



GANNAWARRA

Shire Council

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

10:00am

Senior Citizens Centre

Kerang

AGENDA

Council Meeting

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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 - 15 February 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 - 8 FEBRUARY TO 7 MARCH 2023

Author: Mel Mathers, Executive Assistant - Chief Executive Office

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 28 February 2023
2 Councillor Briefing Record - 6 March 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings 8 February to 7 March 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:	Tuesday, 28 February 2023	
Time:	9:00am – 12:07pm	
Location:	Kerang Senior Citizens Centre	
In Attendance: (Councillors)	Cr Charlie Gillingham Cr Jane Ogden Cr Ross Stanton Cr Travis Collier Cr Keith Link (left at 11:54am) Cr Garner Smith (left at 11:49am)	
Apologies:	Cr Kelvin Burt	
In Attendance: (Officers)	Geoff Rollinson, Phil Higgins, Wade Williams, Paul Fernee, Roger Griffiths, Mel Mathers, Alissa Harrower	
In Attendance: (Other)	Mandy Hutchinson – Chief Executive Officer, Northern District Community Health Alexia Stephens – General Manager Programs and Services – Northern District Community Health Deanne Radcliffe – General Manager Corporate Services – Northern District Community Health	
Matters Discussed:	Presentation: Northern District Community Health – Community Care Councillor Briefing Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community Care Business Plan – Strategic DirectionsDraft CEO KRA’s	
Conflict of Interest Disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/Officer making disclosure	Councillor/Officer left meeting Yes/No
1.1 – Community Care Business Plan – Strategic Direction	Cr Charlie Gillingham	Yes
1.1 – Community Care Business Plan – Strategic Direction	Cr Jane Ogden	Yes
Completed By:	Geoff Rollinson – Chief Executive Officer 	

RECORD OF A COUNCILLOR BRIEFING



Type of Meeting	Councillor Briefing	
Date:	Monday, 6 March 2023	
Time:	9:00am – 3:26pm	
Location:	Kerang Senior Citizens Centre	
In Attendance: (Councillors)	Cr Charlie Gillingham Cr Jane Ogden Cr Kelvin Burt Cr Ross Stanton Cr Travis Collier Cr Keith Smith Cr Garner Smith	
Apologies:	Phil Higgins – Director Corporate Services	
In Attendance: (Officers)	Geoff Rollinson, Wade Williams, Paul Fernee, Roger Griffiths, Mel Mathers, Alissa Harrower, Shanna Johnny, Scott Bourne, Leigh Hollingworth, Carole Wandin, Narelle O'Donoghue	
In Attendance: (Other)	Nil	
Matters Discussed:	Draft March Council Agenda: 7.1 Audit and Risk Committee – 27 February, 2023 Meeting 7.2 Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/2024 7.3 Draft Council Policy No. 148 – Flags 7.4 G10-2022 Kerang CBD Upgrade – Stage 3 7.5 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy 7.6 L2P Program 7.7 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday Arrangements 12.1 Community Care Services Councillor Briefing Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2023/2024 Draft Operational Budget• Draft 10 Year Capital Works Program• Legal Fees• Financial Plan• Flood Update – March 2023• Flood Recovery Update• VNI West Consultation Reports• VHM Memorandum of Understanding• Future Listing Report• 2022/2023 Capital Works Program Update	
Conflict of Interest Disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/Officer making disclosure	Councillor/Officer left meeting Yes/No
12.1 – Community Care Services	Cr Charlie Gillingham	Yes
12.1 – 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 - 27 FEBRUARY, 2023 MEETING

Author: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 27 February 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on Monday, 27 February, 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, Draft Operational Budget, Rating Strategy and Capital Works program. The Audit Strategy for 2022/2023 was discussed with 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 27 February, 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

Apologies

Bradley Tarr – Independent Member has resigned from the committee.

Cr Charlie Gillingham – Councillor Representative

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

Report	Item for Discussion	Recommendation/Outcome
VAGO Audit Strategy	Strategy for audit year ending 30 June 2023 was presented	The report was received and noted.
Quarterly Budget Report	The quarterly budget report for quarter ending 31 December 2022 was presented.	
Proposed Scheduled Fees & Charges for 2023/2024	The proposed scheduled Fees and Charges for 2023/2024 was reviewed.	
Draft Operational Budget	The budget document as at 25 January 2023 was presented.	
Rating Strategy Options	A report on the proposed rating options was considered.	
Draft Capital Works Program	A draft 10 year capital works program was considered	
Compliance with legislation and regulations	The ARC is chartered with the responsibility to monitor compliance with legislation and regulations	
Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	Changes to the framework for 2022/2023 were considered.	
Risk Management Report	Council's current Risk Management Framework requires quarterly reporting to the ARC. The report examined risk management progress and highlights from individual directorates for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.	The ARC received and noted the report.
Risk Appetite Report	A report showing the evaluation methodology for Capital Works projects was showcased.	The report was received and noted.
Internal Audit Items	A review of outstanding Internal Audit items was reviewed.	
Continuous Improvement Plan	A Mandatory Compliance Review report completed by Council's insurers on three sections was reviewed.	
Internal Audit Reviews	A report on a part of Council's business was reviewed as part of the Internal Audit plan.	
Reports from VAGO, IBAC, Ombudsman and LG Inspectorate	Various agency reports were considered on topics about performance audits, council elections and complaints handling.	The various recommendations in the reports were considered and noted.
Corporate Credit Card	Details of expenditure on credit cards and work related reimbursements for October – December 2021 was presented.	The report was received and noted

Councillor Expenditure Report	A report of the expenses of Councillors and Delegated committee members was presented to the ARC for October -December 2021.	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 2022.	The policy reviews to be undertaken by Council in 2022 were linked to the ICE.

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. Advertising for the vacant independent member position has commenced.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The new 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 regards to this matter.

7.2 PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024

Author: Shana Johnny, Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: Phil Higgins, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1 Fees & Charges 2023/2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/2024 effective from 1 July 2023.**
 - 2. Publish the Schedule of Fees and Charges on Council's website.**
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year Council reviews the level of fees and charges that are applied across Gannawarra Shire Council for the provision of services, with a view to achieving a balance between affordability, encouraging greater usage, cost recovery and raising sufficient revenue to support the delivery of services.

The Schedule of Fees and Charges is to be included in Council's Annual Budget document.

In accordance with best practice financial management, Council Officers have conducted a comprehensive review of the Schedule of Fees and Charges to ensure the achievement of the above criteria.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to establish fair and equitable charges for the hiring and usage of Council services for 2023/2024. The report will add clarity and consistency for users of the services by determining the fees and charges prior to 1 July 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Schedule of Fees & Charges – 2023/2024

DISCUSSION

The fees and charges applied by Council fall into two categories:

- Discretionary – where Council has control over the type and amount of the fee or charge.
- Statutory – where the fee or charge is set by legislation or another authority outside of Council's control.

There is no standard increase applied across Council's discretionary fees and charges. Rather, increases or decreases are driven to achieving a balance between affordability, encouraging greater usage, cost recovery and raising sufficient revenue to support the delivery of services. Discretionary fees and charges may be adjusted by Council anytime during the year and the schedule is noted with the date the change is operable from.

Statutory fees and charges are adjusted when the relevant legislation or authority notifies Council of the change; whereas discretionary fees are reviewed by Council each year and are applicable from 1 July.

RELEVANT LAW

As per Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council adopted a Revenue and Rating Plan on 16 June 2021.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The attached Proposed Schedule of Fees & Charges will be attached to the 2023/2024 Budget on completion.

OPTIONS

The proposed Fees and Charges have been weighed to balance affordability, encourage usage, cost recovery and raise sufficient revenue in line with prudent financial management practices. Council has control of the discretionary fees.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The key risks are financial and compliance risks. The Revenue and Rating Plan seeks to provide stability and predictability in the financial impact on the municipal community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Community Engagement Policy the following engagement plan will be enacted:

Who to engage	Methods
Community – Service users and Residents.	Gannawarra News, Media Releases, Social media and on the website.
Organisation – responsible managers and customer service.	Staff meetings and direct discussion. ELT and relevant Council officers have been consulted in the development of the Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges - 2023/2024.
Councillors	During budget deliberations Councillors have reviewed the Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges - 2023/2024.
Audit and Risk Committee	Agenda item for February meeting. Adopted Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/2024 to be presented to the May meeting.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Statutory fees and charges are adjusted when the relevant legislation or authority notifies Council of the change.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The proposed schedule of Fees and Charges – 2023/2024 has been developed in line with prudent financial management practices and seeks to ensure ongoing financial viability of the Council.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Context	Section	Comment
Council Plan 2021-2025	Carefully monitor expenditure to ensure value for money and monitor long term financial plan to maintain financial sustainability.	The Fees and Charges are an income stream that represents 9.31% of the Council's Operating Income.
Council Financial Plan 2021-22 to 2030-31	The 10 year Financial Plan links to 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 that they have no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.



Fees & Charges **2023/2024**

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.dif.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 DRAFT COUNCIL POLICY NO. 148 - FLAGS

Author: Scott Bourne, Communications Coordinator

Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: 1 Draft Council Policy No. 148 - Flags
2 Draft Community Flag Schedule

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Endorse Draft Council Policy No. 148 – Flags and Draft Community Flag Schedule for community feedback for a period of 28 days; and
2. Receives a further report to consider the final Council Policy No. 148 – Flags and Community Flag Schedule.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Policy No. 148 – Flags and the Community Flag Schedule governs the flying of flags outside the Kerang Council Building and Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Information Centre, Cohuna and establishes a mechanism to consider requests for the flying of other flags significant to the Gannawarra community outside Council buildings or on Council-managed flag poles.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Policy No. 148 – Flags and the Community Flag Schedule is to ensure Council complies with the *Flags Act 1953* and is able to appropriately consider community requests to fly flags outside Council buildings or on Council-managed flag poles.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Council Policy No. 148 – Flags
Draft Community Flag Schedule

DISCUSSION

Council recommended at the November 2022 Council Meeting to develop a Flag Policy to address requests to fly flags to promote causes within the municipality. This recommendation resulted from a request to fly the Rainbow Flag on IDAHOBIT Day (17 May 2023).

Officers have prepared a draft policy referencing the Flags Act 1953 and other policies within a Local Government setting.

The Draft Council Policy No. 148 – Flags addresses the following matters:

- The number of flag poles located outside the Kerang Council Building and Gateway to Gannawarra Centre, and the flags to be flown permanently on these poles;
- Locations in the municipality where flags can be flown on a temporary basis;
- The process to apply for a request to fly additional flags;

Accompanying Draft Council Policy No. 148 – Flags is the Draft Community Flag Schedule, which lists which flags are to be flown on flag poles outside Council buildings and alternative arrangements for days of observation.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Flags Act 1953* formally identified the Australian National Flag, as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags (proclaimed in July 1995) as “Flags of Australia”.

The Australian flags – part 2: The protocols for the appropriate use and the flying of the flag define the flying and handling of flags proclaimed in the *Flags Act 1953*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At the November 2022 Council meeting, Council recommended the development of a Flag Policy to address requests to fly flags to promote causes within the municipality.

OPTIONS

Council may wish to adopt the recommendation, or alternatively make adjustments or decide not to endorse these documents for community consultation at this time.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

If approved for community consultation, feedback will be sought using methodologies listed in the *Community Engagement Policy*. Council staff will also liaise with the Kerang and District Elders and Emerging Leaders Group regarding arrangements for flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags outside of Council buildings.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

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

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025;

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

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

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be presented in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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



Flags

COUNCIL POLICY NO. 148

1. POLICY OBJECTIVE

This policy governs the flying of flags outside key Council assets in Kerang and Cohuna and establishes a mechanism to consider requests for the flying of other flags significant to the Gannawarra community.

2. SCOPE

This policy outlines the protocols in relation to the flag poles managed by Gannawarra Shire Council, but excludes those managed by other organisations.

3. POLICY

It is important that the Council and external organisations adhere to the Department of the Premier and Cabinets protocols for flying and/or use of flags, to ensure that flags are being used with the proper respect and dignity.

3.1 Regular locations for flying of flags

Council will fly flags on a permanent basis at the following locations:

Location	Number of flag poles	Flags flown
Kerang Council Building (49 Victoria Street, Kerang)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian National Flag• Aboriginal Flag <p>NOTE: Flags flown continuously over the 24-hour period, except during times of replacement or maintenance of flags and poles</p>
Garden Park, Cohuna (90 King George Street, Cohuna)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian National Flag• Aboriginal Flag• Community flagpole <p>NOTE: Flags flown continuously over the 24-hour period, except during times of replacement or maintenance of flags and poles</p>

Council has the capacity to fly flags on a temporary basis at the following locations:

Town	Location/s	Number of flag poles
Kerang	Atkinson Park (near soundshell)	1
	Bendigo Road median strip (near intersection of Bendigo Road and Andrew Street)	1

3.2 Definition of flags

3.2.1 Australian National Flag

The Australian National Flag is the chief national symbol and was raised for the first time on 3 September 1901 in the presence of the first Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. Edmund Barton.

This symbol of nationality stands for the democracy which allows Australians to discuss its meaning and origins.

The flag has three elements on a blue background: the Union Jack, the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross. The Union Jack in the upper left corner represents the history of British settlement. Below the Union Jack is a white Commonwealth, or Federation, star. It has seven points representing the unity of the six states and the territories of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The star is also featured on the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The Southern Cross is shown on the flag in white. It is a constellation of five stars that can only be seen from the southern hemisphere and is a reminder of Australia's geography.

The Australian National Flag may be flown everyday throughout the year.

Guidelines regarding the flying of the Australian National Flag are outlined in *The Australian flags – part 2: The protocols for the appropriate use and the flying of the flag*. This can be viewed at www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/australian-flags-booklet/part-2

3.2.2 The Aboriginal Flag

The Australian Aboriginal flag was proclaimed as a flag of Australia under Section 5 of the *Flags Act 1953* on 14 July 1995. The symbolic meaning of the flag colours (as stated by its designer and aboriginal elder Mr Harold Thomas) are:

Black: Represents the Aboriginal people of Australia

Red: Represents the red earth, the red ochre and a spiritual relation to the land

Yellow: Represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector.

The Aboriginal Flag may be flown everyday throughout the year.

3.2.3 The Torres Strait Island Flag

The Torres Strait Islander Flag was created as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander peoples, designed by the late Bernard Namok from Thursday Island.

The flag was recognised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission in June 1992 and given equal prominence with the Aboriginal flag.



The flag was proclaimed as a flag of Australia under Section 5 of the *Flags Act 1953* on 14 July 1995.

The Torres Strait Islander Flag may be flown everyday throughout the year.

3.3 Order of precedence

The Australian National flag takes precedence in Australia over all other flags when it is flown in company with other flags. Thereafter when flown in the community, the order of precedence of flags is:

- The Australian National Flag.
- State and Territory flags.
- Other flags prescribed by the *Flags Act 1953* including:
 - The Australian Aboriginal flag.
 - The Torres Strait Islander flag in either order.
 - Ensigns and pennants including local government; Commonwealth, state and territory agencies; and non-government organisations.
 - Ensigns and pennants of Council supported causes.

3.4 Dignity of Flags

All flags should be treated with respect and dignity. Flags must be handled ceremoniously, which means:

- Taking time to handle them formally, carefully, and respectfully and avoiding sudden movements when raising and lowering flags;
- Flags must never fall to or be laid on the ground; and
- Flags must never be flown if they are damaged, faded or dilapidated.

3.5 Retirement of Flags

In accordance with the Australian National Flag Protocols, when the material of a flag begins to deteriorate, it can either be placed in a permanent place of storage or be destroyed privately and in a dignified way. This may include cutting the flag into small unrecognisable pieces, placing it in an appropriate sealed bag or closed container, and then placing it in the normal rubbish collection.

Alternatively, Council may choose to hold a ceremony to mark the retirement of a used flag, such as the Australian National Flag. Further information on this process can be found in the Australian National Flag Protocols on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website.

3.6 Flying a Flag at Half-Mast

Flags are flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning.

There may be times when direction is given by the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the Australian National Flag and the Victorian State Flag to be flown at half-mast. Compliance with notifications from the Department of Premier and Cabinet is mandatory.

All flags that are flown alongside the Australian National Flag will be flown at half-mast when the Australian National Flag is flown at half-mast. The Australian National Flag should be raised first and lowered last.

3.6.1 ANZAC Day

On 25 April each year, flag/s are to be flown at half-mast until 12 noon, then at the peak of the flagpole for the remainder of the day.

3.6.2 Remembrance Day

On 11 November each year, flag/s must be flown at the peak of the flagpole until 10.30am, when it is lowered at half-mast for the Remembrance Day service and raised back to the peak from 11.02am for the remainder of the day.

3.6.3 Flying the Aboriginal Flag at half mast

Following a request from the relevant Aboriginal Community and at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or in their absence the Director Corporate Services, the Australian Aboriginal Flag will be flown at half-mast to mark the passing of an Aboriginal person who has contributed significantly to the Gannawarra Shire community.



3.6.4 Flying the Torres Strait Flag at half mast

Following a request from the relevant Torres Strait Islander Community and at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or in his/her absence the Director Corporate Services, the Torres Strait Islander Flag will be flown at half-mast to mark the passing of a Torres Strait Islander person who has contributed significantly to the Gannawarra Shire community.

3.6.4 Notification of flags flying at half mast

Apart from ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, Council will notify the public when either the Australian National Flag, Aboriginal Flag or Torres Strait Island Flag is flown at half-mast through one or more of Council's communication channels, including the reason.

3.7 Community Flag Schedule

Upon adoption of this Policy and upon every subsequent review, Council shall adopt a Community Flag Schedule which sets out which flags shall be flown, when they shall be flown, and which flag poles shall be used.

The schedule is to be considered a living document, and therefore can be added to by Council resolution, either for a one-off occasion or on an ongoing basis.

In considering the addition of flags to the Community Flag Schedule, regard shall be given to whether the flying of the flag will cause offence to sectors of the community or whether highlighting a particular issue, cause or group would be inconsistent with Council's values, commitment to inclusiveness or does not align to Federal or State legislation.

3.8 Application Process for Requests to Fly Additional Flags

An application to fly an additional flag not listed in the Community Flag Schedule can be done by writing to the Chief Executive Officer. The application must indicate:

- How the flying of the flag would recognise the social, inclusive, cultural, environmental, economic or historical matter of Local, State and/or National significance that has a direct relevance to the Gannawarra Shire Council community;
- What time period the flag is requested to be flown and the reason for the duration. Flags will not be permitted to be flown for longer than 7 days, unless Council resolves for the flag to be flown for a longer period of time;
- Who will raise and lower the flag; and
- If the occasion requires a Mayor or Councillor to be in attendance, and whether they are required to make a speech.

All requests to fly additional flags will be determined by Council resolution.

Any flag proposed to be flown must be provided by the applicant at his/her cost, be in good condition and meet appropriate dimensions noted in the *Flags Act 1953*.

Council will not enter into agreements to raise flags with parties:

- That are involved in or encourage unlawful activities or causes;
- That promote gambling, alcohol or tobacco products;
- Who do not share Council's views on promoting a diverse, tolerant and inclusive community;
- That are associated with religious, political or extremist groups or which may incite unrest or ill-feeling within the community;
- Whose purposes to display the flag requested for flying misrepresent the flag's intent; or
- That are for advertising purposes, unless it is for a Council related event.

4. POLICY REVIEW

It is recommended this policy be reviewed annually. At the time of review, this policy was compliant with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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





COMMUNITY FLAG SCHEDULE

TO ACCOMPANY - COUNCIL POLICY NO. 148

This Procedure should be read in conjunction with Gannawarra Shire Council Policy No. 148 – Flags, which governs the flying of flags outside key Council assets in Kerang and Cohuna and establishes a mechanism to consider requests for the flying of other flags significant to the Gannawarra community.

KERANG COUNCIL BUILDING

	Flag pole 1 (far left of building)	Flag pole 2
Default	Australian National Flag	Aboriginal Flag
JANUARY		
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		
APRIL	25 April (ANZAC Day) Half-mast – Dawn to 12 noon	25 April (ANZAC Day) Half-mast – Dawn to 12 noon
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER		
NOVEMBER	11 November (Remembrance Day) Half-mast – 10.30am to 11.02am	11 November (Remembrance Day) Half-mast – 10.30am to 11.02am
DECEMBER		

GARDEN PARK, COHUNA

	Flag pole 1 (flag pole next to Gateway)	Flag pole 2	Flag pole 3
Default	Australian National Flag	Aboriginal Flag	Torres Strait Island Flag
JANUARY			
FEBRUARY			
MARCH			
APRIL	25 April (ANZAC Day) Half-mast – Dawn to 12 noon	25 April (ANZAC Day) Half-mast – Dawn to 12 noon	25 April (ANZAC Day) Half-mast – Dawn to 12 noon
MAY			
JUNE			
JULY			
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER	11 November (Remembrance Day) Half-mast – 10.30am to 11.02am	11 November (Remembrance Day) Half-mast – 10.30am to 11.02am	11 November (Remembrance Day) Half-mast – 10.30am to 11.02am
DECEMBER			

COMMUNITY FLAGPOLE LOCATIONS

Town	Location/s	Number of flag poles
Kerang	Atkinson Park (near soundshell)	1
	Bendigo Road median strip (near intersection of Bendigo Road and Andrew Street)	1

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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

7.4 G10-2022 KERANG CBD UPGRADE – STAGE 3

Author: Leigh Hollingworth, Infrastructure Rehabilitation Manager

Authoriser: Wade Williams, Acting Director Infrastructure and Development

Attachments: 1 Evaluation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council award contract G10-2022 for the Kerang CBD Upgrade – Stage 3 to CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount, not subject to rise and fall, of \$2,312,179.25 excluding GST.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project aims to revitalise Kerang's CBD streetscape building on the previously completed works in Victoria St (2018) and Scoresby St (2021) providing more accessible parking, enhancing retail frontages, improved landscaping and new outdoor dining experiences.

Council officers have completed a tendering and evaluation process and recommend the appointment of CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd as the successful tenderer for this redevelopment of the Kerang CBD – Stage 3.

PURPOSE

To provide information for Council to consider the award of tender G10-2022 for the redevelopment of Kerang CBD – Stage 3 with associated pavement replacement, street furniture and landscaping.

ATTACHMENTS

Evaluation.pdf

DISCUSSION

Council has recognised the need to invest in the Kerang CBD to maintain its competitiveness and viability as a sub-regional service centre. Accordingly, and after significant public consultation, Council adopted a CBD Masterplan to guide critical stages of these works. This project aims to revitalise Kerang's CBD streetscape providing more accessible parking, enhancing retail frontages, improved landscaping and new outdoor dining experiences. The works are located in Victoria St, Wellington St and Fitzroy St.

The plans have been developed with extensive public consultation, resulting in refinements to the plans which were then redistributed to the public and business owners for feedback prior to proceeding to detailed design.

Original estimates indicated that the available funding would only allow for Victoria Street works to occur, however upon receiving tender submissions Council has sufficient funding to allow work to extend into Wellington Street.

The project will deliver pedestrian pavement upgrades in line with the recent works in Scoresby Street, works to redevelop the parking bays from the optometrist to the Post Office, new raised and ground level landscaping and new brand-aligned street furniture.

The redevelopment of the parking area is designed to reduce the steep gradient leading up to the footpath from the parking bays, which is difficult for people with mobility issue to navigate. There will be no loss of car parks as a result of the project. The businesses fronting these parks have been consulted throughout the design process, and works will be programmed to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Tenders were advertised on Council's eProcure portal and closed at 1700 on 29 January 2023. A total of two submissions were received and subsequently evaluated, a comparison of the tendered prices is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Tender Prices

Tenderer	Tender Price (excluding GST)
CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd	\$ 2,312,179.25
Tenderer B	\$ 2,936,090.90

Evaluation of the submissions included weighted criteria demonstrating price, contractor capability, project experience, timeframe for completing the works, risk minimisation and local benefit, all of which were included in the tender specification package as detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Evaluation Criteria

EVALUATION CRITERIA	RELATIVE WEIGHTING
Value for Money	30%
Demonstrated Understanding	30%
Capability, Capacity, Skills and Experience	20%
Management Systems	10%
Local Benefit	10%

RELEVANT LAW

The requirements of Section 9(2)(c) of *Local Government Act 2020* have been considered and there are no Council Policy or legislative implications arising from this report.

Council has a Procurement Policy that fulfils obligations under Section 108 of *Local Government Act 2020*. Dealings in this matter have been in accordance with this policy in accordance with Section 109 of *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable

OPTIONS

1. Award the tender to CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount of \$2,312,179.25 excluding GST, not subject to rise and fall.
2. Abandon the project and return the grant funding.

Council officers recommend proceeding with Option 1.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Maintenance

The plantings selected for the garden areas are low maintenance with low water demand. High maintenance roses will only be retained in the roundabout at the Karlie McDonald memorial clock.

Materials will be long-life, low maintenance materials such as concrete and timber look aluminium and composite decking.

- Social

The project will enable people with a disability to have better access to businesses in the CBD through the softening of the grade leading up to the footpath near the Post Office, removing steps into businesses wherever possible and installing more disability friendly street furniture.

- Environmental

No established trees will be removed. New plantings of trees will be included near the post office only as space requirements make further plantings difficult.

The plantings selected for the garden areas have been selected with consideration for the local climate and to have generally low water demand.

The composite decking material selected is made from 95% recycled

- Climate Change

The plantings selected for the garden areas are low maintenance and low water demand varieties.

Material and colour selections have considered the impact of high temperatures and the effect of sunlight.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Consultation has been carried out through a variety of means including online “Have your Say”, a public drop-in session and face-to-face meetings.

The feedback from businesses was concerned with limiting the disruption to trade by avoiding works during Christmas and Easter periods and completing the works as quickly as possible. The tender called for pricing to include weekend works to facilitate this and onsite works are not expected to commence until after Easter 2023. There was also a desire to keep all existing car parking which has been met within the design.

Discussions with hospitality businesses focussed on brand aligned outdoor dining, adequate street bins and colour in the garden beds. These aspects have all been accommodated within the design.

Responses from the public included need for shade, tree variety suggestions, no loss of parking, more seating, use of timber alternatives and more bike racks. In general, all of these have been met although restrictions due to powerlines and shop awnings limits the ability to plant additional trees for shade.

With funding confirmed for works along Wellington St, consultation on this package of works has commenced and will be completed prior to work commencing.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The use of long-life low maintenance materials will continue to the trend of choosing materials that are designed to reduce Council's ongoing maintenance demand.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The project will be fully funded from Federal grant funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program Phases 3 and 4 and will not impact negatively on Council's Capital Works budget.

The use of long-life low maintenance materials will continue to the trend of choosing materials that are designed to reduce Council's ongoing maintenance demand by reducing the amount of timber installations which require biannual maintenance.

Renewal of the paved surfaces will reduce Council's footpath maintenance requirements along with impending capital replacement of unserviceable pavers at end-of-life.

Landscape renewals are focussed on low maintenance plants with automated irrigation. Combined with the reduction in rose plantings, this will reduce the demand on Parks and Garden resources compared to current demands.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021 – 2025:

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

Goal 2. Growth - Strategic Priority 4: Support the creation of destinations in the Gannawarra to attract visitors to our region.

Climate Change Policy:

Embracing innovative and new technology to develop, promote and implement environmentally sustainable solutions that promote and support a circular economy.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be considered in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Officer preparing this report declares they have no conflict of interest regarding this matter.

Gannawarra Shire Council
Kerang CBD – Stage 3
G10-2022

Date of Evaluation 22/02/2023

	Criteria	Weight	CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd		Tenderer 2	
			Score	Wghtd score	Score	Wghtd score
1	Price - Financial Cost to Council	0.45	6.19	2.78	3.81	1.72
2	Capability of Tenderer and nominated sub-contractors resources, technical and financial capabilities to successfully complete the contract	0.20	8.00	1.60	8.00	1.60
3	Tenderer's experience on similar projects and standing, experience and skill within the industry	0.10	8.00	0.80	8.00	0.80
4	Tender's and nominated sub contractors OH&S record and procedures and ability to minimise Council's insurance risks	0.15	7.00	1.05	9.00	1.35
5	Tenderers and nominated sub-contractor's operational base including assessment of business, staff location, materials purchasing and sub-contractor locations.	0.10	8.50	0.85	7.50	0.75
TOTAL WEIGHTEDSCORE :				7.08		6.22

Criteria	Weight	Comments	
Price - Financial Cost to Council	0.45		
Capability of Tenderer and nominated sub-contractors resources, technical and financial capabilities to successfully complete the contract.	0.20	Has relevant experience and the necessary resources.	Has relevant experience and the necessary resources.
Tenderer's experience on similar projects and standing, experience and skill within the industry.	0.10	Various construction industry experience. Completed Cohuna Waterfront project.	Various construction industry experience. Completed CBD Stage 2 works.
Tender's and nominated sub contractors OH&S record and procedures and ability to minimise Council's insurance risks	0.15	Has necessary procedures and policies in place. Registered with GSC in Rapid.	Third party accredited OHS, Environmental and QMS. Registered with GSC in Rapid.
Tenderers and nominated sub-contractor's operational base including assessment of business, staff location, materials purchasing and sub-contractor locations.	0.10	Based in Cohuna with subcontractors based in Swan Hill. Use of local suppliers.	Based in Echuca with local employee. Use of local suppliers.

Evaluation Panel

WAYNE GALLOWAY
Project Manager

Signature

Wayne Galloway

Date 01/03/2023

LEIGH HOLLINGWORTH
Acting Manager Assets & Design

Signature

L Hollingworth

Date 02/03/2023

WADE WILLIAMS
Acting Director Infrastructure & Development

Signature

W Williams

Date 02/03/2023

Sheet 1 of 2

Gannawarra Shire Council
Kerang CBD – Stage 3
G10-2022

Based on "Lump Sum" only		
Tender price:	2312179.25	2936090.90
Median Price	2624135.08	2,624,135.08
(Median Price -	311955.83	-311955.83
10 x (Median \$	1.19	-1.19
Financial Criteria Score:	6.19	3.81

Median Price: \$ 2,624,135.08

$$\text{Financial Criteria Score} = \frac{5 + 10 (\text{Median Conforming Tender Price} - \text{Tender Price})}{\text{Median Conforming Tender Price}}$$

7.5 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Author: Kyle Hodgkinson, Climate Change Adaption Officer

Authoriser: Wade Williams, Acting Director Infrastructure and Development

Attachments: 1 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy as presented and attached to this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Climate Change Act 2017*, Council has a responsibility, duty of care and diligence to consider climate risk in their activities. This Strategy seeks to formalise a clear strategic direction for climate change adaptation and mitigation for Gannawarra Shire Council. After gaining Council endorsement at the October 2022 Council Meeting to implement the community consultation process, the Strategy is now presented to Council in its final form for consideration of adoption.

PURPOSE

To fulfil Council's responsibility, duty of care and diligence to consider climate risk in their activities under the *Climate Change Act 2017* and *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy.

DISCUSSION

After Council's December 2021 resolution to adopt Policy 146 Climate Change, Council officers engaged a suitable consultancy specialising in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy development. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide Council with a strategic framework for mitigating and adapting to climate change. The Strategy will produce actions and set goals towards Council's vision of becoming a highly sustainable and resilient regional Council and a leading region for renewable energy and low carbon technology by 2040.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Local Government Act 2020*, identifies several overarching governance principles which create obligations for councils in the context of climate change, including:

- Under 9(2)(c) Councils are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.
- Under 9(2)(b) Councils are required to give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

The Victorian State Government *Climate Change Act 2017*, Subsection 17(2) stipulates that the relevant decision-makers must have regard to:

- the potential impacts of climate change relevant to the decision or action; and
- the potential contribution to the State's greenhouse gas emissions of the decision or action.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

19 October 2022 - Ordinary Council Meeting resolution to adopt the Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for community consultation in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

OPTIONS

Council can:

1. Choose to adopt the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy as attached with minor amendments following the public consultation.
2. Choose to defer the adoption of the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy.
3. Choose to amend the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

This strategy identifies Climate Change as a risk to Councils ongoing operations, the strategy details a clear pathway to minimising the sustainability implications.

Please see Appendix A of the strategy as it assesses each of the short-term actions under each of the four strategic priority areas, detailing the expected cost range, return on investment, scale of impact and potential reach of the action.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the development process of the strategy, Councillors and community members were invited to and attended a community consultation session.

The draft Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy was placed on a period of public consultation was from Friday 2 December to Friday 23 December 2022. Council received one submission from a member of the community via email.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Council has worked with Ironbark Sustainability consultancy to produce the draft Dstrategy and collaborated with internal staff, Councillors, key stakeholders, and community representatives.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Climate Change Adaption Strategy was funded out of Council's operating budget in 2021/22 financial year.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Victoria's Climate Change Strategy
- Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan
- Loddon Mallee North Regional Growth Plan

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Growing Gannawarra 2021-2025 Council Plan
- Gannawarra Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Council Policy No. 109 - Procurement
- Council Policy No. 146 - Climate Change

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The report will be presented in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy



www.gsc.vic.gov.au



Prepared for Gannawarra Shire Council

Version	Author	Date	Description of changes
v0a-f	Roman Aizengendler, Sophie Beard, Evan Davies	25/07/2022	First Draft
v0g	Imogen Jubb	24/08/2022	Quality Review
v1a	Evan Davies	25/08/2022	Final for Submission
v1b	Evan Davies	07/09/2022	Updated climate projections data
V1c	Kyle Hodgkinson	10/10/2022	Final edits incorporated

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About Ironbark Sustainability

For nearly two decades, Ironbark Sustainability has worked with councils and their communities to reduce greenhouse emissions, tackle climate change and implement sustainability projects and programs. We bring together a wealth of technical and financial analysis, maintenance and implementation experience in the areas of building energy and water efficiency, climate action and strategy development, public lighting and data management. We pride ourselves on supporting our clients to achieve real action on sustainability.

Our Mission

The Ironbark mission is to achieve real action on sustainability for councils and their communities.

Ironbark is a certified B Corporation. We have been independently assessed as meeting the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose.

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1. MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Together with my fellow Councillors, I am pleased to present our Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy. This document confirms Council's commitment to long-term climate adaptation and mitigation.

As a Council, we acknowledge the scientific evidence and the risk that climate change presents to the community and the planet. During this century alone our communities have endured two prolonged droughts and a once in 100-year flood event.

Council is committed to taking strong and decisive action to minimise Council's environmental impact and build the resilience of Council operations, services and assets to reduce the vulnerability of the community to climate change. This strategy will assist us to achieve this, as well as position Gannawarra Shire Council as a highly sustainable and resilient regional Council by 2040.

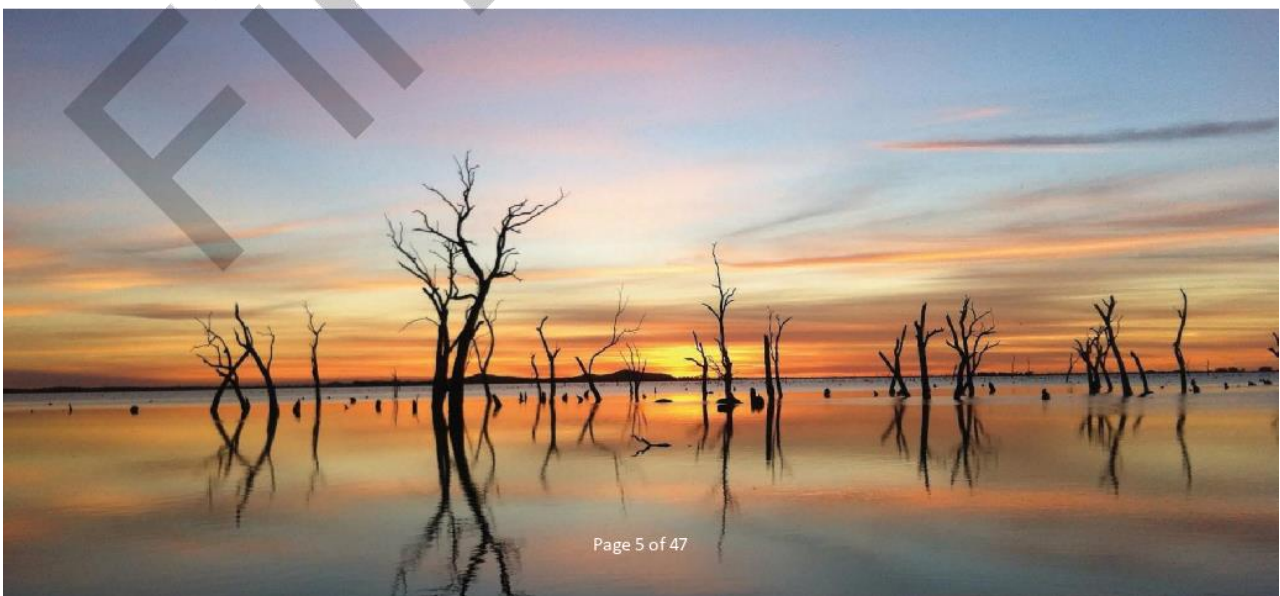
We are also required to consider climate risk in Council activities, under the Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 and Local Government Act 2020. In doing this, we acknowledge our ancestors and descendants of the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba People, who have endured previous large-scale climatic change events. Their in-depth understanding of the land, together with their knowledge and their capacity to adapt to environmental change, is critical to our approach.

The successful implementation of the actions listed in this strategy rely on Council's partnerships with the community and regional agencies. Although we are one entity, it will take the efforts of everyone to mitigate climate change and ensure the Gannawarra is a great place to live and work for many years to come.

Mayor Charlie Gillingham

Acknowledgement of Country

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba people as the traditional owners of the land now known as Gannawarra. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their rich culture and connection to Country.



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2. INTRODUCTION

In December 2021, Gannawarra Shire Council (GSC) adopted its Climate Change Policy, confirming its commitment to long-term climate adaptation and mitigation. The objectives of the Policy include reducing the environmental impacts and operating costs of Council operations, undertaking actions to reduce the Gannawarra community's emissions, responding to the risks of climate change to Council assets and services, and assisting the community to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

This Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy has been developed to formalise a clear strategic direction for climate change adaptation and mitigation for GSC. It establishes clear, concise, and actionable plans across the short, medium and long term to guide Council towards achieving its climate vision. Whilst focused on Council's own operations and service delivery, the Strategy also includes high level opportunities for Council to influence positive outcomes in the broader Gannawarra community.

Section 3 of this document establishes the context of the Strategy in terms of Gannawarra's already changing climate, the decarbonisation of the economy, and relevant State and Federal government policies. Section 4 explores steps already undertaken by GSC to address climate change, including within the Growing Gannawarra plan and adoption of a formal Climate Change Policy.

Key climate change risks identified for Gannawarra are summarised in Section 5. This section also outlines the results of community consultation for this Strategy, identifying the needs and priorities of residents and business owners in responding to the impacts of climate change. GSC's corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory is presented in Section 6. Section 7 highlights programs already implemented by Council, demonstrating our leadership in reducing emissions and improving liveability in the region.

Section 8 presents GSC's long-term climate change goals and strategic framework. With short, medium and long term objectives across four strategic priority areas, GSC have identified key actions to be completed over the next five years to set Gannawarra on a trajectory to achieve its goals.



3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

3.1 Climate Change in Gannawarra

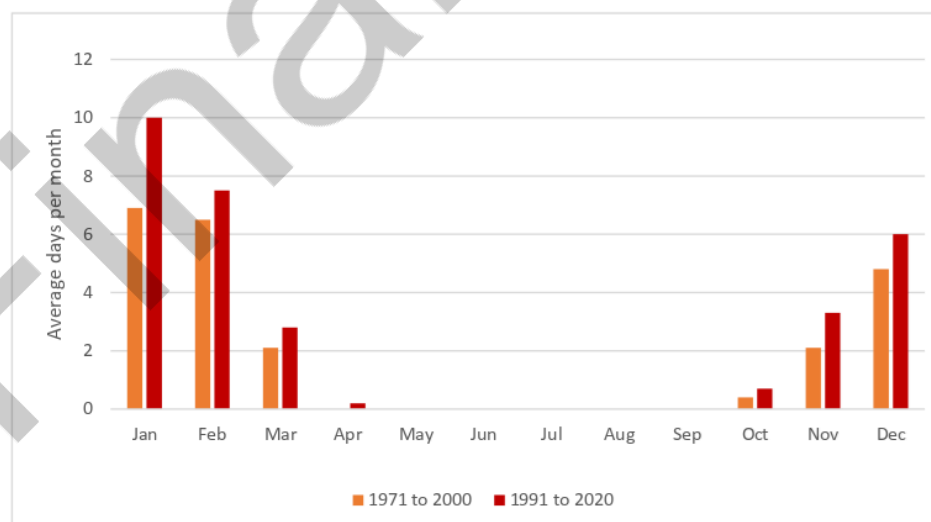
3.1.1 How the Shire's climate has already changed

Victoria is becoming hotter and drier as a result of climate change. Since 1910, annual average temperatures have increased by 1.2°C in Victoria, while cool season rainfall has declined over the last 30 yearsⁱ. These changes are already having short and long term impacts on the landscape, productivity, culture and health and well-being of regional Victoria.

In the Loddon Mallee region climate change has brought longer and harsher bushfire seasons, changed rainfall patterns, greater drought risk, more extreme heat and rainfall events and ecological changesⁱⁱ. In Gannawarra, the average number of days over 35°C has increased by 33% from an average of 22.8 between 1971 – 2000 to 30.5 between 1991 and 2020ⁱⁱⁱ. Figure 1 compares the average number of days over 35°C per month between 1971 and 2000 and 1991 and 2020. This shows an increase in the number of days over 35°C in all months from October to April.

These impacts are already being felt by the local Gannawarra Shire community. In addition to the concern about increasing extreme temperatures, community consultation conducted by Ironbark Sustainability in partnership with GSC highlighted a variety of community experiences and concerns related to the changing climate. These included water security concerns due to declining rainfall, negative impacts on livability, especially during summer months, and the health and mental health impacts on residents of drought and extreme heat events, particularly on vulnerable members of the community. The Kerang Aboriginal Elders group additionally spoke of the deterioration of the local environment, including waterways that were more polluted and more invasive species in the local area. They also discussed issues with extreme heat and the financial stress of needing to run air conditioning for longer in summer.

Figure 1: Average number of days over 35°C per month in Kerang



3.1.2 Gannawarra in 2050

Without significant action to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change, these impacts are only going to increase. Modelling completed by the Victorian Government, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) confirms that both medium and high emissions scenarios will see an increase in average and daily maximum temperatures for the Gannawarra region. Under a high emissions scenario average daily maximum temperature rise is projected to increase from 22.8°C to approximately 25°C by 2050 and over 27°C by 2100^v. The impact of this is set to almost double the average number of days over 35°C per year to over 42 per year by 2050 and up to 62 by 2090. Rainfall is projected to continue to decline under a high emissions scenario, with annual rainfall between 10-20% lower by 2050 (Figure 3).

Emissions Scenarios

To assist climate scientists in the consistent modelling of climate change impacts, the IPCC has outlined four standardised scenarios called Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs), ranging from RCP8.5 (high emissions scenario) to RCP2.6 (low emissions scenario). These scenarios are based on the likely emissions production at a global level (i.e. the total amount of emissions produced by all countries) and consider the environmental systems used to process various concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide^{iv}. Taking into account the diversity of climate action at a global scale, it is relevant to consider high (RCP8.5) and medium (RCP4.5) scenarios to understand our future climatic landscape.

Climate models also project an increase in solar radiation for the Murray Darling Basin, a decrease in relative humidity and an increase in evapotranspiration (the evaporation and transpiration of water from soil, vegetation, water bodies and the groundwater table). Increase evapotranspiration together with a decline in rainfall is projected to have large impacts on soil moisture, particularly in winter and spring^{vi}

Figure 2: Extreme heat projections for the Gannawarra region^{vii}

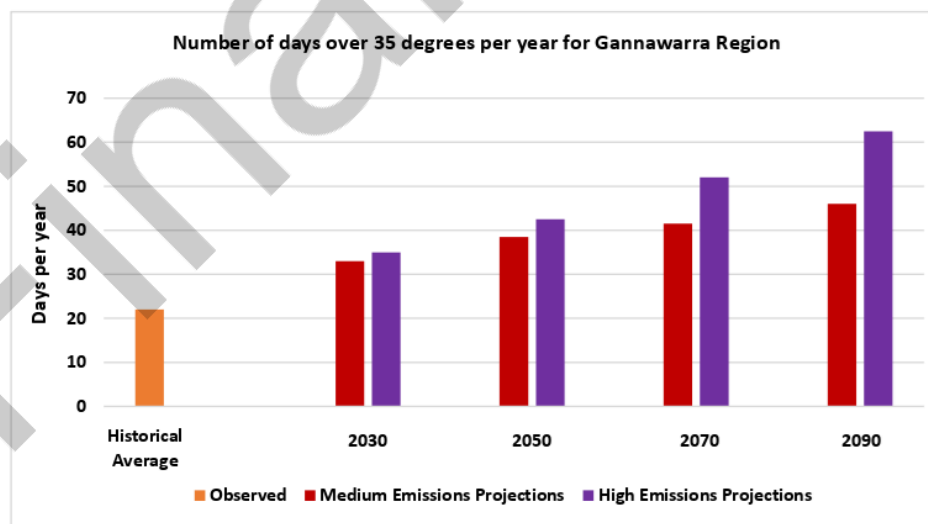
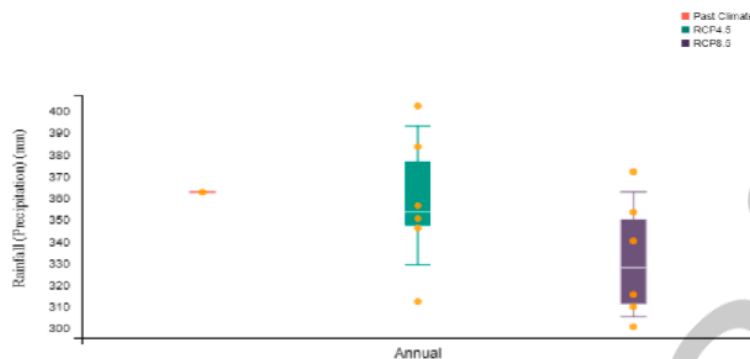


Figure 3: Rainfall predictions under medium (RCP4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenarios^{viii}

Despite these trends, local and global action on climate change is still able to reduce emissions in line with low or medium emissions scenarios. Limiting global emissions to these lower concentration levels will help to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Under a medium emissions scenario, for example, the region is projected to experience a much lower reduction in rainfall, while under a low emissions scenario average annual temperatures are projected to be 2.3°C to 2.8°C lower than under a high emissions scenario by the end of the century^{ix}.

3.2 State and Federal Policy Context

Paris Agreement At the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Conference in 2015, the Australian Government signed an international agreement between 195 countries to keep any temperature rise “well below 2°C”, and to drive efforts to keep warming below 1.5°C higher than pre-industrial levels. The Paris Agreement, entered into force on 4 November 2016, explicitly recognises and engages local and subnational governments and their critical role in supporting the transformation, including setting goals and strategies aligned with the science. Climate science tells us that warming beyond the 1.5°C threshold is likely to have increasingly severe social, economic and environmental impacts, not least on a water scarce continent like Australia.

Victorian Government In 2017, the Victorian Government introduced the *Climate Change Act 2017*, which legislated a state-wide net zero emissions target by 2050. In 2021, the State Government further released the Victorian Climate Change Strategy, which introduced updated renewable energy targets and interim emissions reduction targets, including a 50% renewable energy target and a 45-50% emission reduction target (on 2005 levels) by 2030^x.

The *Climate Change Act* also requires the development of five-yearly Adaptation Action Plans covering the physical and non-physical systems applicable to Victorian communities^{xi}.

The amended *Local Government Act 2020* for the first time introduced overarching governance principles that Councils must consider climate change in their decision-making, specifically that “the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted”^{xii}.

Federal Government In October 2021, the Australian Government committed for the first time to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. With the election of the new federal government in May 2022, Australia recommitted to the 2050 net zero emission target and increased its 2030 target from 26-28 per cent below 2005 levels to 43%^{xiii}. While Australia's new 2030 target is now in line with the Australia Climate Change Authority's recommendation of between 40-60% reduction in emissions by 2030^{xiv}, the target remains at the lower end of the recommended range.

3.3 Low Carbon Transition

Council's Impact Australian local governments are at the forefront of climate change mitigation and have played a significant role in supporting the State and Federal Governments to take realistic but ambitious action. Avoiding the worst effects of climate change will require the decarbonisation of fossil fuel consuming industries and processes. This need to transition to a low carbon economy is the driving force behind the Victorian Government's emissions reduction target of 45-50% by 2030.

Global and national efforts to decarbonise at an organisational level have included transitioning to low carbon alternatives to internal combustion engine vehicles, improving the efficiency of equipment and building design, and installing onsite renewable energy. GSC can contribute to these efforts by reducing its own corporate emissions, a process Council has already begun with the installation of rooftop solar PV and efficient street lighting upgrades.

Large Scale Renewables The transition to a low carbon economy will require significant changes to Australia's energy industry. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) predicts that electricity demand will almost double by 2050 to serve the electrification of all sectors of the economy. Coal-fired generation, which currently provides over half the current electricity supply, has been forecast to cease entirely by 2043. Already, coal-fired power plants such as Eraring, in the Hunter Valley, are bringing their expected closure dates forward by more than 5 years.



AEMO is expecting Australia to need 141 GW of grid-scale renewable energy to serve energy demands in 2050. For Gannawarra Shire this presents enormous opportunity, due to the region's significant solar resources. With regulatory approval underway for VNI West (also known as Kerang link), Gannawarra Shire is well placed to supply both Victoria and NSW with low-cost renewable energy to support their transition to net zero.

Kerang Link

The Victoria New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West or the Kerang Link) will see the Victorian and New South Wales electricity networks connected via infrastructure that passes through Gannawarra Shire. In addition to enabling greater electricity transfer capacity between Victoria and New South Wales, the upgraded electricity infrastructure will allow for significantly higher volumes of renewable energy to feed into the national grid. The upgraded network will encourage new local renewable energy investment in the region, while having positive impacts on grid stabilisation and electricity costs^{xv}.

"Kerang Link will set up Northern Victoria as the nation's largest renewable energy zone and will secure the Gannawarra's economic sustainability,"

Mayor Charlie Gillingham

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) recommended the project proceed in 2021, with an expected completion date of 2031. Once completed, Kerang Link will have significant regional and national outcomes through its role in supporting the accelerated exit of ageing coal fired power plants from the grid. Gannawarra is already part of Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones and has two existing large scale solar plants in function. Kerang Link will enable the further development of Large Scale Renewables in the region.

As well as environmental benefits, the project will also facilitate renewable energy infrastructure investment in the region, with the creation of local jobs and economic flow to the community.

Emerging Technologies Large-scale decarbonisation is driving the development of new technologies to support the transition away from fossil fuel usage across all sectors. These emerging technologies include green hydrogen for transport and industrial processes, energy storage in batteries, microgrids, and virtual power plants (VPPs).

Carbon Sequestration The commitment to achieve net zero emissions by State and Federal governments and private corporations means that the demand for carbon offsets will dramatically grow over the next decade. This presents opportunities for new carbon sequestration projects such as reforestation and afforestation to generate carbon credits.

4. GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL POLICY CONTEXT

Gannawarra Shire Council is taking notable steps to acknowledge and act upon climate change in the region. These steps include the integration of climate change within the Growing Gannawarra plan, the adoption of a formal Climate Change Policy in December 2021 and the development of this Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Council operations and services.

4.1 Growing Gannawarra

The Growing Gannawarra Council Plan (2021 - 2025)^{xvi} establishes three Council goals, which aim to ensure the Gannawarra region remains a prosperous and safe place to live and work: Liveability, Growth and Sustainability. Action on climate change underpins the achievement of each of these three goals. This includes (but is not limited to):



- Building transformational infrastructure that enhances liveability and passive and active recreation, under Goal 1 (Liveability),
- Facilitating the development of new energy projects and infrastructure, under Goal 2 (Growth), and
- Supporting community resilience through climate adaptation, clean energy, environmental sustainability and waste management programs, under Goal 3 (Sustainability)

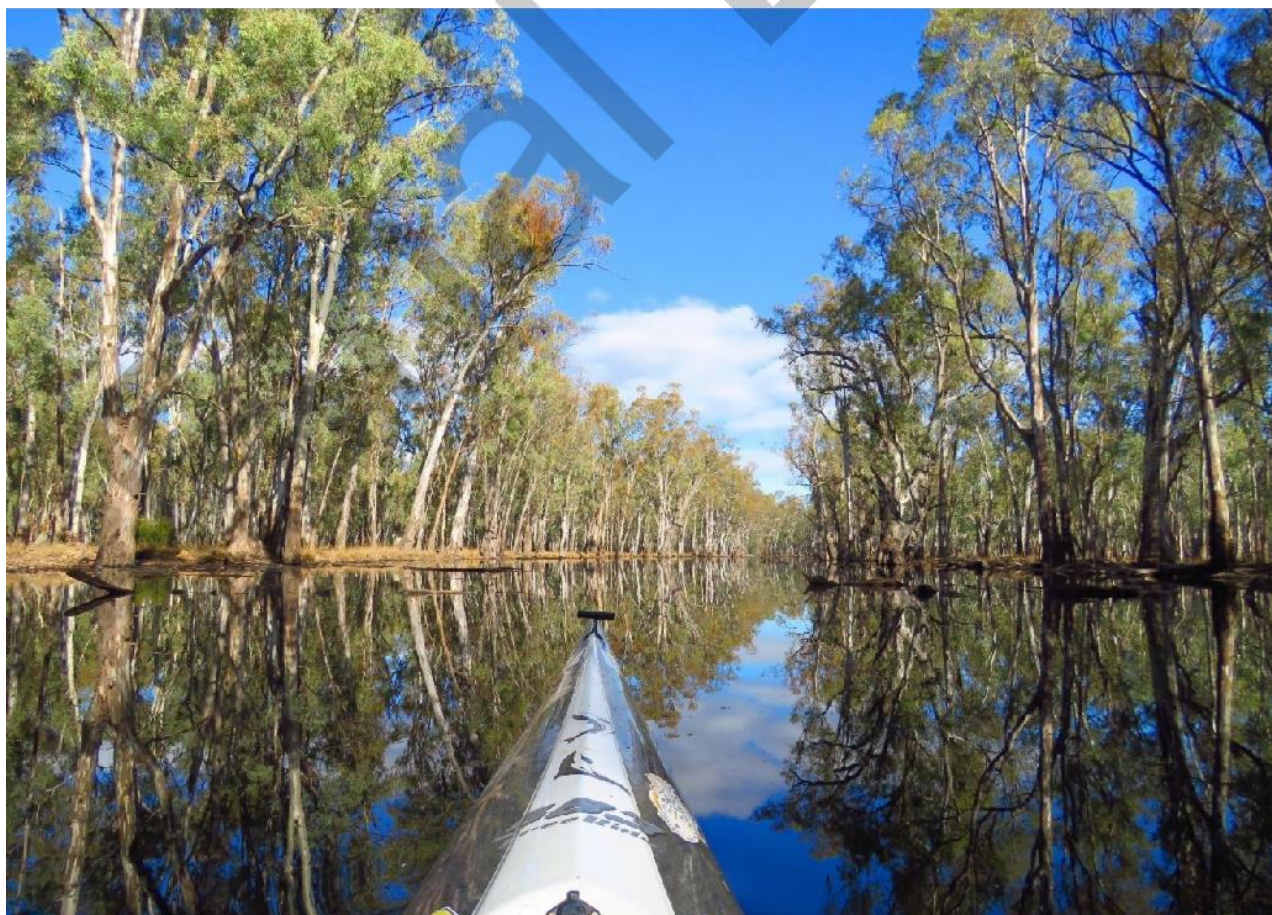


4.2 Gannawarra Shire Council's Climate Change Policy

GSC's Climate Change Policy^{xvii} lays the foundation for Council to take meaningful action to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change. The policy *acknowledges the scientific evidence and the risk that climate change presents to the community and the planet* and provides Council with a strategic framework for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

It outlines five key policy objectives which establish the direction and ambition for Climate Action within the Shire. The policy objectives are to:

- Provide a strategic framework for Council to manage its response to climate change by using both adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- Reduce the environmental impacts and operating costs of Council operations and minimise fuel consumption while reducing corporate energy use, transition to 100% renewable energy and achieve corporate net zero emissions by 2025, and net zero emissions at the Landfill by 2040;
- Undertake actions to reduce the community's emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2040 by providing opportunities for public engagement, education and action;
- Respond to the risks of climate change to Council assets and services and assist the community to be more resilient to the effects of climate change; and
- Actively join climate change initiatives that promote education, economic growth and the community to become more sustainable and increase liveability.



5. CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS FOR GANNAWARRA

Gannawarra Shire is exposed to a range of climate change related hazards, including extreme heat, drought and flooding, which present Council and the Community with a high level of climate change risk.

To assess and prioritise these risks, a climate change risk assessment was undertaken in line with Council's risk management procedure. The risk assessment examined the six main climate related hazards to which the Shire is exposed against each of Council's service areas as listed in **Table 1**. Through this process 62 potential climate change risks were identified, including four extreme risks and a further 21 high risks. A summary of all 62 climate changes risks is provided in **Appendix B**.

Table 1: Climate Change Hazards and Council Services Areas

Climate Change Hazards	Council Service Areas
Extreme Heat	Corporate Services
Low Rainfall	Community Development
Drought	Public Health and Wellbeing
Bushfire	Assets and Infrastructure
Riverine Flooding	Leadership and Governance
Extreme Weather	Environment and Parks
	Waste
	Water
	Economic Development

5.1 Key Climate Change Risks

Riverine Flooding



Riverine flooding was assessed as having the greatest overall risk to Council with three extreme and six high risks identified.

The three extreme risks all related to the potential impact of a major riverine flood event on Council and private property, assets and infrastructure across the region. The extreme risk rating is due to how widespread the impacts would be under a major flood event, in particular in the event that townships levees are breached.

High risks include short term displacement of local residents, townships being temporarily cut off and disruption to services as a result of a major flood event.

Riverine flooding was also a key concern raised by local residents during community consultations, with the memory of the 2011 floods still very prevalent in people's minds.



Drought

Drought was also assessed as a significant risk for the Gannawarra Shire. Given the importance of agriculture to the region, the economic impact of a major drought event is potentially catastrophic. This resulted in an extreme risk assessment.

Four additional risks related to drought were also assessed as high, including the impact of drought on local food security, water scarcity and supply, habitat and biodiversity loss and increase in pests and invasive species.



Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is the third main climate risk for the region. Six risks relating to extreme heat were assessed as high. The potential health impact of an increase in heatwaves and extreme heat days on vulnerable members of the community was assessed to have the greatest overall consequence (Major). Additionally, extreme heat impacts on mental health, green space, local habitat and biodiversity and Council services were assessed to have a moderate consequence. A key risk factor that stands out for extreme heat is that its likelihood in the future is *Almost Certain*. The greater likelihood of extreme heat events elevates each of these risks.

The current as well as potential future impact of extreme heat was raised as a key issue of concern during the community consultations.



Bushfire

The risk of bushfire to lives and property was assessed to be lower for Gannawarra due to the low density of forested areas around townships within the shire. The risk of increased bushfire events on habitat and biodiversity loss as well as natural and cultural assets is, however, high. The impact of bushfire on Ramsar Wetlands and other areas of high conservation value could be significant with increased frequency and severity of bushfires. More frequent bushfires can impact the environment's ability to regenerate, and more severe fires can have a critical impact on flora and fauna.



Community Concerns and Priorities

Community consultation conducted as part of the development of this strategy highlighted a number of critical concerns of Gannawarra residents and clear priorities for action.

Key concerns raised by community members included:

The impacts of extreme heat on health, well-being and liveability

The impact of reduced rainfall on agricultural, natural environment and mental health, and

The economic impact of climate change with more money having to be spent on electricity and fuel as well as flow costs from health impacts.

Significant concern was also raised about the potential for future flood events similar or greater than the 2011 floods. One community member spoke of the high level of trauma that was still present in the community from the 2011 floods.

The Kerang Elders Group raised many of the same issues, particularly in relation to extreme heat and the economic impacts climate change. The group also spoke about how the seasons had changed and voiced concerns about the deterioration of the local environment, including more polluted waterways and more weeds and invasive species in the local area.

Priority actions identified by community members included:

The need for more street trees and green spaces within towns,

The need to create cool spaces, shade belts and heat refuges to make towns more accessible on hot days, including free splash parks

More climate change education and outreach that can target critical information to vulnerable groups

Climate change extension and financial incentives to support adoption of energy savings and low emissions solutions in homes and businesses

More action to encourage shift away from private petrol vehicles

Greater consideration of climate change impacts in planning decisions

Support for community led power generation including Virtual Power Plants, and

Increasing Council solar and transitioning away from natural gas.

The need for Aboriginal communities in the Gannawarra Shire to be consulted and provided with opportunities for economic development as part of the low carbon transitions was also raised during the Kerang Elders meeting.



6. GSC EMISSIONS INVENTORY

GSC's corporate greenhouse gas inventory for the 2020/21 financial year was 1,696 tCO₂-e. This includes all emissions occurring as a result of Council's operations for one year. A summary of Council's emissions sources is presented in **Table 2**. The most significant emissions source is transport fuels, including diesel, petrol and LPG used in Council's fleet and plant. Transport fuel accounted for 55% of total emissions. Electricity at council-owned sites is the next largest contributor is electricity at 30%, or 507 tCO₂-e. Electricity for street lighting represents 9% of the inventory, and water supply to council facilities 6%.

Figure 4: GSC Corporate GHG Emissions Breakdown 2020/21

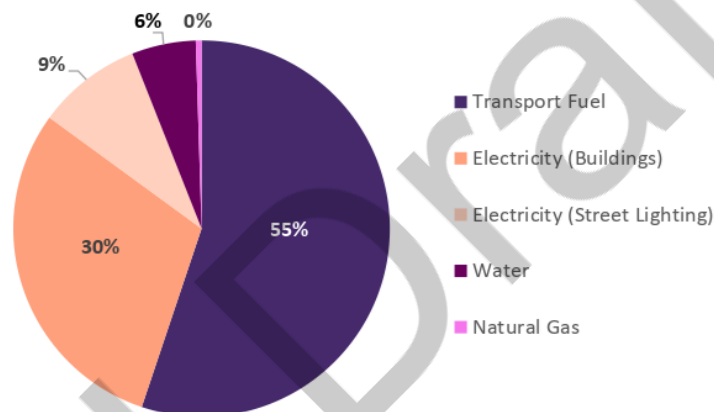


Table 2: GSC Corporate GHG Emissions Inventory 2020/21

Emissions Source	Consumption	Units	tCO ₂ e	%
Direct emissions (Scope 1)				
Transport - Diesel for fleet	85	kL	230	13.5%
Transport - Diesel for plant	213	kL	579	34.1%
Transport - Petrol for fleet	34.7	kL	79	4.7%
Transport - LPG for fleet	1.2	kL	2	0.1%
LPG bottled & bulk for buildings	5,040	L	8	0.5%
TOTAL DIRECT EMISSIONS (Scope 1)			898	53%
Indirect emissions (Scope 2)				
Electricity (Council)	465,145	kWh	456	26.9%
TOTAL INDIRECT EMISSIONS (Scope 2)			456	27%
Indirect emissions (Scope 3)				
Electricity (Street Lighting - DNSP Owned)	139,528	kWh	137	8.0%
Water (Council)	51,918	kL	93	5.5%
Emissions from manufacture, transmission and other losses electricity for Council sites	465,145	kWh	51	3.0%
Emissions from manufacture, transmission and other losses electricity for Street Lighting	139,528	kWh	15	0.9%
Emissions from diesel extraction, production and transport for fleet & plant	298	kL	41	2.4%
Emissions from petrol extraction, production and transport fleet & plant	34	kL	4	0.3%
Emissions from LPG extraction, production and transport for fleet and buildings	6,269	L	0.6	0.04%
TOTAL INDIRECT EMISSIONS (Scope 3)			343	20%
TOTAL EMISSIONS (Scope 1+2+3)			1,697	100%

7. WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED?

Gannawarra Shire Council has shown leadership in the actions we have taken in response to climate change. GSC has already implemented an array of programs, which have sought to better understand climate change related impacts, such as extreme heat, and improve the livability of the region. Council has also undertaken actions to reduce our own impact on climate change through emissions reduction activities, including the installation of 170 KW of behind the meter Solar systems at Council facilities and the replacement of streetlights with energy efficient LEDs, and by supporting the development of large-scale renewable energy generation in the region. These projects not only deliver improved environmental benefits but also achieve financial and operational savings for Council and help to create more economic development opportunities of the region.

Cool It Tree Selection and Heat Vulnerability Assessments

A council collaboration coordinated by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) with funding from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the Cool It project utilised spatial data to determine urban areas of nine Victorian regional and rural councils that were socially vulnerable to heat impacts, including Gannawarra Shire^{xviii}. This led to the identification of parcels of land within these areas where populations are most vulnerable to urban heat and heatwaves and prioritisation of these areas for responsive planning, strategy and communication mechanisms. The project placed a specific focus on the value of canopy cover and ground cover vegetation in lowering urban microclimate temperatures, including surface temperatures. It also successfully quantified the benefits associated with various vegetation types and urban surface treatments to help guide appropriate and responsive urban planning to mitigate heat associated urban risks. In partnership with the Castlemaine Institute, a secondary project phase sought to identify a selection of street trees resilient to future climate scenarios. A short-list of 100 candidate species was identified for detailed evaluation of their vulnerability to future climate^{xix}.



Gannawarra Large-Scale Renewable Energy

Gannawarra Shire has an abundance of land, solar and wind resources and is in the heart of one of Victoria's six Renewable Energy Zones. This makes the shire ideally placed to capitalise on opportunities associated with solar and wind power generation.

The Shire is already home to two large solar power stations (Stage 1 of a 300MW station and completion of a 34MW station) and has identified a number of additional large scale renewable projects, which would deliver further economic development opportunities for the region. The final approval and development of VNI West (Kerang Link) will provide certainty for these projects to proceed.

**LED Streetlight Design and Bulk Changeover**

With support from the CVGA, Gannawarra Shire Council took part in the Lighting the Regions program, seeking to replace inefficient mercury vapour lights with LEDs. Over 700 lights were changed in the Gannawarra region, part of a larger regional project that replaced approximately 23,000 lights. The savings associated with a renewable energy project such as this are both environmental and financial. The 16 Lighting the Regions participants seek to save a combined total of \$57 million over 20 years, and 180,000 tCO₂-e of emissions. This is additional to the social and security benefits associated with a streetlight bulk changeover, such as ensuring all lights are functional and fit for purpose.



8. GSC'S CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

8.1 Long Term Goal

Gannawarra Shire Council's long term climate change goal is:

By 2040, Gannawarra Shire Council is a highly sustainable and resilient regional Council and a leading region for renewable energy and low carbon technology.

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the scientific evidence and the risk that climate change presents to the community and the planet. GSC is committed to taking strong and decisive action to minimise Council's environmental impact and build the resilience of Council operations, services and assets to reduce the vulnerability of the community to climate change.

Council also recognises the opportunities that the response to climate change presents, in particular the economic development opportunities available from the transition to a low carbon economy. As part of our response to climate change, GSC will support the region to maximise the available opportunities and reap the benefits for the economic transition.

8.2 Strategic Approach

Gannawarra Shire Council has developed a Climate Action Framework (Section 8.3) to guide Council action and ensure our long-term climate change goal is achieved.

Strategic Priorities

GSC will focus on four Strategic Priority (SP) areas that will enable Council to adapt to climate change, build our resilience, minimise our environmental impact and position the shire to act on the available opportunities. Each strategic priority will work towards achieving a long-term objective, as outlined in the section 8.3.

Strategic Priority 1:	Building resilience of GSC operations and services to climate change.
Strategic Priority 2:	Reducing community vulnerability to extreme weather.
Strategic Priority 3:	Reducing Council environmental impact and operating costs.
Strategic Priority 4:	Maximising opportunities of the low carbon transition.

Pathway Actions

Under each strategic priority area pathway actions have been identified. The pathway actions help to identify the types of actions that are required under each strategic priority area to achieve the long-term objectives and deliver on Council's long-term climate change goal.

Short and Medium Term Objectives

Short and medium-term objectives have also been developed for each strategic priority area. These objectives focus on the achievement of shorter-term priorities that are required to achieve Council's long-term climate change objectives. Achieving the short and medium-term objectives will help ensure GSC is on the right pathway to deliver on Council's climate change strategy.

8.3 Climate Action Framework

Goal	By 2040, Gannawarra Shire Council is a highly sustainable and resilient regional Council and a leading region for renewable energy and low carbon technology.					
Priority Issues	Strategic Priority 1 Building Resilience of Council Operations and Services to Climate Change			Strategic Priority 2 Reducing community vulnerability to extreme weather events		
Pathway Action	Build knowledge	Identify risks	Integrate into strategic operations and planning	Increase community awareness	Enhance natural assets & open space	Reduce vulnerability to extreme weather
Long Term Objectives	By 2040, GSC has built the resilience of its assets, operations and services to withstand climate change impacts and ensure continuity of service to the community.			By 2040, Council managed assets and open-spaces have been enhanced to improve livability and reduce community vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.		
Medium Term Objectives	By 2030, GSC has developed action plans and started to adapt its assets, operations and services to reduce risk and vulnerability to climate change impacts.	By 2030, consideration of potential climate change impacts becomes a business-as-usual practice in Council strategic planning and decision-making.	By 2030, GSC has investigated climate change cadetship and scholarship opportunities to upskill staff.	By 2035, GSC has increased tree cover and shading in town nature strips, centres and major parks to reduce impact of extreme heat.	By 2035, all township levees have been upgraded to adhere to a 1-in-100 year flood level that accounts for climate change	
Short Term Objectives	By 2025, GSC has identified critical climate change risks to all council assets and services.	By 2025, GSC has integrated climate change across Council's Strategic Planning.		By 2025, a Gannawarra community sustainability group has established itself as a key resource for climate change information within the shire.	By 2025, GSC has updated its tree planting guidelines and trees policy to incorporate recommendations of the Cool It Project.	By 2030, all township flood levees have been assessed against a revised 1-in-100 year flood level that accounts for climate change.

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Priority Issues	Strategic Priority 3 Reducing Council environmental impact and operating costs				Strategic Priority 4 Maximising opportunities of the low carbon transition		
	Renewable energy	Energy efficiency	Electrification	Offset	Large scale renewables	Green hydrogen	Carbon sequestration
Long Term Objectives	By 2040, GSC has completed the transition of its assets and facilities to energy efficient, low carbon technology.				By 2040, GSC is a leading LGA for the development and production of renewable energy and low carbon technology, providing financial and environmental benefits for the Gannawarra community.		
Medium Term Objectives	By 2030, GSC has developed a transition plan for its heavy fleet.	By 2035, GSC has transitioned all of its small plant and light fleet to electric alternatives.	By 2035, GSC has implemented an Ecologically Suitable Development (ESD) policy for new buildings and redevelopments and has phased out all gas systems.		By 2030, GSC has established partnerships for development of new large-scale renewable energy, carbon sequestration and Green Hydrogen projects.		
Short Term Objectives	From 2025, GSC will source 100% of electricity from renewable sources.		GSC seeks to achieve zero net emissions for its operations and services by 2030.		By 2025 Council has successfully advocated for VNI West (Kerang Link) approvals	By 2025, GSC has investigated developing guidelines to ensure the Gannawarra community benefit from the renewable energy investment in the region.	

8.4 Strategic Priority 1: Building Resilience of Council Operations and Services to Climate Change

SP1: Long Term Objective

By 2040, GSC has built the resilience of its assets, operations and services to withstand climate change impacts and ensure continuity of service to the community.

Ensuring that Council's own assets and infrastructure can withstand the projected impacts of climate change is a key responsibility for Local Governments. Under the *Victorian Local Government Act 2020*, Councils are required to:

- give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations, 9(2)(b); and
- promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, 9(2)(c).

Additionally, Council needs to ensure that it can continue to carry out its normal operations and provide essential services to the community in a climate change affected future.

SP1: Pathway Actions

Build knowledge	Identify risks	Integrate into strategic operations and planning
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Building the resilience of Council assets, operations and services to climate change requires Council to firstly build and maintain its internal climate change knowledge and capacity, relevant to key operational areas, and then to improve the identification and monitoring of critical climate change risks.

As climate change will have different impacts across Council's operations and areas of responsibility, the most effective way to identify, address and monitor risks is to integrate climate change considerations and actions into existing council process. This means incorporating climate change into key governance process such as Council's strategic risk management processes and integrating climate change into key strategies and plans, including the Council Plan, the Municipal Public Health and Well-Being Plan and the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

Building knowledge, identifying risks and integrating climate change into strategic operations and planning represent the three pathway actions for this strategic priority area.

SP1: Short-Term Objectives	
By 2025, GSC has identified critical climate change risks to all council assets and services.	By 2025, GSC has integrated climate change across Council's Strategic Planning.
SP1: Short-term actions	
<i>Build Knowledge</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake assessment of relevant technical staff and decision-makers' knowledge of climate change. Ensure relevant staff complete training to be able to integrate climate change considerations in assessments, planning and decision-making. Investigate scholarship or cadetship opportunities for staff.
<i>Identify Risks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate climate change risk and vulnerability assessments into asset management plans for all critical Council assets. Assess impact of extreme weather events on Council services.
<i>Integrate Climate Change into Strategic Operations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include climate change as a strategic risk within Council's strategic risk register. Conduct contingency/business continuity planning for high and extreme climate change risks on key council operations and services. Integrate climate change into the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan.

Looking Forward

The majority of short-term actions for this strategic priority area will need to continue to be implemented in the medium to long term, including capacity development, risk and vulnerability assessments and integration of climate change into governance, operational and strategic planning. Medium term actions are, however, expected to have a greater focus on the development of specific adaptation actions and plans to address risks and reduce vulnerability of assets and services to climate change. Building the knowledge and experience of staff related to climate change will also help to improve Council processes and support consideration of climate change to become business-as-usual in decision-making.

8.5 Strategic Priority 2: Reducing Gannawarra community vulnerability to extreme weather events

SP2: Long Term Objective

By 2040, Council managed assets and open-spaces have been enhanced to improve livability and reduce community vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

Riverine flooding, drought and extreme heat are the greatest climate change risks facing Gannawarra. Climate change is projected to lead to a significant increase in the number of extreme heat days and heatwave events in the Shire. If global emissions remain high, Gannawarra shire could see over 45 days above 35°C per year by 2050, over double the number experienced in the 1990s. While overall rainfall is projected to decline, the occurrence of high intensity rainfall events is expected to increase. This shift in rainfall patterns will increase the risk of both drought and major flooding events.

Council has a crucial role to play in reducing the vulnerability of the local community through the effective management of Council owned assets, including Council buildings and facilities, natural assets and open spaces and township levees. Ensuring these assets are designed and adapted to meet expected climate change can greatly reduce the community exposure and vulnerability to climate change impacts.

SP2: Pathway Actions

Increase community awareness	Enhance natural assets & open spaces	Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Weather
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Enhancing council owned natural assets and open spaces and reducing community vulnerability to extreme weather, including extreme heat and flood events, are the key pathway action areas for Council under this strategic priority.

Enhance assets and reduce vulnerability to extreme weather

Council manages a large number of natural assets and open spaces across the Shire. Parks, green spaces and street trees play an incredibly important role in cooling towns and enhancing livability. Increasing canopy cover within towns provides greater shade, allowing people to go about their business for longer, while also helping to reduce the amount of heat trapped within urban areas on hot days. Enhancing parks and green spaces also provides more cool places for people to escape the heat and allows the community to be more active outside across the hotter months. As the climate changes ensuring that all new trees planted must be selected from species that are suited to Gannawarra's current and expected future climate. Appropriate tree species selection will also reduce watering and maintenance requirements and save Council money.

In addition to enhancing natural assets to reduce vulnerability to extreme heat, Council will upgrade public buildings that can be used as heat refuges and provide more sheltered and shaded areas and drinking water stations. Council will also review and update its vulnerable persons register to include people vulnerable to extreme heat.

To ensure Shire townships remain safe from major flood events, Council will advocate for flood models to incorporate projected climate change impacts and conduct assessments on all Council owned levees to ensure they continue to meet a 1-in-100 year flood level.

Increase community awareness

Council will also support the establishment of a community sustainability group and the development of a community-led adaptation and mitigation strategy. These actions will support the local community to increase their own understanding of the climate change impacts and risks, get information on resources and support available and help them take action appropriate actions, from reducing heat impacts in their homes to lowering emissions and energy bills through the installation of solar or undertaking energy efficiency actions.

SP2: Short-Term Objectives		
By 2025, a Gannawarra community sustainability group has established itself as a key resource for climate change information within the shire.	By 2025, GSC has updated its tree planting guidelines and trees policy to incorporate recommendations of the Cool It Project.	By 2030, all township flood levees have been assessed against a revised 1-in-100 year flood level that accounts for projected climate change.
SP2: Short-term actions		
<i>Community Awareness</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the establishment of a community sustainability group to enhance community engagement on key climate change issues. Support the development of a community-led climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. 	
<i>Enhance Natural Assets and Open Spaces</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance natural spaces for use as cool places during extreme heat events. Increase urban canopy cover in shire townships, in particular around town centres, retail precincts, critical services and nature strips. Update GSC tree planting guideline based on recommendations of the Cool It Project, including priority locations and appropriate tree species selection. Work with North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) and neighbouring councils to monitor key habitat and native vegetation areas for new and invasive species and join advocacy to increase actions to reduce invasive plant and animal species. 	
<i>Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Weather</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update vulnerable persons register to include residents at high risk to extreme temperatures. Enhance open spaces such as parks and bus stops to provide further protection and relief from sun and extreme heat, including more sheltered and shaded areas and provision of drinking water stations. Upgrade public buildings to provide cool places and heat refuges during extreme heat. Explore the use of Environmental Upgrade Agreement opportunities to support local business and residents to increase the energy and thermal efficiency of their businesses and houses to reduce vulnerability to extreme temperatures. Advocate to ensure that flood models account for projected climate change impacts, including to 1-in-100 year flood level. Conduct assessments on all town levees to ensure they continue to exceed a 1-in-100 year flood level. 	

Looking Forward

As with Strategic Priority Area 1, many of the medium term actions for this strategic priority area will focus on the implementation of assessments and plans developed in the under this initial climate change strategy. This is expected to include:

- Continued enhancement of green and open spaces, through further tree planting, shading and other small scale infrastructure to reduce heat impacts;
- Upgrading townships levees identified as requiring enhancement through assessments to maintain 1-in-100 year flood level protections, and
- Continued upgrading of Council buildings for use as cool refuges, as required.

Council is also expected to continue actions including, monitoring and managing invasive species, reviewing and updating vulnerable persons register and supporting community level climate change action. Improved risk and vulnerability assessments conducted in Strategic Priority Area 1 may also lead to additional action to reduce community vulnerability to extreme weather.



8.6 Strategic Priority 3: Reducing Gannawarra Shire Council environmental impact and operating costs

SP3: Long Term Objective

By 2040, GSC has completed the transition of its assets and facilities to energy efficient, low carbon technology.

Transitioning GSC's operations to energy efficient, low carbon technology will not only reduce Council's own impact on climate change and the environment but will also led to financial savings through reduced operational and maintenance costs. Renewable energy and energy efficiency actions can significantly reduce electricity use at Council facilities and assets, while the electrification of council's fleet and gas system will reduce future fuel and maintenance costs.

The maturity of technology across these different areas, however, is at different stages. While some technologies, such as renewable energy and energy efficiency, are already technically and financially viable, other technology, such as batteries and electric or hydrogen heavy fleet are still many years away from being viable to use within Council operations.

By acting on the presently available opportunities and beginning required transition planning processes now, GSC will steadily reduce operational emissions and costs and ensure that larger change processes, such as the electrification of Council's fleet, are implemented in a timely and cost-effective way that minimises risk to Council.

SP3: Pathway Actions

Renewable energy	Energy efficiency	Electrification	Offsets
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The three critical pathway action areas for Council to reduce its emissions are: switching to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency of building and assets and electrification of gas systems and Council fleet.

Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency

GSC has already taken substantial action in these areas with the installation of 170 KW of behind the meter solar panel across Council facilities and the replacement of all streetlights within the Shire with energy efficient LED lighting. Together these actions are already saving Council over \$50,000 and 200 tCO₂-e per year. Council will continue to reduce electricity consumption through the development of minimum energy efficiency performance standards for new plant and equipment.

At the end of Council's current electricity contract, GSC will look into procuring 100% renewable energy, for example through a renewable energy power purchase agreement (PPA). GSC will also explore opportunities to develop a solar farm on Council land which would be able to directly supply GSC with 100% renewable energy and provide emissions offset opportunities through the sale of excess electricity generation.

As battery technology continues to improve and costs reduce, there may also be more opportunity for the installation of solar plus battery systems across more Council sites, further reducing in electricity costs and increasing energy security.

Electrification

Globally, the transition to electric vehicles is underway. A number of large economies, including the UK, EU, India and California have introduced petrol vehicle bans from 2030 or 2035, while leading car manufacturers are beginning to set targets to halt the production of internal combustion engine vehicles.

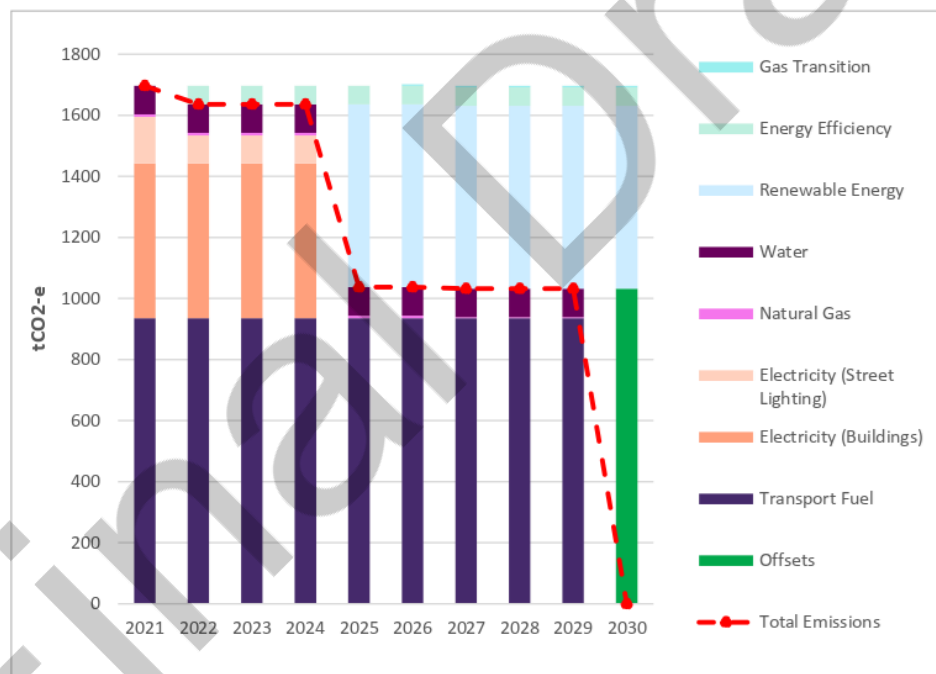
Transport fuel usage is the major operational emissions sources for GSC. While there are electric alternatives currently available for passenger vehicles and small plant, these assets account for less than 20% of Council's fuel usage. At present there are limited options within the Australian market for transitioning Council utes and heavy fleet and plant to electric alternatives. The electric vehicle transition will also require the development of supporting infrastructure both in the Shire and the region. This includes installation of charging infrastructure, development of maintenance capacity and encouraging supply of EVs through dealerships within the region. Given these current constraints, GSC will initially focus on developing a fleet transition plan and trialing a small number of electric vehicles and plant alternatives. GSC will also work with regional partners, such as the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, to encourage the development of EV supporting infrastructure in the region. While the full transition away from petrol and diesel vehicles may be 15-20 years away, beginning the planning process now will ensure Council can ensure the transition is cost effective and minimises the risk of being left with stranded assets.

Council will also phase out gas usage in its facilities across the Shire.



Offsetting Council's remaining emissions

After completing all viable renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification actions GSC is expected to still be required to offset some emissions to achieve its net zero emissions by 2030 target. Figure 5: Pathway to Net Zero Figure 5 presents a possible pathway for GSC to reach net zero by 2030, in accordance with the actions described above. Through street lighting upgrades, electrification of gas systems at Patchell Plaza and renewable energy procurement through a PPA, GSC's corporate emissions can be reduced to just over 1,000 tCO₂-e per year, approximately a 40% reduction from 2020/21. In order to achieve net zero by 2030, Council would then need to purchase certified carbon credits to offset these residual emissions, the majority of which will be from transport fuels. As GSC transitions its fleet to all electric over the next 10 to 15 years, these emissions will also reduce to zero without the need for offsets.

Figure 5: Pathway to Net Zero

As discussed further in Section 0, Gannawarra Shire contains significant solar and environmental assets that could be used by Council to locally offset any residual emissions in 2030. Sourcing offsets locally would reinvest money back into the region to the benefit of the local community and environment.

SP3: Short-Term Objectives	
From 2025, GSC will source 100% of electricity from renewable sources.	GSC seeks to achieve zero net emissions for its operations and services by 2030.
SP3: Short-term actions	
<i>Emissions Monitoring and Reporting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve GHG inventory data collection
<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure Council electricity from 100% renewable energy sources from 2025. • Explore opportunities for the development of a solar farm on Council land to meet future Council electricity and offset needs.
<i>Energy Efficiency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainability specifications requiring minimum energy efficiency performance for new plant and equipment.
<i>Electrification</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Transition • Adopt Council policy to adopt no new gas systems and replace all existing gas systems with electric alternatives at the end of the asset life cycle. • Fleet Transition • Development of Fleet Transition Plan • Switch small plant, e.g. Mowers, to electric alternatives. • Explore opportunity for trialing an electric vehicle within Council pool cars. • Partner with CVGA and other Councils in the region to facilitate regional infrastructure, retail and maintenance for EVs.
<i>Offset</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate offsetting options for Council to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, including through the generation of offset via local carbon sequestration or large-scale renewable energy projects or the procurement of offsets.

Looking Forward

By the conclusion of this climate change strategy, it is expected there will be a shift in Council's priorities to fleet electrification, completion of the gas transition and improvements to Council's building design specifications. Actions to support the achievement of GSC's medium-term objectives include:

- Develop heavy fleet transition plan.
- Continue electric vehicle trial with three to five vehicles within Council pool cars.
- Replace all gas systems at Council sites with electric alternatives at end of life.
- Develop an Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Policy for all new Council buildings and renewals.

8.7 Strategic Priority 4: Maximising opportunities of the low carbon transition

SP4: Long Term Objective

By 2040, GSC is a leading LGA for the development and production of renewable energy and low carbon technology, providing financial and environmental benefits for the Gannawarra community.

The transition to a low carbon economy is already well underway in Victoria. In 2017, Victoria legislated a zero net emissions target by 2050 and in 2021 introduce new renewable energy and interim emissions reduction targets, including:

- a 40% renewable energy target by 2025 and 50% by 2030, and
- a 45-50% emissions reduction target by 2030.

Achieving these targets will require significant investment in new large scale renewable energy projects as well as investment in the development of new carbon sequestration projects and new technologies and fuel sources, such as green hydrogen, which can support the transition.

Gannawarra Shire's abundant solar and natural resources means it is well placed to capitalize on the economic development opportunities being brought by the transition to a low carbon economy.

SP4: Pathway Actions

Large scale renewables	Green hydrogen	Carbon sequestration
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Facilitating the development of more large-scale renewable energy projects, exploring the opportunity for the production of green hydrogen and working with regional partners and landowners to develop more carbon sequestration projects within the Shire are the three key pathway actions areas for this Strategy Priority.

Large scale renewables

Gannawarra Shire sits within the heart of one of Victoria's six renewable energy zones and is already a leading LGA for the development of large-scale renewable energy projects. Two large scale solar projects have already been developed with over 94 MW of capacity and 50MWh of battery storage. The development of VNI West (Kerang Link), will greatly increase the opportunity for the development of new large-scale wind and solar projects within the Shire. Under the Victorian government's Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) scheme, the development of new large scale renewable projects could result in millions of dollars of income to Council each year, in addition to flow on economic impacts to the wider Gannawarra community through the construction and maintenance of the renewable energy sites^{xx}.

Green Hydrogen

Hydrogen is seen a potentially important alternative fuel sources in transition away from fossil fuels for heavy fleet and plant. The production of hydrogen, however, is itself energy intensive and is only a lower or zero emissions fuel source if its production is powered by renewable energy.

Gannawarra Shire's abundant solar resources make it well suited to the large-scale production of Green Hydrogen. GSC will explore opportunities to work with the private sector and partners such as the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) to determine the feasibility of producing Green Hydrogen within the region. As well as helping to enable Council and the States transition away from fossil fuels in transport, the local production of Green Hydrogen could also create more local jobs and further diversify Gannawarra's economy.

Carbon Sequestration

While reducing emissions is critical to mitigating the worst impacts of climate change, drawing down emissions already in the atmosphere through carbon sequestration is vital in helping to keep average global temperature rise under 2°C and as close to 1.5°C as possible. As more councils and corporations move toward net zero emissions targets there will also be more demand for carbon sequestration projects to offset the residual emissions that are unable to be reduced. Gannawarra Shire's abundant natural resources positions council well to capitalize on the expected demand for carbon credits.

GSC will explore opportunities to work with local landowners and partners such as North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) to develop local carbon sequestration projects under a regional carbon exchange. Investing in and providing opportunities for regional businesses and councils to offset residual emissions, will help to ensure the funds spent on offset remain within the region and are used to enhance the local environment and benefit the local community.



SP4: Short Term Objectives	
By 2025, Council has successfully advocated for VNI West (Kerang Link) approvals.	By 2025, GSC has investigated developing guidelines to ensure the Gannawarra community benefit from the renewable energy investment in the region.
SP4: Short Term actions	
<i>Large Scale Renewables</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain advocacy for VNI West (Kerang Link) and facilitate development of new large-scale renewable energy projects within the shire. • Use the local planning approval process to facilitate the development of Large Scale Renewables that balances the environmental aspects and considers local land use opportunities. • Consider developing guidelines or a 'Future fund' with the funds generated from renewable energy projects (or a minimum % of funds), helping return funds back into the local community via climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.
<i>Green Hydrogen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with CVGA and private sector to explore the opportunity for green hydrogen production in the region.
<i>Carbon Sequestration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for partnerships with NCCMA and others to identify land (including council owned sites and private land) that could be suitable for restoration, afforestation or other carbon sequestration projects under a regional carbon exchange.

APPENDIX A: ACTION TABLE

Table 3 assesses each of the short term actions across the four strategic priority areas against the expected cost range, return on investment, scale of impact and potential reach of the action.

Cost Range is assessed from low to high.

- *Low cost activities* predominately require staff time or training.
- *Medium cost activities* typically incur smaller capital input and asset costs, such as tree seedlings or small scale solar systems.
- *High cost activities* are likely to require larger capital works, such as building works.

Return on Investment (RoI) is assessed from low to high.

- *Low RoI actions* are those that typically achieve small savings in the utilisation of resources across the lifetime of the activity, for example electricity savings achieved through energy efficiency specifications. They also include actions that help to reduce future potential financial losses through activities such as business continuity planning.
- *Medium RoI actions* are those that achieve larger utility savings or improve decision-making or planning leading to lower-cost actions in the future, for example Fleet Transition Planning.
- *High RoI activities* are those that can generate a new ongoing revenue stream for Council, such as Renewable Energy PiLoR.
- *N/A* Some actions have also been assessed as N/A for RoI. These include process-based actions that are required to be undertaken before other actions can begin as well as many adaptation actions that reduce a risk to the community but provide no direct RoI to council. However, indirect RoIs are likely to be achieved through many of these actions. This could result from reduced in demand for Council services or improved economic activity in Shire townships.

Scale of Impact is assessed from low to high.

- *Low impact actions* are those that achieve minor gains relative to the issue. For example emissions from natural gas account for less than 1% of Council's inventory.
- *Medium impact actions* are typically those that help to reduce risks by increasing awareness or understanding of an issue.
- *High impact actions* are typically those that aim to directly address at a scale that is meaningful to the issue.

Impact Reach is assessed from Council to Community level impacts.

- *Council level actions* are those that primarily benefit Council operations or assets.
- *Community-Individual actions* are those that primarily benefit individual or discreet sections of the community.
- *Community-wide actions* are those that provide benefits to the Community at large.

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Table 3: Assessment of Actions

Action No.	Action Pathway	Action Name	Linked Action	Type of Action	Resourcing		Potential Impact		
					Type of Resourcing	Cost Range	Rol	Scale of Impact	Impact Reach
SP1: Building Resilience of Council Operations and Services to Climate Change									
1.1	Building Knowledge	Undertake assessment of relevant technical staff and decision-makers’ knowledge of climate change.		Capacity Building	Staff time	Low	N/A	N/A	Council
1.2		Ensure relevant staff complete training to be able to integrate climate change considerations in assessments, planning and decision-making.	1.1	Capacity Building	Staff time, training costs	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium	Community-Wide
1.3		Investigate scholarship or cadetship opportunities for staff.		Capacity Building	Staff time, training costs	Low	N/A	Medium	Council
1.4	Identifying Risks	Integrate climate change risk and vulnerability assessments into asset management plans for all critical Council assets.		Adaptation	Staff time, training, access to technical data	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium	Community-Wide
1.5		Assess impact of extreme weather events on Council services.		Adaptation	Staff time, monitoring	Low	Low	Medium	Community-Wide
1.6	Strategic Planning and Operations	Include climate change as a strategic risk within Council’s strategic risk register.	1.8	Adaptation	Process change	Low	N/A	Medium	Council
1.7		Conduct contingency/business continuity planning for high and extreme climate change risks on key council operations and services.	1.4, 1.6	Adaptation	Staff time, workshop costs, travel costs.	Low-Medium	Low	Medium	Community-Wide
1.8		Integrate climate change into the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan.		Adaptation	Process change, access to technical data, training.	Low	Low	Medium	Community-Wide

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Action No.	Action Pathway	Action Name	Linked Action	Type of Action	Resourcing		Potential Impact		
					Type of Resourcing	Cost Range	RoI	Scale of Impact	Impact Reach
SP2: Reducing Community Vulnerability to Extreme Weather									
2.1	Community Awareness	Support the establishment a community sustainability group to enhance community engagement on key climate change issues, including heat vulnerability, flood risk, energy efficiency and renewable energy.		Adaptation/ Mitigation	Staff time, meeting space, stipends (if required)	Low	Low	Medium	Community-Wide
2.2		Support the development of a community-led climate adaptation and mitigation strategy.	2.1	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Consultant and Engagement Costs	Low-Medium	Low	High	Community-Wide
2.3	Enhance Natural Assets and Open Spaces	Enhance natural spaces for use as cool places during extreme heat events.	2.5, 2.6, 2.8	Adaptation	Tree planting, landscaping	Medium	N/A	High	Community-Wide
2.4		Increase urban canopy cover in shire townships, in particular around town centres, retail precincts, critical services and nature strips.	2.5, 2.8	Adaptation	Tree planting, watering and maintenance	Medium	N/A	High	Community-Wide
2.5		Update GSC tree planting guideline based on recommendations of the Cool It Project, including priority locations and appropriate tree species selection.		Adaptation	Staff time	Low	Low	High	Community-Wide
2.6		Work with NCCMA and neighbouring councils to monitor key habitat and native vegetation areas for new and invasive species and join advocacy to increase actions to reduce invasive plant and animal species.	2.3	Adaptation	Staff time	Low	N/A	Medium	Community-Wide
2.7	Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Weather	Review and update vulnerable persons register to include residents at high risk to extreme temperatures.		Adaptation	Staff time	Low	N/A	Medium	Community-Individual
2.8		Enhance open spaces such as parks and bus stops to provide further protection and relief from sun and extreme heat, including more sheltered and shaded areas and provision of drinking water stations.	2.3, 2.4	Adaptation	Tree planting, landscaping, small infrastructure, e.g. drinking water stations, shading	High	N/A	High	Community-Wide
2.9		Upgrade public buildings to provide cool places and heat refuges during extreme heat.	3.5	Adaptation	Building works	High	Low	High	Community-Wide
2.10		Explore the use of Environmental Upgrade Agreement opportunities to support local business and residents to increase energy and thermal efficiency of businesses and homes to reduce vulnerability to extreme temperatures.		Adaptation	Staff time	Low-Medium	N/A	High	Community-Individual
2.11		Advocate to ensure that flood models account for potential climate change impacts, including to 1-in-100 year flood level.		Adaptation	Staff time	Low	N/A	High	Community-Wide
2.12		Conduct assessments on all town levees to ensure they continue to exceed a 1-in-100 year flood level.	2.11	Adaptation	Technical Assessment Costs	Medium	N/A	High	Community-Wide

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Action No.	Action Pathway	Action Name	Linked Action	Type of Action	Resourcing		Potential Impact		
					Type of Resourcing	Cost Range	RoI	Scale of Impact	Impact Reach
SP3: Reducing Council Environmental Impact and Operating Costs									
3.1	Emissions Monitoring and Reporting	Improve GHG inventory data collection		Mitigation	Staff time, Technical Support	Low	N/A	N/A	Council
3.2	Renewable Energy	Procure Council electricity from 100% renewable energy sources from 2025.		Mitigation	Renewable Energy Premium	Low	Low	High	Council
3.3		Explore opportunities for the development of a solar farm on Council land to meet future Council electricity and offset needs.	3.2, 3.11	Mitigation	Solar System and Installation Costs	Medium	Medium	Medium	Council
3.4	Energy Efficiency	Develop sustainability specifications requiring minimum energy efficiency performance for new plant and equipment.		Mitigation	Policy Development	Low	Low	Low	Council
3.5		Develop an Ecologically Suitable Development (ESD) Policy for all new Council buildings and redevelopments.		Adaptation/ Mitigation	Policy Development	Low	Medium	Medium	Council
3.6	Electrification – Gas Transition	Adopt Council policy to adopt no new gas systems and replace all existing gas systems with electric alternatives at the end of the asset life cycle.		Mitigation	Policy Development	Low	Low	Low	Council
3.7	Electrification – Fleet Transition	Development of Fleet Transition Plan		Mitigation	Policy Development	Low	Medium	High	Council
3.8		Switch small plant, e.g. Mowers, to electric alternatives.	3.7	Mitigation	Capital difference between standard petrol and electric plant	Low	Low	Low	Council
3.9		Explore opportunity for trialing an electric vehicle within Council pool cars.	3.7	Mitigation	Capital difference between standard petrol and electric vehicle	Low-Medium	Low	Low	Council
3.10		Partner with CVGA and other Councils in the region to facilitate regional infrastructure, retail and maintenance for EVs.	3.7	Mitigation	Staff time	Low	Low	High	Community-Wide
3.11	Offset	Investigate offsetting options for Council to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, including through the generation of offset via local carbon sequestration or large-scale renewable energy projects or the procurement of offsets.	3.1, 3.3, 4.5	Mitigation	Purchase of ACCUs/Investment in Council offsetting projects	Medium	N/A	High	Council

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Action No.	Action Pathway	Action Name	Linked Action	Type of Action	Resourcing		Potential Impact		
					Type of Resourcing	Cost Range	RoI	Scale of Impact	Impact Reach
SP4: Maximising Opportunities of the Low Carbon Transition									
4.1	Large Scale Renewables	Maintain advocacy for VNI West (Kerang Link) and facilitate development of new large-scale renewable energy projects within the shire.		Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time	Low	High	High	Community-Wide
4.2		Use the local planning approval process to facilitate the development of Large Scale Renewables that balances the environmental aspects and considers local land use opportunities.	4.1	Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time, policy development, technical support	Low	High	High	Community-Wide
4.3		Consider developing guidelines or a 'Future fund' with the funds generated from renewable energy projects (or a minimum % of funds), helping return funds back into the local community via climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.	4.1, 4.2	Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time and fund administration	Low	N/A	High	Community-Wide
4.4	Green hydrogen	Work with CVGA and private sector to explore the opportunity for green hydrogen production in the region.		Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time, stakeholder engagement	Low	High	High	Community-Wide
4.5	Carbon Sequestration	Explore opportunities for partnerships with NCCMA and others to identify land (including council owned sites and private land) that could be suitable for restoration, afforestation or other carbon sequestration projects under a regional carbon exchange.		Mitigation/ Economic Development	Staff time, stakeholder engagement	Low	High	High	Community-Wide

APPENDIX B: CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT

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Riverine Flooding Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID015	Community Development	Riverine Flooding	Property damage and loss	There is high confidence that the intensity of daily rainfall extremes will increase. The magnitude of change is less certain. Increase frequency and severity of riverine flooding. For example 1 in 100 year flood events may become 1 in 20 year events. ²⁸³	Catastrophic	Possible	Extreme	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could have result in significant loss and damage to property and assets in Shire townships. Risk consequence higher in 2050 due to potentially increased severity of floods.
RID031	Assets and Infrastructure	Riverine Flooding	Damage and loss of assets and infrastructure		Catastrophic	Possible	Extreme	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could have result in significant loss and damage to Council infrastructure. Risk consequence higher in 2050 due to potentially increased severity of floods.
RID058	Economic Development	Riverine Flooding	Damage to assets		Catastrophic	Possible	Extreme	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could have result in significant loss and damage to economic assets in Shire. Risk consequence higher in 2050 due to potentially increased severity of floods.
RID060	Economic Development	Riverine Flooding	Townships cut off for extended periods		Major	Possible	High	Severe riverine flood that cut off townships such as in the 2011 floods would lead to major economic impacts to community.
RID016	Community Development	Riverine Flooding	Population displacement to evacuation centres		Major	Possible	High	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could have result in displacement of large sections of the community to evacuation centres.
RID027	Public Health and Wellbeing	Riverine Flooding	Loss of life		Major	Possible	High	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could result in local loss of lives.
RID006	Corporate Services	Riverine Flooding	Disruption of services		Major	Possible	High	Severe riverine flood that cut off townships such as in the 2011 floods would lead to major disruption of Council services.
RID035	Leadership and Governance	Riverine Flooding	Reputational due to lack of preparedness and response		Major	Possible	High	Potential for loss in faith in council if council is not seen to have appropriately prepared for severe flood events.

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RID057	Economic Development	Riverine Flooding	Damage to agriculture		Major	Possible	High	Major and prolonged riverine flooding could lead to significant and widespread loss of agricultural produce in the Shire.
RID007	Corporate Services	Riverine Flooding	Staff secondment to emergency management roles		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Significant floods could lead to secondment of a large number of council staff to emergency management roles impacting Council's ability to perform usual functions.
RID028	Public Health and Wellbeing	Riverine Flooding	Increased vector borne diseases		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	More frequent and prolonged flood events may lead to increased occurrence of vector borne diseases such as Ross River fever.
RID045	Waste	Riverine Flooding	Increased waste disposal due to damaged assets		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Major riverine flooding that exceeds the 1 in 100 year flood levee level could result in large volume of household waste needing to be collected and disposed of.

Drought Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID053	Economic Development	Drought	Loss of agricultural produce	Time spent in drought is projected to increase over the course of the century (medium confidence) ^{xxx} .	Catastrophic	Likely	Extreme	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to have a significant impact on the economy of the Shire, impacting agricultural and downstream businesses and flow on economic impacts to other businesses in the region. The risk of a major drought event increases with greater levels of climate change, therefore consequence expected to be higher in 2050.
RID022	Public Health and Wellbeing	Drought	Food security impacts		Major	Likely	High	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater food insecurity lost production, economic losses from farms and downstream businesses and lost household produce.
RID041	Environment and Parks	Drought	Habitat & biodiversity loss		Major	Likely	High	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater stress on local ecosystems, potentially leading to diebacks and habitat loss.
RID038	Environment and Parks	Drought	Pest and invasive species		Major	Likely	High	An increase in drought offers new opportunities for invasive species to proliferate and spread e.g. weeds colonise bare patches after droughts.
RID047	Water	Drought	Water scarcity and supply issues		Major	Likely	High	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to water supply issues resulting in water restrictions. Consequence expected to be higher in 2050 with more severe drought leading to greater water scarcity issues.
RID054	Economic Development	Drought	Increased irrigation		Major	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater demand for irrigation to support farms. Consequence expected to be higher in 2050 with more severe drought impacting more farming communities.

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RID062	Assets and Infrastructure	Drought	Asset damage due to soil contraction		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Soil contraction due to drying of the soil could lead to cracking assets and infrastructure leading to increased maintenance requirements and costs.
RID021	Public Health and Wellbeing	Drought	Mental health impacts		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater economic strain on rural communities. Flow on mental health impacts to community. Mental health impacts raised during community consultations including impacts of seeing dead and dried up landscapes, parks and gardens.
RID023	Public Health and Wellbeing	Drought	Increased demand for services		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater demand for council services, including health and mental health as well as economic and other assistance
RID042	Environment and Parks	Drought	Deterioration of Green Space		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater stress on and deterioration of council green spaces.
RID048	Water	Drought	Greater water use by Council and community		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Increased frequency and severity of drought is likely to lead to greater water requirements by Council to maintain ovals, parks, tree and green spaces. This will increase water usage and maintenance costs.

Extreme Heat Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID017	Public Health and Wellbeing	Extreme Heat	Heat related health issues	More frequent extreme heat days and longer heatwaves.	Major	Almost certain	High	More extreme heat days and prolonged heatwaves may lead to a significant increase in heat health related issue particularly in vulnerable groups, including elderly and low-socio economic groups.
RID018	Public Health and Wellbeing	Extreme Heat	Mental health impacts	Days over 35 degrees per year: 1986 - 2005 historical average: 20 - 24 days	Moderate	Almost certain	High	Increased frequency of extreme heat days, more hotter nights and prolonged heatwaves could lead to greater mental health impacts within the community.
RID036	Environment and Parks	Extreme Heat	Habitat & biodiversity loss	2030 projections: 31 - 39 days	Moderate	Almost certain	High	Increased frequency and severity of extreme heat days is likely to lead to greater stress on local ecosystems, potentially leading to diebacks and habitat loss.
RID037	Environment and Parks	Extreme Heat	Deterioration of Green Space	2050 projections: 38 - 47 days ^{xxiii}	Moderate	Almost certain	High	Longer and more extreme heat waves is likely to lead to greater stress on local ecosystems, potentially leading to diebacks and habitat loss.

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RID019	Public Health and Wellbeing	Extreme Heat	Disruption of services		Moderate	Almost certain	High	More extreme heat days and prolonged heatwaves may lead to disruptions in provision of council services.
RID032	Leadership and Governance	Extreme Heat	Reputational impacts due to disruption of services		Moderate	Almost certain	High	Potential reputation risk if Council is unable to deliver services due to extreme heat and community perceive Council as unprepared.
RID001	Corporate Services	Extreme Heat	Disruption of services		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	More extreme heat days and prolonged heatwaves may lead to disruptions in provision of council services.
RID002	Corporate Services	Extreme Heat	Increased energy use at Council facilities		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	More extreme heat days may lead to greater electricity usage to cool council and public buildings.
RID008	Community Development	Extreme Heat	Increased demand on Council facilities		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	More extreme heat days will likely lead to greater demand for Council facilities such as swimming pools.
RID009	Community Development	Extreme Heat	Disruption of services		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	More extreme heat days and prolonged heatwaves may lead to disruptions in provision of council services.
RID050	Economic Development	Extreme Heat	Economic losses due to extreme heat work disruptions		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	Potential high level of economic losses in construction, manufacturing and agriculture due to increased number of extreme heat days
RID051	Economic Development	Extreme Heat	Loss of agricultural produce		Moderate	Almost certain	Moderate	Loss of agricultural produce due to issues like burning and scorching from more extreme heat days.
RID046	Water	Extreme Heat	Greater water use by Council and community		Minor	Almost certain	Moderate	Increased demand for water during prolonged heatwave events.
RID049	Economic Development	Extreme Heat	Economic losses due to reduced retail activity.		Insignificant	Almost certain	Moderate	Greater number of extreme heat days will likely have an impact on economic activity in shire townships due to less retail activity as people remain indoors to escape the heat.

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Bushfire Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID043	Environment and Parks	Bushfire	Habitat & biodiversity loss	The number of days in the Mallee where the Forest Fire Danger Index is greater than the 95th percentile is predicted to increase by 50% (approx. 9 days per year) by the 2050s under high emissions ^{***} .	Major	Likely	High	Impact of bushfire on Ramsar Wetlands and other areas of high conversation value could be significant with increased frequency and severity of bushfires. More frequent bushfires can impact the environment's ability to regenerate, and more severe fires can have a critical impact on flora and fauna.
RID011	Community Development	Bushfire	Heritage Loss		Major	Possible	High	Increase bushfire risk within the Shire increases risks to cultural assets within local forests and wetlands.
RID029	Assets and Infrastructure	Bushfire	Damage and loss of assets and infrastructure		Major	Unlikely	High	Likelihood of bushfire impacting on council assets and infrastructure unlikely due to low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.
RID013	Community Development	Bushfire	Population displacement to evacuation centres		Major	Rare	Moderate	Evacuation of population to evac centres highly unlikely due to low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.
RID024	Public Health and Wellbeing	Bushfire	Loss of life		Major	Rare	Moderate	Likelihood of loss of life due to bushfire rare due to low risk of bushfires impacting on townships within Shire.
RID026	Public Health and Wellbeing	Bushfire	Air quality		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	More frequent and severe bushfires may lead to higher number of days with smoke population impacting the Shire.
RID059	Economic Development	Bushfire	Loss of agricultural produce		Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Loss of agricultural produce from bushfires that spread to farmland.
RID003	Corporate Services	Bushfire	Disruption of services		Minor	Unlikely	Low	Disruption of council services due to bushfire likely to have minor impact given low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.
RID004	Corporate Services	Bushfire	Staff secondment to emergency roles		Minor	Possible	Low	Impact of bushfire on council staffing likely to minor due to low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.
RID010	Community Development	Bushfire	Property damage and loss		Major	Unlikely	Low	Likelihood of bushfire threatening a significant number of private properties low given low density of forested areas around townships within Shire.

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RID012	Community Development	Bushfire	Disruption of services		Minor	Unlikely	Low	Disruption of council services due to bushfire likely to have minor impact given low density of forested areas to townships within Shire.
RID025	Public Health and Wellbeing	Bushfire	Mental health impacts		Minor	Possible	Low	Mental health impacts of bushfire likely to only be minor due to low risk of bushfires impacting on townships within Shire.
RID033	Leadership and Governance	Bushfire	Reputational due to lack of preparedness		Minor	Rare	Low	Due to low risk of bushfires impacting on townships within Shire.
RID055	Economic Development	Bushfire	Economic losses due to disruption of business		Minor	Unlikely	Low	Economic disruption due to bushfire likely to only be minor due to low risk of bushfires impacting on townships within Shire.

Low Rainfall Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID039	Environment and Parks	Low Rainfall	Habitat & biodiversity loss	Decline in annual average rainfall, in particular in cool seasons.	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Low annual rainfall is likely to lead to greater stress on local ecosystems, potentially leading to diebacks and habitat loss.
RID040	Environment and Parks	Low Rainfall	Deterioration of Green Space	Average annual rainfall change: 1986 – 2005 historical average: 343 – 387 mm	Minor	Likely	Moderate	Low average annual rainfall may lead to greater stress on parks and green spaces and greater maintenance requirements.
RID052	Economic Development	Low Rainfall	Loss of agricultural produce	2030 projections: 322 – 364 mm	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Loss of agricultural produce due to insufficient rainfall for dry land agriculture.
RID020	Public Health and Wellbeing	Low Rainfall	Air quality	2050 projections: 312 – 356 mm ^{low}	Minor	Possible	Low	Lower rainfall may result increased dust and dust storms resulting in public health issues.

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Extreme Weather Risk

Risk ID	Council Area	Climate Hazard	Risk Category	Future Climate Projections	2050 Risk Assessment			Future risk description
					Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating	
RID005	Corporate Services	Extreme Weather	Disruption of services	High confidence a future increase in the intensity of extreme rainfall events, although the magnitude of the changes cannot be confidently projected ²⁰⁰⁶ .	Minor	Possible	Moderate	More severe storms and rainfall events may lead to short lived and isolated service disruptions.
RID030	Assets and Infrastructure	Extreme Weather	Damage and loss of assets and infrastructure		Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Extreme rainfall or wind events may lead to isolated damage to infrastructure or assets. Consequence higher in 2050 due to possibility of greater intensity events.
RID044	Environment and Parks	Extreme Weather	Damage to trees and parks		Minor	Likely	Moderate	Greater damage to trees due to more extreme storms and wind.
RID061	Environment and Parks	Extreme Weather	Pest and invasive species		Minor	Likely	Moderate	An increase in extreme events will offer new opportunities for invasive species to proliferate and spread e.g. foxes and cats prey on animals whose shelter is destroyed by extreme events.
RID014	Community Development	Extreme Weather	Property damage and loss		Minor	Possible	Low	Increase extreme weather events may result in isolated property damage and loss.
RID034	Leadership and Governance	Extreme Weather	Reputational impacts due to disruption of services		Minor	Possible	Low	Potential reputation risk if Council is unable to deliver services due to extreme weather events and community perceive Council as unprepared.
RID056	Economic Development	Extreme Weather	Crop damage		Minor	Unlikely	Low	Extreme rainfall or wind events may lead to isolated damage or loss of crops or other produce.

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7.6 L2P PROGRAM

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Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Decline a further extension of the current L2P Driver Mentor Program contract from 1 July 2023; and**
- 2. Work with the Department of Transport to find a suitable community based organisation to operate the L2P Driver Mentor Program effective from 1 July 2023 to support eligible learner drivers residing in Gannawarra with the opportunity to successfully gain their probationary drivers licence.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council was successful in gaining the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) funding in 2012 to operate the L2P Driver Mentor program in partnership with Department of Transport (DoT). Swan Hill Toyota donated a vehicle and community based sponsorship was received at the commencement of the program.

During the pandemic and more recently, the 2022 floods, the L2P Driver Mentor program has struggled to continue especially with the loss of dedicated volunteers, a donated vehicle and increased difficulty with the recruitment of a program coordinator.

As requested by DoT, Council are required to determine the future of the L2P Driver Mentor Program within Gannawarra post 30 June 2023.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to consider the future operation of the L2P program by Gannawarra Shire Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

DISCUSSION

The L2P Program is a community-based program developed to assist eligible young Victorian learner drivers between the ages of 16 and 21 years (and in some circumstances, up to 23 years) who do not have access to a supervising driver, or an appropriate vehicle to gain the 120 hours of driving experience required for a probationary licence.

The program is funded by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and administered by the Department of Transport (DoT) with Council receiving \$46,228 per annum to employ a coordinator and pay for outgoings.

There are currently 59 L2P Programs across Victoria, which includes councils, community organisations and Not-for-Profits, with 2,800 learner driver places and 1,300 volunteer mentors.

Council receives funding to support 20 learner drivers at any given time, but due to unavailability and lack of mentor drivers, only five learner drivers are currently utilising the program. Council has 14 learner drivers on a waitlist with five volunteer mentor drivers supporting the program.

Gannawarra Shire Council is currently contracted to operate the program until 30 June 2023, with a need to either trigger a 1 year extension until 30 June 2024, transition the program to another community based organisation or cease operating the service.

Currently the L2P Program in Victoria is only funded until June 30, 2024, with no confirmation on an extension.

Whilst Council receives funding to employ a Coordinator to operate the program, due to the inability to attract a Coordinator in recent times, this has been absorbed into the Community Care administrative team.

A dedicated vehicle is also required for the program – with a Council pool car currently being used, as recent approaches to a number of regional car dealers for a donated vehicle to support the program have been declined.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

1. Council could continue to operate the service until June 2024, noting there is only 1 year guaranteed funding, beyond June 30, 2023. Council would also be required to purchase a vehicle for the program in the next financial year and has been unable to recruit or retain a Coordinator for the program.
2. Transition the program to a community organisation and/or not for profit where it is easier for businesses to donate a vehicle for tax purposes that might better support program sustainability.

The DoT are willing to support Gannawarra with the program transition to another community-based organisation, effective from 30 June 2023, if required.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Current vehicle emissions associated with the program's vehicles are considered as part of Council's Draft Climate Change Strategy.

Should there not be a local provider willing to take on the service, learner driver options will be limited to private providers operating within the Municipality.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been no direct community engagement regarding the future of this service, but Council regularly promotes the need for volunteer mentor drivers to support to operation of the program.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council has explored innovative ways to try and make this program operate effectively including using a Council pool vehicle due to the lack of a dedicated vehicle for the program. The

coordination of the program by the Community Care administration team due to the inability to attract a program Coordinator is also an alternative way in which Council has tried to keep the program operational.

COLLABORATION

This program is a collaboration between Council, TAC and DoT to support learner drivers within the Gannawarra community.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The L2P program currently operates at no cost to Council, with funding covering current outgoings. There is a need to purchase a new vehicle for the program, which would be at Council's cost with a number of car dealers within the region advising that they would not donate a new vehicle to Council for the program.

The challenges in accessing volunteer mentor drivers highlights the significant cost in operating this service for five learner drivers.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The L2P Program is a discretionary service that aligns with the Council Plan 2021-2025: Liveability – 1.1 Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our community through partnerships, services and programs.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be presented at an open Council Meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

7.7 MELBOURNE CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Author: Scott Bourne, Communications Coordinator

Authoriser: Paul Fernee, Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Recognise Melbourne Cup Day as a public holiday throughout the Gannawarra Shire; and**
- 2. Work with the Kerang and District Agricultural Society to identify ways to address the declining number of volunteers available to assist with running the Kerang Show.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the October 2022 Council Meeting, Council recommended undertaking a community consultation process across the municipality to gauge community interest in changing the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday in 2023 for the Kerang Show.

A 26-day community engagement period found overwhelming support for the current arrangements of observing the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday throughout the municipality.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to outline the outcomes of the 2023 Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday community consultation process whilst ensuring compliance with the *Public Holidays Act 1993*.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

On 13 July 2022, Council received correspondence from Kerang & District Agricultural Society Inc. requesting Council move the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday from Tuesday 1 November 2022 to Kerang Show day on Monday 3 October 2022. A report was presented to Council at its August 2022 Council Meeting regarding the request.

The *Public Holidays Act 1993* states that any request for permission to declare alternative arrangements to Melbourne Cup Day must be received 90 days prior to Melbourne Cup Day (Section 8A (2a)). Given this timing requirement, no change was made to 2022 but Council requested a report be presented to the October meeting to consider future options for the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday.

At the October 2022 Council Meeting, Council recommended undertaking a community consultation process across the municipality to gauge the interest in changing the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday in 2023 for the Kerang Show, with five options to be considered:

- A full-day public holiday on Melbourne Cup Day across the municipality;
- A full-day public holiday on Kerang Show Day across the municipality;

- A full-day public holiday on Kerang Show Day within the Kerang area, and a full-day public holiday on Melbourne Cup Day for the remainder of the municipality;
- Half-day public holidays for Kerang Show Day and Melbourne Cup Day; and
- Another alternative option.

Community engagement process

Residents were encouraged to provide feedback regarding their preferred option via a survey that was available for completion between 28 November 2022 and 23 December 2022. This survey was available for completion via the Have Your Say section of Council's website, whilst hard copies were available from Council's Customer Service Centres at Cohuna and Kerang.

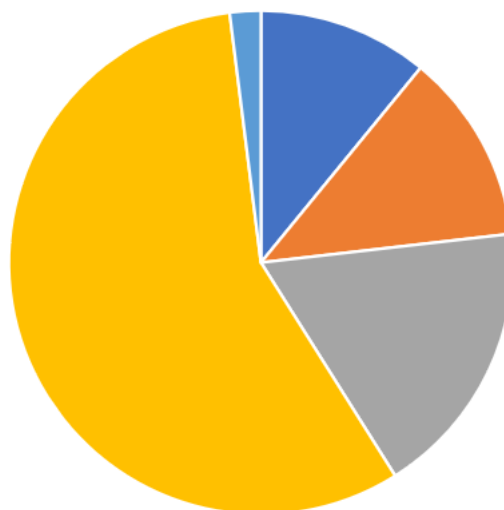
Council promoted the community engagement process in the following ways:

- Distribution of a media release on 28 November 2022;
- Social media posts published on Council's Facebook page on 28 November 2022 and 18 December 2022;
- Information sent to Council's community and business email contact lists during the week of 28 November 2022;
- References during the fortnightly 3SH Mayoral Interview, conducted on 1 December 2022 and 15 December 2022;
- Reference in the 13 December 2022 edition of Gannawarra News.

Survey results

Council received 302 responses during the community consultation period – 287 completed online and 15 hard copies handed into Council's Customer Service Centres.

The results of the survey are below:



- Full-day public holiday on Kerang Show Day within the Kerang area, and a full-day public holiday on Melbourne Cup Day for the remainder of the municipality
- Half-day public holidays (Kerang Show Day afternoon and Melbourne Cup Day afternoon)
- Kerang Show Day - Full day (The Monday immediately after first Saturday in October)
- Melbourne Cup Day - Full day (First Tuesday in November)
- Other

Preferred option	Number of responses
Melbourne Cup Day – Full day	172 (57 per cent)
Kerang Show Day - Full day	54 (18 per cent)
Half-day public holidays (Kerang Show Day afternoon and Melbourne Cup Day afternoon)	37 (12 per cent)
Full-day public holiday on Kerang Show Day within the Kerang area, and a full-day public holiday on Melbourne Cup Day for the remainder of the municipality	33 (11 per cent)
Other*	6 (2 per cent)

* Options listed included:

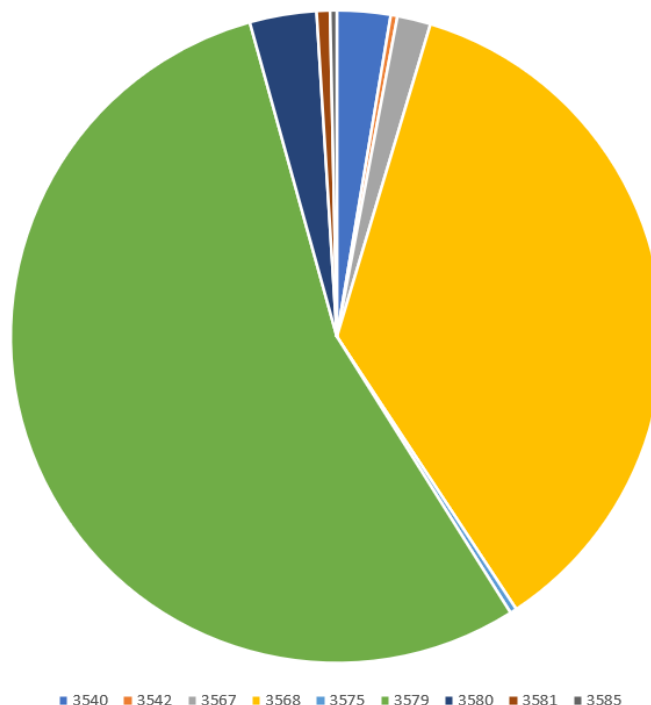
- Kerang Show Day – Full day for Kerang, Murrabit, Koondrook, Lake Charm and surrounding areas.
- Full day public holidays for each area at the time of their local show
- Half-day holidays for Kerang Show and Melbourne Cup Day for Kerang, and full-day Melbourne Cup Day holiday for the rest of the municipality
- Full-day holiday for Kerang Show Day Tuesday
- No public holidays for Kerang Show and Melbourne Cup
- What about other communities in the Shire?

Residents were able to provide feedback on their preferred option, with a selection of responses below:

Preferred option	Feedback provided
Melbourne Cup Day – Full day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having Melbourne Cup Day coincides with the rest of the State - It is disruptive to businesses to have two public holidays - It is easier for everyone to have a public holiday on the same day as children who attend Day Care and school in Kerang and parents work in Cohuna and vice versa - No holiday is required for the Kerang Show - Melbourne Cup Day is an Australian tradition. It should have a public holiday - Melbourne Cup Day helps create a four-day weekend for visitors - More appropriate for the whole council area - It is the responsibility of the Shire to maintain a uniform approach and as such any change will affect business throughout the entire Shire, not just one area - Cohuna has its festival on this weekend
Kerang Show Day - Full day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to have a public holiday for Kerang Show so that families can attend and not go out of town shopping - We need to promote our local events more - The local show should be supported in every way possible otherwise it'll disappear, like so many other long standing events - The Kerang Show day is such an important day for the community, and having a public holiday for it will help

	bring the community together and support local businesses and farmers
	- Making the show a full day public holiday for the entire Shire will enable more volunteers to help and for more Patrons to attend
Half-day public holidays (Kerang Show Day afternoon and Melbourne Cup Day afternoon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The way it used to be - If Kerang Show Day isn't a public holiday it's impossible to get volunteers for the day - The Kerang Show is of more interest to the children than Melbourne Cup Day - We need to save our Show
Full-day public holiday on Kerang Show Day within the Kerang area, and a full-day public holiday on Melbourne Cup Day for the remainder of the municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the town has their show on a weekday, they should have a public holiday - Local events need our support, not Melbourne events - We have been struggling to stage the local Show without a holiday for the last six years. The Show used to be a big event for the district and we, as a committee, would like it to be bigger and better than it has been
Other*	- Kerang show doesn't start on the Monday until after school finishes for the day. More people would support the community show event if the Tuesday was a public holiday

Residents who completed the survey were also asked to state which postcode they live in, with the results below:



Postcode	Towns/districts	Number of responses
3579	Appin South, Benjeroop, Dingwall, Kerang, Koroop, Lake Meran, Macorna, Murrabit, Myall, Mystic Park, Tragowel, Wandella	165 (54.64 per cent)
3568	Cohuna, Macorna North, Mead	109 (36.09 per cent)
3580	Koondrook	10 (3.31 per cent)
3540	Quambatook	8 (2.65 per cent)
3567	Leitchville, Horfield	5 (1.66 per cent)
3581	Lake Charm	2 (0.66 per cent)
3542	Lalbert	1 (0.33 per cent)
3575	Mincha, Pyramid Hill	1 (0.33 per cent)
3585	Goschen, Swan Hill, Winlaton	1 (0.33 per cent)

RELEVANT LAW

Section 8A of the *Public Holidays Act 1993* allows Council to request a substitute holiday for Melbourne Cup Day.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At the August 2022 Council meeting, Council retained the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday for 2022 on Tuesday 1 November 2022 and requested a further report to the October Council Meeting to consider future options for the public holiday.

At the October 2022 Council meeting, Council recommended undertaking a community consultation process across the municipality to gauge the level of interest in changing the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday in 2023 for the Kerang Show. Various models, including full-day or part-day public holiday alterations as part of this consultation process needed to be considered, with a report on the outcomes of the engagement process and recommendations for the future public holiday to be presented to Council by April 2023.

OPTIONS

There are various options in how the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday could be determined across the municipality, with the outcome of the community consultation process providing guidance regarding the community's preference.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community consultation process undertaken during November 2022 and December 2022 was the first time Council has engaged with the community regarding this issue since 2015/16. Previous engagement regarding this topic occurred between Council and business representative groups and progress associations/development committees based in the municipality.

The community engagement process used to determine the community's preference for public holiday arrangements for 2023 was the first time Council has asked residents to provide feedback regarding this matter.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025;

Goal 2: Growth – Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy

Strategic Priority 1 – Facilitate infrastructure, programs and policies that support economic development and productivity, whilst considering our natural environment.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report will be presented in an open Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

8 URGENT BUSINESS**9 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

10 QUESTION TIME

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

QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

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

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

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

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

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

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

or if the question is:

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

No debate or discussion of questions or answers shall be permitted and all questions and answers shall be 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* (the Act):

12.1 Community Care Services

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1)(a) of the Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.