

Gannawarra

Municipal Recovery Plan

Our Goal

To support our communities to successfully deal with the impacts of the 2022-2023 flood and help build cohesion and resilience to future emergencies



Our Flood Impacts

- Land area affected: 39,359 ha (44% Gannawarra land mass)
- Significant crop losses across agriculture sector: 23,039 ha
- Stored grain loss: 829 tonnes; Hay/silage loss: 16,947 tonnes; Grazing pastures lost: 18,114 ha
- Business impacts: \$18.2 million direct loss
- Flow on business impacts: \$2.1 million
- Lost summer and Easter bookings (accommodation)
- Cancellation of events (ski racing, fishing competitions, local community events)
- Community wellbeing reduced
- Community health - increased risk of disease
- Isolation
- Financial stress as assets and business lost
- Schools closed during the flood event
- The effect of compounding incidents on resilience
- Stagnant water in and around homes and farm land for months
- Significant road damage (1000kms)
- Wide-spread damage to public infrastructure and residential properties
- 44 residences impacted (27 homes above floor level, 17 below floor)
- Waterways and biodiversity impacted
- Strategic levees weakened - Kerang levee damaged
- Illegal private levees built

Our Recovery Target Areas

Our Recovery Target Areas

1. Public Infrastructure Reconstruction
2. Private Land and Building Recovery
3. Natural Environment Resilience
4. Improved Flood Planning
5. Building Understanding and Awareness
6. Building Community Empowerment
7. Building Connections
8. Hope and Confidence for a Better Future
9. Respect and Inclusion
10. Agriculture and Business Recovery
11. Tourism Recovery

Our Stakeholders

Gannawarra Shire Council

Regional Development Victoria

Agriculture Victoria

Parks Victoria

North Central Catchment Management Authority

Rural Financial Counselling Service

Murray Regional Tourism

Visit Victoria

Victorian Farmers Federation

Victorian Grain Growers Association

Murray Dairy

Local businesses

Business associations

Emergency Recovery Victoria

Department of Health

YACVIC

Department of Family, Fairness and Housing

Cohuna District Hospital

National Centre for Farmers Health

Murray PHN

Northern District Community Health

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Goulburn Murray Water

Department of Transport

Environment Protection Authority

Coliban Water

Lower Murray Water

Murray Mallee Landcare

Kerang District Health

Mallee District Aboriginal Service

Mallee Family Care

Australian Red Cross

Neighbourhood Houses

Our Priority Actions over the page...

Our Priority Actions



Public Infrastructure Reconstruction

- 1.1 Reinstatement strategic protection levees alongside major waterways
- 1.2 Build flood resilience into major transportation routes to ensure connectivity
- 1.3 Identify mechanisms to build additional resilience into the irrigation and rural drainage networks to relieve future flood impacts
- 1.4 Prioritise the reinstatement of roads and access
- 1.5 Advocate and provide guidance to improve the recovery funding support systems



Private Land and Building Recovery

- 2.1 Identify mechanisms to support at risk properties to build ring levees around important assets
- 2.2 Ensure impacted communities are supported with recovery clean-up
- 2.3 Provide case-support and fast-track approval process for planning rebuilds
- 2.4 Improve guidance and management including enforcement of private levees



Natural Environment Resilience

- 3.1 Support a coordinated approach to the management of invasive species across all land tenures
- 3.2 Support a coordinated approach to waterway and impacted land restoration and clean up
- 3.3 Support traditional owners with the inspection, restoration and recovery of cultural significant sites and locations.
- 3.4 Prioritise restoration and recovery of nature-based tourism infrastructure and locations
- 3.5 Prioritise restoration of the wetlands and natural areas along the rivers with significant biodiversity value



Improved Flood Planning

- 4.1 Undertake municipal wide flood modelling within four years and review every 20 years or upon significant changes to characteristics, or water infrastructure, in the floodplain
- 4.2 Proactively recruit and mentor new flood wardens
- 4.3 Improve flood monitoring and messaging



Building Understanding and Awareness

- 5.1 - Establish mechanisms to build awareness and understanding of the impacts of the floods across the municipality
- 5.2 – Explore opportunities for people to share their stories
- 5.3 – Conduct programs that help people reconcile with, and understand the impacts of recent events
- 5.4 – Use the ‘5 Ways of Wellbeing’ to provide consistent, evidence-based, promotion of health and wellbeing messaging across communities



Building Community Empowerment

- 6.1 – Support community leaders in steering disaster recovery
- 6.2 - Build capacity across the community by delivering on the initiatives within the sustainable community recovery and resilience program
- 6.3 – Support communities to activate local community recovery programs and resilience planning



Building Connections

- 7.1 – Establish connections between communities and agencies to support recovery and community resilience to future events
- 7.2 – Support programs that strengthen healthy and respectful connections within communities
- 7.3 – Improve connectivity
- 7.4 – Support access to recovery information across communities



Hope and Confidence for a Better Future

- 8.1 – Invest in Strong Youth, Strong Communities Project
- 8.2 – Invest in early years programs that support every child to have a great start to life
- 8.3 - Activate opportunities for individuals and families to ‘take a break’
- 8.4 - Identify support and resources to activate the goals and projects within existing community plans
- 8.5 - Initiate opportunities for communities to build awareness and plan for their own flood resilience



Respect and Inclusion

- 9.1 – Implement *Reconnect with your Gannawarra Program* to promote inclusion and participation with a focus on celebrating community diversity.
- 9.2 – Provide pathways for First Nations People in self-determining their own recovery



Agriculture and Business Recovery

- 10.1 Advocate for improved, fit-for-purpose grant and support programs for both agriculture and business
- 10.2 Develop case-studies to highlight the breadth of impacted businesses and associated recovery challenges
- 10.4 Deliver a recruitment campaign to address labour shortages within the local job market
- 10.5 Develop and deliver promotional campaigns around supporting local business, partnering with local business and community groups
- 10.6 Continue to provide a coordinated approach to business recovery support and communication
- 10.7 Ensure that the agricultural sector is represented in future levee and flood planning
- 10.8 Advocate for and support the attraction of new agricultural business to the Gannawarra
- 10.9 Continue to facilitate major projects, both private and public, to ensure the growth and diversity of the local economy (e.g., mining projects, renewable energy projects, residential developments, public amenities, tourism projects)
- 10.10 Actively promote and support Gannawarra landholders in accessing the Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant to re-establish their properties after the October 2022 Floods.
- 10.11 Identify key impacts to businesses (Agricultural and Urban) and learnings from the October 2022 Floods and look for potential solutions (eg road access, bus/truck routes, flood notifications, agistment co-ordination)



Tourism Recovery

- 11.1 Develop and deploy a marketing campaign to encourage visitation and expenditure into the region
- 11.2 Advocate for the prioritisation of infrastructure recovery that supports businesses, farming and tourism
- 11.3 Promote visitation to the Gannawarra with a focus on bringing greater numbers of people to the region that will support the business community



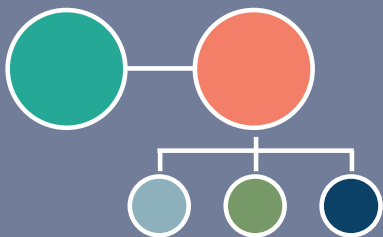
Enablers of Recovery

- Provide the structures and administration support to enable good governance for flood recovery activity planning and implementation
- Advocate for improved state response and recovery funding support for protracted flood events
- Coordinate cross-agency communications to provide a holistic picture of recovery activities
- Maintain a 'one-stop-shop' recovery portal on the Council website
- Provide wellbeing support programs for all agency staff and recovery volunteers
- Provide advocacy for improved legal and insurance support to impacted communities

Our Structure

LEGEND

- Community Recovery Committee
- Gannawarra Municipal Recovery Committee
- Wellbeing and Social Recovery Sub Committee
- Built and Natural Environment Recovery Sub Committee
- Agriculture and Economic Recovery Sub Committee



Gannawarra

Agriculture and Economic Recovery

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- Agriculture and Business Recovery
- Tourism Recovery

Our Priority Actions



Agriculture & Business Recovery

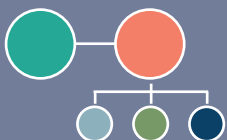
- Advocate for improved, fit-for-purpose grant and support programs for both agriculture and business
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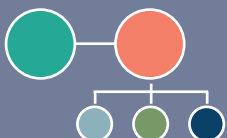
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Wellbeing and Social Recovery

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- Building Community Empowerment
- Building Connections
- Hope and Confidence for a Better Future
- Respect and Inclusion

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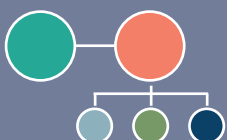
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