



GANNAWARRA

Shire Council

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

10:00am

Senior Citizens Centre

Kerang

AGENDA

Council Meeting

Order Of Business

1	Welcome to Country.....	3
2	Opening Declaration.....	3
3	Apologies and Leave of Absence	3
4	Confirmation of Minutes	3
5	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	3
6	Briefing Sessions.....	5
6.1	Records of Councillor Briefings - 11 May to 20 June 2023.....	5
7	Business Reports for Decision	10
7.1	Audit and Risk Committee - 9 May 2023 Meeting	10
7.2	Adoption of the Proposed 2023/2024 Budget.....	13
7.3	Council Policy Review	83
7.4	Planning Permit Application P23005	94
7.5	2023 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	109
8	Urgent Business.....	198
9	Notices of Motion.....	198
	Nil	
10	Question Time.....	198
11	Delegates Reports	200
11.1	Delegates Reports	200
12	Confidential Items	201

Geoff Rollinson
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 - 17 May 2023

Unscheduled Meeting - 1 June 2023

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 - 11 MAY TO 20 JUNE 2023

Author: Mel Mathers, Executive Assistant - Chief Executive Office

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 1 June 2023**
- 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 6 June 2023**
- 3 Councillor Briefing Record - 19 June 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings 11 May to 20 June 2023.

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:	Thursday, 1 June 2023	
Time:	4:00pm – 6:00pm	
Location:	Northern District Community Health Meeting Room	
In Attendance: (Councillors)	Cr Kelvin Burt Cr Ross Stanton (from 4:18pm) Cr Keith Link Cr Garner Smith	
Apologies:	Cr Charlie Gillingham Cr Jane Ogden Cr Travis Collier	
In Attendance: (Officers)	Geoff Rollinson, Phil Higgins, Paul Fernee, Wade Williams, Alissa Harrower, Mel Mathers	
In Attendance: (Other)	Gary Katz – Partner, Meerkin & Apel (virtual)	
Matters Discussed:	Community Care Services	
Conflict of Interest Disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/Officer making disclosure	Councillor/Officer left meeting Yes/No
Community Care Services	Cr Jane Ogden	Did not attend meeting
Completed By:	Geoff Rollinson – Chief Executive Officer 	

RECORD OF A COUNCILLOR BRIEFING

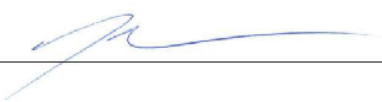


Type of Meeting	Councillor Briefing	
Date:	Tuesday, 6 June 2023	
Time:	4:00pm – 6:15pm	
Location:	Senior Citizens Centre, Kerang	
In Attendance: (Councillors)	Cr Travis Collier Cr Kelvin Burt Cr Ross Stanton Cr Keith Link	
Apologies:	Cr Charlie Gillingham Cr Jane Ogden Cr Garner Smith	
In Attendance: (Officers)	Geoff Rollinson, Paul Fernee, Mel Mathers	
In Attendance: (Other)	Rosanna Lacorica – Principal Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, AEMO Sam Magee – Project Director VNI West, AEMO Geoff Caine – Manager Sustainability Programs, DEECA Steve Crowe – General Manager, Virya Energy Pty Ltd Roger Nolan Neil Lehman	
Matters Discussed:	VNI West Project Update	
Conflict of Interest Disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/Officer making disclosure	Councillor/Officer left meeting Yes/No
Completed By:	Geoff Rollinson – Chief Executive Officer 	

RECORD OF A COUNCILLOR BRIEFING



Type of Meeting	Councillor Briefing
Date:	Monday, 19 June 2023
Time:	9:00am – 4:00pm
Location:	Senior Citizens Centre, Kerang
In Attendance: (Councillors)	Cr Charlie Gillingham Cr Jane Ogden Cr Travis Collier Cr Kelvin Burt (from 9:26am) Cr Ross Stanton Cr Keith Link Cr Garner Smith
Apologies:	Nil
In Attendance: (Officers)	Geoff Rollinson, Phil Higgins, Paul Fernee, Wade Williams, Alissa Harrower, Shana Johnny, Kellie Burmeister, Leigh Hollingworth, Mel Mathers
In Attendance: (Other)	Mandy Hutchinson – CEO, Northern District Community Health Meghan Stewart – Chairperson, Northern District Community Health (Virtual) Richard Morrison – Board Member, Northern District Community Health (Virtual) Inece Bray – Project Manager, LG Valuation Services Pty Ltd Ian Gumley – Valuer, LG Valuation Services Pty Ltd Mick Kealy – Senior Valuer, Valuer General Victoria Grant Clarke – Manager Strategy and Engagement, DEECA Penny Wedesweiler - Senior Community Engagement Advisor, DEECA
Matters Discussed:	Presentations: Northern District Community Health LG Valuations Northwest Victoria Critical Minerals Draft June Council Agenda: 7.1 Audit and Risk Committee – 9 May 2023 Meeting 7.2 Adoption of the Proposed 2023/25024 Budget 7.3 Council Policy Review 7.4 Planning Permit Application P23005 7.5 2023 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 12.1 Community Care Services Councillor Briefing Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Responses – Proposed Budget 2023/2024 Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022 Rates Collection Governance Rules Review Council Plan 2021-2025 Action Plan – Year Three Swimming Pools 2022/2023 Season Update 2022/2023 Capital Works Program Update Future Listing Report

Conflict of Interest Disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/Officer making disclosure	Councillor/Officer left meeting Yes/No
7.4 – Planning Permit Application P23005	Cr Garner Smith	Yes
12.1 – Community Care Services & 6.1 – Community Care Services	Cr Charlie Gillingham	Yes
12.1 – Community Care Services & 6.1 – Community Care Services	Cr Jane Ogden	Yes
Completed By:	Geoff Rollinson – Chief Executive Officer 	

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - 9 MAY 2023 MEETING

Author: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Authoriser: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 9 May 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on Tuesday, 9 May, 2023. The focus of the ARC meeting was to review the progress on the financial position of the Council through the Quarterly Budget Report, the Fees and Charges and Proposed Budget. The progress on the external audit through the VAGO Audit Strategy for 2022/2023 was discussed, as were other reports related to governance, compliance and risk management matters.

PURPOSE

To ensure Council's operating framework is meeting our compliance requirements. This is achieved through well-developed Council policies; continual financial performance monitoring; risk and fraud control monitoring and overview the audit functions.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

DISCUSSION

Details of the 9 May, 2023 ARC Meeting:

Member attendees:

John Campbell – Independent Member – Chair

Francis Crawley – Independent Member

Cr Garner Smith – Councillor Representative

Also in attendance:

Staff

Geoff Rollinson – Chief Executive Officer

Phil Higgins – Director Corporate Services

Shanna Johnny – Chief Financial Officer

Alissa Harrower – Manager Governance

Allison Peace – Administration Officer

Auditors

Josh Porter – RSD Audit

Shivam Goel – RSD Audit

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

Report	Item for Discussion	Recommendation/Outcome
VAGO Audit Strategy	VAGO Audit - interim audit management letter was presented	The report was received and noted.
Quarterly Budget Report	The quarterly budget report for quarter ending 31 March 2023 was presented.	
Proposed Budget 2023/2024	The Proposed Budget 2023/2024 was reviewed.	
Scheduled Fees & Charges for 2023/2024	The scheduled Fees and Charges for 2023/2024 was reviewed.	
Compliance with legislation and regulations	The report on Council's systems and processes that monitor compliance with legislation and regulations was reviewed	
Risk Management Report	The report examined risk management progress and highlights from individual directorates for the quarter ending 31 March 2023.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Internal Audit Items	A review of outstanding Internal Audit items was reviewed. Evidence for completed items were reviewed before considered complete.	Four internal items were considered completed and will be removed from the list
Regulatory and Integrity Agency Reports	Various agency reports from VAGO, IBAC, LG Inspectorate and a Commission of Inquiry were considered on topics about financial performance, corruption and dysfunctional governance and human resource issues.	The various recommendations in the reports were considered and noted.
Corporate Credit Card	Details of expenditure on credit cards and work related reimbursements for January – March 2023 were presented.	The report was received and noted
Councillor Expenditure Report	A report of the expenses of Councillors and Delegated committee members was presented for January – March, 2023.	The report was received and noted
Annual Work Plan	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 Annual Work Plan.	The report was received and noted
Internal Control Environment (ICE) Plan	The ICE Plan is a rolling four year plan. The report reviewed the items listed for 2023.	The report was received and noted

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 first re-appointed Cr Gillingham and Cr Smith to the ARC at its 17 November 2021 meeting.

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. The previously vacant independent member position was filled in May 2023.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The framework of the Audit Plan and ICE Plan are being implemented.

COLLABORATION

There were various reports from various agencies reviewed in the agenda.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The ARC is operating within the adopted budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The ARC is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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 regard to this matter.

7.2 ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2023/2024 BUDGET

Author: Shana Johnny, Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1 Proposed Budget 2023/2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council having advertised the Proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 and having considered all feedback received in respect of such Budget, resolves;

1. To adopt as presented the Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 for the purpose of Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, with the following adjustments:

- 1.1 Capital Works – Carry over projects that are already funded with this component of the works to be completed in 2023/2024 rather than 2022/2023 for:-

- ICT – Joint Council Asset Management Software grant \$250k

- 1.2 Operating Income - Adjustments to the following income items for:-

- Rates and Charges – increased supplementary valuations which have increased the rates income by \$146k for 2023/24 based on a 3.50% rate increase;
- Reduction in operating grants due to anticipated early payment of Federal Assistance Grants annual allocation for 2023/24 in June 2023 \$1.433m. This is offset by an increase in operating grants for 2022/23;
- Deferral of recognition of ICT – Joint Council Asset Management Software grant \$250k in line with project delivery in 2023/24;
- Removal of L2P grant funding \$50k in line with Council decision in March 2023 to decline further extension of this program;

- 1.3 Operating Expenditure - Adjustments to the following expenditure items for:-

- Removal of L2P expenditure \$59k in line with Council decision in March 2023 to decline further extension of this program;

2. That \$15,203,000 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates (or annual service charge later described in this resolution), which amount is calculated as follows:

General Rates	\$11,884,000
Municipal Charge	\$654,000
Waste & Recyclables Collection	\$2,665,000

3. That a General Rate be declared for the period commencing on 1 July, 2023 and concluding on 30 June, 2024.
4. That it be further declared that, subject to paragraph 5 of this Part, the General Rate be raised by the application of a uniform rate.
5. That a percentage of 0.4520% be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate (which percentage may be alternatively expressed as 0.004520 cents in the \$). At the time of preparing this report, Council was still awaiting finalisation of supplementary valuations on flood affected properties. This will affect the calculation of the rates in the dollar for the purposes of rates compliance with the Essential Services Commission.

6. That it be confirmed that the General Rate for all rateable land within the municipal district be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land by that percentage (so that the amount payable be 0.004520 cents in the \$ of the Capital Improved Value).
7. That it be recorded that Council considers that a differential rate will provide equitable distribution of the rate burden across all levels of the community.
- 7.1 That a differential rate be declared for that rateable land having the characteristics specified below which will form the criteria for the differential rate so declared:
- 7.1.1 Dryland Farm Rate to apply to all properties which satisfy the meaning of 'farm land' as defined in the Valuation of Land Act 1960 and which are not in declared irrigation districts.
- 7.1.2 Irrigation District Farm Rate to apply to all properties which satisfy the meaning of 'farm land' as defined in the Valuation of Land Act 1960 and which are greater than 10HA in declared irrigation districts.
- 7.1.3 Commercial/Industrial land is any land which is:-
- Occupied for the principal purpose of carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or
 - Unoccupied but zoned commercial or industrial under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme.
- 7.2 That the differential rate be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of the rateable land categorised in 7.1 by the percentage indicated on the following table:
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Dryland Farm | 0.1642% |
| Irrigation District Farm | 0.3097% |
| Commercial/Industrial | 0.4773% |
| Cultural and Recreational | 0.2260% |
- 7.3 It be further recorded that the objectives of the differential rate is to provide equitable distribution of the rate burden across all levels of the community.
8. That an annual service charge be declared for the period commencing on 1 July, 2023 and concluding on 30 June, 2024;
- 8.1 That the annual service charge be declared for the waste, recycling or resource recovery services within the municipal district;
- 8.2 That the annual service charge be the sum of \$660 per 240 litre domestic garbage bin and 240 litre recycling service and \$460 per 120 litre domestic garbage bin and 240 litre recycling service for each rateable property (or part) in respect of which an annual service charge may be levied within the Shire and where a service is available and \$660 per 240 litre domestic garbage bin and 240 litre recycling service and \$460 per 120 litre domestic garbage bin and 240 litre recycling service for each residential property (or part) in respect of which an annual service charge may be levied for properties within the townships of Kerang, Cohuna, Leitchville, Koondrook, Quambatook, Murrabit, Mystic Park and Lalbert; and

- 8.3 That the following criteria be the criteria which forms the basis of the annual service charge so declared:
 - 8.4 That the annual service charge apply to each rateable residential property other than vacant land within the townships listed above and other properties by agreement and that where more than one bin is required, the charge be based on the above charges multiplied by the number of bins.
 - 8.5 That the annual service charge be the sum of \$95 per 240 litre domestic green waste bin for each rateable property (or part) in respect of which an annual service charge may be levied within the Shire where the service is provided.
9. That an annual municipal charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July, 2023 and concluding on 30 June, 2024;
- 9.1 That the annual municipal charge be declared for the provision of Council administrative support services within the Shire of Gannawarra;
 - 9.2 That the annual municipal charge be the sum of \$100 for each property in respect of which an annual municipal charge may be levied; and
 - 9.3 That the following criteria be the criteria which forms the basis of the annual municipal charge so declared - that the annual municipal charge apply to each rateable property within the Shire of Gannawarra.
10. That the rates and charges must be paid:
- 10.1 In full by 15 February, 2024; or
 - 10.2 By four equal instalments by the following dates: 2 October, 2023, 30 November, 2023, 29 February, 2024 and 31 May, 2024.
11. That in accordance with Section 172 of the Local Government Act 1989, the rate of interest which is payable on the rates and charges which have not been paid on or before the dates specified is currently set at 10% per annum from the date the rates and charges are declared.
12. In accordance with Section 4(4) of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, that the rate for all rateable properties within the municipal district that meet the definition of cultural and recreation land be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land by 50% of the general rate percentage so that the amount payable be 0.002260 cents in the \$ of the Capital Improved Value.
13. The Director Corporate Services of Council be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and annual service charges described earlier in this resolution in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.
14. That Council adopts the Capital Works Plan for 2023/2024.
15. That Council respond to the feedback provided to the Proposed Budget 2023/2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has prepared the Proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). After actioning the Communications Plan, feedback was received from four people for the Proposed Budget 2023/2024 which are presented for consideration.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Council remains financially sustainable by projecting the proposed works and services and capital works to be provided to the community in the next four years. This is balanced against raising income that is affordable to our community for the delivery of services being provided.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Budget 2023/2024

DISCUSSION

In the communication plan for the budget, feedback was invited from the community. At the close of the Consultation period four people provided feedback on the Proposed Budget and they are detailed below.

Community Feedback	Officer Comment
<i>"Seems the waste management charges are going up and the services have been considerably cut. Don't like the idea of having to take any glass bottles to transfer station with what we pay for rates. Here should be lot better service"</i>	Waste Management Charges are based on achieving full cost recovery, where Council seeks to recoup the cost of the service and does not make a profit. The full cost recovery process is to ensure this service remains financially sustainable in the long term. Regarding the proposed increases, GSC is currently working in response to a suite of Federal and State Government reforms which includes the standardisation of waste services across the state, including the implementation of separated 'glass only' service and future implementation of a 'food organics and garden organics' service and associated education. In addition there has been significant cost increase of waste disposal in the form of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) waste levy and negotiation of service contracts e.g. recycling sorting and acceptance.
Kerang needs more street lighting and pavements not just pavement repairs.	Each year the capital works budget includes funding for footpaths, both renewal and new. If there are concerns about specific sections of footpath please lodge a request to Council through the customer action request system which can be accessed via https://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au/Contact-Us/Lodge-a-Request . Requests for a streetlight can also be made through the customer action request system via the previous link. Streetlight requests are individually assessed with lights installed following a positive assessment and available budget. Street light faults can be reported to Powercor via

	https://www.powercor.com.au/power-outages-and-faults/report-a-fault/ .
Leitchville – no capital works planned, nor green or hard waste collections, recreation for old tennis courts, upgrading walking track, can a representative attend Progress	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital works – a key focus with this years budget was to increase funding for key assets like roads, bridges, footpaths, kerb and gutter and drainage. This was at the expense of specific grant dependant works. 2. Green waste or hard waste collection – For a green waste service to be provided there needs to be a size of population to make the service viable. At this stage Leitchville does not meet that criteria. Hard waste collections are not provided across the shire due to costs and the aesthetic view that unwanted hard waste on the nature strip presents. 3. Recreation area – This project is grant dependant and whilst Council will still advocate for this project and still has it in its long term capital works it will be dependant on gaining grants. 4. Tracks and Trails – This project is similar to the item above in being grant dependant. 5. Acting Director Community Wellbeing and Acting Director Infrastructure & Development will attend a future progress meeting.
<i>“Congratulations to council for including \$30,000 for tree planting in its capital works program. I look forward to seeing the implementation of this budget In future years I recommend that council include an item for land acquisition over the Kerang Levee bank in locations where this has not been done. For example, north of Leng Street..”</i>	The \$30K is confirmed and is forecast in future years as well. Purchasing additional land will need to be a strategic decision aligned to a strategy like the Walking and Cycling Strategy or an Eco-Trail feasibility. The project would need to attract grant funding as well.

2023/2024 Budget

The proposed increase in rate revenue for the 2023/2024 financial year is 3.50 percent in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government under the Fair Go Rates System. The budget has been structured to maintain existing service levels and deliver grant subsidised projects aimed at enhancing the wellbeing and liveability within the municipality.

Budget alterations

Since the budget has been available for inspection, several changes to Council’s financial position have been notified. The changes from the proposed budget available for inspection, to the position now being presented are:

- Capital Works – Carry over projects that are already funded with this component of the works to be completed in 2023/2024 rather than 2022/2023 for:-
 - ICT – Joint Council Asset Management Software grant \$250k
- Operating Income - Adjustments to the following income items for:-

- Rates and Charges – increased supplementary valuations which have increased the rates income by \$146k for 2023/24 based on a 3.50% rate increase;
- Reduction in operating grants due to anticipated early payment of Federal Assistance Grants annual allocation for 2023/24 in June 2023 \$1.433m. This is offset by an increase in operating grants for 2022/23;
- Deferral of recognition of ICT – Joint Council Asset Management Software grant \$250k in line with project delivery in 2023/24;
- Removal of L2P grant funding \$50k in line with Council decision in March 2023 to decline further extension of this program;
- Operating Expenditure - Adjustments to the following expenditure items for:-
 - Removal of L2P expenditure \$59k in line with Council decision in March 2023 to decline further extension of this program

Rates

The land values for 2024 have been received from the Valuer General's office and result in the following update to the budget.

The movement between land values as 1 January 2023 and 1 January 2024 are shown in the following table –

Type or class of land	2022/23	2023/24	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Residential properties	1,250,189	1,432,043	181,855	15%
Commercial/industrial properties	192,070	229,572	37,502	20%
Farm irrigation district properties	689,193	952,397	263,204	38%
Farm dryland properties	524,441	824,639	300,198	57%
Cultural and recreation properties	3,935	5,293	1,358	35%
Total value of land	2,659,828	3,443,945	784,117	29%

2023/2024 rates are calculated based on land values as at 1 January 2023. The increased land values across the class of lands, result in an alteration to the rate in the dollar.

Type or class of land	2022/23 cents/\$CIV*	2023/24 Proposed Budget	2023/24 cents/\$CIV*
Residential properties	0.004990	0.005178	0.004520
Commercial/industrial properties	0.005503	0.005707	0.004773
Farm irrigation district properties	0.004131	0.004281	0.003097
Farm dryland properties	0.002493	0.002582	0.001642
Cultural and recreation properties	0.002495	0.002589	0.002260

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020 – Section 94 on the preparation of the budget and Section 101 financial management principles.

Local Government Act 1989 – Section 161 on the rating differentials.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council resolved to give public notice of the preparation of the Proposed Budget 2023/2024 at its meeting on 19 April, 2023.

OPTIONS

The Council needs to adopt the budget prior to the 30 June 2023. The Council has the discretion to include projects that it deems appropriate, subject to the requirements of the Act and other factors such as rate capping.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Sec 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that ongoing financial viability is ensured by Council. The key risks are financial and compliance risks. Sec 101 requires financial risks to be monitored and managed prudently having regard to the economic circumstances.

The proposed budget under section 2 “Services and service performance indicators” identifies services that align to the “Sustainability Implications” and provides a description of the service, financial implications and sets performance indicators for the services.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Act, the Proposed Budget 2023/2024 was available for inspection between 19 April and 26 May, 2023. Council undertook community engagement which was set out in the Communication Plan which included:

- Media releases
- Information in the Gannawarra News fortnightly newsletter in local papers
- Gannawarra Connect – the monthly newsletter distributed to letterboxes
- Mayoral radio interviews
- Social media interviews with Councillors
- Livestreaming a Question and answer session and
- Information packs sent to community organisations.

A budget overview brochure was also produced and distributed.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Proposed Budget includes significant capital works to reinstate flood affected assets. It also focuses on spending more funds on Council’s core assets like roads, bridges, footpaths, kerb and gutter, buildings and drainage.

There have been some changes to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework, that the proposed budget aligns with.

COLLABORATION

The budget is based on the statewide template document.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The key financial performance indicators for the Budget 2023/2024 are:-

- Comprehensive Income Result \$30.297 m surplus;

- Capital Works Program \$38.691 m;
- No new loans – Indebtness ratio 6.4%;
- Looking after our assets - Asset renewal ratio 473.2%
- Projects supported by grants - \$33.046 m capital grants (forecast)

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The budget format follows the statewide template.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan – Liveability – “Build unique transformational infrastructure that enhances liveability and passive and active recreation”. The Proposed Budget addresses a number of strategic priorities in the Council Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Proposed 2023/2024 **ANNUAL BUDGET**



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Contents

Mayor's Introduction	1
CEO's Introduction	2
Economic Assumptions	3

Budget Reports

1. Link to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework	4
2. Services and service performance indicators	6
3. Financial statements	13
4. Notes to the financial statements	21
5. Financial Performance Indicators	43
6. Schedule of fees and charges	47

Mayor's Introduction

Together with my fellow Councillors, I am delighted to present to our community and stakeholders the Proposed Budget 2023/24.

This budget builds on our Council Plan 2021-2025 vision which focuses on the following three key areas:

- * Liveability
- * Growth
- * Sustainability

The Proposed Budget 2023/24 details the resources required over the next year to fund the large range of services we provide to our community. It also includes details of capital expenditure allocations to improve and renew our shire's built infrastructure, buildings and operational assets as well as a range of operating projects.

Part of the Infrastructure assets were affected by the Oct/Nov 2022 floods and restoration works of \$25 million and \$10 million in 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively have been programmed in this budget. These flood restoration projects are fully funded from grants from the Federal and State Governments. Some major projects programmed for completion in 2022/23 have also been delayed as a result of the floods and carried forward into 2023/24.

The Proposed Budget will deliver on the Council Plan - Growing Gannawarra - which aims to build on Gannawarra's strength as a region renowned for its diverse agriculture sector, its renewable energy opportunities and the potential for the area to become Victoria's nature based tourism destination. Growing Gannawarra aims to build on these objectives and focus on our efforts to enhance the health and wellbeing, connectivity and productivity of our community. This incorporated into our sound financial framework allows Council to provide the range of services it provides. A key component of the Proposed Budget is a focus on Council's core assets and ensuring that Council maintains its existing infrastructure. How this is being achieved is that the funding for our core assets like roads, buildings, footpaths, kerb and gutter and drainage have been bolstered to ensure that these assets will be renewed.

In this budget the total Capital Works program will be \$38.441m of which \$32.795m will come from external funding and \$5.645m from Council's cash reserves. Major items included in the 2023/24 Budget include:

Flood funding works	\$ 25,000,000
Sustainable Recreational Water for Quambatook - Grant dependent	\$ 1,945,386
Kerang CBD Development Stage 3	\$ 1,784,081
Living Library Projects - The Glasshouse	\$ 1,413,294
Kerang CBD Stage 4 - Wellington Street	\$ 1,317,955
Gravel Re-sheeting Program	\$ 1,133,000
Sealed Roads Rehabilitation Program	\$ 1,012,000
Bitumen Roads Reseal Program	\$ 1,006,000
Industrial Estate Expansions Tate Drive – Kerang	\$ 900,000
Cell 3 capping - Gannawarra Central Landfill	\$ 650,000
Heavy Plant Replacement	\$ 420,000
Light Plant Replacement	\$ 387,000
Stormwater Network and Town Pump renewal	\$ 274,000
Kerb Replacement	\$ 174,000
ICT Capital Renewals	\$ 160,600
Strategic Project Development and Planning	\$ 150,000
Swimming Pool Renewal Program	\$ 135,000
Annual Footpath Replacement	\$ 130,000
Library Resources	\$ 120,000
Buildings Renewal	\$ 110,000
Koondrook Levee Design and Construction	\$ 103,702
Automating Irrigation Systems	\$ 55,000
Tree Planting Program - Cool It Program	\$ 30,000
Town/Boundary Entrances and Signage	\$ 20,000
Kerang Drainage Land Acquisition - MV Highway	\$ 10,000

Our focus for the next year is to continue to exercise responsible financial management, sustainability and equity.

I encourage you to read the remainder of this document, together with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Cr Charles Gillingham
MAYOR

Chief Executive Officer's Introduction

Council has prepared a Proposed Budget for 2023/24 which is aligned to the vision in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and incorporates various measures to react to the challenging economic conditions. It seeks to maintain and improve services and infrastructure as well as deliver projects and services that are valued by our community, and do this within the rate increase mandated by the State Government.

This budget also includes flood restoration works of \$25 million and \$10 million in 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively. These flood restoration projects are fully funded from grants from the Federal and State Governments.

This Proposed Budget projects a surplus of \$31.327m for 2023/24. Ongoing delivery of services to the Gannawarra community is funded by a budget of \$66.694m. Total income/revenue includes \$32.795m of capital grants earmarked for capital works. These services are summarised in Section 2.

Capital investment in assets (\$38.441m) are a feature in the budget. This is comprised of new works (\$4.552m) renewal works (\$18.182m) and upgrade works (\$15.707m). Capital works includes \$25m of grant funded flood restoration works.

This includes roads (\$31.253m); Waste Management (\$.65m) and parks, open spaces and street scapes (\$2.030m). The Statement of Capital Works can be found in Section 3 and further details on the capital works budget can be found in Section 4.5.

The Rate Rise

The average rate will rise by 3.5% in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government in December 2022 under the Fair Go Rates System.

The kerbside garbage & recycling collection charge is to increase by 20% on average. The green waste collection charge is to increase by 56% on average. This increase is due to diversion of waste from Council owned landfill to Patho landfill (privately owned), indexation on annual waste contract and cost of green waste mulching. Refer Section 4.1.1 for further Rates & Charges details.

Key Statistics

	2023/24	2022/23
Total Revenue (in 000's)	66,694	37,783
Total Expenditure (in 000's)	35,367	37,048
Accounting result - Surplus	31,327	735

Cash and investment and other financial asset balance are forecast to be \$12.618m at the end of 2023/24.

	2023/24	2022/23
Total Capital Works Program (in 000's)	38,441	8,047
Funding Sources -		
Grants	31,517	2,788
Roads to Recovery grant (operating)	1,279	1,318
Contribution		34
Rates funded	5,645	3,907

Council is reliant on external grant funding for the planned capital works programs.

Geoff Rollinson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Economic Assumptions

Assumption	Budget	Projections			Trend +/o/-
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Rate Cap Increase	3.50%	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	+'
User Fees & Grants	3.50%	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	+'
Federal Assistance Grants and other Recurrent Grants	3.50%	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	+'
Employee Costs	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	+'
Contractors, Consultants and Materials	4.0%	3.5%	3.0%	2.5%	+'

Notes to Assumptions

1. Rate Cap

The Victorian State Government continues with a cap on rate increases. The cap for 2023/24 has been set at 3.5%. The rate cap for outlying years is set at a conservative rate of 2.5% - 3.0%.

2. User Fees & Grants

Council's user fees are reviewed on an annual basis and is weighed to balance affordability, encourage usage, cost recovery and raise sufficient revenue in line with prudent financial management practices.

3. Federal Assistance Grants and other Recurrent Grants

Council has budgeted Federal Assistance Grants and other Recurrent Grants to be indexed in line with the rate cap increase percentage.

4. Employee costs

Salary increases as per the current Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) is 2.5% in 2023/24 and 2024/25 to 1 March 2025.

Superannuation guarantee as legislated will increase from 9.5% to 12% in 0.5% point increments from 2021 through to 2025 (2022/23 = 10.5%, 2023/24 = 11%, 2024/25 = 11.5%, 2025/26 = 12%).

5. Contractors, Consultants and Materials

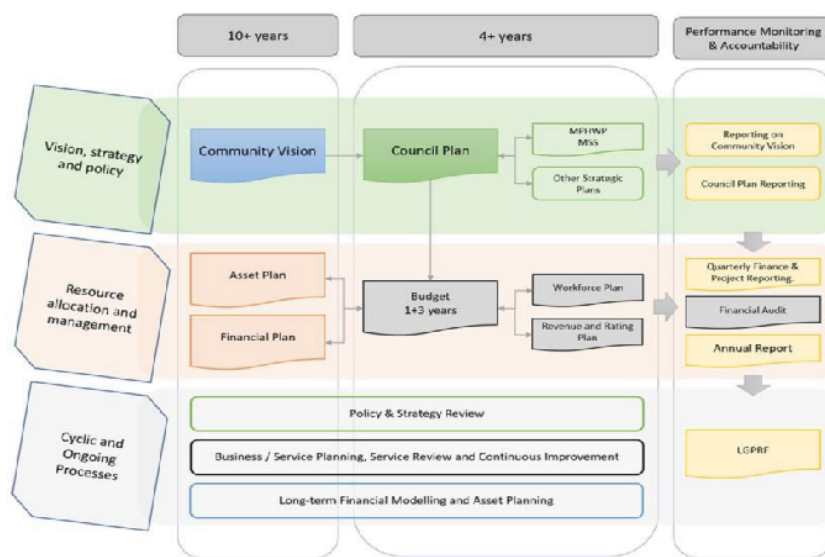
Operating and capital expenditure on contractors, consultants and materials is expected to increase in line with CPI.

1. Link to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Legislative planning and accountability framework

The Budget is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the integrated planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



Source: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

The timing of each component of the integrated planning and reporting framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

1.1.2 Key planning considerations

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services—such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning—most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change. Therefore councils need to have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations. In doing so, councils should engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works.

Community consultation needs to be in line with a council's adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

1.2 Our purpose

Our Vision

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.

Our 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.

Our values

Our values are trust, respect, innovation and collaboration.

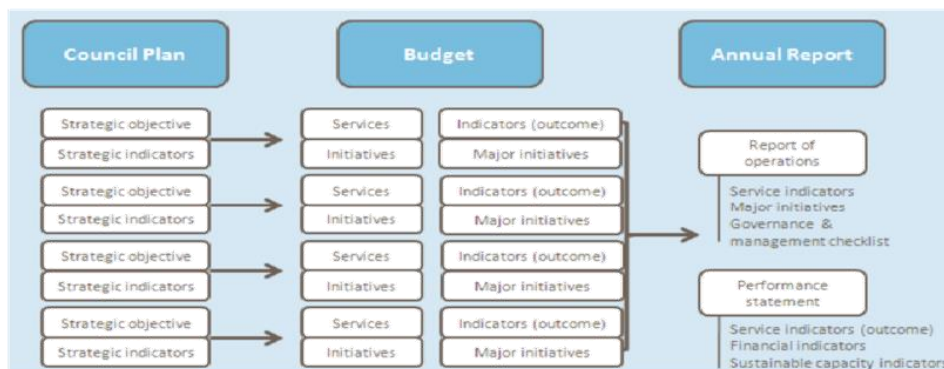
1.3 Strategic objectives

Council delivers activities and initiatives under a range of service categories. Each contributes to the achievement of one of the three Strategic Objectives as set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025. The following table lists the three Strategic Objectives as described in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Strategic Objective	Description
1. Liveability	Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.
2. Growth	Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy.
3. Sustainability	Achieve long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

2. Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2023/24 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, other initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below:



Source: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

2.1 Strategic Objective 1: 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.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2021/22 Actual \$'000	2022/23 Forecast \$'000	2023/24 Budget \$'000
Community Engagement	This service is responsible for the management and provision of advice on external communication, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, on behalf of Council.	<i>Expense</i>	640	527	437
		<i>Income</i>	237	132	-
		<i>NET</i>	404	395	437
Events	Council's arts and culture program investigates opportunities to capture the economic value of local events and ensures a link between the community and Council.	<i>Expense</i>	97	132	123
		<i>Income</i>	5	23	19
		<i>NET</i>	92	109	104
Transport Connections	This service includes responsibility for the maintenance of the weighbridge, aerodrome and train station.	<i>Expense</i>	57	77	69
		<i>Income</i>	18	21	18
		<i>NET</i>	39	56	51

Services (continued)

Service area	Description of services provided		2021/22 Actual \$'000	2022/23 Forecast \$'000	2023/24 Budget \$'000
Bridges	This service conducts ongoing maintenance of Council's bridge network.	<i>Expense</i>	102	74	80
		<i>Income</i>	-	-	-
		<i>NET</i>	102	74	80
Community Facilities	This service is responsible for the maintenance and management of Council's building and properties including public halls and community amenities.	<i>Expense</i>	815	1,100	1,032
		<i>Income</i>	167	621	622
		<i>NET</i>	648	479	410
Drainage	This service conducts ongoing maintenance of Council's drainage network.	<i>Expense</i>	148	141	164
		<i>Income</i>	-	-	-
		<i>NET</i>	148	141	164
Fire Prevention	Fire prevention includes the implementation of Council's fire prevention policy along with maintaining strategic fire breaks. Council also has responsibilities in the replacement of fire plugs.	<i>Expense</i>	24	31	18
		<i>Income</i>	-	-	-
		<i>NET</i>	24	31	18
Footpath, Kerb and Channel	This service conducts ongoing maintenance of Council's footpath, kerb and channel network.	<i>Expense</i>	143	186	168
		<i>Income</i>	-	-	-
		<i>NET</i>	143	186	168
Pest Control	Council is responsible for undertaking an arbovirus eradication program each year.	<i>Expense</i>	43	26	43
		<i>Income</i>	31	13	44
		<i>NET</i>	12	13	1
Roads	This service conducts ongoing maintenance of Council's vast road network.	<i>Expense</i>	2,645	2,843	2,829
		<i>Income</i>	1,943	1,805	1,619
		<i>NET</i>	702	1,038	1,210
Local Laws	This service maintains and improves the health and safety of people, animals and the environment by providing services including dog and cat collection, lost and found, pound service, registration and administration service and after hours emergency service. It also provides education, regulation and enforcement of local laws and relevant State legislation.	<i>Expense</i>	438	432	437
		<i>Income</i>	130	131	128
		<i>NET</i>	308	301	309
Flood response & emergency Works	Council's response to the Oct/Nov 2022 floods. Council received \$1.5m in 2022/23 as part of the State Government's efforts to support flood affected councils through its Council Flood Support Fund.	<i>Expense</i>	-	1,575	-
		<i>Income</i>	-	1,500	-
		<i>NET</i>	-	75	-
Business Undertakings	Business undertakings include Council's responsibility for the provision and maintenance of a limited number of elderly person's units. This area also includes private works undertaken by Council at the request of others.	<i>Expense</i>	35	33	46
		<i>Income</i>	46	42	46
		<i>NET</i>	(11)	(9)	(0)
Children Services	This service provides family oriented support services including pre-schools, long day care, maternal and child health, youth services and development, immunisation and family day care.	<i>Expense</i>	3,483	3,900	3,786
		<i>Income</i>	3,167	4,048	3,874
		<i>NET</i>	316	(148)	(88)

Services (continued)

Service area	Description of services provided		2021/22 Actual \$'000	2022/23 Forecast \$'000	2023/24 Budget \$'000
Community Care	This service provides a range of services for the aged and disabled including home delivered meals, personal care, transport, home maintenance, housing support and senior citizen clubs. Service also provides food safety and public and community health and safety.	<i>Expense</i>	5,726	5,619	5,572
		<i>Income</i>	5,414	5,645	5,502
		<i>NET</i>	312	26	70
Swimming Areas	This service provides maintenance and operation of Council's swimming areas and when required to undertake projects in relation to boating safety.	<i>Expense</i>	636	708	705
		<i>Income</i>	99	132	128
		<i>NET</i>	538	576	577
Recreation Reserves	This service provides maintenance and support of municipal recreation facilities including recreational reserves and parks and gardens.	<i>Expense</i>	1,308	1,537	1,181
		<i>Income</i>	64	303	34
		<i>NET</i>	1,244	1,235	1,147
Library	This service provides public library services across the municipality and provides customer focused service that caters for cultural, educational and recreational needs of residents and provides a focal point where they can meet, relax and enjoy the services and facilities offered.	<i>Expense</i>	631	663	665
		<i>Income</i>	151	153	167
		<i>NET</i>	479	511	498

Major Initiatives

Further development of the walking trail design between Kerang and Koondrook linking to the Murray River Adventure Trail.

Completion of the Quambatook Weir Pool & walking track for the Quambatook community.

Continuation of the Kerang CBD upgrade in Victoria Street for further enhancement and accessibility for the community.

Further development of concept and design for the Glasshouse at Sir John Gorton Library.

Development of conceptual designs for Kerang and Cohuna Aquatic facilities

Partnering with neighbouring councils for Asset Management and GIS software program.

Adopt and implement the Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan.

Continue community recovery initiatives after the Oct-Nov 2022 floods.

Other Initiatives

Adoption of the Asset Management Plan and Asset Management Strategy.

Continue to advocate for the delivery of VNI West to accelerate development in wind, solar and battery power providing new jobs and services and further diversification of the local economy.

Develop municipal wide community plans.

2.2 Strategic Objective 2: 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.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2021/22 Actual \$'000	2022/23 Forecast \$'000	2023/24 Budget \$'000
Economic Development	This service assists the Council to facilitate an environment that is conducive to a sustainable and developing local business sector and provides opportunities for local residents to improve their skill levels and access employment.	<i>Expense</i>	563	1,598	344
		<i>Income</i>	523	1,548	-
		<i>NET</i>	40	50	344
Planning and Building	This service processes all planning and statutory building applications, provides advice and makes decisions about development proposals which require a planning permit as well as preparing policy documents that shape the future of the Council.	<i>Expense</i>	595	651	683
		<i>Income</i>	392	416	367
		<i>NET</i>	203	235	316
Tourism	This service facilitates and encourages tourism development and opportunities to draw visitors to the municipality. The tourism program includes Gateway to Gannawarra, caravan parks and signage.	<i>Expense</i>	400	398	396
		<i>Income</i>	156	148	157
		<i>NET</i>	245	250	239

Major Initiatives

Implement the outcomes of the Waterway Masterplans across the Shire.

Identifying new land development sites across the municipality for residential and industrial use as per the Strategic Growth Plan.

Renew Council's Domestic Wastewater Management Plan

Infrastructure developments to improve liveability aimed at relocation and building population to fill the range of new jobs coming online through mineral sands, energy projects and industrial growth.

Facilitate the further development of solar and wind farms aimed at generating jobs growth and revenue for Council through Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILOR).

Purchase of new land for ongoing future development of industrial land for the next 20 years in Kerang. Tate Drive Industrial Estate lots in Kerang are selling fast and Council is seeking to develop the next stage to stay ahead of demand. Increasing the capacity will ensure that new business development is captured and the benefits to the local economy are maximised.

Develop new agricultural projects such as poultry and medicinal cannabis aimed at diversifying the local economy and creating jobs.

Review the Gannawarra Planning Scheme.

2.3 Strategic Objective 3: 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.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020/21 Actual \$'000	2021/22 Forecast \$'000	2022/23 Budget \$'000
Environment Protection	This service includes programs for the eradication of noxious weeds, tree maintenance and planting.	<i>Expense</i>	186	216	212
		<i>Income</i>	68	70	70
		<i>NET</i>	118	146	142
Waste Management	This service provides kerbside collection of garbage and waste from households and commercial properties and operating costs of transfer stations and landfill.	<i>Expense</i>	2,033	2,167	2,577
		<i>Income</i>	200	115	70
		<i>NET</i>	1,833	2,053	2,508
Council	The governing body to work together with our community to capitalise on our natural assets, support our business and agricultural sector and deliver quality services to our community.	<i>Expense</i>	128	210	183
		<i>Income</i>	6	-	-
		<i>NET</i>	122	210	183
Executive	This service provides organisational policy and leadership support in the areas of advocacy, continuous improvement, corporate planning, performance measurement, delivery and reporting.	<i>Expense</i>	1,365	1,325	1,399
		<i>Income</i>	-	-	-
		<i>NET</i>	1,365	1,325	1,399
Governance	This service includes support services in the area of finance, records management, customer services, human resources and several governance functions such as risk and compliance. Human services develops and implements strategies, policies and procedures for the provision of human resources, risk management and insurances, customer service, records management and media and internal communications.	<i>Expense</i>	3,448	3,878	3,778
		<i>Income</i>	447	347	328
		<i>NET</i>	3,000	3,531	3,450
Information Technology	This service provides, supports and maintains reliable and cost effective computer systems and communication facilities and infrastructure to Council staff enabling them to deliver services in a smart, productive and efficient way.	<i>Expense</i>	791	867	933
		<i>Income</i>	-	-	-
		<i>NET</i>	791	867	933

Major Initiatives

Review of Waste Management Strategy for the Shire.

Further investigation of Micro Grids at Kerang Transfer Station and Aerodrome to provide alternate energy options for local residents and generate revenue for Council.

Review alternative options for current fleet i.e. hybrid, electronic vehicles.

Adoption of the Asset Management Plan and Asset Management Strategy.

Other Initiatives

Development of a Workforce plan for Children's Services.

Recoup funding opportunities through Natural Disaster funding arrangements.

Review and implement changes with Gender Equality Action Plan, Psychological Health and Fair Work Act changes.

Adopt Council's Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators*

The following indicators outline how we intend to measure achievement of service objectives:

Service	Indicator	Performance	Computation
Governance	Consultation and engagement	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement. (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement
Statutory planning	Service standard	Planning applications decided within required timeframes (percentage of regular and VicSmart planning application decisions made within legislated timeframes)	[Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days for regular permits and 10 days for VicSmart permits / Number of planning application decisions made] x100
Roads	Condition	Sealed local roads below the intervention level (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal)	[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100
Libraries	Participation	Library membership (Percentage of the population that are registered library members)	[Number of registered library members / Population] x100
Waste Management	Waste diversion	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill. (Percentage of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill)	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100
Aquatic Facilities	Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities. (Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of population)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Population

Service Performance Outcome Indicators (continued)

Service	Indicator	Performance	Computation
Animal Management	Health and safety	Animal management prosecutions. (Percentage of animal management prosecutions which are successful)	Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Total number of animal management prosecutions
Food safety	Health and safety	Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications. (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications that are followed up by Council)	[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises] x100
Maternal and Child Health	Participation	Participation in the MCH service. (Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100
Maternal and Child Health	Participation	Participation in the MCH service by aboriginal children. (Percentage of aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

2.6 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

Strategic Objective	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$'000	Expenditure \$'000	Revenue \$'000
Liveability	5,153	17,355	(12,202)
Growth	899	1,423	(524)
Sustainability	8,615	9,081	(467)
Total	14,667	27,859	(13,192)
Expenses added in:			
Depreciation	7,215		
Finance costs	8		
Others	352		
Surplus/(Deficit) before funding sources	22,242		
Funding			
Rates and charges revenue	12,746		
Waste charge revenue	2,665		
Victoria Grants Commission	6,641		
Total funding sources	22,052		
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	(190)		
Capital funding	31,517		
Capital Contributions	-		
Total Comprehensive Result	31,327		

* refer to table for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators

3. Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2023/24 has been supplemented with projections to 2026/27, extracted from the Strategic Resource Plan.

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

- 3.1 Comprehensive Income Statement
- 3.2 Balance Sheet
- 3.3 Statement of Changes in Equity
- 3.4 Statement of Cash Flows
- 3.5 Statement of Capital Works
- 3.6 Statement of Human Resources

3.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2027

		Forecast Actual 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	2024/25	Projections 2025/26	2026/27
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income/Revenue						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	14,440	15,411	15,857	16,328	16,732
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	396	406	418	430	441
User fees	4.1.3	3,687	3,208	3,304	3,405	3,489
Grants - Operating	4.1.4	11,608	11,797	12,111	12,475	12,786
Grants - Capital	4.1.4	2,788	31,517	14,471	6,201	7,121
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	59	45	-	-	640
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		432	144	144	148	152
Other income	4.1.6	4,373	4,166	4,384	4,517	4,631
Total income/revenue		37,783	66,694	50,689	43,504	45,992
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.7	17,983	18,406	19,060	19,714	20,305
Materials and services	4.1.8	11,610	9,386	9,609	9,848	10,043
Depreciation	4.1.9	7,107	7,215	7,222	7,229	7,237
Bad and doubtful debts- Allowance for impairment losses		-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing costs		14	8	2	-	53
Other expenses	4.1.10	334	352	623	428	438
Total expenses		37,048	35,367	36,516	37,219	38,075
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		735	31,327	14,173	6,285	7,917
Other comprehensive income						
Total comprehensive result		735	31,327	14,173	6,285	7,917

Note:

At the time of preparing this report, the impact of asset impairment as a result of the Oct/Nov 2022 floods is not known and has not been factored in. Asset impairment is a non-cash item but will affect the surplus, adjusted underlying result, balance sheet items and any associated financial indicators.

3.2 Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2027

	Notes	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	Projections 2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		11,872	10,115	11,418	12,298	13,333
Trade and other receivables		2,960	4,860	3,886	3,448	3,647
Other financial assets		2,503	2,503	2,503	2,503	2,503
Inventories		356	360	363	367	370
Other assets		299	299	299	299	299
Total current assets	4.2.1	17,990	18,136	18,470	18,914	20,153
Non-current assets						
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		247,263	278,421	292,333	298,240	307,309
Investment property		1,030	1,030	1,030	1,030	1,030
Total non-current assets	4.2.1	248,293	279,451	293,363	299,270	308,339
Total assets		266,283	297,587	311,833	318,184	328,492
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		1,391	1,419	1,491	1,505	1,538
Trust funds and deposits		559	559	559	559	559
Provisions		3,707	3,744	3,782	3,819	3,858
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	102	53	-	-	199
Total current liabilities	4.2.2	5,759	5,775	5,832	5,884	6,154
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		1,494	1,509	1,524	1,539	1,555
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	53	-	-	-	2,105
Total non-current liabilities	4.2.2	1,547	1,509	1,524	1,539	3,660
Total liabilities		7,306	7,284	7,356	7,423	9,813
Net assets		258,977	290,304	304,477	310,761	318,678
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		103,060	134,387	148,560	154,844	162,761
Reserves		155,917	155,917	155,917	155,917	155,917
Total equity		258,977	290,304	304,477	310,761	318,678

3.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

For the four years ending 30 June 2027

		Total	Accumulat ed Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2022 Forecast Actual					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		258,242	102,325	-	155,917
Adjusted opening balance		258,242	102,325	-	155,917
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		735	735	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		258,977	103,060	-	155,917
2023 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		258,977	103,060	-	155,917
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		31,327	31,327	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year	4.3.2	290,304	134,387	-	155,917
2024					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		290,304	134,387	-	155,917
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		14,173	14,173	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		304,477	148,560	-	155,917
2025					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		304,477	148,560	-	155,917
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		6,285	6,285	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		310,761	154,844	-	155,917
2026					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		310,761	154,844	-	155,917
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		7,917	7,917	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		318,678	162,761	-	155,917

3.4 Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2027

		Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	Projections 2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000
	Notes	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		14,569	14,672	15,591	16,061	16,468
Statutory fees and fines		396	434	459	472	484
User fees		4,056	3,428	3,625	3,736	3,830
Grants - operating		8,211	11,573	12,092	12,455	12,769
Grants - capital		591	30,919	15,400	6,654	7,071
Contributions - monetary		-	-	-	-	640
Interest received		177	120	124	128	131
Other receipts		4,672	4,601	4,886	5,035	5,169
Net GST refund / payment		1,228	3,603	2,424	1,494	1,607
Employee costs		(17,983)	(18,401)	(19,050)	(19,705)	(20,297)
Materials and services		(12,771)	(10,249)	(10,537)	(10,808)	(11,027)
Other payments		(365)	(386)	(601)	(436)	(421)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4.4.1	2,781	40,314	24,413	15,087	16,423
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(9,046)	(42,194)	(23,288)	(14,448)	(17,885)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		1,930	233	233	240	246
Proceeds for investments		3,206	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	4.4.2	(3,910)	(41,961)	(23,055)	(14,208)	(17,638)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		(14)	(8)	(2)	-	(53)
Proceeds from borrowings		-	-	-	-	2,400
Repayment of borrowings		(95)	(102)	(53)	-	(96)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	4.4.3	(109)	(110)	(55)	-	2,251
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		(1,238)	(1,757)	1,303	879	1,036
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		13,110	11,872	10,115	11,418	12,298
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		11,872	10,115	11,418	12,298	13,333

3.5 Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2027

		Forecast Actual 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Projections 2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property						
Land improvements		85	-	240	-	-
Total land		85	910	580	800	1,300
Buildings		487	1,413	1,500	-	6,400
Building improvements		160	110	110	545	545
Total buildings		647	1,523	1,610	545	6,945
Total property		732	2,433	2,190	1,345	8,245
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment		375	807	807	807	807
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		50	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications		464	161	180	380	280
Library books		157	120	120	120	120
Total plant and equipment		1,046	1,088	1,107	1,307	1,207
Infrastructure						
Roads		3,612	31,253	14,706	3,261	3,327
Bridges		-	-	330	550	550
Footpaths and cycleways		691	130	132	148	154
Drainage		503	274	274	2,274	2,274
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		120	155	1,705	1,405	255
Waste management		-	650	-	-	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes		898	2,030	330	85	30
Other infrastructure		445	428	328	2,832	335
Total infrastructure		6,269	34,920	17,905	10,555	6,925
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	8,047	38,441	21,202	13,207	16,377
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		380	4,552	2,320	5,480	6,140
Asset renewal expenditure		6,496	18,182	10,742	6,372	8,267
Asset expansion expenditure		365	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure		806	15,707	8,140	1,355	1,970
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	8,047	38,441	21,202	13,207	16,377
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants (Including R2R)		4,106	32,796	15,789	7,519	8,439
Contributions		34	-	-	-	640
Council cash		3,907	5,645	5,413	5,688	7,298
Borrowings		-	-	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	8,047	38,441	21,202	13,207	16,377

3.6 Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2027

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	Actual				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	17,983	18,406	19,060	19,714	20,305
Employee costs - capital	369	406	420	435	451
Total staff expenditure	18,352	18,812	19,480	20,149	20,755
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
Employees	194.08	194.51	194.51	194.51	194.51

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises			
		Permanent			Temporary
	2023/24	Full Time	Part time	Casual	Vacant or Seasonal
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Chief Executive Officer	382	382	-	-	-
Community Wellbeing	9,642	1,996	6,580	319	747
Corporate Services	2,285	1,557	520	59	148
Infrastructure Services	5,583	4,803	531	114	135
Strategic Development	513	371	143	-	-
Total permanent staff expenditure	18,406	9,109	7,775	492	1,030
Capitalised labour costs	406				
Total expenditure	18,812				

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises			
		Permanent			Temporary
	2023/24	Full Time	Part time	Casual	Vacant or Seasonal
Chief Executive Officer	2.00	2.00	-	-	-
Community Wellbeing	103.03	19.00	72.32	3.54	8.17
Corporate Services	22.00	14.00	6.42	0.58	1.00
Infrastructure Services	62.80	54.00	6.29	1.22	1.29
Strategic Development	4.68	3.00	1.68	-	-
Total staff	194.51	92.00	86.71	5.34	10.46

3.6.1 Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure

For the four years ending 30 June 2027

	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000
Chief Executive Officer				
Permanent - Full time	382	396	409	422
Female	99	102	106	109
Male	284	294	304	313
Permanent - Part time	0	0	0	0
Total - Chief Executive Officer	382	396	409	422
Community Wellbeing				
Permanent - Full time	1,996	2,067	2,137	2,202
Female	1,611	1,669	1,726	1,778
Male	384	398	412	424
Permanent - Part time	6,580	6,814	7,048	7,259
Female	6,165	6,384	6,603	6,801
Male	416	430	445	459
Total - Community Wellbeing	8,576	8,881	9,185	9,461
Corporate Services				
Permanent - Full time	1,557	1,613	1,668	1,718
Female	1,030	1,067	1,103	1,136
Male	527	546	565	582
Permanent - Part time	520	539	557	574
Female	520	539	557	574
Male	0	0	0	0
Total - Corporate Services	2,078	2,152	2,225	2,292
Infrastructure Services				
Permanent - Full time	4,803	4,973	5,141	5,292
Female	702	727	752	774
Male	4,101	4,247	4,389	4,518
Permanent - Part time	531	550	569	586
Female	460	477	493	508
Male	71	74	76	79
Total - Infrastructure Services	5,334	5,524	5,710	5,878
Strategic Development				
Permanent - Full time	371	384	397	409
Female	99	102	106	109
Male	272	282	291	300
Permanent - Part time	143	148	153	157
Female	143	148	153	157
Male	0	0	0	0
Total - Strategic Development	513	531	550	566
Casuals, Temporary, Vacant and Seasonal Expenditure	1,522	1,576	1,633	1,685
Capitalised labour costs	406	420	435	451
Total staff expenditure	18,812	19,480	20,149	20,755

	2023/24 FTE	2024/25 FTE	2025/26 FTE	2026/27 FTE
Chief Executive Officer				
Permanent - Full time	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Female	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Male	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total - Chief Executive Officer	2.00	2.0	2.0	2.0
Community Wellbeing				
Permanent - Full time	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0
Female	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
Male	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Permanent - Part time	72.3	72.3	72.3	72.3
Female	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1
Male	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Total - Community Wellbeing	91.32	91.32	91.32	91.32
Corporate Services				
Permanent - Full time	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
Female	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Male	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Permanent - Part time	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Female	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Male	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total - Corporate Services	20.42	20.42	20.42	20.42
Infrastructure Services				
Permanent - Full time	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0
Female	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Male	44.0	44.0	44.0	44.0
Permanent - Part time	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Female	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
Male	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Total - Infrastructure Services	57.29	57.29	57.29	57.29
Strategic Development				
Permanent - Full time	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Female	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Male	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Permanent - Part time	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Female	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Total - Strategic Development	4.68	4.68	4.68	4.68
Casuals, Temporary, Vacant and Seasonal Staff	15.80	15.80	15.80	15.80
Capitalised labour	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Total staff numbers	194.51	194.51	194.51	194.51

4. Notes to the financial statements

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

As per the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council adopted the Revenue and Rating Plan in June 2021 which is a four year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2023/24 the FGRS cap has been set at 3.50%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of Council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 3.50% in line with the rate cap.

The kerbside garbage & recycling collection charge is to increase by 20% on average. The greenwaste collection charge is to increase by 56% on average. This increase is due to diversion of waste from Council owned landfill to Patho landfill (privately owned), indexation on annual waste contract and cost of green waste mulching. The municipal charge will remain at the same level as 2022/23.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2023/24 of \$15.410 million.

The valuations are based on the rate book data in January 2023. Council is awaiting valuations data from the Valuer-Generals's office. Calculation of rates in this Draft Budget is based on current valuation figures.

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	2022/23 Forecast Actual	2023/24 Budget	Change	%
General Rates*	11,316,119	11,738,880	422,761	3.74%
Municipal charge*	653,600	653,600	-	0.00%
Waste management charge	2,184,415	2,664,750	480,335	21.99%
Interest on rates and charges	118,000	118,000	-	0.00%
Revenue in lieu of rates	168,725	235,539	66,814	39.60%
Total rates and charges	14,440,859	15,410,769	969,910	6.72%

*These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS.

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under Section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2022/23 cents/\$CIV*	2023/24 cents/\$CIV*	Change
Residential properties	0.004990	0.005178	3.77%
Commercial/industrial properties	0.005503	0.005707	3.70%
Farm irrigation district properties	0.004131	0.004281	3.62%
Farm dryland properties	0.002493	0.002582	3.56%
Cultural and recreation properties	0.002495	0.002589	3.77%

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2022/23	2023/24	Change	
			\$'000	%
Residential properties	6,231,894	6,466,730	234,836	3.77%
Commercial/industrial properties	928,240	962,594	34,354	3.70%
Farm irrigation district properties	2,843,685	2,946,704	103,018	3.62%
Farm dryland properties	1,306,185	1,352,664	46,479	3.56%
Cultural and recreation properties	9,818	10,188	370	3.77%
Total amount to be raised by general rates	11,319,822	11,738,880	419,058	3.70%

4.1.1(d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2022/23 Number	2023/24 Number	Change	
			Number	%
Residential properties	4,784	4,784	-	0.00%
Commercial/industrial properties	536	536	-	0.00%
Farm irrigation district properties	1,225	1,225	-	0.00%
Farm dryland properties	453	453	-	0.00%
Cultural and recreation properties	11	11	-	0.00%
Total number of assessments	7,009	7,009	-	0.00%

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV)

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
Residential properties	1,248,877	1,248,877	-	0%
Commercial/industrial properties	168,679	168,679	-	0%
Farm irrigation district properties	688,377	688,377	-	0%
Farm dryland properties	523,941	523,941	-	0%
Cultural and recreation properties	3,935	3,935	-	0%
Total value of land	2,633,809	2,633,809	-	0%

4.1.1(g) The municipal charge under Section 159 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property	Per Rateable Property	Change	
	2022/23	2023/24	\$	%
	\$	\$		
Municipal	100	100	-	0.00%

4.1.1(h) The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2022/23	2023/24	Change	
	\$	\$	\$	%
Municipal	653,600	653,600	-	0.00%

4.1.1(i) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property	Per Rateable Property	Change	
	2022/23	2023/24	\$	%
	\$	\$		
Kerbside collection 120 litre bin	383	460	77	20.10%
Kerbside collection 240 litre bin	550	660	110	20.00%
Greenwaste collection	61	95	34	55.74%
	994	1,215	221	22.23%

4.1.1(j) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2022/23	2023/24	Change	
	\$	\$	\$	%
Kerbside collection 120 litre bin	1,648,191	1,985,360	337,169	20.46%
Kerbside collection 240 litre bin	454,850	545,820	90,970	20.00%
Greenwaste collection	81,374	133,570	52,196	64.14%
Total	2,184,415	2,664,750	480,335	21.99%

4.1.1(k) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year

	2022/23	2023/24	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General rates	11,319,822	11,738,880	419,058	3.70%
Municipal charge	653,600	653,600	-	0.00%
Total Rates	11,973,422	12,392,480	419,058	3.50%
Kerbside collection and recycling	2,184,415	2,664,750	480,335	21.99%
Revenue in lieu of rates	168,725	235,539	66,814	39.60%
Total Rates and charges	14,326,562	15,292,769	966,207	6.74%

4.1.1(l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Gannawarra Shire Council is required to comply with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS). The table below details the budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System.

	2022/23	2023/24
Total Rates (Excluding Cultural and recreation properties)	\$11,962,505	12,381,192
Number of rateable properties	6,998	6,998
Base Average Rate	\$ 1,677.38	\$ 1,709.42
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)	1.75%	3.50%
Capped Average Rate	\$ 1,706.73	\$ 1,769.25
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$11,901,286	\$ 12,381,192
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$11,899,918	\$ 12,381,192
Budgeted Supplementary Rates*	\$ 62,587	\$ -
Budgeted Total Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$11,962,505	\$ 12,381,192

4.1.1(m) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes of use of land such that residential land becomes business land and vice versa.

4.1.1(n) Differential rates

Rates to be levied

The rate and amount of rates payable in relation to land in each category of differential are:

- * A general rate of 0.5178% (0.005178 Cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable Residential properties.
- * A general rate of 0.5707% (0.005707 Cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable Commercial/industrial properties.
- * A general rate of 0.4281% (0.004281 Cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable Farm irrigation district properties.
- * A general rate of 0.2582% (0.002582 Cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable Farm dryland properties.
- * A general rate of 0.2589% (0.002589 Cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable Cultural and recreation properties.

Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described below) by the relevant percentages indicated above.

Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the types of classes of land, which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate, are set out below.

Commercial/industrial land

Commercial/industrial land is any land, which is:

- Occupied for the principal purpose of carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or
- Unoccupied but zoned commercial or industrial under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme.

The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
- Development and provision of health and community services; and
- Provision of general support services.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above. The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land. The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever located within the Shire district, without reference to ward boundaries. The use of the land within this differential rate, in the case of improved land, is any use of land.

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to commercial land. The vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned commercial and/or industrial under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2020/21 financial year.

A higher differential for these property types has traditionally been based on the premise that commercial and industrial properties generally place greater demands on Council services. Council considers that a higher differential compared to the general rate will ensure that Council's commitment to Economic Development and Tourism is financially supported by those who receive direct benefits.

General Residential land

Residential land is any land, which is:

- Occupied for the principal purpose of physically accommodating persons; or
- Unoccupied but zoned residential under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme and which is not business.
- Any land not included in the definition of any other rating type.

The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
- Development and provision of health and community services; and
- Provision of general support services.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above. The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land. The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever located within the shire district, without reference to ward boundaries. The use of the land within this differential rate, in the case of improved land, is any use of land.

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to residential land. The vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned residential under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2020/21 financial year.

Farmland Irrigation District land

Farmland Irrigation District land is any land, which is farmland as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* that is in the irrigation district defined by the relevant Water Authority and greater than 10 hectares within the Gannawarra Shire Council boundaries; or unoccupied but zoned farmland under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme and which is not commercial/industrial land, general/residential land or farmland (dryland).

The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets.
- Development and provision of health and community services.
- Provision of general support services.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above. The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land. The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever located within the Shire district, without reference to ward boundaries. The use of the land within this differential rate, in the case of improved land, is any use of land.

A lower differential for farmland properties has traditionally been based on the premise that farmland properties due to their larger areas and relatively higher valuations place less demand and use on the range of Council services. Council considers that a lower differential compared to the general rate will ensure that the farming communities can continue to pursue viable farming activities.

Farmland (dryland)

Farmland (dryland) is any land, which is farmland as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* and that is not defined as farmland irrigation district land or unoccupied but zoned farmland under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme and which is not commercial/industrial, general/residential or farmland irrigation district land.

The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets.
- Development and provision of health and community services.
- Provision of general support services.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above. The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land. The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever located within the shire district, without reference to ward boundaries. The use of the land within this differential rate, in the case of improved land, is any use of land.

A lower differential for farmland properties has traditionally been based on the premise that farmland properties due to their larger areas and relatively higher valuations place less demand and use on the range of Council services. Council considers that a lower differential compared to the general rate will ensure that the farming communities can continue to pursue viable farming activities.

A discounted differential of less than the irrigated farm land will be available for eligible dryland properties. Council considers that there is a difference in the category of road infrastructure accessible to persons who own properties in the Shire's irrigation district than compared to those individuals who own land in the dryland farming areas. Whilst many roads in the Shire's irrigation district are sealed to enable the efficient movement of milk tanker trucks most roads within the dryland farming district remain unsealed.

Cultural and Recreational Land

Recreational land is any land upon which sporting, recreational or cultural activities are conducted, including buildings which may be ancillary to such activities. Profits from recreational land must be applied in promoting its objectives. The definition of "recreational lands" is per Section 2 of the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*.

Recreational land that exists for the purpose of providing outdoor sporting recreation or for the purpose of providing cultural activities are important aspects of the Gannawarra Shire Council. Council believes a lower differential compared to the general rate will ensure that this land is retained for this purpose and the open space is preserved.

4.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast Actual 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Local Laws	92	101	10	10.54%
Planning fees	180	180	-	0.00%
Building fees	120	120	-	0.00%
Other	4	4	1	13.22%
Total statutory fees and fines	396	406	10	2.57%

Statutory fees relate mainly to fees and fines levied in accordance with legislation and include animal registrations, *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* registrations and local law fines. Increases in statutory fees are made in accordance with legislative requirements.

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast Actual 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Aged and health services	367	447	80	21.65%
Arts & culture	14	10	(4)	-28.57%
Chargeable Works	642	620	(22)	-3.47%
Local Laws	10	14	4	42.86%
Waste management	60	66	6	10.00%
Swimming areas	132	128	(3)	-2.55%
Halls and recreation	19	13	(6)	-31.58%
Child care/children's programs	2,352	1,822	(530)	-22.52%
Other User fees	92	88	(4)	-3.91%
Total user fees	3,687	3,208	- 479	-12.99%

User charges relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services. These include separate rating schemes, use of leisure, entertainment and other community facilities and the provision of human services such as family day care and home help services.

Council's user fees are reviewed on an annual basis and is weighed to balance affordability, encourage usage, cost recovery and raise sufficient revenue in line with prudent financial management practices. The 2023/24 user fees and charges were reviewed as part of the budget process.

The reduction in user fees in children's services is due to kindergartens being fully subsidised by the State Government from 2023. This reduction is offset by an increase in operating grants.

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	7,828	37,030	29,202	373%
State funded grants	6,568	6,284	(284)	-4%
Total grants received	14,396	43,314	28,918	201%
	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Financial Assistance Grants	4,666	6,641	1,975	42%
Children services	40	-	(40)	-100%
Aged care	1,143	1,000	(143)	-13%
Roads to recovery	1,318	1,279	(39)	-3%
Recurrent - State Government				
Children services	1,236	1,712	476	38%
Aged care	314	300	(15)	-5%
School crossing supervisors	30	29	(1)	-2%
Public health	36	67	32	89%
Libraries, arts & culture	161	176	14	9%
Maternal and child health	375	348	(27)	-7%
Recreation	250	-	(250)	-100.0%
Roads Assets Management	57	-	(57)	-100%
Planning	53	67	14	26%
Roadside Weed & Pest Control	68	67	(1)	-1%
Municipal Emergency	60	60	-	0%
Flood Assistance	1,500	-	(1,500)	-100%
Other	64	50	(14)	-22%
Total recurrent grants	11,371	11,795	424	4%
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Public Health	2	2	-	0%
Non-recurrent - State Government				
COVID Assistance	12	-	(12)	-100%
Community Resilience	90	-	(90)	-100%
Children Services	42	-	(42)	-100%
Waste Management	52	-	(52)	-100%
Recreation	30	-	(30)	-100%
Public Health	9	-	(9)	-100%
Total non-recurrent grants	237	2	(226)	-500%
Total operating grants	11,608	11,797	199	-496%

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Libraries	6	6	-	0%
Total recurrent grants	6	6	-	0%
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads	-	3,102	3,102	100%
Flood Restoration Works (Natural Disaster Financial Assistance)	-	25,000	25,000	100%
Underground Drainage	369	-	(369)	-100%
Parks & Streetscapes	284	-	(284)	-100%
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Land Improvements	407	-	(407)	-100%
Buildings	80	1,413	1,333	1667%
Information Technology	250	-	(250)	-100%
Drainage	50	-	(50)	-100%
Footpaths	500	-	(500)	-100%
Waste Management	25	-	(25)	-100%
Recreation & Leisure	373	-	(373)	-100%
Parks & Streetscapes	444	1,945	1,501	338%
Other	-	50	50	100%
Total non-recurrent grants	2,782	31,511	28,729	1033%
Total capital grants	2,788	31,517	28,729	1030%
Total Grants	14,396	43,314	28,918	201%

Operating grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purposes of funding the delivery of Council's services to ratepayers.

The increase in Financial Assistance Grants from the Commonwealth Government is due 2023/24 budget being based on 100% annual allocation. 2022/23 budget was based on 75% annual allocation due to advance payment of 25% in 21/22.

Council received \$1.5m in 2022/23 as part of the State Government's efforts to support flood affected councils through its Council Flood Support Fund.

As mentioned above, the increase in grants for Children's Services is due to kindergartens being fully subsidised by the State government from 2023.

Matching grant funding towards Community Sport & Recreation projects is not budgeted (\$250k) in 2023/24.

Capital Grants for 2023/24 include \$25m in Flood restoration grants from the Commonwealth Government. Further details on grants received for capital works have been included under the capital works program.

4.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Contributions and donations	59	45	(15)	-24.89%
Monetary - Major projects	-	-	-	0.00%
Monetary - Developer contributions	-	-	-	0.00%
Total contributions	59	45	(15)	-24.89%

Monetary - Major project contributions are contributions made by various community groups toward improvements on council owned land and facilities. Monetary - Developer contributions are monetary contributions made in lieu of the provision of recreational land in subdivisions.

4.1.6 Other income

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Interest	177	120	(57)	-32.28%
Investment property rental	301	317	16	5.31%
Reimbursements	3,894	3,729	(165)	-4.24%
Total other income	4,372	4,166	- 206	-4.72%

Other income includes interest from investments, rental from investment properties and services provided under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Community Care Brokered Programs.

Fees & charges for NDIS and Brokered Services provided by Council have been indexed to allow for cost recovery.

4.1.7 Employee costs

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Wages and salaries	15,748	16,015	268	1.70%
WorkCover	307	385	78	25.29%
Superannuation	1,551	1,673	121	7.81%
FBT	150	150	-	0.00%
Other wages	227	183	(44)	-19.45%
Total employee costs	17,983	18,406	422	2.35%

Employee costs are forecast to increase by 2.35% compared to 2022/23. The increase can be attributed to the following factors:

Wage increase includes increase of 2.5% under the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement plus band level movements by employees during the term of Budget.

Workcover insurance premiums have increased significantly due to a number of workcover claims in recent years.

Other employee costs include staff recruitment, training and various allowances such as on-call, availability and travel.

4.1.8 Materials and services

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Operational materials	2,217	2,303	86	3.86%
Operational services	6,181	4,331	(1,851)	-29.94%
Contract payments	262	126	(136)	-51.93%
Corporate strategies and reviews	60	-	(60)	-100.00%
Building maintenance	86	59	(27)	-31.64%
Utilities	410	400	(10)	-2.53%
Office administration	448	389	(60)	-13.28%
Information technology	563	614	51	9.09%
Bank charges	41	39	(2)	-4.64%
Insurance	476	538	62	13.10%
Consultants	676	247	(429)	-63.48%
Ops - Contributions	190	341	151	79.47%
Total materials and services	11,610	9,386	(2,225)	-19.16%

Materials and services include the purchases of consumables, payments to contractors for the provision of services and utility costs.

2022/23 operational services include flood response and emergency works which are primarily grant funded. There has been a significant increase in insurance premiums in recent years and a further increase is anticipated in 2023/24. 2022/23 consultants costs include grant funded projects and preparation of the community care business plan.

Materials and services have been indexed to increase by 4%. CPI is running higher than the ministerial rate cap.

Waste collection and disposal costs have increased due to diversion of waste from Council owned landfill to Patho landfill (privately owned), indexation on annual waste contract and cost of green waste mulching.

4.1.9 Depreciation

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Land improvements	167	177	10	6.06%
Buildings	620	614	(6)	-0.98%
Office equipment	245	249	4	1.59%
Library books	81	93	12	14.80%
Plant & equipment	871	841	(30)	-3.45%
Roads	3,077	3,160	83	2.70%
Bridges	275	272	(3)	-1.08%
Footpaths	162	176	13	8.27%
Kerb & channel	269	268	(1)	-0.36%
Parks & streetscape	137	157	21	15.03%
Recreation & leisure	428	433	6	1.38%
Waste management	66	63	(3)	-4.12%
Aerodrome	52	51	(1)	-1.08%
Drainage	301	308	7	2.16%
Other infrastructure	357	353	(4)	-1.08%
Total depreciation	7,107	7,215	108	1.52%

4.1.10 Other expenses

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Audit fees	84	89	5	5.56%
Mayoral & Councillor Allowance	238	247	9	3.59%
Valuations	11	16	4	38.64%
Councillor induction	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Total other expenses	334	352	18	5.28%

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and investments such as cash held in the bank and in petty cash and the value of investments in deposits or other highly liquid investments with short term maturities of three months or less. The balance is projected to be \$10.115 m at the end of 2023/24.

Trade and other receivables are monies owed to Council by ratepayers and others.

Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment is the largest component of Council's worth and represents the value of all the land, buildings, roads, vehicles, equipment, etc. which has been built up by Council over many years. The increase is attributable to the net result of the capital works program, depreciation and written down value of assets sold. Capital works in 2023/24 includes \$25m of flood restoration works to assets.

At the time of preparing this report, the impact of asset impairment as a result of the Oct/Nov 2022 floods is not known and has not been factored in. Asset impairment will affect the closing balance of Property, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment as at 30 June 2023.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Trade and other payables are amounts that Council owes to suppliers as at 30 June 2024. These liabilities are budgeted to increase by \$0.028m.

Provisions include accrued long service leave and annual leave owing to employees. These employee entitlements (current and non current) are anticipated to increase by \$0.052m after factoring in an increase for Collective Agreement outcomes.

4.2.3 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	Forecast Actual 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Projections 2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	250,292	154,797	53,245	-	-
Amount proposed to be borrowed	-	-	-	-	2,400,000
Amount projected to be redeemed	(95,495)	- 101,552	(53,245)	-	(96,000)
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	154,797	53,245	-	-	2,304,000

4.3 Statement of changes in Equity

4.3.1 Reserves

Asset revaluation reserve represents the difference between the previously recorded value of assets and their current valuations. The impact of asset revaluations is unknown.

4.3.2 Equity

Accumulated surplus which is the value of all net assets less reserves that have accumulated over time. The increase in accumulated surplus of \$31.326m results directly from the operating surplus for the year. This includes capital grants of \$25m for flood restoration works.

4.4 Statement of Cash Flows

4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

Net cash from operating activities is \$40.314m which includes capital grants of \$30.92m which will be expended on capital expenditure shown under 'cash flow from investing activities'. Capital grants include \$25m for flood restoration works.

The net cash flows from operating activities does not equal the surplus (deficit) for the year as the expected revenues and expenses of the Council include non-cash items which have been excluded from the Cash Flow Statement.

4.4.2 Net cash flows provided by/used in investing activities

The amount of \$41.96m represents the amount of capital expenditure less any movements within Council's cash reserves and after taking into account any proceeds from the sale of assets.

4.4.3 Net cash flows provided by/used in financing activities

Council's existing borrowings are expected to be fully paid out by September 2024. The construction of the Integrated Aquatic Facility is subject to new borrowings of \$2.4m in 2026/27.

4.5 Capital works program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2023/24 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. Works are also disclosed as current budget or carried forward from prior year.

4.5.1 Summary

	Forecast Actual 2022/23 \$'000	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Property	732	1,743	1,011	138.15%
Plant and equipment	1,046	1,088	42	3.98%
Infrastructure	6,269	35,610	29,341	468.04%
Total	8,047	38,441	30,394	377.71%

	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property	1,743	1,633	110	-	-	723	-	1,020	-
Plant and equipment	1,088	-	1,088	-	-	6	-	1,082	-
Infrastructure	35,610	2,919	16,985	15,706	-	32,067	-	3,543	-
Total	38,441	4,552	18,183	15,706	-	32,796	-	5,645	-

4.5.2 Current Budget

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PROPERTY									
Land									
<i>Kerang Drainage Land Acquisition - MV Highway</i>	10	10				-	-	10	-
Land Improvements									
<i>Industrial Estate Expansions Tate Drive – Kerang</i>	900	900				-	-	900	-
Buildings									
<i>Living Library Projects - The Glasshouse</i>	723	723				723	-	-	-
Building Improvements									
<i>Buildings Renewal</i>	110		110			-	-	110	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	1,743	1,633	110	-	-	723	-	1,020	-
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment									
<i>Heavy Plant Replacement</i>	420		420			-	-	420	-
<i>Light Plant Replacement</i>	387		387			-	-	387	-
Computers and Telecommunications									
<i>ICT Capital Renewals</i>	161		161			-	-	161	-
Heritage Plant and Equipment									
Library books									
<i>Library Resources</i>	120		120			6	-	114	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	1,088	-	1,088	-	-	6	-	1,082	-

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads									
Bitumen Roads Reseal Program	1,006		1,006			-	-	1,006	-
Gravel Re-sheeting Program	1,133		1,133			529	-	604	-
Sealed Roads Rehabilitation Program	1,012		1,012			750	-	262	-
Flood funding works	25,000		12,500	12,500		25,000	-	-	-
Kerb & Channel									
Kerb Replacement	174		174			-	-	174	-
Footpaths and Cycleways									
Annual Footpath Replacement	130		130			-	-	130	-
Drainage									
Stormwater Network and Town Pump renewal	274		274			-	-	274	-
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities									
Swimming Pool Renewal Program	135		68	67		-	-	135	-
Town/Boundary Entrances and Signage	20		10	10		-	-	20	-
Waste Management									
Cell 3 capping - Gannawarra Central Landfill	650		650			-	-	650	-
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes									
Automating Irrigation Systems	55		28	27		-	-	55	-
Tree Planting Program - Cool It Program	30	30				-	-	30	-
Aerodromes									
Other Infrastructure									
Strategic Project Development and Planning	150	150				-	-	150	-
Koondrook Levee Design and Construction	-					-	-	-	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	29,769	180	16,985	12,604	-	26,279	-	3,490	-
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	32,600	1,813	18,183	12,604	-	27,009	-	5,591	-

4.5.3 Works carried forward from the 2022/23 year

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PROPERTY									
Buildings									
<i>Living Library Projects - The Glasshouse</i>	690	690				690	-	-	-
Roads									
<i>Kerang CBD Development Stage 3</i>	1,784			1,784		1,784	-	-	-
<i>Kerang CBD Stage 4 - Wellington Street</i>	1,318			1,318		1,318	-	-	-
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes									
<i>Sustainable Recreational Water for Quambatook - Grant dependent</i>	1,945	1,945				1,945	-	-	-
Other Infrastructure									
<i>Koondrook Levee Design and Construction</i>	104	104				50	-	54	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	5,841	2,739	-	3,102	-	5,787	-	54	-
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD CAPITAL WORKS 2022/23	5,841	2,739	-	3,102	-	5,787	-	54	-

Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure
For the years ending 30 June 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026

2023/24	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	910	910	-	-	-	910	-	-	910	-
Land improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Land	910	910	-	-	-	910	-	-	910	-
Buildings	1,413	1,413	-	-	-	1,413	1,413	-	-	-
Building improvements	110	-	110	-	-	110	-	-	110	-
Total Buildings	1,523	1,413	110	-	-	1,523	1,413	-	110	-
Total Property	2,433	2,323	110	-	-	2,433	1,413	-	1,020	-
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	807	-	807	-	-	807	-	-	807	-
Computers and telecommunications	161	-	161	-	-	161	-	-	161	-
Library books	120	-	120	-	-	120	6	-	114	-
Total Plant and Equipment	1,088	-	1,088	-	-	1,088	6	-	1,082	-
Infrastructure										
Roads	31,253	-	15,651	-	15,602	31,253	28,102	-	3,151	-
Footpaths and cycleways	130	-	130	-	-	130	-	-	130	-
Drainage	274	-	274	-	-	274	-	-	274	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	155	-	105	-	50	155	-	-	155	-
Waste management	650	-	650	-	-	650	-	-	650	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,030	1,975	-	-	55	2,030	1,945	-	85	-
Other infrastructure	428	254	174	-	-	428	50	-	378	-
Total Infrastructure	34,920	2,229	16,984	0	15,707	34,920	30,098	-	4,822	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	38,441	4,552	18,182	0	15,707	38,441	31,517	-	6,924	-

2024/25	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	340	340	-	-	-	340	-	-	340	-
Land improvements	240	-	200	-	40	240	-	-	240	-
Total Land	580	340	200	-	40	580	-	-	580	-
Buildings	1,500	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	1,500	-	-	-
Building improvements	110	-	110	-	-	110	-	-	110	-
Total Buildings	1,610	1,500	110	-	-	1,610	1,500	-	110	-
Total Property	2,190	1,840	310	-	40	2,190	1,500	-	690	-
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	807	-	807	-	-	807	-	-	807	-
Computers and telecommunications	180	-	180	-	-	180	-	-	180	-
Library books	120	-	120	-	-	120	6	-	114	-
Total Plant and Equipment	1,107	-	1,107	-	-	-	6	-	1,101	-
Infrastructure										
Roads	14,706	-	8,206	-	6,500	14,706	11,500	-	3,206	-
Bridges	330	-	330	-	-	330	165	-	165	-
Footpaths and cycleways	132	-	132	-	-	132	-	-	132	-
Drainage	274	-	274	-	-	274	-	-	274	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1,705	-	105	-	1,600	1,705	1,000	-	705	-
Waste management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	330	330	-	-	-	330	300	-	30	-
Aerodromes	100	-	100	-	-	100	-	-	100	-
Other infrastructure	328	150	178	-	-	328	-	-	328	-
Total Infrastructure	17,905	480	9,325	-	8,100	17,905	12,965	-	4,940	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	21,202	2,320	10,742	-	8,140	21,202	14,471	-	6,731	-

2025/26	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	800	800	-	-	-	800	420	-	380	-
Land improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Land	800	800	-	-	-	800	420	-	380	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	545	-	545	-	-	545	-	-	545	-
Total Buildings	545	-	545	-	-	545	-	-	545	-
Total Property	1,345	800	545	-	-	1,345	420	-	925	-
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	807	-	807	-	-	807	-	-	807	-
Computers and telecommunications	380	-	380	-	-	380	-	-	380	-
Library books	120	-	120	-	-	120	6	-	114	-
Total Plant and Equipment	1,307	-	1,307	-	-	1,307	6	-	1,301	-
Infrastructure										
Roads	3,261	-	3,261	-	-	3,261	-	-	3,261	-
Bridges	550	-	550	-	-	550	275	-	275	-
Footpaths and cycleways	148	-	148	-	-	148	-	-	148	-
Drainage	2,274	2,000	274	-	-	2,274	2,000	-	274	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1,405	-	105	-	1,300	1,405	1,000	-	405	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	85	30	-	-	55	85	-	-	85	-
Other infrastructure	2,832	2,650	182	-	-	2,832	2,500	-	332	-
Total Infrastructure	10,555	4,680	4,520	-	1,355	10,555	5,775	-	4,780	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	13,207	5,480	6,372	-	1,355	13,207	6,201	-	7,006	-

2026/27	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	1,300	1,300	-	-	-	1,300	680	-	620	-
Total Land	1,300	1,300	-	-	-	1,300	680	-	620	-
Buildings	6,400	2,560	1,920	-	1,920	6,400	4,160	640	1,600	-
Building improvements	545	-	545	-	-	545	-	-	545	-
Total Buildings	6,945	2,560	2,465	-	1,920	6,945	4,160	640	2,145	-
Total Property	8,245	3,860	2,465	-	1,920	8,245	4,840	640	2,765	-
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	807	-	807	-	-	807	-	-	807	-
Computers and telecommunications	280	-	280	-	-	280	-	-	280	-
Library books	120	-	120	-	-	120	6	-	114	-
Total Plant and Equipment	1,207	-	1,207	-	-	1,207	6	-	1,201	-
Infrastructure										
Roads	3,327	-	3,327	-	-	3,327	-	-	3,327	-
Bridges	550	-	550	-	-	550	275	-	275	-
Footpaths and cycleways	154	-	154	-	-	154	-	-	154	-
Drainage	2,274	2,000	274	-	-	2,274	2,000	-	274	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	255	100	105	-	50	255	-	-	255	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	30	30	-	-	-	30	-	-	30	-
Other infrastructure	335	150	185	-	-	335	-	-	335	-
Total Infrastructure	6,925	2,280	4,595	-	50	6,925	2,275	-	4,650	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	16,377	6,140	8,267	-	1,970	16,377	7,121	640	8,616	-

5a. Targeted performance indicators

The following tables highlight Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted performance indicators - Service

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2021/22	Forecast 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Projections			Trend
					2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	+/-	
Governance									
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	1	46.00	50.00	50.00	51.00	52.02	53.06	+
Roads									
Sealed local roads below the intervention level	Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads	2	99.42%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	o
Statutory planning									
Planning applications decided within the relevant required time	Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of decisions made	3	64.75%	65.00%	68.00%	69.36%	70.75%	72.16%	+
Waste management									
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins	4	37.99%	38.00%	40.00%	40.00%	40.00%	40.00%	o

Targeted performance indicators - Financial

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2021/22	Forecast 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Projections			Trend
						2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	+/-
Liquidity									
Working Capital	Current assets / current liabilities	5	199.99%	312.38%	314.06%	316.72%	321.47%	327.49%	+
Obligations									
Asset renewal	Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation	6	94.31%	102.74%	469.70%	261.44%	106.88%	141.46%	+
Stability									
Rates concentration	Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	7	40.50%	41.30%	43.81%	43.78%	43.77%	43.77%	o
Efficiency									
Expenditure level	Total expenses/ no. of property assessments	8	\$4,696	\$5,286	\$5,046	\$5,210	\$5,310	\$5,432	o

5b. Financial performance indicators

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Projections			Trend
			2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	+/-
Operating position									
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	9	4.45%	-5.97%	-0.54%	-0.82%	0.22%	0.41%	o
Liquidity									
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	10	54.41%	196.44%	165.48%	186.22%	199.51%	207.59%	+
Obligations									
Loans and borrowings	Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	11	1.79%	1.07%	0.34%	0.00%	0.00%	13.77%	o
Loans and borrowings	Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue		89.00%	0.75%	0.71%	0.35%	0.00%	0.89%	o
Indebtedness	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		7.48%	6.62%	6.45%	6.32%	6.20%	14.38%	o
Stability									
Rates effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality	12	0.69%	0.55%	0.59%	0.60%	0.62%	0.64%	o
Efficiency									
Revenue level	General rates and municipal charges / no. of property assessments	13	\$1,655	\$1,708	\$1,768	\$1,802	\$1,836	\$1,871	o

Key to Forecast Trend:

- + Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
- o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to indicators**5a****1. Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement**

There is an increased focus by Council on engagement activities, including a broader scope of community participation opportunities.

2. Sealed local roads below the intervention level

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. The full impact of the floods & associated impairment is yet to be fully assessed to determine its impact on this indicator.

3. Planning applications decided within the relevant required time

Council anticipates a continuing increase in the number of planning applications decided within required timeframes, due to improved processes.

4. Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill

New dedicated glass only bins have been provided at Council's four waste transfer stations. There is an increased focus on recycling.

5. Working Capital

This ratio indicates the level of current assets compared to current liabilities.

Council's working capital ratio is an indication of sound financial position with the ability to pay its current obligations.

6. Asset renewal

Asset renewal represents the amount of capital expenditure being directed towards the replacement of Council's existing assets. This ratio represents the amount of renewal as a percentage of the depreciation expense shown for each year. A ratio less than 100% represents an asset renewal gap. The level of renewal expenditure is dependant on the level of expenditure on new assets and upgrading existing assets.

This ratio is higher than normal in 2023/24 and 2024/25 due to grant funded flood restoration works of \$25m and \$10m respectively.

7. Rates concentration

Rates concentration represents rates proportion of total operating revenue. Council is reliant on external grants for the funding of its operations.

8. Expenditure level

Expenditure level represents average operating expenditure per property assessment. The number of assessments are fairly constant with most costs in line with market forces. Adhoc expenditure during a year is normally funded by adhoc grants.

2022/23 expenditure is higher than normal due to grant funded flood response and emergency works.

5b**9. Adjusted underlying result**

The adjusted underlying result is the net surplus or deficit for the year adjusted for non-recurrent capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions, and capital contributions from other sources. It is a measure of financial sustainability and Council's ability to achieve its service delivery objectives as it is not impacted by capital income items which can often mask the operating result.

The adjusted underlying result for the 2022/23 year is a deficit of \$2.087m due to early payment of the Victoria Grants annual allocation for 2022/23 in 2021/22 (\$1.67m) and depreciation being higher as a result of infrastructure revaluations in 2021/22. In calculating the adjusted underlying result Council has excluded grants received for capital purposes which are non-recurrent and capital contributions from other sources but includes Roads to Recovery funding as a recurrent grant. Contributions of non-monetary assets are excluded as the value of assets assumed by Council is dependent on the level of development activity each year.

The impact of the increase in depreciation from the infrastructure revaluations in 2021/22 has affected the adjusted underlying result in the following years - 2023/24 = \$190,000 deficit, 2024/25 = \$298,000 deficit.

10. Unrestricted Cash

Unrestricted cash represents cash and cash equivalents held by Council less the amount of grants received during the year but not expended by 30 June and the amount of capital works not completed by 30 June 2023.

11. Debt compared to rates

Council's existing borrowings are expected to be fully paid out by September 2024. There are no new planned borrowings until 2026/27 - The construction of the Integrated Aquatic Facility is subject to new borrowings of \$2.4m in 2026/27.

12. Rates effort

Rates revenue compared to property values remains consistent due to rate capping.

13. Revenue level

The average rate per property assessment is in line with the rate cap.

Note:

At the time of preparing this report, the impact of asset impairment as a result of the Oct/Nov 2022 floods is not known and has not been factored in. Asset impairment is a non-cash item but will affect the surplus, adjusted underlying result, balance sheet items and any associated financial indicators.

6. Schedule of Fees and Charges

This appendix presents the fees and charges of a statutory/non-statutory nature which will be charged in respect to various goods and services during the financial year 2023/24

GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL			
SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST 2023/2024
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES			
FOOD ACT REGISTRATION FEES			
Class 1 Food Premises - Requiring External Food Safety Audits		No	\$ 370.00
Class 2 High Volume Food Premises (Incorporating Fixed and Mobile Commercial premises and School Canteens with paid staff)		No	\$ 345.00
Class 2 Low Volume Food Premises (Incorporating Home premises/ Temporary Food Premises)		No	\$ 180.00
Class 3 High Volume Food Premises (Incorporating Class 3 & 3A Fixed Commercial premises and volunteer based School Canteens)		No	\$ 205.00
Class 3 Low Volume Food Premises (Incorporating Class 3 & 3A home and temporary food premises)		No	\$ 150.00
More than 10 employed, extra fee per additional 10 employees for Class 2		No	\$ 420.00
Maximum Fee charged to Class 2 High Volume Food Premises		No	\$ 3,360.00
Not for Profit Community Groups		No	No Charge
Non-compliant food samples	Per Re-Test	No	\$ 230.00
Inspection Fee for non-compliant food premises	Per Inspection	No	\$ 230.00
Requested inspection and Report		No	\$ 230.00
PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACT: REGISTRATION FEES			
Public Health and Wellbeing Act: Premises			
Prescribed Accommodation premises – per year		No	\$ 300.00
Health Act – Transfer of Registration		No	\$ 230.00
Health premises - low risk activities - hair and beauty therapy or beauty therapy only (per operator)		No	\$ 98.00
Health premises - hairdressing only - one off fee (per operator)		No	\$ 98.00
Health premises - low risk activities - maximum fee		No	\$ 300.00
Health premises - high risk activities - skin penetration, tattooing, ear piercing, electrolysis		No	\$ 300.00
Inspection fee - non-compliant health premises		No	\$ 230.00
Requested inspection and report		No	\$ 230.00
Aquatic Facilities - category 1 Registration	Three yearly fee	No	\$ 310.00
Public Health Requests			
Water analysis - portable and non-portable (Including rainwater tanks)		No	\$ 230.00
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT REGISTRATION FEES			
IMMUNISATIONS			
Influenza Vaccine		No	\$ 25.00
Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine		No	\$ 25.00
Hepatitis B - Adult		No	\$ 28.00
Hepatitis B - Paediatric		No	\$ 17.00
Hepatitis A - Adult		No	\$ 72.00
Hepatitis A - Paediatric		No	\$ 53.00
Twinrix (Hepatitis A & B) - Adult		No	\$ 100.00
Twinrix (Hepatitis A & B) - Paediatric		No	\$ 67.00
Boostrix		No	\$ 52.00
Chicken Pox		No	\$ 80.00

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
COMMUNITY SERVICES				
NDIS - National Disability Insurance Scheme				
Fees and charges as per current NDIS Price Guide - Victoria	https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-arrangements		No	As per guide
TAC - Transport Accident Commission				
Fees and charges as per current TAC Price Guide	https://www.tac.vic.gov.au/providers/invoicing-and-fees/fee-schedules		No	As per guide
Workcover				
Fees and charges as per current Workcover Price Guide	https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/information-for-providers		No	As per guide
VHC - Veterans Home Care				
Fees and charges as per current Veterans Price Guide	https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/care-home-or-aged-care/services-support-you-home/veterans-home-care-vhc/help		No	As per guide
CHSP/HACCPYP - Commonwealth Home Support Program/Home and Community Care Program Younger People				
Home Care Level 1 - Full Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 12.60
Home Care Level 2 - Part Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 18.65
Home Care Level 3 - Self Funded Retiree	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 40.70
Personal Care Level 1 - Full Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 13.75
Personal Care Level 2 - Part Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 20.00
Personal Care Level 3 - Self Funded Retiree	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 48.15
Personal Care - Saturday			No	\$ 20.00
Personal Care - Sunday			No	\$ 48.15
Respite Care Level 1 - Full Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 13.75
Respite Care Level 2 - Part Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 20.00
Respite Care Level 3 - Self Funded Retiree	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 48.15
Respite Care - Saturday			No	\$ 20.00
Respite Care - Sunday			No	\$ 48.15
Social Support - Group	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 12.00
Social Support - Individual - Full Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 13.75
Social Support - Individual - Part Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 20.00
Social Support - Individual - Self Funded	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 48.15
Property Maintenance Level 1 - Full Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 14.95
Property Maintenance Level 2 - Part Pensioner	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 21.90
Property Maintenance Level 3 - Self Funded Retiree	Weekday (Mon-Fri: 7.30am – 7.30pm)		No	\$ 61.10
Transport Expenses - Fixed Fee (within townships)	Fixed Fee (within township)		No	\$ 9.00
Transport Expenses - Intrashire	Intrashire - per km		No	\$ 1.10
Sleepover - Active (per hour) - Full Pensioner	Income Assessed: Refer to CHSP		No	Service no longer available
Sleepover - Active (per hour) - Part Pensioner	Income Assessed: Refer to CHSP		No	
Sleepover - Active (per hour) - Self Funded	Income Assessed: Refer to CHSP		No	
CHSP/HACCPYP - Food Services (Per meal)				
Meals on Wheels – 3 Courses	Includes Frozen meals		No	\$ 11.00
Meals on Wheels – 2 Courses	Includes Frozen meals		No	\$ 8.80
Meals on Wheels – 1 Course	Includes Frozen meals		No	\$ 7.85
Social Meal 2 Courses			No	\$ 12.00
Sandwiches			No	\$ 3.30

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
Brokered/Private Services (Rates per hour)				
Assessment / Case Management			Yes	\$ 117.80
Home Care 1	Mon – Fri Hrs: 7.30am – 7.30pm		Yes	\$ 56.75
Home Care 2	Mon – Fri Hrs: 7.30pm – 9.30pm (inc Sat 7.30am to 12pm)		Yes	\$ 83.50
Home Care 3	Mon – Fri Hrs: 9.30pm – 7.30am (Sat 12pm to Mon 7.30am) incl. Public Holiday		Yes	\$ 112.45
Personal Care 1	Mon – Fri Hrs: 7.30am – 7.30pm		Yes	\$ 61.00
Personal Care 2	Mon – Fri Hrs: 7.30pm – 9.30pm (inc Sat 7.30am to 12pm), or 8 - 10 hrs consecutive care		Yes	\$ 92.10
Personal Care 3	Mon – Fri Hrs: 9.30pm – 7.30am (Sat 12pm to Mon 7.30am) and Public Holiday or More than 10 hours consecutive care		Yes	\$ 122.00
Respite Care 1	Mon – Fri Hrs: 7.30am – 7.30pm		Yes	\$ 61.00
Respite Care 2	Mon – Fri Hrs: 7.30pm – 9.30pm (inc Sat 7.30am to 12pm), or 8 - 10 hrs consecutive care		Yes	\$ 92.00
Respite Care 3	Mon – Fri Hrs: 9.30pm – 7.30am (Sat 12pm to Mon 7.30am) and Public Holiday or More than 10 hours consecutive care		Yes	\$ 122.00
Social Support - Group Weekday Activity	As per GSC Event Calendar		Yes	\$ 20.00
Social Support - Group Saturday Activity	As per GSC Event Calendar		Yes	\$ 35.00
Social Support - Group Sunday Activity	As per GSC Event Calendar		Yes	\$ 50.00
Sleepover - Active (per hour)	9.30pm - 7.30am (Minimum 1hr)		Yes	\$ 122.05
Sleepover - Inactive	9.30pm - 7.30am		Yes	\$ 262.00
Property Maintenance			Yes	\$ 80.35
Meals on Wheels – 3 Courses	Includes Frozen meals		Yes	\$ 15.50
Meals on Wheels – 2 Courses	Includes Frozen meals		Yes	\$ 13.40
Meals on Wheels - 1 Course			Yes	\$ 12.30
Meals on Wheels - Sandwich			Yes	\$ 5.90
Community Social Meal	Centre Based Meals		Yes	\$ 12.00
Transport Expenses - Fixed Fee (within townships) (one way trip)			Yes	\$ 10.00
Travel Expense	per kilometre		Yes	\$ 1.65
GNETS - Gannawarra Non Emergency Transport Service Client Contributions (All one way transport bookings calculated as "return" services)				
Transport Contributions				
Minimum Charge			Yes	\$ 60.00
Transport under 100km from place of residence	per kilometre		Yes	\$ 0.35
Transport over 100km from place of residence	per kilometre		Yes	\$ 0.50
CHILDREN SERVICES				
Long Day Care				
Full Day (per day) - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	8.00am to 6.00pm		No	\$ 117.00
Casual (per hour) - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	Minimum 2 Hours		No	\$ 22.00
Kindergarten Fees - Kerang - <i>Kindergarten fees are no longer applicable - this program is fully funded by the State Government.</i>				
4 year old kindergarten - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	Per week		No	N/A
3 year old kindergarten - 5 hours week - 1 July to 31 December 2022	Per week		No	N/A
3 year old kindergarten - 15 hours week - 1 January to 30 June 2023	Per week		No	N/A
Cohuna, Koondrook and Leitchville				
4 year old kindergarten - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	Per year		No	N/A
3 year old kindergarten - 5 hours week - 1 July to 31 December 2022	Per year		No	N/A
3 year old kindergarten - 15 hours week - 1 January to 30 June 2023	Per year		No	N/A

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
Family Day Care				
Parent Administration Levy	Per child per hour	No	\$	1.50
Carer Support Levy	Pro rata per week	No	\$	7.50
Standard fee	8.00am to 6.00pm (range between)	No	\$	\$8.50 - \$12.50
Standard fee	Non-Core hours (range between)	No	\$	\$9.50- \$20.00
After School Care	8.00am to 6.00pm (range between)	No	\$	\$8.50 - \$12.50
After School Care	Non-Core hours (range between)	No	\$	\$9.50- \$20.00
Before School Care	8.00am to 6.00pm (range between)	No	\$	\$8.50 - \$12.50
Before School Care	Non-Core hours (range between)	No	\$	\$9.50- \$20.00
Public Holiday	8.00am to 6.00pm (range between)	No	\$	\$11.00 - \$30.00
Public Holiday	Non-Core hours (range between)	No	\$	\$11.00 - \$30.00
Toy Library Fees				
Annual Standard Membership		Yes	\$	15.00
Annual Group Membership		Yes	\$	35.00
LIBRARY				
Replacement Books		Yes	Cost	
Replace Cards		Yes	\$	2.50
Library Bags		Yes	\$	3.50
Photocopies/Print outs	A4/A3 One Side	Yes	\$	0.50
	A4/A3 Double Side	Yes	\$	0.80
Photocopies – own paper	Per Side	Yes	\$	0.30
Photocopies/Printouts Colour	Per Side	Yes	\$	1.00
Laminating		Yes	\$	1.00
Old Books (depending on condition)		Yes		No Charge
Sir John Gorton Library Meeting Room				
Commercial/Casual Hirers (Charges capped at 5 Hours)	Per hour	Yes	\$	20.00
PLANNING FEES AND CHARGES				
Miscellaneous Planning Fees				
Applications for extension of time		No	\$	150.00
Applications for secondary consent		No	\$	150.00
Subdivision Fees				
Plan Examination Fee		No		Up to a maximum of 0.75% value of works
Supervision Fee		No		Up to maximum of 2.5% value of works

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
BUILDING FEES AND CHARGES				
Domestic				
Dwelling extensions	Up to \$99,999	Yes	\$	1,050.00
Dwelling extensions	Over \$100,000	Yes	\$	1,250.00
New Dwellings or works	Up to \$199,000	Yes	\$	1,550.00
New Dwellings or works	\$200,000 to \$399,999	Yes	\$	1,950.00
New Dwellings or works	\$400,000 to \$499,999	Yes	\$	2,150.00
New Dwellings or works	Above \$500,000	Yes	Cost / 250	
Multi unit developments	Up to 4 units	Yes		1950 per unit
Commercial Building Works				
Contract amount	Up to \$30,000	Yes	\$	700.00
Contract amount	\$30,000 - \$100,000	Yes	\$	1,750.00
Contract amount	\$100,000 - \$500,000	Yes	\$	3,000.00
Contract amount	\$500,000 - \$999,999	Yes	cost / 200 + \$250	
Contract amount	Over \$1,000,000	Yes	cost / \$200 + 250	
Minor Building Works				
Garages, Carports/Sheds, Verandahs	Up to \$19,999	Yes	\$	550.00
Garages, Carports/Sheds, Verandahs	\$20,000 to \$49,999	Yes	\$	650.00
Garages, Carports/Sheds, Verandahs	Above \$50,000	Yes	\$	850.00
Above Ground Swimming Pools		Yes	\$	550.00
Inground Swimming Pools		Yes	\$	850.00
Safety Barrier for swimming pool or spas		Yes	\$	320.00
Dwelling Reblock / restumping		Yes	\$	650.00
Miscellaneous Building permit fee		Yes	\$	600.00
Sitting of places of public entertainment		Yes	\$	600.00
Variation to approved plans		Yes	\$	170.00
Extensions		Yes	\$	270.00
Miscellaneous inspections		Yes	\$	180.00
Temporary occupation of a building	every 6 months	Yes	\$	600.00
House Relocation				
Inspection and report fee prior to relocation		Yes	\$	400.00
Demolition Permit				
Any Class 1 or 10 building	Per Storey	Yes	\$	500.00
Any other building (commercial or industrial)	Per Storey	Yes	\$	700.00

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
RECREATION				
RECREATION RESERVES - COHUNA & LEITCHVILLE				
Football Clubs				
Cohuna Kangas			Yes	\$ 5,600.00
Leitchville			Yes	\$ 3,650.00
Cricket Clubs				
Cohuna - per year			Yes	\$ 680.00
Leitchville - per year			Yes	\$ 680.00
Miscellaneous				
Cohuna A. P. & H. Society - per year			Yes	\$ 1,860.00
Cohuna Little Athletics Club - per year			Yes	\$ 680.00
School Groups & RSL			Yes	No Charge
Casual - per day			Yes	\$ 350.00
Casual - per hour (min 3 hours hire)			Yes	\$ 80.00
Casual - more than one consecutive day	Price on application		Yes	POA
Oval Hire - refundable deposit			No	\$ 280.00
MUNICIPAL RESERVES				
Municipal Reserve				
Use of Municipal Reserve (Inc Parks & Gardens) - Schools & RSL			Yes	No Charge
Use of Municipal Reserve (Inc Parks, Gardens & Wharf) - Commercial use/Major events/Weddings	Permit Fee		Yes	\$ 65.00
Permit Deposit (Refundable)	No alcohol		No	\$ 300.00
SWIMMING POOLS				
Kerang/Cohuna Swimming Pool				
Seasons Tickets: Family Season Pass (Cohuna and Kerang)	Family		Yes	\$ 200.00
Seasons Tickets:	Adults		Yes	\$ 108.00
	Concession or Student		Yes	\$ 65.00
	Concession - Family		Yes	\$ 93.00
Admission:	Adults		Yes	\$ 4.80
	Concession or Student		Yes	\$ 3.90
	Children under 5 years		Yes	No Charge
	Non-Swimming Patrons		Yes	\$ 1.50
	Family Day Pass		Yes	\$ 16.50
	Community Groups/Schools/Event hire		Yes	As per GSC booking
Ten Visit Pass Entry:	Family		Yes	\$ 120.00
	Adult		Yes	\$ 40.00
	Concession/Student		Yes	\$ 28.00
Kerang Exercise Pool				
5-18 year olds/Concession/Student	Per Hour		Yes	\$ 5.50
	1/2 Hour		Yes	\$ 3.75
Adult	Per Hour		Yes	\$ 8.00
	1/2 Hour		Yes	\$ 5.75
Claims Attendance	Per Hour		Yes	\$ 11.00
	1/2 Hour		Yes	\$ 8.25
Children under 5			Yes	No Charge
Groups of max. 10 people	Per hour		Yes	\$ 45.00
Multiple group bookings	5 one hour sessions		Yes	\$ 200.00
Additional lifeguard fee per hour.	per hour		Yes	\$ 45.00
Warra Waders Swim School	1/2 hour		Yes	\$ 11.00
Adult (Non Pensioners)	1/2 hour		Yes	\$ 58.00
	1 hour		Yes	\$ 80.00
5-18 year olds/Concession/Student	1/2 hour		Yes	\$ 38.00
	1 hour		Yes	\$ 55.00

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
Leitchville Swimming Pool (Administered by Community Asset Committee of Council)				
Family Season Pass (Leitchville only)	Family			\$ 125.00
Single Season Pass	Adult			\$ 47.00
Student Season Pass	Under 18/student			\$ 42.00
Holiday Makers	Family			\$ 52.00
Adult Admission	Adult			\$ 4.20
Child Admission	Persons under 18 years			\$ 3.10
RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT REGISTRATION FEES				
Notification Fee for Moveable Dwellings within caravan parks			No	\$ 228.00
LOCAL LAWS				
DOMESTIC ANIMAL ACT				
Dog Registration				
New registration paid after 10 October each year	Discount does not include SGL	No		50% discount
Replacement Tag		Yes		\$ 5.50
Late Payment Fee		No		\$ 50.00
Cat Registration				
New registration paid after 10 October each year	Discount does not include SGL	No		50% discount
Replacement Tag		Yes		\$ 5.50
Late Payment Fee		No		\$ 50.00
Administration - Domestic Animals Registration				
Pro-rata reduction (quarterly) for refund of animal registration - state Gov't Levy non refundable	Pro-rata quarterly	Yes		As Calculated
Pound Fees - Domestic Animal Act				
Release Fee	Dogs and Cats 1st Offence	Yes		\$ 60.00
	Dogs and Cats 2nd offence	Yes		\$ 120.00
	Dogs and Cats 3rd offence	Yes		\$ 240.00
Sustenance Fee (per day)		Yes		\$ 10.00
Domestic Animal Business				
Domestic Animal Business	Permit Fee plus SGL (SGL increases with CPI each year)	Yes		650+ State Gov't levy
Administration - Local Law Permits				
Release fee for animal impounded under Local Laws	Per animal	Yes		\$ 75.00
Release fee for item impounded under Local Laws	Per item	Yes		\$ 75.00
Release fee for impounded vehicle		No		\$250 plus towing costs
Amendments to permits	All permits	Yes		\$ 45.00
Late Payment Fee	Additional fee payable on late renewal of permit	No		50% of permit
Local Law - Application and Permit Fees				
Bulk rubbish containers	Permit Fee (per container)	Yes		\$ 65.00
Fodder on road	Refer to local law guidelines	Yes		\$ 240.00
Footpath Trading - Consumption of Alcohol	Permit Fee (in conjunction with Footpath Trading permit)	No		\$ 60.00
Footpath Trading / Permit fee - advertising sign, display of goods, table and chairs	Permit Fee (in conjunction with Footpath Trading permit)	No		\$ 60.00
Consumption of Alcohol	Permit Fee (commercial business only)	No		\$ 60.00
House to House trading	Permit Fee	No		\$ 240.00
Keeping of Animals - initial issue	Permit Fee	Yes		\$ 130.00
Keeping of Animals - permit renewal	Permit Fee	Yes		\$ 65.00
Keeping of Animals - permit renewal	Permit Fee	Yes		\$ 65.00
Municipal reserve - waterways	Application & permit fee - events held on Council controlled waterways	Yes		\$ 280.00
Roadside trading	Permit fee	Yes		\$ 240.00
	Site fee	Yes		\$135 per month
Shipping containers	Permit Fee (per container)	Yes		\$ 140.00
Temporary Road Closure - Community Group	Advertising - costs to be charged through sundry debtor process.	Yes		Advertising cost
Temporary Road Closure - Commercial event	All costs associated with the event. Charged through private works, sundry debtor process.	Yes		Advertising cost
All other Local Law permits not listed above	Permit Fee	Yes		\$ 130.00

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
LIVESTOCK				
Pound Fees - Stock				
Impounded sheep - per head		Yes	\$	30.00
Impounded cattle - per head		Yes	\$	120.00
Impounded horses - per head		Yes	\$	120.00
Impounded stock - all other stock including goats, pigs, etc - per animal		Yes	\$	120.00
Transport		Yes		Cost of transport
After hours call out fee for livestock on roads		Yes	\$	350.00
NLIS tags	if required	Yes	\$	55.00
Advertisement in Newspaper	as required under Impounding of Livestock Act 1994	Yes		Cost of advertising
Sustenance Fee		Yes		Cost of hay or feed per day + \$30
Release fee - per animal		Yes		\$110.00 1st animal & \$30.00 each other animal
Accommodation Paddock (per head per day)		Yes	\$	10.00
Road Opening Permits				
Security Deposit - works not within the carriageway	\$210.00 per sq/m	No		212.00 per sq/m
Security Deposit - works in the carriageway (Under 4m2)		No	\$	850.00
Security Deposit - works in the carriageway (Over 4m2)	\$840 Min + \$210 per m2 over 4m2	No		\$860 Min + \$214 per m2 over 4m2
Asset Protection Permit	Application fee per site	Yes	\$	100.00
Security deposit	minimum security deposit	No	\$	240.00
FACILITY HIRE				
Public Halls				
Cohuna and Kerang Halls				
Whole Hall	Day (to 5:00pm)	Yes	\$	190.00
	Night (5:00pm - 2.30am)	Yes	\$	250.00
	Day & Night	Yes	\$	330.00
	Day time hourly rate - maximum 3 hours	Yes	\$	55.00
	Night time hourly rate - maximum 3 hours	Yes	\$	55.00
Main Hall Only	Day (to 5:00pm)	Yes	\$	130.00
	Night (5:00pm - 2.30am)	Yes	\$	160.00
	Day and Night	Yes	\$	250.00
	Hourly rate maximum 3 hours	Yes	\$	40.00
Supper Room & Kitchen	Day (to 5:00pm)	Yes	\$	140.00
	Night (6:30pm - 2.30am)	Yes	\$	170.00
	Day and Night	Yes	\$	260.00
	Hourly rate maximum 3 hours	Yes	\$	45.00
Cohuna Council Chamber/Community Meeting Room				
3 Hours - except for Non Profit Community Groups		Yes	\$	50.00
More than 3 hours - except for Non Profit Community Groups		Yes	\$	150.00
Set up cost of Chambers		Yes	\$	80.00
Kerang Memorial Hall				
Function Room	Hourly rate maximum 3 hours	Yes	\$	40.00
	Day (to 5:00pm)	Yes	\$	130.00
	Night (5:00pm-2.30am)	Yes	\$	160.00
	Day and Night	Yes	\$	250.00
Kerang, Koondrook and Cohuna Senior Citizens Rooms	Day (to 5:00pm)	Yes	\$	125.00
	Night (6:30pm - 2.30am)	Yes	\$	170.00
	Hourly rate maximum 3 hours	Yes	\$	35.00
	Not-for-profit	Yes		No Charge

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
Special Fees				
	Cohuna RSL ANZAC Service	Yes	No Charge	
	Kerang RSL ANZAC Service	Yes	No Charge	
	Service Clubs	Yes	No Charge	
	Schools (per day to max 5 days \$300)	Yes	\$	120.00
	Trestle Hire per trestle - Other venues	Yes	\$	14.00
	Plastic Chair Hire	Yes	\$	2.50
	Community Groups - block of 5 booking to be used in 12 months of making initial booking	Yes	\$	360.00
Bonds				
Bond	Refundable Deposit - no alcohol	No	No Charge	
	Refundable Deposit - alcohol to be consumed	No	\$	580.00
	Setting up chairs (per hour minimum booking)	No	\$	90.00
Rural Halls (Dingwall, Gannawarra, Koroop, Lake Charm, Murrabit & Myall) (Administered by Community Asset Committee of Council)				
Rural Halls (Dingwall, Gannawarra, Koroop, Lake Charm, Murrabit & Myall)	Hire range			\$15-\$130
Gateway to Gannawarra				
Bike Hire	2 hours	Yes	No Charge	
	4 hours	Yes	No Charge	
	All day (Return by 4.30pm)	Yes	No Charge	
	Overnight hire (Return by 9.30am)	Yes	No Charge	
	2 day hire (Return by 4.30pm)	Yes	No Charge	
	Security Deposit (Refundable)	No	\$	50.00
Fishing Rod Hire (per rod)	All day (Return by 4.30pm)	Yes	No Charge	
	Overnight hire (Return by 9.30am)	Yes	No Charge	
	2 day hire (Return by 4.30pm)	Yes	No Charge	
	Security Deposit (Refundable)	No	\$	20.00
Quambatook Housing				
One Bedroom Flat/Week		No	\$	75.00
Two Bedroom Flat/Week		No	\$	100.00
WASTE MANAGEMENT				
Transfer Stations - Kerang, Cohuna, Quambatook, & Lalbert				
Mulch (for sale)	Per m3	Yes	\$	10.00
Domestic Waste to be Disposed of in Garbage Skip				
120lt Mobile Garbage Bin		Yes	\$	7.50
240lt Mobile Garbage Bin		Yes	\$	15.00
Domestic Waste and contaminated recyclables/ garden waste delivered by any other means	Per m3	Yes	\$	37.00
Commercial Cardboard - Placed in Recycling Skip	Per m3	Yes	\$	12.00
Uncontaminated Recyclable Materials				
Domestic Glass, Cans, Plastic Bottles, Paper & Cardboard		Yes	No Charge	
Green Waste	Per m3	Yes	\$	7.50
Green Waste - non for profit groups	Per m3	Yes	\$	5.00
Car Bodies	Per Car	Yes	\$	25.00
Timber	Per m3	Yes	\$	10.00
White Goods & Fridges - degassed	per item	Yes	No Charge	
Fridges - to be degassed	per unit	yes	\$	50.00
Vehicle Batteries	Per Battery	Yes	\$	9.00
TV, Laptop, Computer Screen	Per Screen	Yes	No Charge	
E-waste cable or battery operated equipment	Per item	Yes	No Charge	
Gas Cylinders Small (up to 9kg)	per item	Yes	\$	12.00
Gas Cylinders Small (over 9kg)	per item	Yes	\$	22.00
Mattress	Per Mattress	Yes	\$	40.00
Landfill/Transfer Station - Denyers Landfill fees are no longer applicable - The landfill site is closed to the public.				
Commercial Domestic Waste	per Tonne	Yes		N/A
Priority Waste - Category C	per Tonne	Yes		N/A
Priority Waste - Category D	per Tonne	Yes		N/A
Asbestos Waste	per Tonne	Yes		N/A
Industrial Waste/Building Rubble	per Tonne	Yes		N/A
Asphalt	per Tonne	Yes		N/A
Concrete	per Tonne	Yes	\$	120.00

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023		Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES				
Mystic Park Cemetery Trust (For full range of fees please refer to Mystic Park Schedule of Fees provided by the Department of Health)				
Grave digging			Yes	\$ 800.00
Freedom of Information				
Photocopying Charges - 4A Black & White per page			No	\$ 0.20
Providing access other than photocopying			No	Reasonable Cost
Listening to or viewing a tape			No	Reasonable Cost
Making a written transcript out of tape			No	Reasonable Cost
Mail out to property owner on behalf of a third party				
Prepare and collate information			Yes	\$60.00 per hour
Print/Copy - A4 Black & White per page			Yes	\$ 0.20
Postage			Yes	At cost
Quambatook Caravan Park (Administered by Community Asset Committee of Council)				
Powered site per person per night- Easter				\$ 21.00
Unpowered site per person per night- Easter				\$ 16.00
Bunkhouse/Cabin up to six people- Easter				\$ 167.00
Powered site per double per night- off peak				\$ 32.00
Unpowered site per double per night - off peak				\$ 21.00
Cabin and Bunkhouse - off peak				\$ 84.00
Cabin and Bunkhouse - off peak - extra person				\$ 26.00
Cabin and Bunkhouse - off peak - 7 days				\$ 364.00
7+ days stay bookings				Upon Request
Standpipe - Cohuna				
Standpipe water. 1 token = 1000 litres.	per token		No	\$ 3.00
Truck Wash - Minimum \$ 3.30 Fee (Including \$0.30 GST)				
Access key (available from Council's Customer Service Team)	per item		Yes	\$ 35.00
Water use	per minute		Yes	\$ 0.88
Electric Vehicle Charging station Kerang & Cohuna				
Electric Vehicle Charging cost	cents/kWh		Yes	\$ 0.40

GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL					
SCHEDULE OF STATUTORY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023 when fee units are announced by the relevant government departments.					
	No. of fee units	No. of Penalty units	Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES					
FOOD ACT REGISTRATION FEES					
Statutory Food Samples				No	No charge
Annual statutory inspection plus statutory follow-up inspection				No	No charge
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT REGISTRATION FEES					
Septic Tank Fees					
Application to install or alter a septic tank system	48.88			No	Fee unit based
Minor alteration to existing system	37.25			No	Fee unit based
Amend or reissue permit	10.38			No	Fee unit based
Transfer an existing permit	9.93			No	Fee unit based
Extension of permit (12 Months)	8.31			No	Fee unit based
PLANNING FEES AND CHARGES					
Statutory Planning Fees under the Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016.					
Use of Land Planning Permit	89.00			No	Fee unit based
Dwelling Planning Permit < \$10,000	13.50			No	Fee unit based
Dwelling Planning Permit > \$10,001 - \$100,000	42.50			No	Fee unit based
Dwelling Planning Permit > \$100,001 - \$500,000	87.00			No	Fee unit based
Dwelling Planning Permit > \$500,001 - \$1,000,000	94.00			No	Fee unit based
Dwelling Planning Permit > \$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	101.00			No	Fee unit based
VicSmart Application < \$10,000	13.50			No	Fee unit based
VicSmart Application > \$10,001	29.00			No	Fee unit based
VicSmart Application to subdivide land	13.50			No	Fee unit based
Development of Land < \$100,000	77.50			No	Fee unit based
Development of Land > \$100,001 - \$1,000,000	104.50			No	Fee unit based
Development of Land > \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	230.50			No	Fee unit based
Development of Land > \$5,000,001 - \$15,000,000	587.50			No	Fee unit based
Development of Land > \$15,000,001 - \$50,000,000	1732.50			No	Fee unit based
Development of Land > \$50,000,001	3894.00			No	Fee unit based
To Subdivide existing Building	89.00			No	Fee unit based
To Subdivide Land into 2 lots	89.00			No	Fee unit based
Boundary Realignment	89.00			No	Fee unit based
To Subdivide Land	89.00			No	Fee unit based
Create, vary or remove restriction or create, vary or remove an easement	89.00			No	Fee unit based
Strategic Planning Fees under the Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016.					
Amendment to a planning Scheme	206.00			No	Fee unit based
Considering Submissions and referral to Planning Panel (up to 10 submissions)	1021.00			No	Fee unit based
Considering Submissions and referral to Planning Panel (11 to 20 submissions)	2040.00			No	Fee unit based
Considering Submissions and referral to Planning Panel (> 20 submissions)	2727.00			No	Fee unit based
Adopting an Amendment	32.50			No	Fee unit based
Approval of an Amendment	32.50			No	Fee unit based
Certificate of Compliance	22.00			No	Fee unit based
Proposal to amend or end a Section 173 Agreement	44.50			No	Fee unit based
Satisfaction Certificate	22.00			No	Fee unit based
Subdivision Fees under the Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016					
Certification of a plan of subdivision	11.80			No	Fee unit based
BUILDING FEES AND CHARGES UNDER BUILDING REGULATIONS 2018					
Domestic					
Lodgement Fee (Reg 45)	8.23			No	Fee unit based
House relocation/re-erection deposit					
Bond can be in form of Bank Guarantee (Reg 48)				No	\$ 10,000.00
Building Certificates					
Property Information (Building Certificates Reg 51)	3.19			No	Fee unit based
Information on stormwater (Legal Point of Discharge (Reg 133(2)))	9.77		Maximum of 9.77 fee units	No	Fee unit based

SCHEDULE OF STATUTORY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023 when fee units are announced by the relevant government departments.					
	No. of fee units	No. of Penalty units	Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
Report and Consent under Building Regulations 2018					
Council (Reg 132(2) or 134(2) or Part 5,6 or 10)	19.61		Maximum of 19.61 fee units	No	Fee unit based
Protection for works (Reg 116(4))	19.90		Maximum of 19.9 fee units	No	Fee unit based
Council - Demolition (Section 29A)	5.75		Maximum of 5.75 fee units	No	Fee unit based
Land Information Certificate (Local Government (Land Information) Regulations 2021 (Reg 6)	1.82			No	Fee unit based
Swimming Pools and Spa fees under Building Regulations 2018					
Swimming Pool and Spa fees - Application for Registration - Reg 147P	2.15		Maximum of 2.15 fee units	Yes	Fee unit based
Swimming Pool and Spa fees - Information search fee - Reg 147P	3.19		Maximum of 3.19 fee units	Yes	Fee unit based
Swimming Pool and Spa fees - Lodgement of Certificate of pool barrier compliance - Reg 147X	1.38		Maximum of 1.38 fee units	Yes	Fee unit based
Swimming Pool and Spa fees - Lodgement of Certificate of pool barrier non- compliance - Reg 147ZJ	26.00		Maximum of 26 fee units	Yes	Fee unit based
RECREATION					
RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT REGISTRATION FEES					
Site not exceeding 25	17.00			No	Fee unit based
Site exceeding 25 but not exceeding 50	34.00			No	Fee unit based
Site exceeding 50 but not exceeding 100	68.00			No	Fee unit based
Site exceeding 100 but not exceeding 150	103.00			No	Fee unit based
Site exceeding 150 but not exceeding 200	137.00			No	Fee unit based
Site exceeding 200 but not exceeding 250	171.00			No	Fee unit based
Site exceeding 250 but not exceeding 300	205.00			No	Fee unit based
Transfer of Caravan Park	5.00			No	Fee unit based
LOCAL LAWS					
DOMESTIC ANIMAL ACT					
Dog Registration					
Maximum fee as per Domestic Animals Act 1994 Schedule 1 – Registration fees Part 1—Dogs			Unsterilised dog Declared dangerous dog Declared menacing dog Declared restricted breed dog	No	\$130 + State Government Levy
Reduced fee as per Domestic Animals Act 1994 Schedule 1 – Registration fees Part 1—Dogs			Desexed dog Dog over 10 years old Dogs kept for working stock Registered domestic animal business Obedience trained dog with approved organisation Dogs registered with applicable organisation / owner is current member	No	\$43 + State Government Levy
Eligible concession card holder			Discount does not include SGL	No	50% discount
Cat Registration					
Maximum fee as per Domestic Animals Act 1994 Schedule 1 – Registration fees Part 2 - Cats			Unsterilised cat	No	\$130 + State Government Levy
Reduced fee as per Domestic Animals Act 1994 Schedule 1 – Registration fees Part 2 - Cats			Desexed cat Cat over 10 years old Registered domestic animal business	No	\$43 + State Government Levy
Eligible concession card holder			Discount does not include SGL	No	50% discount
Council Controlled Parking					
For Offence Codes 701 To 714, A Municipal Council May By Council Resolution Fix a Penalty Of Up To 0.5 Penalty Unit For That Offence.		0.5		No	Penalty unit based
Parking offences under Road Safety (General) Regulations 2019 (Offence codes 701-714) (0.5 of a Penalty Unit)		0.5		No	Penalty unit based

SCHEDULE OF STATUTORY FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024 effective 1 July 2023 when fee units are announced by the relevant government departments.					
	No. of fee units	No. of Penalty units	Note	Incl. GST	2023/2024
Consent for works within the Road Reserve					
Municipal Road with speed limit <50km/h					
Minor works conducted by a person referred to in regulation 10(2) that are traffic impact works					
Minor works not on the roadway, shoulder or pathway	6.00			No	Fee unit based
Minor works on the roadway, shoulder or pathway	9.30			No	Fee unit based
Works (other than minor works conducted by a person referred to in regulation 10(2) that are traffic impact works)					
Works not on the roadway, shoulder or pathway	6.00			No	Fee unit based
Works on the roadway, shoulder or pathway	23.50			No	Fee unit based
Municipal road with speed limit >50km/h					
Minor works conducted by a person referred to in regulation 10(2) that are traffic impact works					
Minor works not on the roadway, shoulder or pathway	6.00			No	Fee unit based
Minor works on the roadway, shoulder or pathway	9.30			No	Fee unit based
Works (other than minor works conducted by a person referred to in regulation 10(2) that are traffic impact works)					
Works not on the roadway, shoulder or pathway	23.5			No	Fee unit based
Works on the roadway, shoulder or pathway	43.1			No	Fee unit based
MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES					
Mystic Park Cemetery Trust (For full range of fees please refer to Mystic Park Schedule of Fees provided by the Department of Health)					
Administrative Fees Misc.			Interment fee	No	Fee set by Dep of Health
Right of interment bodily remains at need			1st	No	
Right of interment cremated remains at need			25 years	No	
Search for cemetery records				No	
Freedom of Information - determined by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC)					
Application Fee				No	Fee set by OVIC
Access Charges - Search time			Per hour or part thereof	No	
Access Charges - Supervision time			Per hour, calculated per 1/4 hour or part thereof	No	
https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/financial-management-government/indexation-fees-and-penalties					
Fee unit 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023 = \$15.29					
Penalty unit 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023 = \$184.92					

7.3 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

Author:	Alissa Harrower, Manager Governance
Authoriser:	Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	1 Policy No. 092 - Councillor Allowances and Support
	2 Policy No. 107 - Public Interest Disclosure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the following reviewed policies:

1. Policy No. 092 – Councillor Allowances and Support; and
2. Policy No. 107 – Public Interest Disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

- Policy No. 092 – Councillor Allowances and Support
- Policy No. 107 – Public Interest Disclosure

PURPOSE

This purpose of this report is to ensure good governance practices are in place whilst meeting legislative requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

- Policy No. 092 – Councillor Allowances and Support
- Policy No. 107 – Public Interest Disclosure

DISCUSSION

Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that they reflect 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 is determined that 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 policies:

Policy No.	Policy Title	Comments
092	Councillor Allowances and Support	This policy supports Councillors and members of delegated committees to perform their role, as defined in the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> , by ensuring that expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of the

		<p>role are reimbursed. The policy provides guidance on allowances, entitlements, processes for reimbursement and reporting requirements.</p> <p>Proposed adjustments to this policy reflect current practice regarding the supply of Council ties and scarfs, as well as a small number of minor administrative alterations including review date and council website.</p>
107	Public Interest Disclosure	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure and provide a consistent approach to the administration of the <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012</i> (the Act). The Act encourages and facilitates the making of disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies.</p> <p>Proposed adjustments to the policy are minor and reflect administrative alterations only to ensure the review history is reflected correctly.</p>

RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Carers Recognition Act 2012*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council Policy No. 092 – Councillor Allowances and Support was last reviewed and endorsed by Council on 18/05/2022.

Council Policy No. 107 – Public Interest Disclosure was last reviewed and endorsed by Council on 19/05/2021.

OPTIONS

Council may wish to endorse the recommended or make alternative adjustments or decide to not make any adjustments to the policies 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

Councillor allowances and other entitlements are provided for in Council's Annual Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

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.

Council Policy No. 074 – Information Privacy and Health Records

Council Policy No. 078 – Councillor Code of Conduct

Council Policy No. 083 – Email, Internet and Intranet

Council Policy No. 117 - Complaint Handling

Council Policy No. 141 – Public Transparency

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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



Councillor Allowances and Support

COUNCIL POLICY NO. 092

1. POLICY PURPOSE

This policy supports councillors and members of delegated committees to perform their role, as defined in the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), by ensuring that expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their role are reimbursed. This policy also provides guidance on:

- allowances
- entitlements
- processes for reimbursement
- reporting requirements.

The policy is intended to ensure that councillors and members of delegated committees are supported to perform their duties without disadvantage.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to:

- councillors of the Gannawarra Shire Council
- members of delegated committees of the Gannawarra Shire Council.

Councillor duties are those performed by a councillor as a necessary part of their role, in achieving the objectives of Council. These duties may include (but are not limited to):

- attendance at meetings of Council and its committees
- attendance at briefing sessions, workshops, civic events or functions convened by Council
- attendance at conferences, workshops and training programs related to the role of councillor, mayor or deputy mayor
- attendance at meetings, events or functions representing Council
- duties in relation to constituents concerning Council business.

Members of delegated committees exercise powers of councillors, under delegation. This policy also applies to those members in the course of undertaking their role as delegated committee members.

3. DEFINITIONS

Carer	As defined under section 4 of the <i>Carers Recognition Act 2012</i>
Delegated Committee	As defined under section 63 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>

4. POLICY

Councillors and members of delegated committees are entitled, under section 40 of the Act, to reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties.

This policy ensures that the reimbursement of these expenses is in accordance with the Act and meets the Act's principles of public transparency; achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community; and ensuring the ongoing financial viability of the council.

Councillors and members of delegated committees will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses that are:

- bona fide expenses; **and**
- have been reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of councillor or member of a delegated committee; **and**
- are reasonably necessary for the councillor or member of a delegated committee to perform this role.

COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCES

1. Section 39 of the Act covers allowances for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors. Allowances are set by determination of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019*.
2. In accordance with the provisions contained in Australia Tax Office Interpretive Decision 2007/205, Council may enter into a voluntary arrangement with a Councillor under which the Councillor agrees to forego all or part of their Councillors Allowance, including Mayor and Deputy Mayor Allowances if applicable, in exchange for the Council making contributions to Vision Super, or such other complying superannuation fund nominated by the Councillor and agreed to by the Chief Executive Officer, on their behalf of the amount foregone by the Councillor.
3. Mayor and Councillor allowances will be paid by EFT, in advance, on a monthly basis.

EXPENSES

Carer and dependent-related expenses

Council will provide reimbursement of costs where the provision of childcare is reasonably required for a councillor or delegated committee member to perform their role. This applies to the care of a dependent, while the councillor or delegated committee member is undertaking their official duties; and may include expenses such as hourly fees and booking fees, if applicable.

Council will provide reimbursement of costs where the provision of carer services is reasonably required when a councillor or delegated committee member who is a carer (see **Definitions**) incurs reasonable expenses in the performance of their duties.

Payments for childcare and carer services will not be made to a person who resides with the councillor or delegated committee member; has any financial or pecuniary interest with the councillor or delegated committee member; or has a relationship with the councillor, delegated committee member or their partner.

General Travel Expenses

1. Council will provide the following to Councillors and delegated committee members attending approved activities and events:
 - a. Breakfast, lunch and dinner (excluding alcohol) within reasonable limits for the duration of the stay;
 - b. Accommodation – appropriate accommodation as selected, after consultation, by the Chief Executive's office. Any additional accommodation costs as a result of the attendance of Councillors or delegated committee members partners or family members will be met by the Councillor or delegated committee member, with the exception of the Mayor's partner;
 - c. Transportation – Council will cover the cost of transportation to, during and from the event. This applies to any of the following forms of travel:
 - i. return economy class air. All overseas travel is to be authorised by resolution of Council;
 - ii. private vehicle with reimbursement as specified in this policy;
 - iii. economy class train, tram or bus travel; and
 - iv. taxi.
 - d. Car parking – fees will be reimbursed in respect of hotel/motel parking and airport parking.
2. Reasonable limits - wherever possible, relevant benchmark rates will be utilised for example, the Australian Taxation Office determinations relating to meals, accommodation and transportation.
3. All arrangements are to be handled through the Chief Executive's office.

Seminars, conferences, professional development and training expenses

1. Council recognises the need for Councillors and delegated committee members to attend seminars, conferences, professional development and training in order to be kept fully informed on Local Government matters and to assist them to perform their roles as Councillors and delegated committee members.
2. The annual budget will cover the cost of seminars, conferences, professional development and training attendance by Councillors and delegated committee members including registration, course or sessional fees.
3. Councillors and delegated committee members will be required to submit a written report in respect of any conference or seminar attended except for the ALGA Annual Conference, the Local Government Managers Association National Congress, the MAV Councillor Development Weekend and the VLGA Mayors Weekend. Where more than one Councillor or delegated committee member attends an interstate or overseas conference or seminar, a joint report may be submitted.

Information communication technology expenses**Computer facilities**

1. Internet – Councillors will be provided with an internet enabled device to allow access to email and internet.
2. Email – Councillors will be provided with an email account managed by Gannawarra Shire Council. Councillors' email addresses will use the domain name: gsc.vic.gov.au.
3. Document management – Councillors are responsible for ensuring all corporate information is forwarded to Gannawarra Shire Council for capturing in the electronic content management system. This refers to, but is not limited to, formal letters in Microsoft Word and emails.
4. Personal use – Personal use of Council provided equipment is permitted as long as it does not affect the primary use of the device. Councillors will not install any non-approved non-Council products on the device.
5. Further information is available from Council Policy No. 083 – Email, Internet and Intranet and Employee Policy No. 047 – Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Access and Security.

Telecommunications via Smartphone

Councillors have two (2) options regarding provision of Smartphones:

1. Councillors can elect for Council to provide a Smartphone for their Council business use only. The Smartphone is provided on the basis that personal calls are to be kept to a minimum. It is acknowledged that on occasion personal calls may be required, for example when a Councillor is on Council business outside normal business hours. Personal calls in these situations and in urgent and/or emergency situations are acceptable. Personal calls outside the situations referred to above are not permitted.

The Council telephone number will be made available to the public, and should only be answered by the relevant Councillor or the built-in message bank service.

Councillors may be required to reimburse Gannawarra Shire Council for excess charges if this policy is not followed.

2. Alternatively, Councillors may choose to use their own Smartphone i.e. 'Bring Your Own Equipment' and receive a monthly allowance of \$25 as reimbursement for the notional data and phone usage charges relating to Council business undertaken on their own Smartphone. Where a Councillor wishes to use their own Smartphone for Council business, Councillors must make their personal mobile number available for publication. Note; Council takes no responsibility for loss, breakage, failure, repair or misplaced 'Bring Your Own Equipment'.

Information Communication Technology Support

1. The Corporate Services Directorate will provide familiarisation training for Councillors in addition to documentation aiding Councillors in relation to using the ICT systems provided. Council will provide Councillors with application specific training where necessary through a local training provider.
2. The Corporate Services Directorate will update the software on each Council provided device. Any non-approved non-Council software will be uninstalled during maintenance.
3. The Corporate Services Directorate will provide ICT support in line with that provided to Council officers.
4. All Council provided equipment is to be returned to the Corporate Services Directorate on the conclusion of the Councillor's term, or in the event the Councillor resigns from the position earlier.

5. Faulty equipment or issues are to be reported to the Corporate Services Directorate as soon as possible. All repairs to equipment can only be undertaken by Council and only apply to Council provided equipment.
6. In the event that equipment is lost, stolen or misplaced, the Corporate Service Directorate is to be informed as soon as possible to put in place all preventative measures.

Equipment

1. Councillors will be issued with the following equipment:
 - One (1) only iPad, Tablet, Notebook, Laptop or equivalent (with mobile internet capabilities), charger and protective cover
 - A mouse, docking station, up to 2 monitors and headset will be issued upon request to Councillors with a Council issued laptop
 - Mobile telephone and charger (with the exception of councillors choosing to bring their own equipment).
2. Councillors will have access to the following for Council business:
 - Printing equipment
 - Audio visual equipment

Councillors Insignia of Office

Councillors will be provided with the following, upon request:

- Business Cards
- A supply of Council logo metal lapel badges (small)
- A Council name badge for Councillors and partners

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**Mayoral Vehicle**

Council will provide at its cost to the Mayor, a fully registered, insured and maintained vehicle for official and personal use during the mayoral term if he/she so requires. The vehicle will be of a similar standard to the vehicle available to the Chief Executive Officer.

Office Support

The Mayor will be provided with appropriate administrative support during normal business hours to undertake the duties of the Mayor.

Travel Expenses and Accommodation

Council will reimburse travelling expenses for the Mayor's partner whilst accompanying the Mayor on official business.

INSURANCE

1. Councillors and delegated committee members are covered by the following insurance policies while performing the duties of civic office including attendance at meetings of external bodies as Council's representative – Personal Accident, Public Liability, Professional Indemnity and Councillors and Officers Liability insurances.
2. Council will pay the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim made against a Councillor or delegated committee member arising from Council business where any claim is accepted by Council's Insurers, whether defended or not.

COUNCIL POOL VEHICLES AND PRIVATE USE VEHICLES

1. When available, Councillors and delegated committee members are required to use a Council vehicle to attend events that form part of the Councillor's or delegated committee member's official duties outside of the Gannawarra Shire Council boundaries.

2. In the absence of a Council vehicle, **a Councillor** will be reimbursed for the use of their own private vehicle for:
 - a. attendance at Meetings of Council and Councillor Briefing Sessions;
 - b. attendance at Delegated Committee meetings;
 - c. attendance at committee or sub-committee meetings of State, Regional or local organisations or bodies where the Councillor has, by Council resolution been elected as a Council delegate;
 - d. attendance at meetings and civic or ceremonial functions convened by the Mayor or the Council;
 - e. attendance at a meeting, function or other official role as a representative of the Mayor;
 - f. attendance at a meeting or function falling within the Councillors ward, if outside of the Councillors ward, Chief Executive Officer or delegate approval is required;
 - g. attendances at conferences, seminars, professional development and training where the attendance has been approved by the Council or the Chief Executive Officer or delegate;
 - h. travel to and from the airport, rail or bus station or other point where travel to conferences, seminars, professional development and training commences.
3. In the absence of a Council vehicle, **a delegated committee member** will be reimbursed for the use of their own private vehicle for:
 - a. attendance at conferences, seminars, professional development and training where the attendance has been approved by the Council or the Chief Executive Officer or delegate;
 - b. travel to and from the airport, rail or bus station or other point where travel to conferences, seminars, professional development and training commences.
4. Reimbursement for private vehicle use will be paid in accordance with the prevailing 'cents per kilometre' rate prescribed by the Australian Taxation Office as varied from time to time.
5. Council will not reimburse the cost of any infringements incurred by Councillors or delegated committee members.

5. PROCEDURE

REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

1. Making a claim for reimbursement:
 - a. All Councillor claims must be made on a Councillor Claim Form, available from SharePoint or the Chief Executive's Office. The purpose of the expense and how it relates to the duties of a councillor must be clearly stated on the form.
 - b. All delegated committee member claims must be made on a Delegated Committee Member Claim Form, available from the Chief Executive's Office. The purpose of the expense and how it relates to the duties of a delegated committee member must be clearly stated on the form.
 - c. Original receipts must be attached to all claims (credit card receipts will not be accepted).
 - d. Where the provider of the goods or service is registered for GST, a tax invoice must be obtained and provided (without this the GST component of the cost cannot be reimbursed).
 - e. Claims must be lodged on a monthly basis as they are incurred. Claims for expenses during the prior month should be submitted by the last working day of the following month. This enables monitoring of expenditure against budget and accurate and meaningful reporting. All claims relating to each financial year are to be submitted by 15 July of the immediately following financial year.
 - f. The claim will be reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer against this policy and procedure and either approved for payment, returned to the claimant for further information/documentation or rejected if reimbursement of the expense is not provided for in this policy.
 - g. Once approved by the Chief Executive Officer the claim will be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer for processing.
2. Reimbursements will be provided monthly by electronic funds transfer.

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Quarterly reports of all councillor and delegated committee member expenses will be provided to Council's Audit and Risk Committee.

The report will include:

- Expenses incurred by Councillors during the quarter
- Reimbursement claims made by councillors during the quarter
- Reimbursements made by delegated committee members during the quarter.

All Councillors will have access to the report via the Audit and Risk Committee minutes.

Council commits to monitoring processes and decision making to understand the overall success of the policy's implementation.

7. RELATED POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

Council policies:

- Governance Rules
- Policy No. 141 - Public Transparency
- Policy No. 074 - Information Privacy and Health Records
- Policy No. 078 - Councillor Code of Conduct
- Policy No. 083 – Email, Internet and Intranet.

Legislation:

- *Carers Recognition Act 2012*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020.*

8. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at least once in each financial year.

At the time it was reviewed, this policy was compliant with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

9. FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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

Altus ECM Folder: 3.000518
Altus Folder: 3.000518
Originally adopted: 2006
Reviewed: 22/04/2009
Reviewed: 17/09/2014
Reviewed: 21/12/2016
Reviewed: 19/02/2020
Reviewed: 19/08/2020
Reviewed: 21/04/2021
Reviewed: 18/05/2022
Reviewed: 28/06/2023
To be reviewed by 30/06/2024

Minute Book Reference: 7387
Minute Book Reference: 11022
Minute Book Reference: 12478



Public Interest Disclosure

COUNCIL POLICY NO. 107

1. PURPOSE

The objective of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the administration of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (formally the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* which replaced the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001*).

2. POLICY

Gannawarra Shire Council does not tolerate improper conduct by its employees, officers or Councillors, nor the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

Gannawarra Shire Council is committed to the Public Interest Disclosures Act.

The main objective of the Public Interest Disclosures Act is to:

"..encourage and facilitate the making of disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies and establish a system for matters to be investigated. The Act provides protection from detrimental action to any person affected by a protected disclosure whether it is a person who makes a disclosure, a witness, or a person who is the subject of an investigation."

Gannawarra Shire Council recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices, and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety or the environment.

Gannawarra Shire Council will take all reasonable steps to protect people who make such disclosures from any detrimental action in reprisal for making the disclosure. It will also afford natural justice to the person who is the subject of the disclosure.

In addition to this, the Chief Executive Officer will automatically notify the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Victoria, of any matter that he or she suspects, on reasonable grounds, involves corrupt conduct.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with 107 – Public Interest Disclosure Procedure and Gannawarra Shire Council Policy No. 117 - Complaint Handling.

3. POLICY REVIEW

Council will review this policy at least every two years and within twelve months after a general election of the Council.

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

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Enquiries in relation to this policy should be directed to The Chief Executive Officer on (03) 5450 9333.

Further information can be obtained from the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Victoria –
www.ibac.vic.gov.au

AltusECM Folder 3.000518
Originally adopted: 25/02/2009
Reviewed: 17/04/2013 Minute Book Reference: 7269
Reviewed: 23/01/2017 Minute Book Reference: 9849
Reviewed: 15/03/2017 Minute Book Reference: 12502
Reviewed: 19/02/2020
Reviewed: 19/05/2021
Reviewed: 28/06/2023
To be reviewed: 2025



7.4 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION P23005

Author: Kellie Burmeister, Manager Planning and Regulatory Services
Authoriser: Wade Williams, Acting Director Infrastructure and Development
Applicant: Stem Beef
Owner:
Proposal: The use and development of the land for a 2,000 standard cattle unit (SCU) beef cattle feedlot in accordance with the endorsed plans.
Location: Lot 2, PS304343, 602 Mead Road, Macorna North.
Attachments: 1 Response to objections

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve Planning Application P23005 for the use and development of the land for a 2,000 standard cattle unit (SCU) beef cattle feedlot in accordance with the endorsed plans subject to the following conditions:

Amended Plans

1. Before the use and development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show:
 - a) A detailed, fully dimensioned plan of the site showing all proposed buildings, infrastructure and works;
 - b) Fully dimensioned elevation plans of all proposed buildings, infrastructure and works;
 - c) Landscaping Plan as required by Condition 9;
 - d) Condition 28 as required by North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Layout not to be Altered

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

Size of Establishment

3. The maximum number of cattle housed in the feedlot at any time must not exceed 2,000 standard cattle units (SCU).

Environmental Health Office

4. All wastewater must be contained within the property boundaries to the satisfaction of Council's Environmental Health Officer.

Amenity

5. The use and development of the site must be managed so that the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected, through the:
 - a) Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;
 - b) Appearance of any building, works or materials;

- c) Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit or oil;
- d) Presence of vermin.

Operation of Facility

6. The cattle feedlot must at all times operate to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Road Upgrading

7. Before the use begins and/or the building(s) is/are occupied, the developer must pay a 100% contribution to upgrade Mead Road from its intersection with Leitchville-Kerang Road. This upgrade must begin from edge of eastbound lane of the Leitchville-Kerang Road and incorporate earthworks, pavement, sealing, drainage, line-marking and signage in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Responsible Authority including:
 - a) Mead Road must be sealed to a point at least 50m from the edge of seal on Leitchville-Kerang Road.
 - b) Replacement of existing culvert.
 - c) High stress double/double seal or asphalt equivalent.
 - d) Intersection dimensions to accommodate B-Double turning movements.Road construction details may only be varied in writing by the Responsible Authority at its sole discretion. The cost of all works must be borne by the applicant.

Drainage

8. All stormwater and surface water discharging from the site, buildings and works must be retained on site with appropriate underground pipe drains and retaining catchment that meets the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Surfacing

9. All driveways and vehicle movement areas, including car and truck parking areas associated with the cattle feedlot must be constructed, drained and surfaced with an all weather material and treated to prevent dust causing loss of amenity to the neighbourhood, or erosion, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

No Mud on Roads

10. Appropriate measures must be implemented throughout the construction stage of the development to rectify and/or minimise mud, crushed rock or other debris being carried onto public roads or footpaths from the subject land, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Landscape Plan Required

11. Prior to the plans being endorsed, a landscape plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plan must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plan must include a 20 metre vegetation buffer generally around the perimeter of the site as shown on the proposed plan that will provide screening for surrounding properties. The landscaping plan must consist of indigenous trees and shrubs and ensure an effective visual screen to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Completion of Landscaping

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

Landscaping Maintenance

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

Native Vegetation

14. No native vegetation is to be removed as a consequence of the works allowed by this permit, except in accordance with the provisions of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme.

Minister for Agriculture

15. Any permit issued for the use and development of a cattle feedlot must:
- specify that the permit allows up to a maximum of 2,000 standard cattle units.
16. Any permit issued for a cattle feedlot must include the following conditions:
- The use and development of the cattle feedlot must comply with the *Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots – August 1995* to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
 - The use and development of the cattle feedlot must be in accordance with “*Stembeef Pty Ltd Application for Cattle Feedlot*” to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Goulburn Murray Water

17. The feedlot must be operated generally in accordance with the requirements of the *Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots* (August 1995).
18. All structures and infrastructure associated with the feedlot development complex must be located at least 60m from the Goulburn Murray Water’s Torrumbarry No. 2/2 channel and Torrumbarry No. 5/7 drain.
19. The development must be located within a controlled drainage area, designed to ensure that stormwater unrelated to the development can be diverted around the site and potentially contaminated stormwater and effluent generated from the feed pad/feedlot area is discharged to an appropriately sized effluent pond via an appropriate drainage and collection system.
20. Contaminated stormwater from the feed pad/feedlot and manure stockpile area must not be discharged to any waterways, channels or drains.
21. The effluent pond must be compacted to a permeability of no greater than 1×10^{-9} metre/second and be of sufficient capacity and design such that all effluent and liquid water can be accommodated in the event that conditions are too wet for irrigation/re-use.
22. The floor of the manure stockpile must be compacted and sealed such that no moisture is able to seep from the stockpile into soil and the stockpile must be bunds to ensure all run-off is diverted to the effluent pond system.
23. Irrigation and wastewater re-use must be managed in accordance with the principles and requirements outlined in EPA Publications 1910.2 *Victorian Guideline for Water Recycling* and 1911.2 *Technical Information for the Victorian Guideline for Water Recycling* (March 2021 and 168 *Guidelines for Wastewater Irrigation* (April 1991).
24. No land application of effluent either directly or shandied with irrigation water must occur within 60m of any Goulburn Murray Water drain.
25. Irrigation of reclaimed water must be done to optimize the uptake of water, nutrients and other pollutants such that they don’t leach to groundwater or runoff to surface waters. The rate of application must be consistent with the capability of the land and appropriate

for the type of plant grown, the soil type and topography. Appropriate harvesting must be undertaken to ensure nutrient removal.

26. Adequate fencing must be in place along Goulburn Murray Water's Torrumbarry Drain No. 5/7 and Channel No. 2/2 where these assets intersect the property to prevent stock from accessing the drain or channel to prevent any damage to Goulburn Murray Water Infrastructure.

Note:

Any enquiries regarding adequate fencing requirements along Goulburn Murray Water's Channels/Drains are to be directed to GMW's Torrumbarry Area Office by calling 1800 013 357.

Agriculture Victoria

27. The farm must at all times comply with the *Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots – August 1995*.
28. The use and development of the feedlot is in accordance with the *Livestock Environmental and Planning, "Stembeef Pty Ltd Application for Cattle Feedlot" written by Robyn Tucker of Livestock Environmental and Planning (14 Dec 2022)*; as endorsed to form part of any permit issued to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
29. Prior to the use of the proposed feedlot commencing, it is recommended that a pre-operation assessment be undertaken to ensure that the construction aligns with approved plans.

North Central Catchment Management Authority

30. Prior to the commencement of works, detailed plans and computations of the proposed on-site drainage must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority and North Central CMA, demonstrating the following requirements are met:
- a) Banks surrounding the proposed feedlot are designed to prevent flood water (from local drainage runoff) from entering the proposed feedlot.
 - b) Plans and computations that demonstrate the internal drains and dams are designed to hold runoff from the development site from storm events up to and including the 10% AEP storm event.
31. All fences constructed associated with the proposed feedlot must be constructed of post and wire or post and rail.
32. All buildings and works must be setback a minimum of 100 metres from designated waterways.

Note:

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

The site, located in Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO4) Areas of poor drainage or potentially subject to inundation under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. This overlay is to identify and ensure any development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and with local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood levels or flow velocity.

Note 1: *Any new or otherwise vehicular entrances to the subject land from the road must be constructed as per the Infrastructure Design Manual Standard Drawing 265. Consent for Works Within the Road Reserve; must be obtained from Council prior to carrying out any vehicle crossing works.*

Note 2: **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

Works must cease immediately upon the discovery of any Aboriginal cultural material, and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria must be notified immediately of any such discovery at GPO Box 2392V, Melbourne 3001 or on (telephone) 1300 551 380.

If any suspected human remains are found, work in the area must cease and the Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Officer must be informed of the discovery without delay. The State Coroner's Office can be contacted at any time on Telephone (03) 9684 4444.

If there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the remains are Aboriginal, the discovery should also be reported to Aboriginal Affairs Victoria on (telephone) 1300 888 544 or (03) 9208 3287 and the provisions of Division 2 of Part 2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 will apply.

Officers of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria shall be permitted access to the site at any reasonable time, for the purpose of monitoring adherence to conditions above.

All Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, that is, Aboriginal places, Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal human remains, is protected under the State Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. It is an offence to do an act that will harm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage or is likely to harm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Please note that under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 any works involving high impact activities located within 200 metres of a culturally sensitive area, will require the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. For more information regarding the kind of activities that trigger a Cultural Heritage Management Plan please refer to the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 or follow the web link to <http://www.aav.nrms.net.au/aavQuestion1.aspx>.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is being presented to Council to determine a planning application for the use and development of the land for a 2,000 standard cattle unit (SCU) beef cattle feedlot in accordance with the endorsed plans at 602 Mead Road, Macorna North.

The application was advertised to surrounding property owners and occupiers and five written objections were received.

The proposal is considered to be appropriate for the site and consistent with the provisions of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. The application has therefore been recommended for approval.

PURPOSE

To seek Council's decision on planning application P23005 for the use and development of the land for a 2,000 standard cattle unit (SCU) beef cattle feedlot.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Officer preparing this report declares no Conflict of Interest in regards to this matter.

COUNCIL PLAN

Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Continue to support existing agriculture and facilitate diversification to improve regional productivity through sustainable planning.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The subject land comprises three parcels of land, the parcel of land relevant to this application is Lot 2 PS304343. This parcel of land comprises an area of 98.14ha.

The proposal is to establish a 2,000 standard cattle unit (SCU) cattle feedlot. The feedlot is proposed to be constructed and operated in accordance with the Class A standards specified in the Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots. Typically there would be up to 1,800 head of cattle in the proposed feedlot at any one time and up to 7,200 head in a year. However, it has been indicated that if smaller cattle were fed (e.g. animals with a finished weight of 400kg) there could be up to 2,667 head at a time. *The stocking density will be 15m²/SCU.* 23 pens totalling an area 30,000m² is to be provided, 17 of these pens are to comprise an area of 1,500m² each and six of the pens will each have an area of 750m².

The feedlot pens, 1,600m³ sedimentation basin, 15,000m³ holding pond and manure stockpile area are to sit within a controlled drainage area (CDA). The feedlot complex is to be surrounded by a 0.3m bank that forms the CDA. It is noted that any mortalities will be managed by composting within the manure stockpile area.

In addition a feed processing and commodities storage shed is proposed to be constructed on the subject land. This structure is proposed to be constructed with materials with a non-reflective finish and is located outside the controlled drainage area, however, it is to be bunded. Feed milling will occur during the operating hours of 7:00am – 6:00pm, it is indicated within the submitted application that feed milling will not usually occur on weekends.

It is noted within the application that it is not proposed that manure will be spread on farm, it is likely to be transferred to other land owned by the proponent for use on cropping land or will be made available to other farmers for re-use. An area of 23ha has been set aside for effluent reuse, this is to be planted to fodder crops for silage production.

It is indicated within the application that traffic will generally access the proposed feedlot (the access point to the site is off Mead Road) via the Leitchville-Kerang Road, however, it is acknowledged that a small number of vehicles may travel to/from the site via the Murray Valley Highway. It is estimated that 497 B-double equivalent trucks per year will access the site (this includes trucks bringing cattle on-site, trucks transporting cattle off-site, trucks transporting feed to the site and trucks removing manure).

A copy of the application can be viewed [here](#).

CONSULTATION

The application was referred externally to the Minister for Agriculture pursuant to Section 55 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1989*. The Minister did not object to the granting of a planning permit subject to conditions.

The application was also referred externally to Goulburn Murray Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority and Agriculture Victoria under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1989*. None of the authorities offered any objection to the granting of a planning permit subject to conditions.

The application was referred internally to the Council's Engineering, Environmental Health and Building departments, who offered no objection subject to the inclusion of conditions.

Notice of the application was given to adjoining property owners and occupiers on 14 March 2023 and a notice was placed in the Gannawarra Times newspaper on Tuesday 21 March 2023. Five objections were received.

The key issues raised in the objections were:

- Traffic impacts, work hours, use of dairy infrastructure, odour, chemicals and farm machinery.
- Nutrients leaching into groundwater, potential for impacts to surface water quality, specifically Pyramid Creek, Johnson and Hird Swamps and dust and odour.
- Road maintenance.
- Nutrient management and drainage concerns.
- Mead Road, effluent re-use and biosecurity.

In response to the issues raised by the objectors, the applicant has provided the attached response.

ASSESSMENT

The subject land is situated within the Farming Zone (FZ) pursuant to Clause 35.07 of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. One of the purposes of the FZ is 'To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision'. Another purpose of the FZ is 'To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.' A third purpose of the FZ is 'To provide for the use of land for agriculture.'

A planning permit is required pursuant to Clause 35.07-1 of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme for use of land as a cattle feedlot, this is given the total number of cattle to be housed in the proposed feedlot is greater than 1000 head. The Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots 1995 defines a cattle feedlot as follows:

"Land on which cattle are restrained by pens or enclosures for the purposes of intensive feeding and includes any structure, work or area:-

- (a) in which such cattle are handled, fed, loaded and unloaded;
- (b) where the animal wastes from the feedlot are accumulated or treated pending removal or disposal;
- (c) where the animal wastes from the feedlot are treated, placed or dispersed on the land. (This does not include land that does not form part of the land on which the feedlot pens and associated works are located.);
- (d) in which facilities for feeding such cattle are maintained and the feed for such cattle is stored; or
- (e) set aside for the purpose of landscaping and planting of vegetation.

It does not include any area in which cattle are penned or enclosed for:

- (a) grazing; or
- (b) hand feeding prior to 12 weeks of age or for weaning, or for the provision of subsistence rations due to fodder shortage, abnormal seasonal conditions or other like events; or

(c) the provision of supplementary rations for cattle which have daily access to pasture."

A permit is required to construct those buildings and works associated with the proposed cattle feedlot per Clause 35.07-4 as the buildings and works are associated with a use in Section 2 of Clause 35.07-1.

The majority of the subject site is covered by the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 4 and a portion of the subject land is covered by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, it is important to note that no part of the proposed development is to be sited within the LSIO. One of the purposes of the ESO is 'To identify areas where the development of land may be affected by environmental constraints.' One of the environmental objectives to be achieved by the ESO4 is 'To ensure that any development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and with local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood levels or flow velocity.' As the proposed feed processing and commodities building exceeds a floor area of 200m² a planning permit is triggered for the proposal pursuant to Clause 42.01-2. The proposed building measures 40m x 21m, this equates to a total floor area of 840m².

The Specific Controls Overlay (SCO2) covers the whole site. The purpose of the SCO2 is 'To apply specific controls designed to achieve a particular land use and development outcome in extraordinary circumstances.' The specific control SCO2 relates to the Goulburn-Murray Water Connections Project and Water Efficiency Project Incorporated Document, (November 2021).

A small section of the land parcel is identified as being an area of cultural heritage sensitivity. It is noted that the proposed feedlot is not located within the area of cultural heritage sensitivity.

The Planning Policy Framework (PPF)

- Clause 11 (Settlement): Planning is to prevent environmental, human health and amenity problems created by siting incompatible land uses close together.
- Clause 12.01-1S (Protection of biodiversity): The objective is 'To protect and enhance Victoria's biodiversity.'
- Clause 12.03-1S (River and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs): The objective is 'To protect and enhance waterway systems including river and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs.'
- Clause 13.02-1S (Bushfire Planning): The objective is 'To strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.'
- Clause 13.03-1S (Floodplain Management): The objective is 'To assist the protection of life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard, including coastal inundation, riverine and overland flows.'
- Clause 13.05-1S (Noise Management): The objective is 'To assist the management of noise effects on sensitive land uses.'
- Clause 13.07-1S (Land Use Compatibility): The objective is 'To protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial, infrastructure or other uses with potential adverse off-site impacts.'
- Clause 14.01-1S (Protection of agricultural land): The objective is 'To protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland.'
- Clause 14.01-2S (Sustainable agricultural land use): The objective is 'To encourage sustainable agricultural land use.'

- Clause 14.01-2R (Agricultural productivity - Loddon Mallee North): One of the strategies is 'Support emerging agribusinesses and location clusters, including intensive animal industries.'
- Clause 14.01-2L (Sustainable Farming): One of the strategies is 'Encourage on-farm drainage and sustainable agricultural industries that are based on efficient use and re-use of water.'
- Clause 14.02-1S (Catchment Planning and Management): The objective is 'To assist the protection and restoration of catchments, waterways, estuaries, bays, water bodies, groundwater, and the marine environment.'
- Clause 14.02-2S (Water Quality): The objective is 'To protect water quality.'
- Clause 15.01-2S (Building Design): The objective is 'To achieve building design and siting outcomes that contribute positively to the local context, enhance the public realm and support environmentally sustainable development.'
- Clause 15.01-2L (Building Siting – Gannawarra): The preferred setback distance from buildings fronting and not fronting 'Other Roads' in the Farming Zone is 20m the preferred setback distance from 'Other Boundaries' is 5m.
- Clause 15.01-6S (Design for Rural Areas): The objective is 'To ensure development respects valued areas of rural character.'
- Clause 15.03-2S (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage): The objective is 'To ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.'
- Clause 18.02-4L (Roads – Gannawarra): One of the strategies listed is 'Encourage protection of road infrastructure in agricultural areas.'

Particular Provisions

- Clause 53.08 (Cattle Feedlot): The purpose of this Clause is 'To facilitate the establishment and expansion of cattle feedlots in Victoria in a manner which is consistent with orderly and proper planning and the protection of the environment.' Clause 53.08-1 stipulates that all use and development of cattle feedlots must comply with the Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots - August 1995 and that the Code must be complied with to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

The decision guidelines of Clause 65

The proposal generally complies with the provisions of Clause 65.01 and Clause 65.02.

Other relevant adopted State policies/strategies – (e.g. Melbourne 2030.)

- Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots - August 1995

Relevant incorporated or reference documents

- Planning Practice Note 87: Preparing a planning permit application for animal production.

Relevant Planning Scheme amendments

Nil.

OPTION ANALYSIS

Council has two options in relation to this report:

1. To approve Planning Application P23005 and issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit subject to appropriate conditions. The objector has the opportunity to appeal Council's decision at VCAT.

2. To refuse Planning Application P23005 and issue a Notice of Refusal stating the grounds of refusal. The permit applicant has the opportunity to appeal Council's decision at VCAT.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONCLUSION

The proposed use and development is considered to be appropriate for this site.

The application was advertised to surrounding property owners and occupiers as well as notice in the Gannawarra Times newspaper and five written objections were received.

It is considered that the proposal is consistent with the Gannawarra Planning Scheme, in particular the Planning Policy Framework and the purpose of the Farming Zone.

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

Applicant response to objectors

Submission 1

The issues identified relate to:

- Nutrient leaching into groundwater
- Potential for impacts to surface water quality, specifically Pyramid Creek and Johnson and Hirds Swamp.
- Dust and odour

Nutrients leaching into groundwater

Although groundwater is expected to be relatively shallow, it will be protected by soils with ~4 m of clay or clayey loam soil overlying the shallowest groundwater level.

A Waste Management Plan (WMP), including a Nutrient Management budget (Table 11), has been prepared for the property. Manure will go off-farm, only effluent and mortalities compost will be reused on-farm. Note: the values for “area needed for reuse” for the summer silage crops are wrong in the report. These are corrected in the table below. These errors do not affect the conclusions.

Table 11: Effluent Nutrient Budget

Movement	N	P	K
Nutrients for reuse (kg/yr)	921	371	5,713
Nutrients harvested summer silage (kg/yr)	440	80	400
Area needed for reuse (ha)	2.1	4.6	11.3
Nutrients harvested winter silage (kg/yr)	137	19	118
Area needed for reuse (ha)	6.7	19.7	48.3
Nutrients harvested double cropping (kg/yr)	577	99	518
Area needed for reuse (ha)	1.6	3.8	11.0

The area allocated for effluent reuse is 23 ha. The minimum area required under a summer silage crop is 11.3 ha. This would remove all the applied nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, and fertiliser will need to be applied to make up the deficit. If the area is double cropped, which is expected to occur in most years, the minimum area required is 11 ha. Hence, the nutrient balance is very conservative, and nutrient leaching does not pose a significant risk. 10 ha of land has been allocated for mortalities compost reuse. It is expected that there could be ~36 mortalities per year. If these weigh 500 kg, this is 18 t/yr of mortalities. Compost production is likely to be ~9.75 t/yr. From Tucker et al. (2015), it could be expected that mortalities compost could contain 1.6% N, 0.6% P and 1.1% K on a wet basis. With ~9,745 kg/yr of compost, this equates to ~156 kg N/yr, 58.5 kg P/yr and 107 kg K/yr. These nutrient rates can easily be sustainably managed on the land areas available under the proposed cropping regimes. Consequently, concerns about nutrient leaching to groundwater are unfounded. Nevertheless, the soil will be monitored to confirm nutrient levels and required fertiliser application rates for crops.

Agriculture Victoria assessed the application and raised no concerns about nutrients leaching to groundwater. In their response, they noted that: “The WMP shows there is sufficient land available to utilise the feedlot’s annual effluent production. The proposed soil monitoring parameters across the reuse areas will determine the sustainability of on-going effluent application to land. It is

common practice for cattle feedlots to sell manure off-farm in order to export nutrients and ensure there is sufficient reuse area on the subject property for effluent irrigation.”

Nutrient Runoff to Surface Waters

Pyramid Creek and Hird Swamp are approximately 1.5 km from the closest reuse area. Johnsons Swamp is ~2.3 km from the closest reuse area. Hence, they are protected by distance from the site. There is relatively flat topography between the feedlot development site and the creek and swamps. There are no waterways on the farm that connect to the creek or swamps and the site is unlikely to flood in a 1% AEP flood event. Given the conservative nutrient reuse rates, the likelihood of nutrients from applied effluent or mortalities compost reaching the Creek or swamps can be considered very low. Hence, these surface waters can be considered suitably protected.

It is important to recognise that broadacre cropping farms and dairies routinely apply fertiliser to soil to optimise crop production. The proposed nutrient application rates for the effluent and mortalities compost are significantly lower than crop or intensive fodder / pasture requirements.

Agriculture Victoria assessed the application and raised no concerns about nutrient runoff to surface water. North Central CMA also assessed the application and did not object to the granting of a permit subject to conditions.

Dust and odour

Separation distances for odour have been assessed using the method provided in the Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots which is embedded in the VPP and the Gannawarra Shire Planning Scheme. This indicates a satisfactory outcome. It is widely accepted that providing suitable separation distances for odour also protects nearby sensitive uses from dust from the feedlot complex.

The report supporting the application details the design features that will promote rapid drying of pens after rainfall and the manure management practices that will minimise odour emissions.

Agriculture Victoria assessed the application and raised no concerns about dust and odour. They confirmed that the separation distance methodology had been suitably applied.

Submission 2

This submission (which is not an objection) pertains to road maintenance. As this is a council concern, no further comment will be made here.

Submission 3

Submission 3 is an objection based on nutrient management and drainage concerns, with no specific concerns identified. Refer to response for submission 1.

Submission 4

This submission is from a neighbour living within an isolated house block surrounded by the subject farm. The submission raises concerns about dust and noise from traffic, work hours, whether the farm's dairy infrastructure will be used by the feedlot, odour from "effluent ponds and manure storage areas" and mortalities composting (note: there appears to be some confusion as the areas to the north and north west of the house are mortalities compost reuse areas, not manure storage areas) as well as use of chemicals and farm machinery.

Traffic impacts

The proposal is concerned about noise and dust from traffic. It is estimated that the equivalent of 497 B-double equivalents will service the feedlot. On average, this is two trucks per weekday. The

access for the feedlot will be situated on Mead Road approximately 960 m from the subject house. Most vehicles will access the site from the sealed Leitchville-Kerang Road. Hence, the length of the unsealed Mead Road to be used by most vehicles is about 340 m. Given the small number of trucks, the distance of the access to the house and the short length of unsealed road to be used, traffic noise and dust are most unlikely to impact the submitter.

Work Hours

The normal operating hours will be 7 AM-6 PM. Milling will not usually occur on weekends. Feeding will occur once a day in the morning, after 7 AM. Cattle handling will generally also occur during normal operating hours and seldom on weekends. Heavy vehicle movements will normally occur between 7 AM and 6 PM on weekdays. However, cattle leaving the site may also be transported earlier in the morning during very hot weather for welfare reasons.

Use of Dairy Infrastructure

It is not intended that the dairy infrastructure will be used for the feedlot.

Odour

Refer to response to submitter 1.

In relation to mortalities composting, a tried and tested method will be used. Dead stock will be taken to the composting pad for composting as soon as possible after discovery. They will be placed onto a layer of manure or straw at 45-60 cm thick, then immediately completely covered with a further 60 cm of manure. An additional layer of carcasses can be added on top, but this also needs to be covered with at least 60 cm of damp manure or other bulking agent. The hand "squeeze test" will be used to confirm that moisture can just be squeezed from the bulking agent. At the start of the process, the following details will be recorded:

- date of batching,
- location of composting site,
- number of cattle, and
- approximate weight of the carcasses.

During the composting process the following will be done:

- check the windrows daily to ensure the carcasses are still covered with the bulking agent. Add more cover material as needed, including over any seepage of fluid, to minimise odours. Allow to heat up undisturbed.
- after 5-6 months check the windrow and if there is not remaining flesh, turn and commence the second heat cycle.
- the windrow should be turned then completely covered with damp manure or other cover material. It should heat up and the high temperature should be sustained for at least a week.
- when the pile cools, the process can be considered complete.
- the compost will then be screened to remove bones that can be added to a new pile.
- finished mortalities compost will be stored in a separate windrow from actively composting material.

The mortalities compost piles will be kept separate from the manure-only windrows and positioned such that runoff from these cannot cross-contaminate the manure windrows.

Section 6.1.3 of the report supporting the application outlines strategies that will be used to minimise odour nuisance from reuse activities. It also details a complaints management procedure.

Chemicals

Only animal health chemicals will be used within the feedlot. These will have no impact whatsoever on the submitter.

Farm machinery

The farm machinery to be used will include the trucks detailed in the application report, feedmill, a feed truck or wagon and front end loaders / tractors and bobcats for cleaning pens. None of this equipment is unusual or foreign to farms in the district.

Submitter 5

Submitter 5 raises concerns about Mead Road, the need for the effluent reuse area to have whole farm plan reuse in place and biosecurity.

Mead Road

The upgrading and maintaining of Mead Road to provide for “the main thoroughfare for milk tankers and others” is a council matter.

Effluent Reuse / Runoff Capture

The North Central CMA has assessed the application and required no conditions around the proposed reuse practices. The effluent will be blended with irrigation water and applied by surface / flood irrigation. A whole farm plan will be in place with runoff collected and re-irrigated.

Biosecurity

Good biosecurity is of the utmost importance to the proponent. The last thing Stembeef would want is a disease outbreak that threatens their stock and those of others. Cattle, mortalities, effluent and manure may contain a variety of pathogens and need to be managed in a way that protects public health. Vermin may be vectors for the transfer of pathogens and also need to be managed.

The main human exposure for pathogens in feedlot effluent, manure or compost is by inhalation of aerosols or dust. Other exposure pathways include direct human-animal contact; direct or indirect contact with contaminated tissue; direct or indirect contact with manure; and contact with contaminated work clothes (e.g. when washing these). Windborne exposure to dust or other contaminants is recognised as an important exposure pathway. This can be a concern where inadequate waste management practices are adopted, for example, spreading inadequately composted mortalities on land.

Biosecurity will be an important component of the feedlot’s NFAS QA system and a detailed biosecurity procedure will be in place. Employees will also be trained in biosecurity.

All cattle arriving at the feedlot will be individually electronically identified and assessed for their animal health status at the time of unloading. Staff will receive training on the importance of early detection of disease, what to do if they suspect an animal may be exhibiting symptoms of disease and best practice guidelines for specific notifiable and serious diseases. This includes any new and / or casual employees to ensure the importance of biosecurity and all biosecurity principles employed onsite are understood. If there are any suspicious signs of disease, the new animals will be isolated, and the feedlot veterinarian consulted for further action. All cattle must be accompanied by a fully completed National Vendor Declaration (NVD) upon arrival, and, where possible, a National Cattle Health Declaration (NCHD). Contact between newly arrived cattle and existing stock will be minimised for at least seven days.

If there are any suspicious signs of disease or mortality at any time during the feeding period, the suspect cattle will be isolated, and the feedlot veterinarian consulted for further action. If a mortality occurs, the carcass will be removed and disposed of immediately and the carcass is promptly and completely covered by a layer of manure to prevent odour generation and to control fly and vermin populations. The mortalities composting area is inaccessible by cattle in the feedlot. If the cause of death is unknown or suspicious, a post-mortem is conducted by the Cattle Supervisor, or where appropriate, the feedlot or company veterinarian.

All cattle leaving the property must be 'fit to load' and selected to minimise potential welfare issues, disease and contamination spread through transport.

Visitors to the feedlot will need to go straight to the office on arrival where they will need to complete the visitor log on entry and exit. Any visitors deemed to be high risk will not be allowed onto the property unless procedures are followed to reduce the risk. This may include cleaning and / or changing clothing and boots at the office prior to moving further into any feedlot areas. Only designated farm machinery and vehicles will be used on the property. Outside and contractor vehicle use will be limited to specific areas and avoided in production areas. Contractors and equipment will be asked to comply with equipment cleanliness before entering the property and equipment may be inspected. Machinery handling manure will be cleaned regularly and not cross utilised with feeding activities unless cleaned and disinfected thoroughly.

Feed processing, manure and mortalities composting have the potential to attract vermin and other vectors including rodents, cats, dogs, foxes, wild birds and insects. These can spread disease. Control measures include:

- good general cleanliness practices, prompt removal of waste feed, ensuring mortalities are always well covered, keeping lawns around sheds short to minimise habitats;
- minimising vector access to feedstuffs through appropriate storage and handling of incoming feedstock and outgoing product;
- preventing water from pooling and stagnating across the site where insects can breed;
- regularly removing manure from under fence lines;
- using robust manure and mortalities composting processes; and
- strategic use of fly, insect and rodent baits as necessary.

Practices to minimise airborne pathogen transfer:

- avoiding manure handling (e.g. pen cleaning, turning of compost windrow) when the manure is very dry;
- undertaking manure handling activities only under still or low wind conditions and avoiding these activities if the prevailing wind is carrying directly towards the closest receptors or the town or under overcast conditions;
- robust composting of manure and mortalities;
- spreading mortalities compost on-farm only under still or low wind conditions and avoiding these activities if the prevailing wind is carrying directly towards the closest receptors or under overcast conditions;
- surface irrigating effluent which does not promote aerosol formation. Effluent irrigation will only occur during suitable weather conditions: it will only occur under still or low wind conditions, it will not occur if the prevailing wind is carrying directly towards the closest receptors or the town, if heavy rain is expected or if the soil moisture profile is near full and nutrient runoff could result from irrigation.

7.5 2023 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Author: Scott Bourne, Communications Coordinator

Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: 1 2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the results of the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey for Gannawarra Shire Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Held annually, the optional State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey (CCS) ask the opinions of local people about where they live and work, and provides participating Councils with an insight into how they are performing.

Conducted by Local Government Victoria (LGV), this survey assesses the performance of councils across a range of measures and provides insight into the ways to provide improved or more efficient service delivery. The survey also provides councils with a means to fulfil some statutory reporting requirements for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

The report found that Council's overall performance has not changed from the 2022 survey, whilst improvements have occurred in categories relating to consultation/engagement, lobbying and community decisions. However, responses relating to sealed local road maintenance and enforcement of local laws declined compared to the 2022 survey.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council of the results from the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey for Gannawarra Shire Council, which was conducted during February/March 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results

DISCUSSION

The annual State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is conducted at the same time each year and surveys a random sample of 400 Gannawarra Shire residents aged 18 and over.

The survey reports on two key areas: Core Performance Measures and Individual Service Areas, which are then benchmarked against Gannawarra's previous year's results, as well as results from other small rural shires and the state-wide averages.

Gannawarra scored an index of 54 out of 100 for 'Overall Council Performance', which matches the result from the 2022 survey, and places Gannawarra in line with State-wide (score of 56) and small rural averages (score of 55).

Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Gannawarra 54



Small Rural 55



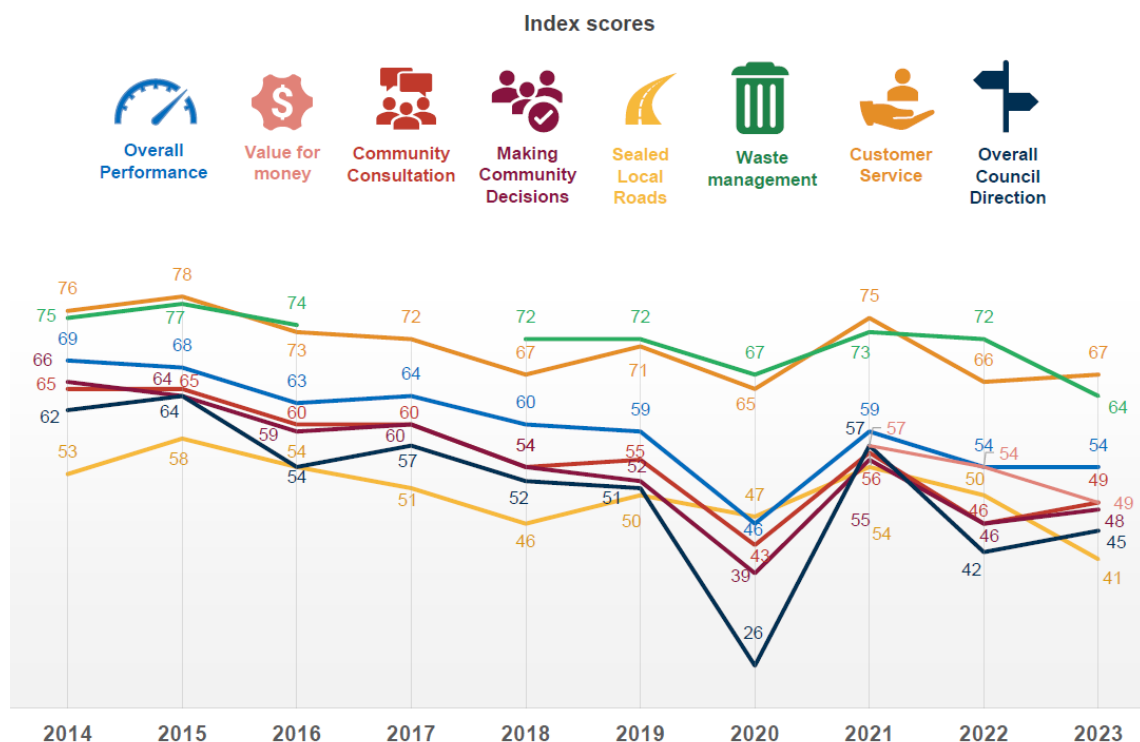
State-wide 56

Source: 2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results – page 5

Core Performance Measures

The 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey reported on eight core service measures, with key findings summarised below:

- Customer Service and Waste Management continue to be Council's strongest areas, despite Waste Management's score dropping to 64 compared to 72 in 2022.
- Improvements were recorded in areas where Council engages with the community, including Overall Council Direction (score of 45 compared to 42 in 2022), Making Community Decisions (score of 48 compared to 46 in 2022) and Community Consultation (score of 49 compared to 46 in 2022).
- Sealed Local Roads fell by nine points (score of 41, compared to 50 in 2022).

Summary of core measures

Source: 2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results – page 6

Individual Service Areas

Council's survey results across the individual service areas highlights Council's performance in many service areas is in line with State-wide (score of 56) and small rural averages.



Summary of Gannawarra Shire Council performance

Services	Gannawarra 2023	Gannawarra 2022	Small Rural 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
Overall performance	54	54	55	56	Patchell Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years
Value for money	49	54	49	49	Aged 65+ years	Avoca Ward residents
Overall council direction	45	42	47	46	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
Customer service	67	66	65	67	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
Appearance of public areas	74	75	71	67	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
Art centres & libraries	71	72	73	73	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
Elderly support services	68	73	66	63	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
Recreational facilities	67	67	67	68	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
Waste management	64	72	66	66	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
Family support services	63	67	62	63	Murray Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years
Services	Gannawarra 2023	Gannawarra 2022	Small Rural 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
Enforcement of local laws	60	64	61	61	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
Bus/community dev./tourism	59	63	61	59	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years, Avoca Ward residents
Informing the community	56	54	58	57	Patchell Ward residents, Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
Consultation & engagement	49	46	53	52	Patchell Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years
Lobbying	49	47	52	51	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
Community decisions	48	46	52	51	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
Sealed local roads	41	50	44	48	Patchell Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years

Source: 2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results – pages 8-9

Appearance of Public Areas (score of 74) and Arts Centres and Libraries (score of 71) were Council's best performing service areas, which is consistent with previous surveys.

Major declines in service area results were recorded in Waste management (score of 64, compared to 72 in 2022) and Sealed Local Roads (score of 41, compared to 50 in 2022), however

these can be contributed to the October-December 2022 floods – specifically kerbside waste collection arrangements in flood-impacted areas, and damage to roads.

Focus areas for the next 12 months

The results show that Council should focus on improving performance in the individual service areas that most influence perceptions of overall performance.

In the first instance, attention should be paid to ensuring residents are aware that decisions are made in the interest of the community.

Other areas in need of attention are the condition of sealed local roads, and lobbying on behalf of the community, as these service areas have a moderate to strong influence on Council's overall performance rating and are among the lowest rated service areas.

The survey also found that residents aged 35 to 49 years tend to be more critical of Council's performance, so it is recommended that extra attention be paid to interactions with this cohort over the next year.

RELEVANT LAW

Some measures within the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey are utilised for Council's statutory reporting in compliance with Section 106 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council noted the 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey results at the July 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting.

OPTIONS

Council notes the results of the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey.

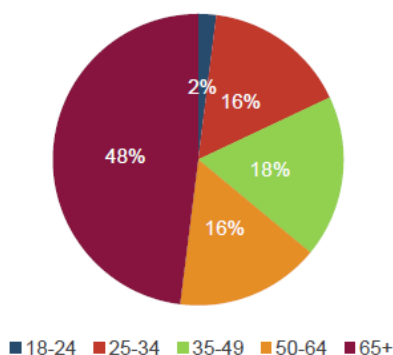
SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey surveyed 400 residents aged 18 and over.

The gender and age profile of these residents is detailed in the below graph.



Source: 2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results – page 70

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

The annual Community Satisfaction Survey is coordinated by the Department of Government Services on behalf of Victorian Councils.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The cost of the annual Community Satisfaction Survey is factored into the approved Council budget setting process.

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.

2023 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey

Gannawarra Shire Council

Coordinated by the Department of
Government Services on behalf of
Victorian councils





Contents

<u>Background and objectives</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Waste management</u>	<u>65</u>
<u>Key findings and recommendations</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Business and community development and tourism</u>	<u>67</u>
<u>Detailed findings</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Detailed demographics</u>	<u>69</u>
<u>Overall performance</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Appendix A: Index scores, margins of error and significant differences</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>Customer service</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>Appendix B: Further project information</u>	<u>76</u>
<u>Communication</u>	<u>33</u>		
<u>Council direction</u>	<u>38</u>		
<u>Individual service areas</u>	<u>42</u>		
<u>Community consultation and engagement</u>	<u>43</u>		
<u>Lobbying on behalf of the community</u>	<u>45</u>		
<u>Decisions made in the interest of the community</u>	<u>47</u>		
<u>Condition of sealed local roads</u>	<u>49</u>		
<u>Informing the community</u>	<u>51</u>		
<u>Enforcement of local laws</u>	<u>53</u>		
<u>Family support services</u>	<u>55</u>		
<u>Elderly support services</u>	<u>57</u>		
<u>Recreational facilities</u>	<u>59</u>		
<u>Appearance of public areas</u>	<u>61</u>		
<u>Art centres and libraries</u>	<u>63</u>		



Background and objectives

The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) creates a vital interface between the council and their community.

Held annually, the CSS asks the opinions of local people about the place they live, work and play and provides confidence for councils in their efforts and abilities.

Now in its twenty-fourth year, this survey provides insight into the community's views on:

- councils' overall performance, with benchmarking against State-wide and council group results
- value for money in services and infrastructure
- community consultation and engagement
- decisions made in the interest of the community
- customer service, local infrastructure, facilities, services and
- overall council direction.

When coupled with previous data, the survey provides a reliable historical source of the community's views since 1998. A selection of results from the last ten years shows that councils in Victoria continue to provide services that meet the public's expectations.

Serving Victoria for 24 years

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this State-wide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 24 years of results, the CSS offers councils a long-term measure of how they are performing – essential for councils that work over the long term to provide valuable services and infrastructure to their communities.

Participation in the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is optional.

Participating councils have various choices as to the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial and other considerations.

Key findings and recommendations

J W S R E S E A R C H 4



Gannawarra Shire Council – at a glance

Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Gannawarra 54



Small Rural 55



State-wide 56

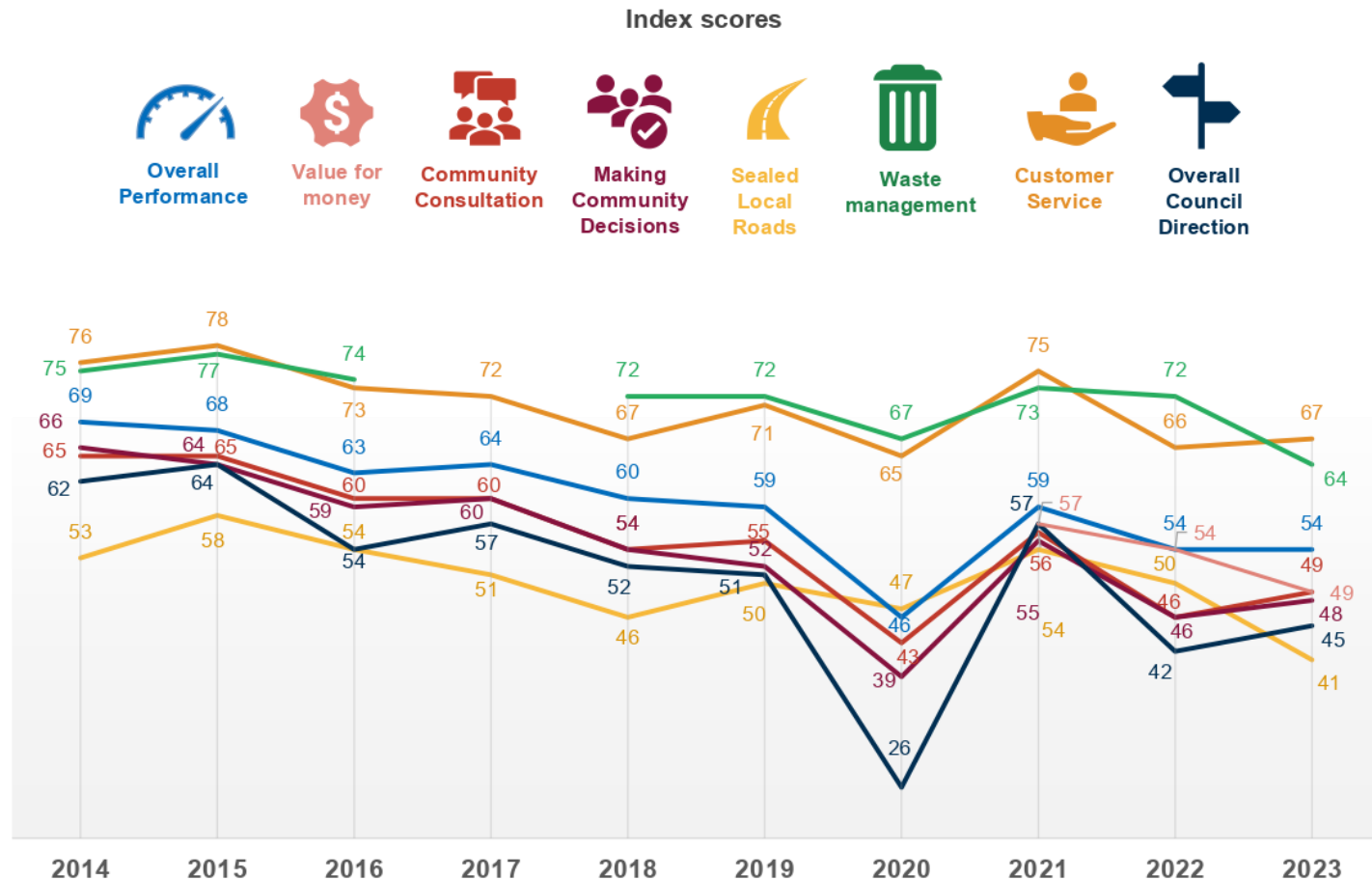
Council performance compared to group average

Top performing areas		
	Appearance of public areas	▲ higher
	Art centres & libraries	= on par
Lowest performing areas		
	Sealed local roads	▼ lower
	Community decisions	▼ lower
	Customer service	= on par

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Summary of core measures



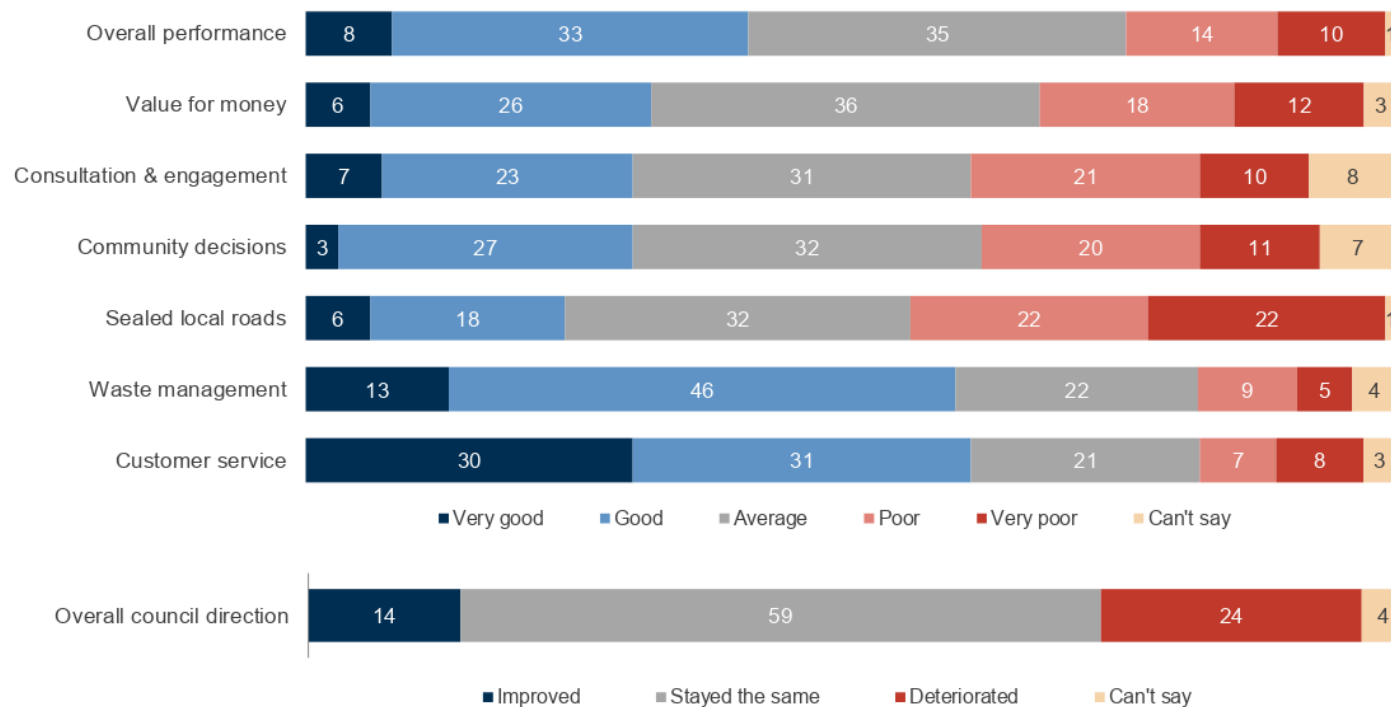
J W S R E S E A R C H 6

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Summary of core measures

Core measures summary results (%)












J W S R E S E A R C H 7

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Summary of Gannawarra Shire Council performance

Services		Gannawarra 2023	Gannawarra 2022	Small Rural 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
	Overall performance	54	54	55	56	Patchell Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years
	Value for money	49	54	49	49	Aged 65+ years	Avoca Ward residents
	Overall council direction	45	42	47	46	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Customer service	67	66	65	67	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
	Appearance of public areas	74	75	71	67	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Art centres & libraries	71	72	73	73	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Elderly support services	68	73	66	63	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Recreational facilities	67	67	67	68	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
	Waste management	64	72	66	66	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Family support services	63	67	62	63	Murray Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years








Significantly **higher** / **lower** than Gannawarra Shire Council 2023 result at the 95% confidence interval.
Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 8

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Summary of Gannawarra Shire Council performance

Services		Gannawarra 2023	Gannawarra 2022	Small Rural 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
	Enforcement of local laws	60	64	61	61	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Bus/community dev./tourism	59	63	61	59	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years, Avoca Ward residents
	Informing the community	56	54	58	57	Patchell Ward residents, Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Consultation & engagement	49	46	53	52	Patchell Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years
	Lobbying	49	47	52	51	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Community decisions	48	46	52	51	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Sealed local roads	41	50	44	48	Patchell Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years

Significantly **higher** / **lower** than Gannawarra Shire Council 2023 result at the 95% confidence interval. Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 9



Focus areas for the next 12 months

Overview

Perceptions of Gannawarra Shire Council's overall performance remains in line with the previous year and in line with both the State-wide and Small Rural group averages. This represents an arrest of the decline from 2021 and is despite a number of service areas for which perceptions have significantly declined since 2022. This is a mixed result for Council for 2023.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

Council should focus on improving performance in the individual service areas that most influence perceptions of overall performance. In the first instance, attention should be paid to ensuring residents are aware that decisions are made in the interest of the community. Other areas in need of attention are the condition of sealed local roads, and lobbying on behalf of the community, as these service areas have a moderate to strong influence on Council's overall performance rating and are among the lowest rated service areas.

Comparison to state and area grouping

On many individual service areas, Council is rated in line with both the Small Rural and State-wide group averages. Positively, council performance in the appearance of public areas is significantly higher than the State-wide and Small Rural group averages, and elderly support services is rated significantly higher than the Small Rural group. However, consultation and engagement, making decisions in the interest of the community and sealed local roads are all rated lower for Council than the group averages.

Opportunity to engage

Customer service is an area where Council's performance is steady and in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide averages. Efforts to maintain this solid result should continue. Residents aged 35 to 49 years tend to be more critical of Council's performance, so it is recommended that extra attention be paid to interactions with this cohort over the next year.

DETAILED FINDINGS



J W S R E S E A R C H 11

Overall performance



J W S R E S E A R C H 12



Overall performance

The overall performance index score of 54 for Gannawarra Shire Council is in line with the 2022 result.

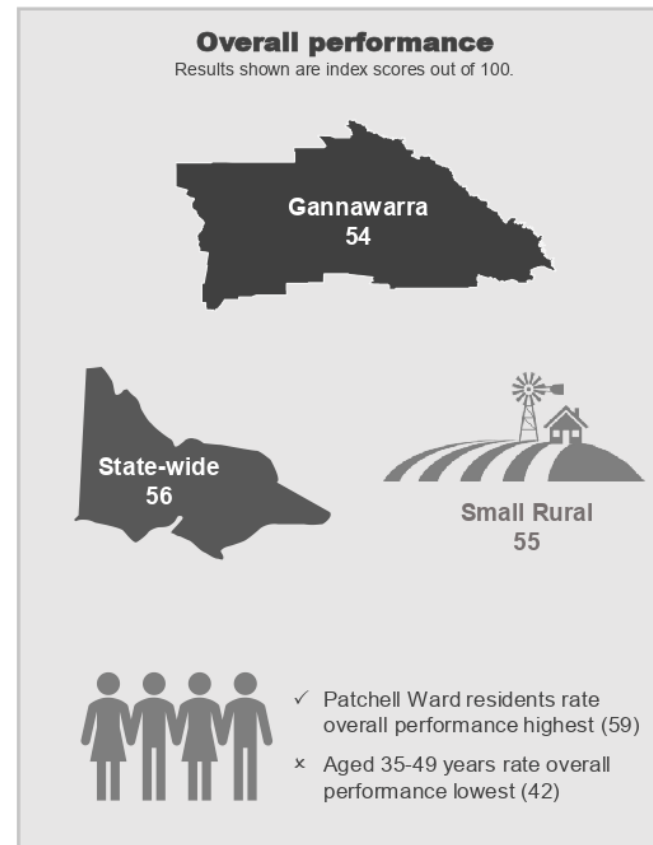
- This plateauing of overall performance perceptions appears to have arrested the short-term downward trend from 2021 and the longer-term downward trend since 2014

Council's overall performance is rated statistically significantly in line (at the 95% confidence interval) with the average rating for councils in the Small Rural group and the State-wide average for councils (index scores of 55 and 56 respectively).

Almost all demographic and geographic cohorts perceptions of overall performance have not changed significantly in the past year. The two exceptions are:

- Patchell Ward residents (index score of 59), significantly higher than the average.
- Residents aged 35 to 49 years (index score of 42), significantly lower than the average.

Almost one third of residents (32%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. This is similar to those who rate Council as 'very poor' or 'poor' (30%). A further 36% rate Council as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.

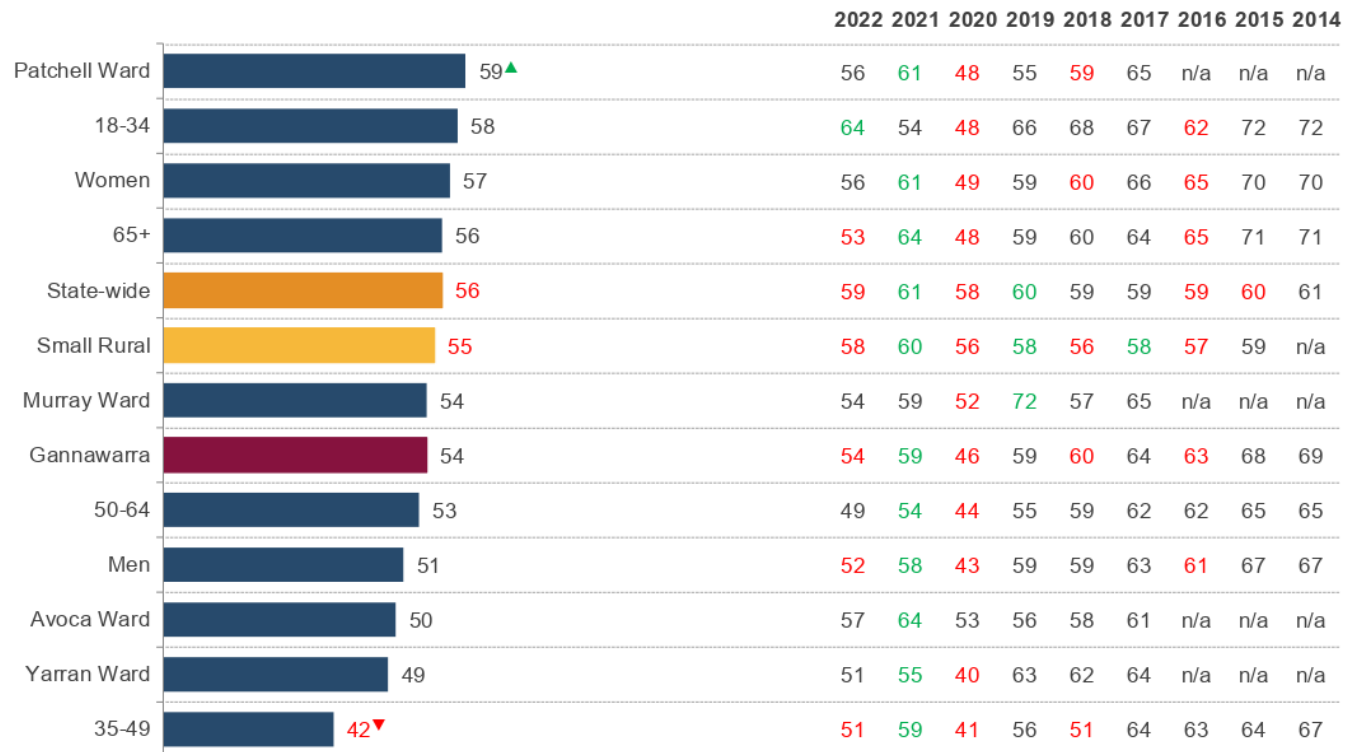


J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Overall performance

2023 overall performance (index scores)



Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Gannawarra Shire Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

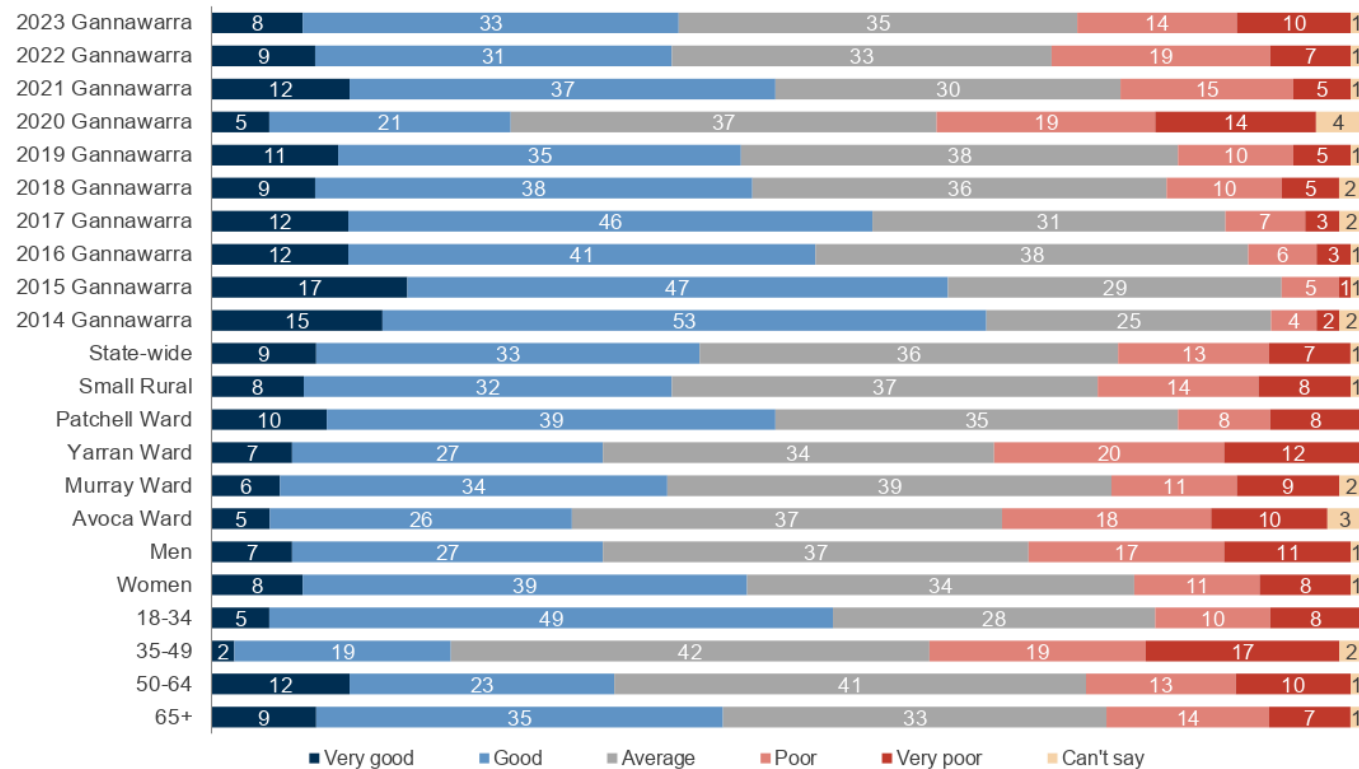
J W S R E S E A R C H 14

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Overall performance

2023 overall performance (%)



Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Gannawarra Shire Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

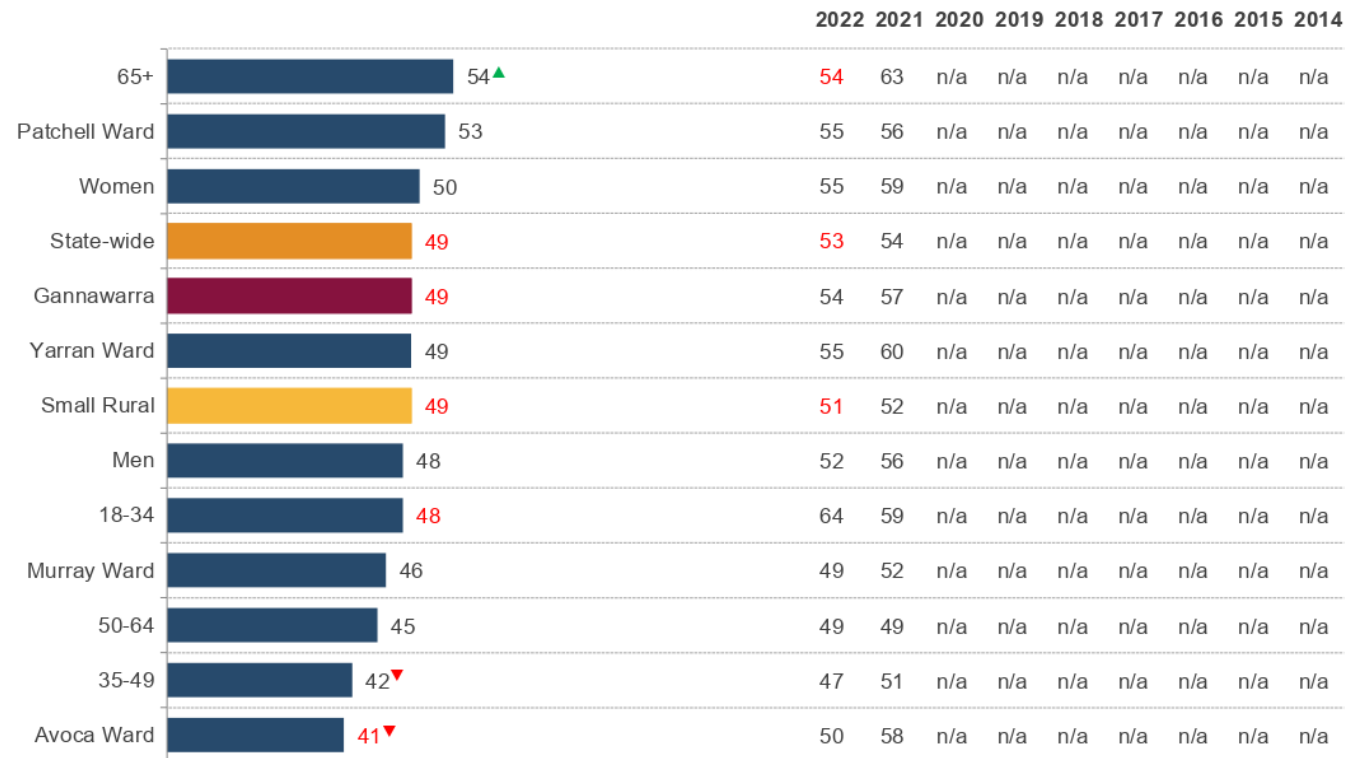
J W S R E S E A R C H 15

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Value for money in services and infrastructure

2023 value for money (index scores)



Q3b. How would you rate Gannawarra Shire Council at providing good value for money in infrastructure and services provided to your community?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 65 Councils asked group: 19

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

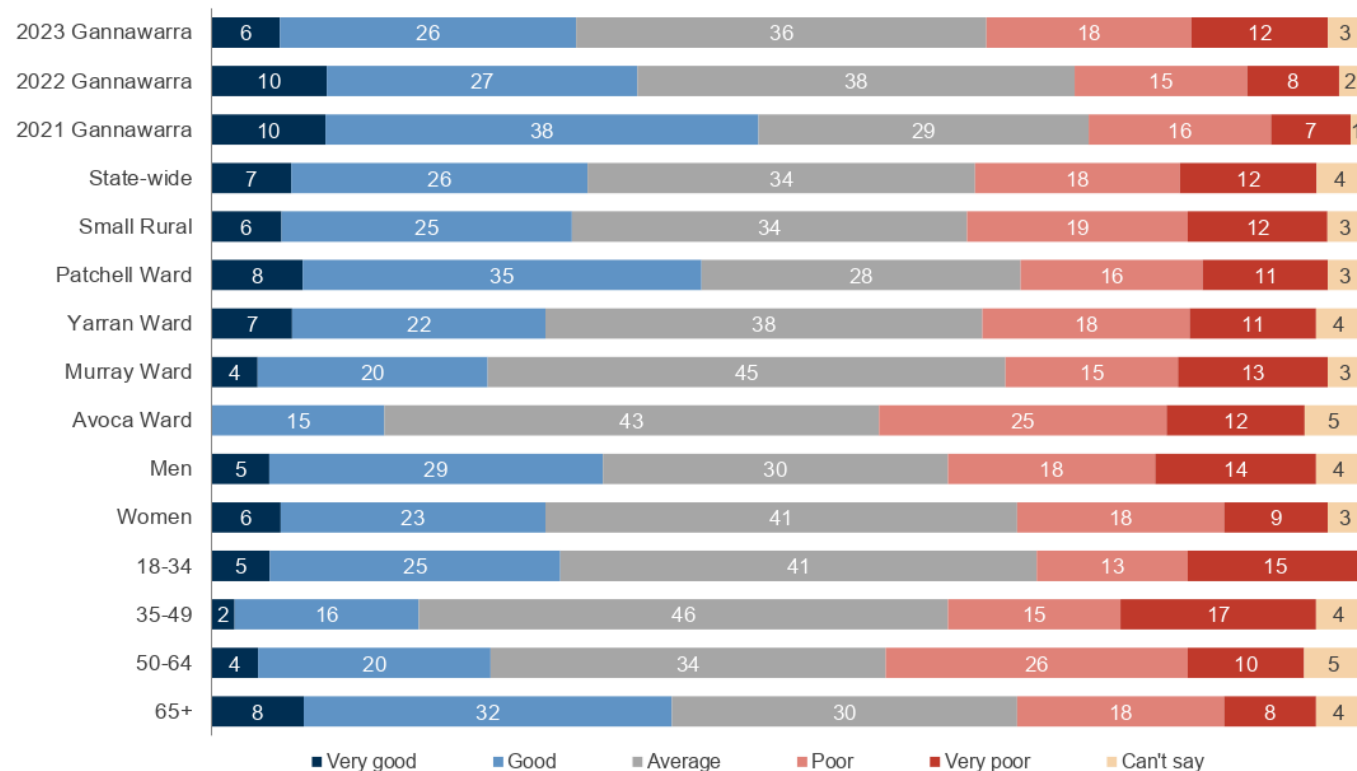
J W S R E S E A R C H 16

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Value for money in services and infrastructure

2023 value for money (%)



Q3b. How would you rate Gannawarra Shire Council at providing good value for money in infrastructure and services provided to your community?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 65 Councils asked group: 19

J W S R E S E A R C H 17



Top performing service areas

The appearance of public areas (index score of 74) is the service area where Council performed best in 2023. This has consistently been one of Council's top performing service areas.

- Council performs significantly higher than the Small Rural group average and the State-wide average in this service area.

Art centres and libraries is Council's next highest rated service area (index score of 71). For these top two performing service areas:

- Residents aged 65+ years gave significantly higher than average ratings.
- Residents aged 35 to 49 years gave significantly lower than average ratings.

The next highest performing area of elderly support services (index score of 68), while significantly lower than in 2022, is rated significantly higher than the State-wide group average.

- In this service area, pleasingly, residents aged 65+ years gave higher ratings (not significantly higher than average). Residents aged 35 to 49 years gave significantly lower ratings than the Council average.

Waste management, while rated well (index score of 64), is significantly lower than for 2022, but in line with State-wide and Small Rural group averages.



Appearance of public areas (index score of 74) is where Council performed best in 2023.



Low performing service areas



Council rates lowest in the areas of sealed local roads (index score of 41), making decisions in the interest of the community (index score of 48), lobbying, and consultation and engagement (index scores of 49).

Sealed local roads (41, down nine index points) is also rated significantly lower than for 2022.

- Residents in Murray Ward (index score of 32) rate Council's performance on sealed local roads significantly lower than average. This indicates that attention should be focused in this ward as the first priority.

Council also rates significantly lower than the Small Rural group averages for each of these lower rated service areas.

For all four of the lowest rated service areas mentioned, residents aged 35 to 49 years give the lowest ratings.

Almost one in five (18%) residents volunteer sealed road maintenance and 14% cite community consultation as key areas in need of improvement.

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Individual service area performance

2023 individual service area performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Appearance of public areas	74	75	75	71	73	73	75	76	79	78
Art centres & libraries	71	72	76	76	77	77	n/a	76	79	79
Elderly support services	68	73	77	72	72	71	74	74	80	79
Recreational facilities	67	67	72	65	72	72	73	73	77	77
Waste management	64	72	73	67	72	72	n/a	74	77	75
Family support services	63	67	69	66	69	68	69	69	73	73
Enforcement of local laws	60	64	68	63	68	67	65	66	71	72
Bus/community dev./tourism	59	63	62	49	58	61	65	62	66	67
Informing the community	56	54	60	51	60	62	63	62	68	68
Consultation & engagement	49	46	56	43	55	54	60	60	65	65
Lobbying	49	47	55	39	52	54	58	57	62	63
Community decisions	48	46	55	39	52	54	60	59	64	66
Sealed local roads	41	50	54	47	50	46	51	54	58	53

Q2. How has Council performed on [RESPONSIBILITY AREA] over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

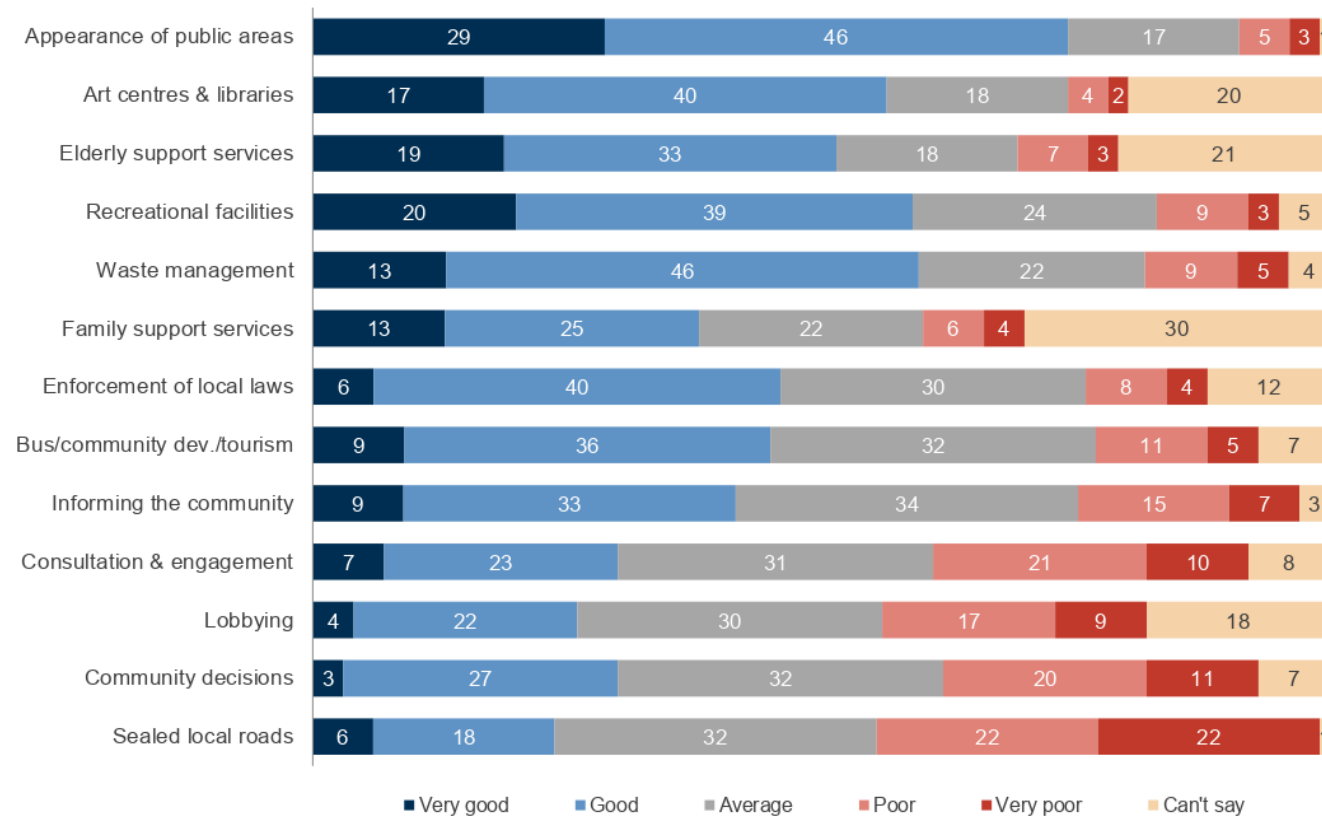
J W S R E S E A R C H 20

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Individual service area performance

2023 individual service area performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on [RESPONSIBILITY AREA] over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

J W S R E S E A R C H 21



Influences on perceptions of overall performance

The individual service area that has the strongest influence on the overall performance rating (based on regression analysis) is:

- Decisions made in the interest of the community.

Good communication and transparency with residents about decisions Council has made in the community's interest provides the greatest opportunity to drive up overall opinion of Council performance. This is currently is one of Council's poorest performing areas (index score of 48).

Following on from that, other individual service areas with a moderate to strong influence on the overall performance rating are:

- The condition of sealed local roads
- Lobbying on behalf of the community
- Informing the community
- Enforcement of local laws
- The appearance of public areas.

Looking at these key service areas only, the appearance of public areas has a high performance index (74) but a more moderate influence on the overall performance rating.

Maintaining this positive result should remain a focus – but there is greater work to be done elsewhere.

Other service areas that have a moderate to strong influence on overall perceptions but where Council performs relatively less well are informing the community and the enforcement of local laws (index of 56 and 60 respectively).

Keeping local residents well informed about key local issues and Council activities and maintaining efforts to enforce local laws can also help to shore up positive overall opinion.

However, in addition to its decision making processes, most in need of Council attention is the condition of its sealed local roads and its lobbying on residents' behalf. These are among the stronger influences on overall community opinion but Council performance is currently rated as poor (index of 41 and 49 respectively).

It will be important for Council to attend to its sealed roads and demonstrate efforts to advocate for resident interests to improve perceptions of its overall performance.



Regression analysis explained

We use regression analysis to investigate which individual service areas, such as community consultation, condition of sealed local roads, etc. (the independent variables) are influencing respondent perceptions of overall council performance (the dependent variable).

In the charts that follow:

- The horizontal axis represents the council performance index for each individual service. Service areas appearing on the right side of the chart have a higher performance index than those on the left.
- The vertical axis represents the Standardised Beta Coefficient from the multiple regression performed. This measures the contribution of each service area to the model. Service areas near the top of the chart have a greater positive effect on overall performance ratings than service areas located closer to the axis.

The regressions are shown on the following two charts.

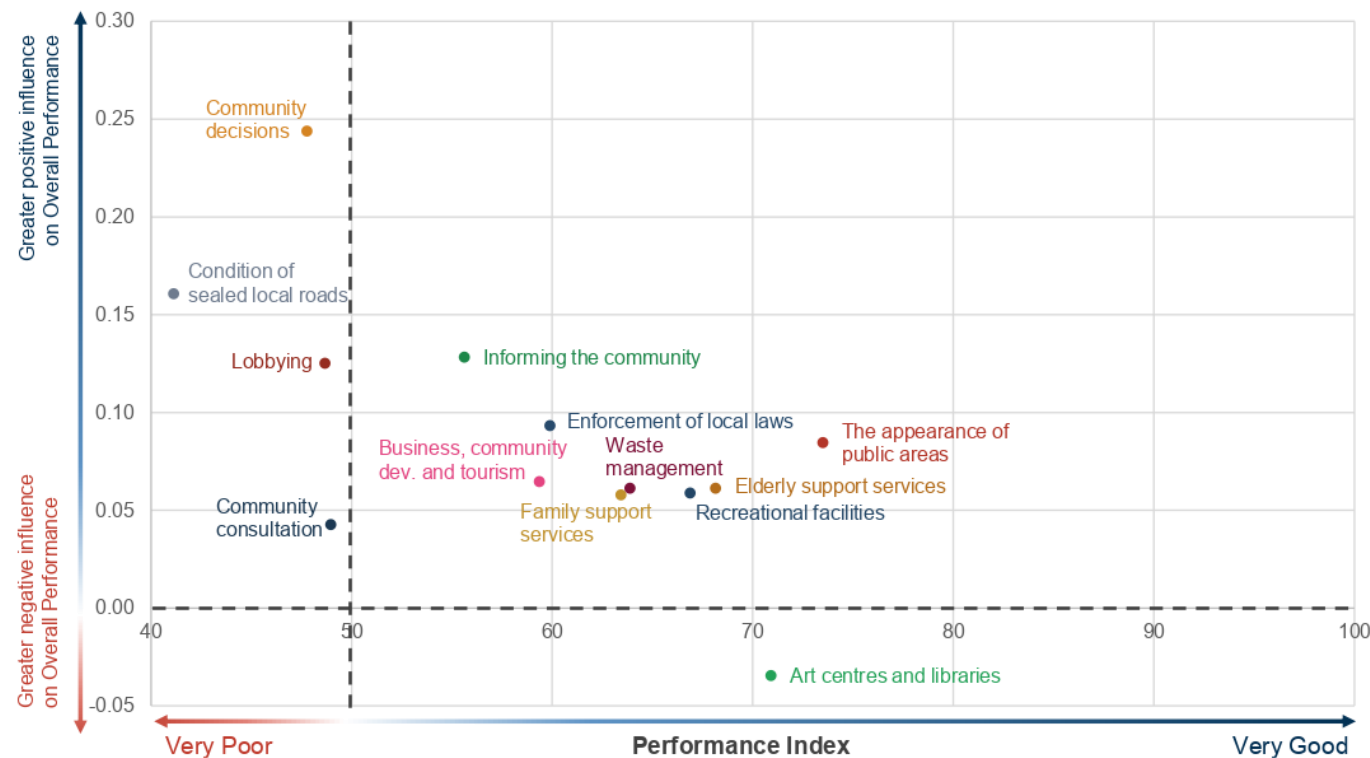
1. **The first chart** shows the results of a regression analysis of *all* individual service areas selected by Council.
2. **The second chart** shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas with a weak influence on overall performance (i.e. a low Standardised Beta Coefficient) have been excluded from the analysis.

Key insights from this analysis are derived from the second chart.



Influence on overall performance: all service areas

2023 regression analysis (all service areas)

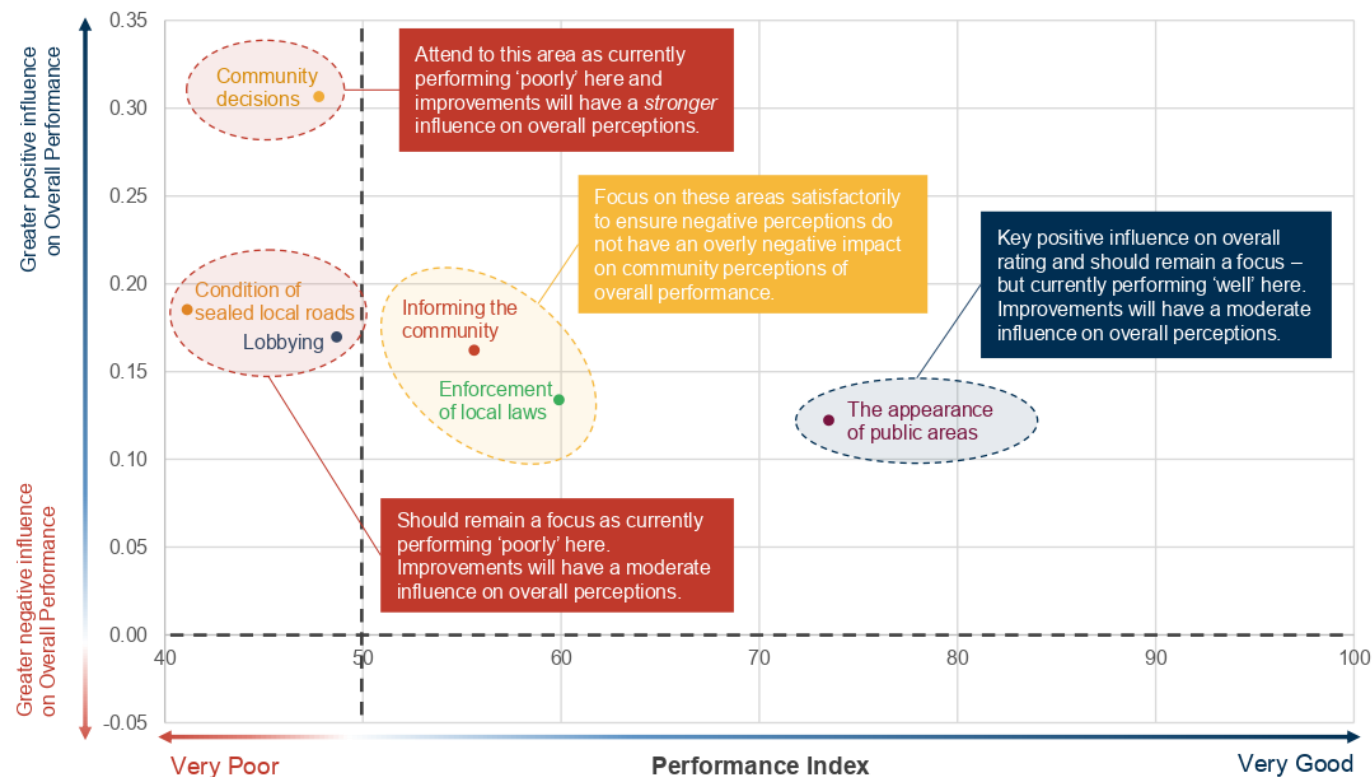


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.650 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.639, which means that 64% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at $p = 0.0001$, $F = 55.23$. This model should be interpreted with some caution as some data is not normally distributed and not all service areas have linear correlations.



Influence on overall performance: key service areas

2023 regression analysis (key service areas)



The multiple regression analysis model above (reduced set of service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.629 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.624, which means that 62% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at $p = 0.0001$, $F = 111.27$.

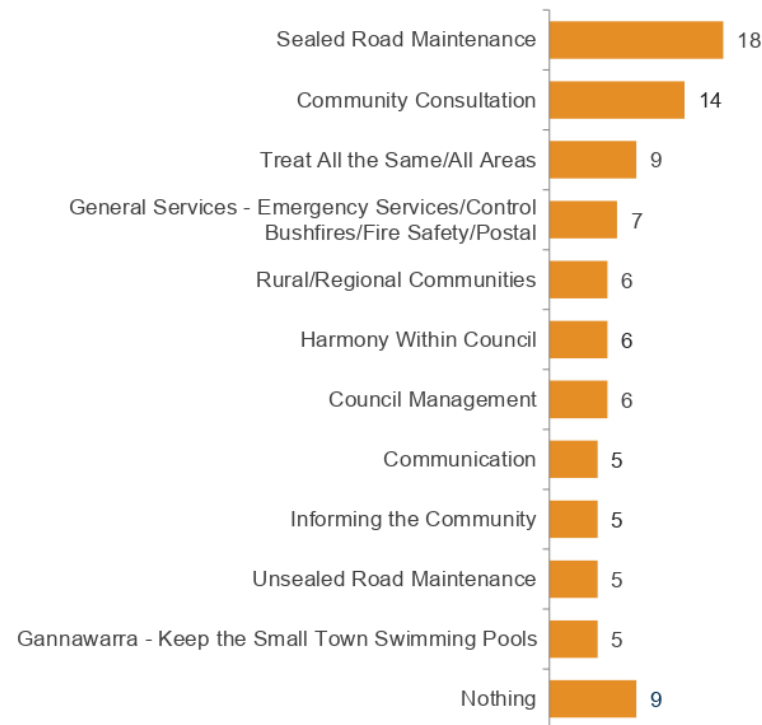
J W S R E S E A R C H 25

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Areas for improvement

2023 areas for improvement (%)
- Top mentions only -



Q17. What does Gannawarra Shire Council MOST need to do to improve its performance?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 53 Councils asked group: 12
 A verbatim listing of responses to this question can be found in the accompanying dashboard.

J W S R E S E A R C H 26

Customer service



J W S R E S E A R C H 27



Contact with council and customer service

Contact with council

Almost two-thirds of Council residents (63%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months, in line with 2022 contact rates.

Rate of contacting Council is trending upwards over time from a low of 55% in 2016.

Contact with Council is in line with the Small Rural group average (66%) and State-wide (62%) contact rates.



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 67 is one point higher than 2022.

This indicates Council has arrested the significant decline in 2022 in the customer service index from a high of 75 in 2021.

Council's customer service performance rating is in line with the State-wide and Small Rural group averages (index scores of 67 and 65 respectively).

- Perceptions of customer service are equally positive among residents across the four Council Wards compared to the Council average.
- Perceptions of customer service are highest among residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score of 75) and women (index score of 72) and lowest among Murray Ward residents (index score of 59).

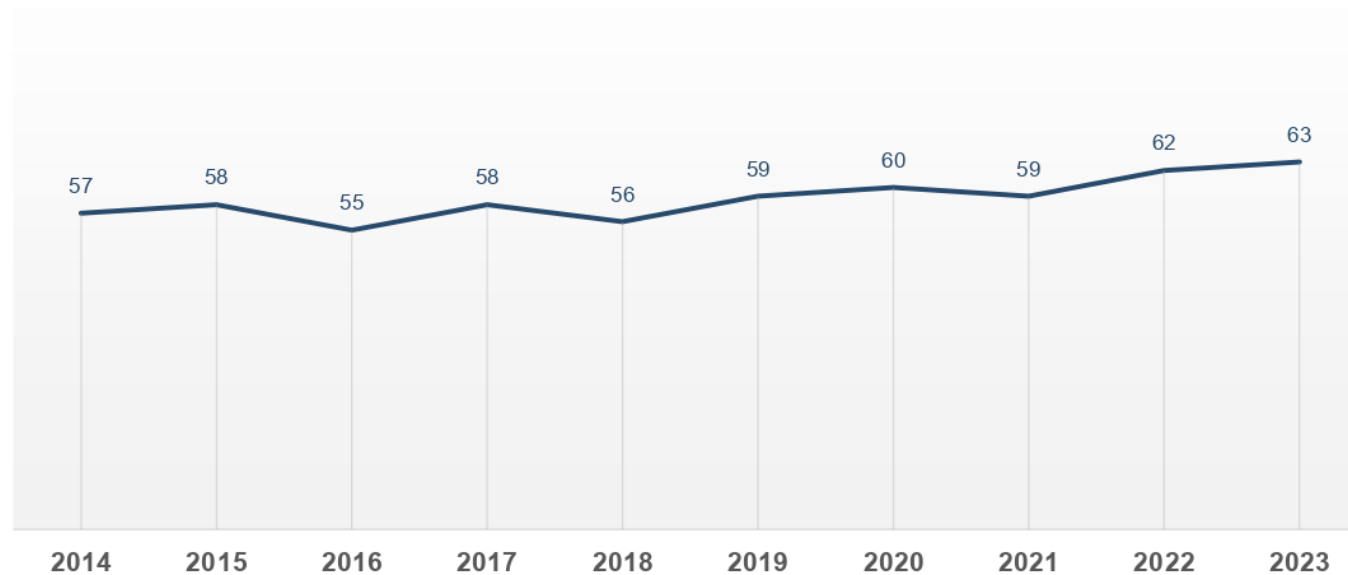
Six in ten residents (61%) provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'. This is in line with the 2022 result (60%).

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Contact with council

2023 contact with council (%)
Have had contact



Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Gannawarra Shire Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 41 Councils asked group: 16

J W S R E S E A R C H 29

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Contact with council

2023 contact with council (%)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Patchell Ward	69	63	62	67	59	57	58	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	68	65	52	58	63	52	54	54	56	55
Small Rural	66	63	63	66	63	64	62	61	64	n/a
35-49	65	78	70	76	53	64	59	62	66	66
Men	64	61	57	58	59	53	64	58	57	57
18-34	64	48	58	64	78	51	64	59	60	51
Gannawarra	63	62	59	60	59	56	58	55	58	57
Avoca Ward	63	56	55	40	77	63	63	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	62	60	61	63	61	61	58	58	60	61
Women	62	63	61	63	60	58	51	53	58	57
65+	60	60	57	53	51	56	55	51	53	56
Murray Ward	59	65	64	61	75	69	63	n/a	n/a	n/a
Yarran Ward	56	61	56	54	52	45	51	n/a	n/a	n/a

Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Gannawarra Shire Council?
This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 41 Councils asked group: 16

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

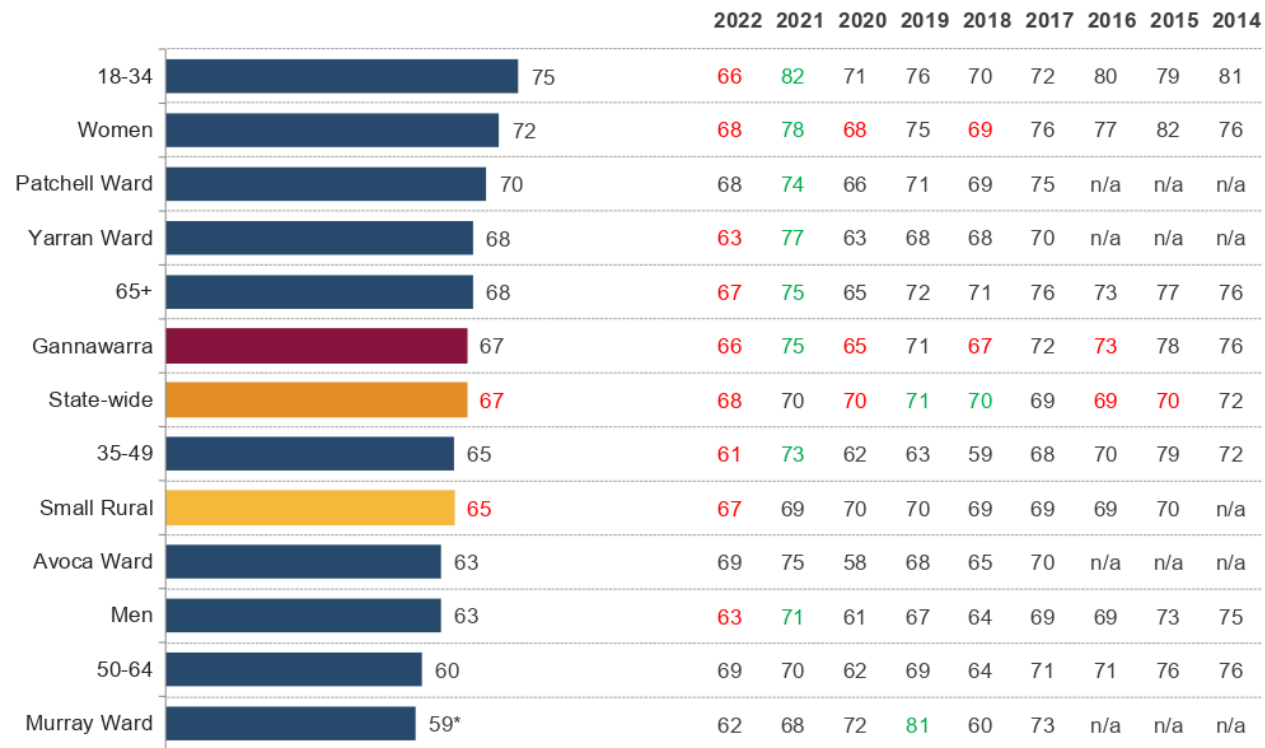
J W S R E S E A R C H 30

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Customer service rating

2023 customer service rating (index scores)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Gannawarra Shire Council for customer service?
 Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received.
 Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.
 Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size < n=30

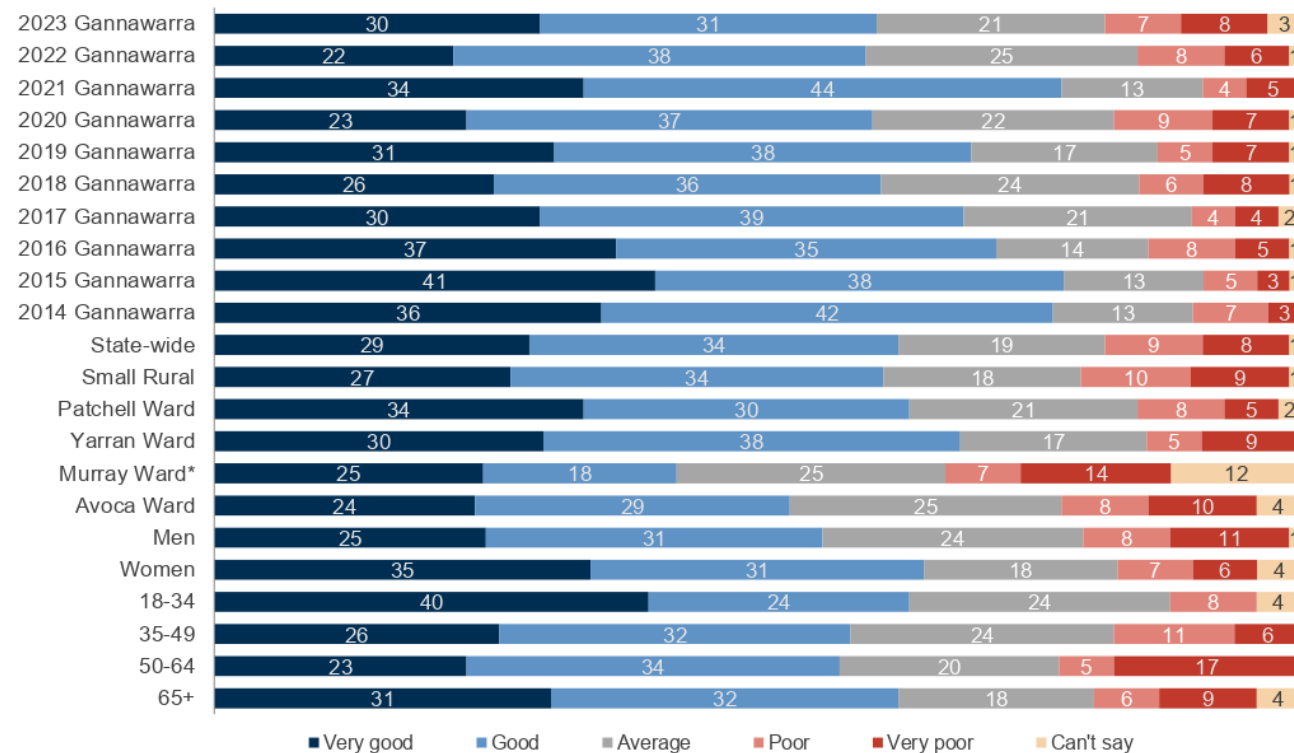
J W S R E S E A R C H 31

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Customer service rating

2023 customer service rating (%)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Gannawarra Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received.

Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

*Caution: small sample size < n=30

J W S R E S E A R C H 32

Communication



J W S R E S E A R C H 33



Communication

The preferred form of communication from Council about news and information and upcoming events is a newsletter sent via mail (27%) followed by social media (21%).

The greatest change since 2022 has been social media (up five percentage points).

Preference for a newsletter via email (16%) remains steady. Local paper advertising continues to trend downwards.

The least preferred forms of communication continue to be text message (4%) and website (2%)

When looked at by age:

- Residents under 50 years of age are twice as likely to prefer communication by social media (40%), than their second preference, by a newsletter in the mail (22%).
- Those aged 50 years and over prefer communication by a newsletter sent via mail (30%) followed by an advertisement in the local paper (17%) and newsletter in the local paper (17%) with social media at 10%.

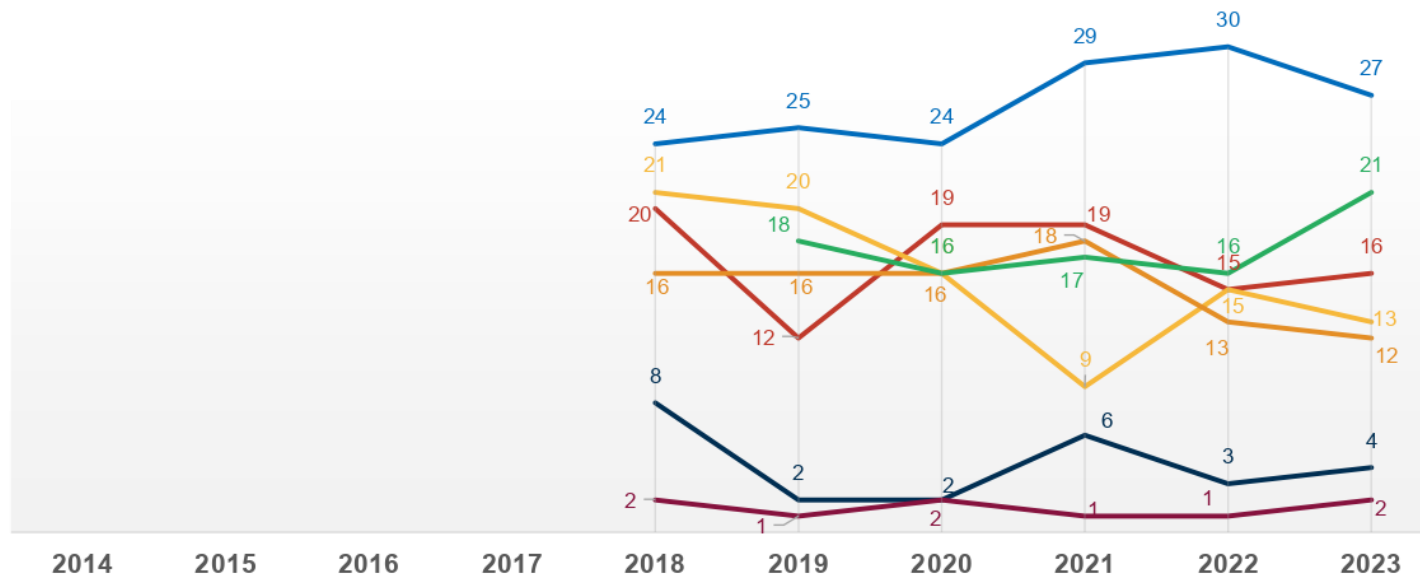


J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Best form of communication

2023 best form of communication (%)



Q13. If Gannawarra Shire Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 40 Councils asked group: 11

Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

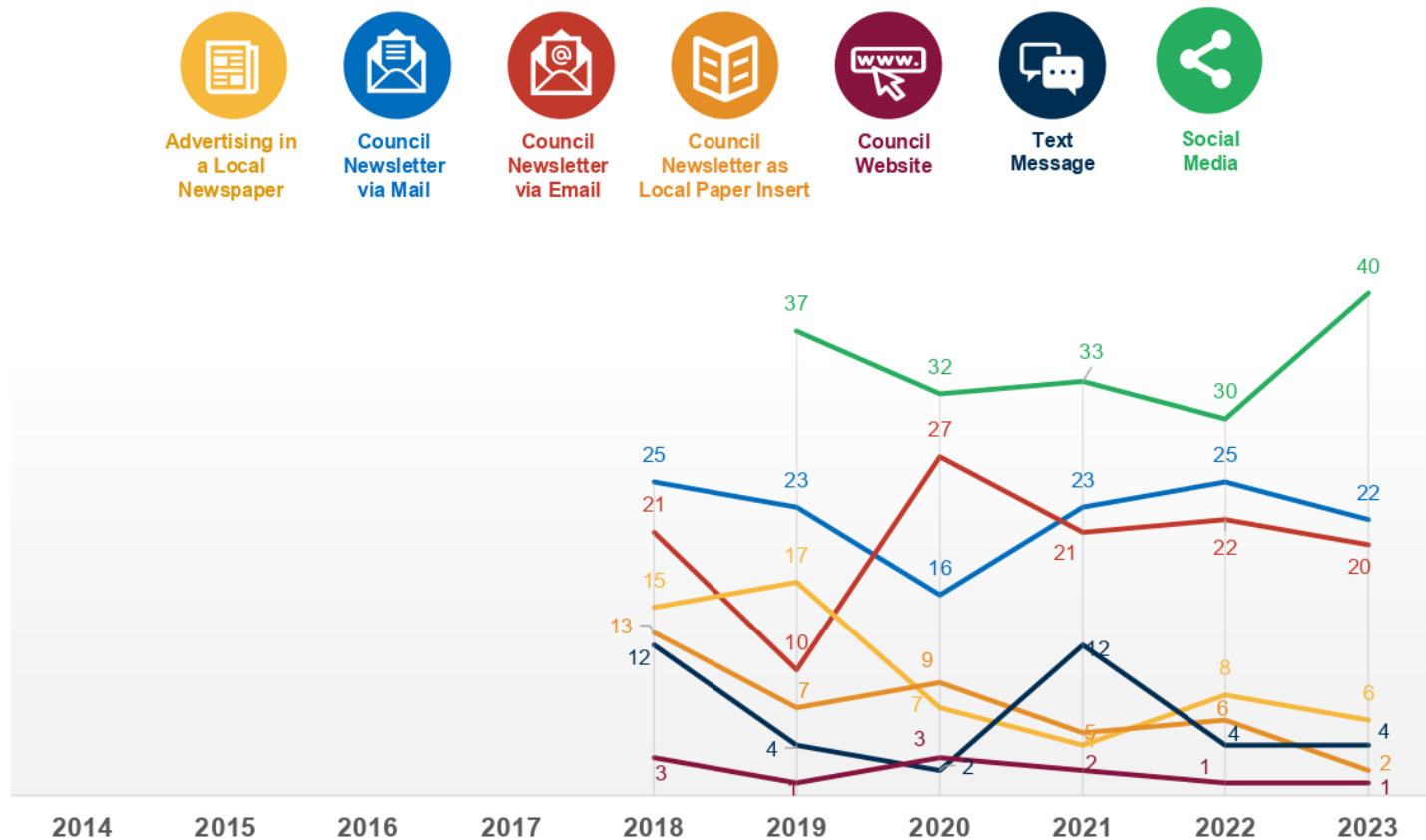
J W S R E S E A R C H 35

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Best form of communication: under 50s

2023 under 50s best form of communication (%)



Q13. If Gannawarra Shire Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

Base: All respondents aged under 50. Councils asked State-wide: 40 Councils asked group: 11

Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

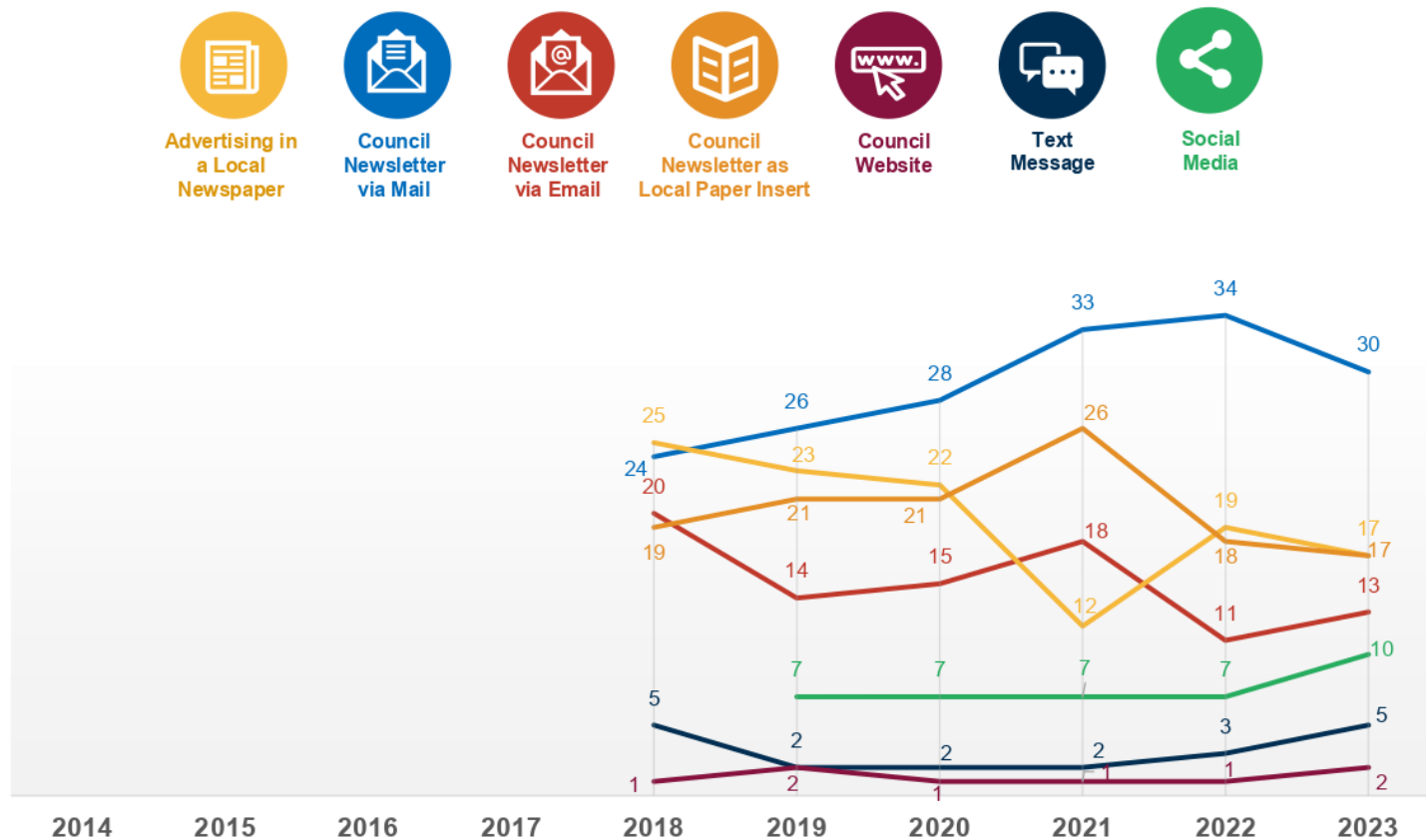
J W S R E S E A R C H 36

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Best form of communication: over 50s

2023 over 50s best form of communication (%)



Q13. If Gannawarra Shire Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

Base: All respondents aged over 50. Councils asked State-wide: 40 Councils asked group: 11

Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

J W S R E S E A R C H 37

Council direction

J W S R E S E A R C H 38



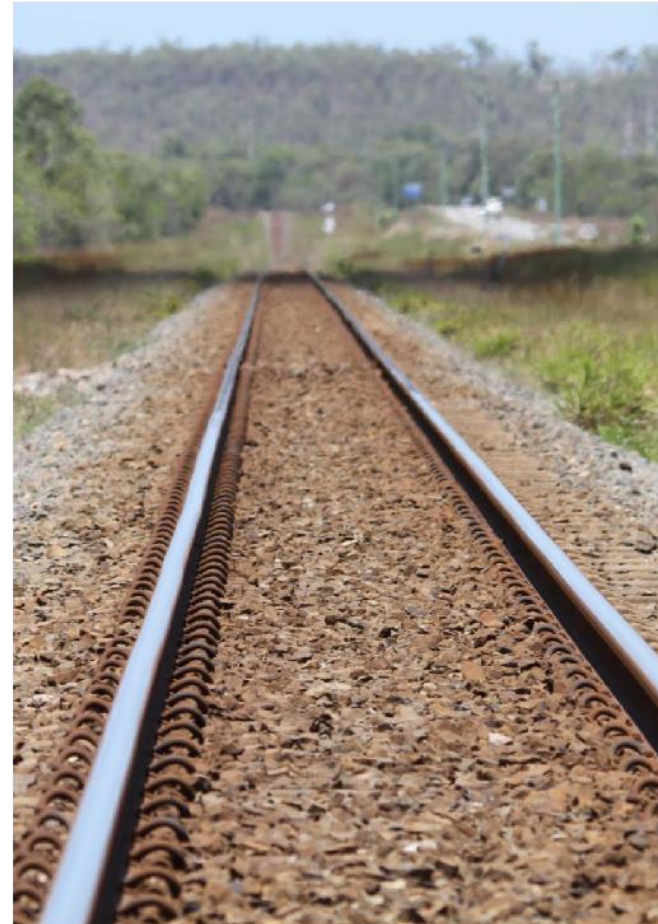
Council direction

Perceptions of Council's overall direction (index score of 45) have stabilised since 2022 (index score of 42), following a significant decline from 2021 (index score of 57).

- Perceptions of Council direction are highest among residents aged 18 to 34 years, and have significantly increased among Patchell Ward residents, women and those aged 65+ years.
- Perceptions of Council direction are lowest among residents aged 35 to 49 years (significantly below the Council average), Yarran Ward residents and men.

Over the last 12 months most residents (59% compared to 50% in 2022) believe the direction of Council's overall performance has stayed the same (fewer say it has deteriorated).

- 14% believe the direction has improved (15% in 2022).
- 24% believe it has deteriorated (down from 30% in 2022).



J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Overall council direction last 12 months

2023 overall council direction (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
18-34	52	58	59	23	61	60	67	57	71	69
Patchell Ward	49	42	57	28	50	55	59	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	48	40	64	26	54	53	62	54	66	64
65+	47	40	64	29	49	51	57	56	65	63
Small Rural	47	51	53	50	53	50	52	50	53	n/a
State-wide	46	50	53	51	53	52	53	51	53	53
Gannawarra	45	42	57	26	51	52	57	54	64	62
Murray Ward	44	46	55	40	64	49	63	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	43	37	48	28	42	51	55	48	63	54
Avoca Ward	43	40	53	37	45	51	57	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	41	44	51	26	48	51	53	54	63	60
Yarran Ward	41	43	59	18	50	51	53	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	34▼	40	50	21	53	48	53	56	59	62

Q6. Over the last 12 months, what is your view of the direction of Gannawarra Shire Council's overall performance?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

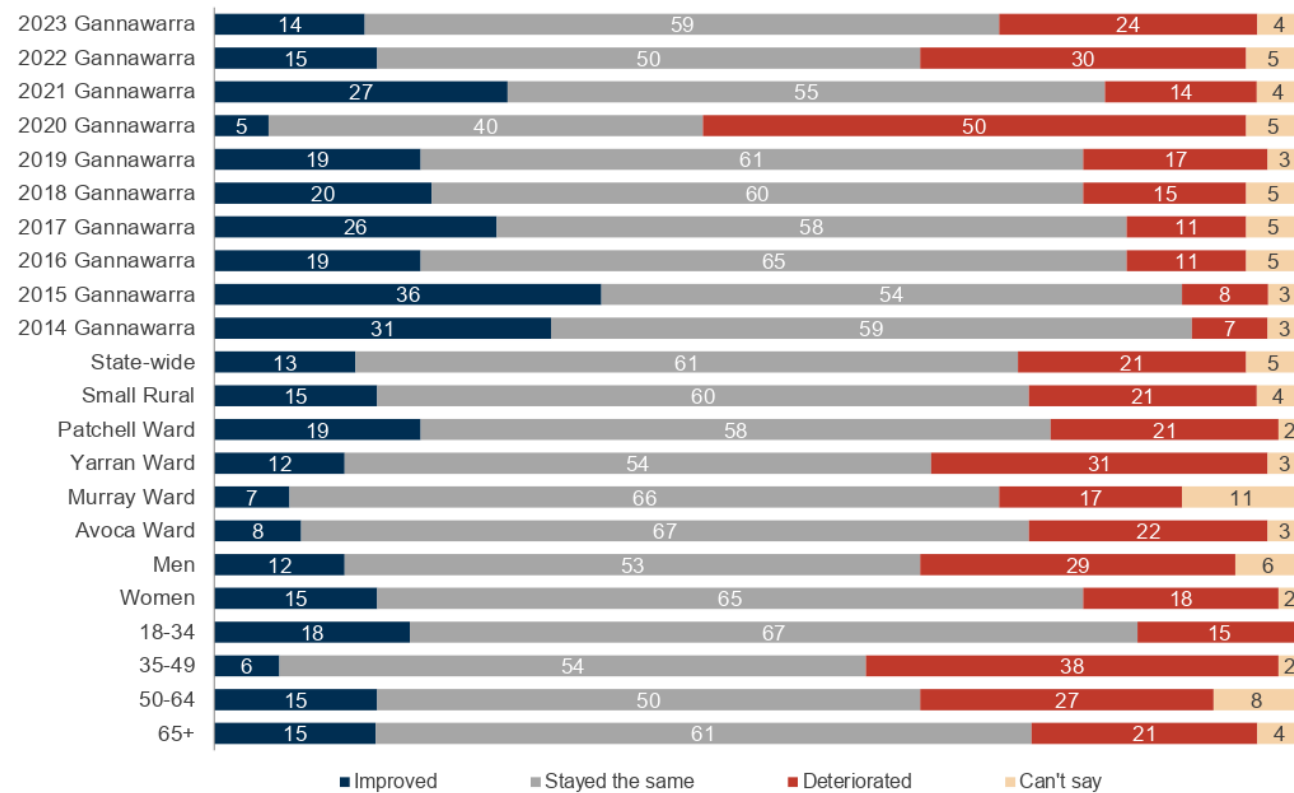
J W S R E S E A R C H 40

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Overall council direction last 12 months

2023 overall council direction (%)



Q6. Over the last 12 months, what is your view of the direction of Gannawarra Shire Council's overall performance?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

J W S R E S E A R C H 41

Individual service areas



J W S R E S E A R C H 42

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Community consultation and engagement performance



2023 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Patchell Ward	54	47	56	43	52	52	58	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	53▲	54	56	54	56	54	55	55	56	n/a
65+	53	45	58	48	58	56	59	59	66	66
State-wide	52▲	54	56	55	56	55	55	54	56	57
Women	51	47	58	45	55	55	62	61	67	65
18-34	51	55	59	36	58	54	65	68	74	68
Avoca Ward	50	50	63	45	42	49	56	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gannawarra	49	46	56	43	55	54	60	60	65	65
Men	47	44	53	40	55	52	57	59	63	65
50-64	47	43	51	43	49	54	55	57	58	61
Yarran Ward	45	41	53	39	58	59	61	n/a	n/a	n/a
Murray Ward	42	52	50	55	67	53	64	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	40▼	43	51	38	54	51	62	58	62	65

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Community consultation and engagement' over the last 12 months?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 43

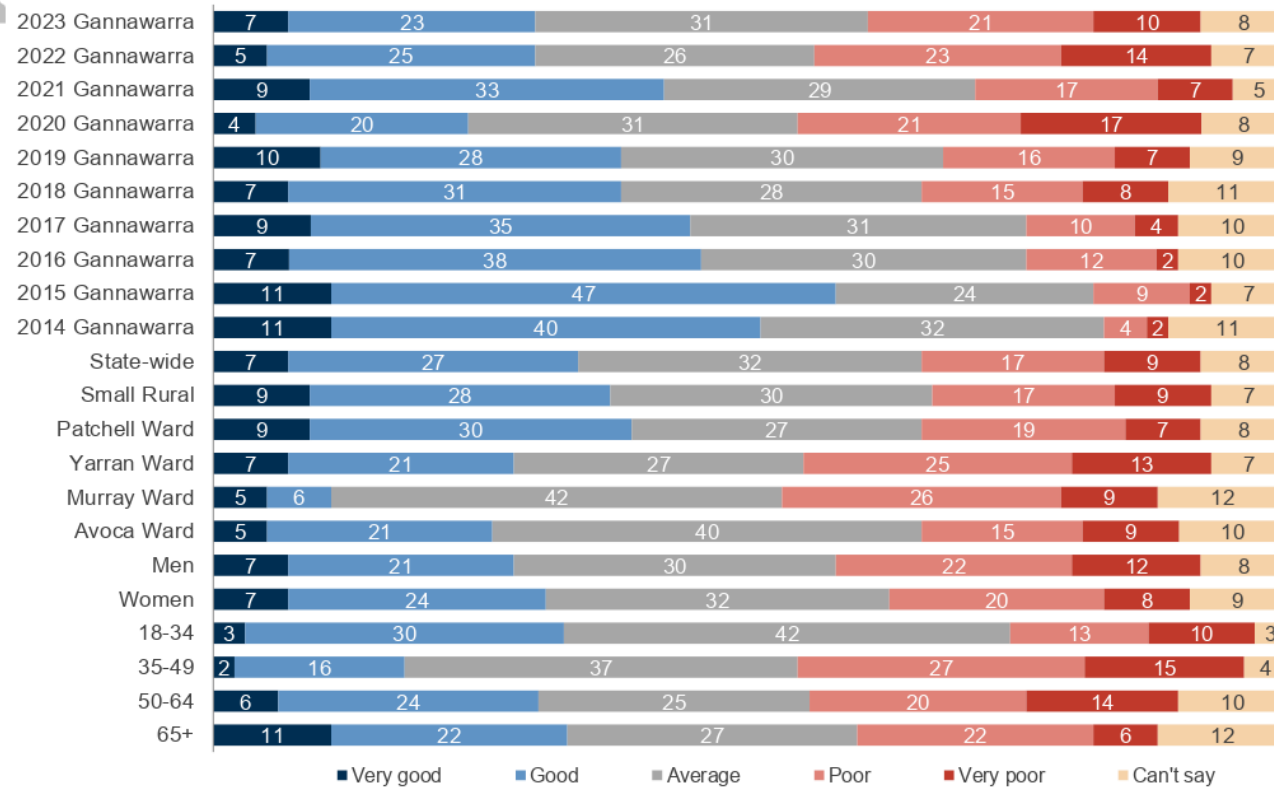
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Community consultation and engagement performance



2023 consultation and engagement performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Community consultation and engagement' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

J W S R E S E A R C H 44

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



2023 lobbying performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
65+	53	45	59	44	55	55	58	55	66	63
Patchell Ward	52	50	55	41	51	51	57	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	52▲	54	55	52	55	53	55	54	56	n/a
Women	51	49	56	43	52	56	60	58	65	65
State-wide	51	53	55	53	54	54	54	53	55	56
18-34	50	56	58	36	58	59	63	62	65	72
Gannawarra	49	47	55	39	52	54	58	57	62	63
Avoca Ward	48	50	62	43	44	49	57	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	48	49	51	35	45	57	53	54	56	58
Men	46	46	54	36	52	51	57	57	60	61
Yarran Ward	46	42	54	35	54	60	59	n/a	n/a	n/a
Murray Ward	46	50	52	45	59	54	60	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	38▼	43	49	36	49	44	58	60	60	62

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Lobbying on behalf of the community' over the last 12 months?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 51 Councils asked group: 14

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 45

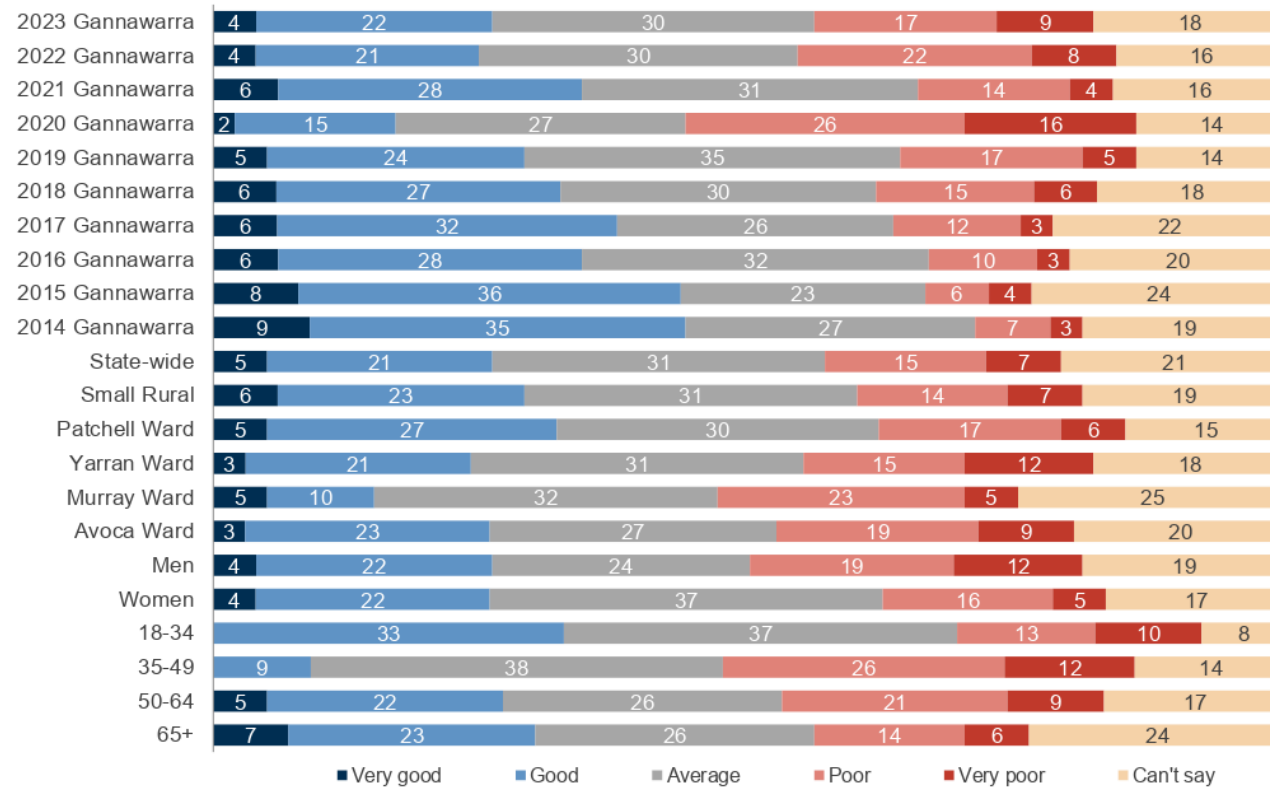
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Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



2023 lobbying performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Lobbying on behalf of the community' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 51 Councils asked group: 14

J W S R E S E A R C H 46

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council

Decisions made in the interest of the community performance



2023 community decisions made performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
18-34	55▲	56	58	44	54	58	69	60	69	71
Patchell Ward	52	48	54	41	48	52	58	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	52▲	54	56	53	55	52	55	53	56	n/a
State-wide	51▲	54	56	53	55	54	54	54	55	57
Murray Ward	51	50	61	46	64	59	62	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	51	46	57	42	54	55	59	61	65	66
Women	50	48	57	41	52	54	61	62	66	65
Gannawarra	48	46	55	39	52	54	60	59	64	66
Avoca Ward	47	50	64	46	48	49	58	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	45	44	52	36	51	54	58	57	63	66
50-64	44	45	49	38	50	55	55	57	60	61
Yarran Ward	42▼	41	51	32	55	58	61	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	36▼	38	51	27	47	47	58	60	63	64

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Decisions made in the interest of the community' over the last 12 months?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

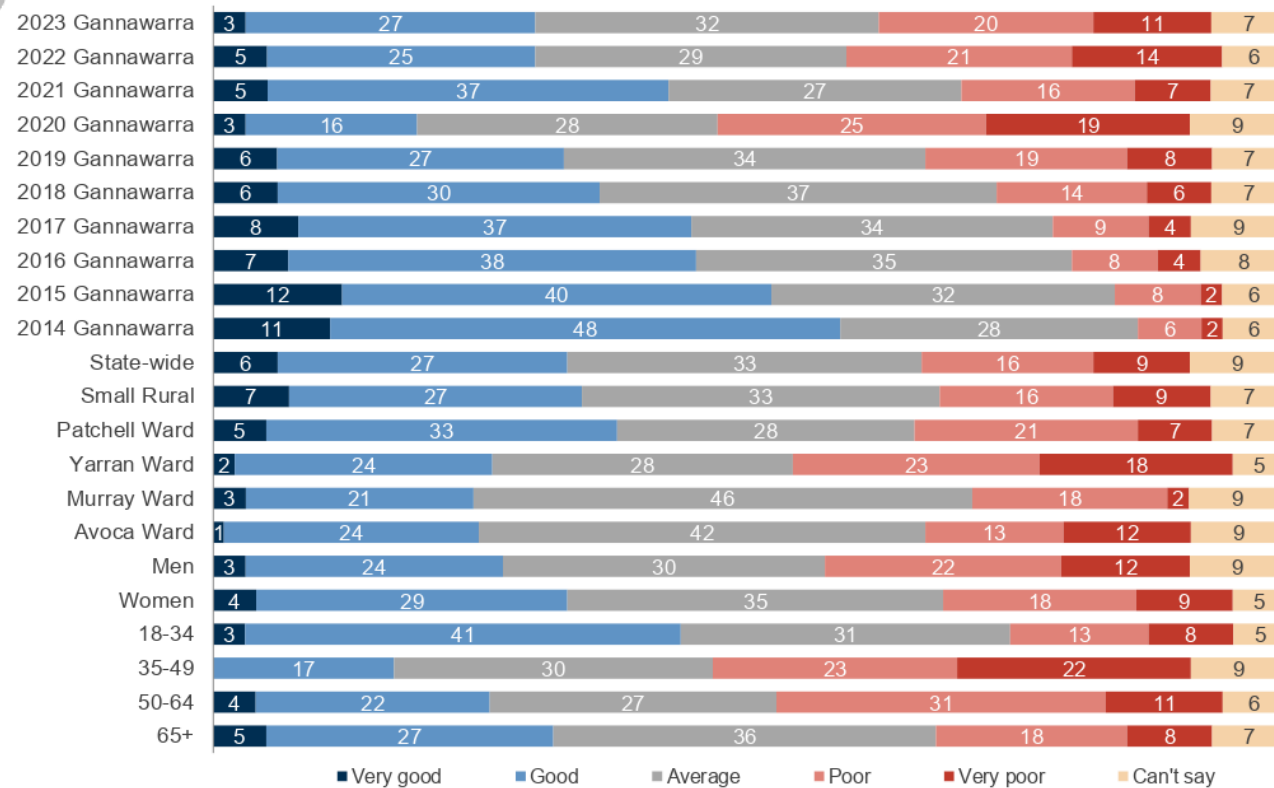
J W S R E S E A R C H 47

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council

Decisions made in the interest of the community performance



2023 community decisions made performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Decisions made in the interest of the community' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

J W S R E S E A R C H 48

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council

The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance



2023 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Patchell Ward	48▲	53	56	48	49	48	57	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	48▲	53	57	54	56	53	53	54	55	55
65+	47▲	53	57	53	53	49	53	60	63	56
Small Rural	44▲	50	53	51	53	49	50	52	52	n/a
Women	44	52	56	49	47	47	52	54	59	54
Gannawarra	41	50	54	47	50	46	51	54	58	53
50-64	40	38	48	44	46	44	52	53	49	48
Men	39	47	53	45	54	45	50	55	56	52
Yarran Ward	38	50	56	49	53	45	49	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-34	37	53	54	48	52	48	52	56	56	57
Avoca Ward	36	48	47	40	45	42	42	n/a	n/a	n/a
Murray Ward	32▼	38	52	42	50	42	50	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	31▼	49	56	37	47	40	45	46	57	50

Q2. How has Council performed on 'The condition of sealed local roads in your area' over the last 12 months?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

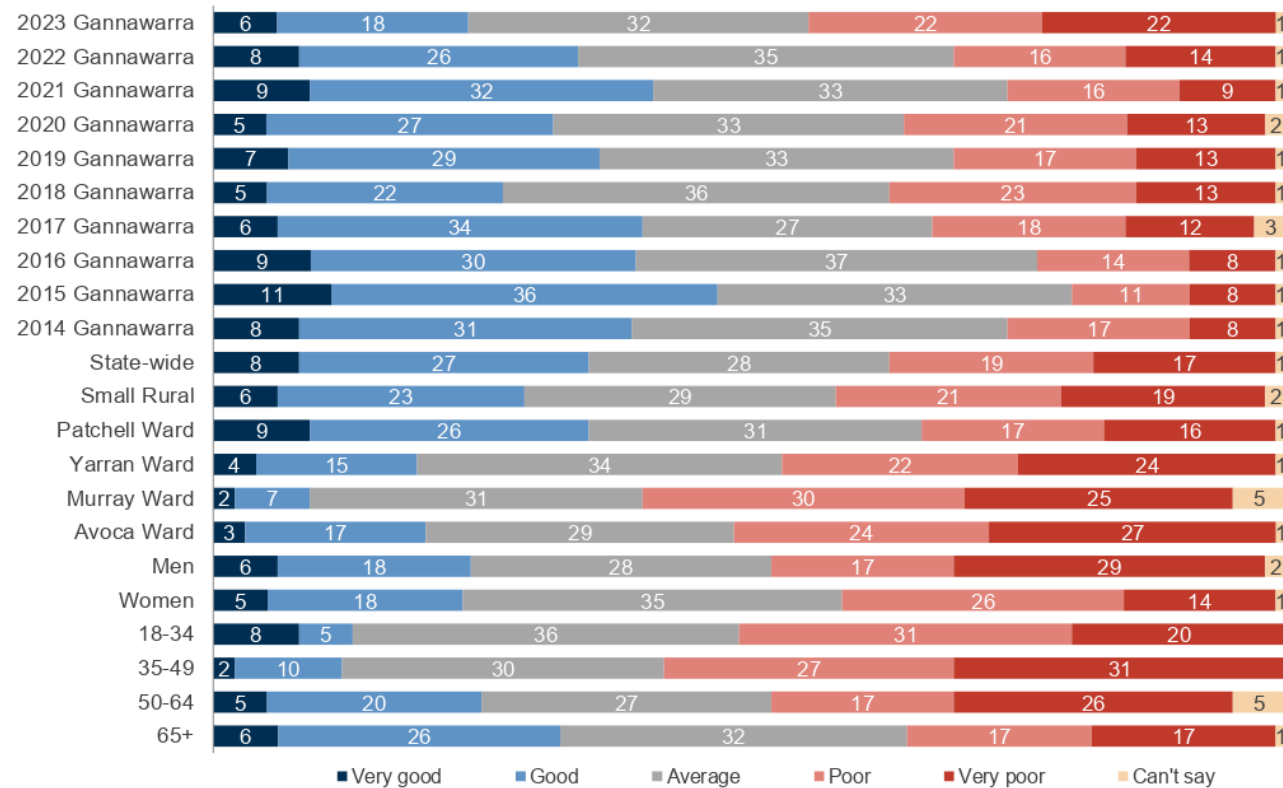
J W S R E S E A R C H 49

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council

The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance



2023 sealed local roads performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'The condition of sealed local roads in your area' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

J W S R E S E A R C H 50



Informing the community performance



2023 informing community performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Small Rural	58	59	61	58	58	56	58	58	60	n/a
Patchell Ward	58	53	62	51	57	62	62	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	58	51	66	53	61	63	64	61	70	69
Women	57	54	63	50	61	65	64	63	71	69
18-34	57	62	56	48	63	66	65	66	70	69
State-wide	57	59	60	59	60	59	59	59	61	62
Murray Ward	56	63	60	56	71	59	66	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gannawarra	56	54	60	51	60	62	63	62	68	68
Avoca Ward	54	58	60	54	51	59	64	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	54	54	57	51	58	59	63	60	65	67
Yarran Ward	53	51	58	48	64	64	63	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	52	55	56	50	55	60	61	61	63	65
35-49	50▼	52	54	49	60	58	63	59	67	69

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Informing the community' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 38 Councils asked group: 10
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 51

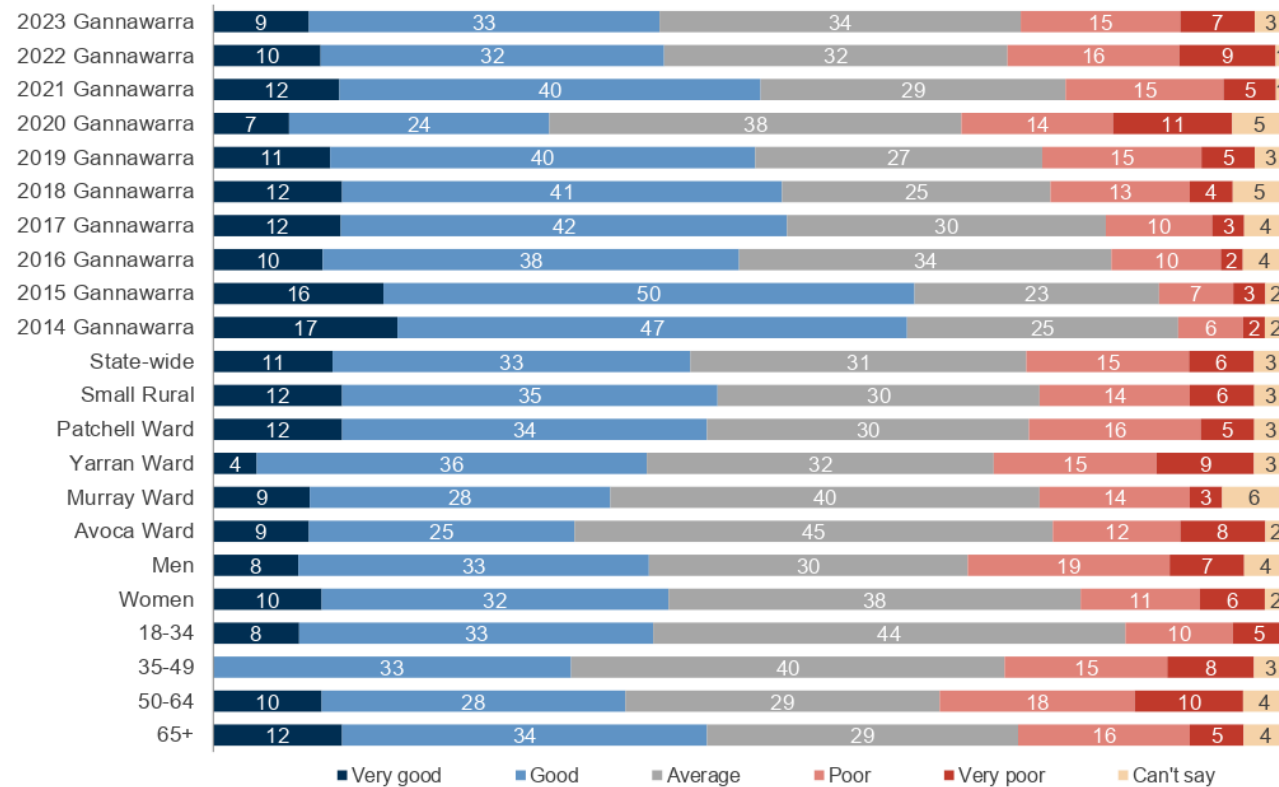
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Informing the community performance



2023 informing community performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Informing the community' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 38 Councils asked group: 10

J W S R E S E A R C H 52



Enforcement of local laws performance



2023 law enforcement performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
18-34	63	66	67	67	71	69	65	69	73	75
Patchell Ward	62	66	67	62	67	68	65	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	62	63	68	64	65	66	67	64	71	73
State-wide	61	63	64	63	64	64	64	63	66	66
Women	61	65	69	64	66	68	67	70	73	72
Small Rural	61	62	63	62	63	63	65	64	66	n/a
Gannawarra	60	64	68	63	68	67	65	66	71	72
Murray Ward	60	63	64	64	73	58	69	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	59	63	66	62	69	66	64	63	69	71
Yarran Ward	59	61	68	62	67	69	64	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	57	63	65	57	65	68	65	67	67	71
Avoca Ward	57	65	72	69	71	67	64	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	55	65	70	61	70	67	64	66	72	68

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Enforcement of local laws' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 34 Councils asked group: 10
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 53

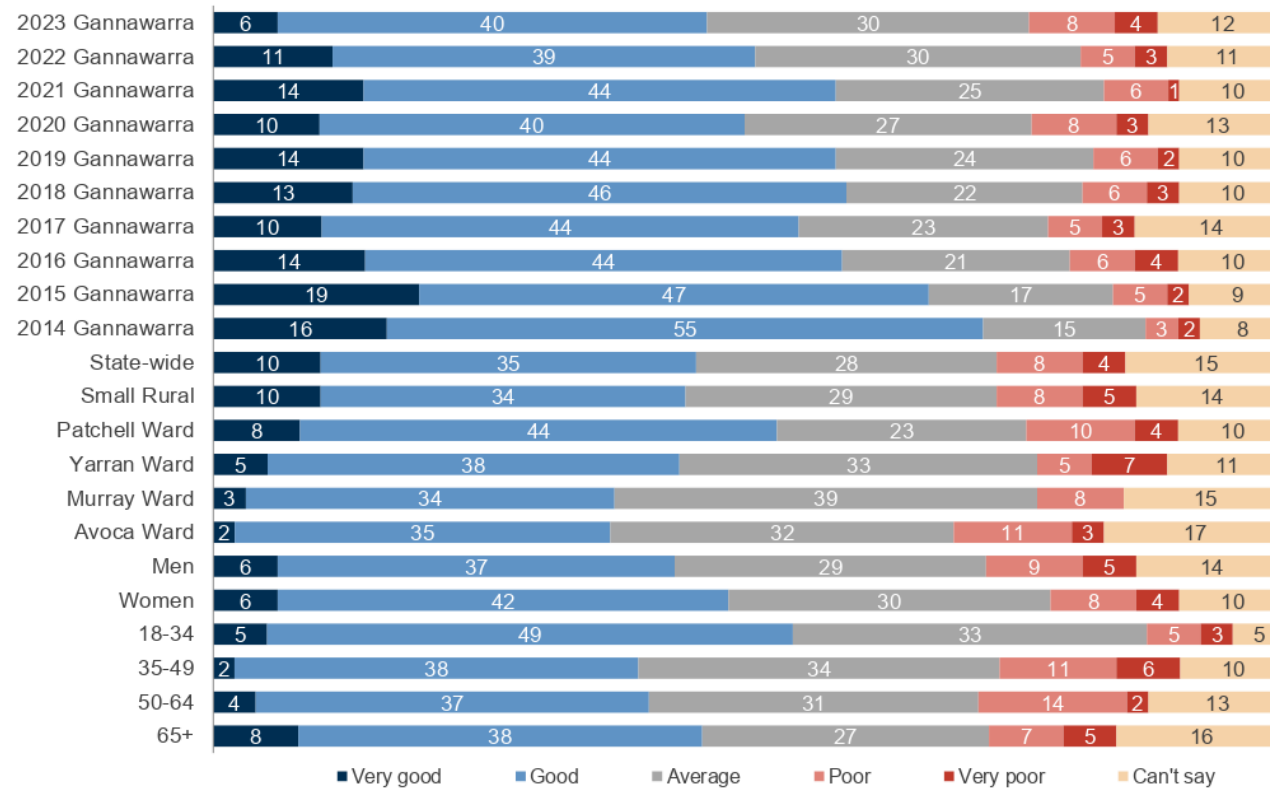
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Enforcement of local laws performance



2023 law enforcement performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Enforcement of local laws' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 34 Councils asked group: 10

J W S R E S E A R C H 54

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Family support services performance



2023 family support performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Murray Ward	69	67	71	68	72	75	66	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	68▲	72	74	72	70	72	75	73	78	76
Patchell Ward	67	68	71	66	68	66	70	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	64	61	71	65	65	66	65	66	70	74
Men	64	65	70	64	70	67	67	68	70	73
Gannawarra	63	67	69	66	69	68	69	69	73	73
Women	63	69	68	68	67	69	71	71	75	72
State-wide	63	65	66	66	67	66	67	66	67	68
Small Rural	62	64	66	66	68	67	68	66	67	n/a
18-34	60	72	61	62	72	67	72	70	74	70
Avoca Ward	60	64	71	52	63	68	68	n/a	n/a	n/a
Yarran Ward	60	66	64	68	71	69	71	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	55▼	56	66	57	66	65	61	67	64	68

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Family support services' over the last 12 months?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 30 Councils asked group: 8

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 55

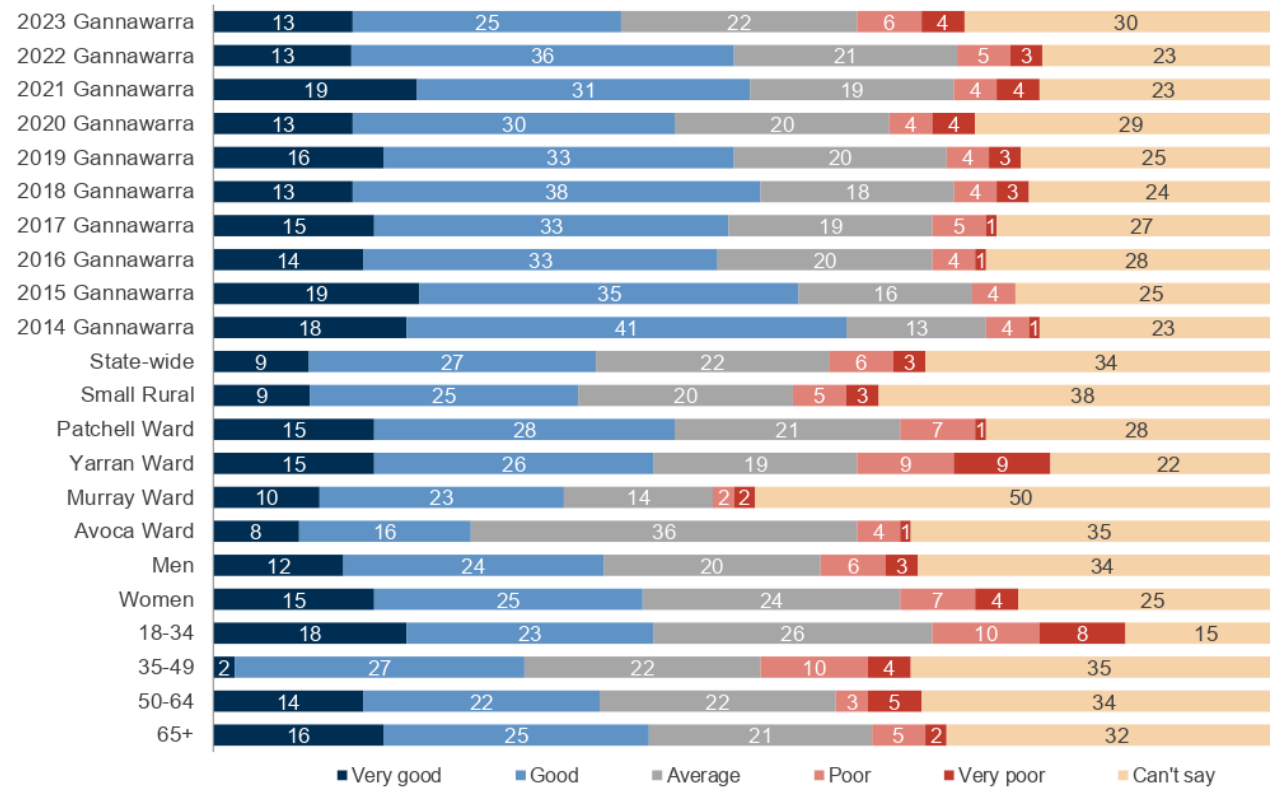
J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Family support services performance



2023 family support performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Family support services' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 30 Councils asked group: 8

J W S R E S E A R C H 56

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Elderly support services performance



2023 elderly support performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
65+	72	73	80	76	75	73	76	76	83	80
Patchell Ward	70	76	80	73	73	71	74	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	69	73	78	73	73	72	72	74	82	80
Gannawarra	68	73	77	72	72	71	74	74	80	79
Yarran Ward	68	72	75	72	74	74	77	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	68	73	76	72	72	69	75	74	78	78
50-64	67	72	76	71	72	66	67	68	75	80
Murray Ward	66	68	72	78	68	66	72	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-34	66	75	77	71	72	72	78	79	76	79
Small Rural	66	70	72	71	71	69	71	70	72	n/a
Avoca Ward	64	64	71	67	66	64	69	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	63▼	67	69	68	68	68	68	68	69	70
35-49	59▼	71	70	66	67	69	72	74	80	75

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Elderly support services' over the last 12 months?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 29 Councils asked group: 9

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 57

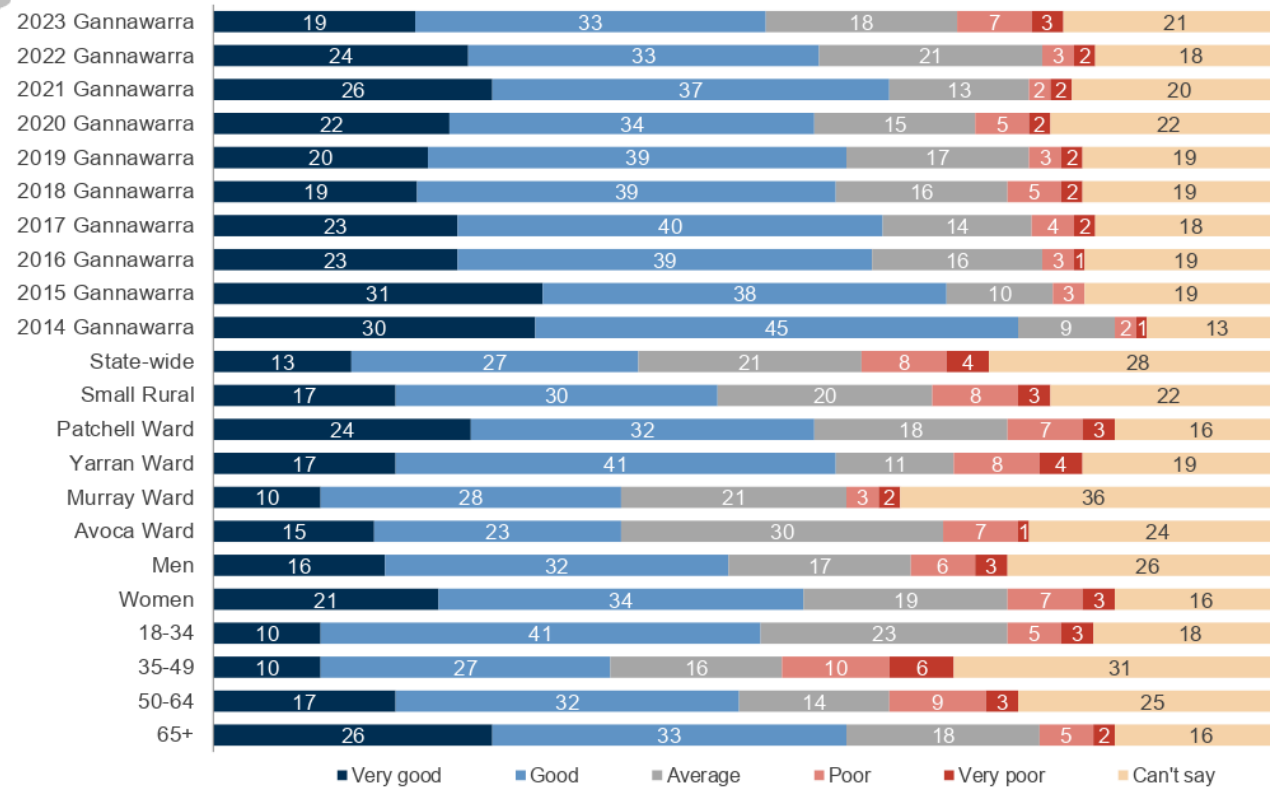
J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Elderly support services performance



2023 elderly support performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Elderly support services' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 29 Councils asked group: 9

J W S R E S E A R C H 58

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Recreational facilities performance



2023 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
65+	70	69	79	71	77	75	75	75	82	79
Murray Ward	69	64	76	67	74	73	70	n/a	n/a	n/a
Patchell Ward	68	68	71	65	70	71	74	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	68	69	71	70	70	69	70	69	70	71
Men	68	65	73	64	70	72	71	75	77	75
Gannawarra	67	67	72	65	72	72	73	73	77	77
Small Rural	67	69	69	68	68	69	69	68	70	n/a
Women	66	69	71	66	74	71	74	70	77	78
35-49	66	56	69	61	69	65	69	67	69	77
Yarran Ward	66	67	75	67	75	74	74	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avoca Ward	64	61	68	58	68	66	71	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	64	66	70	65	68	70	71	73	76	76
18-34	61	76	64	57	71	74	75	75	75	73

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Recreational facilities' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 43 Councils asked group: 13
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 59

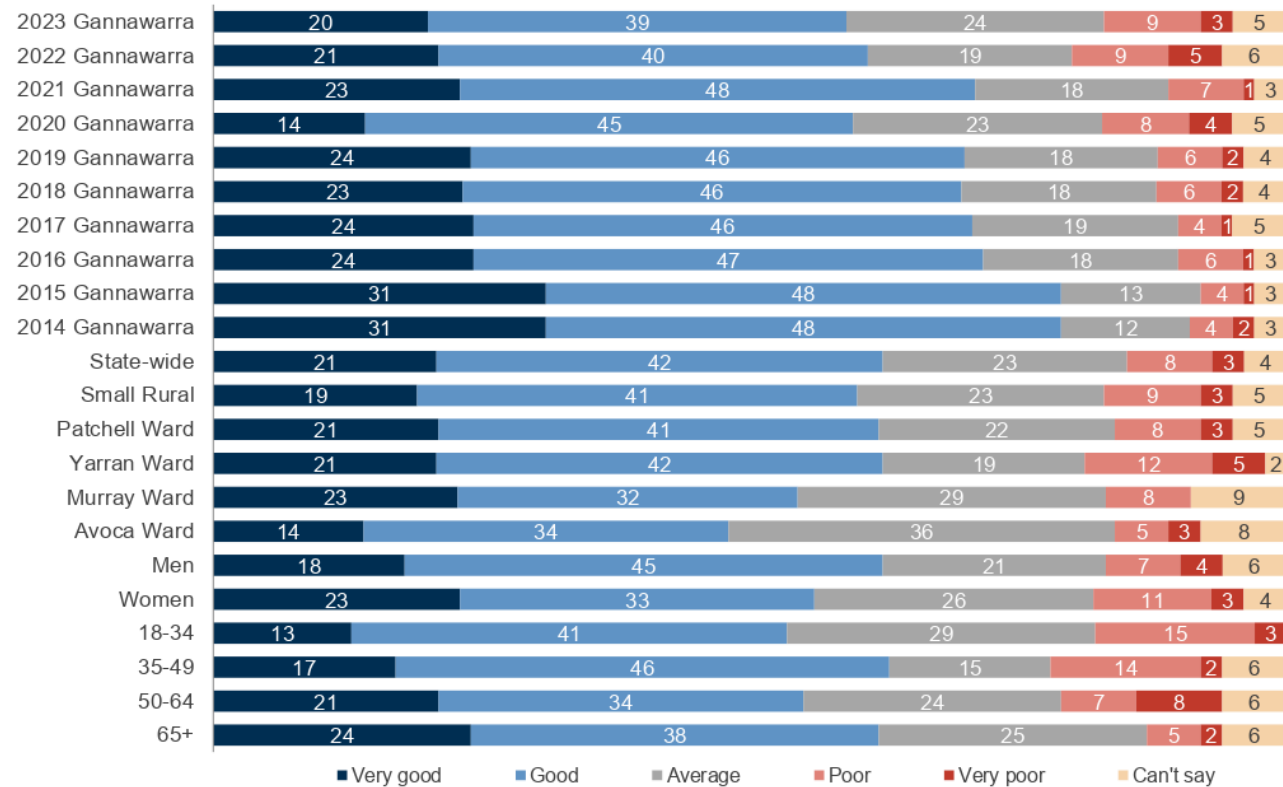
J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Recreational facilities performance



2023 recreational facilities performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Recreational facilities' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 43 Councils asked group: 13

J W S R E S E A R C H 60

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



The appearance of public areas performance



2023 public areas performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
65+	78▲	74	79	70	74	73	73	76	80	78
Yarran Ward	76	75	76	71	77	76	76	n/a	n/a	n/a
Patchell Ward	76	75	76	72	72	72	75	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	75	75	74	71	71	72	73	77	75	80
Men	75	74	75	69	71	73	74	76	78	76
Gannawarra	74	75	75	71	73	73	75	76	79	78
Women	72	77	75	73	75	73	75	77	81	81
18-34	71	80	64	71	72	76	77	77	82	75
Small Rural	71▼	73	75	72	73	72	74	73	74	n/a
Murray Ward	67	76	74	68	75	73	75	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	67▼	71	73	72	72	71	71	71	72	72
Avoca Ward	67▼	75	71	66	64	68	70	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	63▼	74	78	73	76	71	78	76	78	81

Q2. How has Council performed on 'The appearance of public areas' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 45 Councils asked group: 14
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 61

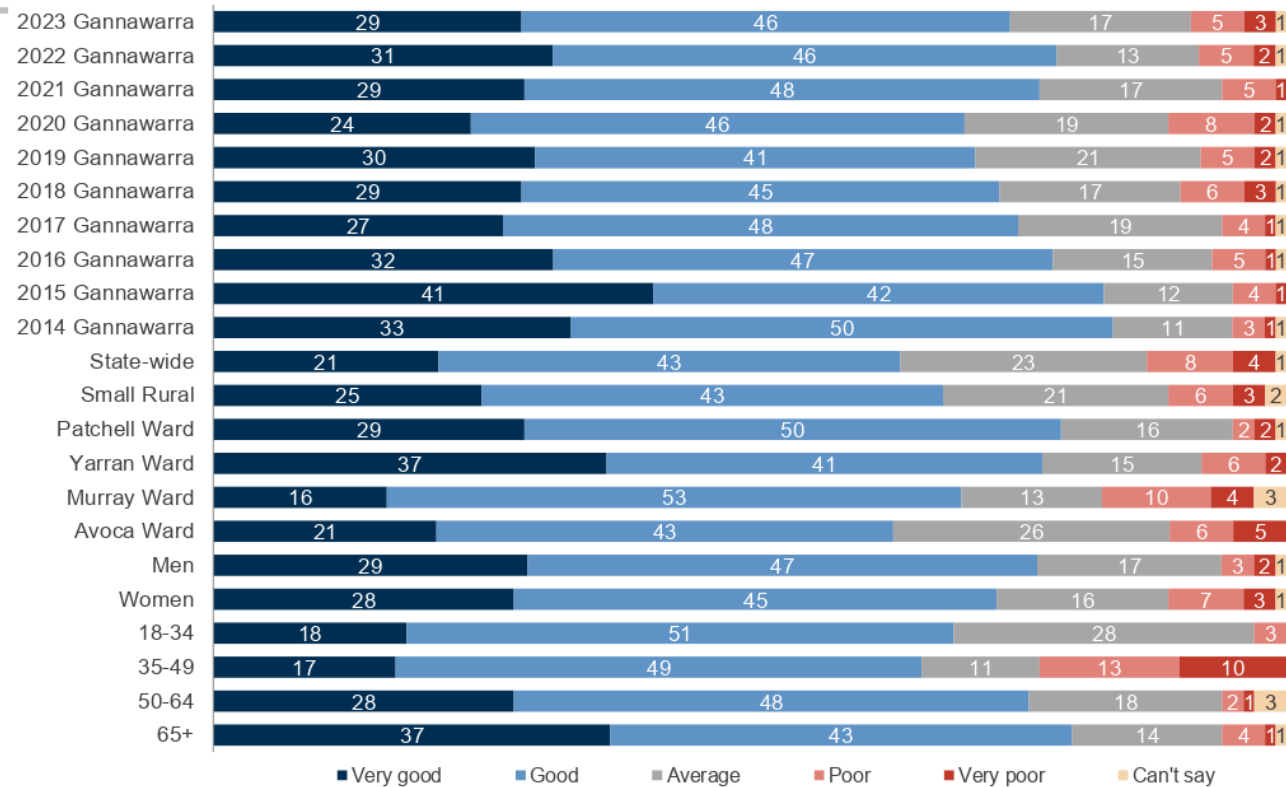
J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



The appearance of public areas performance



2023 public areas performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'The appearance of public areas' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 45 Councils asked group: 14

J W S R E S E A R C H 62

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Art centres and libraries performance



2023 art centres and libraries performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
65+	77▲	76	79	80	81	80	n/a	78	82	82
Patchell Ward	74	75	78	77	80	80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	73	73	73	74	74	74	73	72	73	75
Small Rural	73	71	72	74	74	73	72	71	69	n/a
Men	71	68	75	72	77	76	n/a	74	76	73
Gannawarra	71	72	76	76	77	77	n/a	76	79	79
Women	71	75	77	79	78	79	n/a	77	81	83
Avoca Ward	71	69	76	68	75	74	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	71	73	70	75	75	78	n/a	73	75	76
Yarran Ward	70	70	73	76	74	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-34	64▼	72	75	71	76	76	n/a	74	79	78
Murray Ward	63	63	71	67	77	76	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	62▼	61	74	72	73	73	n/a	75	76	77

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Art centres and libraries' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 30 Councils asked group: 6
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 63

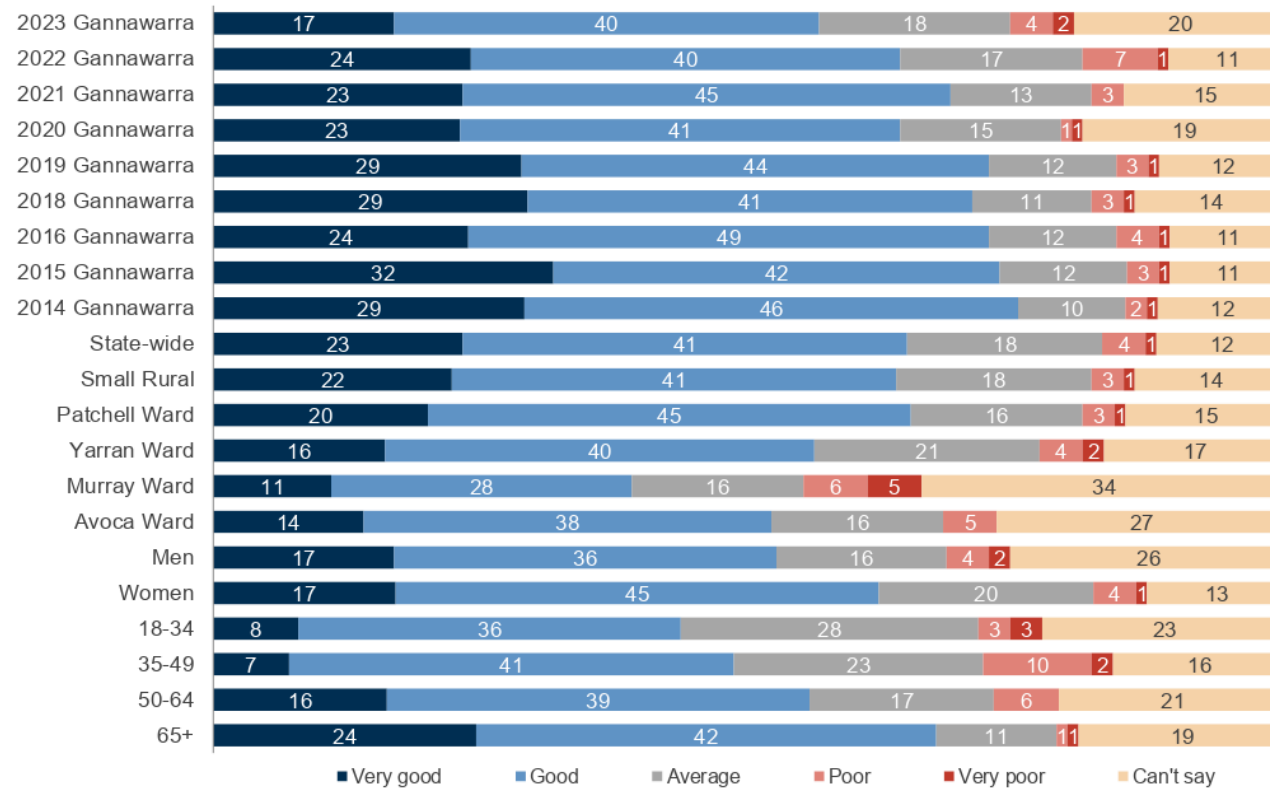
J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Art centres and libraries performance



2023 art centres and libraries performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Art centres and libraries' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 30 Councils asked group: 6

J W S R E S E A R C H 64

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Waste management performance



2023 waste management performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
65+	69▲	72	76	71	77	74	n/a	75	80	77
Murray Ward	68	70	77	76	72	72	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	66	68	69	65	68	70	71	70	72	73
Small Rural	66	68	68	64	66	69	70	69	71	n/a
Patchell Ward	66	73	74	65	72	73	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	64	73	72	67	71	74	n/a	74	78	75
Gannawarra	64	72	73	67	72	72	n/a	74	77	75
Men	64	72	74	67	72	71	n/a	74	76	75
18-34	63	79	74	65	69	75	n/a	77	77	74
Yarran Ward	62	74	72	71	72	72	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avoca Ward	59	68	69	59	66	70	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	57▼	69	67	65	68	71	n/a	74	71	74
35-49	56▼	70	70	62	67	66	n/a	68	75	72

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Waste management' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 65

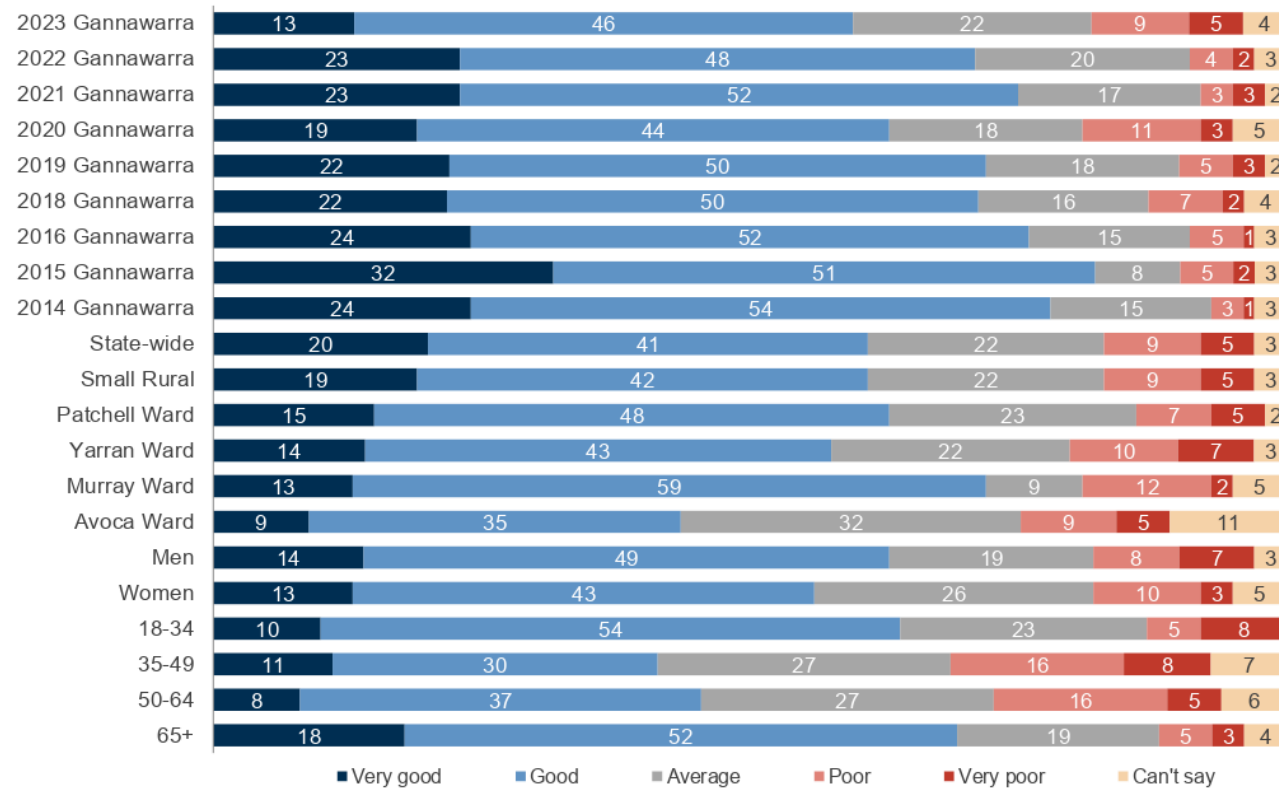
J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council



Waste management performance



2023 waste management performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Waste management' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

J W S R E S E A R C H 66

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council

Business and community development and tourism performance



2023 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
18-34	65▲	71	57	47	64	61	76	65	65	70
65+	64▲	60	66	55	59	64	66	63	71	69
Murray Ward	62	73	65	56	71	64	73	n/a	n/a	n/a
Yarran Ward	61	65	63	49	68	67	66	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	61	63	62	58	59	59	64	61	63	n/a
Women	60	63	63	50	59	64	67	65	69	70
Patchell Ward	60	61	61	48	50	58	61	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gannawarra	59	63	62	49	58	61	65	62	66	67
State-wide	59	60	61	59	61	60	61	60	61	62
Men	58	63	62	48	58	58	64	59	63	64
50-64	51▼	60	63	48	57	62	59	57	60	63
Avoca Ward	49▼	54	63	46	59	54	67	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	49▼	65	59	39	52	55	63	64	64	66

Q2. How has Council performed on 'Business and community development and tourism' over the last 12 months?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 31 Councils asked group: 8

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

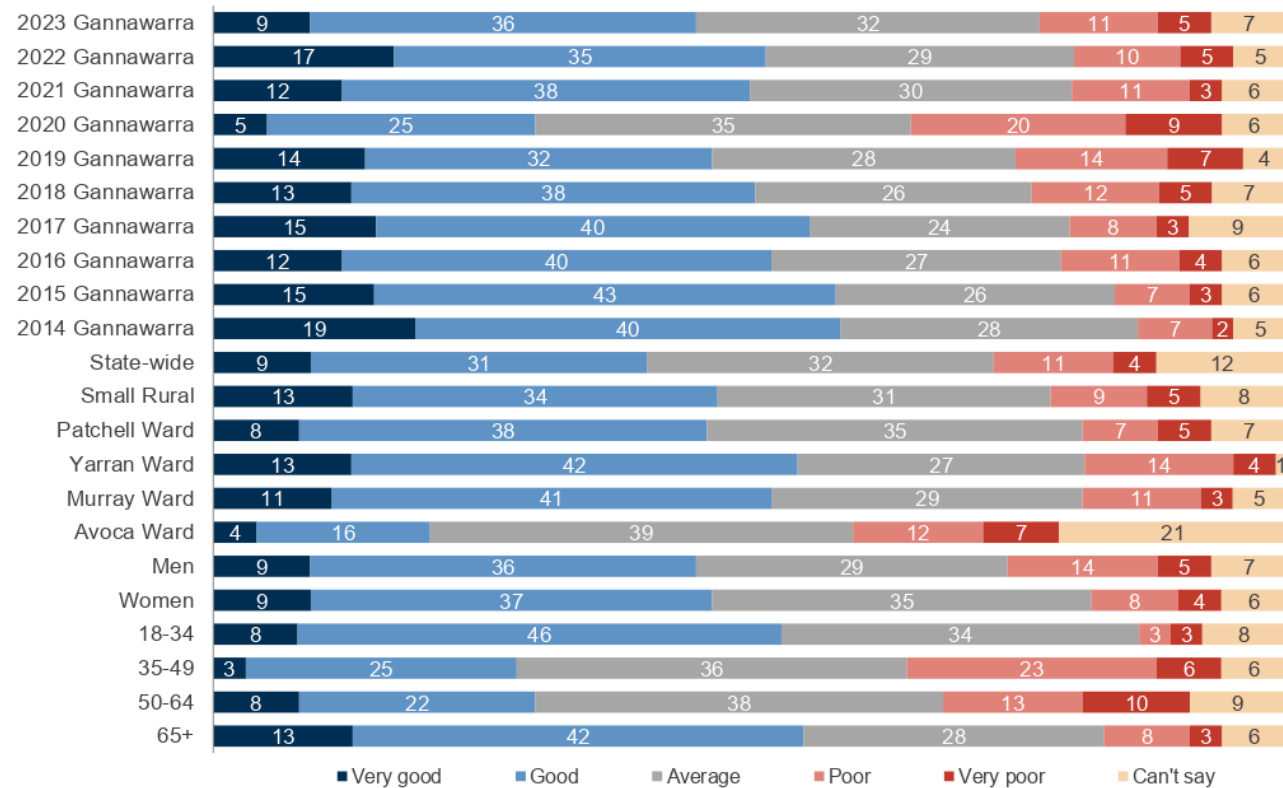
J W S R E S E A R C H 67

J01207 Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 – Gannawarra Shire Council

Business and community development and tourism performance



2023 business/development/tourism performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed on 'Business and community development and tourism' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 31 Councils asked group: 8

J W S R E S E A R C H 68

Detailed demographics

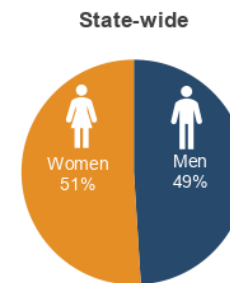
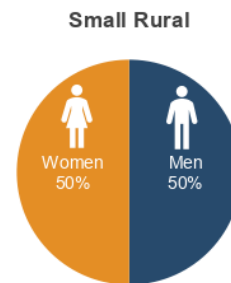
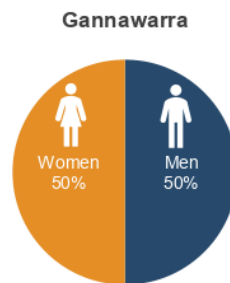


J W S R E S E A R C H 69

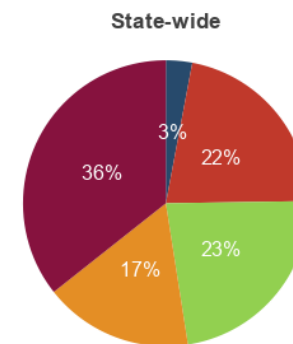
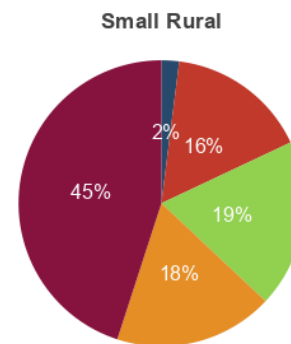
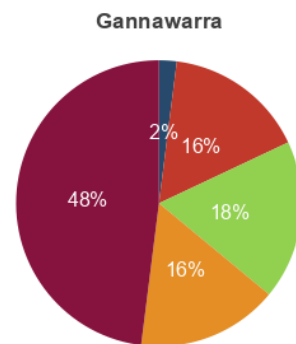


Gender and age profile

2023 gender



2023 age



■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-49 ■ 50-64 ■ 65+

■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-49 ■ 50-64 ■ 65+

■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-49 ■ 50-64 ■ 65+

S3. [Record gender] / S4. To which of the following age groups do you belong?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Please note that for the reason of simplifying reporting, interlocking age and gender reporting has not been included in this report. Interlocking age and gender analysis is still available in the dashboard and data tables provided alongside this report.

J W S R E S E A R C H 70

Appendix A: Index scores, margins of error and significant differences



J W S R E S E A R C H 71

Appendix A: Index Scores



Index Scores

Many questions ask respondents to rate council performance on a five-point scale, for example, from 'very good' to 'very poor', with 'can't say' also a possible response category. To facilitate ease of reporting and comparison of results over time, starting from the 2012 survey and measured against the state-wide result and the council group, an 'Index Score' has been calculated for such measures.

The Index Score is calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale), with 'can't say' responses excluded from the analysis. The '% RESULT' for each scale category is multiplied by the 'INDEX FACTOR'. This produces an 'INDEX VALUE' for each category, which are then summed to produce the 'INDEX SCORE', equating to '60' in the following example.

Similarly, an Index Score has been calculated for the Core question 'Performance direction in the last 12 months', based on the following scale for each performance measure category, with 'Can't say' responses excluded from the calculation.

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Very good	9%	100	9
Good	40%	75	30
Average	37%	50	19
Poor	9%	25	2
Very poor	4%	0	0
Can't say	1%	--	INDEX SCORE 60

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Improved	36%	100	36
Stayed the same	40%	50	20
Deteriorated	23%	0	0
Can't say	1%	--	INDEX SCORE 56

Appendix A: Margins of error



The sample size for the 2023 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Gannawarra Shire Council was n=400. Unless otherwise noted, this is the total sample base for all reported charts and tables.

The maximum margin of error on a sample of approximately n=400 interviews is +/-4.8% at the 95% confidence level for results around 50%. Margins of error will be larger for any sub-samples. As an example, a result of 50% can be read confidently as falling midway in the range 45.2% - 54.8%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 8,600 people aged 18 years or over for Gannawarra Shire Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Gannawarra Shire Council	400	400	+/-4.8
Men	190	200	+/-7.0
Women	210	200	+/-6.7
Patchell Ward	153	156	+/-7.9
Yarran Ward	132	133	+/-8.5
Murray Ward	51	50	+/-13.8
Avoca Ward	64	62	+/-12.3
18-34 years	39	71	+/-15.9
35-49 years	51	73	+/-13.8
50-64 years	79	65	+/-11.0
65+ years	231	190	+/-6.4

Appendix A: Significant difference reporting notation



Within tables and index score charts throughout this report, statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level are represented by upward directing green (▲) and downward directing red arrows (▼).

Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

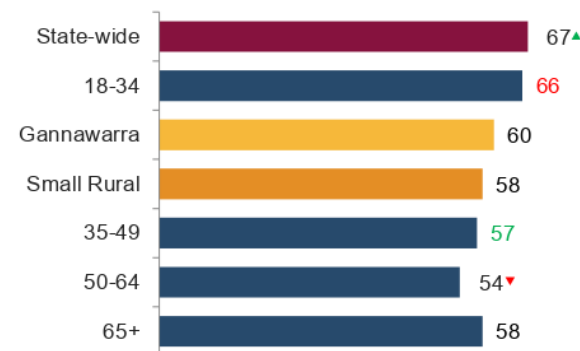
- ▲ The state-wide result is significantly higher than the overall result for the council.
- ▼ The result among 50-64 year olds is significantly lower than for the overall result for the council.

Further, results shown in green and red indicate significantly higher or lower results than in 2022.

Therefore in the example below:

- The result among 35-49 year olds in the council is **significantly higher** than the result achieved among this group in 2022.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is **significantly lower** than the result achieved among this group in 2022.

**2023 overall performance (index scores)
(example extract only)**



Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation



The test applied to the Indexes was an Independent Mean Test, as follows:

$$Z \text{ Score} = (\$1 - \$2) / \text{Sqrt} ((\$5^2 / \$3) + (\$6^2 / \$4))$$

Where:

- \$1 = Index Score 1
- \$2 = Index Score 2
- \$3 = unweighted sample count 1
- \$4 = unweighted sample count 2
- \$5 = standard deviation 1
- \$6 = standard deviation 2

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

The test was applied at the 95% confidence interval, so if the Z Score was greater than +/- 1.954 the scores are significantly different.

Appendix B: Further project information



J W S R E S E A R C H 76

Appendix B: Further information



Further information about the report and explanations about the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey can be found in this section including:

- Background and objectives
- Analysis and reporting
- Glossary of terms

Detailed survey tabulations

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

Contacts

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2023 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

(03) 8685 8555 or via email:

admin@jwsresearch.com

Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling



The 2023 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2022, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 24th March.
- 2021, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2014, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January – 11th March.

Minimum quotas of gender within age groups were applied during the fieldwork phase. Post-survey weighting was then conducted to ensure accurate representation of the age and gender profile of the Gannawarra Shire Council area.

Any variation of +/-1% between individual results and net scores in this report or the detailed survey tabulations is due to rounding. In reporting, '—' denotes not mentioned and '0%' denotes mentioned by less than 1% of respondents. 'Net' scores refer to two or more response categories being combined into one category for simplicity of reporting.

This survey was conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years in Gannawarra Shire Council.

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Gannawarra Shire Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records, including up to 60% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Gannawarra Shire Council, particularly younger people.

A total of n=400 completed interviews were achieved in Gannawarra Shire Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 27th January – 19th March, 2023.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting



All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2023, 66 of the 79 Councils throughout Victoria participated in this survey. For consistency of analysis and reporting across all projects, Local Government Victoria has aligned its presentation of data to use standard council groupings. Accordingly, the council reports for the community satisfaction survey provide analysis using these standard council groupings. Please note that councils participating across 2012-2023 vary slightly.

Council Groups

Gannawarra Shire Council is classified as a Small Rural council according to the following classification list:

- Metropolitan, Interface, Regional Centres, Large Rural & Small Rural.

Councils participating in the Small Rural group are:

- Alpine, Ararat, Benalla, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Indigo, Loddon, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Strathbogie, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.

Wherever appropriate, results for Gannawarra Shire Council for this 2023 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Small Rural group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.

Appendix B: 2012 survey revision



The survey was revised in 2012. As a result:

- The survey is now conducted as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18 years or over in local councils, whereas previously it was conducted as a 'head of household' survey.
- As part of the change to a representative resident survey, results are now weighted post survey to the known population distribution of Gannawarra Shire Council according to the most recently available Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates, whereas the results were previously not weighted.
- The service responsibility area performance measures have changed significantly and the rating scale used to assess performance has also changed.

As such, the results of the 2012 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey should be considered as a benchmark. Please note that comparisons should not be made with the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results from 2011 and prior due to the methodological and sampling changes. Comparisons in the period 2012-2023 have been made throughout this report as appropriate.

Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2023 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was designated as 'Core' and therefore compulsory inclusions for all participating Councils.

These core questions comprised:

- Overall performance last 12 months (Overall performance)
- Value for money in services and infrastructure (Value for money)
- Contact in last 12 months (Contact)
- Rating of contact (Customer service)
- Overall council direction last 12 months (Council direction)
- Community consultation and engagement (Consultation)
- Decisions made in the interest of the community (Making community decisions)
- Condition of sealed local roads (Sealed local roads)
- Waste management

Reporting of results for these core questions can always be compared against other participating councils in the council group and against all participating councils state-wide. Alternatively, some questions in the 2023 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting



Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2023 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey receives a customised report. In addition, the State government is supplied with this State-wide summary report of the aggregate results of 'Core' and 'Optional' questions asked across all council areas surveyed, which is available at:

<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/council-community-satisfaction-survey>

Tailored questions commissioned by individual councils are reported only to the commissioning council and not otherwise shared unless by express written approval of the commissioning council.

Appendix B: Glossary of terms



Core questions: Compulsory inclusion questions for all councils participating in the CSS.

CSS: 2023 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Council group: One of five classified groups, comprising: metropolitan, interface, regional centres, large rural and small rural.

Council group average: The average result for all participating councils in the council group.

Highest / lowest: The result described is the highest or lowest result across a particular demographic sub-group e.g. men, for the specific question being reported. Reference to the result for a demographic sub-group being the highest or lowest does not imply that it is significantly higher or lower, unless this is specifically mentioned.

Index score: A score calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale). This score is sometimes reported as a figure in brackets next to the category being described, e.g. men 50+ (60).

Optional questions: Questions which councils had an option to include or not.

Percentages: Also referred to as 'detailed results', meaning the proportion of responses, expressed as a percentage.

Sample: The number of completed interviews, e.g. for a council or within a demographic sub-group.

Significantly higher / lower: The result described is significantly higher or lower than the comparison result based on a statistical significance test at the 95% confidence limit. If the result referenced is statistically higher or lower then this will be specifically mentioned, however not all significantly higher or lower results are referenced in summary reporting.

State-wide average: The average result for all participating councils in the State.

Tailored questions: Individual questions tailored by and only reported to the commissioning council.

Weighting: Weighting factors are applied to the sample for each council based on available age and gender proportions from ABS census information to ensure reported results are proportionate to the actual population of the council, rather than the achieved survey sample.

**THERE ARE
OVER
6 MILLION
PEOPLE IN
VICTORIA...**

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8 URGENT BUSINESS**9 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

10 QUESTION TIME

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

QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

Completed Question Time forms must be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer via email council@gsc.vic.gov.au no later than 8:30am 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, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION

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

12.1 Community Care Services

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1)(a) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.