



**GANNAWARRA**  
*Shire Council*

## **Council Meeting**

# **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, 15 October 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Senior Citizens Centre**

**Kerang**

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, KERANG  
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Garner Smith (Mayor)  
Cr Ross Stanton (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Charlie Gillingham  
Cr Pat Quinn  
Cr Keith Link

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive Officer  
Governance Officer

**Gallery:** Nil

**Media:** 1

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Acknowledgement of Country video was played.

**2 OPENING DECLARATION**

Cr Pat Quinn read the Opening Declaration.

**3 APOLOGIES**

Cr Lisa Farrant

Cr Daniel Bolitho

**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Keith Link

**Seconded:** Cr Pat Quinn

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 September 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

## **5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil

## **6 BRIEFING SESSIONS**

### **6.1 RECORD OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFING - 17 SEPTEMBER 2025 TO 7 OCTOBER 2025**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents to Council written records of Councillor Briefings in accordance with Clause 31 of the Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings from 17 September 2025 to 7 October 2025.

**CARRIED**

## **7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **7.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029 AND COMMUNITY VISION 2040**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides Council with the opportunity to consider the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 and Gannawarra Community Vision 2040 for adoption.

The Council Plan 2025-2029 incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan that identifies goals and strategies based on evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health and wellbeing. After the community feedback period, 2 responses were received, with the feedback from the Victorian Department of Health also confirming an approved exemption requirement for inclusion of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Council Plan.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council:

1. Adopt the Gannawarra Council Plan 2025-2029.
2. Adopt the Gannawarra Community Vision 2040.

**CARRIED**

## 7.2 ANNUAL REPORT 2025

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Report 2025*, covering the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). In accordance with section 98 of the Act, the Annual Report contains a report on the operations of Council, the audited Financial Statements, and the audited Performance Statement.

*NOTE: Attached with this report is the Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Report 2025. The final version, which will include Local Government Performance Reporting Framework data and VAGO-approved Financial and Performance statements, will be presented at the October 2025 Council Meeting.*

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council:

1. Receives the Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Report 2025.
2. Ensures a copy of the Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Report 2025 is available to view on Council's website.

**CARRIED**

## 7.3 DRAFT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2026-2030

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The draft *Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2030* outlines the Council's commitment to provide the community with genuine opportunities to contribute and inform strategies, projects, services, and decisions that affect them.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

**Seconded:** Cr Ross Stanton

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2030 for community feedback for a period of 28 days commencing on 16 October 2025.
2. Receives a further report to consider the final version of the Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2030.

**CARRIED**

#### **7.4 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Councils to develop a Financial Plan by 31 October 2025. The scope of the Financial Plan is for a period of 10 financial years and is to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council adopt the Draft Financial Plan.

**CARRIED**

#### **7.5 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 10 SEPTEMBER 2025**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on 10 September 2025. The agenda included reports related to financial, governance, compliance, and risk management matters.

This report provides a summary of the meeting discussions and outcomes.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Pat Quinn

That Council receives and notes the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 10 September 2025.

**CARRIED**

## 7.6 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has completed its four-year statutory review of the Road Management Plan (RMP) and prepared an updated version – the Road Management Plan 2025. The revised Plan strengthens legislative references, updates inspection and intervention processes, and aligns with updated Local Laws and best practice asset management.

A 28-day public consultation period was undertaken from 21 August 2025 to 18 September 2025, with submissions received from residents in Cohuna, Kerang, and Koondrook. Feedback did not oppose the Plan, and no material changes were required post-consultation.

Council is now requested to formally adopt the updated Road Management Plan.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Pat Quinn

**Seconded:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council adopt the Road Management Plan 2025 in accordance with Section 54 of the *Road Management Act 2004*.

1. Note that a 28-day public consultation period was undertaken from 21 August 2025 to 18 September 2025, including engagement through Council's online platform and consultation with the newly formed Road Focus Group, with no material objections received.
2. Authorise officers to publish a notice of adoption in accordance with Section 55 of the *Road Management Act 2004* and make the adopted Road Management Plan 2025 available to the public via Council's website and customer service centres.

**CARRIED**

## 7.7 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 2035 AND SUB-PLANS REPORT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has completed community consultation on the draft Asset Management Plan 2025–2035 and four supporting Sub-Plans for Buildings, Transport, Open Space, and Stormwater assets. Feedback received during the 28-day engagement period has been considered and incorporated, and the documents are now presented for Council's formal adoption to guide long-term infrastructure planning.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council:

1. Endorses and adopts the Asset Management Plan 2025–2035 and the four supporting Asset Sub-Plans for Buildings, Transport, Open Space, and Stormwater assets, incorporating amendments arising from the consultation/community engagement process conducted between 22 August 2025 and 18 September 2025.

**CARRIED**

## **7.8 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2029**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 requires Council to prepare and adopt a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAM Plan) every four years. The 2026–2029 Plan builds on the outcomes of the 2022–2025 Plan, incorporates feedback from community consultation, and has been benchmarked against plans from Casey, Bass Coast, and Swan Hill councils.

Key improvements in the new Plan include:

- Establishing a training register for Authorised Officers.
- Expanding community education programs (schools, signage, social media).
- Strengthening registration and identification strategies, including incentives.
- Enhancing compliance programs for nuisance animals and illegal breeders.
- Developing an improved annual evaluation.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Pat Quinn**

**Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham**

That Council

1. Place the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 on exhibition to seek community feedback from 16 October to 13 November 2025.
2. Following the exhibition, the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 is to be revised by considering the community feedback received.
3. Is presented with the revised Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 at the December 2025 Council meeting to consider it for adoption.
4. If adopted at the December Council Meeting, it authorises the submission of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 to the Department of Agriculture Victoria, as required under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.
5. Notes that annual evaluations of the Plan will be included in Council's Annual Report.

**CARRIED**

## **7.9 PROPOSAL TO AMEND A 173 AGREEMENT RELATED TO LAND KNOWN AS 67 GONN AVENUE MURRABIT 3579**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is being presented to Council to determine a proposal to amend a Section 173 Agreement entered into between Council and the landowner through a Planning Permit application to subdivide land into two lots. Planning Permit P11.027 was issued by Council on 16 August 2011, allowing the land to be subdivided into two lots to excise a rural dwelling (retained on Lot 1) and to remove a carriageway easement.

The land is in the Farming Zone. Accordingly, in considering the merits of the proposed excision of the dwelling, Officers relied on Council's *Rural Excision Guidelines: Guidelines for Considering Small Lot Residential Excisions and Re-subdivisions in the Farming Zone* to facilitate their assessment.

Council applies these Guidelines to facilitate the separation of dwellings which are no longer needed as part of a farming enterprise onto individual titles which can then be sold. The intention is to allow the dwelling to be sold, with the residual land being retained in a farming enterprise, while minimising conflicts between new residents and the existing farming practice.

A core element of the Guidelines is a requirement for a Section 173 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 agreement to be entered into with the owner of each lot created by an excision or a re-subdivision, which will prohibit further subdivision of the lot. This agreement then forms part of the land's Certificate of Title.

This Section 173 Agreement requirement was applied through Condition 7a of the planning permit, which required the owner to enter into a Section 173 Agreement, which would include:

*7. a) The erection of a dwelling in the residual lot (lot 2) is prohibited.*

This proposal to amend the Section 173 Agreement by deleting the requirement that a dwelling not be erected on lot 2, the residual lot, is contrary to the purpose of Council's *Rural Excision Guidelines*. The planning permit would not have been approved without this condition. Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposal be refused.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council refuse to amend the Section 173 Agreement for the land known as 67 Gonn Avenue, Murrabit 3579, contained in Certificates of Title, Volume 8175 Folio 910 and Volume 9484 Folio 247, comprised within Plan of Subdivision 700443m.
2. That officers undertake a review of the *Rural Excision Guidelines: Guidelines for Considering Small Lot Residential Excisions and Re-subdivisions in the Farming Zone* and to report and provide recommendations on the outcomes of the review to Council.

**MOTION****Moved: Cr Ross Stanton****Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham**

1. That Council refuse to amend the Section 173 Agreement for the land known as 67 Gonn Avenue, Murrabit 3579, contained in Certificates of Title, Volume 8175 Folio 910 and Volume 9484 Folio 247, comprised within Plan of Subdivision 700443m.
2. That officers undertake a review of the *Rural Excision Guidelines* by November 2026: *Guidelines for Considering Small Lot Residential Excisions and Re-subdivisions in the Farming Zone* and to report and provide recommendations on the outcomes of the review to Council.

**AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION****Moved: Cr Pat Quinn****Seconded: Cr Keith Link**

1. That Council refuse to amend the Section 173 Agreement for the land known as 67 Gonn Avenue, Murrabit 3579, contained in Certificates of Title, Volume 8175 Folio 910 and Volume 9484 Folio 247, comprised within Plan of Subdivision 700443m.
2. That officers undertake a review of the *Rural Excision Guidelines* by April 2026: *Guidelines for Considering Small Lot Residential Excisions and Re-subdivisions in the Farming Zone* and to report and provide recommendations on the outcomes of the review to Council.

**LOST****RESOLUTION****Moved: Cr Ross Stanton****Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham**

1. That Council refuse to amend the Section 173 Agreement for the land known as 67 Gonn Avenue, Murrabit 3579, contained in Certificates of Title, Volume 8175 Folio 910 and Volume 9484 Folio 247, comprised within Plan of Subdivision 700443m.
2. That officers undertake a review of the *Rural Excision Guidelines* by November 2026: *Guidelines for Considering Small Lot Residential Excisions and Re-subdivisions in the Farming Zone* and to report and provide recommendations on the outcomes of the review to Council.

**CARRIED**

**7.10 COUNCIL POLICY NO. 150 - FAIR ACCESS****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to ensure that they are reflective of current practice. This report addresses Council Policy No. 150 – Fair Access.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

**Seconded:** Cr Ross Stanton

That Council adopt the revised Council Policy No. 150 – Fair Access.

**CARRIED**

**7.11 POLICY NO. 151 - SURRENDER OF LAND****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report addresses the proposed Surrender of Land Policy (the Policy). This is the first version of this document; therefore, no previous discussion has been held on this proposed Policy.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Pat Quinn

**Seconded:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council endorse the new Council Policy No. 151 – Surrender of Land.

**CARRIED**

**8 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**9 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**10 QUESTION TIME**

Nil

CONFIRMED

## 11 DELEGATES REPORTS

### 11.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Councillors gave updates on their portfolios and the meetings they have attended.

COUNCILLOR COMMITTEES 2024/2025	
COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC)	Cr Garner Smith, Mayor
Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils (LCGC)	Cr Garner Smith, Mayor
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)	Cr Daniel Bolitho
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC)	Cr Lisa Farrant
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)	Cr Lisa Farrant
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Cr Ross Stanton
Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)(x 2)	Cr Garner Smith Cr Ross Stanton
Transport Committee, including Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Pat Quinn
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	Cr Charlie Gillingham
Timber Towns Victoria (TTV)	Cr Pat Quinn
Community Halls Community Asset Committee	Cr Keith Link

## 12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7:08pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 19 November 2025.

Cr Garner Smith  
CHAIR