

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 15 April 2026

6:00 pm

Glasshouse, Kerang

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**Order of Business**

<b>1 Welcome to Country</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Opening Declaration</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3 Apologies and Leave of Absence</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4 Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Declaration of Conflict of Interest</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>6 Briefing Sessions</b> .....	<b>4</b>
6.1 Record Of Councillor Briefing - 5 March 2026 To 7 April 2026 .....	4
<b>7 Business Reports for Decision</b> .....	<b>5</b>
7.1 Proposed Budget 2026/27 .....	5
7.2 Draft Fees And Charges For 2026/27 .....	6
7.3 Council Policy No. 110 - Investments.....	7
7.4 Policy No. 115 - Laneways.....	7
7.5 Draft Gannawarra Urban Stormwater Management Plan.....	8
7.6 Community Flood Recovery Program Summary.....	9
<b>8 Urgent Business</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>9 Notices of Motion</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>10 Question Time</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Delegates Reports</b> .....	<b>11</b>
11.1 Delegates Reports.....	11
<b>12 Confidential Items</b> .....	<b>12</b>
12.1 CEO Performance Review .....	12
12.2 Koondrook Caravan Park .....	12

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE GLASSHOUSE, KERANG  
ON WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2026 AT 6:00 PM**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Director Infrastructure Development**
- Acting Director Corporate Services**
- Governance Officer**

**GALLERY:** 1

**MEDIA:** Nil

## 1 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

The Welcome to Country video was played.

## 2 OPENING DECLARATION

Cr Pat Quinn read the Opening Declaration.

## 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apology received from Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Rollinson.

## 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho  
Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 March 2026 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

## 5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

## 6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

### 6.1 RECORD OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFING - 5 MARCH 2026 TO 7 APRIL 2026

#### 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 Pat Quinn  
Seconded: Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council note the Records of Councillor Briefings from 5 March 2026 to 7 April 2026.

**CARRIED**

## 7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

### 7.1 PROPOSED BUDGET 2026/27

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Proposed Budget 2026/27 (the Budget) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act). 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the Proposed Budget 2026/27 as presented and attached to this report, to proceed to community consultation seeking feedback between 16 April 2026 and 15 May 2026.
2. Note that subject to changes to the Proposed Budget 2026/27 after community feedback, the Proposed Budget 2026/27 will be presented for adoption as Council's Budget 2026/27, in accordance with Sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, at the Council Meeting to be held on 17 June 2026.

#### AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded:

That Council:

1. Approve the Proposed Budget 2026/27 as presented and attached to this report, to proceed to community consultation seeking feedback between 16 April 2026 and 15 May 2026.
2. Note that subject to changes to the Proposed Budget 2026/27 after community feedback, the Proposed Budget 2026/27 will be presented for adoption as Council's Budget 2026/27, in accordance with Sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, at the Council Meeting to be held on 17 June 2026.
3. Alter the Municipal Charge from a 10% increase to a 2.35% increase.

AMENDMENT LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER

**RESOLUTION**

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Approve the Proposed Budget 2026/27 as presented and attached to this report, to proceed to community consultation seeking feedback between 16 April 2026 and 15 May 2026.**
- 2. Note that subject to changes to the Proposed Budget 2026/27 after community feedback, the Proposed Budget 2026/27 will be presented for adoption as Council's Budget 2026/27, in accordance with Sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, at the Council Meeting to be held on 17 June 2026.**

**CARRIED**

**7.2 DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2026/27****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As part of the annual Budget process, Council reviews the level of fees and charges that are applied across the Shire for the provision of services, with a view to achieving a balance between affordability, encouraging greater usage, cost recovery and raising sufficient revenue to support the delivery of services.

In accordance with best practice financial management and Council's Revenue and Rating Plan, Council Officers have conducted a comprehensive review of the Schedule of Fees and Charges (the Schedule) to support achievement of the previously mentioned criteria.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Daniel Bolitho  
**Seconded:** Cr Lisa Farrant

**That Council:**

- 1. Approve the Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27 as presented and attached to this report, to proceed to community consultation seeking feedback between 16 April 2026 and 15 May 2026.**
- 2. Note that subject to changes to the Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27 after community feedback, the Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27 will be presented for adoption as Council's Budget 2026/27 (combining in the Fees and Charges), in accordance with Sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, at the Council Meeting to be held on 17 June 2026.**

**CARRIED**

### 7.3 COUNCIL POLICY NO. 110 - INVESTMENTS

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report addresses a minor review of the Investment Policy (the Policy). The current version of the Policy was adopted by Council in September 2025, therefore is not due for review, however with Council now working within the expanded investment options, it has been found that a slight adjustment is needed within the rating sections of the Policy to include an A3 term. This will ensure alignment with published industry standard ratings.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse Council Policy No. 110 – Investments.

#### MOTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded:

That Council:

1. Endorse Council Policy No. 110 – Investments.
2. Change the authorised investments of the long-term fund type to have a maximum time horizon of 12 months.

**MOTION LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER**

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council endorse Council Policy No. 110 – Investments.

**CARRIED**

### 7.4 POLICY NO. 115 - LANEWAYS

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers have undertaken a review of Council Policy No. 115 – Laneways, which establishes a framework for the management and classification of laneways across the municipality.

The review has confirmed that the policy remains current, compliant with relevant legislation and aligned with Council's operational practices. No changes to the policy are proposed.

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Pat Quinn

Seconded: Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council adopt Policy No. 115 – Laneways.

**CARRIED**

## 7.5 DRAFT GANNAWARRA URBAN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has engaged a consultant to prepare the Draft Gannawarra Urban Stormwater Management Plan 2026–2036 (the Draft Plan) to provide a coordinated, risk-based framework for managing urban stormwater across the municipality.

The Draft Plan applies to the townships of Kerang, Cohuna, Koondrook, Leitchville, Murrabit, Quambatook and Lalbert. It recognises the diversity of drainage systems, environmental settings, and risk profiles across the municipality.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Daniel Bolitho

**Seconded:** Cr Ross Stanton

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the Draft Gannawarra Urban Stormwater Management Plan 2026–2036 for public exhibition and comment for a period of 28 days from 16 April until 14 May 2026.**
- 2. Note that a future report will be presented to Council following the close of the exhibition period to consider feedback and any recommended amendments and to seek adoption of a final plan.**

**CARRIED**

## 7.6 COMMUNITY FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM SUMMARY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gannawarra Flood Recovery Program 2023–2025 was established in response to the October–December 2022 flood event, which inundated approximately 44 per cent of the Gannawarra Shire and significantly impacted rural communities and farming districts. While townships were protected from direct overland flooding, the event created widespread social, economic, environmental and infrastructure challenges across the municipality.

Over the three-year period, Council led recovery service coordination and planning as required under the Emergency Management Act and State Emergency Management Plan. This was achieved in partnership with the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee and supported by community input via the Community Flood Recovery Committee and community engagement to develop Council's submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event.

The Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan identified 48 priority actions across social, economic, built and natural recovery environments. By 31 December 2025, 43 actions had been completed, with the remaining five - focused on infrastructure resilience, flood modelling, warning systems and planning - continuing to progress.

Key achievements over the three-year recovery period include delivery of 337 community recovery activities, targeted outreach to rural communities, investment in community connection and wellbeing, Aboriginal self-determined recovery initiatives, improved emergency preparedness, and strengthened partnerships across the emergency management and health sectors. The Gannawarra Flood Recovery Program also delivered lasting organisational capability, enhanced governance structures and embedded emergency preparedness and resilience into Council's long-term strategic planning.

Despite challenges associated with workforce capacity, short-term funding cycles, and rigid funding criteria, the Gannawarra Flood Recovery Program has improved preparedness for future flood events and positioned Council and its partners to respond more effectively to future emergencies.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Pat Quinn

**Seconded:** Cr Daniel Bolitho

**That Council:**

- 1. Note the outcomes of the Gannawarra Flood Recovery Program (2023–2025) in response to the October-December 2022 flood event; and**
- 2. Acknowledge the contribution of communities and partners over the three-year recovery period.**

**CARRIED**

## 8 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

## 9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

## 10 QUESTION TIME

**Name:** Peter Bloomfield

**Address:** Koondrook

**Question:**

My home is in Koondrook. The property runs from the service Rd backing onto Forrest St. When it rains if there is a big downpour the water floods my backyard. The water comes from a drainpipe running under Forrest St. The drain takes storm water from 3 houses numbers 10,12 and 14.

As there is no spoon drain to channel the water away, I'm asking for a spoon drain to be put in to take the water away, so this won't happen again I have complained every year for the 6 years I have lived in the house since it was built. The last downpour earlier this year the property had 10 metres of water from the boundary fence into my property.

**Answer:**

Thank you for raising your concerns regarding stormwater impacts at your property.

Council is aware of drainage challenges in this area and has undertaken preliminary investigations, including survey work, to better understand how stormwater is currently behaving during heavy rainfall events.

Officers are currently working through potential design options to improve the management of stormwater flows, including measures to better capture and redirect runoff from surrounding properties.

These options will need to be carefully assessed to ensure they provide an effective and sustainable outcome.

Subject to further development and prioritisation across Council's broader stormwater program, the proposed works will be considered as part of future budget processes in coming financial years.

In the meantime, Council will continue to monitor the area and consider any interim actions where feasible.

## 11 DELEGATES REPORTS

### 11.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has memberships with peak Local Government associations, local and regional forums, along with statutory committees. Some memberships require that a Councillor be appointed to act as a delegate to formally represent Council, typically in a voting capacity.

This Agenda item provides an opportunity for Council-appointed delegates to present a verbal update on any pertinent matters arising from Council's membership with the following associations.

The Councillors provided updates on their portfolios and meetings they had attended.

COUNCILLOR COMMITTEES 2025/2026	
COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
Murray River Group of Councillors (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 Keith Link
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Cr Ross Stanton
Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) (x2)	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

## 12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton  
Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council considers the Confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Sections 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020:

#### 12.1 CEO PERFORMANCE REVIEW

This report is confidential as specified under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act, which states:

The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee Meeting may be closed to the public are listed in section Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act and are as follows:-

*(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;*

*(h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2);*

#### 12.2 KOONDROOK CARAVAN PARK

This report is confidential as specified under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act, which states:

The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee Meeting may be closed to the public are listed in section Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act and are as follows:-

*(a) council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*

*(h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2);*

CARRIED

The Meeting Closed to the public at 7:16pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 20 May 2026.

Mayor Garner Smith  
CHAIR