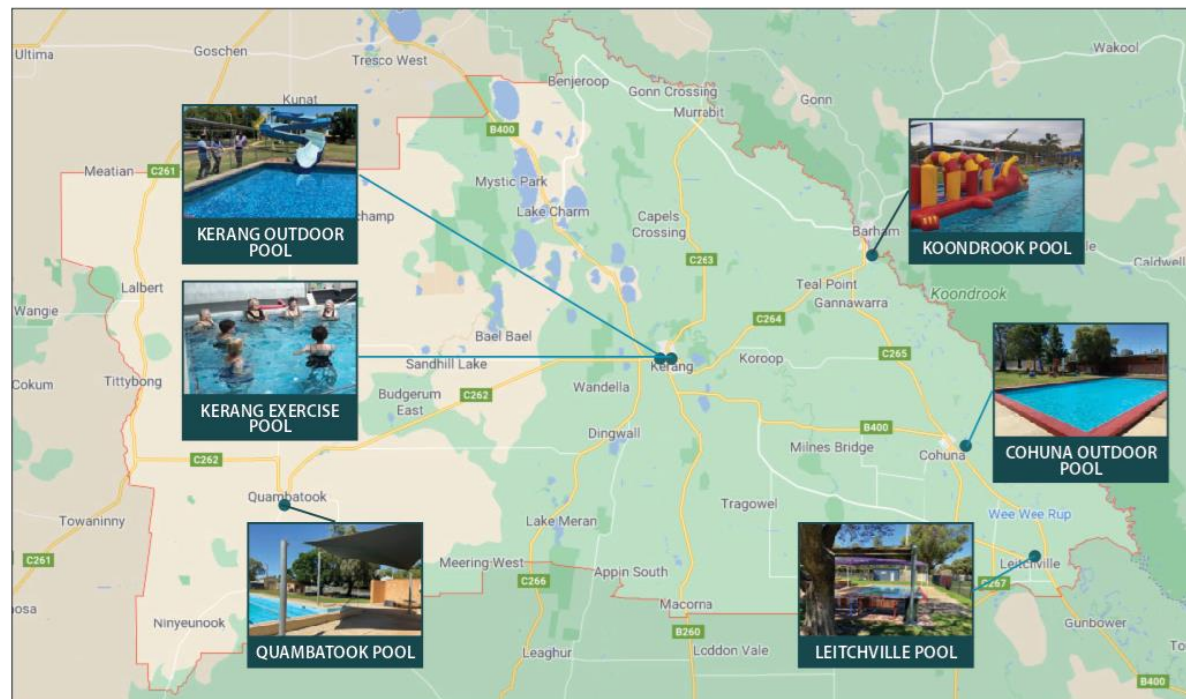
The diagram below shows the strategic links between Gannawarra Shire Council's key strategic documents. The Aquatic Facilities Strategy is a recommendation of the Sport and Recreation Strategy.

Figure 1: Strategic Links



3. PROJECT AREA

Gannawarra is a rural municipality located on the northern boundary of Victoria, 1.25 hours from Bendigo and 40 minutes from Swan Hill. It contains two central townships – Kerang and Cohuna - and a number of smaller settlements including Koondrook, Quambatook, Leitchville, Lalbert, Lake Charm, Murrabit and Mystic Park (Kangaroo Lake). The region features red gum forests, many freshwater lakes, the Murray River and Gunbower Creek.



4. WHO IS OUR COMMUNITY?

It is important to understand the current and future populations to ensure the facilities and services are developed to address residents' needs. The following details the key population characteristics of the Gannawarra Shire.

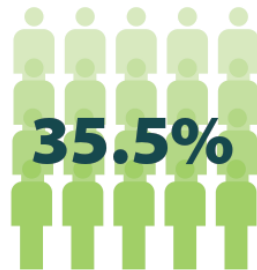
Gannawarra population

10,612

10,612 (ERP 2021), grown by 0.5% in previous year and expected to grow modestly.

49

The median age is 49 years, which is significantly higher than the median age across Regional Victoria of 43 years.



35.5%
60 years and over

The increasing number of retirees and seniors in the community will mean a growing need for therapy-based programming.



6.5%

688 people (or 6.5% of the population) in 2016 reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This is more than the 6% recorded for Regional Victoria.



Property prices are comparatively low, below the national average. However, the median weekly income is also below the national median. Therefore, providing accessible and affordable aquatic and leisure facilities and programs are important to encourage participation.

relatively even number of males and females



which is consistent with Regional Victoria

Only 5% of the population were born overseas, compared to 11% in Regional Victoria, and English being the predominant language in more households.



Low level of cultural diversity



The unemployment rate (3.4% June 2020) is well below the State and national average.



Pre and school aged children make up one fifth of the community. A feature of Gannawarra Shire is the access residents have to inland water ways, meaning access to learn to swim programs and leisure water are important and will continue.

5. GANNAWARRA AQUATIC FACILITIES

5.1 What we know about our facilities

KERANG OUTDOOR POOL		COHUNA OUTDOOR POOL	
Ownership and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Pool Owned and managed by Council 	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main pool (50.32m x 18.6m) Intermediate pool Splash park Waterslide Amenities and change rooms Swimming Club Room Kiosk/Office/Reception area Shade structures and picnic areas 	Ownership and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Pool Situated on Crown land, Council Committee of Management 	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main pool (33.5m x 12.8m) Learners' pool Wading pool Waterslide Amenities and change rooms Swimming Club Room Kiosk/Office/Reception area Shade structures and picnic areas
KERANG EXERCISE POOL		LEITCHVILLE OUTDOOR POOL	
Ownership and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor pool open year-round Owned and managed by Council 	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5m x 6m pool Heated to 32-34 degrees 10 patron maximum at any one time Amenities and change rooms 	Ownership and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Pool Owned by Council and managed by Council appointed Committee Council provided annual funding allocation 	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main pool (T-shaped 25m x 12.6/20.1m) Toddlers' pool Amenities and change rooms Kiosk/Office/Reception area Shade structures and picnic areas
QUAMBATOOK OUTDOOR POOL		KOONDROOK OUTDOOR POOL	
Ownership and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Pool Situated on Crown Land, managed and maintained by local community Committee of Management Council provided annual funding allocation 	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main pool (25m x 10.6m) Toddlers' pool Amenities and change rooms Kiosk/Office/Reception area Shade structures and picnic areas 	Ownership and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Pool Situated on Crown Land, managed and maintained by local community Committee of Management Council provided annual funding allocation 	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main pool (33m x 17m) Learners' pool Toddlers' pool Amenities and change rooms Kiosk/Office/Reception area Shade structures and picnic areas

5.2 Operating Performance

The following table provides a summary of the operational performance of Gannawarra aquatic centres during the period 2014/2015 to 2018/2019. Please note COVID 19 had a significant impact on the operational performance across all facilities during the period 2019 - 2021. As a result the last full three years of operation has been assessed (represented as an average).

Table 1: Summary of Overall Operational Performance

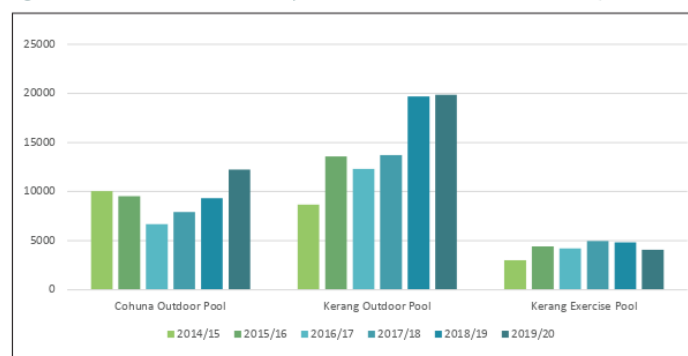
	Cohuna Outdoor Pool	Kerang Outdoor Pool	Kerang Exercise Pool	Leitchville Outdoor Pool	Quambatook Outdoor Pool	Koondrook Outdoor Pool	Total/ Average
Visits	9,833	17,757	4,615	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	28,051 (Council only)
Income	\$30,826	\$53,054	\$25,077	\$8,868	\$19,762	\$71,026	\$208,613 (Council only = \$108,957)
Expenditure	\$110,157	\$182,308	\$86,252	\$10,632	\$15,813	\$61,194	\$466,356 (Council only = \$378,990)
Operational Surplus / Deficit	-\$79,331	-\$129,254	-\$61,175	-\$1,764	\$3,959	\$9,832	-\$257,743 (Council only = -\$269,760)
Income Per Visit	\$3.13	\$2.99	\$5.43	No visit data	No visit data	No visit data	\$3.88 (Council only)
Expense Per Visit	\$11.20	\$10.27	\$18.69	No visit data	No visit data	No visit data	\$13.50 (Council only)
Operating Cost Per Visit	-\$8.07	-\$7.28	-\$13.26	No visit data	No visit data	No visit data	-\$9.62 (Council only)
Asset Renewal 5-Year Average Spend	\$26,150	\$23,050	\$0	\$3,450	\$6,200	\$10,450	\$69,300

The operating indicators show:

- The three-year average for total visitations across the three Council managed pools was 28,051 visits per season.
- The three-year average total income across six sites was \$208,613 per season.
- The three-year total operating deficit across six sites was \$257,743 per season.
- Kerang Exercise Pool recorded the highest income per visit at \$5.43 in comparison to Cohuna Outdoor Pool at \$3.13 and Kerang Outdoor Pool at \$2.99. This can be explained by a higher entry fee structure for the Kerang Exercise Pool. The average income per visit across the three Council managed pools was \$3.88.
- Kerang Outdoor Pool recorded the lowest expenditure per visit at \$10.27 in comparison to Cohuna Outdoor Pool at \$11.20 and Kerang Exercise Pool at \$18.69. The average expenditure per visit across the three Council managed pools was \$13.50.
- The average cost per visit for the three Council managed sites was -\$9.62. Kerang Outdoor Pool recorded the lowest cost per visit at -\$7.28, followed by Cohuna Outdoor Pool at -\$8.07 cost per visit and Kerang Exercise Pool at -\$13.26 cost per visit.
- The average total asset renewal spending across the last five years was \$69,300. Most of the upgrades/replacement works occurred at Cohuna, Kerang and Leitchville Outdoor Pools.

The following figure shows the annual attendance data for the last five years for the three Council managed facilities.

Figure 3: Gannawarra Council owned Aquatic Facilities Annual Attendance Summary



The attendance summary indicates the following trends:

- There was an overall increase in visitations for the Gannawarra council managed aquatic facilities.
- Kerang Outdoor Pool and Cohuna Outdoor Pool both show a steady increase over the last three years with the highest recorded attendances achieved in 2019/20.
- Kerang Exercise Pool has been attracting similar visitation levels with the highest visitations recorded in 2017/18. The COVID impacts and closures resulted in a decline in visits for 2019/20.
- The steep increase in visitations over the last two years at Cohuna and Kerang Outdoor Pools can be explained by new door counter and point of sale technology installed at both sites in 2018.

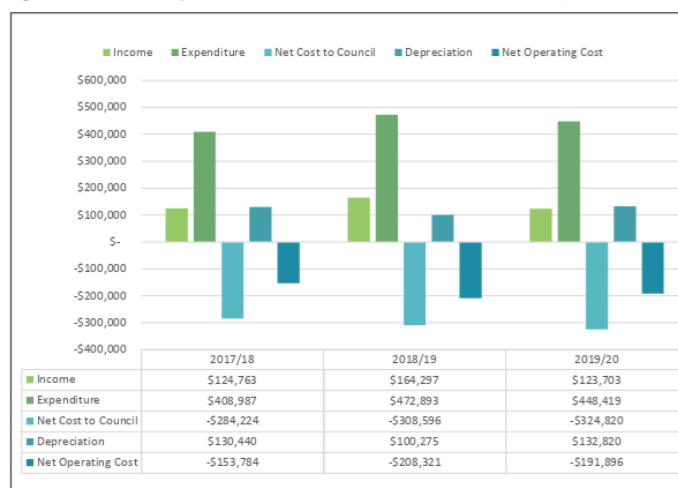
The following figure shows the combined financial performance for Gannawarra aquatic facilities over the last three years. This includes Cohuna Outdoor Pool, Kerang Outdoor Pool, Kerang Exercise Pool, Leitchville Outdoor Pool and Quambatook Outdoor Pool. Koondrook is not included in the analysis given no financial operating data has been provided.

The combined financial performance summary indicates the following trends:

- Income has been relatively stable over the three years, with 2018/19 recorded the highest combined revenue across the five pools being \$164,297. The average combined total income was \$137,588.

8

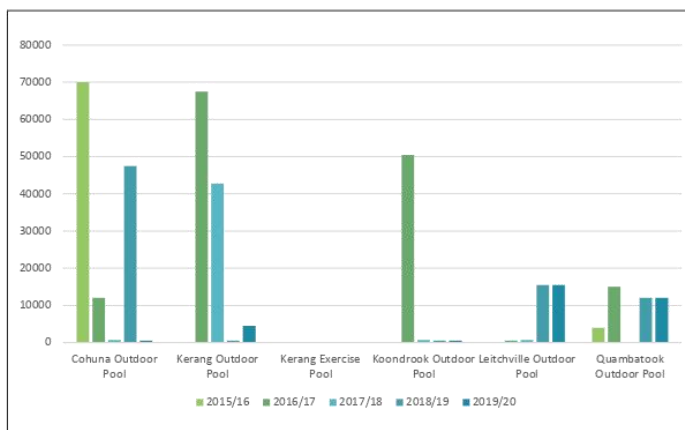
Figure 4: Gannawarra Aquatic Facilities Annual Financial Performance Summary



- The average annual combined expenditure across the five facilities was \$443,433 per year. The highest expenditure was recorded in 2018/19 at \$472,893.
- The total combined net cost (including depreciation) to Council was increased over the three years by 14%, from -\$284,224 in 2017/18 to -\$324,820 in 2019/20.
- The total combined net operating cost (excluding depreciation) decreased in 2019/20 from the previous year, however, has increased by 24.8% over the three years from -\$153,784 in 2017/18 deficit to -\$191,896 deficit in 2019/20.

The following figure shows the asset renewal expenditure invested across Gannawarra aquatic facilities over the last five years.

Figure 5: Gannawarra Aquatic Facilities Annual Asset Renewal and Major Maintenance Expenditure Summary



The asset renewal expenditure indicates the following trends:

- The majority of investment has been allocated to Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook Outdoor Pools. This included significant works to plant room improvements, pool shell painting and expansion joint repairs, shade structure installation and landscaping works.
- The spending has fluctuated annually depending on the urgency of works required across the six facilities.
- The average asset renewal spend each year over the last five years has been \$69,300.



5.3 Catchment Analysis

Leisure and sporting facility trends and benchmarking generally indicates that local or municipal facilities have a primary catchment radius of approximately 5km and a secondary catchment radius of 10km.

In general, approximately 75% to 85% of users will reside within a 0km to 5km radius of a facility with the remaining 15% to 25% coming from areas within the 5km to 10km radius of the facility. Regional facilities, providing unique and varied facility components and a larger number of services will draw users from a much wider catchment than a local/municipal facility. In rural Victoria a 20km catchment area is observed for regional facilities.

The size and shape of the catchment area will be influenced by a number of factors including the range and quality of facilities and services offered, natural and built barriers i.e., freeways, travel times and the availability of competing facilities. In metropolitan Melbourne, it is not uncommon for facilities to share catchment areas, particularly the secondary catchment areas.

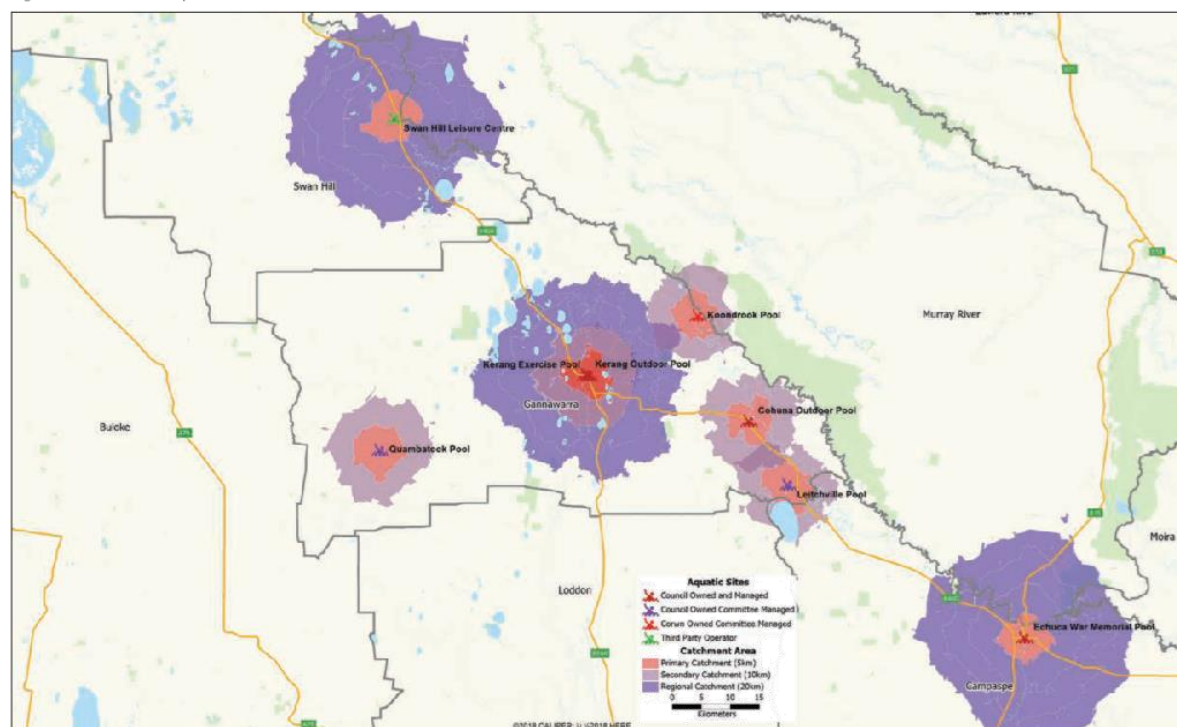
The Catchment Map on the following page shows:

- The facility catchment areas of regional indoor pools in Campaspe Shire Council (Echuca War Memorial Pool) and Swan Hill Rural City Council (Swan Hill Leisure Centre) are not within proximity of servicing the Gannawarra Shire community.
- The Kerang Outdoor Pool is the main school carnival pool and provides for a sub-regional catchment area. Kerang is also the service centre to Gannawarra, has the potential to link is well located.

- Outdoor pools in Koondrook, Cohuna, Leitchville and Quambatook provide for local catchments.
- There is an overlap of catchment areas between Cohuna and Leitchville outdoor pools.
- The catchment area for Koondrook pool also provides for the Barham township in Murray River Council.
- The Kerang, Cohuna and Kerang pools have complementary catchment areas with popu-

lation sizes and programming i.e., school classes and learn to swim, that can sustain a local pool.

Figure 6: Gannawarra Aquatic Centres Catchment Areas



6. WHAT HAVE OUR STAKEHOLDERS TOLD US?

The Strategy involved a two-stage consultation process where key stakeholders, interest groups and the community were invited to contribute.

The stage one consultation process provided a snapshot of the current pool usage and community priorities for future pool provision. Over 550 responses to a community survey were received.

Key stakeholders identified the high value of aquatic facilities and services to community. The long-standing commitment volunteers have had to make to keep the pools going was also acknowledged.

The increasing Life Saving Victoria compliance and safety requirements together with increasing reactive maintenance for the old pools are making it difficult for volunteer groups to continue to manage these community assets without assistance of Council.

Key stakeholders identify the high demand for learn to swim classes by local schools in Gannawarra Shire and Murray River Council (Barham), the two swim clubs, local learn to swim providers. The two swim clubs have healthy memberships.

Key stakeholders identify a key missing link in the aquatic facility provision is a contemporary warm water program pool that meets standards and can be programmed for therapy-based programs including aquatic aerobics and rehabilitation. This is supported by the growing interest and membership in water aerobics classes by local providers.

An indoor aquatic centre available all year round for programming was supported across key stakeholders.

The future improvements that would encourage greater use of pool facilities focused on expanding on what is currently available at the pools, in particular children's programming (such as learn to swim), extending opening hours (including the potential for heated or indoor pools for year-round access) and further activation of the pool sites.

The community survey was dominated by respondents who use either Cohuna Outdoor Pool (48%) or Kerang Outdoor Pool (35%). Cohuna Outdoor Pool was the only pool which respondents considered the facilities to be of a poor quality citing the condition of the pool, the condition of the amenities, and the need for constant maintenance due to the condition.



The stage two consultation process invited key stakeholders, interest groups and the community to provide feedback on a Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy. The engagement findings were presented to Council with changes made to the Strategy.

The engagement process involved:

- **Key stakeholder interviews and workshops**

Councillors, Council staff and consultants met with the Swimming Pool Management Committees and Progress Associations / Development Committees across all Gannawarra townships during April and May.

Interviews also occurred with Northern District Community Health and other health agencies, schools, interest groups and advisory groups.

- **Online community surveys**

A 12-question survey was designed to seek the broader community feedback on what they liked or disliked about the Draft Strategy.

Overall, 520 community surveys were received from a wide range of community members and across Gannawarra townships.

- **Community drop-in sessions**

There were five community drop-in sessions held between 20-24 June 2022 at Quambatook, Kerang, Cohuna, Koondrook and Leitchville.

"We have heard the passion throughout the community for their local outdoor swimming pools and the importance our residents place on these facilities, whilst we have also heard of the growing need for all year-round warm water to support learn to swim programs for the Gannawarra's young people and to support low impact exercise."

– Mayor, Cr Charlie Gillham



The stage 2 consultation process found:

- The community supports access to pools for water safety, our health, fitness and wellbeing and they are good for business, tourism and an ingredient to attracting professionals and people to Gannawarra Shire communities.
- A part of the community attached the development of an indoor aquatic facility in Kerang to the closure of small township outdoor pools.
- When reading deeper into the responses to surveys, community workshops, drop-in sessions and stakeholder interviews with

community, there was support for a year-round aquatic facility and service in Gannawarra Shire with access to a warm water program pool.

- Our health services, community groups, swim clubs and schools spoke about how an indoor aquatic facility was a missing link in our capability of providing the community health and wellbeing services we need for our current and future population. Gannawarra Shire needs a year-round service for learn to swim programs, therapy-based programs and for swim club sport pathway development.
- The community want to see the community outdoor pools remain open. The value of community pools to our townships for providing a safe place for people to swim and to come together and socialise.
- The main concerns raised if community pools were closed were the increased risk of drownings in the many local inland waterways in Gannawarra Shire and the increased travel and costs of community to access aquatic services outside their township.
- There was no support for a freeform lagoon style program pool in Cohuna. The community would prefer a traditional rectangle 25m program pool with access to leisure water and water slide and contemporary change rooms and kiosk.
- The Kerang Exercise Pool is too small and should be replaced with a contemporary warm water program pool with disability access and an increase in size.
- An aquatic service was seen as important to the liveability of communities; however, this needs to be considered against the impact to Council's budget.

7. WHAT INDUSTRY TRENDS DO WE NEED TO CONSIDER?

Aquatic and leisure facilities provide a range of values and benefits for communities including:

- Health and fitness services allowing people to enjoy the benefits of physical activity.
- The provision of safe and welcoming spaces, supporting social inclusion and a sense of connection for all members of the community.
- Opportunities to participate for recreation, competition, or sport.
- Community development that contributes to the development of social capital, helping to create links in a community.
- Positive impacts on physical and mental wellbeing.
- Water safety/education and water confidence programs that can reduce the incidence of drownings in the community.
- Fostering community pride.

The primary focus in contemporary aquatic and leisure facility design is on expanding the facility mix to include a combination of 'wet' and 'dry' options. These include spaces that accommodate a range of activities such as lap swimming, aquatic programs/learn-to-swim, adventure water, 'leisure water' with interactive water play elements, health and fitness, wellness services, multi-purpose program spaces, community meeting rooms/spaces, quality food and

beverage options and improved merchandising/retail areas.

Contemporary aquatic leisure facilities are community destinations and meeting points for a range of physical and social activities. Facilities including these elements will attract the four key user markets outlined in figure 5 and are most likely to provide more reasons for people to visit and stay longer, improving health and wellbeing of the community and financial sustainability for the Centre. These types of facilities provide more reasons for people to visit and stay longer, thus facility viability is improved.

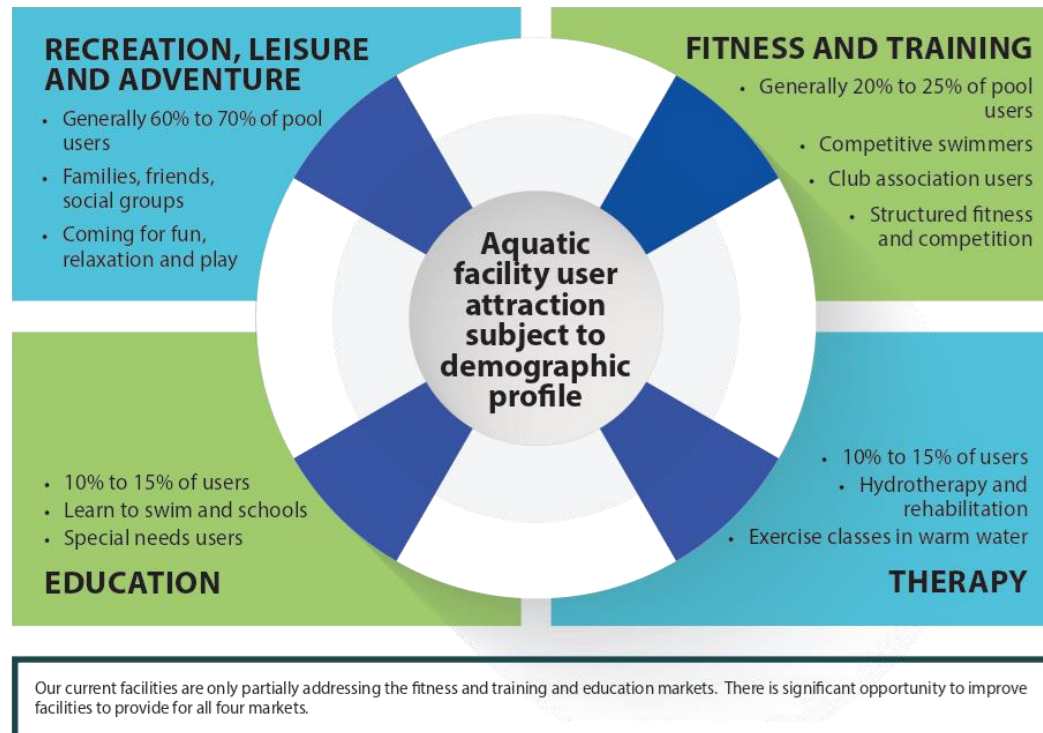


Major increases in energy and water costs in recent years (and predictions of higher energy costs into the future) require aquatic and leisure facilities to incorporate modern, environmentally sustainable features.

Table 2: Trends and Challenges

Sport and Recreation Trends	Challenges for Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gradual ageing of the population. • Flexibility in the times when people recreate. • Increased variety in leisure options. • Constraints to leisure participation. • Changing employment structures, trading, and work hours. • Aquatic areas usually require financial subsidy whilst health and fitness usually profitable. • Different people want different activities. • Provision of high standards and quality of facilities and services. • Desire for activities to be affordable. • Recognition of strong links between physical activity and health. • Expectations of equity and access. • Technology developments and impacts. • More sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Expectations – low cost / long operating hours. • Changing population demographics. • Competition for participants. • High cost of aquatic areas due to labour and services costs. • Need to operate commercial activities to help subsidise aquatic area costs. • Maintaining and upgrading ageing and outdated facilities. • Need for new facilities to accommodate population growth. • Well-trained personnel – volunteers and paid staff. • Keeping 'pace' with technology development. • Environmental sustainability to reduce energy and water usage and costs. • Rate capping impact and competing priorities on Council budgets.

Figure 7: Main aquatic and leisure facility user markets



8. STRATEGY DIRECTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section summarises the key issues identified via the market research, centre review and stakeholder engagement stages of the project. Strategic directions are proposed to address these issues together with a proposed aquatic facility network.

8.1 Key Issues

Aquatic service supports strategic commitment to strong healthy communities.

Current aquatic facilities do not accommodate all key user markets.

Facility catchments and hierarchy indicates a need for a network of aquatic facilities that provide a range of complementary facilities, services and programs.

Significant asset renewal and maintenance challenges in short to medium term.

Compliance and safety challenges at community run pools.

8.2 Strategic Recommendations

Proposed Vision

Based on the above challenges, the proposed Vision and Objectives for the Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy are to:

Provide sustainable and accessible aquatic and leisure facilities that brings Gannawarra residents together to enjoy health and wellbeing, education and leisure experiences.

15

Proposed Objectives

The proposed objectives to achieve the Vision for the provision on aquatic facilities are:

OBJECTIVE ONE

Provision of accessible, affordable and inclusive facilities that support participation opportunities and key program needs.

OBJECTIVE TWO

Well managed and maintained facilities that meet current design and operational industry standards.

OBJECTIVE THREE

Development of a network of complementary facilities that are located within key catchment areas (population and visitation).

OBJECTIVE FOUR

Environmentally sustainable and universally designed facilities.

8.2.1 Facility Hierarchy and Provision

Facilities will be provided through a combination of:

- Council owned aquatic and leisure facilities.
- Community managed aquatic and leisure facilities.
- Facilities/services available from the private sector (e.g., swim school, fitness centres and personal training studios).
- Sub regional aquatic facilities offered by adjoining municipalities in Swan Hill Rural City Council (Swan Hill Leisure Centre) and Campaspe Shire Council (Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre).

Table 3: Facility Hierarchy

Service Hierarchy	Service Level Objective
Local Local rural township catchment population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a local aquatic experience i.e., pool or water play / leisure water • Usually linked to other community facilities to share management and operation cost
District Major townships centre and district catchment population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to provide program pool combined with water play / leisure water • Consider provision of limited dry/gym facilities
Sub Regional Major township centre with highest population area servicing a municipal catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to separate program and leisure water • Larger dry/gym facilities • Additional limited facilities
Regional Regional city catchment population servicing across municipal boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More extensive program and leisure water • Consideration of indoor 50m pool and complementary warm water pool • Increased gym and program space • Additional complementary amenities, food and beverage

8.2.2 Recommended Strategic Direction

The recommended future development options are based on the following localised trends:

- Need for funding investment to address the operational and technical issue identified via the detailed facility audits of the ageing facilities.
- Opportunity to integrate key facilities and service areas at one location to support year-round access to aquatic facilities to support learn to swim and therapy-based activities.
- New leisure and water play opportunities to continue to support the informal leisure/social/family markets.
- Consider opportunities to support indoor health and fitness programs and services.
- Improvements to disability access, improved shade and windbreaks, more seating and landscaping.
- Maintaining the existing pools is the priority in the immediate to medium term. However, if the cost of these works cannot be afforded over the long term, some of these pools may be forced to close.
- Support the community Committee of Management operated facilities to ensure the long-term sustainability of operations.
- Based on the above the recommended strategic direction for the Gannawarra Aquatic facilities is as follows.



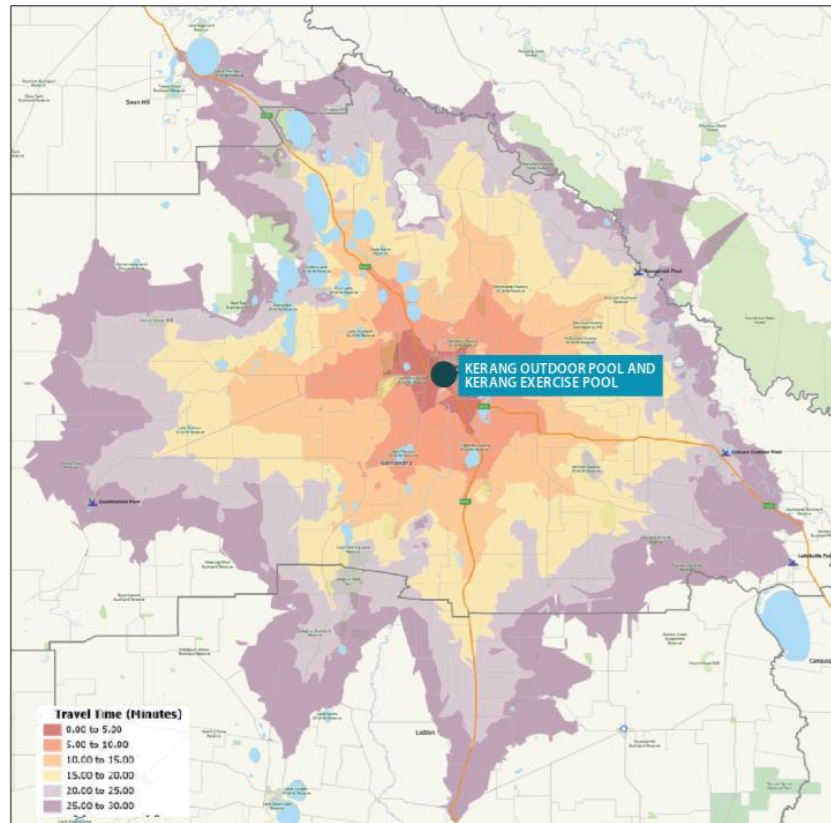
Kerang Outdoor Pool and Kerang Exercise Pool

Recommended Strategy

Development of a sub-regional (municipal level) integrated indoor aquatic facility in Kerang that services the key aquatic programming needs of the Shire at the site of the existing outdoor pool. This will include a new entry that integrates the library, outdoor pool and proposed indoor facility including an indoor pool, warm water pool, dry health and fitness facilities, allied health services, changerooms, café, reception and administration area. This recommendation will result in the closure to the existing Kerang exercise pool.

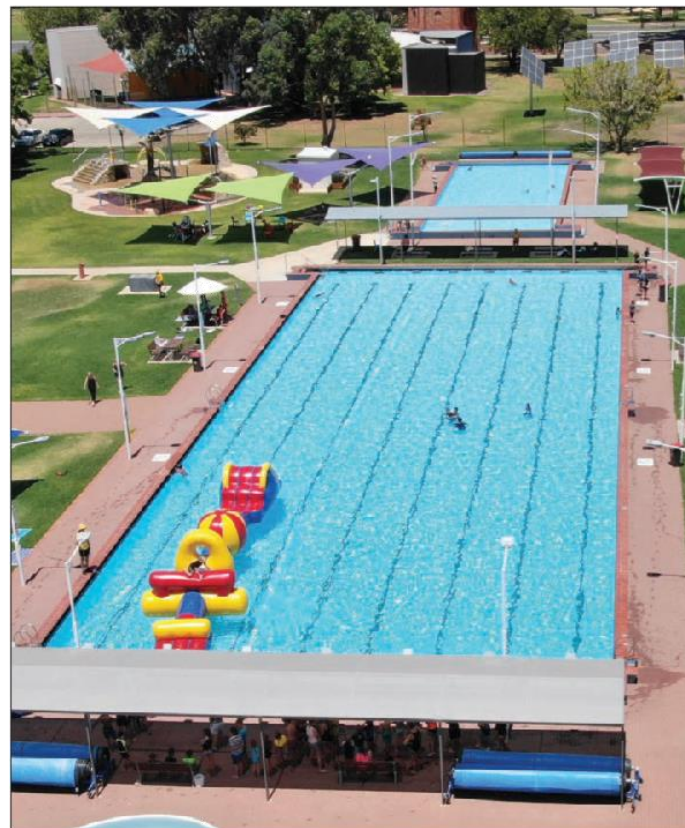
Sub regional facility

Catchment assumptions are important in determining potential patronage of a sub-regional facility. Anecdotally there is evidence that supports the notion that people in regional areas do travel to attend recreational pursuits. Football, cricket and netball participants of all ages travel to away games that are often outside of the municipality. There is now evidence that suggest residents living in regional areas are prepared to travel up to 30 minutes to access quality sporting facilities, this is supported by the current use of the Kerang Outdoor Pool user profile. The following map indicates the population catchment within the travel distances of five to 30 minutes of the proposed location of the integrated facility.



Kerang Outdoor Pool and Kerang Exercise Pool

Recommendation	Timing
That funding be provided to undertake the necessary maintenance works as identified within the technical audit at the outdoor pool.	Year 2
That funding be provided in the 2023/2024 Council budget for the development of concept plans and capital cost estimate for an integrated aquatic centre in Kerang.	Year 1-2
That Council commence the design phase for an integrated indoor aquatic centre on the site of the outdoor pools. This would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor 25m x 6 lane program /warm water pool Toddlers pool/leisure water Dry health and wellness area Support amenities. 	Year 1-2
That Council prepare a business case for the development of the integrated aquatic centre to understand the operational costs, usage and Council subsidy.	Year 1-2
That Council develop a funding strategy that considers the potential internal and external (state and federal governments) to support the development of an integrated aquatic centre.	Year 1-2
That Council close the Kerang Exercise Pool once a new contemporary indoor warm water program pool is provided. The pool will be accessible and of a sufficient size to provide for the programming and rehabilitation needs.	Timing to coincide with opening of the proposed new facility



Cohuna Outdoor Pool

Development of a new 25m outdoor pool for lap swimming, learn to swim and other aquatic programs and consider the options for heating the water to extend the length of the season to support these programs.

Development of leisure water including a waterslide to support the social / fun / family markets.

The Cohuna Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2022 identifies four potential sites for the development of a new swimming pool. Detailed geotechnical site investigation are required to determine a preferred site for development of the pool. This review should exclude Apex Park as it was not supported as a suitable location by residents.

Recommendation	Timing
That funding be provided to undertake the necessary maintenance works as identified within the technical audit at the outdoor pool.	Year 2
That Council undertake detailed geotechnical site investigation on potential sites identified in the Cohuna Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2022 to determine a preferred site for development of the pool.	Year 1-2
That Council prepare a concept plan and capital cost estimate for the development of a new outdoor pool in Cohuna.	Year 1-2
That Council prepare a business case for the new outdoor pool to understand the operational costs, usage and Council subsidy.	Year 1-2
That Council develop a funding strategy that considers the potential internal and external (government and private) funding opportunities to support the development of a new facility.	Year 3



Leitchville Outdoor Pool

Retain Council's annual funding contribution to pool operations.

Council sets key performance indicators to ensure they meet industry standards. Key performance indicators include:

- Lifeguarding in line with Life Saving Victoria guidelines for safe pool operations
- Maintain a safe water quality level in line with Department of Health and Human Services water quality regulations
- Adhere to current dangerous goods storage and handling legislation and Australian standards
- Maintain a register of Work Safe notifiable incidents and near misses
- Maintain a register of staff inductions and industry qualifications and training.

Recommendation	Timing
That Council support the Committee of Management with the recommended essential maintenance works identified within the technical audit at the outdoor pool.	2022/2023
That Council work in collaboration with the Committee of Management on the outcomes of the assessment against Life Saving Victoria Guidelines for the safe operations of pools.	2022/2023



Quambatook Outdoor Pool

Retain Council's annual funding contribution to pool operations.

Council sets key performance indicators to ensure they meet industry standards. Key performance indicators include:

- Lifeguarding in line with Life Saving Victoria guidelines for safe pool operations
- Maintain a safe water quality level in line with Department of Health and Human Services water quality regulations
- Adhere to current dangerous goods storage and handling legislation and Australian standards
- Maintain a register of Work Safe notifiable incidents and near misses
- Maintain a register of staff inductions and industry qualifications and training.

Recommendation	Timing
That Council provide DELWP and the Committee of Management the recommended essential maintenance works identified within the technical audit at the outdoor pool.	Year 1
That Council work in collaboration with the Committee of Management the outcomes of the assessment against Life Saving Victoria Guidelines for the safe operations of pools.	Year 1
That Council work in collaboration with DELWP, the Committee of Management and the local community to design an open space precinct that supports the Quambatook community.	Ongoing annual review
That Council consider opportunities to support Quambatook residents' access to aquatic facilities via transport services during the summer months and / or subsidies to the proposed new integrated facility.	Year 5

Koondrook Outdoor Pool

The facility provides access to an aquatic facility for local residents of both the Koondrook and Barham areas. There is a need to undertake the identified maintenance works to ensure the facility is operating efficiently.

There is an opportunity to work with DELWP, the Committee of Management and Murray River Council on upgrading the current toddlers pool and learn to swim pool area to provide more contemporary leisure water opportunities to encourage and support the family and social markets.

Design of new leisure water and play area to include varied depths for primary school and early years children.

Retain Council's annual funding contribution to pool operations.

Council sets key performance indicators to ensure they meet industry standards.

Key performance indicators include:

- Lifeguarding in line with Life Saving Victoria guidelines for safe pool operations
- Maintain a safe water quality level in line with Department of Health and Human Services water quality regulations
- Adhere to current dangerous goods storage and handling legislation and Australian standards
- Maintain a register of Work Safe notifiable incidents and near misses
- Maintain a register of staff inductions and industry qualifications and training.

Recommendation	Timing
That Council support the Committee of Management in sourcing funds to undertake the necessary maintenance works as identified within the technical audit at the outdoor pool.	Year 3
That Council in collaboration with DELWP, the Committee of Management and the Murray River Council support the preparation of concept plans for the redevelopment of the toddler's pool and program pool to create a contemporary leisure water area to support the family/social markets.	Year 3
That Council in collaboration with DELWP, the Committee of Management, DELWP and the Murray River support the preparation of a business case for the recommended redevelopment.	Year 4
That Council, DELWP, the Committee of Management and the Murray River Council develop a funding strategy that considers the potential internal and external (government and private) funding opportunities to support the recommended redevelopment.	Year 4

8.2.3 Management and Operations

To ensure the management and operations of the facilities are aligned to industry trends and compliance requirements it recommended that the following management strategies be implemented.

Table 4: Management and Operations Recommendations

Recommendation	Timing
That Council undertake an annual review of the performance of all facilities in meeting key performance measures and progress made on the strategy.	Ongoing
That Council work in collaboration with community pool Committees to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fees and charges for access to aquatic facilities and programs / services are set at an affordable level to support participation. • Improve usage and financial data collection. • Complete LSV Safety Audits for community run pools. • To ensure compliance with LSV Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations. 	Year 3
That Council consider providing lifeguarding services to 'advertised' popular water holes such as the Cohuna Beach.	Year 1

8.2.4 Aquatic Facility Programming

The review highlighted the opportunity for increased access to aquatic program opportunities. It is recommended that Council plan for the delivery of a range of aquatic and dry based programs at the facilities that support the health and wellness needs of the community.

Table 5: Aquatic Facility Programming Recommendations

Recommendation	Timing
That Council develop a range of aquatic programs to be implemented across the network of facilities to support the health and wellbeing of residents.	Year 1
That Council support the community pool Committees through providing research and programming opportunities.	Year 1
Council provides a discount/incentive to lessen the cost of travel to access aquatic facilities and programs for communities without access to a local pool.	2023/2024

8.2.5 Asset Management

To ensure the aquatic facilities are maintained in line with industry standards it is recommended that Council update and implement the Aquatic Facilities Asset Management Plan (AMP) and maintenance plans for all aquatics facilities in line with Technical Assessments.

Table 6: Asset Management Recommendations

Recommendation	Timing
That Council update and implement the Aquatic Facilities Asset Management Plan (AMP) and maintenance plans for Kerang outdoor pool and Cohuna outdoor pool in line with Technical Assessments prepared; and align Council's operational and renewal budgets.	Ongoing
That funding be provided to undertake the necessary maintenance works as identified within the technical audit at Kerang outdoor pool and Cohuna outdoor pool.	Year 2
That Council work in collaboration with community pool Committees of Management and DEWLP to develop an Asset Management Plan for each community pool site in line with Technical Assessments and Strategic Directions.	Ongoing

9. WARRANTIES AND DISCLAIMERS

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their own experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.





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Otium Planning Group acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our company is located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and to Elders, past, present and emerging. Otium is committed to national reconciliation and respect for indigenous peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas, and their rich contribution to society.



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1. Introduction

The Gannawarra Shire Council invited community feedback on the Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy.

The stage two consultation process run from May to August 2022 and included engagement opportunities for key stakeholder, interest groups and the community to find out more about the strategy directions and provide feedback.

This report summarises the key findings from these engagement approaches and proposes suggested changes to Council for consideration when adopting a Final Aquatic Strategy.

1.1 Engagement Process

The engagement process involved:

- **Key stakeholder interviews and workshops**

Councillors, Council staff and consultants met with the Swimming Pool Management Committees and Progress Associations / Development Committees across all Gannawarra townships during April and May.

Interviews also occurred with Northern District Community Health and other health agencies, schools, interest groups and advisory groups.

- **Online community surveys**

A 12-question survey was designed to seek the broader community feedback on what they liked or disliked about the Draft Strategy.

Overall, 520 community surveys were received from a wide range of community members and across Gannawarra townships.

- **Community drop-in sessions**

There were five community drop-in sessions held between 20-24 June 2022 at Quambatook, Kerang, Cohuna, Koondrook and Leitschville.

"The community engagement process on the Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy began in late April, with Councillors, Council staff and the Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy consultants meeting with swimming pool management committees, Progress Associations/Development Committees, health agencies, schools and advisory groups.

These proactive discussions have enabled these key groups and users to learn more about the Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy and provide feedback regarding how they see the future of aquatics in the Gannawarra.

We have heard the passion throughout the community for their local outdoor swimming pools and the importance our residents place on these facilities, whilst we have also heard of the growing need for all year round warm water to support learn to swim programs for the Gannawarra's young people and to support low impact exercise.

All feedback received during the community engagement period will assist with the development of the final version of the Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy, which will be presented to Council at a later date."

- Mayor Charlie Gillingham (6 June 2022)

Gannawarra Have Your Say Page

GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

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Home → Council → Have Your Say → Draft Aquatic Strategy

Draft Aquatic Strategy

[Listen](#)

Ongoing consultation

Residents have been helping to shape the future of aquatic services within the Gannawarra by taking part in Council's *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy* community engagement process.

Developed following feedback from residents and key stakeholders via surveys and on-site meetings held in late 2020, technical assessments of all Council and community-managed facilities in the municipality and the development of a strategic directions options analysis report, the draft document explores the following strategic directions:

- The redevelopment of the Kerang Swimming Pool to include a new indoor integrated aquatic centre;
- Development of a new swimming pool complex in Cohuna, featuring an outdoor leisure lagoon, water play space and learn to swim area, to replace the current facility;
- Maintain the Koondrook Swimming Pool under current management arrangements; and
- Work with Department of Environment Land Water and Planning and community asset committees to consider the future of the Leitchville and Quambatook swimming pools.

To view the *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy*, please [click here](#) (PDF, 4MB).

How residents had their say

The *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy* community engagement process provided residents with numerous opportunities to learn more about this document and to have their say. For information on each period of the engagement process, please click on the relevant box below:

- Survey and feedback process +
- Community sessions +
- Stakeholder discussions +

Timeline

- [Assessment of current use via meetings and online survey](#)
Completed November-December 2020
- [Strategic Directions Document adopted by Council](#)
Adopted at September 2021 Council Meeting
- [Endorsement to proceed to community engagement stage](#)
Endorsed at December 2021 Council Meeting
- Stakeholder discussions - Round 1
Occurring May-June 2022
- [Community drop-in pop-up sessions](#)
Occurred 20-24 June 2022
- [Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy Survey](#)
Available for completion up to 5pm Sunday, 31 July 2022
- Stakeholder discussions - Round 2
Occurring following completion of first round of meetings

Figure 1: Gannawarra Have Your Say Page

2. Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy

2.1 Strategic Directions

The Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy is a road map for the future aquatic and leisure facility development in Gannawarra Shire Council for the next 10 years.

The Draft Aquatic Strategy was developed following feedback from residents and key stakeholders via surveys and on-site meetings, extensive market research, demand and trends assessment, current facilities operational review, technical assessments of all Council and community-managed facilities and the development of a strategic directions options analysis report.

The Draft Aquatic Strategy includes the following strategic directions:

- The redevelopment of the Kerang Swimming Pool to include a new indoor integrated aquatic centre with indoor pool, warm water program pool, health and fitness facilities, café, reception, changerooms and amenities
- Development of a new integrated outdoor pool complex in Cohuna, featuring an outdoor freeform leisure and program pool that includes a learn to swim and lap swimming area, water play park and social recreation areas to replace the current facility
- Maintain the Koondrook Swimming Pool under current management arrangements; and recommend a new leisure water play area to replace the learn to swim and toddler pool
- Recommend to the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP – landowner) and community asset committees (land managers) to close the Leitchville and Quambatook swimming pools and return the sites to community open space precincts.

2.2 Why do we need an Aquatic Strategy?

The Draft Aquatic Strategy proposed a bold change to the provision of aquatic facilities within Gannawarra, with a focus on delivering modern and contemporary aquatic and health and fitness facilities and services for the next 50 years.

The most significant challenge for Council in determining a future indoor aquatics facility is the affordability to build and operate aquatic facilities.

Council does **not** have the capital or operational funding to upgrade all of our old 50 to 70 years old pools. Doing so would result in a missed opportunity to provide for the contemporary aquatic and leisure and health and fitness needs of our Gannawarra community.

Council will need to prioritise funding and works within Council's Long Term Financial Plan to development proposals that will increase participation and optimise the use of facilities. This also means closing the old outdoor swimming pools that are in poor condition, attract low patronage and no longer meet modern facility and operational standards.

The Strategy found:

- Council recognises the importance of aquatic and leisure facilities in supporting the physical and mental health within the community, by offering safe and healthy environments for people to come together to exercise, learn to swim and build social connections.

- There are six public aquatic facilities located in Gannawarra:
The Kerang Outdoor Pool and Kerang Indoor Pool are owned and operated by Council.
The Cohuna Outdoor Pool is located on Crown Land, owned by DELWP and operated by Council.
The Leitchville Pool is owned by Council and operated by the asset committee.
The Koondrook Outdoor Pool and Quambatook Outdoor Pool are located on Crown Land, owned by DELWP and operated by pool committees.
- All pools require significant maintenance and/or redevelopment works if they are to be retained. The cost of these works alone is about \$1.9M and will require ongoing investment
- The technical and maintenance works would only keep the facilities operational. They would not provide optimum service for they are outdated and lack quality support facilities and programs
- The current facilities fail to attract the youth market, are no longer adequate to service the growing learn to swim, and cannot meet the health and wellbeing needs of an ageing community
- No aquatic facility in Gannawarra Shire provides for the full range of contemporary 'wet' and 'dry' elements that appeal to all key user markets including leisure, social and adventure; aquatic education and learn to swim; therapy and rehabilitation; fitness, competitive and recreational swimming; health and wellness; and food/beverage and merchandise services.
- New leisure, recreation, social, health and wellbeing opportunities should be provided at the facilities for them to be more effective, to optimise use and run more efficiently
- The increasing Life Saving Victoria compliance and safety requirements together with increasing reactive maintenance for the old pools are making it difficult for volunteer groups to continue to manage these community assets without assistance of Council
- A year round integrated indoor aquatic centre for programming was supported by community, township and business groups, aquatic program service providers and allied health services
- The Kerang Outdoor Pool is the preferred location for an integrated indoor aquatic facility. The facility has the greatest facility catchment area that will provide for over 11,500 people within 30 minutes of travel and reach all Gannawarra townships north, south, east, and west. This option is predicted to attract the most visits and is the most affordable.

The Aquatic Strategy will address:



3. Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy Consultation Summary 2019

The stage one consultation process involved key stakeholder interviews including pool management committees, health agencies and service providers and a community survey.

3.1 Engagement Findings

The community survey received 550 responses and provided a snapshot of the current pool usage and community priorities for future pool provision.

Respondents were primarily from Cohuna (48%) and Kerang (35%), with a total of 24 communities represented.

There was a high value placed by community on aquatic facilities and services. People used a pool because it was close to work, home or school (67.5%), the swim with family and friends (35%), only pool nearby (35%) and it's an outdoor pool (25%). The activities undertaken were recreation swimming (46.5%), cool down from hot weather (44.3%), taking a child to pool (41.3%), lap swimming (27.5%) and learn to swim classes (20.9%).

Generally, respondents considered the pools to be in an adequate or good standard. Cohuna Outdoor Pool was the main pool of concern. Respondents considered the facilities to be of a poor quality citing the condition of the pool, the condition of the amenities, and the need for constant maintenance due to the poor condition.

The long-standing commitment volunteers have made to keep the community pools going was acknowledged. The increasing Life Saving Victoria compliance and safety requirements together with increasing reactive maintenance for the old pools are making it difficult for volunteer groups to continue to manage these community assets without assistance of Council.

Key stakeholder identified a gap in the variety and number of programs and services available to residents in Gannawarra. In particular:

- An indoor aquatic centre available all year round for programming.
- High demand for aquatic program classes through Council's learn to swim program, by local schools in Gannawarra Shire and Murray River Council (Barham), the two swim clubs that have healthy memberships, and learn to swim providers. Providing learn to swim classes and access to pools that were supervised was seen as vital to prevent drownings on Gannawarra lakes, rivers, and waterways.
- A key missing link in the aquatic facility provision is a contemporary warm water program pool that meets standards and can be programmed for therapy-based programs including aquatic aerobics and rehabilitation. This is supported by the growing interest and membership in water aerobics classes by local providers.

4. Key Stakeholder Interview Findings

The purpose of the key stakeholder interviews was to:

- Listen to key stakeholder views on the proposed aquatic strategy
- Clarify information presented in the strategy
- Receive feedback on what key stakeholders liked and disliked about the strategy
- Encourage them to promote the community survey to community members.

This section summarises the key themes and comments raised from the different interest groups across community. **Appendix 1** includes a copy of the interview notes taken.

There were 28 key stakeholder interviews and workshops hosted. Stakeholders included relevant State Government departments, community groups, schools and swim clubs and providers.

4.1 Government Departments

Department of Land, Water and Planning

The Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) does not have an opinion on whether the community pools on Crown Land managed by the community pool committees should remain open or not.

DELWP were unaware of the increasing requirements on local pool committees to ensure a safe environment i.e. LSV lifeguarding; and the supervision and liability risks if these are not observed. DELWP advised that the pool committees should be covered under the State Government's public liability insurance policy.

DELWP has limited funding to support developments on Crown Land.

Sport and Recreation Victoria

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) highlighted the importance of setting a long-term strategic direction that supports multiuse, unisex and accessible facilities that provide for the needs of the community demographic. SRV supports pools that have a high importance on health and wellbeing services for all ages and abilities.

Of importance to Gannawarra is the growing demand for warm water and health and fitness facilities for therapy programs to support an ageing community.

SRV's role is to support strategic planning processes and not to support individual actions. Projects funded through State Government are underpinned by municipal aquatic strategies and facility feasibility studies.

SRV acknowledges the opportunity the strategy presents to create a destination in Kerang with a community wellbeing centre (indoor program pool, café and health and fitness gym) linking to the library, outdoor pool and water tower. There is evidence that suggests people will travel up to 20min to access services, so if a facility is located within a service centre that is within this distance that community is likely to travel.

If the strategic direction to close pools was supported, Council will need to consider what goes in their place. They have traditionally been the local meeting places where community come together and socialise. A design consideration should consider how people cool off in the hot weather.

It is important for the community to understand the challenge and expense to manage (compliance) and develop aquatic facilities. There is a financial and social impact on the decisions made.

If you retain all the pools, the occupational health and safety and compliance needs to be met. These include safe water quality, lifeguarding in line with LSV guidelines, universal access, safe chemical plant areas storage and handling, etc.

4.1 Community Groups that have a Local Pool

Cohuna Community Group Representatives (Includes Swim Club)

The Cohuna community groups representatives included the township group, health and business representatives, swim club and learn to swim providers.

There was support for the strategic objectives that demonstrate the role pools play in supporting health and wellbeing and teaching children how to swim. It is particularly important for communities with inland waterways to have a safe refuge to swim and cool off. However, there was no support for the freeform, lagoon style pool proposed at Cohuna.

The lagoon style pool is not as efficient to support learn to swim and disability access, has higher evaporation costs, will likely cost more and was suggested in the wrong spot. The ideal spot should be across the road from the kiosk and consistent with the Waterfront Strategy.

Replicate what is already there. There is a need for a 25m program pool in Cohuna that supports aquatic programs from local providers, learn to swim classes run by the swim club and schools and lap swimming. This could be an outdoor pool that is covered in the future if funding is available. The pool needs to have be multifaceted and flexible and support different depths. It should have the capacity to provide for 80 to 110 students.

There is support for the community proposal to have an indoor pool. The Cohuna community was confident of raising funds through sponsorship from organisations that have identified an interest in funding the project.

Providing a water slide has been a drawcard for visitors to Cohuna and is a source of fun for young people. It is considered an important design feature.

The group expressed that only one indoor pool was needed in the Shire and questioned the reasons (central location, highest population base, highest pool visitation, link with library and outdoor pool) why Kerang was the preferred site. Although not central to the municipality, Cohuna is central to the major population areas of Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook / Barham.

Travel and cost were raised as barriers for community and schools to access a proposed Kerang Indoor Pool. Students currently walk to swim classes. Also, Cohuna and Leitchville residents would prefer to travel to Echuca where they can access supermarkets, shops, schools and more options for medical specialists.

Kerang Community Group Representatives

The Kerang community groups representatives included the township, health and business representatives.

There was support for the strategic objectives that demonstrate the role pools play in supporting health and wellbeing and teaching children how to swim. There are 57 lakes and waterways in Gannawarra plus irrigation channels. It is critical the community has access to quality aquatic facilities and programs. There is also a high demand for learn to swim and therapy-based programs in Kerang.

The proposed indoor aquatic centre with program pool and health and fitness gym is supported and would benefit the area. Kerang people would go very regularly and attract high patronage. Communities outside Kerang already travel to Kerang because it is central and the service centre of Gannawarra Shire. The link with information centre, library and outdoor pool will deliver an integrated service / community / health and wellbeing hub that will help attract people to live, work and visit the area. There is an opportunity to link the facilities and programs with health services. The proposed facility would also support local sports club athletes and those with an injury for rehabilitation.

Liveability and viability are key considerations for Council. The proposed indoor aquatic centre has potential to deliver these benefits. The proposed pools in major population areas of Cohuna and Koondrook support liveability and viability of the Murray River and deliver tourism benefits.

Sadly, Quambatook and Leitchville must be considered separately. We need to support the liveability of small townships and the loss of a pool will be a blow. Our pools are places to cool off and a meeting place. However, decisions need to consider Council's ability to fund an aquatic service in the long-term financial plan. If they close incentives should be considered to help these communities access aquatic facilities and services. Incentives to tour operators could also encourage higher visitor use of our pools that will flow onto local businesses in townships.

Koondrook Community Group Representatives

The Koondrook community groups representatives included the township and pool committee representatives.

There was support for the strategic objectives that demonstrate the role pools play in supporting health and wellbeing and teaching children how to swim.

The group acknowledged the benefits of the proposed improvements to Koondrook and Council's support of retaining the pool as a valuable community asset to both Koondrook and Barham (border community). The improvements will diversify activities and address the asset condition issues. The design of the intermediate leisure water should be at a depth and temperature that supports primary school aged children. A beach entry and splash areas would be attractive to early years age groups.

The key objectives of the pool are to provide a welcoming place, a safe place to swim, a place to learn to swim and support health and fitness, a place to cool off in 40+ hot weather. It is important for the local kids to come to the pool after school and supports the schools swim classes in Koondrook and Barham. The pool attracts use by the high number of visitors to the area. There is a strong morning swimming contingent in Koondrook.

It is unlikely the community will travel to outdoor pools and the schools conduct learn to swim classes outside Koondrook. The community will likely travel to Kerang for indoor pool learn to swim and aqua aerobic and rehabilitation. They currently go to Kerang for other services like shopping and medical appointments.

The pool committee received funding from Murray River Council and Gannawarra Shire Council. Funding is 20% of the overall budget. Knowing the pool committee has funding means they can address maintenance improvements for the facility in the future. This needs to be guaranteed by Council

The pool committee are all volunteers and employ local kids as lifeguards in line with LSV requirements. Volunteers are trades people locally and do a great job maintaining and operating the pool. Meeting the LSV and water safety regulation is the pool committee's key concern because it has increased the obligations and responsibilities of volunteers. Council's expertise in operating pools and undertaking maintenance of water safety quality would be a helpful support to community. Trained and qualified staff could support volunteer groups and take this risk / liability out of the pool committee hands.

We don't want to see any pools closed because of the open channels and inland waterways. There were 164 drowning events last year (104 not fatal). The Murray River had 21 fatalities last year. A controlled, safe and supervised pool is important to manage this issue.

There is a high community spirit in Koondrook and we built, own and manage the community pool. It is not a Shire pool but the community appreciate the support of Council.

The equalisation of funding needs to be considered when considering resourcing townships in Gannawarra Shire. All we ask for is a fair share to maintain our community assets so our community can enjoy the social and health benefits our pool delivers.

The Koondrook community is growing and there are strategies supporting growth and new residential developments proposed. Club Barham is investing in new development aimed at attracting people to live in Koondrook and Barham. We need to invest in our community assets to provide for our community and encourage Council to look at a 15 to 30 year timeframe.

Leitchville Community Group Representatives

The Leitchville community groups representatives included the township group, business representatives, the pool committee and community members.

There was support for the strategic objectives that demonstrate the role pools play in supporting health and wellbeing and teaching children how to swim. However, the community groups do **not** support a centralised facility at Kerang and the loss of the Leitchville Outdoor Pool. They prefer a decentralised model where people can access pools locally. Local pools are important to keeping people in small townships.

The community acknowledge the low patronage and condition of facility. However, it is an important community asset that brings our small township community together. It provides a refuge and place to cool down in hot temperatures (reach 40c) and a safe place that is supervised to swim. This is important because we live in a municipality with many inland waterways and open irrigation channels. The pool is a place for intergenerational play and we have new children and families in Leitchville that need a place to learn to swim. The pool also employs local young people as lifeguards. The pool is used by the two local schools for swim classes and the local football and netball club.

The pool was originally built by community because of a drowning. It is a memorial pool and the loss would be an insult to war veterans.

The low funding contribution by Council delivers significant benefits to the community. The pool runs at low cost by a committed group of volunteers within the community. The committee has identified supervision risks at the pool and employed lifeguards to meet LSV regulations. The community pays rates and invest a lot into running the pool. It is a service that should be subsidised to delivery social and health and wellbeing benefits.

Quambatook Community Group Representatives

The Quambatook community groups representatives included the township group and pool committee.

There was support for the strategic objectives that demonstrate the role pools play in supporting health and wellbeing and teaching children how to swim. However, the community groups do **not** support the loss of the Quambatook Outdoor Pool. Local pools are important to keeping people in small townships and this decision does not represent the needs of our community.

The community acknowledge the low patronage and condition of facility. However, it is an important community asset that brings our small township community together. It provides a refuge and place to cool down in hot temperatures (reach 40c) and a safe place that is supervised to swim. This is important because we live in a municipality with many inland waterways and open irrigation channels like the Quambatook open water area.

The pool supports water aerobics and fitness classes, primarily for the “mature women” in the community. It provides for local children from low-income families to swim. There are a lot of visitors to the caravan park that enjoy the pool. It delivers health and wellbeing benefits to our community where we have lost many places that have provided this. We have lost the school, tennis club and now the football and netball club. To lose the pool would have a significant impact on our small township.

The low funding contribution by Council delivers significant benefits to the community. The pool runs at low cost by a committed group of volunteers within the community. The committee acknowledges that lifeguarding / supervision is a risk at the pool. They don't currently employ lifeguards and meet LSV regulations. The community pays rates and invest a lot into running the pool. It is a service that should be subsidised to delivery social and health and wellbeing benefits.

4.2 Community Groups that don't have a Local Pool

Macorna Community Group Representatives

There was support for the strategic objectives that demonstrate the role pools play in supporting health and wellbeing and teaching children how to swim.

A new indoor aquatic facility is appealing to the Macorna community. It is a local economic opportunity that will be a “one stop shop” supporting fitness, training and wellbeing for the community. The Macorna community would travel to this facility. They currently travel to Swan Hill and Echuca for this benefit (outside the Shire). With increasing fuel costs its important there is a warm water facility within the Shire.

A centralised facility model in Kerang that supports the wider region would deliver economic, health and wellbeing benefits, it would be more sustainable to run and take pressure off the high obligation on volunteers running local community pools.

However, small local pools are gathering spaces that allow the community to connect socially. It is also cheap entertainment for families in hot days. If smaller pools could continue with conditions that they need to meet, such as number of attendances or meeting compliance requirements they should be supported.

Murrabit Community Group Representatives

There was support for the strategic objectives that demonstrate the role pools play in supporting health and wellbeing and teaching children how to swim. The objectives focus on providing accessible and inclusive facilities that meet current standards and allow for programs to meet the needs of community.

A new indoor aquatic facility would provide a year-round aquatic service that attracts a range of people from across a wide (regional) catchment through its multi-use design. It makes sense that the current function of the Kerang Exercise Pool is providing co-located with the Kerang Outdoor Pool to provide year round benefits and deliver a contemporary design that has the capacity and accessibility required of a warm water program pool. The pool provides for learn to swim for young children and older people and those with disabilities and injuries for aqua aerobics and rehabilitation. The current pool is used by residents in Murrabit and district.

The concept of a freeform integrated program pool and water park area in Cohuna appears to support increased tourism and visitor potential of the Cohuna Waterfront. It would be an attractive and contemporary facility that creates a point of difference and a visitor destination for families (locals and visitors).

The improvements to the Koondrook pool will increase tourism and visitor potential as well as the needs of the community.

We disagree with closing small township community pools at Leitchville and Quambatook. Small communities experience service inequity in many areas and we feel sadness when services that other small communities have worked hard to build and maintain over many years are threatened. We suggest Council demand that DELWP provide funding support to enable these pools to be brought up to standard and that Council continue to contribute financially.

The Murrabit community has a direct interest in improving facilities and services at Kerang (service centre) and Koondrook (nearby township). They are visited and used by the Murrabit community including our primary school and playgroup.

Murrabit is a Murray River community and along the river there are many creeks, irrigation channels and dams. We are a community that has no access to a public swimming pool and have to travel to access aquatic facilities in neighbouring towns, particularly Kerang, Swan Hill and Koondrook. Our school's swimming program is in Kerang and Koondrook pool hosts our interschool swimming. Travelling comes at a significant cost, however it is important children have a safe place to learn to swim and survive in water. We suggest transport options / incentives could be considered as part of the aquatic strategy for older people and schools.

Funding equity needs to be considered when considering resourcing townships in Gannawarra Shire. Funding should enable equity in accessing services like participation and inclusion in aquatic programs.

4.3 Health Agencies

Avenue Health

The indoor pool in Kerang is a significant need for the whole community. The proposed facility with warm water program pool and health and fitness gym will help our community maintain healthy condition and support rehabilitation programs. The current health status of the Gannawarra community is terrible. An indoor pool is a necessity to addressing these concerns in the future.

Swimming development all year round is missing in our community and an important objective of the Strategy should be to provide a service year-round. Disability groups and current clients (particularly our older people) of Avenue Health require this service. They currently have very limited access and use through the Kerang Exercise Pool. Accessibility and size of this pool is an issue.

People will travel to a warm water program pool in Kerang during the winter months. Kerang has the largest population and small communities feed into Kerang as the service centre of Gannawarra. This will be a popular facility once available to the community.

We would like to see a smaller rehabilitation pool in addition to the new 25m warm water program pool. Look at broader usage items including NDIS.

Retaining pools in small townships would be good. Can we afford to keep small township community pools open longer term?

Cohuna Hospital

Agree that an indoor pool is needed in Gannawarra. Prefer that this is provided in Cohuna however if in Kerang, Cohuna clients will use it. They already travel to the Kerang Exercise Pool for warm water exercise. We expect there will be a debate on whether this facility should be in Kerang or Cohuna.

Key questions we ask are: Is there a return on investment in building an indoor pool 20min away (i.e. in Kerang)? There are significant standards and cost in running a warm water pool, is it viable? Hydrotherapy is not viable in Cohuna with the current numbers.

The current minimum standard of facility for Cohuna should be the current outdoor cold-water pool. We would be upset if the pool was taken away and not replaced. There is a tourism advantage for Cohuna if an outdoor pool is provided in an attractive location i.e., waterfront.

Key drivers for aquatic services in Gannawarra include: a place for health promotion, we are water-based communities that require safe places to swim and learn how to swim, obesity prevention, a place for rehabilitation – there are a high number of hip and joint issues within community.

Access is difficult for some in the Cohuna community. There is **no** public transport between Cohuna and Kerang. This should be considered in developing final strategic directions.

Kerang District Health

The indoor pool in Kerang is needed and will be embraced by the community. We are already seeing significant frustration in the Kerang community of the lack of a contemporary warm water program pool and health and fitness gym. It makes most sense to provide the indoor pool in Kerang with the largest population and health services.

KDH need more program space to support physiotherapy and exercise physiology. KDH is investing in the service for brokerage and outpatient services. There is a high need for water therapy within Kerang and the current 1.5hrs a week at the Kerang Exercise Pool is insufficient and not sustainable. Without a new indoor pool in Kerang, this service is unviable.

In addition, social support programming that the hospital provides to clients is now over 100 older people in Kerang alone. KDH would like to expand the program and there is a high need for mobilisation programs that would use the indoor warm water program pool and health and fitness gym.

Kerang District Health service Murrabit, Koondrook and Kerang (District nursing demographic). We can see the clients would travel to this facility. There are GP clinics in Kerang with lots of people already travelling to Kerang for services.

Affordability is an operational consideration for a new indoor pool. The design of the facility and programming needs to be more accessible than what is provided currently.

KDH vision is to expand therapies and social support services. This is only possible with a new year round indoor aquatic centre with contemporary warm water program pool and health and fitness gym.

Northern District Community Health

The indoor pool in Kerang is needed but we have concerns about the potential closure of community pools in small townships.

NDCH is concerned about the travel costs for lower social-economic groups in small townships and the resulting impact on health and wellbeing. Also, they will be less likely to access safe aquatic facilities. Providing an affordable facility is important for all segments of the community to access and use.

The indoor aquatic centre would be used regularly for physiotherapy and allied health services. There is an opportunity to support Boort and Pyramid Hill areas in addition to Gannawarra communities.

The Kerang Exercise Pool is inaccessible. A contemporary accessible warm water program pool is needed. This is important for older residents and for rehabilitation.

If Council decides not to close the community outdoor pools, the community should support the indoor pool at Kerang because it will provide a year-round aquatic and leisure service that will support allied health services. The Gannawarra community needs to add this to our community facilities to support youth activities and the liveability and health outcomes for the broader community. It will support water safety with additional access to learn to swim programs.

The indoor pool in Kerang and a new outdoor pool in Cohuna will support tourism and encourage more people to use facilities.

Baptcare Northhaven

BN is very supportive of an indoor aquatic centre in Kerang. There is a strong need for warm water program pool and health and fitness gym in Gannawarra Shire.

There is currently no accessibility to the small Kerang Exercise Pool which is impacting the usage for residents requiring a warm water program pool for exercise and rehabilitation.

We need to provide therapies for BN clients who are disadvantaged by not having a year-round water water program service. We would book permanent weekly timeslots in a new facility at Kerang, opening-up new programming opportunities that are **not** available now. Exercise is really important for BN residents with medical conditions.

Our community will be in favour of an indoor aquatic centre. Our children need it. There are many children with disabilities in our community that would benefit as well as older adults for rehabilitation.

For BN, the workload to get people to an indoor pool at Cohuna wouldn't work because it can take us 1hr just to get our residents dressed for transport to a pool. The facility needs to be located in Kerang to service our BN community.

Dementia Australia could support design elements of a new indoor aquatic centre.

An added benefit of an indoor aquatic centre is that it would bring professionals to the community. It is a selling point.

Affordability is an operational consideration for a new indoor aquatic centre. Our residents don't have money. The design of the facility and programming needs to be accessible.

4.4 Schools

Barham High School

It is attractive to have an indoor aquatic centre on the doorstep and the school is very supportive of the proposed upgrades at the Koondrook Outdoor Pool. It is an important facility that provides for our school swim lessons and the Barham community attend the pool outside school hours.

The school is unlikely to travel to Kerang due to travel cost and loss in student class time (timetabling concerns). The Koondrook Outdoor Pool is ideally located for BHS school swim program and carnivals (February).

Barham Public School

Support retaining and upgrading the Koondrook Outdoor Pool. It is an important facility that provides for our school swim lessons and the Barham community attend the pool outside school hours.

The school is unlikely to travel to Kerang due to travel cost and loss in student class time (timetabling concerns). The Koondrook Outdoor Pool is ideally located for BPS school swim program (intensive two week program just before Christmas) and carnivals (February). Our current learn to swim program has one bus rotation to the pool and back for each class. It works well.

The broader community will travel to the proposed Kerang indoor aquatic centre for a year-round access to a warm water program pool.

Access to a local pool is important for townships with rivers.

Cohuna Consolidated School

The CCS does **not** support the closure of pools in small townships. We have students from Leitchville that would be impacted. Closures of pools will affect the wellbeing of current students. They are community hubs.

A new pool in Cohuna needs to be designed to support the school learn to swim program. We are pleased that the old pool will continue to operate until a new pool is built. It is definitely needed to support families in Cohuna. Consider heating the outdoor pool to extend season and there is a need for green space to reduce the very hot temperatures in the Summer season. The school would like to use the pool up until Easter.

The school is unlikely to travel to Kerang due to travel cost and loss in student class time (timetabling concerns). A pool locally is required to address this concern. It will provide for CCS school swim program and carnivals. Our current learn to swim program has one bus rotation to the pool and back for each class.

We support an indoor aquatic centre in Gannawarra. Our preference is to have one locally in Cohuna, but one even at Kerang will have broader community benefits. The school is willing to program swim classes across the year as opposed to intensive programs in summer terms.

Cohuna Secondary School

The CSS support a new indoor pool in Cohuna and do **not** support the closure of pools in small townships. We don't have an opinion on the proposed improvements in Kerang and Koondrook.

CSS has had to travel to Echuca when the Cohuna Outdoor Pool was closed. This has come at significant cost to the school. The school is unlikely to travel to Kerang due to travel cost and loss in student class time (timetabling concerns). A pool locally is required to address this concern. The pool needs to be designed to support the school learn to swim program. It will provide for CSS school swim program and carnivals. Our current learn to swim program has one bus rotation to the pool and back for each class.

Local pools provide families in the community with a safe place to swim. It's a gathering place and offers social connections.

Kerang Christian College

KCC support the idea of an indoor aquatic centre in Kerang and provide a year round service locally.

It would be difficult to see small townships lose the outdoor pools but we need to be realistic about the long term costs of pools and our ability to fund them into the future.

The indoor pool will allow low impact exercise and rehabilitation and learn to swim programs year round. A straw pool of students at the school were highly supportive of an indoor aquatic facility in Kerang. Learn to swim programs should be offered year round.

The school community already travel to Swan Hill for indoor warm water programs. If provided in Kerang, people will should be willing to travel for this essential service.

Our school would look at different program times through the year. A heated pool complex would allow for flexibility in the delivery and timeframe of swim lessons. It is difficult to book at Kerang Outdoor Pool and many schools need to fit classes into a small space of time in the year. It would also allow higher swim levels to train at other times of the year. A small pool with shallower depth would be an advantage for those younger students that are fearful of water. This is missing from the outdoor pool. An indoor aquatic centre would change our teaching program and ensure more access to swim programs for primary and secondary students is available.

Many students are competitive swimming and qualify for regional swimming events. As the outdoor pool closes in March and events are held up to May each year, students are missing training or having to travel many hours each week to train. These events are held indoors against students that have access to year-round facilities. The lack of a year round pool is restricting the potential of our local swimmers.

Kerang Primary School

KPS support an indoor aquatic centre in Kerang. Schools love the indoor year-round aquatic centre at Echuca. Larger indoor centres are better for schools to balance timetables.

School lessons at indoor pools build pathways for students to attend weekly private lessons. It will also increase usage opportunities such as lap swimming and aqua aerobics. KPS would implement a new learn to swim program year round. There would be easier access and we would go more often. It is difficult to book at Kerang Outdoor Pool and many schools need to fit classes into a small space of time in the year.

Our swim program includes water safety, an end of year excursion and a nine-day intensive swim program in February. Regional school swimming carnivals are held in February. We currently employ instructors outside the school.

There are many outdoor waterways in Gannawarra. It is critical we have access to an indoor aquatic facility that can provide year-round learn to swim programs to our children.

You can be passionate about your local community pool in small townships, but you need to support them through attendance. They need to be cost effective and in the long term may not be viable. Now, many people have private pools at home and don't go to the small outdoor pools as often as we did in the past. If they are not being well patronised then we need to consider their future.

Kerang South Primary School

It is important our aquatic facilities cater for the needs of schools across the municipality including learn to swim programs and school carnivals.

We need an indoor aquatic centre. The nearest year-round aquatic facilities are in Swan Hill and Echuca. If provided there will be year-round learn to swim classes and a pathway to elite swimming. This facility is an opportunity to build better health and wellbeing outcomes within the community for all ages (young and old). A lot of people are traveling to larger centres for warm water pools and would travel if the facility is built in Kerang. "I would bring my disabled daughter to the warm water program pool in school holidays from Barham".

Outdoor pools are dependent on weather where school classes can be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Small township communities value their local assets (community pool). It is a summer holiday destination for families.

It is difficult to book at Kerang Outdoor Pool. The current programming of KSPS swimming program would change. We currently run 50 children at once and it's a challenge to fit it in the Kerang outdoor pool in a small window. There is an opportunity to spread this out over a longer period with access to a year-round facility. The warmer water would be appreciated for young students.

Koondrook Primary School

KPS we value in a new indoor aquatic facility in Kerang. Currently families are travelling from Koondrook to Swan Hill for indoor lessons. Warm water is more comfortable for swimming lessons, particularly for primary school aged children and younger. An indoor pool in Kerang will be utilised by the Koondrook community in cooler months.

We need to have strong learn to swim programs across the Shire due to the many inland waterways such as lakes, rivers and dams. Outdoor pools are important to the community and therefore the local community pools should be retained. The cost of petrol is a big concern to travel. Some families don't have transport options outside their townships and should not miss out on the significant benefits our pools provide.

KPS support the retaining the Koondrook Outdoor Pool. Getting access to the Koondrook pool is becoming a challenge because we are competing with Barham schools for times. Most of our lessons are in December and the swimming carnival held in February. We hold the Cluster swimming carnival at Koondrook Swimming Pool (Gunbower, Leitchville, Murrabit, Koondrook). We currently take one class at a time (walking) to cope with lessons at KPS. This is to ensure appropriate teacher ratios.

Kerang Technical High School

We need to make decisions that will benefit our community into the long term future. The old facilities are requiring funding that could be used to support a new indoor aquatic centre that will deliver a range of programs (expanded and new).

The local community pools in small townships don't have the population base. They are important to small communities but we need to be realistic about the cost and the decline in our small township populations.

A new indoor aquatic centre will create more opportunities for timetabling the KTHS swimming program. It is strongly supported across our school networks. It would be used year-round by the school and the student community will have access to more programs that improve health and wellbeing. The cost of the indoor aquatic centre needs to be affordable.

The new facility will be more attractive to the community and creates a point of difference for Kerang. Providing year round learn to swim programs for children and warm water therapy programs for our ageing community is important. We think Cohuna and Koondrook residents will travel to Kerang to access a warm water pool in colder months.

Leitchville Primary School

The LPS does **not** support the closure of Leitchville Outdoor Pool. The community values this facility. The community is surrounded by water in creeks and challenges. The pool provides a safe place for the community swim. The community often understand the economic challenges but don't want to lose their pool because of the social and wellbeing benefits.

LPS use the Leitchville Outdoor Pool for three weeks last season with Gunbower Primary School. None of the school teachers are qualified so this is important for water safety / awareness. The school receives sporting schools funding each term which allows the school to access the Echuca indoor pool each term for swimming lessons with qualified swimming instructors.

The school may travel to an indoor aquatic centre in Kerang for the swimming program because we receive funding for travel costs and already travel to Echuca. However, a pool locally is required for our students and community.

St Joseph's Primary School

SJPS would be support a new indoor aquatic centre but would be disappointed to lose all the outdoor pools. They provide value in going to cool off in the summer for small township communities. However, a lot of the community now have private pools and it needs to be feasible to retain the outdoor pools. People need to be prepared to use them.

An indoor aquatic facility with warm water program pool is a bonus for the community. It's easy for Kerang to support as it is local and will deliver high community value.

The school will continue to use the outdoor pool for swimming lessons and are unlikely to change the timetable with an indoor pool. It will be easier to package swimming into one block for the school rather than spreading it out over the year.

People are more mobile today and travel for services. The Swan Hill Aquatic Centre is an example where people travel from Gannawarra Shire to access this facility and other services.

St Mary's School

Kerang makes economically and strategically the most sense to have an indoor year round aquatic centre based on the current facilities in the region including Swan Hill and Echuca. SMS would expect a seasonal pool in Cohuna for school swimming lessons.

Walking the students to a Cohuna outdoor pool saves significant cost. SMS would be unlikely to use the Kerang pools due to the cost of travel.

It is important to encourage people to "get away" from devices. It is becoming a problem with our children / students. The pool provides health, physical and social benefits to people and communities. We are doing a disservice to our next generation if we don't provide aquatic facilities and services.

4.5 Swim Clubs and Aquatic Service Providers

Kerang Swim Club

KSC supports a new indoor aquatic centre in Kerang. The proposal will support waders (13 hours each week) with 103 participants (preschool). The current facility doesn't cater well for primary school programs. There is a very high demand for learn to swim classes and we are turning participants away. A year-round warm water program pool is essential to expand this program and meet demand.

The warm water program pool will also support therapy-based programs. The existing Kerang Exercise Pool is too small and not fit for purpose and inaccessible. None of the pools have accessibility!

There is a current conflict of use based on very high demand for learn to swim and aqua aerobics / therapy-based programs. The current program pool draws from a regional catchment – southwest zone (Loddon area). Outside Kerang users, about 10% of waders are from Loddon, 10% from Cohuna and 10% from Barham.

The club also support the improvements to the outdoor lap pools.

The club supports would support a pool at varied depth to support water familiarisation to primary age swim classes and squad swimming year-round. They don't currently have this opportunity.

The summer season is too short. Gannawarra swimmers can't compete against communities that have year-round access to a swimming pool. They have to rediscover performance. It is a huge commitment by families if they are to travel to indoor facilities for training outside Gannawarra Shire. It is 45min to Swan Hill Leisure Centre and 1hr to Echuca. It is too far.

The club is run by volunteers and support swim club squads and learn to swim program. There are 134 participants and now capped because of ratios (15 to a group). The learn to swim program involves three groups in intermediate

and three groups in 50m pool each session. There are five to 30 squad members each training sessions. The program is designed using LSV, Austswim and Club progression point programs. Club has succession planning for trainers.

An indoor aquatic centre means we can continue no matter the weather conditions. Cold weather and lighting mean the pool closes and interrupts programming. The cold temperatures in the pools also lead to a drop off in usage.

Participants that are involved in swim club and learn to swim classes are physically fitter.

The proposal provides an integrated service with information centre and library. The town needs an information centre. This needs to support information centre that connects with a heated pool and library service. This would benefit the region. Mildura Alfred Deakin Centre is an example of the potential opportunity for Kerang and Gannawarra Shire.

The short season means the Kerang Swim Club are locked out of Swimming Victoria events in next two years. We can't bid for these events because of the short comings of the current facility. We are located centrally to the region and therefore an ideal location. If an indoor aquatic centre is provided, there is an opportunity to attract these events and generate a local economic benefit because it brings high number of visitors and participants to the area.

Cohuna Water Aerobics Instructor

Concerned about the loss of the Cohuna Pool. It is important private providers of learn to swim and aqua aerobics in the area have access to a program pool in Cohuna.

Current users enjoy doing water aerobics in the Cohuna Pool. The current pool is the perfect size for aqua aerobics (1.3m depth). It is important the future design of a Cohuna Pool has privacy for aerobic participants in changing spaces. Access to the current Cohuna Pool has been good and well supported by Council.

Concerned about the financial viability of an indoor aquatic centre if located in Cohuna.

5. Community Drop-In Session Findings

Community drop-in sessions were held in the following townships and times. The purpose of the drop-in sessions was to:

- Listen to community views on the proposed aquatic strategy
- Clarify information presented in the strategy
- Encourage participants to enter views via the online survey.

Township	Date and times	Location
Quambatook	23 rd June – 12noon – 2.00pm	Quambatook Swimming Pool
Kerang	23 rd June – 3.00pm – 5.00pm	Kerang Swimming Pool
Cohuna	23 rd June – 6.30pm – 8.30pm	Cohuna Meeting Room, Shire Office
Koondrook	24 th June – 9.00am – 10.30am	Koondrook Swimming Pool
Leitchville	24 th June – 11.00am – 1.00pm	Leitchville Swimming Pool

This section summarises the key themes and comments raised at each community drop-in session.

5.1 Quambatook Drop-In Session

Key themes and comments:

- The pool is too important to the community. The community has lost the tennis club, football and netball club. The pool is the central place for community connection and provides a refuge from heat during the excessive summer days.
- Quambatook is within a farming district where mental health issues are a significant concern. Providing a social and active place for people to connect is an important ingredient to responding to this issue
- The proposed Lalbert mine is an opportunity for the pool. It will be operational for 25 years. The Committee will engage with the mine operators for sponsorship and propose membership to employees
- The Quambatook community is an engaged and active community. More families are moving in and we need places for them to play
- The pool is an important place for women on farms to meet, socialise and be active. There is a weekly aqua aerobics program that is well attended. This is a priceless value to the Quambatook community and is an activity looked forward to by participants each week during the summer pool season
- The Committee's biggest challenge is meeting the Life Saving Victoria (LSV) requirements for life guarding. This is one the Committee is working on addressing and will seek advice and support from Council staff
- There was acceptance that a future plan should be considered in the long-term future. In the short to medium term the pool should remain open.

5.2 Kerang Drop-In Session

Key themes and comments:

- There is strong community support in Kerang for year round indoor pool with health and fitness gym in Kerang. It is needed to deliver education, fitness and therapy based programs. The current small warm water pool in town is unsuitable. A contemporary sized program pool that is accessible is essential

- Gannawarra Shires is one of the only municipalities of our size that does not have one. We have good services but the missing gap is a health and well-being service
- Our pools currently only provide for recreation and lap swimming. They are not program pools and spaces that can best support learn to swim, aqua aerobics, fitness and training, rehabilitation and strengthening programs
- Kerang is competing against Swan Hill for people to live in Gannawarra. They have an indoor aquatic centre. The facility is an important ingredient to attracting businesses to Kerang. More business will attract employment and encourage people to move to the municipality. The facility will attract professionals to the area and supports local businesses and health services in the service township of Gannawarra that has the biggest population
- Kerang is most central to Gannawarra and accessible to areas out to Murrabit and Lalbert that Cohuna will not be. It is the largest population area where we are the community service, business and health services centre of Gannawarra. Kerang has access to the most amount of schools and health services to the community. The population in Kerang is projected to double in the future. This will lead to more visits and a sustainable business model.
- The investment into this facility will deliver 10-fold in benefits to the community
- It will only get more expensive the longer we wait to build this facility.
- Support other local communities having access to pool. However also recognise the fiscal responsibility of Council in providing services and need to prioritise investment.

5.3 Cohuna Drop-In Session

Key themes and comments:

- There was support for the development of a concrete chlorinated pool that offers programs to the community. The pool is required to provide for learn to swim and aqua aerobics programs and school swim classes
- The lagoon / resort style pool concept was clarified at the meeting as a chlorinated pool that is freeform and can offer both a leisure pool and program pool experience. The pool would be fenced, and the community would pay for entry. There was **no** support for the lagoon / resort style pool concept. There were concerns about wind and dust problem on shallow, site lines in lagoon wall, shallow water for kids is only one need, deeper water for lap swimming and swim classes important, water birds will be attracted. There is already a resort pool provided at caravan park for visitors
- There is a preference for the traditional rectangle pool that can support lap swimming, learn to swim and aqua aerobic programs. Support a traditional pool that is 25m and 8 lanes plus better amenities. The pool needs a five or six lanes for swim classes, 26c and need depth at "adult nipple height" for aqua aerobics, and a slide for older kids / adventure. The slide is a great attractor to Cohuna and in return brings visitors / people to local businesses
- The community want to see a pool that caters for the whole town. This would mean a program pool and leisure / water slide is provided. Consider solar to deliver a heated pool complex whether indoor or outdoor. This would enable a warm water program pool for families, schools and older adults. "The oldies would enjoy warm water programs". Swim classes and aqua aerobics are important functions that need to be maintained locally. Year round access to a warm water program pool is important for rehabilitation.
- Cohuna is the visitor destination of Gannawarra and central to the major population areas of Kerang and Koondrook/Barham and Leitchville. There is community support for the indoor pool in Cohuna
- There are a lot of morning swimmers this past season. A competition length pool is needed.
- Schools prefer local access to pools due to cost of travel and time out of class. "We can't afford to take kids outside town"
- Support for the pool in current location or an alternative location that is **not** Apex Park. It would be overcrowded at Apex Park. People enjoy the vistas of the current location. It is a pleasant and attractive place to swim and gather. It is off street and protected.

- There has been concerns about proximity to Gunbower Creek. There has been erosion impact on the current pool. The recent support works along Gunbower Creek side should address the structural concerns in the short term
- Travel cost is too expensive to access a pool in Kerang. We need a pool locally. Families and older adults would like to do year-round classes (learn to swim and aqua aerobics), but are unlikely to travel to Kerang.
- The population size of Cohuna is growing since COVID-19. The Strategy reports on figures prior to COVID-19. We need to use the current figures that justify a new pool in Cohuna.
- There was community support to retain pool at is. It offers good programs, swim club and slide and swim carnivals. They should be able to access these services locally. "We can't afford not to". Schools would like to use it more often. "We subsidise pools because it is needed and offers a high community and health benefit".
- The community are interested in expanding the pool area, not reducing it. We need to make it more appealing for people to use. It is acknowledged that the current pool is old and needs to be renewed. Consider design options to renew the current pool, prioritise and stage development. "We need to spend money for a facility we need for next 50 years". "Explore solution to keep as is so our children and grandchildren can receive the same benefit we did when kids"
- Design should adjust to climate change – use innovation and extend the season to extend benefits
- The community was disappointed with pool closures due to challenges with lifeguarding last season
- There are operational concerns with lifeguarding Cohuna Beach
- Access to other services is a consideration when locating aquatic programs and services
- There are 40-50 private pools in the Shire. "We don't need to be the Taj Mahal with spas and saunas and water parks".
- "Tourists do not pay for pools, the community pays and we should get what we want"
- Consider multipurpose opportunity with bowls and tennis facilities
- Key drivers for the pool are the safety of our kids and health of community. The design of the pool needs to promote healthy lifestyles in our towns (locally). We want to keep our people in our towns and a community pool is an important ingredient to doing this
- If the draft strategy's recommendation is adopted, it feels like we (community) are losing something.

5.4 Koondrook Drop-In Session

Key themes and comments:

- Volunteer fatigue is a key concern of the Committee. Recently the President passed away that had a high knowledge on how to maintain water quality at the pool. We have struggled with attracting volunteers including attracting mature age lifeguards. The LSV lifeguard requirements are making it hard and we believe this should be tailored to the pool environment as opposed to a blanket rule. Council staff to forward concern to LSV. It is a big commitment to get qualification- travel, cost. Subsidy opportunity.
- The community can't afford to lose the pool. It is too important for learn to swim for kids. We have in land waters and they need to swim to navigate these waters safely
- The pool primary caters for toddlers to 14 years and families. Swim club (40-50 members), Vicswim program, aqua groups, four schools (three on Barham and one Koondrook). The high school use the pool for school carnivals
- Koondrook is a growing community with new development. The community is attracting retirees and young families. The pool is important for learn to swim, health and fitness, social community gathering point in summertime
- Koondrook is a high visitor destination and the pool is an attractor. There is no pool at caravan park.
- It gets very hot in Koondrook and the pool offers a cool refuge

- It is crucial community has ongoing support from Council. If Council funding removed, it would make it difficult to maintain if removed
- There is a concern about the capacity of the Kerang pool to support all school lessons. Koondrook and Cohuna pools are important to support the Kerang pool for this function
- We lack a warm water program pool year-round in Gannawarra. The Kerang location makes sense. It is central, largest population and has access to community, business and health services. The facility already supports learn to swim, swim clubs and therapy. The Koondrook community already travel one day a week for services
- An idea the Committee has is reciprocal right membership across all pools
- Community group has access to funding grants to progress improvements.

5.5 Leitchville Drop-In Session

- The pool is a memorial pool that was built by community
- The pool represents more than just programs. Pool is important part of social community fabric. We don't want Council to take it away from our community. Leitchville is a hot place and we need a cool place of refuge. The pool is important and enriching community place and recreation place, a gathering place. Our community has families and seniors and providing programs locally is important to us. The pool supports swim classes from local school. Seniors want to exercise in a local pool
- The community pool has saved a lot of lives in our community with inland waters (channels). If we don't have a regulated place to swim and learn we will have drownings again. Safety is priority. It is a regulated safe place to swim with a lifeguard. Water quality in the creeks and channels are poor and unsafe. "My son was dragged through the weir. We want kids to have a safe place to swim".
- The community welcomes new people and Council could do more to support the community. You have to work hard for simple things. We need to attract people and visitors to the town. This is an important place for community, exercise, learn to swim.
- Maintenance of the pool is a concern. The new kiosk and toilets, new lights at the pool is a great asset to the community.
- Council rates should be directed to pool service in Leitchville. There are concerns about how Council is spending rates and not directing them to community services. "How much rates (\$) are collected and how much comes (%) back in services. We want our fair share". Cohuna and Kerang get high amount of money to improve assets but Leitchville receive very little
- Strategy seems like Council is just looking at this from a financial lens as opposed to social, health, safety, community and economic lens. We have generations of kids and families that have enjoyed the benefits of the pool and we would like future generations to enjoy the same benefits.

6. Community Survey Findings

The purpose of the community survey was to receive feedback on what key stakeholders liked and disliked about the strategy

This section summarises the results from the community survey including key themes from comments made for and against the strategic direction. **Appendix 2** includes all comments made by individual respondents as part of their survey response.

6.1 Community Survey Response

There were **520 community survey** responses received between June and August 2022. The following section profiles the respondents to the survey.

The survey is **not** a stratified sample.

For those that responded, 82 respondents were male, 230 were female, two respondents answered "other" and 13 preferred not to specify.

There was a wide cross section of ages represented. Most respondents were between the ages of 35 and 64 years (197 responses). The chart below shows the age categories of respondents.

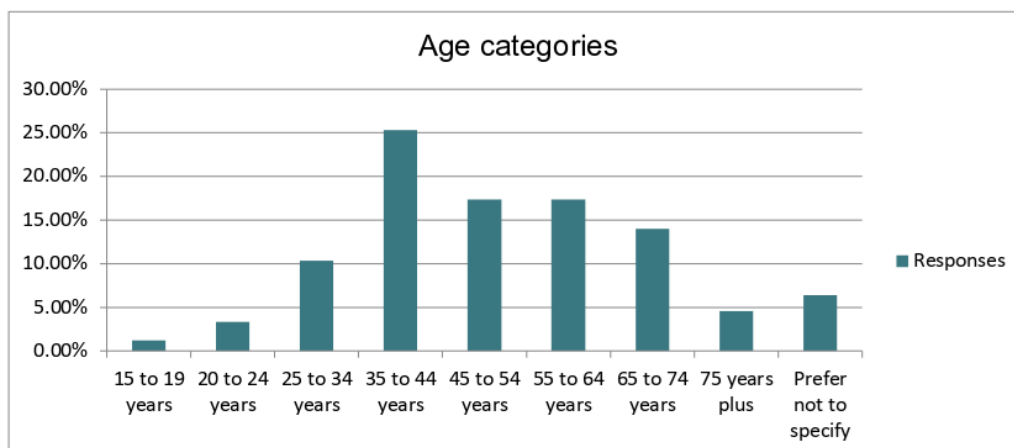


Figure 2: Survey age categories

There were 25 communities represented from where respondents lived. The top five townships were from townships that have a pool in their community and include Cohuna (107 responses), Kerang (91 responses), Leitchville (40 responses), Quambatook (12 responses) and Koondrook (9 responses).

6.2 On Community Survey Results

Question 1: Have you read the Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy?

Of the 520 responses, 421 respondents had read the Draft Strategy and 99 had not.

Question 2: Do you agree with the Strategy objectives?

Of the 340 responses received, 107 respondents agreed, 41 neither agree nor disagree, 136 disagreed and 114 required further information before responding.

The following reasons were given for respondents that **agree** with the Strategy objectives:

- The indoor pool is needed (13)
- The proposed developments will be good for tourism (5).

The following key reasons were given for respondents that **disagree** with the Strategy objectives:

- Keep the Cohuna Pool (50)
- Keep and upgrade all the pools (16)
- Travel concerns and need for pools in local community (21)
- Safety concerns for kids and elderly if they don't have access to pools in local community (21).

"The way the objectives are written it all sounds agreeable, however upon further diving into the strategy directions it becomes disagreeable as the recommendations do not meet the expectations of the Cohuna/Leitchville/Quambatook residents."

Question 3: Do you support the development of an integrated indoor aquatic facility at the Kerang Outdoor Pool?

Of the 354 responses received, 169 respondents agreed, 33 neither agree nor disagree, 152 disagreed and 170 required further information before responding.

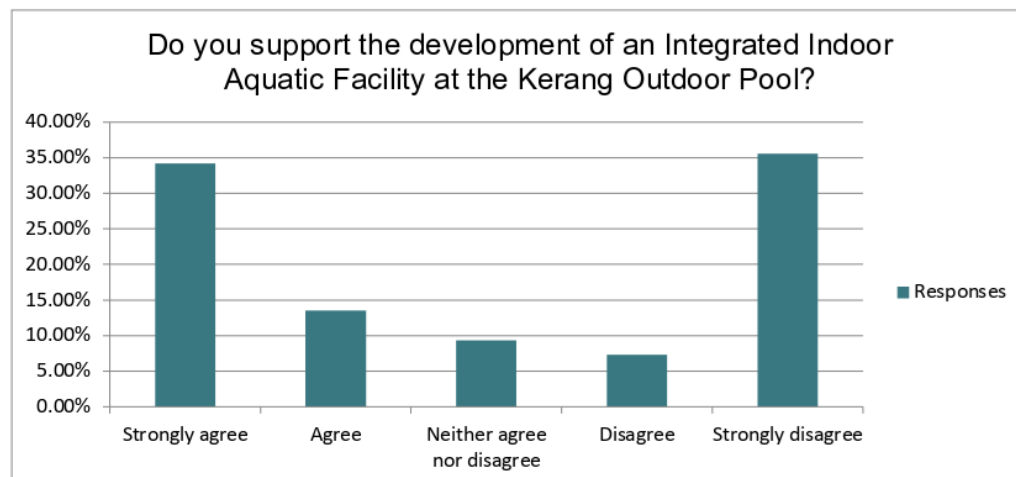


Figure 3: Level of support for an integrated aquatic facility at Kerang Outdoor Pool

The following key reasons were given **for (agree)** an integrated aquatic facility at Kerang Outdoor Pool:

- It will be good for Kerang and is the most central town in Gannawarra (24)
- It will be good for young and old people offering programs for learn to swim, therapy and health and fitness (10)
- An indoor pool will be good for tourism (8).

"Great location, and swimming services would be accessible all year round."

"It isn't financially viable to have this in any other town but Kerang due to population and conveniences."

"The ongoing benefits of an all-year facility would see increased usage and development of aquatic skills. It also increased tourism options for visitors."

The following key reasons were given **against (disagree)** an integrated aquatic facility at Kerang Outdoor Pool:

- Don't want to travel outside local community and will be too costly (53)
- An indoor pool is not needed (48)
- An indoor pool should not be provided at the expense of other pools (39).

"No, because it is at the expense of the other aquatic facilities. This proposal misunderstands the needs of the different communities in the shire."

"Ratepayers cannot afford to pay \$1/2m pa for a facility that services 1 town. People won't travel 30 minutes to swim. Kids will end up swimming in dangerous waterways."

Question 4: Do you support the closure of the Kerang Exercise Pool?

Of the 354 responses received, 144 respondents agreed, 93 neither agree nor disagree, 117 disagreed and 118 required further information before responding.

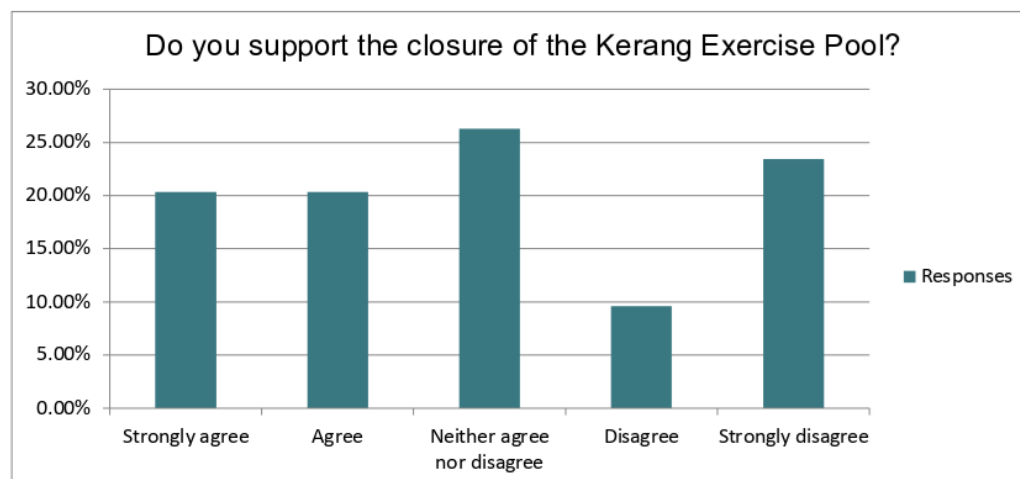


Figure 4: Level of support for closing the Kerang Exercise Pool

The following key reasons were given **for (agree)** closing the Kerang Exercise Pool:

- Support a contemporary sized warm water program pool (29)
- Consolidating the warm water pool with the Kerang Outdoor Pool at one location makes sense (7)
- Too small (5)

"Need a larger heated pool to cater from young to old and for many reasons e.g., rehab, people with disabilities. A facility all in one spot also bring people to the community."

"Yes, close the old, heated pool if you make a new larger indoor heated pool. if you are replacing it with the same size heated pool next to a cold indoor pool don't waste the money."

"Makes sense if building an integrated facility."

The following key reasons were given **against (disagree)** closing the Kerang Exercise Pool:

- Maintain the current facility to support those who need a dedicated exercise pool (34)
- Support retaining all current pools (20)
- Travel and cost of accessing a warm water program pool is a concern (18).

"Keep it as it is and upgrade pools that need doing. Other residents in the shire pay rates as well."

"It's there, set up and running and a benefit to those needing hydrotherapy/low impact exercise. Leave it there and keep using it and don't build anything new."

"No reason to close a working facility when there are others that need repair or replacement"

Question 5: Do you support the development of an outdoor integrated program pool and water park at Cohuna Pool?

Of the 354 responses received, 131 respondents agreed, 41 neither agree nor disagree, 182 disagreed and 149 required further information before responding.

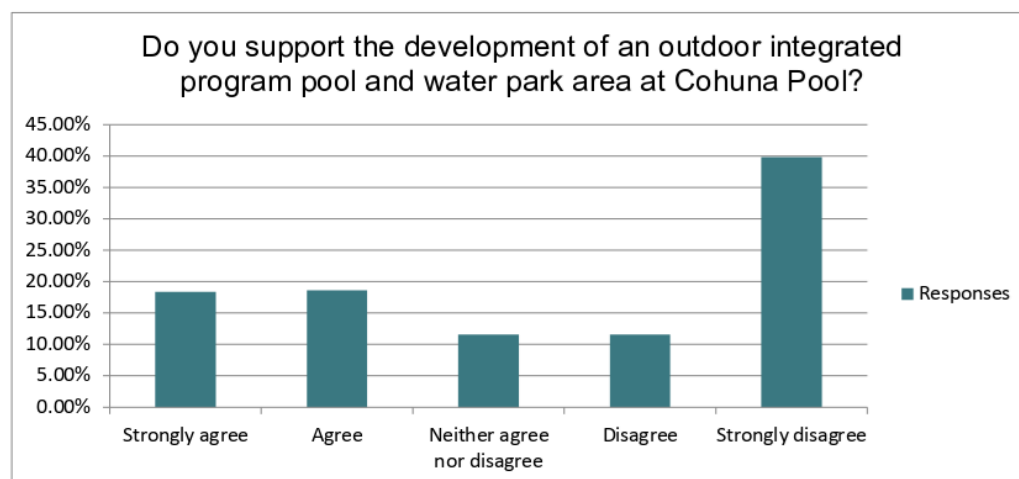


Figure 5: Level of support for an outdoor integrated program pool and water park at Cohuna Pool

The following key reasons were given **for (agree)** an outdoor integrated program pool and water park at Cohuna Pool:

- Good idea for the families and young people in community (17)
- Attractive place that supports tourism (3).

"What a beautiful nature, secluded option to use through the summer months. With lower maintenance"

"This development would be excellent for our town, and it is essential that Cohuna maintains facilities for swimming lessons. Location is very important."

The following key reasons were given **against (disagree)** an outdoor integrated program pool and water park at Cohuna Pool:

- Dislike lagoon concept and support traditional pool that can be programmed, support lap swimming with a water slide for Cohuna (82)
- It not safe for children (23)
- Travel and cost of accessing a traditional pool in Kerang is a concern (5).

"No, if it is at the expense of a fully operational swimming pool that can be used for swimming programs, school classes and school carnivals."

"Cohuna requires a proper pool (same as what they have now). Koondrook requires the same as Cohuna. It's a very hot climate in summer and we have to ensure ratepayers have safe, supervised and proper pools in their hometown."

"NO NO NO. This will not be of benefit to Cohuna. We need pools to swim, relax and learn how to swim, how does a lagoon do this? We already have beautiful parks with playgrounds and open-air dining areas. New pools and slide to replace old one. It has been used and enjoyed for years by locals, tourists and out of Towners, why change it?"

"It would be just a splash and paddle about area. The pool is needed by schools and learn to swim classes. The pool was built to save drownings in the creeks!"

Question 6: Do you support the development of a leisure pool and water play area at Koondrook Outdoor Pool?

Of the 354 responses received, 168 respondents agreed, 116 neither agree nor disagree, 70 disagreed and 88 required further information before responding.

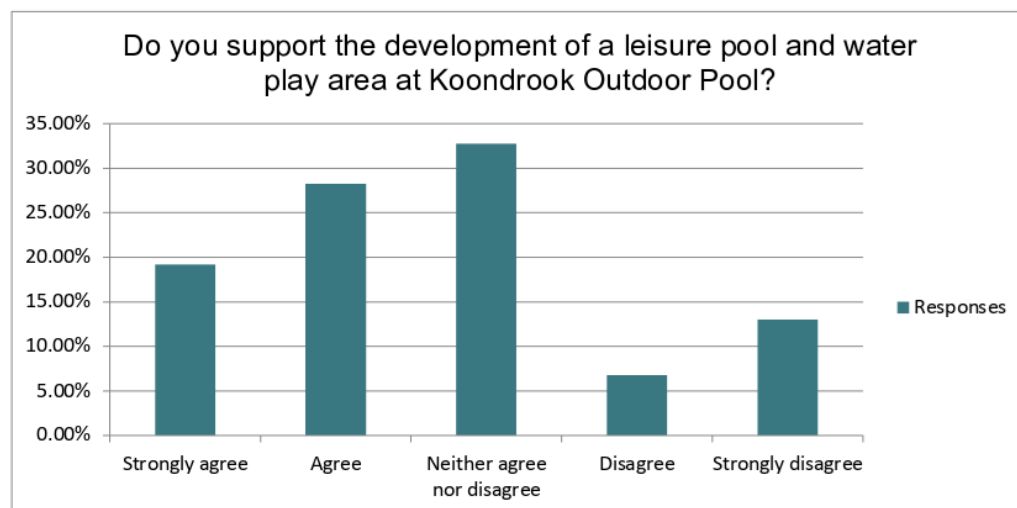


Figure 6: Level of support for the development of a leisure pool and water play area at Koondrook Outdoor Pool

The following key reasons were given **for (agree)** the development of a leisure pool and water play area at Koondrook Outdoor Pool:

- Support improvements that provide a fun place for toddlers and children to learn to swim and water safety skills (25)
- Draw card for young families to visit the region that is good for tourism (1).

"Koondrook is a key area for tourist growth this could be a draw card for young families to visit the region"

The following key reasons were given **against (disagree)** the development of a leisure pool and water play area at Koondrook Outdoor Pool:

- The main pool and intermediate pool is needed for learn to swim (19)
- Koondrook should keep their pool (17).

"In favour of developing the small pools/play area but need to keep a suitable pool for toddlers/small children to learn to swim in; water safety skills are especially important for a town located on the Murray River."

Question 7: Do you think you will visit one of these facilities if they are constructed?

Of the 354 responses received, 195 respondents agreed, 46 neither agree nor disagree, 113 disagreed and 137 required further information before responding.

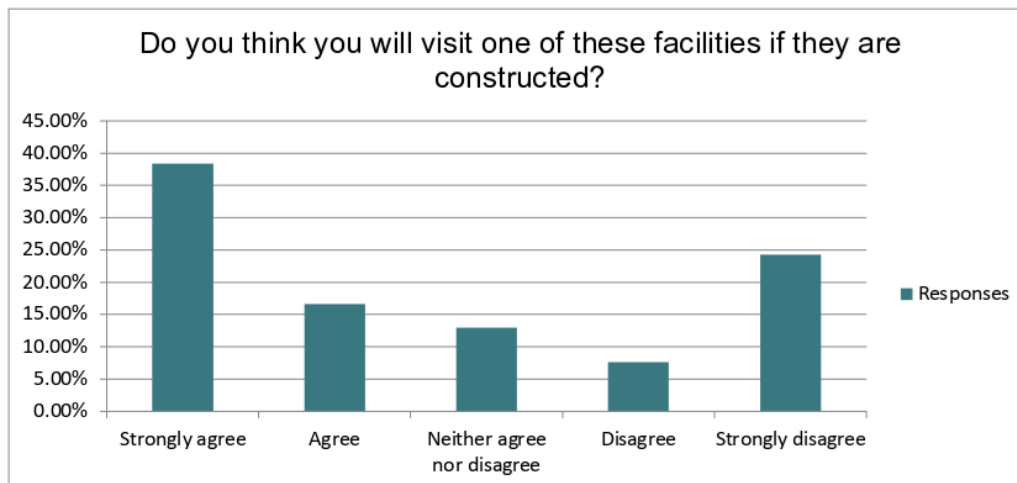


Figure 7: Likely community interest in visiting proposed facilities if constructed

The following key reasons were given for respondents that **agree** that they would visit one of the above facilities if constructed:

- An indoor facility is something that is lacking for all year-round use (28).
- Heated program pool is needed for swim lessons, lap swimming and therapy programs (10)
- Support Kerang as location for indoor facility (9).

The following key reasons were given for respondents that **disagree** that they would visit one of the above facilities if constructed:

- The proposed improvements do not meet community needs (29)
- Travel and cost of travel is a major concern of using proposed indoor pool at Kerang (20)
- Support local traditional community pools (20).

Question 8: Do you support the closure of the Leitchville Outdoor Pool and the return of this site to an open space precinct?

Of the 337 responses received, 57 respondents agreed, 54 neither agree nor disagree, 226 disagreed and 150 required further information before responding.

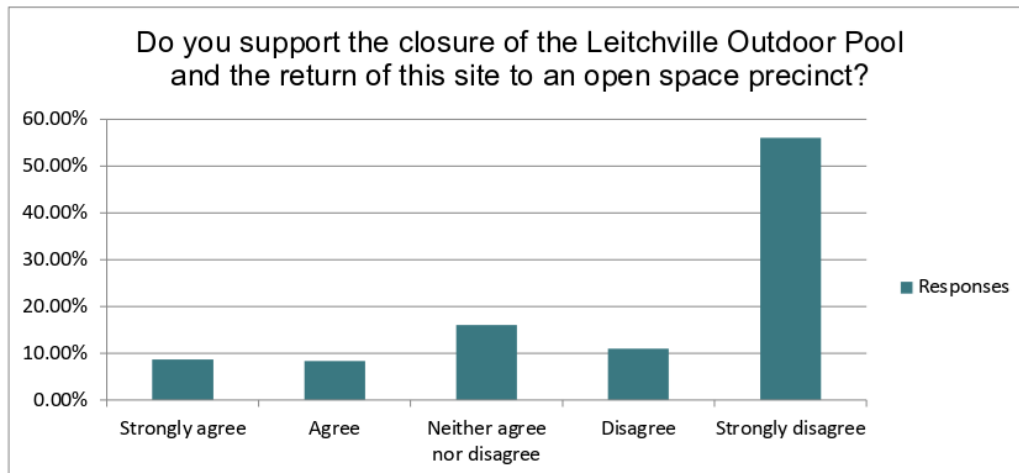


Figure 8: Level of support for the closure of the Leitchville Outdoor Pool and the return of this site to an open space precinct

The following key reasons were given **for (agree)** closure of the Leitchville Outdoor Pool and the return of this site to an open space precinct:

- Not enough usage to sustain this facility (5)
- Can't keep all pools open financially, access to other facilities like Cohuna is nearby (4).

"Patronage is dismal at this pool, wouldn't be financially viable"

The following key reasons were given **against (disagree)** closure of the Leitchville Outdoor Pool and the return of this site to an open space precinct:

- Support keeping and upgrading the current community pool. It is needed for the community. They are an important meeting place and vital to keeping cool in the hot summer (141)
- There are concerns of drownings in local waterways if the pool is closed. Children need somewhere safe to learn to swim (40)
- Travel and cost of travel is a concern (17).

"For a pool that's cost minimal to run and gives so much to the community it would be a shame and a huge safety loss to the town. It's not only used by the local families but a great asset to the local school. Learning to swim is such an important skill for all kids to learn. If the Leitchville Pool is closed the closest places for those kids to swim are in unsafe channels, creeks, and unknown waterways. Families who are unable to travel beyond the town will be the ones that suffer the most. And it's laughable that the Shire is willing to spend money to redevelop the area into an open space but won't run a great facility with said money."

"Following Covid, Leitchville's population has grown. We need to maintain this growth by improving our facilities, not the reverse. And kids will drown! People won't travel."

Question 9: Do you support the closure of the Quambatook Outdoor Pool and the return of this site to an open space precinct?

Of the 337 responses received, 47 respondents agreed, 78 neither agree nor disagree, 212 disagreed and 124 required further information before responding.

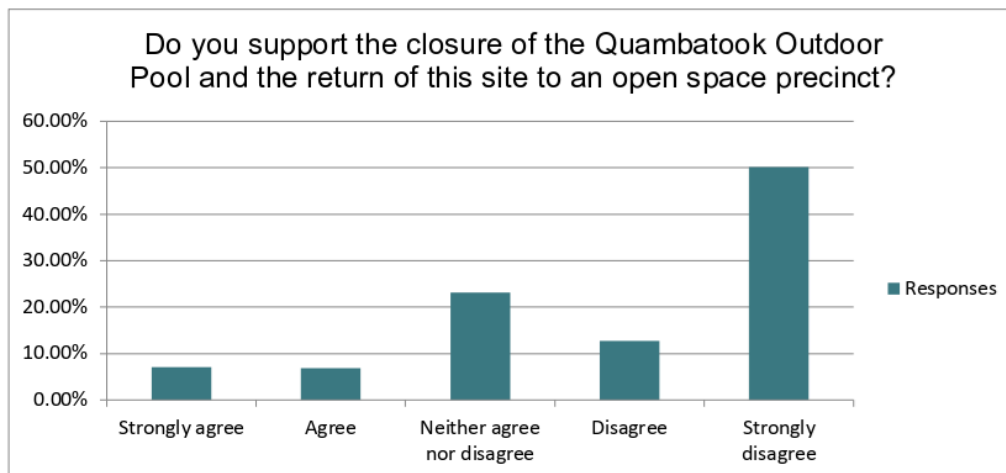


Figure 9: Level of support for the closure of the Quambatook Outdoor Pool and the return of this site to an open space precinct

The following key reasons were given **for (agree)** closure of the Quambatook Outdoor Pool and the return of this site to an open space precinct:

- Not enough usage to sustain this facility (11)
- Can't keep all pools open financially (4).

"Difficult decision but probably not sustainable long term"

The following key reasons were given **against (disagree)** closure of the Quambatook Outdoor Pool and the return of this site to an open space precinct:

- Support keeping and upgrading the current community pool. It is needed for the community. They are an important meeting place and vital to keeping cool in the hot summer (116)
- There are concerns of drownings in local waterways if the pool is closed. Children need somewhere safe to learn to swim (26)
- Travel and cost of travel is a concern (17).

"Pools in small communities provide kids and families with such an important meeting place and social area. They are a vital part of these communities where there is not much else to do in summer."

"Quamby are losing their footy club, the community needs the pool as it will be all they have left. Seems unfair to close it, although I know it needs upgrading. With these small towns it was the community who originally raised the funds to build these pools."

"The pool is a community amenity not a source of revenue for council. Children deserve a facility to learn to swim in which is not 40kms away. The community deserves the same amenities that are offered to larger centres. Are our rates paid or children less valued than bigger towns ???"

Question 10: What features would encourage you to use the open space precincts?

Of the 337 responses received the following features were identified:

- Family friendly place with play space, drink station, shaded picnic area and barbecue (39)
- Nature planting and open spaces (21)
- Exercise equipment (10)
- Bike and walking tracks (10)
- Nearby amenities include coffee and food (8)
- RV camping site (4)
- Dog park (2)
- Toilets (2).

Providing or upgrading the swimming pools was the overwhelming response to this question with 165 responses. Retaining the war memorial pools, improvements included heating the pools, providing water play areas and longer opening hours.

Question 11: Other comments about proposed facilities?

Of the 175 responses, the key comments were:

- Support the Kerang indoor pool (77)
- Keep and upgrade the pools (72)
- Providing access to pools are important for community, they provide a place to learn to swim, to exercise and a social space for community (23).
- Travel and cost of travel is a concern (16)
- There is a concern that Kerang gets everything (12).

7. Summary of Findings

"We have heard the passion throughout the community for their local outdoor swimming pools and the importance our residents place on these facilities, whilst we have also heard of the growing need for all year-round warm water to support learn to swim programs for the Gannawarra's young people and to support low impact exercise."

– Mayor, Cr Charlie Gillham

The stage 2 consultation process found:

- The community supports access to pools for water safety, our health, fitness and wellbeing and they are good for business, tourism and an ingredient to attracting professionals and people to Gannawarra Shire communities.

"They teach our kids how to swim in a regulated and safe place within a place that has inland waterways."

"Pools are a place to cool off, a refuge in the very hot weather we experience in Gannawarra."

- A part of the community attached the development of an indoor aquatic facility in Kerang to the closure of small township outdoor pools.

"I'm all for the aquatic centre but not at the cost of our local swimming pools."

"I do not support such a large, well-resourced complex for one town, whilst decommissioning three pools in three smaller towns that are not close by. It not an equitable proposal for all townships. Particularly considering how hot the summers are in northern Victoria. No other water sources are close by for Leitchville and Quambatook."

- When reading deeper into the responses to surveys, community workshops, drop-in sessions and stakeholder interviews with community, there was support for a year-round aquatic facility and service in Gannawarra Shire with access to a warm water program pool.

Our health services, community groups, swim clubs and schools spoke about how an indoor aquatic facility was a missing link in our capability of providing the community health and wellbeing services we need for our current and future population. Gannawarra Shire needs a year-round service for learn to swim programs, therapy-based programs and for swim club sport pathway development.

"The community would be thrilled to have access to an indoor aquatic centre. All age groups, children, families and seniors would have access to a range of programs all year-round."

"There is strong need to use the warm water program pool and health and fitness centre for allied health services including physiotherapy and exercise physiology."

- The community want to see the community outdoor pools remain open. The value of community pools to our townships for providing a safe place for people to swim and to come together and socialise.

"Walking the students to a local pool saves significant cost. Schools outside Kerang are unlikely to travel to Kerang for school learn to swim programs."

"Our local pool is a place for our community to come together, to socialise and play."

- The main concerns raised if community pools were closed were the increased risk of drownings in the many local inland waterways in Gannawarra Shire and the increased travel and costs of community to access aquatic services outside their township.

"I don't believe especially this day in age where parents work and are time poor that travelling from the local area a min of 20 to take their children swimming is practical"

"How many drownings is council prepared to think is acceptable?"

- There was no support for a freeform lagoon style program pool in Cohuna. The community would prefer a traditional rectangle 25m program pool with access to leisure water and water slide and contemporary change rooms and kiosk.

"Cohuna needs a separate pool with the water slide and proper ability to swim laps, have swimming lessons."

"Cohuna primarily needs a new pool made to accommodate laps, swimming, training, relaxation and exercise. Not a tropical paradise (reference to lagoon style pool). Maybe a "play" paradise as well!!"

- The Kerang Exercise Pool is too small and should be replaced with a contemporary warm water program pool with disability access and an increase in size.

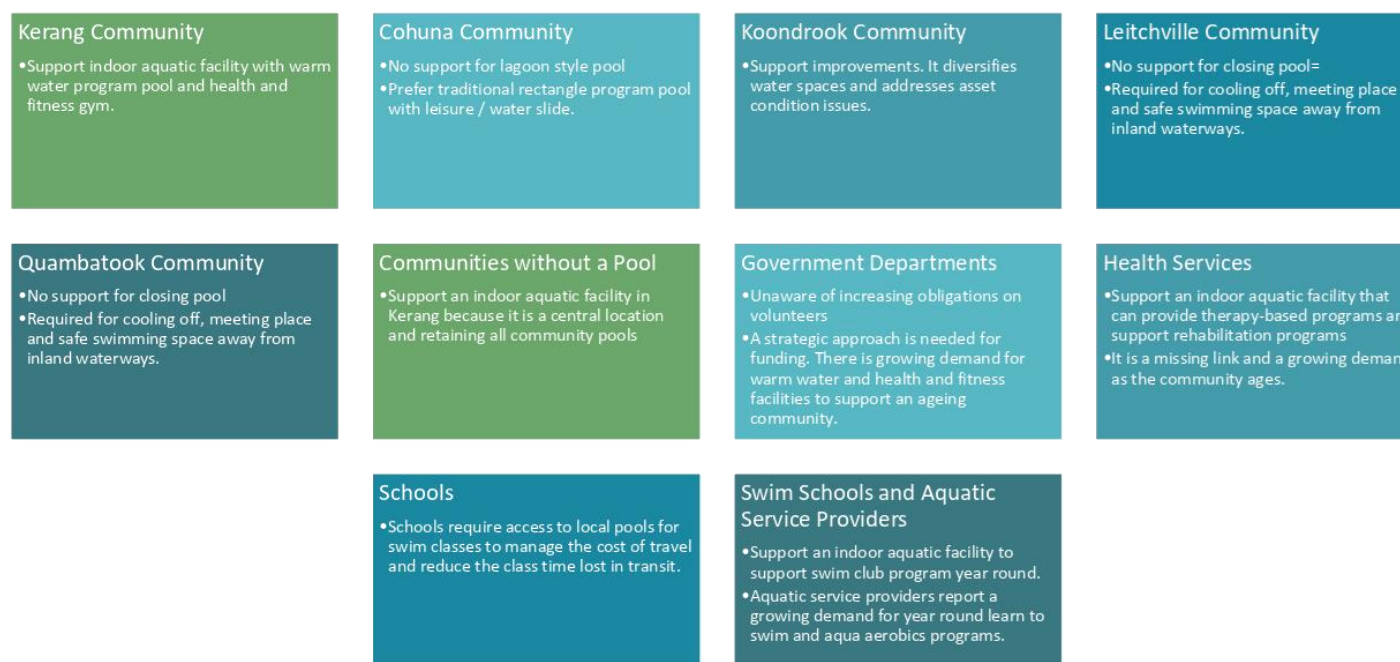
"It's too small and old fashioned."

"The Kerang Exercise Pool is inaccessible. A contemporary accessible warm water program pool is needed. This is important for older residents and for rehabilitation."

- An aquatic service was seen as important to the liveability of communities; however, this needs to be considered against the impact to Council's budget.

"We need to support the liveability of small townships and the loss of a pool will be a blow. Our pools are places to cool off and a meeting place. However, decisions need to consider Council's ability to fund an aquatic service in the long-term financial plan."

The following infographic summarises the feedback from key segments of the community.



7.1 Suggested Changes to Aquatic Strategy

Theme	Key Issues Identified	Suggested Change to Strategy
Strong opposition to closing Quambatook Outdoor Pools.	<p>The community want to see the community outdoor pools remain open.</p> <p>The pools are a refuge for community from hot weather in Mallee summers, a social meeting place and a supervised and safe place to swim away from inland waterways.</p> <p>Community pools support health and wellbeing of Quambatook communities and visitors to the town in summer holiday period.</p> <p>There are concerns of drownings in local waterways if the pool is closed</p> <p>Increased travel and cost to access aquatic services is a concern.</p>	<p>Retain Council's annual funding contribution to pool operations.</p> <p>Council sets key performance indicators to ensure they meet industry standards. Key performance indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifeguarding in line with Life Saving Victoria guidelines for safe pool operations • Maintain a safe water quality level in line with Department of Health and Human Services water quality regulations • Adhere to current dangerous goods storage and handling legislation and Australian standards • Maintain a register of Work Safe notifiable incidents and near misses • Maintain a register of staff inductions and industry qualifications and training.
Strong opposition to closing Leitchville Outdoor Pools.	<p>The community want to see the community outdoor pools remain open.</p> <p>The pools are a refuge for community from hot weather in Mallee summers, a social meeting place and a supervised and safe place to swim away from inland waterways.</p> <p>Community pools support health and wellbeing of Leitchville communities and visitors to the town in summer holiday period.</p> <p>There are concerns of drownings in local waterways if the pool is closed.</p> <p>Increased travel and cost to access aquatic services is a concern.</p>	<p>Retain Council's annual funding contribution to pool operations.</p> <p>Council sets key performance indicators to ensure they meet industry standards. Key performance indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifeguarding in line with Life Saving Victoria guidelines for safe pool operations • Maintain a safe water quality level in line with Department of Health and Human Services water quality regulations • Adhere to current dangerous goods storage and handling legislation and Australian standards • Maintain a register of Work Safe notifiable incidents and near misses • Maintain a register of staff inductions and industry qualifications and training.
Support for Koondrook Pool improvements	<p>Community support for recommended improvements to Koondrook Pool to service Koondrook and Barham communities.</p> <p>Improvements will diversify activities and address the asset condition issues.</p> <p>The pool offers school swim classes, and morning fitness swimmer group sessions. It is a refuge for community from hot weather in Mallee summers, a social meeting place, a supervised and safe place to swim away from inland waterways.</p>	<p>No change to proposed recommendation.</p> <p>Design of new leisure water and play area to include varied depths for primary school and early years children.</p> <p>Retain Council's annual funding contribution to pool operations.</p> <p>Council sets key performance indicators to ensure they meet industry standards. Key performance indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifeguarding in line with Life Saving Victoria guidelines for safe pool operations

Theme	Key Issues Identified	Suggested Change to Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a safe water quality level in line with Department of Health and Human Services water quality regulations • Adhere to current dangerous goods storage and handling legislation and Australian standards • Maintain a register of Work Safe notifiable incidents and near misses • Maintain a register of staff inductions and industry qualifications and training.
Strong opposition to proposed lagoon style pool at Cohuna	<p>No support for a freeform lagoon style program pool in Cohuna. The community would prefer a traditional rectangle 25m pool with access to leisure water and water slide and contemporary change rooms and kiosk.</p> <p>The community want to see a pool that caters for the whole town. This includes a program pool and leisure / water slide.</p> <p>The facility would accommodate laps, learn to swim programs, aqua aerobics classes, recreational swimming together with a water slide, that is a big attractor to town visitors and enjoyed by young people. Suggested additions were the pool being heated to extend the pool season or to enclose it.</p> <p>The suggested Apex Park location was not supported. Community members believe it would be an overdevelopment of this open space area. A waterfront site is the preferred location. Consider sites proposed as part of Waterfront Strategy and Cohuna Recreation Reserve Master Plan.</p> <p>The pools are a refuge for community from hot weather in Mallee summers, a social meeting place and a supervised and safe place to swim away from inland waterways.</p> <p>Community pools support health and wellbeing of the Cohuna township.</p> <p>There are concerns of drownings in local waterways if the pool is closed.</p>	<p>Development of a new 25m outdoor pool for lap swimming, learn to swim and other aquatic programs and consider the options for heating the water to extend the length of the season to support these programs.</p> <p>Development of leisure water including a waterslide to support the social / fun / family markets.</p> <p>The Cohuna Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2022 identifies four potential sites for the development of a new swimming pool. Detailed geotechnical site investigation are required to determine a preferred site for development of the pool. This review should exclude Apex Park as it was not supported as a suitable location by residents.</p>
Support for access to a year-round warm water program pool	<p>Support for indoor aquatic facility with warm water program pool and small health and fitness gym in Kerang. Particularly from community groups, schools, health services and residents in Kerang, Koondrook and communities without a pool.</p> <p>Support for an integrated aquatic facility that links with the outdoor pool and library in Kerang. A regional approach to indoor aquatic facilities was</p>	No change to proposed recommendation.

Theme	Key Issues Identified	Suggested Change to Strategy
	<p>suggested that complements other indoor aquatic facilities in service centres in the northern Mallee region (Swan Hill and Echuca).</p> <p>Travel and cost concern from some Cohuna, Leitchville and Quambatook residents. Cohuna and Leitchville community indicated that they were likely to travel to Echuca rather than Kerang to access indoor aquatic facilities.</p> <p>Cohuna community group suggest Cohuna should be the location for an indoor aquatic facility. The reasons provided are that Cohuna is more attractive and population swells in holiday periods as the tourism centre of Gannawarra, and the existing outdoor pool needs replacing, and an indoor heated program pool would provide for the Cohuna community needs.</p> <p>Community sentiment indicates support of an indoor aquatic facility cannot be universally supported if it means community pools are closed. Council will need to consider their capacity to fund an indoor aquatic facility, provide a pool at Cohuna and maintain a funding contribution to the operations of the community outdoor pools.</p>	
Support for closing Kerang Exercise Pool	<p>Support for replacing the Kerang Exercise Pool with a contemporary sized warm water program pool that is accessible.</p> <p>The existing pool is too small and inaccessible. The pool has reached capacity and there is a waiting list for learn to swim program and aqua aerobics classes. The need for programming is restricting the use of the pool for rehabilitation.</p> <p>The current pool should be maintained until the indoor aquatic facility is delivered at Kerang Outdoor Pool.</p>	Close the Kerang Exercise Pool once a new contemporary indoor warm water program pool is provided. The pool will be accessible and of a sufficient size to provide for the programming and rehabilitation needs.
Strategy doesn't reflect changes to population since 2016	The Strategy reports on 2016 Census data and doesn't report on the increase in population following the global Covid pandemic where people are moving to the area (families and retirees).	Population data within the report to be updated with 2021 Census data.
Travel cost to communities without a pool	Travelling comes at a significant cost to communities that do not have a local pool.	Council provides a discount/incentive to lessen the cost of travel to access aquatic facilities and programs for communities without access to a local pool.

8. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence', and these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

Otium Planning Group are not economists, quantity surveyors, engineers or architects. There will be differences between projected and actual results because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite, or guarantee the projections' achievability as it is impossible to substantiate assumptions based on future events. This report does not constitute advice, investment advice, or opinion and must not be relied on for funding or investment decisions. Independent advice should be obtained in relation to investment decisions.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than the client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.

7.11 DRAFT DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Author: Kellie Burmeister, Manager Planning and Regulatory Services

Authoriser: Wade Williams, Acting Director Infrastructure and Development

Attachments: 1 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 and provide a copy of the plan to the Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Domestic Animal Act 1994* (the Act) requires Council to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years.

The Plan must set out a method for evaluating whether the animal management services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and the Domestic Animal Regulations 2015.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider the submissions received during the community consultation period and adopt the new Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022–2025.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025

DISCUSSION

The aim of the Gannawarra Shire Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 is to ensure the effective management of domestic animals. Council aims to provide a safe and harmonious environment for all whilst promoting responsible pet ownership across the municipality.

The plan identifies Council's responsibilities for education and compliance and provides a framework on how it will effectively manage its statutory responsibilities associated with domestic animal management. The plan will be reviewed annually and be implemented over a four year period.

The format of the DAMP is based on a template provided by Animal Welfare Victoria. The content must include current programs, services and plans for:

- Training of authorised officers;
- Responsible pet ownership programs;
- Over population and high euthanasia;
- Registration and identification;
- Nuisance;
- Dog attacks;

- Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs;
- Domestic Animal Businesses;
- Other animal matter; and
- Annual review of the plan.

RELEVANT LAW

Domestic Animal Act 1994

Domestic Animal Regulations 2015

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 – 2021 was adopted by Council on 21 March 2018.

The annual review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 was noted by Council on 18 May 2022.

The draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 was endorsed by Council on 17 August 2022 for community engagement.

OPTIONS

To ensure legislative compliance, Council must prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Council plays an important leadership role in supporting and promoting responsible pet ownership, community safety and active and healthy lifestyles.

Council recognises that improved health and wellbeing can be attributed directly to animal ownership and understands the need to balance the requirements of the community, animal owners and the animal, that are such a significant part of many people's lives.

It is important that Council adopts a multi-faceted approach in the DAMP. Council must improve community awareness of the benefits of responsible pet ownership through targeted education programs and positive incentives aimed at greater compliance.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation was conducted via Council's 'Have Your Say' webpage from 18 August 2022 until 2 September 2022.

Three submissions were received during this period. The submissions are detailed below.

- The plan does not address wandering animals that defecate, urinate and fight throughout the town constantly. Visitors from other municipalities always comment on this. Having a plan has not made any difference to the number of wandering animals. The plan is not working, not being implemented or requires significant change.
- Reduced fees should only apply to all desexed cats and dogs. A male cat can breed at 14 years, so the over 10 years is not enough. I understand giving a discount to seniors, working dogs but not to anyone else. All animals not desexed should pay double the current fees to stop unwanted breeding. \$260 is not much when you are selling a puppy in the thousands. Seniors should only pay \$5 to register their pet if it is desexed. A senior

living at home with a pet is much healthier – saving the council money in services. There is still a large number of feral cats so raising the costs of not desexed animals might help this problem. There is no consequences for a dog who bites in a public area or killing stock. It should be compulsory to have the animal put down – it will bite and kill again. Dogs must remain on your property – this should be enforced for cat owners too. Why have different rules?

- Request to require cat owners to keep pet cats contained in a building or cage 24/7. The reasons for this are; pet cats kill lots of native birds in back yards; night curfews are not good enough; and an article by several university professions recommends this as pet cats kill 83 million native reptiles and 80 million native birds in Australia each year. From a wildlife perspective, keeping cats contained 24/7 is the only responsible option.

The submissions have been considered as part of the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The data and information gathered during the implementation of the DAMP will be used to improve services and processes as necessary.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The DAMP has been prepared so that the majority of objectives can be completed within the operational budget and current resources.

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.

GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



2022-2025



Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025
Plan No. 2022.01



Amendment Details

Plan no.	Page	Description	Date	Amendment details
2022.01	All	Adoption	<< Date >>	Domestic Animal Management Plan adopted by Council
2022.01	All	Submission to Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)	<< Date >>	DAM Plan submitted to DJPR

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Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025
Plan No. 2022.01



1 Introduction and context

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (**the Act**) requires Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (**DAM Plan or the Plan**) every four years.

The Plan must set out a method for evaluating whether the animal management services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and the Domestic Animal Regulations 2015.

The Plan must also outline programs for the training of authorised officers along with programs, services and strategies to:

- ensure that people comply with the Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
- minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
- address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
- encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
- minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
- effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and
- provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
- provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
- provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

Council is also required to review and where appropriate amend the plan and publish an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in Council Annual Report.

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025
Plan No. 2022.01



1.2 PROCESS APPLIED IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN

The Plan was developed by Council's Local Laws staff with information from the annual reviews of the 2017-2021 DAM Plan and observations of trends in complaints to Council and incidents involving domestic animals in the Gannawarra Shire. Local vet clinics were also consulted regarding issues that they believe are important to local residents and animal owners. The Local Laws team have aimed to set realistic objectives which have measurable goals.

The DAM Plan was available for public consultation after the draft was approved at the Council meeting in August 2022. This consultation involved face to face meetings, newspaper content and social media posts.

1.3 DEMOGRAPHIC AND PROFILE OF COUNCIL

Gannawarra Shire is a three hour drive from Melbourne and has an area of 3,736 square kilometers, bordered by the Murray River to the north. Gannawarra is a diverse agricultural region within the Loddon Murray Region of northern Victoria and strategically located along the Murray River between Echuca and Swan Hill. It includes the main service centers of Kerang, Cohuna and Koondrook along with the villages of Murrabit, Quambatook Lalbert, Macorna, Lake Charm, Leitchville and Mystic Park. Gannawarra Shire's population is approximately 10,500, including around 4,200 households with a median household income of \$908 per week.



Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025
Plan No. 2022.01



1.4 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Program/Service	Service Level
Identification & registration - dogs	2,047.5 dogs registered (average over past 4 years)
Identification & registration - cats	406.5 cats registered (average over past 4 years)
Identification & registration - door-knock campaigns	Due to limited resources in Local Laws department this activity has not occurred over the past DAM Plan period.
Domestic animal complaints	Approvals and inspections etc. within 10 days General non urgent complaints within 5 days Urgent issues within 2 days
Dangerous Dogs complaints	Response time - within 48 hours
Routine street patrols	Demand driven
Pound	8 hours per day / 5 days per week by appointment
Microchipping and/or desexing programs	Being developed for 2022/23
RPO School information sessions	As requested
After hours emergency service	On call 365 days per year

1.5 DOMESTIC ANIMAL STATISTICS

The domestic animal statistics and charts summarised below are shown in the relevant section of the DAM Plan.

Content and data	Section and title
Registered dogs / cats	Section 5 Registration and identification
Declared dogs	Section 8 Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted breed dogs
Registered domestic animal businesses	Section 9 Domestic Animal Businesses
Animals seized or surrendered	Section 4 Overpopulation and high euthanasia
Cats and dogs reclaimed, rehomed or euthanased	Section 4 Overpopulation and high euthanasia
Complaints relating to cats and dogs	Section 6 Nuisance animals

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025
Plan No. 2022.01



2 Training of Authorised Officers

This section outlines current qualifications and future training programs for authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district. *Compliant with Section 68A(2)(b) of the Act.*

2.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Gannawarra Shire Council currently employs the following animal management staff:

Current staff			
Officer	EFT	Position	Training and qualifications (completed)
Officer 1	1 EFT	Local Laws Coordinator / Ranger (Authorised Officer)	Diploma of Leadership and Management BSB519 Cert IV Government Investigations PSP40416 Cert III Rural Operations AHC32816 Work in Public Safety Organisation – PUATE004C Contribute to Community Safety PUACOM014B Conduct Community Safety Activities PUACOM015B Risk Management BSBRK401 Harassment & Bullying - Hazcon Pty Ltd Managing Peoples Performance - Pro-Focus Pty Ltd Authorised Persons Workshop - LGA of Qld Bark Busters QLD – Animal Psychology Firearm Safety and Training Council AHCPMG304
Commenced in position February 2021			
Officer 3	0.6 EFT	Local Laws Administration Officer	Cert IV in Animal Control and Regulation Cert IV in Local Government (Statutory Compliance) ATC Court Procedure and Prosecutor Course Management Systems Auditing Course Privacy Awareness training K9 Self Preservation and Harm Reduction Strategies Assertive communication skills
Commenced in position in 2010			
Recruitment in process			
Officer 2	1 EFT	Local Laws Officer / Ranger (Authorised Officer)	Local Laws Officers are required to hold or be undertaking the relevant training of Certificate IV in Local Government (Statutory Compliance) and Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation or equivalent qualification.

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025
Plan No. 2022.01



2.2 OUR PLANNED TRAINING FOR AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Authorised Officers are required to be suitably qualified with a sound understanding and knowledge of a range of legislation including the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. Apart from being able to administer and enforce the legislation, officers need to be able to communicate with all members of the community, defuse difficult situations and safely handle animals.

Authorised Officer Training	Planned (2021-2025)
Cert IV in Animal Control and Regulation or equivalent qualification*	Any new Officers (if not already qualified) to commence within first 12 months
Cert IV in Local Government (Statutory Compliance) or equivalent qualification*	For any new Officers (if not already qualified) to commence within first 12 months
Cert IV in Government Investigations	For any new Officers (if not already qualified) to commence within first 12 months
Online Induction Compliance Training <i>Occupational Health & Safety, Information Privacy, Fraud and Corruption, Workplace Bullying and Harassment, Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities & Child Safe Standards</i>	For any new Officers Comprehensive induction within first week and rest of required modules within first three months.
Traffic control - animals on roads	New staff within first 12 months with annual refresher training
OH&S - Dealing with aggressive customers	Any new Officers (if not already qualified) to commence within first 12 months
Industry Training - prosecutions	Optional / senior staff training
Firearms Training	Licensing and safety course are required for any Officer required to use a firearm
First Aid	As scheduled by Council's HR department

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2.3 OUR PLAN

Local Laws Officers are to receive relevant training to ensure tasks are performed in a safe and effective manner and within relevant legislation.

Objective 2.1 New and Relief Local Laws Officers to receive induction training		
Activity	When	Evaluation
New and Relief Local Laws Officers undertake Councils induction programs for new staff	Upon commencement	Employee completes standard inductions
Staff to undertake and complete role specific induction programs for Local Laws Officers.	During first 2 weeks of employment, then annual reviews.	Inductions completed and records stored in Personnel file with Human Resources

Objective 2.2 Ensure animal management officers have the skills necessary to support the community and effectively perform their regulatory role		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify minimum required skills for Local Laws Officers	Prior to commencement of new staff, then annually to meet needs.	All role specific deficiencies and requirements are identified
Source specific training to increase Local Laws Officers skill levels	As required	Training successfully completed
Officers to complete all required relevant training, including upskilling.	As required	Copy of completion certificates for training kept on file with HR

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3 Responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation

This section outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(i) of the Act.

3.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Local Laws Officers frequently provide one on one education and information to ensure animal owners fully understand their obligations and liabilities should their animals cause any incident.

For those who refuse to adjust their behaviors regarding compliance, Local Laws Officers can first issue verbal or written warnings, however, if issues are ongoing they can escalate actions with Notices to Comply and Infringements being issued as a last attempt to gain compliance from pet owners prior to advancing to sterner measures such as prosecution.

3.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity / Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals

Clause 37 - Keeping Animals

Local Law regulating the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property

Clause 39 - Adequate Fencing

Local Law requiring Private Land to be fenced in a way that will prevent animals from straying or escaping

Clause 40 - Animal Excrement

Local Law requiring dog owners to carry a Litter Device and remove and dispose of faeces deposited by their dogs in public places

Clause 41 - Animal and Bird Noise

Local Law regarding prevention of any Animal or Large and/or Noisy Birds on the Private Land from sounding noise at unreasonable times

Council Policy No. 068 / Dogs & Cats – Designated Areas

Policy to:

- prohibit dogs from certain areas;
- prohibit cats from certain areas; and
- permit dogs in certain areas, but only on a leash.

3.3 OUR PLAN

Objective 3.1 Promote 'Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife' messaging among residents		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Display of Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife education material (brochures) at Customer Service counters	Commencing by end of January 2023	Reduction in number of cats impounded overall with focus on numbers in the month following the targeted Facebook posts
Social media promotion via link on Council website to www.safecat.org.au	Before end December 2022	
Facebook post and information in Gannawarra News page	November, February, May and August	

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Objective 3.2 Education campaign on the importance of registering and microchipping dogs and cats		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Facebook post and information in Gannawarra News page	March, June, September and December	Map trends on registered dogs and cats from data in Synergy database
GSC brochure on keeping contact details up to date with microchip registry to be distributed to animal owners with registration tag	Brochure to be updated by end September 2022 Ongoing from August 2022	Map trends of microchipping in animals impounded by Council

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4 Overpopulation and high euthanasia

This section outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

4.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Council makes every effort to reunite lost pets prior to impounding them.

However, current registration and up to date contact details on the pet's microchip records are vital for this to be truly successful. Far too many owners of lost microchipped animals cannot be contacted because phone numbers have been disconnected or the microchip is still under the breeder's or last owner's name.

Unidentified animals are impounded and advertised on Council's website and Facebook page for eight days. Animals that are claimed by owners are required to be registered and microchipped before they can be released from the pound. After 8 days any unclaimed animals that are suitable to be rehomed are transferred to a rehoming organisation via a section 84Y agreement.

Stray and feral cats continue to be an issue in the municipality. Issues we experience range from uncontrolled breeding to attacks on domestic cats and ongoing wildlife predation. Council assists with cat trap hire to remove unwanted and unowned cats with the vast majority of stray or wild cats being caught in a Council provided trap.

It is important that community members are educated and take responsibility for their cats by registering, microchipping, de-sexing and securely confining them to their property. Because of this over the next 4 years Councils intends stepping up public awareness campaigns to try and rectify many of these issues.

Our current data

Dogs & Cats Impounded & Euthanased	2018	2019	2020	2021
Dogs impounded	76	45	39	39
Dogs Euthanased	11	11	5	1
Domestic Cats Impounded	43	61	27	43
Domestic Cats Euthanased	0	1	1	2
Wild-cats trapped & Euthanased				
Wild-cats trapped	79	109	60	96
Wild-cats Euthanased	79	109	60	96

4.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity / Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals

Clause 37 - Keeping Animals

Local Law regulating the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property.

Clause 39 - Adequate Fencing

Local Law requiring Private Land to be fenced in a way that will prevent animals from straying or escaping.

Under the Act, a reduced registration fee is applicable to sterilised dogs and cats.

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Our current education/promotion activities

- Provide education on responsible pet ownership and on confinement of cats
- Promote microchip identification and de-sexing of animals

Our current compliance activities

- Operation of a domestic animal pound for impounded animals
- Advice to public regarding animals currently in the Council Pound on the Council website and Facebook page
- Council trapping program for wildcats
- Rehousing of suitable animals under Section 84Y agreement
- Investigate reports of unregistered breeders

4.3 OUR PLAN

To increase levels of responsible pet ownership of cats, reduce unwanted and uncontrolled breeding in domestic animals and retain low euthanasia rates for impounded animals.

Objective 4.1		Provide education on responsible pet ownership and on confinement of cats	
Activity		When	Evaluation
Owners of trapped cats to be made aware of responsibilities of cat ownership		Ongoing	Reduction of reoccurring offences of impounding of cats
Media releases - newspaper, Facebook		Ongoing but focus on times of increased cat breeding cycles	Record number of media releases and Facebook posts
Website links to AWW information			Information placed onto website
Objective 4.2		To educate community regarding wildcat population / reduce wildcat population	
Activity		When	Evaluation
Purchase additional cat traps		December 2023	Increase total number of cat traps owned by Council
Investigate (and instigate if viable) Council Order to confine cats		December 2022	Council Order in place
Investigate (and instigate if viable) cat de-sexing program		Ongoing	Assessment of viability of cat de-sexing program completed. If viable, apply for grant and if successful, implement program. Data reported in DAM Plan.
Objective 4.3		To continue Section 84Y agreement/s with approved animal rescue organisation/s	
Activity		When	Evaluation
Maintain current 84Y agreements		Ongoing	Agreements renewed
Investigate and instigate additional 84Y agreements		As required	Suitable agreements implemented

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5 Registration and identification

This section outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(v) and Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act

5.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

Animal registration	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of registered dogs	2063	2046	1923	2158
No. of registered cats	402	415	383	426
No. of registered declared dogs	2	2	1	1

Infringements issued	2018	2019	2020	2021
Failure to register dog or cat	0	5	3	1
Failure to renew registration of dog or cat	0	0	0	0

Fee Structure 2022/23

Full fee Unsterilised dog or cat \$130.00

Full fee Dangerous Menacing Dog \$130.00

Councils Registration Concessions.

Reduced fee – Sterilised \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Aged dog or cat (over 10 years) \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Applicable organisation \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Obedience trained dog \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Working dog \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Eligible pensioner 50% of applicable fee

5.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity / Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals

Clause 37 - Local Law regulating the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property

Procedures

Animal registration timeline	
1-Mar	approximate date renewals for animal registration will be posted to animal owners
1-Mar	information on local radio regarding animal registration renewals due on 10 April
1-Apr	information in Gannawarra News page of the Gannawarra Times regarding animal registration renewals due on 10 April
10-Apr	Renewals for animal registration due
18-Apr	Reminder letters to be generated including late payment fee
18-Apr	Late payment fee to be charged on animal registration renewal payments
10-May	Phone calls to follow up on un-renewed animal registration.
June	Infringements to be generated for 'Failure to renew registration' under <i>Domestic Animals Act 81/1994 S.10(2) - 2747</i>

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Our current education/promotion activities

- Education of pet owners to continually check and update contact details at microchip registries
- Provision of Council animal registration application and link to online registration form to owner by vet clinic when an animal is microchipped
- Education and information provided to animal owners on an ad hoc basis

Our current compliance activities

- Registration and identification for domestic animals (dogs and cats)
- Registration renewal notices sent in March with follow up reminder notices sent during April
- Follow up with animal owners who fail to renew registration of their domestic animals
- Follow up on registration of animals adopted from Rehousing Organisations or purchased from domestic animal breeding businesses
- Follow up and correction of all information in Council's animal registration register
- Registration and identification of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Mandatory registration and microchipping of animals prior to release from pound
- Permanent identification number registration tags
- Investigation and compliance service

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5.3 OUR PLAN

To increase the number of registered dogs and cats in the Municipality by 3 – 5%.

Objective 5.1 Increase in the number of animal registrations each year		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Targeted inspections of both urban and rural areas	As resources allow	Data analysed to show total number of animals identified as registered/unregistered and compliance after follow up
Return to home incentives for registered and microchipped pets found wandering for the first time.	Ongoing	To be assessed from impound numbers.

Objective 5.2 Education regarding awareness of requirement for Council registration		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Media releases - newspaper Facebook	January & July each year January & July each year	Record number of media releases Record number of Facebook posts
Links on Council website to AWV information	Ongoing	Maintain links on the Council website to the following: AWV, Dogs Cats Neighbours & you, and RSPCA Victoria.
Issue warnings prior to penalties to promote education.	Permanent ongoing practice	Observe registration numbers and reduction in wandering pets.

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6 Nuisance Animals

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

6.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

The most common complaints received by Council's Local Laws Department relate to roaming and/or stray dogs and cats with noise a significant second.

Nuisance categories (complaints)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Dog at large	108	128	67	93
Cat at large (cats impounded plus wildcats)	122	170	87	139
Animal noise/nuisance (dogs & cats)	76	83	73	57
Dog excrement	2	0	2	2

Our current education/promotion activities

- Use of Council's website to educate pet owners
- Education and information services provided, as resources and opportunity allow
- Education and information provided to increase community awareness of Council's on-leash policy
- Media and promotion regarding responsible pet ownership

Our current compliance activities

Current programs in place to minimise the incidence of nuisance animals include:

- Routine vehicle patrols across the municipality on a daily basis
- Operation of a domestic animal pound for impounded animals (capacity of eight dogs / three cats)
- Community education regarding responsible pet ownership
- Provision of cat cages for trapping nuisance cats (currently 40 traps owned by Council)
- Council trapping program for wildcats
- Barking dog noise log record sheets provided to complainants
- Respond to all nuisance complaints and follow up on compliance within 48 hours

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6.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Clause 39 - Adequate Fencing requiring private land to be fenced in a way to stop animals escaping.

6.3 OUR PLAN

Objective 6.1 Reduce number of cats at large		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Provision of cat traps to residents as required	Ongoing	Data re cat trap use collected in Shelter Manager program
Access grants to allow Council to provide financial assistance to residents for de-sexing of dogs and cats	When available	Successful grant application

Objective 6.2 Educate community regarding wildcat population / reduce wildcat population		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Link on Council website to AWV information regarding wildcats / feral cats	Website to be updated by end September 2022	Information available on website
Media releases on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cat traps available Rules for cat trap use Legislation about cats at large Unowned cats 	Quarterly	Quantity and details of media releases are available from Council's Communications and Media Officer

Objective 6.3 Increase community awareness and understanding regarding on-leash and restricted areas for domestic animals.		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Media awareness	Twice yearly	Observed reduction in offences.
Maps showing off leash areas	September 2022	Council website updated to show locations

Objective 6.4 To reduce domestic animal excrement in public places and educate animal owners of the requirement to carry a litter device		
Activity	When	Evaluation
One on one education	Ongoing	Reduction in excrement complaints
Map of location of receptacles for excrement litter bags on Council website	December 2022	Website updated with map

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7 Dog attacks

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(iii) and Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.

7.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of reported dog on animals attacks	8	9	10	8
No. of reported dog on people attacks	4	10	5	6
No. of reported dog on livestock attacks	8	6	5	4
TOTAL	20	25	20	18

Infringements issued	2018	2019	2020	2021
Non-serious injury caused by dog attack	2	0	0	0

Confinement of dogs is a priority because the instances of wandering dogs increases risk to other pets, humans and livestock, and consumes time and resources of Local Laws officers.

Often when a dog attack is reported, officers find that it is a recurrence of an offence that went unreported previously. Had initial attacks been reported, subsequent attacks may have been averted.

Education is still required to encourage community members to report dogs at large, dogs rushing and dog attacks of all types (minor or serious).

7.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity / Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals

Clause 39 - Adequate Fencing

Local Law requiring Private Land to be fenced in a way that will prevent animals from straying or escaping

Council Policy No. 068 / Dogs & Cats – Designated Areas

Policy to:

- prohibit dogs from certain areas;
- prohibit cats from certain areas; and
- permit dogs in certain areas, but only on a leash.

Our current education/promotion activities

- Provision of education and information to community about responsible pet ownership
- Encourage dog de-sexing to assist in reducing the incidence of wandering animals

Our current compliance activities

Current programs in place to minimise the incidence of dog attacks include:

- Respond to notification of dog attack (immediate - including 24 hour emergency service)
- Investigation of reported attacks, and follow up on compliance

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7.3 OUR PLAN

Objective 7.1 Awareness campaign for both property/stock owner and animal owner re: potential destruction of dog found in paddock with stock		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Media release (newspaper, Facebook and website)	February August	Record number of media releases

Objective 7.2 Education regarding responsible pet ownership with focus on dogs at large		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Media releases	ongoing	Record number of media releases Information placed onto website
Educate owners about liabilities from dogs wandering.	ongoing	Record number of media releases Information placed onto website

Objective 7.3 Obtain data from external sources regarding dog attacks		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Public awareness to inform owners of process to report attacks.	Ongoing	Increased information and reports received.

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8 Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted breed dogs

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(vii) and Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.

8.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

There is currently one declared dangerous dog, no declared menacing dogs and no restricted breed dogs in the Gannawarra Shire.

Animal registration	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of registered dogs	2063	2046	1923	2158
No. of registered declared dogs	2	2	1	1

8.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are controlled by the Act.

Our current education/promotion activities

- Education and information services provided, as resources and opportunity allow

Our current compliance activities

- Registration and identification of declared dangerous dogs, declared menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs including renewal.
- Ensure compliance with the requirements for keeping dangerous dogs
- Investigation and compliance
- All declared dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs to be listed on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR)

8.3 OUR PLAN

To minimise the risks of dog attack to the community from declared and restricted breed dogs and to ensure that those dogs that are declared dangerous, menacing and those of restricted breed are kept in accordance with the legislation.

Objective 8.1 Increase Officer awareness of location of declared dangerous, declared menacing dogs or restricted breed dogs to improve safety when attending premises		
Activity	When	Evaluation
All locations where declared dangerous, declared menacing or restricted breed dogs are kept, will be identified on Council's mapping system	September 2022 and ongoing Council's Data Analyst to update mapping system as required	Council's mapping system identifies properties where declared dangerous, declared menacing or restricted breed dogs are kept

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Objective 8.2	Ensure that declared dangerous dogs, declared menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs kept in Gannawarra Shire are kept in compliance with the Act and relevant Regulations		
Activity	When	Evaluation	
Regular inspections of properties where declared dangerous, declared menacing or restricted breed dogs are kept to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations	Quarterly in February, April, July and October	Inspections entered to SSCR as a task and copy of inspection report saved as an attachment to this SSCR record.	

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9 Domestic Animal Businesses

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation. *Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(ii) and Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act*

9.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

Types of Domestic Animal Business (DAB) include a Council pound, a dog and/or cat breeding business, a dog training establishment, a pet shop, an animal shelter, an establishment boarding dogs or cats or an establishment that is rearing dogs or cats.

Other than the Council Pound, Council currently has no registered DABs.

9.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Clause 37 - Keeping Animals

Local Law regulating the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property

Our current education/promotion activities

- Supply and distribution of information related to DABs and the relevant codes of practice

Our current compliance activities

Council's programs/activities working with domestic animal breeding businesses include:

- Annual registration and renewal of Councils DAB permit
- Conduct regular audits of the Council pound facility to ensure compliance with regulations

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9.3 OUR PLAN

To work in partnership with DABs to meet the requirements under the *Act* and approved Codes of Practice.

Objective 9.1 Identify unregistered DABs in the Gannawarra Shire		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Follow up on registration of possible DAB's identified	Ongoing	Identified DAB to be registered with Council

Objective 9.2 Ensure registered DABs are compliant with legislation		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Planning information to be provided to all applicants or interested parties to ensure that compliance with the Act and relevant codes are met when DABs are being established	As required	Quantity of Planning permits issued for Keeping of animals Annual permit renewals are sent to existing DAB in March each year for issue of permit by 10 April.

Objective 9.3 DAB information and application on Council website		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Update Council website to provide online application form	By end September 2022	Website contains current Council application form for DABs
Council website to contain current information available from AWW regarding DABs including a link to the Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses (2014) and Puppy farm legislation	By end September 2022 Ongoing	Website contains link to current information available from AWW regarding DABs

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10 Other matters

This section provides for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(e) of the Act.

10.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Relevant programs, strategies and services implemented or proposed by Council have been already detailed in previous sections of this Plan.

10.2 OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Current policies and procedures

Council's Policy No. 068 Dogs & Cats – Designated Areas is an Order made under Section 26 of the Act. It requires dogs to be under effective control by means of a leash in a reserve or public place except where it is a Designated Area or a Prohibited Area. The Schedule to the Order lists the reserves and public places that are Designated or Prohibited Areas. The Policy is due for review in 2026.

Current compliance activities

An infringement for Dog/Cat Found in Prohibited Public Place can be issued for offences under section 26(1) of the Act relating to Council's Policy No. 068 Dogs & Cats – Designated Areas.

Offences under the Council Local Laws can result in the following infringements:

- Keeping Animals contrary to Local Law
- Keeping Animals without required accommodation
- Failure to provide adequate fencing
- Animal excrement remaining on Council land
- Failure to carry a suitable animal litter device

10.3 OUR PLAN

Objective 10.1	Information regarding emergency planning for domestic animals available to residents		
Activity	When	Evaluation	
Council website to contain information about emergency planning for domestic animals	December 2022	Website updated to contain relevant information	

Objective 10.2	To reduce community misunderstanding regarding Council Policy No.068 and provide clear information regarding off leash areas in the Gannawarra Shire		
Activity	When	Evaluation	
Council Policy No.068 to be incorporated into the Council Local Laws	During the adoption of the a new Local Law	Included in new local law adopted by Council	

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11 Annual review of Plan and annual reporting

This section provides for the annual review of the Plan and annual reporting to provide assurance that the targets in the DAMP are being met.

Compliant with Section 68A (3)(a)(b)(c) of the Act

68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

(3) Every Council must—

- (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan
- (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

As required by DJPR, this DAM Plan will be reviewed annually and submitted to Council with any necessary amendments made. The amended version will then be forwarded to the Secretary of the DJPR as required under legislation.

A review of performance under the DAM Plan is required to be included in Council's Annual Report.

Measurements should relate to activities and evaluations in this Plan and should include educational programs, increased registration of domestic animals, reduction of animals at large, decreased numbers of dog attacks and increases in compliance and levels of community satisfaction as a measure of success.

It should be noted that if performance under the DAM Plan is not sufficient, further revision of the Action Plan and its methods may be required and should be recommended.

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7.12 DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Author: Wade Williams, Acting Director Infrastructure and Development

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: 1 Draft Climate Change Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for community consultation in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy has been developed in partnership with consultants from Ironbark Sustainability, internal stakeholders, community representation and Councillors. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide Council with a strategic framework for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

PURPOSE

This report is to present the Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Council to endorse for community consultation in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Climate Change Strategy

DISCUSSION

The Victorian Government has been leading transformational adaptation reform through the States' *Climate Change Act 2017* (the Act) and Victoria's Climate Change Strategy. The Act requires the preparation of Adaptation Action Plans to ensure Victoria is resilient as the climate continues to change.

Since the Council resolution to adopt Policy 146 Climate Change in December 2021, Council engaged a suitable consultancy specialising in Climate Change Adaptation Strategies. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide Council with a strategic framework for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The Strategy will produce actions and set goals towards Council's vision of achieving a resilient climate adaptive organisation and achieve a net zero carbon emission by 2040.

RELEVANT LAW

Climate Change Act 2017

Local Government Act 2020

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

15 December 2021 - Ordinary Council Meeting resolution to adopt Policy No. 146 – Climate Change

OPTIONS

Council can:

1. Choose to endorse the draft for community consultation.
2. Choose to defer the draft for community consultation.
3. Choose to amend the draft strategy for community consultation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

This Strategy identifies Climate Change as a risk to councils ongoing operations, the strategy details a clear pathway to minimising the sustainability implications.

Please see Appendix A of the Strategy as it assesses each of the short-term actions across the four strategic priority areas against the expected cost range, return on investment, scale of impact and potential reach of the action.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft Strategy will be publicly advertised through Council's social media pages and the Have Your Say portal found on Council's homepage. The duration of the consultation will be held between 21 October – 11 November 2022.

Following community consultation, Council officers will compile comments into a briefing report and present to Council with recommendations incorporated into the final document.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not Applicable.

COLLABORATION

Council has worked with Ironbark Sustainability consultancy to produce the draft strategy and collaborated with internal staff, Councillors, key stakeholders, and community representatives.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not Applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Loddon Mallee North Regional Growth Plan (2014, Vic Govt)

Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan (2021, DELWP)

Victoria's Climate Change Strategy (2021, DELWP)

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Growing Gannawarra 2021-2025 Council Plan

Gannawarra Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Economic Development Strategy

Procurement Policy

Climate Change Policy 146

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 regarding this matter.



Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy



www.gsc.vic.gov.au



Prepared for Gannawarra Shire Council

Version	Author	Date	Description of changes
v0a-f	Roman Aizengendler, Sophie Beard, Evan Davies	25/07/2022	First Draft
v0g	Imogen Jubb	24/08/2022	Quality Review
v1a	Evan Davies	25/08/2022	Final for Submission
v1b	Evan Davies	07/09/2022	Updated climate projections data
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About Ironbark Sustainability

For nearly two decades, Ironbark Sustainability has worked with councils and their communities to reduce greenhouse emissions, tackle climate change and implement sustainability projects and programs. We bring together a wealth of technical and financial analysis, maintenance and implementation experience in the areas of building energy and water efficiency, climate action and strategy development, public lighting and data management. We pride ourselves on supporting our clients to achieve real action on sustainability.

Our Mission

The Ironbark mission is to achieve real action on sustainability for councils and their communities.

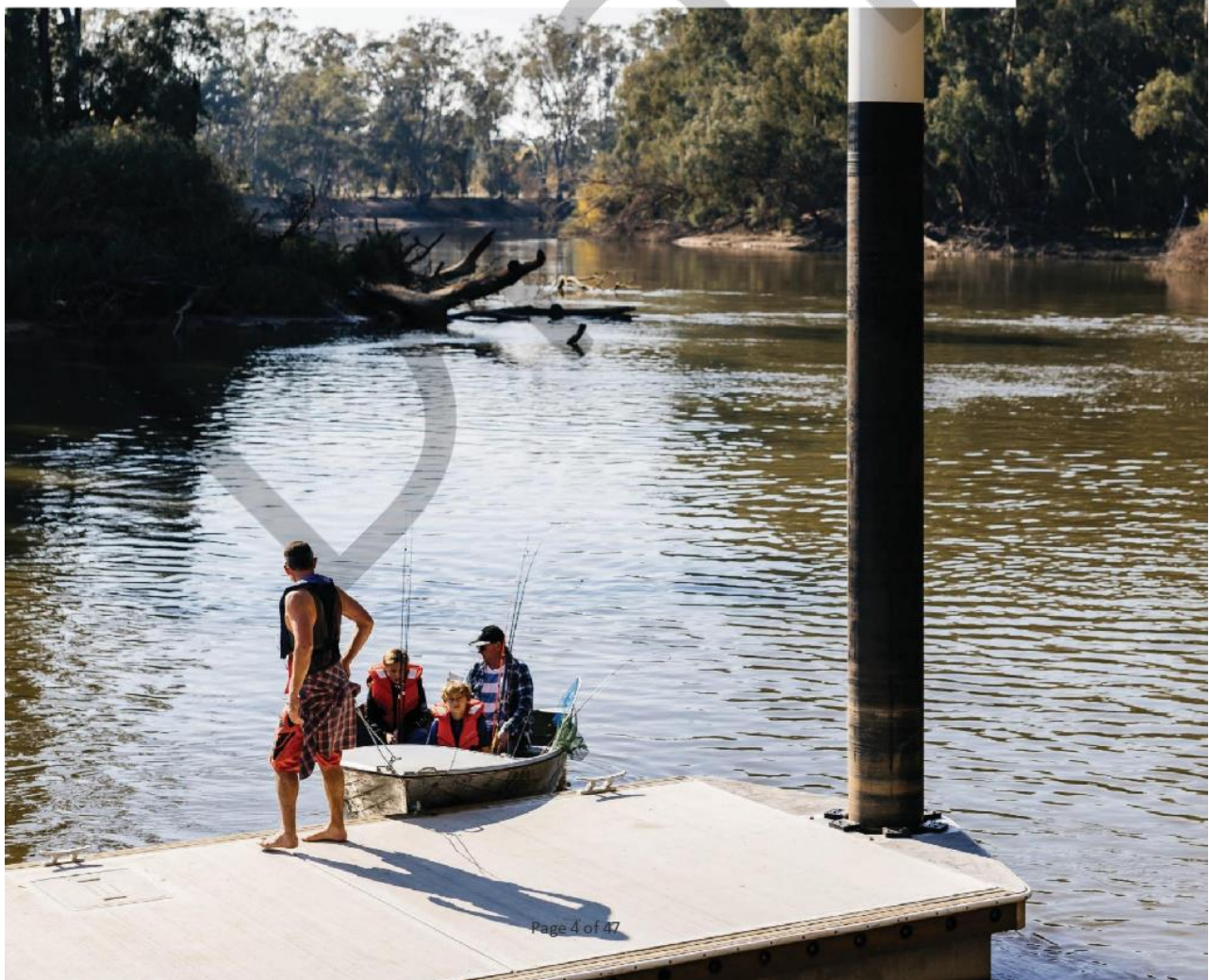
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1. MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Together with my fellow Councillors, I am pleased to present our Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy. This document confirms Council's commitment to long-term climate adaptation and mitigation.

As a Council, we acknowledge the scientific evidence and the risk that climate change presents to the community and the planet. During this century alone our communities have endured two prolonged droughts and a once in 100-year flood event.

Council is committed to taking strong and decisive action to minimise Council's environmental impact and build the resilience of Council operations, services and assets to reduce the vulnerability of the community to climate change. This strategy will assist us to achieve this, as well as position Gannawarra Shire Council as a highly sustainable and resilient regional Council by 2040.

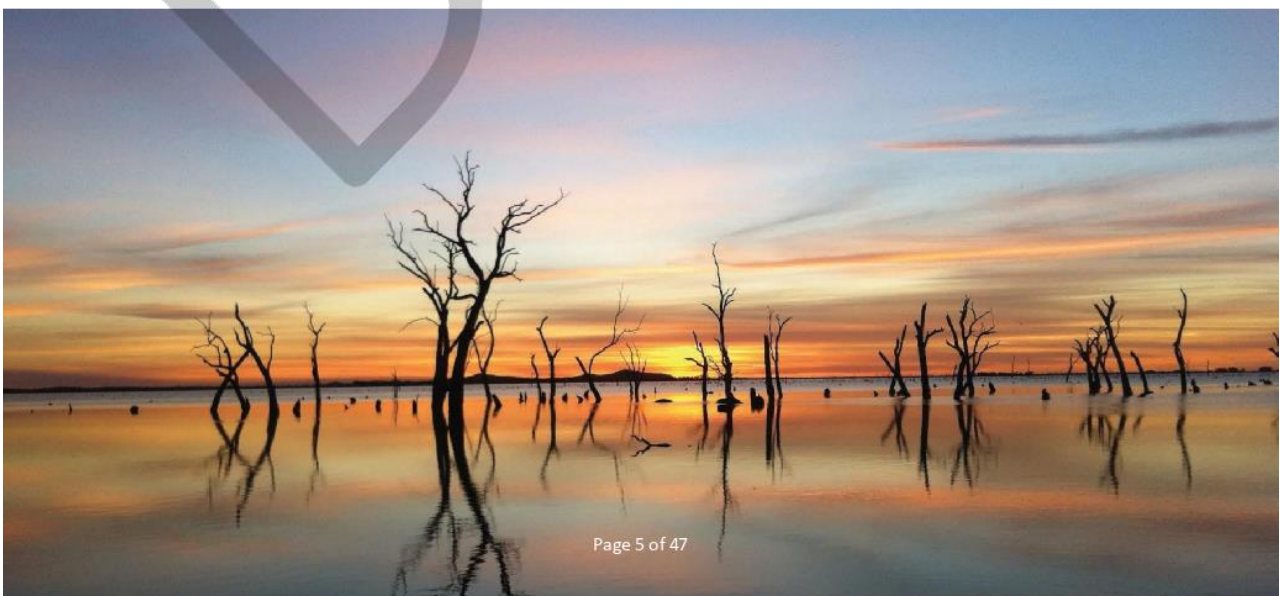
We are also required to consider climate risk in Council activities, under the Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 and Local Government Act 2020. In doing this, we acknowledge our ancestors and descendants of the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba People, who have endured previous large-scale climatic change events. Their in-depth understanding of the land, together with their knowledge and their capacity to adapt to environmental change, is critical to our approach.

The successful implementation of the actions listed in this strategy rely on Council's partnerships with the community and regional agencies. Although we are one entity, it will take the efforts of everyone to mitigate climate change and ensure the Gannawarra is a great place to live and work for many years to come.

Mayor Charlie Gillingham

Acknowledgement of Country

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba people as the traditional owners of the land now known as Gannawarra. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their rich culture and connection to Country.



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2. INTRODUCTION

In December 2021, Gannawarra Shire Council (GSC) adopted its Climate Change Policy, confirming its commitment to long-term climate adaptation and mitigation. The objectives of the Policy include reducing the environmental impacts and operating costs of Council operations, undertaking actions to reduce the Gannawarra community's emissions, responding to the risks of climate change to Council assets and services, and assisting the community to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

This Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy has been developed to formalise a clear strategic direction for climate change adaptation and mitigation for GSC. It establishes clear, concise, and actionable plans across the short, medium and long term to guide Council towards achieving its climate vision. Whilst focused on Council's own operations and service delivery, the Strategy also includes high level opportunities for Council to influence positive outcomes in the broader Gannawarra community.

Section 3 of this document establishes the context of the Strategy in terms of Gannawarra's already changing climate, the decarbonisation of the economy, and relevant State and Federal government policies. Section 4 explores steps already undertaken by GSC to address climate change, including within the Growing Gannawarra plan and adoption of a formal Climate Change Policy.

Key climate change risks identified for Gannawarra are summarised in Section 5. This section also outlines the results of community consultation for this Strategy, identifying the needs and priorities of residents and business owners in responding to the impacts of climate change. GSC's corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory is presented in Section 6. Section 7 highlights programs already implemented by Council, demonstrating our leadership in reducing emissions and improving liveability in the region.

Section 8 presents GSC's long-term climate change goals and strategic framework. With short, medium and long term objectives across four strategic priority areas, GSC have identified key actions to be completed over the next five years to set Gannawarra on a trajectory to achieve its goals.



3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

3.1 Climate Change in Gannawarra

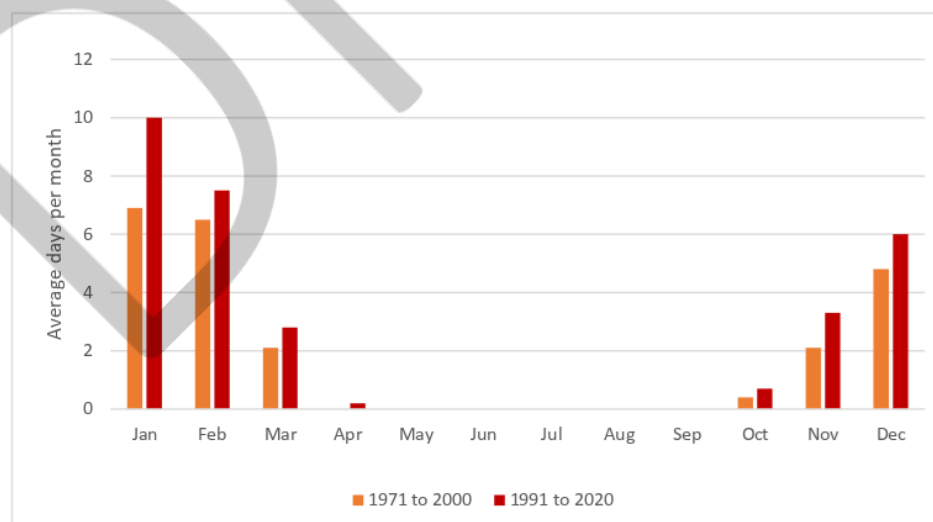
3.1.1 How the Shire's climate has already changed

Victoria is becoming hotter and drier as a result of climate change. Since 1910, annual average temperatures have increased by 1.2°C in Victoria, while cool season rainfall has declined over the last 30 yearsⁱ. These changes are already having short and long term impacts on the landscape, productivity, culture and health and well-being of regional Victoria.

In the Loddon Mallee region climate change has brought longer and harsher bushfire seasons, changed rainfall patterns, greater drought risk, more extreme heat and rainfall events and ecological changesⁱⁱ. In Gannawarra, the average number of days over 35°C has increased by 33% from an average of 22.8 between 1971 – 2000 to 30.5 between 1991 and 2020ⁱⁱⁱ. Figure 1 compares the average number of days over 35°C per month between 1971 and 2000 and 1991 and 2020. This shows an increase in the number of days over 35°C in all months from October to April.

These impacts are already being felt by the local Gannawarra Shire community. In addition to the concern about increasing extreme temperatures, community consultation conducted by Ironbark Sustainability in partnership with GSC highlighted a variety of community experiences and concerns related to the changing climate. These included water security concerns due to declining rainfall, negative impacts on livability, especially during summer months, and the health and mental health impacts on residents of drought and extreme heat events, particularly on vulnerable members of the community. The Kerang Aboriginal Elders group additionally spoke of the deterioration of the local environment, including waterways that were more polluted and more invasive species in the local area. They also discussed issues with extreme heat and the financial stress of needing to run air conditioning for longer in summer.

Figure 1: Average number of days over 35°C per month in Kerang



3.1.2 Gannawarra in 2050

Without significant action to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change, these impacts are only going to increase. Modelling completed by the Victorian Government, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) confirms that both medium and high emissions scenarios will see an increase in average and daily maximum temperatures for the Gannawarra region. Under a high emissions scenario average daily maximum temperature rise is projected to increase from 22.8°C to approximately 25°C by 2050 and over 27°C by 2100^v. The impact of this is set to almost double the average number of days over 35°C per year to over 42 per year by 2050 and up to 62 by 2090. Rainfall is projected to continue to decline under a high emissions scenario, with annual rainfall between 10-20% lower by 2050 (Figure 3).

Emissions Scenarios

To assist climate scientists in the consistent modelling of climate change impacts, the IPCC has outlined four standardised scenarios called Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs), ranging from RCP8.5 (high emissions scenario) to RCP2.6 (low emissions scenario). These scenarios are based on the likely emissions production at a global level (i.e. the total amount of emissions produced by all countries) and consider the environmental systems used to process various concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide^{iv}. Taking into account the diversity of climate action at a global scale, it is relevant to consider high (RCP8.5) and medium (RCP4.5) scenarios to understand our future climatic landscape.

Climate models also project an increase in solar radiation for the Murray Darling Basin, a decrease in relative humidity and an increase in evapotranspiration (the evaporation and transpiration of water from soil, vegetation, water bodies and the groundwater table). Increase evapotranspiration together with a decline in rainfall is projected to have large impacts on soil moisture, particularly in winter and spring^{vi}

Figure 2: Extreme heat projections for the Gannawarra region^{vii}

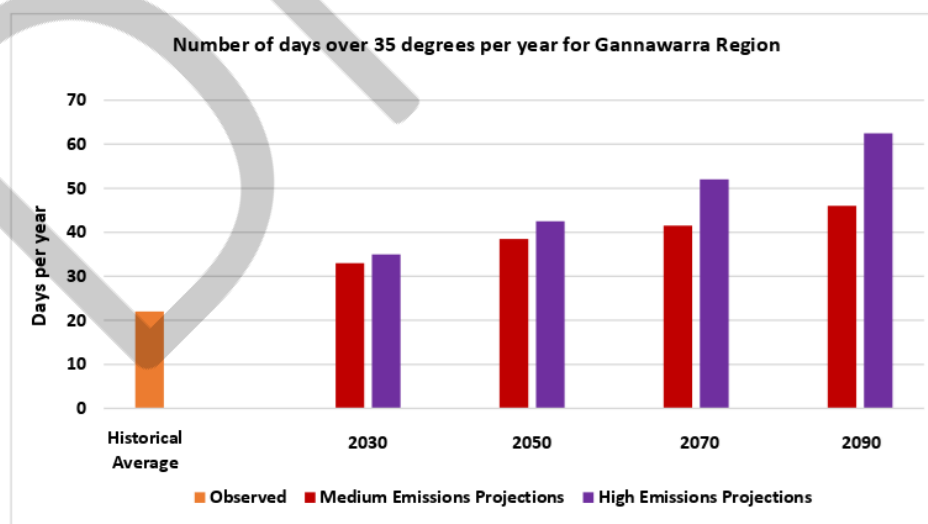
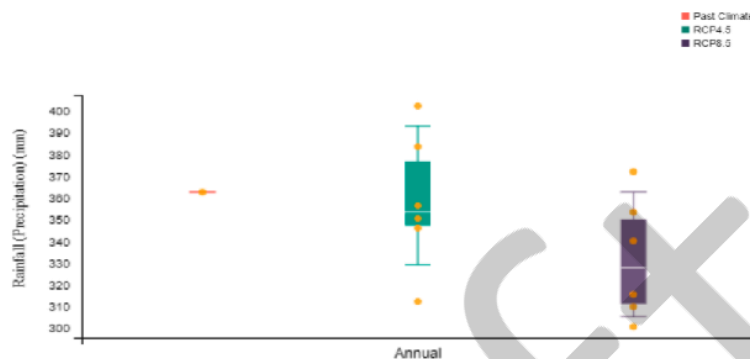


Figure 3: Rainfall predictions under medium (RCP4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenarios^{viii}

Despite these trends, local and global action on climate change is still able to reduce emissions in line with low or medium emissions scenarios. Limiting global emissions to these lower concentration levels will help to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Under a medium emissions scenario, for example, the region is projected to experience a much lower reduction in rainfall, while under a low emissions scenario average annual temperatures are projected to be 2.3°C to 2.8°C lower than under a high emissions scenario by the end of the century^{ix}.

3.2 State and Federal Policy Context

Paris Agreement At the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Conference in 2015, the Australian Government signed an international agreement between 195 countries to keep any temperature rise “well below 2°C”, and to drive efforts to keep warming below 1.5°C higher than pre-industrial levels. The Paris Agreement, entered into force on 4 November 2016, explicitly recognises and engages local and subnational governments and their critical role in supporting the transformation, including setting goals and strategies aligned with the science. Climate science tells us that warming beyond the 1.5°C threshold is likely to have increasingly severe social, economic and environmental impacts, not least on a water scarce continent like Australia.

Victorian Government In 2017, the Victorian Government introduced the *Climate Change Act 2017*, which legislated a state-wide net zero emissions target by 2050. In 2021, the State Government further released the Victorian Climate Change Strategy, which introduced updated renewable energy targets and interim emissions reduction targets, including a 50% renewable energy target and a 45-50% emission reduction target (on 2005 levels) by 2030^x.

The *Climate Change Act* also requires the development of five-yearly Adaptation Action Plans covering the physical and non-physical systems applicable to Victorian communities^{xi}.

The amended *Local Government Act 2020* for the first time introduced overarching governance principles that Councils must consider climate change in their decision-making, specifically that “the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted”^{xii}.

Federal Government In October 2021, the Australian Government committed for the first time to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. With the election of the new federal government in May 2022, Australia recommitted to the 2050 net zero emission target and increased its 2030 target from 26-28 per cent below 2005 levels to 43%^{xiii}. While Australia's new 2030 target is now in line with the Australia Climate Change Authority's recommendation of between 40-60% reduction in emissions by 2030^{xiv}, the target remains at the lower end of the recommended range.

3.3 Low Carbon Transition

Council's Impact Australian local governments are at the forefront of climate change mitigation and have played a significant role in supporting the State and Federal Governments to take realistic but ambitious action. Avoiding the worst effects of climate change will require the decarbonisation of fossil fuel consuming industries and processes. This need to transition to a low carbon economy is the driving force behind the Victorian Government's emissions reduction target of 45-50% by 2030.

Global and national efforts to decarbonise at an organisational level have included transitioning to low carbon alternatives to internal combustion engine vehicles, improving the efficiency of equipment and building design, and installing onsite renewable energy. GSC can contribute to these efforts by reducing its own corporate emissions, a process Council has already begun with the installation of rooftop solar PV and efficient street lighting upgrades.

Large Scale Renewables The transition to a low carbon economy will require significant changes to Australia's energy industry. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) predicts that electricity demand will almost double by 2050 to serve the electrification of all sectors of the economy. Coal-fired generation, which currently provides over half the current electricity supply, has been forecast to cease entirely by 2043. Already, coal-fired power plants such as Eraring, in the Hunter Valley, are bringing their expected closure dates forward by more than 5 years.



AEMO is expecting Australia to need 141 GW of grid-scale renewable energy to serve energy demands in 2050. For Gannawarra Shire this presents enormous opportunity, due to the region's significant solar resources. With regulatory approval underway for VNI West (also known as Kerang link), Gannawarra Shire is well placed to supply both Victoria and NSW with low-cost renewable energy to support their transition to net zero.

Kerang Link

The Victoria New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West or the Kerang Link) will see the Victorian and New South Wales electricity networks connected via infrastructure that passes through Gannawarra Shire. In addition to enabling greater electricity transfer capacity between Victoria and New South Wales, the upgraded electricity infrastructure will allow for significantly higher volumes of renewable energy to feed into the national grid. The upgraded network will encourage new local renewable energy investment in the region, while having positive impacts on grid stabilisation and electricity costs^{xv}.

"Kerang Link will set up Northern Victoria as the nation's largest renewable energy zone and will secure the Gannawarra's economic sustainability,"

Mayor Charlie Gillingham

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) recommended the project proceed in 2021, with an expected completion date of 2031. Once completed, Kerang Link will have significant regional and national outcomes through its role in supporting the accelerated exit of ageing coal fired power plants from the grid. Gannawarra is already part of Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones and has two existing large scale solar plants in function. Kerang Link will enable the further development of Large Scale Renewables in the region.

As well as environmental benefits, the project will also facilitate renewable energy infrastructure investment in the region, with the creation of local jobs and economic flow to the community.

Emerging Technologies Large-scale decarbonisation is driving the development of new technologies to support the transition away from fossil fuel usage across all sectors. These emerging technologies include green hydrogen for transport and industrial processes, energy storage in batteries, microgrids, and virtual power plants (VPPs).

Carbon Sequestration The commitment to achieve net zero emissions by State and Federal governments and private corporations means that the demand for carbon offsets will dramatically grow over the next decade. This presents opportunities for new carbon sequestration projects such as reforestation and afforestation to generate carbon credits.

4. GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL POLICY CONTEXT

Gannawarra Shire Council is taking notable steps to acknowledge and act upon climate change in the region. These steps include the integration of climate change within the Growing Gannawarra plan, the adoption of a formal Climate Change Policy in December 2021 and the development of this Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Council operations and services.

4.1 Growing Gannawarra

The Growing Gannawarra Council Plan (2021 - 2025)^{xvi} establishes three Council goals, which aim to ensure the Gannawarra region remains a prosperous and safe place to live and work: Liveability, Growth and Sustainability. Action on climate change underpins the achievement of each of these three goals. This includes (but is not limited to):



- Building transformational infrastructure that enhances liveability and passive and active recreation, under Goal 1 (Liveability),
- Facilitating the development of new energy projects and infrastructure, under Goal 2 (Growth), and
- Supporting community resilience through climate adaptation, clean energy, environmental sustainability and waste management programs, under Goal 3 (Sustainability)

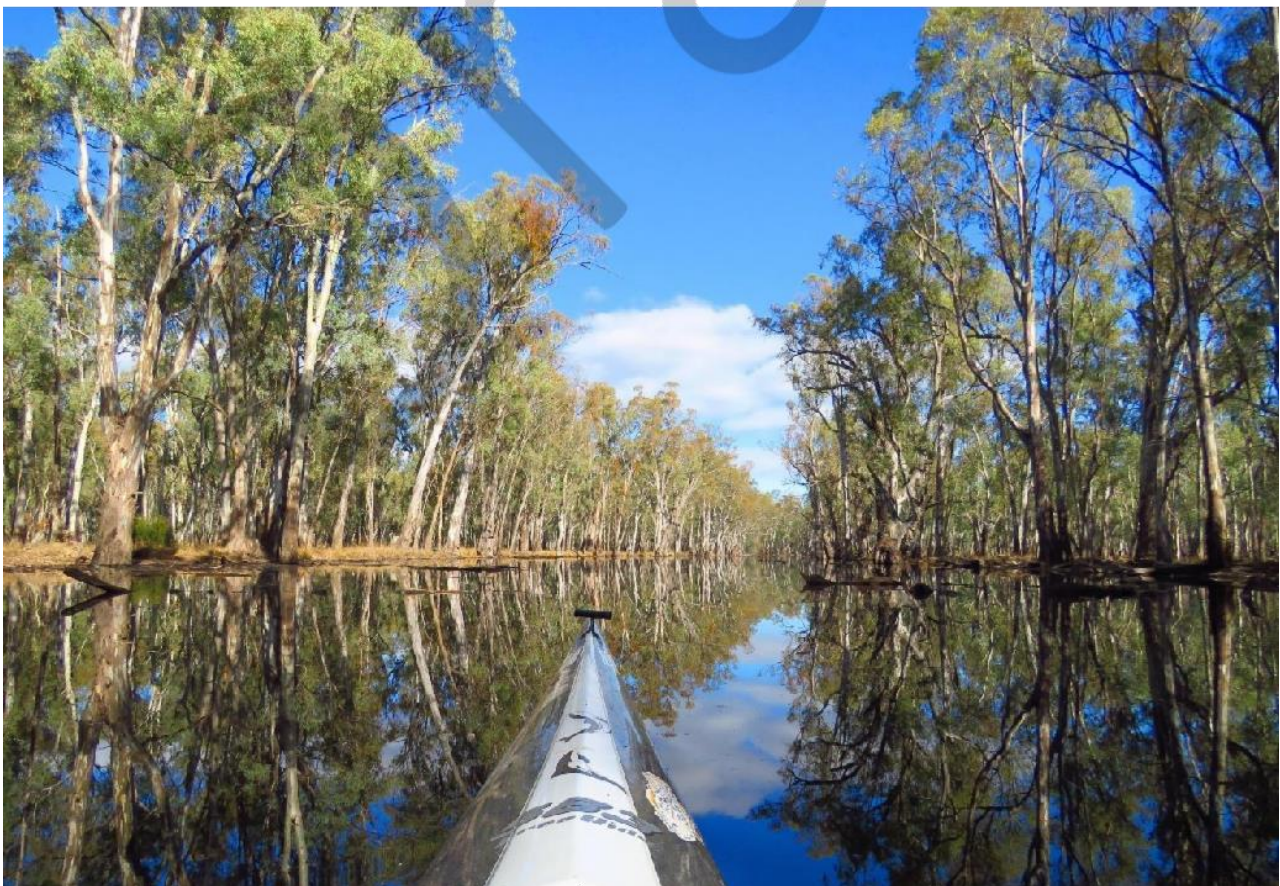


4.2 Gannawarra Shire Council's Climate Change Policy

GSC's Climate Change Policy^{vii} lays the foundation for Council to take meaningful action to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change. The policy *acknowledges the scientific evidence and the risk that climate change presents to the community and the planet* and provides Council with a *strategic framework for mitigating and adapting to climate change*.

It outlines five key policy objectives which establish the direction and ambition for Climate Action within the Shire. The policy objectives are to:

- Provide a strategic framework for Council to manage its response to climate change by using both adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- Reduce the environmental impacts and operating costs of Council operations and minimise fuel consumption while reducing corporate energy use, transition to 100% renewable energy and achieve corporate net zero emissions by 2025, and net zero emissions at the Landfill by 2040;
- Undertake actions to reduce the community's emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2040 by providing opportunities for public engagement, education and action;
- Respond to the risks of climate change to Council assets and services and assist the community to be more resilient to the effects of climate change; and
- Actively join climate change initiatives that promote education, economic growth and the community to become more sustainable and increase liveability.



5. CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS FOR GANNAWARRA

Gannawarra Shire is exposed to a range of climate change related hazards, including extreme heat, drought and flooding, which present Council and the Community with a high level of climate change risk.

To assess and prioritise these risks, a climate change risk assessment was undertaken in line with Council's risk management procedure. The risk assessment examined the six main climate related hazards to which the Shire is exposed against each of Council's service areas as listed in Table 1. Through this process 62 potential climate change risks were identified, including four extreme risks and a further 21 high risks. A summary of all 62 climate changes risks is provided in **Appendix B**.

Table 1: Climate Change Hazards and Council Services Areas

Climate Change Hazards	Council Service Areas
Extreme Heat	Corporate Services
Low Rainfall	Community Development
Drought	Public Health and Wellbeing
Bushfire	Assets and Infrastructure
Riverine Flooding	Leadership and Governance
Extreme Weather	Environment and Parks
	Waste
	Water
	Economic Development

5.1 Key Climate Change Risks



Riverine Flooding

Riverine flooding was assessed as having the greatest overall risk to Council with three extreme and six high risks identified.

The three extreme risks all related to the potential impact of a major riverine flood event on Council and private property, assets and infrastructure across the region. The extreme risk rating is due to how widespread the impacts would be under a major flood event, in particular in the event that townships levees are breached.

High risks include short term displacement of local residents, townships being temporarily cut off and disruption to services as a result of a major flood event.

Riverine flooding was also a key concern raised by local residents during community consultations, with the memory of the 2011 floods still very prevalent in people's minds.



Drought

Drought was also assessed as a significant risk for the Gannawarra Shire. Given the importance of agriculture to the region, the economic impact of a major drought event is potentially catastrophic. This resulted in an extreme risk assessment.

Four additional risks related to drought were also assessed as high, including the impact of drought on local food security, water scarcity and supply, habitat and biodiversity loss and increase in pests and invasive species.



Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is the third main climate risk for the region. Six risks relating to extreme heat were assessed as high. The potential health impact of an increase in heatwaves and extreme heat days on vulnerable members of the community was assessed to have the greatest overall consequence (Major). Additionally, extreme heat impacts on mental health, green space, local habitat and biodiversity and Council services were assessed to have a moderate consequence. A key risk factor that stands out for extreme heat is that its likelihood in the future is *Almost Certain*. The greater likelihood of extreme heat events elevates each of these risks.

The current as well as potential future impact of extreme heat was raised as a key issue of concern during the community consultations.



Bushfire

The risk of bushfire to lives and property was assessed to be lower for Gannawarra due to the low density of forested areas around townships within the shire. The risk of increased bushfire events on habitat and biodiversity loss as well as natural and cultural assets is, however, high. The impact of bushfire on Ramsar Wetlands and other areas of high conservation value could be significant with increased frequency and severity of bushfires. More frequent bushfires can impact the environment's ability to regenerate, and more severe fires can have a critical impact on flora and fauna.



Community Concerns and Priorities

Community consultation conducted as part of the development of this strategy highlighted a number of critical concerns of Gannawarra residents and clear priorities for action.

Key concerns raised by community members included:

The impacts of extreme heat on health, well-being and liveability

The impact of reduced rainfall on agricultural, natural environment and mental health, and

The economic impact of climate change with more money having to be spent on electricity and fuel as well as flow costs from health impacts.

Significant concern was also raised about the potential for future flood events similar or greater than the 2011 floods. One community member spoke of the high level of trauma that was still present in the community from the 2011 floods.

The Kerang Elders Group raised many of the same issues, particularly in relation to extreme heat and the economic impacts climate change. The group also spoke about how the seasons had changed and voiced concerns about the deterioration of the local environment, including more polluted waterways and more weeds and invasive species in the local area.

Priority actions identified by community members included:

The need for more street trees and green spaces within towns,

The need to create cool spaces, shade belts and heat refuges to make towns more accessible on hot days, including free splash parks

More climate change education and outreach that can target critical information to vulnerable groups

Climate change extension and financial incentives to support adoption of energy savings and low emissions solutions in homes and businesses

More action to encourage shift away from private petrol vehicles

Greater consideration of climate change impacts in planning decisions

Support for community led power generation including Virtual Power Plants, and

Increasing Council solar and transitioning away from natural gas.

The need for Aboriginal communities in the Gannawarra Shire to be consulted and provided with opportunities for economic development as part of the low carbon transitions was also raised during the Kerang Elders meeting.



6. GSC EMISSIONS INVENTORY

GSC's corporate greenhouse gas inventory for the 2020/21 financial year was 1,696 tCO₂-e. This includes all emissions occurring as a result of Council's operations for one year. A summary of Council's emissions sources is presented in **Table 2**. The most significant emissions source is transport fuels, including diesel, petrol and LPG used in Council's fleet and plant. Transport fuel accounted for 55% of total emissions. Electricity at council-owned sites is the next largest contributor is electricity at 30%, or 507 tCO₂-e. Electricity for street lighting represents 9% of the inventory, and water supply to council facilities 6%.

Figure 4: GSC Corporate GHG Emissions Breakdown 2020/21

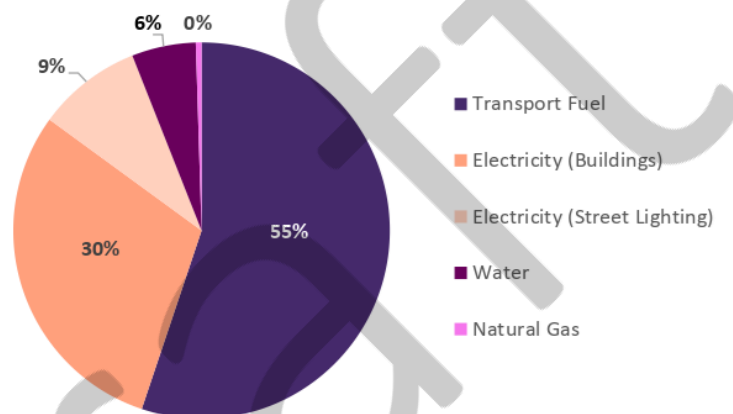


Table 2: GSC Corporate GHG Emissions Inventory 2020/21

Emissions Source	Consumption	Units	tCO ₂ e	%
Direct emissions (Scope 1)				
Transport - Diesel for fleet	85	kL	230	13.5%
Transport - Diesel for plant	213	kL	579	34.1%
Transport - Petrol for fleet	34.7	kL	79	4.7%
Transport - LPG for fleet	1.2	kL	2	0.1%
LPG bottled & bulk for buildings	5,040	L	8	0.5%
TOTAL DIRECT EMISSIONS (Scope 1)			898	53%
Indirect emissions (Scope 2)				
Electricity (Council)	465,145	kWh	456	26.9%
TOTAL INDIRECT EMISSIONS (Scope 2)			456	27%
Indirect emissions (Scope 3)				
Electricity (Street Lighting - DNSP Owned)	139,528	kWh	137	8.0%
Water (Council)	51,918	kL	93	5.5%
Emissions from manufacture, transmission and other losses electricity for Council sites	465,145	kWh	51	3.0%
Emissions from manufacture, transmission and other losses electricity for Street Lighting	139,528	kWh	15	0.9%
Emissions from diesel extraction, production and transport for fleet & plant	298	kL	41	2.4%
Emissions from petrol extraction, production and transport fleet & plant	34	kL	4	0.3%
Emissions from LPG extraction, production and transport for fleet and buildings	6,269	L	0.6	0.04%
TOTAL INDIRECT EMISSIONS (Scope 3)			343	20%
TOTAL EMISSIONS (Scope 1+2+3)			1,697	100%

7. WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED?

Gannawarra Shire Council has shown leadership in the actions we have taken in response to climate change. GSC has already implemented an array of programs, which have sought to better understand climate change related impacts, such as extreme heat, and improve the livability of the region. Council has also undertaken actions to reduce our own impact on climate change through emissions reduction activities, including the installation of 170 KW of behind the meter Solar systems at Council facilities and the replacement of streetlights with energy efficient LEDs, and by supporting the development of large-scale renewable energy generation the region. These projects not only deliver improved environmental benefits but also achieve financial and operational savings for Council and help to create more economic development opportunities of the region.

Cool It Tree Selection and Heat Vulnerability Assessments

A council collaboration coordinated by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) with funding from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the Cool It project utilised spatial data to determine urban areas of nine Victorian regional and rural councils that were socially vulnerable to heat impacts, including Gannawarra Shire^{xviii}. This led to the identification of parcels of land within these areas where populations are most vulnerable to urban heat and heatwaves and prioritisation of these areas for responsive planning, strategy and communication mechanisms. The project placed a specific focus on the value of canopy cover and ground cover vegetation in lowering urban microclimate temperatures, including surface temperatures. It also successfully quantified the benefits associated with various vegetation types and urban surface treatments to help guide appropriate and responsive urban planning to mitigate heat associated urban risks. In partnership with the Castlemaine Institute, a secondary project phase sought to identify a selection of street trees resilient to future climate scenarios. A short-list of 100 candidate species was identified for detailed evaluation of their vulnerability to future climate^{xix}.



Gannawarra Large-Scale Renewable Energy

Gannawarra Shire has an abundance of land, solar and wind resources and is in the heart of one of Victoria's six Renewable Energy Zones. This makes the shire ideally placed to capitalise on opportunities associated with solar and wind power generation.

The Shire is already home to two large solar power stations (Stage 1 of a 300MW station and completion of a 34MW station) and has identified a number of additional large scale renewable projects, which would deliver further economic development opportunities for the region. The final approval and development the Kerang Link will provide certainty for these projects to proceed.

**LED Streetlight Design and Bulk Changeover**

With support from the CVGA, Gannawarra Shire Council took part in the Lighting the Regions program, seeking to replace inefficient mercury vapour lights with LEDs. Over 700 lights were changed in the Gannawarra region, part of a larger regional project that replaced approximately 23,000 lights. The savings associated with a renewable energy project such as this are both environmental and financial. The 16 Lighting the Regions participants seek to save a combined total of \$57 million over 20 years, and 180,000 tCO₂-e of emissions. This is additional to the social and security benefits associated with a streetlight bulk changeover, such as ensuring all lights are functional and fit for purpose.



8. GSC'S CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

8.1 Long Term Goal

Gannawarra Shire Council's long term climate change goal is:

By 2040, Gannawarra Shire Council is a highly sustainable and resilient regional Council and a leading region for renewable energy and low carbon technology.

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the scientific evidence and the risk that climate change presents to the community and the planet. GSC is committed to taking strong and decisive action to minimise Council's environmental impact and build the resilience of Council operations, services and assets to reduce the vulnerability of the community to climate change.

Council also recognises the opportunities that the response to climate change presents, in particular the economic development opportunities available from the transition to a low carbon economy. As part of our response to climate change, GSC will support the region to maximise the available opportunities and reap the benefits for the economic transition.

8.2 Strategic Approach

Gannawarra Shire Council has developed a Climate Action Framework (Section 8.3) to guide Council action and ensure our long-term climate change goal is achieved.

Strategic Priorities

GSC will focus on four Strategic Priority (SP) areas that will enable Council to adapt to climate change, build our resilience, minimise our environmental impact and position the shire to act on the available opportunities. Each strategic priority will work towards achieving a long-term objective, as outlined in the section 8.3.

Strategic Priority 1:	Building resilience of GSC operations and services to climate change.
Strategic Priority 2:	Reducing community vulnerability to extreme weather.
Strategic Priority 3:	Reducing Council environmental impact and operating costs.
Strategic Priority 4:	Maximising opportunities of the low carbon transition.

Pathway Actions

Under each strategic priority area pathway actions have been identified. The pathway actions help to identify the types of actions that are required under each strategic priority area to achieve the long-term objectives and deliver on Council's long-term climate change goal.

Short and Medium Term Objectives

Short and medium-term objectives have also been developed for each strategic priority area. These objectives focus on the achievement of shorter-term priorities that are required to achieve Council's long-term climate change objectives. Achieving the short and medium-term objectives will help ensure GSC is on the right pathway to deliver on Council's climate change strategy.

8.3 Climate Action Framework

Goal	By 2040, Gannawarra Shire Council is a highly sustainable and resilient regional Council and a leading region for renewable energy and low carbon technology.					
Priority Issues	Strategic Priority 1 Building Resilience of Council Operations and Services to Climate Change			Strategic Priority 2 Reducing community vulnerability to extreme weather events		
Pathway Action	Build knowledge	Identify risks	Integrate into strategic operations and planning	Increase community awareness	Enhance natural assets & open space	Reduce vulnerability to extreme weather
Long Term Objectives	By 2040, GSC has built the resilience of its assets, operations and services to withstand climate change impacts and ensure continuity of service to the community.			By 2040, Council managed assets and open-spaces have been enhanced to improve livability and reduce community vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.		
Medium Term Objectives	By 2030, GSC has developed action plans and started to adapt its assets, operations and services to reduce risk and vulnerability to climate change impacts.	By 2030, consideration of potential climate change impacts becomes a business-as-usual practice in Council strategic planning and decision-making.	By 2030, GSC has investigated climate change cadetship and scholarship opportunities to upskill staff.	By 2035, GSC has increased tree cover and shading in town centres and major parks to reduce impact of extreme heat.	By 2035, all township levees have been upgraded to adhere to a 1-in-100 year flood level that accounts for climate change	
Short Term Objectives	By 2025, GSC has identified critical climate change risks to all council assets and services.	By 2025, GSC has integrated climate change across Council's Strategic Planning.		By 2025, a Gannawarra community sustainability group has established itself as a key resource for climate change information within the shire.	By 2025, GSC has updated its tree planting guidelines and trees policy to incorporate recommendations of the Cool It Project.	By 2030, all township flood levees have been assessed against a revised 1-in-100 year flood level that accounts for climate change.

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Priority Issues	Strategic Priority 3 Reducing Council environmental impact and operating costs				Strategic Priority 4 Maximising opportunities of the low carbon transition		
	Renewable energy	Energy efficiency	Electrification	Offset	Large scale renewables	Green hydrogen	Carbon sequestration
Long Term Objectives	By 2040, GSC has completed the transition of its assets and facilities to energy efficient, low carbon technology.				By 2040, GSC is a leading LGA for the development and production of renewable energy and low carbon technology, providing financial and environmental benefits for the Gannawarra community.		
Medium Term Objectives	By 2030, GSC has developed a transition plan for its heavy fleet.	By 2035, GSC has transitioned all of its small plant and light fleet to electric alternatives.	By 2035, GSC has phased out all gas systems in Council facilities across the shire.		By 2030, GSC has established partnerships for development of new large-scale renewable energy, carbon sequestration and Green Hydrogen projects.		
Short Term Objectives	From 2025, GSC will source 100% of electricity from renewable sources.		GSC seeks to achieve zero net emissions for its operations and services by 2030.		By 2025 Council has successfully advocated for Kerang Link approvals	By 2025, GSC has investigated developing guidelines to ensure the Gannawarra community benefit from the renewable energy investment in the region.	

8.4 Strategic Priority 1: Building Resilience of Council Operations and Services to Climate Change

SP1: Long Term Objective

By 2040, GSC has built the resilience of its assets, operations and services to withstand climate change impacts and ensure continuity of service to the community.

Ensuring that Council's own assets and infrastructure can withstand the projected impacts of climate change is a key responsibility for Local Governments. Under the *Victorian Local Government Act 2020*, Councils are required to:

- give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations, 9(2)(b); and
- promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, 9(2)(c).

Additionally, Council needs to ensure that it can continue to carry out its normal operations and provide essential services to the community in a climate change affected future.

SP1: Pathway Actions

Build knowledge	Identify risks	Integrate into strategic operations and planning
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Building the resilience of Council assets, operations and services to climate change requires Council to firstly build and maintain its internal climate change knowledge and capacity, relevant to key operational areas, and then to improve the identification and monitoring of critical climate change risks.

As climate change will have different impacts across Council's operations and areas of responsibility, the most effective way to identify, address and monitor risks is to integrate climate change considerations and actions into existing council process. This means incorporating climate change into key governance process such as Council's strategic risk management processes and integrating climate change into key strategies and plans, including the Council Plan, the Municipal Public Health and Well-Being Plan and the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

Building knowledge, identifying risks and integrating climate change into strategic operations and planning represent the three pathway actions for this strategic priority area.

SP1: Short-Term Objectives	
By 2025, GSC has identified critical climate change risks to all council assets and services.	By 2025, GSC has integrated climate change across Council's Strategic Planning.
SP1: Short-term actions	
<i>Build Knowledge</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake assessment of relevant technical staff and decision-makers' knowledge of climate change. Ensure relevant staff complete training to be able to integrate climate change considerations in assessments, planning and decision-making. Investigate scholarship or cadetship opportunities for staff.
<i>Identify Risks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate climate change risk and vulnerability assessments into asset management plans for all critical Council assets. Assess impact of extreme weather events on Council services.
<i>Integrate Climate Change into Strategic Operations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include climate change as a strategic risk within Council's strategic risk register. Conduct contingency/business continuity planning for high and extreme climate change risks on key council operations and services. Integrate climate change into the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan.

Looking Forward

The majority of short-term actions for this strategic priority area will need to continue to be implemented in the medium to long term, including capacity development, risk and vulnerability assessments and integration of climate change into governance, operational and strategic planning. Medium term actions are, however, expected to have a greater focus on the development of specific adaptation actions and plans to address risks and reduce vulnerability of assets and services to climate change. Building the knowledge and experience of staff related to climate change will also help to improve Council processes and support consideration of climate change to become business-as-usual in decision-making.

8.5 Strategic Priority 2: Reducing Gannawarra community vulnerability to extreme weather events

SP2: Long Term Objective

By 2040, Council managed assets and open-spaces have been enhanced to improve livability and reduce community vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

Riverine flooding, drought and extreme heat are the greatest climate change risks facing Gannawarra. Climate change is projected to lead to a significant increase in the number of extreme heat days and heatwave events in the Shire. If global emissions remain high, Gannawarra shire could see over 45 days above 35°C per year by 2050, over double the number experienced in the 1990s. While overall rainfall is projected to decline, the occurrence of high intensity rainfall events is expected to increase. This shift in rainfall patterns will increase the risk of both drought and major flooding events.

Council has a crucial role to play in reducing the vulnerability of the local community through the effective management of Council owned assets, including Council buildings and facilities, natural assets and open spaces and township levees. Ensuring these assets are designed and adapted to meet expected climate change can greatly reduce the community exposure and vulnerability to climate change impacts.

SP2: Pathway Actions

Increase community awareness	Enhance natural assets & open spaces	Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Weather
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Enhancing council owned natural assets and open spaces and reducing community vulnerability to extreme weather, including extreme heat and flood events, are the key pathway action areas for Council under this strategic priority.

Enhance assets and reduce vulnerability to extreme weather

Council manages a large number of natural assets and open spaces across the Shire. Parks, green spaces and street trees play an incredibly important role in cooling towns and enhancing livability. Increasing canopy cover within towns provides greater shade, allowing people to go about their business for longer, while also helping to reduce the amount of heat trapped within urban areas on hot days. Enhancing parks and green spaces also provides more cool places for people to escape the heat and allows the community to be more active outside across the hotter months. As the climate changes ensuring that all new trees planted must be selected from species that are suited to Gannawarra's current and expected future climate. Appropriate tree species selection will also reduce watering and maintenance requirements and save Council money.

In addition to enhancing natural assets to reduce vulnerability to extreme heat, Council will upgrade public buildings that can be used as heat refuges and provide more sheltered and shaded areas and drinking water stations. Council will also review and update its vulnerable persons register to include people vulnerable to extreme heat.

To ensure Shire townships remain safe from major flood events, Council will advocate for flood models to incorporate projected climate change impacts and conduct assessments on all Council owned levees to ensure they continue to meet a 1-in-100 year flood level.

Increase community awareness

Council will also support the establishment of a community sustainability group and the development of a community-led adaptation and mitigation strategy. These actions will support the local community to increase their own understanding of the climate change impacts and risks, get information on resources and support available and help them take action appropriate actions, from reducing heat impacts in their homes to lowering emissions and energy bills through the installation of solar or undertaking energy efficiency actions.

SP2: Short-Term Objectives		
By 2025, a Gannawarra community sustainability group has established itself as a key resource for climate change information within the shire.	By 2025, GSC has updated its tree planting guidelines and trees policy to incorporate recommendations of the Cool It Project.	By 2030, all township flood levees have been assessed against a revised 1-in-100 year flood level that accounts for projected climate change.
SP2: Short-term actions		
<i>Community Awareness</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the establishment of a community sustainability group to enhance community engagement on key climate change issues. Support the development of a community-led climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. 	
<i>Enhance Natural Assets and Open Spaces</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance natural spaces for use as cool places during extreme heat events. Increase urban canopy cover in shire townships, in particular around town centres, retail precincts and critical services. Update GSC tree planting guideline based on recommendations of the Cool It Project, including priority locations and appropriate tree species selection. Work with North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) and neighbouring councils to monitor key habitat and native vegetation areas for new and invasive species. 	
<i>Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Weather</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update vulnerable persons register to include residents at high risk to extreme temperatures. Enhance open spaces such as parks and bus stops to provide further protection and relief from sun and extreme heat, including more sheltered and shaded areas and provision of drinking water stations. Upgrade public buildings to provide cool places and heat refuges during extreme heat. Explore the use of Environmental Upgrade Agreement opportunities to support local business and residents to increase the energy and thermal efficiency of their businesses and houses to reduce vulnerability to extreme temperatures. Advocate to ensure that flood models account for projected climate change impacts, including to 1-in-100 year flood level. Conduct assessments on all town levees to ensure they continue to exceed a 1-in-100 year flood level. 	

Looking Forward

As with Strategic Priority Area 1, many of the medium term actions for this strategic priority area will focus on the implementation of assessments and plans developed in the under this initial climate change strategy. This is expected to include:

- Continued enhancement of green and open spaces, through further tree planting, shading and other small scale infrastructure to reduce heat impacts;
- Upgrading townships levees identified as requiring enhancement through assessments to maintain 1-in-100 year flood level protections, and
- Continued upgrading of Council buildings for use as cool refuges, as required.

Council is also expected to continue actions including, monitoring and managing invasive species, reviewing and updating vulnerable persons register and supporting community level climate change action. Improved risk and vulnerability assessments conducted in Strategic Priority Area 1 may also lead to additional action to reduce community vulnerability to extreme weather.



8.6 Strategic Priority 3: Reducing Gannawarra Shire Council environmental impact and operating costs

SP3: Long Term Objective

By 2040, GSC has completed the transition of its assets and facilities to energy efficient, low carbon technology.

Transitioning GSC's operations to energy efficient, low carbon technology will not only reduce Council's own impact on climate change and the environment but will also led to financial savings through reduced operational and maintenance costs. Renewable energy and energy efficiency actions can significantly reduce electricity use at Council facilities and assets, while the electrification of council's fleet and gas system will reduce future fuel and maintenance costs.

The maturity of technology across these different areas, however, is at different stages. While some technologies, such as renewable energy and energy efficiency, are already technically and financially viable, other technology, such as batteries and electric or hydrogen heavy fleet are still many years away from being viable to use within Council operations.

By acting on the presently available opportunities and beginning required transition planning processes now, GSC will steadily reduce operational emissions and costs and ensure that larger change processes, such as the electrification of Council's fleet, are implemented in a timely and cost-effective way that minimises risk to Council.

SP3: Pathway Actions

Renewable energy	Energy efficiency	Electrification	Offsets
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The three critical pathway action areas for Council to reduce its emissions are: switching to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency of building and assets and electrification of gas systems and Council fleet.

Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency

GSC has already taken substantial action in these areas with the installation of 170 KW of behind the meter solar panel across Council facilities and the replacement of all streetlights within the Shire with energy efficient LED lighting. Together these actions are already saving Council over \$50,000 and 200 tCO₂-e per year. Council will continue to reduce electricity consumption through the development of minimum energy efficiency performance standards for new plant and equipment.

At the end of Council's current electricity contract, GSC will look into procuring 100% renewable energy, for example through a renewable energy power purchase agreement (PPA). GSC will also explore opportunities to develop a solar farm on Council land which would be able to directly supply GSC with 100% renewable energy and provide emissions offset opportunities through the sale of excess electricity generation.

As battery technology continues to improve and costs reduce, there may also be more opportunity for the installation of solar plus battery systems across more Council sites, further reducing in electricity costs and increasing energy security.

Electrification

Globally, the transition to electric vehicles is underway. A number of large economies, including the UK, EU, India and California have introduced petrol vehicle bans from 2030 or 2035, while leading car manufacturers are beginning to set targets to halt the production of internal combustion engine vehicles.

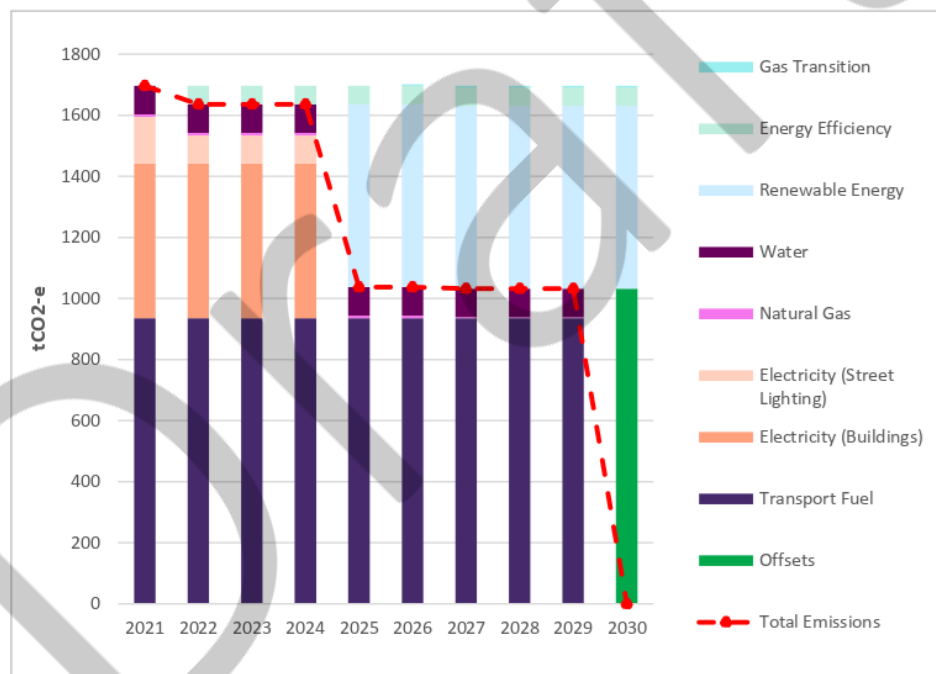
Transport fuel usage is the major operational emissions sources for GSC. While there are electric alternatives currently available for passenger vehicles and small plant, these assets account for less than 20% of Council's fuel usage. At present there are limited options within the Australian market for transitioning Council utes and heavy fleet and plant to electric alternatives. The electric vehicle transition will also require the development of supporting infrastructure both in the Shire and the region. This includes installation of charging infrastructure, development of maintenance capacity and encouraging supply of EVs through dealerships within the region. Given these current constraints, GSC will initially focus on developing a fleet transition plan and trialing a small number of electric vehicles and plant alternatives. GSC will also work with regional partners, such as the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, to encourage the development of EV supporting infrastructure in the region. While the full transition away from petrol and diesel vehicles may be 15-20 years away, beginning the planning process now will ensure Council can ensure the transition is cost effective and minimises the risk of being left with stranded assets.

Council will also phase out gas usage in its facilities across the Shire.



Offsetting Council's remaining emissions

After completing all viable renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification actions GSC is expected to still be required to offset some emissions to achieve its net zero emissions by 2030 target. Figure 5: Pathway to Net Zero Figure 5 presents a possible pathway for GSC to reach net zero by 2030, in accordance with the actions described above. Through street lighting upgrades, electrification of gas systems at Patchell Plaza and renewable energy procurement through a PPA, GSC's corporate emissions can be reduced to just over 1,000 tCO₂-e per year, approximately a 40% reduction from 2020/21. In order to achieve net zero by 2030, Council would then need to purchase certified carbon credits to offset these residual emissions, the majority of which will be from transport fuels. As GSC transitions its fleet to all electric over the next 10 to 15 years, these emissions will also reduce to zero without the need for offsets.

Figure 5: Pathway to Net Zero

As discussed further in Section 0, Gannawarra Shire contains significant solar and environmental assets that could be used by Council to locally offset any residual emissions in 2030. Sourcing offsets locally would reinvest money back into the region to the benefit of the local community and environment.

SP3: Short-Term Objectives	
From 2025, GSC will source 100% of electricity from renewable sources.	GSC seeks to achieve zero net emissions for its operations and services by 2030.
SP3: Short-term actions	
<i>Emissions Monitoring and Reporting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve GHG inventory data collection
<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure Council electricity from 100% renewable energy sources from 2025. • Explore opportunities for the development of a solar farm on Council land to meet future Council electricity and offset needs.
<i>Energy Efficiency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainability specifications requiring minimum energy efficiency performance for new plant and equipment.
<i>Electrification</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Transition • Adopt Council policy to adopt no new gas systems and replace all existing gas systems with electric alternatives at the end of the asset life cycle. • Fleet Transition • Development of Fleet Transition Plan • Switch small plant, e.g. Mowers, to electric alternatives. • Explore opportunity for trialing an electric vehicle within Council pool cars. • Partner with CVGA and other Councils in the region to facilitate regional infrastructure, retail and maintenance for EVs.
<i>Offset</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate offsetting options for Council to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, including through the generation of offset via local carbon sequestration or large-scale renewable energy projects or the procurement of offsets.

Looking Forward

By the conclusion of this climate change strategy, it is expected there will be a shift in Council's priorities to fleet electrification, completion of the gas transition and improvements to Council's building design specifications. Actions to support the achievement of GSC's medium-term objectives include:

- Develop heavy fleet transition plan.
- Continue electric vehicle trial with three to five vehicles within Council pool cars.
- Replace all gas systems at Council sites with electric alternatives at end of life.
- Develop an Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Policy for all new Council buildings and renewals.

8.7 Strategic Priority 4: Maximising opportunities of the low carbon transition

SP4: Long Term Objective

By 2040, GSC is a leading LGA for the development and production of renewable energy and low carbon technology, providing financial and environmental benefits for the Gannawarra community.

The transition to a low carbon economy is already well underway in Victoria. In 2017, Victoria legislated a zero net emissions target by 2050 and in 2021 introduce new renewable energy and interim emissions reduction targets, including:

- a 40% renewable energy target by 2025 and 50% by 2030, and
- a 45-50% emissions reduction target by 2030.

Achieving these targets will require significant investment in new large scale renewable energy projects as well as investment in the development of new carbon sequestration projects and new technologies and fuel sources, such as green hydrogen, which can support the transition.

Gannawarra Shire's abundant solar and natural resources means it is well placed to capitalize on the economic development opportunities being brought by the transition to a low carbon economy.

SP4: Pathway Actions

Large scale renewables	Green hydrogen	Carbon sequestration
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Facilitating the development of more large-scale renewable energy projects, exploring the opportunity for the production of green hydrogen and working with regional partners and landowners to develop more carbon sequestration projects within the Shire are the three key pathway actions areas for this Strategy Priority.

Large scale renewables

Gannawarra Shire sits within the heart of one of Victoria's six renewable energy zones and is already a leading LGA for the development of large-scale renewable energy projects. Two large scale solar projects have already been developed with over 94 MW of capacity and 50MWh of battery storage. The development of the Kerang Link, will greatly increase the opportunity for the development of new large-scale wind and solar projects within the Shire. Under the Victorian government's Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) scheme, the development of new large scale renewable projects could result in millions of dollars of income to Council each year, in addition to flow on economic impacts to the wider Gannawarra community through the construction and maintenance of the renewable energy sites^{xx}.

Green Hydrogen

Hydrogen is seen a potentially important alternative fuel sources in transition away from fossil fuels for heavy fleet and plant. The production of hydrogen, however, is itself energy intensive and is only a lower or zero emissions fuel source if its production is powered by renewable energy.

Gannawarra Shire's abundant solar resources make it well suited to the large-scale production of Green Hydrogen. GSC will explore opportunities to work with the private sector and partners such as the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) to determine the feasibility of producing Green Hydrogen within the region. As well as helping to enable Council and the States transition away from fossil fuels in transport, the local production of Green Hydrogen could also create more local jobs and further diversify Gannawarra's economy.

Carbon Sequestration

While reducing emissions is critical to mitigating the worst impacts of climate change, drawing down emissions already in the atmosphere through carbon sequestration is vital in helping to keep average global temperature rise under 2°C and as close to 1.5°C as possible. As more councils and corporations move toward net zero emissions targets there will also be more demand for carbon sequestration projects to offset the residual emissions that are unable to be reduced. Gannawarra Shire's abundant natural resources positions council well to capitalize on the expected demand for carbon credits.

GSC will explore opportunities to work with local landowners and partners such as North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) to develop local carbon sequestration projects under a regional carbon exchange. Investing in and providing opportunities for regional businesses and councils to offset residual emissions, will help to ensure the funds spent on offset remain within the region and are used to enhance the local environment and benefit the local community.



SP4: Short Term Objectives	
By 2025, Council has successfully advocated for Kerang Link approvals.	By 2025, GSC has investigated developing guidelines to ensure the Gannawarra community benefit from the renewable energy investment in the region.
SP4: Short Term actions	
<i>Large Scale Renewables</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain advocacy for the Kerang Link and facilitate development of new large-scale renewable energy projects within the shire. • Use the local planning approval process to facilitate the development of Large Scale Renewables that balances the environmental aspects and considers local land use opportunities. • Consider developing guidelines or a 'Future fund' with the funds generated from renewable energy projects (or a minimum % of funds), helping return funds back into the local community via climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.
<i>Green Hydrogen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with CVGA and private sector to explore the opportunity for green hydrogen production in the region.
<i>Carbon Sequestration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for partnerships with NCCMA and others to identify land (including council owned sites and private land) that could be suitable for restoration, afforestation or other carbon sequestration projects under a regional carbon exchange.

APPENDIX A: ACTION TABLE

Table 3 assesses each of the short term actions across the four strategic priority areas against the expected cost range, return on investment, scale of impact and potential reach of the action.

Cost Range is assessed from low to high.

- *Low cost activities* predominately require staff time or training,
- *Medium cost activities* typically incur smaller capital input and asset costs, such as tree seedlings or small scale solar systems.
- *High cost activities* are likely to require larger capital works, such as building works.

Return on Investment (RoI) is assessed from low to high.

- *Low RoI actions* are those that typically achieve small savings in the utilisation of resources across the lifetime of the activity, for example electricity savings achieved through energy efficiency specifications. They also include actions that help to reduce future potential financial losses through activities such as business continuity planning.
- *Medium RoI actions* are those that achieve larger utility savings or improve decision-making or planning leading to lower-cost actions in the future, for example Fleet Transition Planning.
- *High RoI activities* are those that can generate a new ongoing revenue stream for Council, such as Renewable Energy PiLoR.
- *N/A* Some actions have also been assessed as N/A for RoI. These include process-based actions that are required to be undertaken before other actions can begin as well as many adaptation actions that reduce a risk to the community but provide no direct RoI to council. However, indirect RoIs are likely to be achieved through many of these actions. This could result from reduced in demand for Council services or improved economic activity in Shire townships.

Scale of Impact is assessed from low to high.

- *Low impact actions* are those that achieve minor gains relative to the issue. For example emissions from natural gas account for less than 1% of Council's inventory.
- *Medium impact actions* are typically those that help to reduce risks by increasing awareness or understanding of an issue.
- *High impact actions* are typically those that aim to directly address at a scale that is meaningful to the issue.

Impact Reach is assessed from Council to Community level impacts.

- *Council level actions* are those that primarily benefit Council operations or assets.
- *Community-Individual actions* are those that primarily benefit individual or discreet sections of the community.
- *Community-wide actions* are those that provide benefits to the Community at large.

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Table 3: Assessment of Actions

Action No.	Action Pathway	Action Name	Linked Action	Type of Action	Resourcing		Potential Impact		
					Type of Resourcing	Cost Range	Rol	Scale of Impact	Impact Reach
SP1: Building Resilience of Council Operations and Services to Climate Change									
1.1	Building Knowledge	Undertake assessment of relevant technical staff and decision-makers’ knowledge of climate change.		Capacity Building	Staff time	Low	N/A	N/A	Council
1.2		Ensure relevant staff complete training to be able to integrate climate change considerations in assessments, planning and decision-making.	1.1	Capacity Building	Staff time, training costs	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium	Community-Wide
1.3		Investigate scholarship or cadetship opportunities for staff.		Capacity Building	Staff time, training costs	Low	N/A	Medium	Council
1.4	Identifying Risks	Integrate climate change risk and vulnerability assessments into asset management plans for all critical Council assets.		Adaptation	Staff time, training, access to technical data	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium	Community-Wide
1.5		Assess impact of extreme weather events on Council services.		Adaptation	Staff time, monitoring	Low	Low	Medium	Community-Wide
1.6	Strategic Planning and Operations	Include climate change as a strategic risk within Council’s strategic risk register.	1.8	Adaptation	Process change	Low	N/A	Medium	Council
1.7		Conduct contingency/business continuity planning for high and extreme climate change risks on key council operations and services.	1.4, 1.6	Adaptation	Staff time, workshop costs, travel costs.	Low-Medium	Low	Medium	Community-Wide
1.8		Integrate climate change into the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan.		Adaptation	Process change, access to technical data, training.	Low	Low	Medium	Community-Wide

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Action No.	Action Pathway	Action Name	Linked Action	Type of Action	Resourcing		Potential Impact		
					Type of Resourcing	Cost Range	RoI	Scale of Impact	Impact Reach
SP2: Reducing Community Vulnerability to Extreme Weather									
2.1	Community Awareness	Support the establishment a community sustainability group to enhance community engagement on key climate change issues, including heat vulnerability, flood risk, energy efficiency and renewable energy.		Adaptation/ Mitigation	Staff time, meeting space, stipends (if required)	Low	Low	Medium	Community-Wide
2.2		Support the development of a community-led climate adaptation and mitigation strategy.	2.1	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Consultant and Engagement Costs	Low-Medium	Low	High	Community-Wide
2.3	Enhance Natural Assets and Open Spaces	Enhance natural spaces for use as cool places during extreme heat events.	2.5, 2.6, 2.8	Adaptation	Tree planting, landscaping	Medium	N/A	High	Community-Wide
2.4		Increase urban canopy cover in shire townships, in particular around town centres, retail precincts and critical services.	2.5, 2.8	Adaptation	Tree planting, watering and maintenance	Medium	N/A	High	Community-Wide
2.5		Update GSC tree planting guideline based on recommendations of the Cool It Project, including priority locations and appropriate tree species selection.		Adaptation	Staff time	Low	Low	High	Community-Wide
2.6		Work with NCCMA and neighbouring councils to monitor key habitat and native vegetation areas for new and invasive species.	2.3	Adaptation	Staff time	Low	N/A	Medium	Community-Wide
2.7	Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Weather	Review and update vulnerable persons register to include residents at high risk to extreme temperatures.		Adaptation	Staff time	Low	N/A	Medium	Community-Individual
2.8		Enhance open spaces such as parks and bus stops to provide further protection and relief from sun and extreme heat, including more sheltered and shaded areas and provision of drinking water stations.	2.3, 2.4	Adaptation	Tree planting, landscaping, small infrastructure, e.g. drinking water stations, shading	High	N/A	High	Community-Wide
2.9		Upgrade public buildings to provide cool places and heat refuges during extreme heat.		Adaptation	Building works	High	Low	High	Community-Wide
2.10		Explore the use of Environmental Upgrade Agreement opportunities to support local business and residents to increase energy and thermal efficiency of businesses and homes to reduce vulnerability to extreme temperatures.		Adaptation	Staff time	Low-Medium	N/A	High	Community-Individual
2.11		Advocate to ensure that flood models account for potential climate change impacts, including to 1-in-100 year flood level.		Adaptation	Staff time	Low	N/A	High	Community-Wide
2.12		Conduct assessments on all town levees to ensure they continue to exceed a 1-in-100 year flood level.	2.11	Adaptation	Technical Assessment Costs	Medium	N/A	High	Community-Wide

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Action No.	Action Pathway	Action Name	Linked Action	Type of Action	Resourcing		Potential Impact		
					Type of Resourcing	Cost Range	RoI	Scale of Impact	Impact Reach
SP3: Reducing Council Environmental Impact and Operating Costs									
3.1	Emissions Monitoring and Reporting	Improve GHG inventory data collection		Mitigation	Staff time, Technical Support	Low	N/A	N/A	Council
3.2	Renewable Energy	Procure Council electricity from 100% renewable energy sources from 2025.		Mitigation	Renewable Energy Premium	Low	Low	High	Council
3.3		Explore opportunities for the development of a solar farm on Council land to meet future Council electricity and offset needs.	3.2, 3.10	Mitigation	Solar System and Installation Costs	Medium	Medium	Medium	Council
3.4	Energy Efficiency	Develop sustainability specifications requiring minimum energy efficiency performance for new plant and equipment.		Mitigation	Policy Development	Low	Low	Low	Council
3.5	Electrification – Gas Transition	Adopt Council policy to adopt no new gas systems and replace all existing gas systems with electric alternatives at the end of the asset life cycle.		Mitigation	Policy Development	Low	Low	Low	Council
3.6	Electrification – Fleet Transition	Development of Fleet Transition Plan		Mitigation	Policy Development	Low	Medium	High	Council
3.7		Switch small plant, e.g. Mowers, to electric alternatives.	3.6	Mitigation	Capital difference between standard petrol and electric plant	Low	Low	Low	Council
3.8		Explore opportunity for trailing an electric vehicle within Council pool cars.	3.6	Mitigation	Capital difference between standard petrol and electric vehicle	Low-Medium	Low	Low	Council
3.9		Partner with CVGA and other Councils in the region to facilitate regional infrastructure, retail and maintenance for EVs.	3.6	Mitigation	Staff time	Low	Low	High	Community-Wide
3.10	Offset	Investigate offsetting options for Council to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, including through the generation of offset via local carbon sequestration or large-scale renewable energy projects or the procurement of offsets.	3.1, 3.3, 4.5	Mitigation	Purchase of ACCUs/Investment in Council offsetting projects	Medium	N/A	High	Council

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Action No.	Action Pathway	Action Name	Linked Action	Type of Action	Resourcing		Potential Impact		
					Type of Resourcing	Cost Range	RoI	Scale of Impact	Impact Reach
SP4: Maximising Opportunities of the Low Carbon Transition									
4.1	Large Scale Renewables	Maintain advocacy for the Kerang Link and facilitate development of new large-scale renewable energy projects within the shire.		Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time	Low	High	High	Community-Wide
4.2		Use the local planning approval process to facilitate the development of Large Scale Renewables that balances the environmental aspects and considers local land use opportunities.	4.1	Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time, policy development, technical support	Low	High	High	Community-Wide
4.3		Consider developing guidelines or a 'Future fund' with the funds generated from renewable energy projects (or a minimum % of funds), helping return funds back into the local community via climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.	4.1, 4.2	Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time and fund administration	Low	N/A	High	Community-Wide
4.4	Green hydrogen	Work with CVGA and private sector to explore the opportunity for green hydrogen production in the region.		Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time, stakeholder engagement	Low	High	High	Community-Wide
4.5	Carbon Sequestration	Explore opportunities for partnerships with NCCMA and others to identify land (including council owned sites and private land) that could be suitable for restoration, afforestation or other carbon sequestration projects under a regional carbon exchange.		Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time, stakeholder engagement	Low	High	High	Community-Wide

APPENDIX B: CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT

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Riverine Flooding Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID015	Community Development	Riverine Flooding	Property damage and loss	There is high confidence that the intensity of daily rainfall extremes will increase. The magnitude of change is less certain. Increase frequency and severity of riverine flooding. For example 1 in 100 year flood events may become 1 in 20 year events. ³⁸	Catastrophic	Possible	Extreme	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could have result in significant loss and damage to property and assets in Shire townships. Risk consequence higher in 2050 due to potentially increased severity of floods.
RID031	Assets and Infrastructure	Riverine Flooding	Damage and loss of assets and infrastructure		Catastrophic	Possible	Extreme	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could have result in significant loss and damage to Council infrastructure. Risk consequence higher in 2050 due to potentially increased severity of floods.
RID058	Economic Development	Riverine Flooding	Damage to assets		Catastrophic	Possible	Extreme	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could have result in significant loss and damage to economic assets in Shire. Risk consequence higher in 2050 due to potentially increased severity of floods.
RID060	Economic Development	Riverine Flooding	Townships cut off for extended periods		Major	Possible	High	Severe riverine flood that cut off townships such as in the 2011 floods would lead to major economic impacts to community.
RID016	Community Development	Riverine Flooding	Population displacement to evacuation centres		Major	Possible	High	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could have result in displacement of large sections of the community to evacuation centres.
RID027	Public Health and Wellbeing	Riverine Flooding	Loss of life		Major	Possible	High	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could result in local loss of lives.
RID006	Corporate Services	Riverine Flooding	Disruption of services		Major	Possible	High	Severe riverine flood that cut off townships such as in the 2011 floods would lead to major disruption of Council services.
RID035	Leadership and Governance	Riverine Flooding	Reputational due to lack of preparedness and response		Major	Possible	High	Potential for loss in faith in council if council is not seen to have appropriately prepared for severe flood events.

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RID057	Economic Development	Riverine Flooding	Damage to agriculture		Major	Possible	High	Major and prolonged riverine flooding could lead to significant and widespread loss of agricultural produce in the Shire.
RID007	Corporate Services	Riverine Flooding	Staff secondment to emergency management roles		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Significant floods could lead to secondment of a large number of council staff to emergency management roles impacting Council's ability to perform usual functions.
RID028	Public Health and Wellbeing	Riverine Flooding	Increased vector borne diseases		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	More frequent and prolonged flood events may lead to increased occurrence of vector borne diseases such as Ross River fever.
RID045	Waste	Riverine Flooding	Increased waste disposal due to damaged assets		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could result in large volume of household waste needing to be collected and disposed of.

Drought Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID053	Economic Development	Drought	Loss of agricultural produce	Time spent in drought is projected to increase over the course of the century (medium confidence)**.	Catastrophic	Likely	Extreme	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to have a significant impact on the economy of the Shire, impacting agricultural and downstream businesses and flow on economic impacts to other businesses in the region. The risk of a major drought event increases with greater levels of climate change, therefore consequence expected to be higher in 2050.
RID022	Public Health and Wellbeing	Drought	Food security impacts		Major	Likely	High	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater food insecurity lost production, economic losses from farms and downstream businesses and lost household produce.
RID041	Environment and Parks	Drought	Habitat & biodiversity loss		Major	Likely	High	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater stress on local ecosystems, potentially leading to diebacks and habitat loss.
RID038	Environment and Parks	Drought	Pest and invasive species		Major	Likely	High	An increase in drought offers new opportunities for invasive species to proliferate and spread e.g. weeds colonise bare patches after droughts.
RID047	Water	Drought	Water scarcity and supply issues		Major	Likely	High	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to water supply issues resulting in water restrictions. Consequence expected to be higher in 2050 with more severe drought leading to greater water scarcity issues.
RID054	Economic Development	Drought	Increased irrigation		Major	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater demand for irrigation to support farms. Consequence expected to be higher in 2050 with more severe drought impacting more farming communities.

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RID062	Assets and Infrastructure	Drought	Asset damage due to soil contraction		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Soil contraction due to drying of the soil could lead to cracking assets and infrastructure leading to increased maintenance requirements and costs.
RID021	Public Health and Wellbeing	Drought	Mental health impacts		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater economic strain on rural communities. Flow on mental health impacts to community. Mental health impacts raised during community consultations including impacts of seeing dead and dried up landscapes, parks and gardens.
RID023	Public Health and Wellbeing	Drought	Increased demand for services		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater demand for council services, including health and mental health as well as economic and other assistance
RID042	Environment and Parks	Drought	Deterioration of Green Space		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater stress on and deterioration of council green spaces.
RID048	Water	Drought	Greater water use by Council and community		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater water requirements by Council to maintain ovals, parks, tree and green spaces. This will increase water usage and maintenance costs.

Extreme Heat Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID017	Public Health and Wellbeing	Extreme Heat	Heat related health issues	More frequent extreme heat days and longer heatwaves.	Major	Almost certain	High	More extreme heat days and prolonged heatwaves may lead to a significant increase in heat health related issue particularly in vulnerable groups, including elderly and low-socio economic groups.
RID018	Public Health and Wellbeing	Extreme Heat	Mental health impacts	Days over 35 degrees per year: 1986 - 2005 historical average: 20 - 24 days	Moderate	Almost certain	High	Increased frequency of extreme heat days, more hotter nights and prolonged heatwaves could lead to greater mental health impacts within the community.
RID036	Environment and Parks	Extreme Heat	Habitat & biodiversity loss	2030 projections: 31 - 39 days	Moderate	Almost certain	High	Increased frequency and severity of extreme heat days is likely to lead to greater stress on local ecosystems, potentially leading to diebacks and habitat loss.
RID037	Environment and Parks	Extreme Heat	Deterioration of Green Space	2050 projections: 38 - 47 days ^{xxiii}	Moderate	Almost certain	High	Longer and more extreme heat waves is likely to lead to greater stress on local ecosystems, potentially leading to diebacks and habitat loss.

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RID019	Public Health and Wellbeing	Extreme Heat	Disruption of services		Moderate	Almost certain	High	More extreme heat days and prolonged heatwaves may lead to disruptions in provision of council services.
RID032	Leadership and Governance	Extreme Heat	Reputational impacts due to disruption of services		Moderate	Almost certain	High	Potential reputation risk if Council is unable to deliver services due to extreme heat and community perceive Council as unprepared.
RID001	Corporate Services	Extreme Heat	Disruption of services		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	More extreme heat days and prolonged heatwaves may lead to disruptions in provision of council services.
RID002	Corporate Services	Extreme Heat	Increased energy use at Council facilities		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	More extreme heat days may lead to greater electricity usage to cool council and public buildings.
RID008	Community Development	Extreme Heat	Increased demand on Council facilities		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	More extreme heat days will likely lead to greater demand for Council facilities such as swimming pools.
RID009	Community Development	Extreme Heat	Disruption of services		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	More extreme heat days and prolonged heatwaves may lead to disruptions in provision of council services.
RID050	Economic Development	Extreme Heat	Economic losses due to extreme heat work disruptions		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	Potential high level of economic losses in construction, manufacturing and agriculture due to increased number of extreme heat days
RID051	Economic Development	Extreme Heat	Loss of agricultural produce		Moderate	Almost certain	Moderate	Loss of agricultural produce due to issues like burning and scorching from more extreme heat days.
RID046	Water	Extreme Heat	Greater water use by Council and community		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	Increased demand for water during prolonged heatwave events.
RID049	Economic Development	Extreme Heat	Economic losses due to reduced retail activity.		Insignificant	Almost certain	Moderate	Greater number of extreme heat days will likely have an impact on economic activity in shire townships due to less retail activity as people remain indoors to escape the heat.

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Bushfire Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID043	Environment and Parks	Bushfire	Habitat & biodiversity loss	The number of days in the Mallee where the Forest Fire Danger Index is greater than the 95th percentile is predicted to increase by 50% (approx. 9 days per year) by the 2050s under high emissions ^{xxxv} .	Major	Likely	High	Impact of bushfire on Ramsar Wetlands and other areas of high conservation value could be significant with increased frequency and severity of bushfires. More frequent bushfires can impact the environment's ability to regenerate, and more severe fires can have a critical impact on flora and fauna.
RID011	Community Development	Bushfire	Heritage Loss		Major	Possible	High	Increase bushfire risk within the Shire increases risks to cultural assets within local forests and wetlands.
RID029	Assets and Infrastructure	Bushfire	Damage and loss of assets and infrastructure		Major	Unlikely	High	Likelihood of bushfire impacting on council assets and infrastructure unlikely due to low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.
RID013	Community Development	Bushfire	Population displacement to evacuation centres		Major	Rare	Moderate	Evacuation of population to evac centres highly unlikely due to low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.
RID024	Public Health and Wellbeing	Bushfire	Loss of life		Major	Rare	Moderate	Likelihood of loss of life due to bushfire rare due to low risk of bushfires impacting on townships within Shire.
RID026	Public Health and Wellbeing	Bushfire	Air quality		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	More frequent and severe bushfires may lead to higher number of days with smoke population impacting the Shire.
RID059	Economic Development	Bushfire	Loss of agricultural produce		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Loss of agricultural produce from bushfires that spread to farmland.
RID003	Corporate Services	Bushfire	Disruption of services		Minor	Unlikely	Low	Disruption of council services due to bushfire likely to have minor impact given low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.
RID004	Corporate Services	Bushfire	Staff secondment to emergency roles		Minor	Possible	Low	Impact of bushfire on council staffing likely to minor due to low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.
RID010	Community Development	Bushfire	Property damage and loss		Major	Unlikely	Low	Likelihood of bushfire threatening a significant number of private properties low given low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.

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RID012	Community Development	Bushfire	Disruption of services		Minor	Unlikely	Low	Disruption of council services due to bushfire likely to have minor impact given low density of forested areas to townships within Shire.
RID025	Public Health and Wellbeing	Bushfire	Mental health impacts		Minor	Possible	Low	Mental health impacts of bushfire likely to only be minor due to low risk of bushfires impacting on townships within Shire.
RID033	Leadership and Governance	Bushfire	Reputational due to lack of preparedness		Minor	Rare	Low	Due to low risk of bushfires impacting on townships within Shire.
RID055	Economic Development	Bushfire	Economic losses due to disruption of business		Minor	Unlikely	Low	Economic disruption due to bushfire likely to only be minor due to low risk of bushfires impacting on townships within Shire.

Low Rainfall Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID039	Environment and Parks	Low Rainfall	Habitat & biodiversity loss	Decline in annual average rainfall, in particular in cool seasons.	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Low annual rainfall is likely to lead to greater stress on local ecosystems, potentially leading to diebacks and habitat loss.
RID040	Environment and Parks	Low Rainfall	Deterioration of Green Space	Average annual rainfall change: 1986 – 2005 historical average: 343 – 387 mm	Minor	Likely	Moderate	Low average annual rainfall may lead to greater stress on parks and green spaces and greater maintenance requirements.
RID052	Economic Development	Low Rainfall	Loss of agricultural produce	2030 projections: 322 – 364 mm	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Loss of agricultural produce due to insufficient rainfall for dry land agriculture.
RID020	Public Health and Wellbeing	Low Rainfall	Air quality	2050 projections: 312 – 356 mm ^{xxx}	Minor	Possible	Low	Lower rainfall may result increased dust and dust storms resulting in public health issues.

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Extreme Weather Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID005	Corporate Services	Extreme Weather	Disruption of services	High confidence a future increase in the intensity of extreme rainfall events, although the magnitude of the changes cannot be confidently projected ²⁰⁰¹ .	Minor	Possible	Moderate	More severe storms and rainfall events may lead to short lived and isolated service disruptions.
RID030	Assets and Infrastructure	Extreme Weather	Damage and loss of assets and infrastructure		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Extreme rainfall or wind events may lead to isolated damage to infrastructure or assets. Consequence higher in 2050 due to possibility of greater intensity events.
RID044	Environment and Parks	Extreme Weather	Damage to trees and parks		Minor	Likely	Moderate	Greater damage to trees due to more extreme storms and wind.
RID061	Environment and Parks	Extreme Weather	Pest and invasive species		Minor	Likely	Moderate	An increase in extreme events will offer new opportunities for invasive species to proliferate and spread e.g. foxes and cats prey on animals whose shelter is destroyed by extreme events.
RID014	Community Development	Extreme Weather	Property damage and loss		Minor	Possible	Low	Increase extreme weather events may result in isolated property damage and loss.
RID034	Leadership and Governance	Extreme Weather	Reputational impacts due to disruption of services		Minor	Possible	Low	Potential reputation risk if Council is unable to deliver services due to extreme weather events and community perceive Council as unprepared.
RID056	Economic Development	Extreme Weather	Crop damage		Minor	Unlikely	Low	Extreme rainfall or wind events may lead to isolated damage or loss of crops or other produce.

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7.13 EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANT RESCISSION MOTION NO. 7

Author: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: 1 Notice of Rescission No 7

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to Notice of Rescission attachment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has determined that it will appoint an Executive Search Consultant (ESC) to recruit a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Council established key steps with the process to appoint an ESC and this included second stage interviews in person. Following the first round interviews a Notice of Rescission has been received to not conduct the second stage interviews.

PURPOSE

To deal with the Notice of Rescission.

DISCUSSION

On 31 August 2022 Council resolved to undertake a number of steps in relation to selecting an ESC for the recruitment of a CEO. This included first and second round interviews.

After the first round interviews a Notice of Rescission has been received to not undertake the second round of interviews.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 45 Local Government Act (LGA) – CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Section 108 and 109 LGA – Procurement.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council decision on 20 July 2022 in relation to the Council commencing and managing a CEO recruitment process in accordance with Council Policy No. 145 – CEO Employment and Remuneration.

Council decision on 17 August 2022 to revoke the delegation from the CEO to appoint the ESC and program an unscheduled meeting to consider the issue. The Council also set the procurement weighting criteria, as required by good practice and in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy based on Price 40%, Qualifications 10%, Experience 35% and Recruitment Approach 15%.

Council decision on 31 August 2022 to appoint a Probity Advisor to assist with the appointment of the ESC and set out steps to appoint the ESC.

OPTIONS

The options relate to accepting or not accepting the Rescission Motion.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

No impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No impact.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This process was evaluated by an independent Probity Advisor who ensured that an appropriate process was followed.

COLLABORATION

This process was evaluated by an independent Probity Advisor.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The concept of not undertaking second round interviews would save Council some funds.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Policy 109 - Procurement. Gannawarra Shire Governance Rules.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares a general conflict of interest as per Section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020 and a material conflict of interest as per Section 128 of the Local Government Act 2020.

NOTICE OF RESCISSION**NOTICE OF RESCISSION No 7 - PROCUREMENT
QUOTATIONS - CEO EXECUTIVE SEARCH**

I, Councillor Charlie Gillingham, give notice that at the next Meeting of Council to be held on 19 October 2022, I intend to move the following rescission motion:

That the resolution that was passed on 31 August 2022 titled Procurement Quotations - CEO Executive Search part 4) which stated "Conduct second stage interviews in person" be rescinded.

Justification

In relation to Governance Rule 93.2) the justification for the Notice of Rescission is that following the first round of interviews, there was new and vital information that will allow Council to make an appointment of an Executive Search Consultant, without the need for a second round of interviews.



Cr Charlie Gillingham

7.14 EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Author: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting CEO

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint Davidson Search and Advisory as the Executive Search Consultant to recruit a new Chief Executive Officer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has determined the need to engage an Executive Search Consultant (ESC) to recruit a new CEO and to engage a Probity Advisor (PA) to oversee the evaluation process to appoint an ESC.

Interviews for the ESC were conducted on 11 October 2022. The evaluation of that process on the weighting criteria scored Davidson Search and Advisory as the preferred ESC.

PURPOSE

To appoint an ESC to recruit a new CEO.

DISCUSSION

Following the Council decision to appoint a PA on 31 August 2022, Council has enacted the following:-

- Obtained quotations and then appointed a PA;
- A probity plan on the ESC appointment prepared;
- Quotations from the ESC proponents were re-priced on a consistent service offering; and
- Interviews for the ESC conducted on 11 October 2022.

Quotations were received from five providers, with one quoter withdrawing during the process.

The quotations prices are detailed below.

Quoter	Base Price (GST exclusive)
Quoter 1	\$ 30,000
Quoter 2	\$ 29,500
Quoter 3	\$ 36,055
Davidson	\$ 30,000

The evaluation of the quotations was undertaken based on a standard list of questions, which was aligned to the evaluation criteria set by Council previously.

Based on the above prices and the evaluation scoring the highest ranked quoter was Davidson Search and Advisory.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 45 Local Government Act (LGA) – CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Section 108 and 109 LGA – Procurement.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council decision on 20 July 2022 in relation to the Council commencing and managing a CEO recruitment process in accordance with Council Policy No. 145 – CEO Employment and Remuneration.

Council decision on 17 August 2022 to revoke the delegation from the CEO to appoint the ESC and program an unscheduled meeting to consider the issue. The Council also set the procurement weighting criteria, as required by good practice and in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy based on Price 40%, Qualifications 10%, Experience 35% and Recruitment Approach 15%.

Council decision on 31 August 2022 to appoint a Probity Advisor to assist with the appointment of the ESC.

OPTIONS

The options at this stage relate to selecting a successful quoter to be the ESC.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

No impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No impact.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This process was evaluated by an independent Probity Advisor who ensured that an appropriate process was followed.

COLLABORATION

This process was evaluated by an independent Probity Advisor.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The concept of not undertaking second round interviews would save Council some funds.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Policy 109 - Procurement. Gannawarra Shire Governance Rules.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officer preparing this report declares a general conflict of interest as per Section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020 and a material conflict of interest as per Section 128 of the Local Government Act 2020.

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@gannawarra.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 as brief as possible.

11 DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

Author: Mel Mathers, Executive Assistant - Chief Executive Office

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Acting 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

Nil