



**GANNAWARRA**  
*Shire Council*

## **Council Meeting**

# **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, 16 April 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, 16 APRIL 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive Officer  
Director Corporate Services  
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer

**Gallery: 7**

**Media: 1**

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Acknowledgement of Country video was played.

**2 OPENING DECLARATION**

Cr Daniel Bolitho read the Opening Declaration.

**3 APOLOGIES**

Nil

## **4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Daniel Bolitho

**Seconded:** Cr Ross Stanton

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 March 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

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

- Cr Charlie Gillingham has declared a General Conflict of Interest in Item 7.9 – Planning Permit P24028 16 Redgum Drive Kerang
- Cr Ross Stanton has declared a General Conflict of Interest in Item 7.10 – Planning Permit P24053 – 9485 Murray Valley Highway, Kerang

## **6 BRIEFING SESSIONS**

### **6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 20 MARCH 2025 TO 15 APRIL 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 Charlie Gillingham

**Seconded:** Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings from 20 March 2025 to 15 April 2025.

**CARRIED**

## **7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **7.1 DRAFT REVENUE AND RATING PLAN**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan. The Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 is presented for approval to proceed to public consultation seeking feedback in conjunction with the Proposed Budget 2025/2026. Post consultation, the plan will be presented for adoption at the June Council meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

**Seconded:** Cr Ross Stanton

That Council approve the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan to proceed to community consultation seeking feedback between 18 April 2025 and 16 May 2025.

**CARRIED**

### **7.2 PROPOSED BUDGET 2025 / 2026**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Budget seeks to achieve the actions and activities set out in the Council Plan by balancing the demand for services and infrastructure with the community's capacity to pay.

The proposed increase in rate revenue for the 2025/2026 financial year is 3.00% in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government under the Fair Go Rates System.

Continued capital investment in assets (\$17.256m) comprising new works (\$3.486m) renewal works (\$7.072m) and upgrade works (\$6.698m) as features in the budget.

The Budget also achieves a Comprehensive Income result of (\$9.142m) surplus.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council:

1. Approve the Proposed Budget 2025/2026 and Fees and Charges 2025/2026 as presented and attached to this report, to proceed to community consultation seeking feedback between 18 April 2025 and 16 May 2025.
2. Note that subject to changes to the Proposed Budget 2025/2026 after community feedback, the Proposed Budget 2025/2026 will be presented for adoption as Council's Budget 2025/2026, in accordance with Sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, at the Council Meeting to be held on 18 June 2025.

**CARRIED**

### 7.3 KOONDROOK TO KERANG RAIL TRAIL

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail project was initiated to establish a dedicated recreational trail linking Kerang and Koondrook, enhancing tourism and recreational opportunities. Extensive investigation, design, costing, environmental assessment, and safety evaluations were undertaken.

These processes identified critical barriers, including significant environmental impacts, safety concerns regarding route alignment, and prohibitive project costs estimated at \$18 to \$22 million. Validation of these estimates were recently completed, or soon to commence, shared trail projects provide estimates ranging from \$9 million to \$18 million when comparing costs per km of trail.

Given these constraints, the project is determined to be unfeasible. Officially concluding the project will provide clarity and enable resources to be allocated effectively elsewhere.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council formally conclude the Koondrook to Kerang Rail Trail project, recognising that comprehensive designs and detailed planning have confirmed the project is not feasible due to significant environmental, safety, and financial challenges.

**CARRIED**

### 7.4 ROAD FOCUS GROUP UPDATE

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The establishment of a Road Focus Group (RFG) aims to enhance Council's community engagement and decision-making processes regarding road-related matters. This structured consultative body will provide an avenue for meaningful dialogue with community members, businesses, and key stakeholders, ensuring community concerns and priorities directly inform Council's road management strategies.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

**Seconded:** Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council:

1. Endorses the establishment of the Gannawarra Shire Road Focus Group.
2. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Road Focus Group.
3. Authorises Council officers to commence the Expression of Interest (EOI) process to engage community members.

**CARRIED**

**7.5 REVIEW OF POLICY NO. 063 - CARAVAN PARK ANNEXES****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council officers have undertaken a review of Policy No. 063 - Caravan Park Annexes. Following this review, amendments have been made to ensure compliance with the Residential Tenancies (Caravan Park and Movable Dwellings Registration & Standards) Regulations 2024.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the revised policy.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Daniel Bolitho

**Seconded:** Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council endorse the revised Policy No. 063 - Caravan Park Annexes.

**CARRIED**

**7.6 REVIEW OF POLICY NO. 064 - CARAVAN PARK FLY OVER****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council officers have undertaken a review of Policy No. 064 - Caravan Park Fly Over. Following this review, amendments have been made to ensure compliance with the Residential Tenancies (Caravan Park and Movable Dwellings Registration & Standards) Regulations 2024.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the revised policy.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Daniel Bolitho

**Seconded:** Cr Ross Stanton

That Council endorse the revised Policy No. 064 – Caravan Park Fly Over

**CARRIED**

**7.7 DRAFT COUNCIL POLICY NO. 98 - ASSET NAMING****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Council Policy No. 98 – Asset Naming governs the process when selecting, approving or assigning names for roads, features and localities in the Gannawarra Shire municipality. Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to ensure that they are reflective of current practice.

This report addresses the following policy that have been recently reviewed:

- Council Policy No. 98 – Asset Naming

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Ross Stanton

**Seconded:** Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council endorse the revised Council Policy No. 98 – Asset Naming.

**CARRIED**

## 7.8 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION P24028 16 REDGUM DRIVE KERANG

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is being presented to Council to determine a planning application for the development of five dwellings on Lot 41 PS548915, 16 Redgum Drive, Kerang.

The application was advertised to surrounding properties owners and occupiers as well as an onsite sign being placed on the site. Eight written objections were received, one of which has subsequently been withdrawn.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the density and layout of the proposed development is different to the surrounding neighborhood character of the area, the proposed development demonstrates compliance with the majority of objectives and standards set out under Clause 55 of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. As the proposal achieves compliance with these residential development provisions and state policies regarding encouraging higher density housing development and infill development the proposal is considered appropriate for the site and consistent with the provisions of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. The application has therefore been recommended for approval.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho**

**Seconded: Cr Keith Link**

That Council approve Planning Application P24028 for the development of five (5) dwellings in accordance with the plans to be endorsed subject to the following draft conditions:

#### Amended Plans

1. Before the development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved these plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and elevations. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show:
  - a) A revised front elevation of dwelling 1 showing larger windows and some variation in wall surfaces including sun-shading (consideration should be given to having the skillion roof rising from north to south to appear more compatible with nearby houses and to provide shading)
  - b) External colours and building materials
  - c) A mailbox for each unit in front of the fence to the yard of dwelling 1
  - d) The front wall of dwelling 1 to be no closer than 5.7 metres to the front boundary of the land.

#### General Requirement

2. The layout of the site and the proposed buildings and works as detailed with the application and as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered or modified without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.

#### Drainage Discharge Plan

3. Before any of the development starts, a properly prepared drainage discharge plan with computations to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and

approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The plan must include:

- a) details of how the works on the land are to be retarded and drained
- b) underground pipe drains conveying stormwater to the legal point of discharge
- c) measures to enhance stormwater discharge quality from the site.

Before use begins, all works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with those plans, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

#### Asset Protection

- 4. Before the development starts, the owner or contractor must apply to Council for an Asset Protection Permit. The owner or contractor of the subject land must pay for any damage caused to the Council's assets/public infrastructure caused as a result of the development or use permitted by this permit.

#### Consent for Works on Road Reserves Required

- 5. Consent for Works Within the Road Reserve must be obtained from the Responsible Authority prior to the carrying out of any works within the Road Reserve including but not limited to vehicle crossing, footpath and kerb and channel works.

#### No Mud on Roads

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

#### Access Location

- 7. Vehicular access to the subject land must be from Redgum Drive. No vehicle access is permitted from Airport Road.

#### Environmental Health Officer

- 8. All wastewater generated from the property must be discharged to the main sewer system.

#### Reticulated Gas Service Connection

- 9. Any new dwelling allowed by this permit must not be connected to a reticulated gas service (within the meaning of clause 53.03 of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme). This condition continues to have force and effect after the development authorised by this permit has been completed.

#### Landscape Plan Required

- 10. A landscape plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plan must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The plan must include:
  - a) Species of trees and shrubs proposed
  - b) Shrubs or similar screening for the west side of the fence to the yard of dwelling 1
  - c) permeable paving blocks or the like for the visitor car park.

Completion of Landscaping

11. Within three months of the dwellings being completed the landscaping shown on the approved landscape plan must be carried out and completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Landscaping Maintenance

12. The landscaping shown on the approved landscape plan must be maintained (including the replacement of any dead, diseased or damaged plants) to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Screening and Fencing

13. Prior to the initial occupancy of the development, all required privacy screening devices and fencing shown on the endorsed plans must be completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority

Direct Lighting

14. External lighting must be provided with suitable baffles and located so that no direct light is emitted outside the site to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority to prevent adverse impacts on adjoining land.

Lower Murray Water

15. The requirements of Lower Murray Water must be met, in regard to the provision of urban water supply and sewerage services to the land, including payment of all associated costs prior to the commencement of construction.
16. The Developer or authorised agent must supply Lower Murray Water with a copy of the final services layout plan (Co-ordination plan), which has been fully signed by Council and all relevant service authorities, prior to the commencement of construction of works.

*Note: Lower Murray Water requires that the holder of this permit be advised that the Owners Corporation is responsible for the maintenance and proper working order of the allotments and/or common property.*

Powercor

17. The applicant shall provide an electricity supply to the development in accordance with the Distributor's requirements and standards.

*Note: Extension, augmentation or rearrangement of the Distributor's electrical assets may be required to make such supplies available, with the cost of such works generally borne by the applicant.*

18. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR).

*Note: Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.*

19. Any access entrances/crossovers must be at least a minimum distance of 1m from any Powercor assets.

*Note: It is recommended that applications for electricity supply, be submitted at the earliest opportunity so that the precise requirements of the Distributor can then be determined and accommodated. Applications for electricity supply shall be submitted via the Distributor's*

web portal, "mySupply" which can be accessed via the following link:  
<https://customer.portal.powercor.com.au/mysupply/CIAWQuickCalculator>

*Useful Information:*

*(The following information does not form part of this permit)*

1. A Building Permit must be obtained prior to commencing any building works.
2. All building works must comply with the Victorian Building Regulations

**In Favour:** Crs Ross Stanton, Pat Quinn, Daniel Bolitho, Lisa Farrant, Keith Link and Garner Smith

**Against:** Cr Charlie Gillingham

**CARRIED**

Unconfirmed Minutes

**CR CHARLIE GILLINGHAM DECLARED A CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN THIS ITEM AND LEFT THE ROOM AT 6.40PM**

**7.9 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION P24057: 2625 MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY, MYSTIC PARK**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is being presented to Council to determine a planning application for the development of an acoustic fence constructed of shipping containers to a height of 7.85m with artwork at 2625 Murray Valley Highway, Mystic Park (Kangaroo Lake Caravan Park).

The application was advertised in the Gannawarra Times and The Guardian newspapers. Signs were also placed onsite. Four written objections were received.

The proposal is considered not to comply with the provisions of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme and therefore has been recommended for refusal by Council Officers.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Ross Stanton**

**Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho**

That Council issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit (P24057) on the following grounds:

- a) The proposal represents a significant intrusion into the openness of farming landscapes. (Clause 02.03-2)
- b) The proposal impacts the high landscape quality of the nearby lake environs. (Clause 02.03-2)
- c) The proposal precludes the planting of additional native vegetation on land occupied by the acoustic fence. (Clause 02.03-2)
- d) The height, scale and massing of the proposed structure is out of context with the landscape and fails to protect and enhance views and vistas. (Clause 15.01-2S)
- e) The structures are set too close to adjoining roads and fail to meet Council's preferred setback distances from roads in the Farming Zone. (Clause 15.01-2L)
- f) The proposal will have an industrial appearance and fails to protect and enhance the rural character of the area. (Clause 15.01-6S)
- g) The impact of the proposal's siting, design, height, bulk, and materials on major roads and vistas will be detrimental. (Clause 35.07-6).

In Favour: Crs Charlie Gillingham, Ross Stanton, Pat Quinn, Daniel Bolitho, Lisa Farrant and Garner Smith

Against: Cr Keith Link

**CARRIED**

**CR GILLINGHAM RETURNED TO THE ROOM AT 6.46PM**

**ROSS STANTON DECLARED A CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN THIS ITEM AND LEFT THE ROOM AT 6.46PM**

**7.10 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION P24053: 9485 MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY, KERANG****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is being presented to Council to determine a planning application for the development of an illuminated major promotion sign at 9485 Murray Valley Highway, Kerang.

The application was advertised to an adjoining landowner and one written objection was received.

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

**RESOLUTION**

That Council approve Planning Application P24053 for the development of an illuminated major promotion sign in accordance with the endorsed plans subject to the following draft conditions:

Amended Plans

1. Before the development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved these plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show the setback distance required by Condition 5.

General Requirement

2. The location and details of the sign, and any supporting structure, as shown on the endorsed plans, must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Environmental Health Officer

3. The sign lighting must be designed, baffled and located to prevent any adverse effect of light spill on adjoining land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
4. The sign lighting must be designed, baffled and located so as to avoid glare nuisance to neighbouring properties and to users of the Murray Valley Highway.

Siting of Major Promotion Sign

5. The major promotion sign must be set back at least 2 metres from the eastern property boundary adjoining the Murray Valley Highway road reserve.

Sign Maintenance

6. The sign must be constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Major Promotion Sign

7. The sign must not:
  - a. Dazzle or distract drivers due to its colouring.
  - b. Be able to be mistaken for a traffic signal because it has, for example, red circles, octagons, crosses or triangles.
  - c. Be able to be mistaken as an instruction to drivers.

No Moving or Flashing Light

8. The sign must not be animated or contain any flashing or intermittent light.

#### Expiry of Permit

9. This permit expires 15 years from the issue date of this permit. On expiry of the permit, the sign and structures built specifically to support and illuminate it must be removed.

In accordance with Section 69 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, an application may be submitted to the Responsible Authority for an extension of the period referred to in this condition.

#### Native Vegetation

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

#### *Useful Information:*

*(The following information does not form part of this permit)*

1. A Building Permit must be obtained prior to commencing any building works.
2. All building works must comply with the Victorian Building Regulations.
3. Vegetation on the road reserve must not be destroyed or damaged.

**LOST**

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho**

**Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham**

Cr Daniel Bolitho moved an alternate motion to the original recommendation as follows:

### **ALTERNATE MOTION**

That Council approve Planning Application P24053 for the development of an illuminated major promotion sign in accordance with the endorsed plans subject to the following draft conditions:

#### Amended Plans

1. Before the development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved these plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show the setback distance required by Condition 5.

#### General Requirement

2. The location and details of the sign, and any supporting structure, as shown on the endorsed plans, must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

#### Environmental Health Officer

3. The sign lighting must be designed, baffled and located to prevent any adverse effect of light spill on adjoining land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
4. The sign lighting must be designed, baffled and located so as to avoid glare nuisance to neighbouring properties and to users of the Murray Valley Highway.

#### Siting of Major Promotion Sign

5. The major promotion sign must be set back at least 2 metres from the eastern property boundary adjoining the Murray Valley Highway road reserve and the sign be set back 30 metres from the northern boundary site.

#### Sign Maintenance

6. The sign must be constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

#### Major Promotion Sign

7. The sign must not:
  - a. Dazzle or distract drivers due to its colouring.
  - b. Be able to be mistaken for a traffic signal because it has, for example, red circles, octagons, crosses or triangles.
  - c. Be able to be mistaken as an instruction to drivers.

#### No Moving or Flashing Light

8. The sign must not be animated or contain any flashing or intermittent light.

#### Expiry of Permit

9. This permit expires 15 years from the issue date of this permit. On expiry of the permit, the sign and structures built specifically to support and illuminate it must be removed.

In accordance with Section 69 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, an application may be submitted to the Responsible Authority for an extension of the period referred to in this condition.

#### Native Vegetation

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

#### *Useful Information:*

*(The following information does not form part of this permit)*

1. A Building Permit must be obtained prior to commencing any building works.
2. All building works must comply with the Victorian Building Regulations.
3. Vegetation on the road reserve must not be destroyed or damaged.

**CARRIED**

**CR ROSS STANTON RETURNED TO THE ROOM AT 6.51PM**

## **8 INFORMATION REPORTS**

Nil

## **9 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**10 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**11 QUESTION TIME**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Andrea</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Kerang</b>
<b>Question 1</b>	
<p>Learning to swim is an important skill to master. The first term of swimming lessons held in the hydro pool was not run, and term 2 does not look like it will be run either. My question is, given the rivers, creeks, dams, pools and channels in the Gannawarra shire, why have learn to swim classes been cancelled and how will this be addressed going forward?</p>	
<p>Council appreciates that the Warra Waders Swim Program is highly valued by the Gannawarra community. When operating, it is a very well utilised service with long wait lists in place.</p> <p>This demand places significant pressure on Council's small indoor exercise pool and staffing resources. Attracting qualified Swimming and Water Safety Teachers, particularly ones who are qualified to deliver infant programs (under 4 years) has been an ongoing challenge in 2025. Council does however have two qualified swim teachers who have recently completed learn to swim training to enable them to teach over 4-year-olds.</p> <p>This places Council in a position to start planning how to support these swim teachers to complete the in-pool teaching hours required under an accredited trainer to enable them to teach the infant programs, which is where the demand for the Warra Waders program is.</p> <p>Supporting the cost of training of swim teachers and the accredited trainer needed to gain the required qualifications is met directly by Council. This also places constraints on programming when the Kerang exercise pool is a very small facility and maintaining water quality and a safe environment is an ongoing challenge.</p> <p>It is anticipated that Warra Waders will be in a position to recommence later in 2025 once a plan is in place to overcome the complex challenges involved in delivering a formal learn to swim program.</p>	

**Question 2**

Reading the community engagement strategy, I would like to understand over the last 12 months how many times the Council has involved and collaborated with the community in a meaningful way in matters that affect them across the shire.

Council has actively engaged with the community over the past 12 months through various programs, events, activities and input into strategic planning.

This has included the Connecting Gannawarra project where six rural communities developed district-based community plans in partnership with Council.

The development and subsequent implementation of these plans has seen both Councillors and Council staff attend a number of community gatherings and formal community planning and progress meetings over the past 12 months. Updated community plans for the three larger communities are currently underway. Again, Council is leading this process which involves and collaborates meaningfully with community on matters which affect them.

In addition, Council has consulted with the community on a large number of strategic projects including the development of the 2025-2029 Council Plan and 10-year Community Vision. The community consultation period was held over an 11-week period, which concluded in February. This included a community-wide survey and 40 face-to-face consultation sessions. Approximately 760 Gannawarra residents were directly involved and provided meaningful input into matters that impact directly on their lives.

Furthermore, a significant number of events and programs have been delivered directly by Council as part of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee.

This has included the Let's Talk About the Weather Program delivered over 6 months in partnership with Make a Change Australia. This program concluded in December 2024 and included a community wide survey, street activations, drop-in sessions and two major events – one in Kerang 'Positive Green Spaces' at Grow Collective Community Garden, and 'Living with Water – too much, too little – how do we adapt' at Cohuna. Input by community members collected throughout the program is being used to inform strategic priorities of Council and partnership agencies.

Recently, Council hosted a Sporting Club Dinner at Koondrook and an International Women's Day event at Cohuna, again very well attended events that received positive feedback from community. Case studies highlighting collaboration with the community and the impact of these events collected from post event surveys are available on the Council's website.

Council staff and Councillors have also attended a large number of community gatherings over the past twelve months to directly engage with community members on matters which affect them. This has included attendance at all of the nine social meals programs occurring across Gannawarra, Chatty Café at Kerang Neighbourhood House, which is attended on a regular basis, Senior Citizen meetings at Cohuna and Koondrook, and regular network meetings and partnership support for the three Gannawarra neighbourhood houses located in Kerang, Cohuna and Quambatook.

The Quambatook community is receiving ongoing direct support from the Council in response to the critical incident that occurred in January this year. Council staff have been supporting the Quambatook community with a range of practical supports and initiatives which support mental health and wellbeing and strengthen community connections. This has included the well supported Coffee under the Peppercorns program.

Council is responsible for delivering Relief and Recovery to the Gannawarra community as part of the statewide emergency management arrangements and being present in communities and supporting community-led priorities has been a focus of Council for many years and this will continue into the future.

Over the past 12 months, Council has supported communities and individuals impacted by flood and storm events through the Gannawarra Flood Recovery Program.

A significant number of events have been delivered by Council staff and partnership agencies as part of this program and this support will continue through to the end of 2025. Again, this direct engagement with the community provides the opportunity for residents to have genuine input into matters that impact them.

Meaningful collaboration with all Gannawarra secondary and primary schools continues to occur on a regular basis including the funding and delivery of the Indigenous Outreach Hip-Hop Project that took place in March 2025, where all 11 local schools participated. This engaged with over 1,200 school students and was delivered in partnership with the Kerang Elders and Leaders Group. Events of this scale do not just happen, there are months of planning and collaboration between Council and the community to deliver these initiatives for the benefit of the Gannawarra community.

The Bush Tucker Garden being developed in Kerang, which will be officially opened as part of NAIDOC Week in 2025, is being facilitated by the Council, an example of another genuine partnership with community.

Additionally, Council provides support to connect kindergartens and schools in with a range of community programs and events, including Children's Week, Science Week and Reconciliation Week, and Council fully funds all year 5-6 students from across Gannawarra to attend the GRIP Leadership Conference in Bendigo each year, with the 2025 group attending in May 2025. This program helps develop future community leaders. An outcome of attending the annual leadership conference is that students are supported within their school environments to deliver community projects, another example of genuine collaboration with community on matters that affect them. The Gannawarra Library Service continues to provide programming on a weekly basis including book chat, history group, children's programs and school holiday programming. All of these programs enable Council to collaborate and be involved directly with a range of community members.

This is just a small example of the community engagement work that Council leads across the Gannawarra community, not just over the past 12 months, but ongoing.

<b>Name</b>	<b>David Thompson</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Kerang</b>
<b>Question 1</b>  Given the correct recommendation to conclude the Kerang Koondrook Rail Trail Project, will Councillors support the recommendation?	
This matter was considered earlier in this meeting at item 7.3 <i>Koondrook to Kerang Rail Trail</i> .	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Shannyn</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Kerang</b>
<b>Question 1</b>	
<p>In relation to the planning permit application for Redgum Drive, Kerang; why was there no engagement with residents throughout the Redgum Estate, including Marne, Wise and Brolga streets? The planned project's increased tenancy and lack of vehicle parking spaces will impact residents across the estate.</p>	
<p>As legislated in the Planning and Environment Act 1987 under 'notice of application' if the responsible authority forms an opinion that material detriment may be caused to one or more adjoining owners or occupiers, notice must be given to all adjoining owners and occupiers as part of the advertising process.</p> <p>Council provided written notice to owners and occupiers along Red Gum Drive Kerang and a site notice was placed on the property to inform other residents within the estate that an application for a five dwelling development was proposed.</p> <p>It is also noted that vehicle parking for these five dwelling developments has been considered and meets the relevant requirement under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme.</p>	
<b>Question 2</b>	
<p>In relation to the proposed planning permit for the five-unit subdivision in Redgum Drive, Kerang, how does this proposal solve the rental crisis our communities currently face? One-bedroom units will not house families looking for accommodation; it looks more like a money grab by the landowner.</p>	
<p>The Red Gum development provides an alternate living options for those who are not seeking the traditional 3–4-bedroom house.</p> <p>Having diverse housing stock will meet the needs of our wider community. By providing a mix of housing alternatives means that those people who are looking for small dwellings are not occupying larger home which are desperately needed for families.</p> <p>It is Council's understanding that professional people who are moving to Kerang are looking for smaller homes to reside in. This development caters for the needs and single and couple households.</p>	

<b>Name</b>	<b>James Course</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Kerang</b>
<b>Question 1</b>  I would like to ask, can you approve my town planning application? My reasoning is the planners have provided a balanced assessment which considers the commercial interests of both the subject site and neighbouring property (Nutrien). The development of one freestanding sign on an industrial property has to be expected, given all the developer's industrial land along this stretch of road includes signage. The suggested 2m setback is supported (via permit conditions) and ensures that the proposed sign does not block any views from the public realm (diagrams supplied).	
This matter was considered earlier in the meeting at item 7.10 Planning Permit Application P24053: 9485 Murray Valley Highway Kerang.	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Colin and Marion Brown</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Kerang</b>
<b>Question 1</b>  With the proposal to put the overflow weir on the west bank has any consideration been given to the Kerang West residence that will be inundated to take pressure off town residence regarding our insurance which would become null and void due to being a man-made inundation and what possible compensation and rate reductions would be available for our vastly devalued land?	
Gannawarra made a submission to the inquiry into the Victorian 2022 flood event. One concern raised by councils, is that there is 'broader' community confusion about ownership of rural levees and there is a need for 'clear identification' of who responsible for maintenance of rural levees.	
At this stage the concept of placing a fixed crest weir on the western bank has not advanced and would involve considerable community consultation and discussion with relevant agencies responsible for floodplain management, land management and emergency response. The question as to compensation, rate reduction and land valuation would be raised as part of the consultation phase if this project was to proceed beyond a concept.	
<b>Question 2</b>  Has Council considered a better option for Kerang West residence to clear north of the Patchell bridge through to the Sheep wash creek to drop water levels and pressure on town levees and the Kerang West residence?	
Council will contact the responsible land managers and authority, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and North Central Catchment Management Authority to investigate the impacts of clearing the "Sheep wash creek" and impacts on downstream communities of undertaking such works.	

## 12 DELEGATES REPORTS

### 12.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

THE COUNCILLORS GAVE UPDATES ON THEIR PORTFOLIOS AND MEETINGS THEY HAD 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

Geoff Rollinson, Chief Executive Officer		
	3 March 2025	March Council Briefing Session
	6 March 2025	Murray River Group of Council CEO and Mayors Meeting and Dinner in Kerang
		Weekly Meeting with Mayor and CEO
	7 March 2025	Grants Commission Online Session on Financial Assistance Grants
		CEO Session – Operation Sandon Online
	13 March 2025	Reject Shop Opening in Kerang
		Loddon Campaspe CEO Meeting Online
		Weekly Meeting with Mayor and CEO
		RV Local Government Forum Online
	14 March 2025	Monthly CEO Meeting with Northern District Community Health and Kerang District Health
	17 March 2025	MAV CEO Monday Connect

	18 March 2025	EPA Board Meeting and Lunch in Boort
	19 March 2025	Management Team Meeting
		CEO Meeting to discuss EES for VNI West
		Weekly Meeting with Mayor and CEO
		March Council Meeting
	25 March 2025	Meeting with Sean Callanan from McArthur
		Weekly Meeting with Mayor and CEO
		Gannawarra Sports Dinner in Koondrook
	26 March 2025	Council Plan Consultation and Speaker Session
	28 March 2025	The Morning Rush Radio Broadcast in Garden Park, Cohuna
<b>Cr Garner Smith – Mayor</b>		
	3 March 2025	March Council Briefing Session
	6 March 2025	Murray River Group of Council CEO and Mayors Meeting and Dinner in Kerang
	12 March 2025	NGSC Transmission Forum in Stawell
	13 March 2025	Reject Shop Opening in Kerang
		Weekly Meeting with Mayor and CEO
	18 March 2025	EPA Board Meeting and Lunch in Boort
	19 March 2025	VHM Melbourne Mining Club Luncheon
		Weekly Meeting with Mayor and CEO
	24 March 2025	Annual U3A Community Concert in Kerang
	25 March 2025	Weekly Meeting with Mayor and CEO
		Gannawarra Sports Dinner in Koondrook
	26 March 2025	Council Plan Consultation and Speaker Session
	27 March 2025	MIXX FM Crew Dinner in Cohuna
	28 March 2025	The Morning Rush Radio Broadcast in Garden Park, Cohuna
<b>Cr Ross Stanton – Deputy Mayor</b>		
	13 March 2025	VLGA Finance Module Catch up Session
	19 March 2025	March Council Meeting
	26 March 2025	Council Plan Consultation and Speaker Session
<b>Cr Daniel Bolitho</b>		
	3 March 2025	March Council Briefing Session
	13 March 2025	VLGA Financial Literacy Catch up Session
	14 March 2025	VLGA Fundamentals Catch up Session
	19 March 2025	March Council Meeting

	26 March 2025	Council Plan Consultation and Speaker Session
<b>Cr Lisa Farrant</b>		
	3 March 2025	March Council Briefing Session
	13 March 2025	VLGA Finance Module Catch up Session
	19 March 2025	March Council Meeting
<b>Cr Charlie Gillingham</b>		
	3 March 2025	March Council Briefing Session
	8 March 2025	Lunar Festival in Kerang
	19 March 2025	March Council Meeting
	26 March 2025	Council Plan Consultation and Speaker Session
<b>Cr Keith Link</b>		
	5 March	Leitchville Progress Association Meeting
	5 March	Ratepayer Discussion over fallen tree
	12 March	Speech at Cohuna Lions Meeting
	17 March	Cohuna Progress Association
	19 March 2025	March Council Meeting
	26 March 2025	Council Plan Consultation and Speaker Session
	28 March 2025	Cooked Breakfast for Lions Club for The Morning Rush Radio Broadcast in Garden Park, Cohuna and represented Council
<b>Cr Pat Quinn</b>		
	3 March 2025	March Council Briefing Session
	19 March 2025	March Council Meeting
	26 March 2025	Council Plan Consultation and Speaker Session

### 13 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7.12pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 21 May 2025.

**Cr Garner Smith**  
**MAYOR**