



2025/2026 PROPOSED

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Budget highlights at a glance



\$9.142 million Operating Surplus
= Responsible financial management



\$3.201 million Underlying Result Deficit
= A small deficit which is improved significantly by extra Roads to Recovery funding



\$17.256 million Capital Works Program
= Replenishing and upgrading our asset base



\$11.255 million Projects supported by grants
= Support from all levels of government



Debt Free
= No new borrowings in 2025/2026, with no existing debt



\$50,000 Community Grants
= Investing in our local clubs and communities



Total Rate Revenue Capped at 3.00%
= Complying with the Fair Go Rates System



Gannawarra Shire Council would like to hear from our residents regarding the 2025/2026 Proposed Budget, which invests in our community's needs.

The 2025/2026 Proposed Budget is financially responsible, and details the resource required over the next year to fund the large range of services we provide to our community.

The 2025/2026 Proposed Budget features a \$17.256 million capital works program, made possible thanks to support from the State and Federal governments.

One of Council's priorities is reducing the risks associated with future riverine and stormwater flood events, with funding allocated to flood betterment works, stormwater network and town pump renewals.

Other projects that feature as part of the capital works program include road safety improvements, Stage 2 of the Cohuna Waterfront Development and the completion of The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra.

As part of the Proposed Budget, Council will also develop concept designs for improvements to the Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools.

We are aware of the financial pressure our communities are currently facing. As a result, the 2025/2026 Proposed Budget complies with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, which states that the total revenue raised through municipal rates cannot increase by more than 3.00 per cent compared to the previous year. Council has also adopted a similar approach to our fees and charges.

We welcome your feedback on the 2025/2026 Proposed Budget, which can be done by visiting www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget by 5pm Friday, 16 May 2025.

Cr Garner Smith
Mayor, Gannawarra Shire Council

A BUDGET THAT GROWS

the Gannawarra now and into the future

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- **Cohuna Waterfront Stage 2 (\$3 million):** Planned improvements to Cohuna's CBD and surrounds, building on the successful transformation of Apex and Garden parks. NOTE: Project dependent on successful funding application.
- **Road safety improvements (\$2 million):** Rollout of Transport Accident Commission Safe Local Roads and Street Program-supported projects to support various road safety improvements. NOTE: State Government-funded works.
- **Cohuna and Kerang swimming pool designs (\$1.28 million):** Development of designs, based on information in the Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy, to support the future redevelopment of the Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools. NOTE: Project dependent on successful funding application.
- **Koondrook Levee - Stage 1 (\$648,000):** Construction of flood protection levee along Gunbower Parade, Koondrook. NOTE: Federal Government-funded works.
- **The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra (\$558,000):** To be completed in 2025, this extension to Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library will support expanded Gannawarra Library Service programs and create additional community meeting spaces featuring current digital technology. NOTE: State and Federal government-funded works.



A BUDGET FOR *the Community*

Council will continue supporting communities throughout the Gannawarra in the following ways

Community Grants program (\$50,000): Funding of up to \$5,000 per application for community projects that align with the Growing Gannawarra - 2021-2025 Gannawarra Shire Council Plan. NOTE: Applications for 2025 program are open 1-29 May.



Other Projects

- Gravel road re-sheeting program (\$1.210 million)
- Bitumen road reseal works program (\$1.061 million)
- Sealed roads rehabilitation program (\$1.020 million)
- Stormwater Network and Pump renewal (\$300,000)
- Kerb replacement program (\$300,000)
- Footpath replacement program (\$180,000)
- Pools renewal program (\$150,000)
- Gannawarra Library Service resources Cohuna and Kerang branches (\$100,000)
- Building renewals (\$150,000)



WHERE THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM COMES FROM

Council's 2025/2026 Proposed Budget Capital Works program is funded through two revenue sources, as specified below:

FUNDING SOURCES	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
COUNCIL OPERATIONS * Rates and charges	\$6.001M	34.78%
EXTERNAL GRANTS * State and Federal Government grants	\$11.255M	65.22%
DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS * Other funding sources	\$0	0.00%
LOANS	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL	\$17.256M	

A BUDGET THAT MAINTAINS A BALANCED RATING STRATEGY

Council is committed to adjusting the rating strategy to account for the current economic conditions. The property revaluation to be undertaken as at 1 January 2025 is included in the Proposed Budget.

Council is awaiting further valuation data for 2025/26 from the Valuer General's office. Calculation of rates in this Proposed Budget is based on the valuation figures to date and will change.

To achieve a budget rate increase that is considered fair and equitable for all rate payers, Council has increased the rates by 3.00%.

Rate Category	Cents/\$CI	Municipal Charge	Average Increase
Residential	0.004599	\$100	3.21%
Commercial/ Industrial	0.004851	\$100	3.14%
Farm Irrigation District	0.003149	\$100	3.10%
Farm Dryland	0.001608	\$100	0.00%
Cultural Recreational	0.002300	\$100	3.21%

The Municipal Charge remains at \$100 and will be applied to all rateable properties.

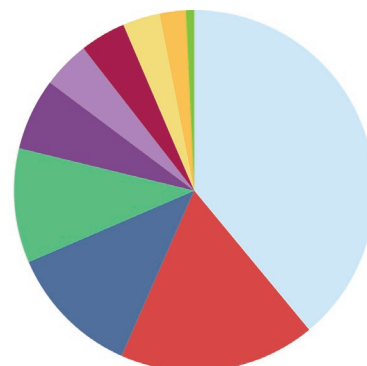
Waste Management Charges are based on achieving full cost recovery to ensure this service is sustainable for the long term.

- 120-litre general waste bin: \$467 (no change)
- 240-litre general waste bin: \$670 (no change)
- Green waste bin: \$96 (no change)

A BUDGET THAT SUPPORTS

Key Community Services

The 2025/2026 Proposed Budget also invests in providing important ongoing services to the community, as specified below:



Roads, Bridges, Footpaths and Drainage Maintenance
\$9,766,200



Children Services
\$4,406,100



Waste Management Services
\$2,988,000



Recreation - Parks, Reserves and Pools
\$2,569,300



Community Facilities
\$1,612,800



Economic Development and Tourism
\$1,063,100



Planning, Building and Compliance
\$1,026,700



Libraries and Arts/Culture
\$837,300



Community Health - Food Safety, Public and Community Health & Safety
\$586,800



Environmental Management
\$187,100

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gannawarra



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