



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, 19 November 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, 19 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer
Governance Officer

Gallery: 1

Media: 1

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country video was played.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

Cr Ross Stanton read the Opening Declaration.

3 APOLOGIES

Cr Keith Link

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 October 2025 and the Special Council Meeting held on 5 November 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORD OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFING - 15 OCTOBER 2025 TO 4 NOVEMBER 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 Lisa Farrant

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings from 15 October 2025 to 4 November 2025.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 POLICY NO. 035 - COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES ON FOOTPATHS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers have undertaken a review of Policy No. 035 Community Activities on Footpaths. This review has resulted in amendments to enhance transparency, compliance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, and alignment with Council's Community Amenity Local Laws 2023.

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council adopt the revised Policy No. 035 – Community Activities on Footpaths.

CARRIED

7.2 POLICY NO. 146 - CLIMATE CHANGE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that they are reflective of current practices. This report addresses the review of Policy 146 – Climate Change.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho

Seconded: Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council adopt Policy No. 146 – Climate Change.

CARRIED

7.3 POLICY NO. 101 - MEDIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gannawarra Shire Council Policy No. 101 – Media outlines the protocols for managing communication between Council, the media and the community.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho

Seconded: Cr Pat Quinn

That Council adopt the revised Policy No. 101 – Media.

CARRIED

7.4 POLICY 152 - SURRENDER OF LAND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets to formally correct the number allocated to the Surrender of Land Policy. At the October Council Meeting this was recorded as Council Policy 151, however this was already allocated to another document. There have been no other adjustments to this document, the change only applies to its numbering and this should be Council Policy 152.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council rescind the resolution from the 15 October 2025 Council meeting that resolved at item 7.11 'That Council endorse the new Council Policy No. 151 – Surrender of Land'

That Council endorse the new Council Policy No. 152 – Surrender of Land.

CARRIED

7.5 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that they are reflective of current practices. This report addresses the following policies, which have recently been reviewed:

- Policy No. 003 – Risk Management
- Policy No. 045 – Mystic Park Cemetery Trust

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council adopt the following reviewed policies:

- Policy No. 003 – Risk Management
- Policy No. 045 – Mystic Park Cemetery Trust

CARRIED

7.6 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT - QUARTER ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council was last presented with its quarterly budget report in May 2025; this was for the March 2025 quarter.

As of 30 September 2025, Council is showing an underlying surplus YTD of \$11.451 million, which is \$1.108 million more than budgeted for the same period. Income has a variance of \$0.295 million, and there is a \$0.813 million variance for expenditure YTD.

Council is forecasting a \$4.474 million underlying deficit for 30 June 2026, which is an increase in the deficit of \$3.996 million on the 2025/26 adopted budget.

The adopted capital budget for 2025/2026 is \$19.320 million. There has been an increase in the forecasted capital works budget by \$1.481 million to recognise multiyear projects carried over from 2024/25. Anticipated budgeted spend by 30 June 2026 is \$20.801 million. 30% of the forecasted capital works budget had been committed by 30 September 2025.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council receive and note the report outlining the 2025/2026 Quarterly Budget Report as of 30 September 2025.

CARRIED

7.7 COLLECTION OF UNPAID RATES UNDER S181 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 181 of the Local Government Act 1989 (S181) outlines the process where Council may sell land to recover rates and charges that have been outstanding for more than three years. This is the last resort after all other Council rate recovery debt collection processes have failed and/or been exhausted.

The list in the report contains 49 properties with a total debt outstanding of just over \$575,000. This level of debt is to be addressed, as the current efforts to repay the debts are insufficient, which requires Council to commence the S181 action on these properties. The expected outcome will be that either the ratepayer will make payment of the outstanding rates or charges, or the property will be sold.

Council has engaged Executive Collections to assist with the debt collection processes of Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Pat Quinn

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council:

1. Endorses that the 49 properties listed in the below report are to commence the next stages of legal action as outlined within Section 181 of the Local Government Act 1989
2. When a property reaches the final stage of the S181 process, seek final approval from Council prior to sale.

CARRIED

7.8 2026 COUNCIL MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, at or before the last meeting each calendar year, Council must fix the date, time, and place of all scheduled Council meetings for the following calendar year.

This report proposes scheduled Council meetings for 2026 continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month from February to December. All meetings will commence at 6pm at the Glasshouse, Kerang.

With the Mayoral election to be held in November it is proposed to conduct this meeting at 5.30pm on November 18, 2026.

January – No Meeting

February – Wednesday 18 @ 6.00 pm

March – Wednesday 18 @ 6.00 pm

April – Wednesday 15 @ 6.00 pm

May – Wednesday 20 @ 6:00 pm

June – Wednesday 17 @ 6:00pm

July – Wednesday 15 @ 6.00 pm

August – Wednesday 19 @ 6.00 pm

September – Wednesday 16 @ 6:00 pm

October – Wednesday 21 @ 6.00 pm

November – Wednesday 18 @ 6:00 pm

December – Wednesday 16 @ 6:00 pm

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council adopt the following dates as the 2026 scheduled meetings of Council:

1. All meetings commencing at 6pm in Kerang:

- 18 February 2026
- 18 March 2026
- 15 April 2026
- 20 May 2026
- 17 June 2026
- 15 July 2026
- 19 August 2026
- 16 September 2026
- 21 October 2026
- 18 November 2026
- 16 December 2026

2. The Mayoral election on Wednesday 18 November 2026 at 5.30pm in Kerang.

CARRIED

7.9 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2025/2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council holds financial memberships for various committees, both locally and regionally, in the interests of advocating for and on behalf of the community. Membership in these and several other committees provides for Councillors to act as a Council delegate or representative on behalf of the Gannawarra Shire Council.

The table below lists each committee and the proposed Councillor delegate or representative to each, for 2025/2026.

COUNCILLOR COMMITTEES 2025/2026	
COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC)	Mayor
Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils (LCGC)	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 Keith Link
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Cr Ross Stanton
Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) (x 2)	Cr Garner Smith, Cr Ross Stanton
Transport Connections	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
Community Resilience Committee	Cr Keith Link

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Pat Quinn

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council adopt the list of Committee memberships, and Councillor delegates or representatives to each, for 2025/2026 as detailed in this report.

CARRIED

8 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 QUESTION TIME

Name	Kenneth
Address	Cohuna
Question Why doesn't Cohuna have access to a Community Noticeboard?	
Answer The existing community noticeboard in Cohuna is currently inaccessible as it has been fenced off due to public safety concerns associated with the adjoining building. Council will investigate suitable alternative locations to ensure the community continues to have access to a public noticeboard.	

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 6:37pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 17 December 2025.

Mayor Garner Smith
CHAIR