

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 17 June 2026
6:00 pm

Glasshouse, Kerang

Order of Business

1	Welcome to Country.....	4
2	Opening Declaration.....	4
3	Apologies and Leave of Absence	4
4	Confirmation of Minutes	4
5	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	4
6	Briefing Sessions.....	4
6.1	Record Of Councillor Briefing - 6 May 2026 To 2 June 2026.....	4
7	Business Reports for Decision	5
7.1	Adoption Of The Budget 2026/27 And Schedule Of Fees And Charges 2026/27	5
7.2	State Purchasing Contract For Banking Services.....	6
7.3	Policy No. 122 - Fee Waiver Or Reduction	7
7.4	Policy No. 153 - Rating Rebates For Properties With Environmental Covenants	7
7.5	Policy No. 134 - Fixed Assets.....	8
7.6	Policy No. 124 - Asset Protection.....	8
7.7	Macorna Land Surrender - Framework For Managing Land Transfer Requests	9
7.8	Gannawarra Resource Recovery And Waste Management Strategy.....	10
7.9	Planning Permit Application P25030: 9511 Murray Valley Highway, Kerang	11
7.10	2026 Community Satisfaction Survey	16
7.11	Thriving Together 2026-2030.....	17
8	Urgent Business.....	18
9	Notices of Motion.....	18
10	Question Time	18
11	Delegates Reports.....	19
11.1	Delegates Reports.....	19
12	Confidential Items	20
12.1	Audit And Risk Committee - Independent Member Appointment	20

**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GLASSHOUSE, KERANG
ON WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026 AT 6:00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Manager People and Culture
- Governance Officer

GALLERY:

1

MEDIA:

Nil

1 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

The Welcome to Country video was played.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

Cr Keith Link read the Opening Declaration.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies received from:

Cr Daniel Bolitho; and

Geoff Rollinson, Chief Executive Officer

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lisa Farrant

Seconded: Cr Pat Quinn

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 May 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Pat Quinn declared a General Conflict of Interest in Item 7.7 - Macorna Land Surrender - Framework for Managing Land Transfer Requests.

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORD OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFING - 6 MAY 2026 TO 2 JUNE 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 Lisa Farrant

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council note the Records of Councillor Briefings from 6 May 2026 to 2 June 2026.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET 2026/27 AND SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2026/27

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the completion of the statutory community consultation period, this report seeks to adopt the Budget 2026/27 and Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council made both documents available for public inspection and invited submissions from the community prior to adoption. All feedback received has been reviewed and considered by officers.

This report summarises the key themes raised through community submissions, and if any amendments are proposed because of this consultation process. Council is now requested to adopt the final Budget 2026/27 and Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27 to meet its legislative obligations and enable service delivery from 1 July 2026.

During the community feedback period, Council also received confirmation of the 2026/27 valuation data. When modelling this for the next financial year, slight changes have been made to the rate in the dollar to ensure Council does not raise income in excess of the legislated cap.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the submissions and feedback received during the community consultation period for the Proposed Budget 2026/27 and Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27;
2. Adopt the Budget 2026/27, including the Financial Statements, Capital Works Program and Rating and Revenue measures, in accordance with Sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*;
3. Adopt the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27, effective from 1 July 2026.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council:

1. Note the submissions and feedback received during the community consultation period for the Proposed Budget 2026/27 and Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27;
2. Replace the existing Mayor's Message in the 2026/27 Budget with a revised Message reflecting the priorities, challenges and opportunities for the 2026/27 financial year;
3. Adopt the Budget 2026/27, including the Financial Statements, Capital Works Program and Rating and Revenue measures, in accordance with sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*;
4. Adopt the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27, effective from 1 July 2026.

CARRIED

7.2 STATE PURCHASING CONTRACT FOR BANKING SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's current banking and bill payment arrangements have been reviewed as part of the contract review cycle. The Victorian Government has established a State Purchasing Contract (SPC) for Banking and Financial Services through a competitive tender process, resulting in a panel of three approved banks.

Gannawarra Shire Council is a pre-approved State Purchasing Entity and is eligible to access these arrangements without undertaking its own tender process. Whitmore Consulting was engaged to provide an independent assessment of the SPC offer, including pricing, qualitative service considerations, and implementation implications.

The analysis demonstrates that by transitioning to the SPC and retaining CBA as Council's banking provider, Council can achieve estimated savings of approximately \$15,400 per annum compared with current arrangements, with no requirement to change banks or incur material implementation costs. The SPC also provides contractual certainty until 30 September 2030, access to improved pricing, and alignment with contemporary payment and digital service delivery trends.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council:

- 1. Note the outcomes of the independent analysis of the Victorian Government State Purchasing Contract (SPC) for Banking and Financial Services.**
- 2. Resolve to transition Council's banking and bill payment services to the State Purchasing Contract banking panel.**
- 3. Approve entering a Short Form Purchase Order Contract under the State Purchasing Contract with Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) as Council's preferred banking services provider.**
- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute all required documentation to give effect to this decision.**

CARRIED

7.3 POLICY NO. 122 - FEE WAIVER OR REDUCTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the review of the Fee Waiver or Reduction Policy, and presents the policy for adoption. This was previously known as the Non – Refund of Statutory and/or Regulatory Services Fees.

The Policy has undergone a comprehensive review. The Policy now allows for waivers or reductions of various types of fees and charges and provides categories to assist in the treatment of those requests.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt Council Policy No. 122 Fee Waiver or Reduction.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council adopt Council Policy No. 122 Fee Waiver or Reduction with the addition of Councillors being included in the policy objective.

CARRIED

7.4 POLICY NO. 153 - RATING REBATES FOR PROPERTIES WITH ENVIRONMENTAL COVENANTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's adoption of Council Policy 153 – Rating Rebates for Properties with Environmental Covenants (the policy).

The policy provides a clear, transparent and equitable framework for how Council manages requests for municipal rate relief related to properties subject to environmental covenants or similar legal agreements.

The policy clarifies that Council does not provide direct rate rebates or waivers for properties with environmental covenants but does support property owners by facilitating supplementary valuations where a covenant may impact the value of land and therefore the rates levied.

Adoption of the policy supports consistency in rating decisions, legislative compliance, financial sustainability, and good governance, while recognising the broader environmental benefits provided by landholders who enter conservation arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt Council Policy 153 – Rating Rebates for Properties with Environmental Covenants.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council lay Council Policy 153 – Rating Rebates for Properties with Environmental Covenants on the table until the next scheduled Council Meeting.

CARRIED

7.5 POLICY NO. 134 - FIXED ASSETS**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.**

Council Policy No. 134 – Fixed Assets Policy (the Policy) has been reviewed as part of Council’s scheduled policy review program. The Policy establishes a consistent and compliant framework for the recognition, valuation, depreciation and reporting of Council’s fixed assets in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and State Government requirements.

Adoption of the updated Policy will ensure Council’s financial reporting remains accurate, transparent and compliant, and that asset valuation information continues to support sound asset management, service delivery and long-term financial decision-making. A Gender Impact Assessment has been completed and identifies opportunities to ensure assets and infrastructure are managed in a way that supports equitable outcomes for the community.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Pat Quinn

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council adopt Council Policy No. 134 – Fixed Assets Policy.

CARRIED

7.6 POLICY NO. 124 - ASSET PROTECTION**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Policy No. 124 - Asset Protection establishes Council’s framework for protecting and reinstating Council-owned infrastructure assets that may be impacted by building, demolition and related works within the municipality. The policy supports public safety, asset longevity and long-term financial sustainability by clearly defining responsibilities and enabling cost recovery where damage occurs.

The policy has been reviewed to ensure it remains contemporary, legally robust and aligned with current Victorian legislative requirements. Adoption of the revised policy will provide clarity to landowners, builders and contractors while supporting Council’s obligation to protect community assets.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Pat Quinn

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council adopt Council Policy No. 124 - Asset Protection.

CARRIED

Cr Pat Quinn left the Meeting at 6:27pm.

7.7 MACORNA LAND SURRENDER - FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGING LAND TRANSFER REQUESTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2025, Council adopted the Surrender of Land Policy to address long-standing issues associated with fragmented, undersized and constrained parcels within the municipality. Subsequent engagement with landholders and valuation advice has highlighted the need for Council to establish a clear, consistent and financially sustainable approach to managing land surrender and transfer requests.

Properties within the estate display a wide range of financial circumstances, including parcels with debts exceeding land value, parcels with low or moderate arrears, and parcels with no outstanding debt. Without defined principles, Council faces inconsistent decision-making, financial exposure and the risk of creating unintended precedents.

This report seeks Council direction on a framework that aligns land surrender decisions with the powers available under Section 181 of the Local Government Act 1989 and supports Council's long-term objectives of reducing cyclic debt recovery, minimising holding costs and improving land management outcomes.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the proposed framework for managing land surrender and land transfer requests within the Macorna subdivision in accordance with Council's Surrender of Land Policy and section 181 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.**
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign, seal and execute all documents necessary to give effect to Council-approved land surrender and land transfer transactions within the Macorna subdivision, provided such transactions are consistent with:**
 - a. Council's adopted Surrender of Land Policy;**
 - b. Section 181 process requirements;**
 - c. The framework adopted by Council; and**
 - d. Any other specific conditions or limitations imposed by Council resolution.**
- 3. Authorise the Director Corporate Services to negotiate terms and conditions relating to land surrender and land transfer requests within the scope of the adopted framework, including:**
 - a. Treatment of outstanding rates, interest and statutory charges;**
 - b. Application of valuation offsets and agreed payment amounts (if any);**
 - c. Responsibility for legal, conveyancing and transaction costs; and**
 - d. Timing and method of transfer.**
- 4. Receive a report on land transfer proposals for consideration and decision to execute where the following are being sought:**
 - a. A debt write-off, or**
 - b. A variation to the adopted framework.**

CARRIED

Cr Pat Quinn returned to the Meeting at 6:32pm.

7.8 GANNAWARRA RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council engaged a consultant to prepare a 10-year Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy to guide and improve waste and resource recovery outcomes across the municipality.

The strategy will assist Council to lead and educate the community on reducing waste and improving material recovery while delivering fit-for-purpose services and infrastructure.

The draft strategy was released for community consultation, with feedback invited via Council's "Have Your Say" platform. At the close of the consultation period, two submissions were received.

The feedback received is consistent with typical community concerns associated with waste service changes, particularly in relation to cost and service suitability. These matters are already addressed within the Strategy through its staged implementation approach, commitment to community education, and ongoing service review.

It is therefore recommended that Council proceed to adopt the Gannawarra Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2026–2036.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lisa Farrant

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the community consultation on the Draft Gannawarra Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2025–2035.**
- 2. Adopts the Gannawarra Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2026–2036.**

CARRIED

7.9 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION P25030: 9511 MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY, KERANG

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is being presented to Council to determine a planning application for the redevelopment of an existing service station located at 9511 Murray Valley Highway, Kerang.

The application was advertised to adjoining landowners 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

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council approve Planning Application P25030 for the development of a service station and associated buildings and works and erection of an internally illuminated electronic pole sign in accordance with the endorsed plans subject to the following conditions:

General Requirement

1. 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

2. All stormwater and surface water discharge from the site; buildings and works must be conveyed to the legal point of discharge by underground pipe drains to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Environmental Health Department

3. All wastewater generated from the property must be discharged to the main sewer system.
4. Noise emissions from the site must comply with the EPA Victoria Noise Protocol and State Environmental Protection Policy.
5. All external lighting must be designed, installed, and maintained to prevent light spills beyond the site boundary.

Surfacing

6. All driveways and vehicle movement areas within the site must be constructed, drained and surfaced to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Vehicle Movements

7. All vehicles entering or exiting the site must do so in a forward direction.

Vehicular Access

8. No additional access points are permitted from the subject land to the Murray Valley Highway unless approved via a separate planning permit.

Landscape Planting

9. Landscape planting must be undertaken generally in accordance with the endorsed plans and must include retaining and maintaining the existing trees.

Completion of Landscaping

10. Prior to the commencement of the development, the landscaping shown on the endorsed plan must be carried out and completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Landscaping Maintenance

11. The landscaping shown on the endorsed plan must be maintained (including the replacement of any dead, diseased or damaged plants) to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Amenity

12. The development must be managed so that the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected, through the:

- a) transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land
- b) appearance of any building, works or materials
- c) emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit or oil
- d) presence of vermin.

In the event of any such nuisance in the opinion of the Responsible Authority occurring, additional suitable procedures for suppression shall be developed and implemented to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Internally Illuminated Sign

13. The proposed sign must be located within the subject land; no part of the sign may protrude into the road's reserve.
14. The illumination of the sign must not detrimentally affect the amenity of the area through the emission of unreasonable levels of light beyond the boundary of the subject land.
15. The sign must not contain any flashing or intermittent light.
16. The sign must not dazzle or distract road users due to its colouring.
17. The sign must be constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
18. This permit, as it relates to the internally illuminated pole sign, will expire 20 years from the issued 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.

Site Maintenance

19. The subject site, including all buildings and works, must be maintained in a good order and appearance to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Lower Murray Water

20. Detailed plans showing proposed driveways must be provided to Lower Murray Water to determine if the driveway/s will be clear of existing service connections and/or to inform

any requirements for the protection of its existing assets and services, prior to commencement of any excavations or works required for construction of the driveway/s. Any costs associated with alterations to existing service connections or to Lower Murray Water assets because of new driveway/s must be met by the developer.

21. The holder of this permit or authorised agent must consult with and meet the requirements and terms of Lower Murray Water regarding water supply and sewage disposal services and/or any other services provided by the Corporation, including any costs associated with providing such services.
22. Developer enters into a Developer Design & Construct Agreement with Lower Murray Water to extend the Sewer Reticulation to service the Development.
23. The subdivider/developer or authorised agent must supply Lower Murray Water with a copy of the approved and signed Engineering Plan, which has been endorsed for construction, prior to the commencement of construction.
24. Prior to the issue of a Consent to Connect, the owner must enter into an Agreement with the Responsible Authority and Lower Murray Water made pursuant to section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. As per section 174, the Agreement must be under seal and must bind the owner to the following covenant which also must be specified in the Agreement: -
 - a) recognition by the owner that the lot created, when connection to sewerage is required, will be subject to a modified or “non-conventional” sewerage system;
 - b) that such modified system will include an obligation on the landowner to install a pump mechanism within the relevant allotment;
 - c) a requirement to provide to Lower Murray Water, before any works relating to the sewerage connection occur, plans to the satisfaction of Lower Murray Water of the proposed pump station and all related assets and connections;
 - d) that the landowner will be responsible for the purchase, installation, ongoing maintenance and any replacement of the individual property pump stations and related infrastructure;
 - e) that the individual pump stations will be operated at the cost of the landowner, including all costs of electricity or any other maintenance or operational cost;
 - f) that normal wastewater tariffs will apply;

The landowner must pay the costs of Lower Murray Water associated with the preparation, negotiation, execution and, if necessary, enforcement of such agreement.

The relevant agreement must be registered on the title of the land.

The Responsible Authority must make application to the Registrar of Titles to have the agreement registered on the title to the land under section 181 of the Act.

The owner must pay the costs of the preparation, execution, and registration of the section 173 Agreement.

25. The development must be serviced by an on-site sewage treatment system including on-site collection and pump unit approved by Lower Murray Water. The landowner is responsible for the purchase, installation, ongoing maintenance and any replacement of the individual property pump station and related infrastructure

Department of Transport and Planning

- 26. Before the development starts (including any demolition, or construction or carrying out of any site preparation works), a Transport Impact Assessment Report (TIAR) must be submitted to, and approved by, the Head, Transport for Victoria. The TIAR must be:**
- a. Prepared to the satisfaction of, and at no cost to, the Head, Transport for Victoria or the Responsible Authority;**
 - b. Prepared by a suitably qualified transport engineer; and**
 - c. To the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria, and include:**
 - i. An assessment of the proposed use and its expansion on the operation and safety of the Murray Valley Highway;**
 - ii. Details of the anticipated traffic generation and access arrangements; and**
 - iii. Identification of any mitigation measures required to maintain safe access, and the safe and efficient operation of the Murray Valley Highway (including any turn treatments or access upgrades).**
- 27. Before the development starts, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Head, Transport for Victoria, a Road Safety Audit (RSA) and Functional Layout Plan (FLP) must be submitted to and approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria. The RSA and FLP must be prepared to the satisfaction of, and at no cost to, the Head, Transport for Victoria and:**
- a. The RSA must:**
 - i. Be prepared by a pre-qualified engineer/auditor in accordance with the Department of Transport and Planning Pre-Qualification Register;**
 - ii. Identify the road safety risks associated with the access points; and**
 - iii. Recommend mitigation works to address any identified access and road safety risks.**
 - b. The FLP must:**
 - i. Be prepared to the satisfaction of, and at no cost to, the Head, Transport for Victoria or the Responsible Authority;**
 - ii. Be informed by and include the recommendations of the approved RSA and TIAR; and**
 - iii. Show all access arrangements to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria, including:**
 - 1. At the southern access point, unless otherwise determined by the approved TIAR:**
 - a. A Basic Left Turn (BAL) treatment; and**
 - b. A Basic Right Turn (BAR) treatment.**
 - 2. A swept path analysis demonstrating all turning movements for the largest design vehicle reasonably expected to access the site;**
 - 3. Access widths to the minimum extent necessary (based on the swept path analysis) to safely accommodate the design vehicle at both the northern and southern access points;**

4. Sealing of both access points; and
5. Appropriate signage and line marking providing for:
 - a. Entry only at the southern access point; and
 - b. Exit only at the northern access point.

The requirements of the FLP must not be modified except with the prior written consent of the Head, Transport for Victoria.

28. Before the occupation of the development approved under this permit, the works in the approved Functional Layout Plan (FLP) must be completed to the satisfaction of, and at no cost to, the Head, Transport for Victoria.

Note: Before works start, separate approval/s under the Road Management Act 2004 may be required from the Head, Transport for Victoria for works within the road reserve.

Expiry of Permit

29. This permit as it relates to development (buildings and works) will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- a) The development is not started within 3 years of the issued date of this permit.
- b) The development is not completed within 5 years of the issued date of this permit.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within six months afterwards.

Useful Information:

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. *The existing underground tanks must be removed as shown on the endorsed plan. Any contaminated soil must be remediated or removed in accordance with the requirements of relevant authorities.*
4. *No additional signage (other than shown on the endorsed plans) is to be constructed without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.*
5. *It is recommended that the applicant liaise with Country Fire Authority/Fire Rescue Victoria to ascertain whether specific fire precautions need to be provided on the site.*

CARRIED

7.10 2026 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Held annually, the optional State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey ask the opinions and perceptions of local people about where they live and work and provides participating Councils with an insight into how they are performing.

Conducted in 2026 by JWS Research using guidelines provided by Local Government Victoria, this survey assesses the performance of Gannawarra Shire Council across a range of measures and provides insight into the ways to provide improved or more efficient service delivery. The survey also provides councils with a means to fulfil some statutory reporting requirements for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Council recorded its strongest result in the survey since 2017, with its overall performance remaining in line with the average of the nine small rural municipalities that used JWS to conduct this year's survey. Perceptions of performance improved across sectors the survey focused on, with several improvements being statistically significant.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Pat Quinn

Seconded: Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council receive and note the results of the 2026 Community Satisfaction Survey for Gannawarra Shire Council.

CARRIED

7.11 THRIVING TOGETHER 2026-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thriving Together 2026–2030 – a plan for a diverse, inclusive and resilient Gannawarra outlines Council's commitment to strengthening community connection, equity, wellbeing and resilience.

Funded by the *Victorian* and Commonwealth Government through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) following the 2022 floods, the plan was informed by three community engagement processes reaching more than 1,000 residents.

The plan *builds* on previous social inclusion, disability and resilience work and aligns with the Community Vision 2040 and Council Plan 2025–2029.

Thriving Together focuses on five priorities: welcoming and connected communities, improved accessibility, valuing diversity, keeping the community informed, and strengthening emergency preparedness and resilience.

The plan *provides* clear goals and actions to reduce barriers and build a more inclusive, resilient Gannawarra. Delivered in partnership with residents, organisations and community groups, alongside strengthened cross-sector collaboration, the plan supports opportunities for residents to participate in community life.

Following a *community* feedback period on the draft plan, two responses were received.

This report *provides* Council with the opportunity to consider the community feedback and adoption of *Thriving Together 2026–2030 – a plan for a diverse, inclusive and resilient Gannawarra*.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Pat Quinn

That Council adopt Thriving Together 2026-2030 – a plan for a diverse, inclusive and resilient Gannawarra.

CARRIED

8 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

10 QUESTION TIME

Nil.

CONFIRMED

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.

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 Lisa Farrant

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

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 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENT

This report is confidential as specified under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which states:

The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee Meeting may be closed to the public are listed in 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.

This report includes the details of a recruitment process, the candidates' personal and professional information and reference check information.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed to the public at 7:11pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 15 July 2026.

Mayor Garner Smith
CHAIR