



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Community Resilience Flood Recovery
Action Plan
2023-2025

Updated to 31 December 2025

Acknowledgment of Country

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba peoples as the traditional owners of the land now known as Gannawarra. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their rich culture and connection to Country.

We acknowledge that flooding rejuvenates and sustains the environment and that work towards a safer and more resilient community must be undertaken in partnership with First Nation people.

Contents

Background:	4
Situation:	5
Purpose and Scope:	6
Acknowledgement of Partners:	7
What is Recovery and Community Resilience?	8
Review and Evaluation:	10
Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan:	11
APPENDIX 1: GANNAWARRA COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FLOOD RECOVERY ACTION PLAN	12
1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery	12
2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery	21
3. Agriculture and Economic Recovery	32
4. Enablers of Recovery - Recovery Support and Service Coordination	36

Background:

The October-December 2022 floods resulted in the second major flood event in 11 years for Gannawarra Shire, with 44 per cent of the Shire's landmass inundated by floodwaters.

With local knowledge still fresh from the 2011 floods, local processes were put into place to prepare and respond to the flooding situation. Flood mitigation efforts completed following the 2011 floods placed the Gannawarra community at a higher level of preparedness and resilience in 2022 compared to 2011.

Comprehensive detail relating to the 2011 and 2022 flooding events impacting the Gannawarra Shire can be found in the *Gannawarra Shire Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023*.

While townships across the Gannawarra Shire – including Kerang, Cohuna, Koondrook, and Murrabit - were threatened by the October to December 2022 floods, no townships experienced direct impact of floodwaters. The major impact of the 2022 flood has been across Gannawarra's rural communities and farming districts.

Due to the widespread impact of the October-December 2022 floods across Victoria, Emergency Recovery Victoria has been supporting recovery efforts.

A Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Committee has been in place since December 2022.

Council established a small Flood Recovery team in January 2023. Three sub-committees were also established at this time to focus on the development of a Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan.

This has been supported by a Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Committee, made up of 18 community representatives. This community committee met monthly from February 2023 to May 2023.

A Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan was finalised in May 2023.

There were 32 agencies and organisations involved in the development of the Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan, which is based around the recovery pillars set out in the State Emergency Management Plan - wellbeing and social recovery; built and natural environment; and agriculture and economic recovery.

The Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan features 48 priority actions across 11 recovery target areas that Council and other agencies will work on to guide recovery efforts.

In July 2023, the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee was re-formed. This committee, formally established in 2016, was viewed as a sustainable model to oversee the implementation of the Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan and transition the municipality back to a broader Community Resilience framework.

The Terms of Reference of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee were expanded in July 2023 to ensure the continued engagement of relevant agencies in the flood recovery effort.

A portal has been created with further background information relating to the October-December 2022 flood event can be found on the Gannawarra Shire Council's website, at the following link:

<https://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Emergency-Management/Community-resilience>

Situation:

During times of adversity, rural communities have enormous capacity to increase in strength and work closely together to protect one another and the community from outside influences and impacts.

Communities across the Gannawarra Shire are resilient and strong. History has shown that they have a demonstrated capacity to work in collaboration to protect one another and the community both during and in recovering from adverse events. Research indicates that there is a strong link between the strength of the community (social capital) and its ability to manage and respond to change.

The Gannawarra Shire is in Northern Victoria and had an estimated population of 10,683 as at the 2021 Census. The northern part of the municipality is bordered by the Murray River. Kerang, Cohuna, and Koondrook are the larger townships in the shire with Leitchville, Quambatook, Murrabit, Lake Charm, Lalbert, Macorna, and Mystic Park making up smaller townships and districts.

Despite significant challenges of rural living with increasing uncertainty surrounding varying agricultural industries and the flow on impacts of this locally, as well as cyclic episodes of droughts and floods, and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gannawarra community has good reason to have optimism for the future.

Communities within the Gannawarra are strong and connected. They are vibrant and enterprising and display high levels of community spirit. Each community has a unique character and a unique way of supporting their residents during times of need. Gannawarra communities have a history of volunteering, and this adds to important social capital.

Evidence and government direction supports community-led recovery. For community-led recovery to be successful, communities must be empowered to determine their own recovery needs and be provided with the resources and support needed for the community to activate their own recovery.

The Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Committee met on five occasions between February and May 2023. This group consisted of 18 community members representing flood impacted communities across the Gannawarra Shire. The committee worked closely with Council to develop the priorities contained within the Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan and to develop a comprehensive Gannawarra Shire Council submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023.

The actions developed in partnership with the Gannawarra community have been carried forward to this Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan.

The major overarching priorities of this Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan are to:

- Repair damage caused by the October-December 2022 floods to the built and natural environments.
- Provide flood recovery support, service coordination and advocacy to impacted residents.
- Support agricultural, business and tourism recovery.
- Encourage community-led programs, activities, and events.
- Partner with communities to develop new opportunities.
- Provide resources to support community-led recovery.

Purpose and Scope:

This Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee is a sub-committee of Council's Municipal Emergency Management Committee. This Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan forms part of the Recovery arrangements contained within the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).

The purpose of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan is to provide recovery guidance for the period 2023-2025 to support recovery from the impact of the October-December 2022 flood event.

The Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan sets in place a framework for working in partnership with a range of other government, service, and community organisations to ensure that longer-term recovery is prioritised to better enable the community to return to some level of functionality.

Under emergency management arrangements, local government takes the lead in delivering 'on the ground' relief and recovery services. While many impacts from an emergency are visible, there are far reaching psychological, health and economic consequences at community level that must be addressed that are not as easily identified.

The Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan guides the implementation of the Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan, as follows:

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery:

- Public Infrastructure Reconstruction
- Private Land and Building Recovery
- Natural Environment Resilience
- Improved Flood Planning

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery:

- Building Understanding and Awareness
- Building Community Empowerment
- Building Connections
- Hope and Confidence for a Better Future

3. Agricultural and Economic Recovery:

- Agriculture and Business Recovery

4. Recovery Support and Service Coordination:

- Supporting coordination of agencies, resource planning, and implementation of relief and recovery services
- Engaging communities in decision making, information sharing and communication

This Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan is based on the current knowledge of impacts and potential impacts. The document will be constantly reviewed as the situation changes to ensure it remains relevant to community need.

Acknowledgement of Partners:

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the following agencies for their ongoing involvement as members of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee:

- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Northern District Community Health
- Cohuna District Hospital
- Kerang District Health
- Victoria Police
- Mallee District Aboriginal Service
- Mallee Family Care
- Neighbourhood Houses
- Rural Financial Counselling Service
- Victorian Farmer's Federation
- Rural Aid
- Murray Dairy
- National Centre for Farmers Health
- Victorian Council of Churches
- Australian Red Cross
- Country Fire Authority
- Victoria State Emergency Service
- Ambulance Victoria
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Agriculture Victoria
- Regional Arts Victoria
- Regional Development Victoria
- Headspace
- Parks Victoria
- Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV)
- Department of Health
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Lower Murray Water
- Coliban Water
- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
- Goulburn-Murray Water

In addition, Council acknowledges:

- The work of agencies previously involved in developing the Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan; and
- the 18 community members representing impacted communities across the Gannawarra Shire who formed the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Committee through to May 2023.

The recovery priorities contained within the Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan have been carried forward into this Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan. This ensures that the previous partnership work is captured within an action plan, resources allocated to agreed priorities, and a coordinated effort is in place to implement the agreed actions going forward.

What is Recovery and Community Resilience?

Due to the length of the emergency incident and the direct impact across Victoria, response, relief, and recovery can occur simultaneously over an extended period.



The formal Transition from Response to Recovery was signed by Gannawarra Shire Council on 23 January 2023.

Recovery services support emergency-affected persons in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic, and physical wellbeing.

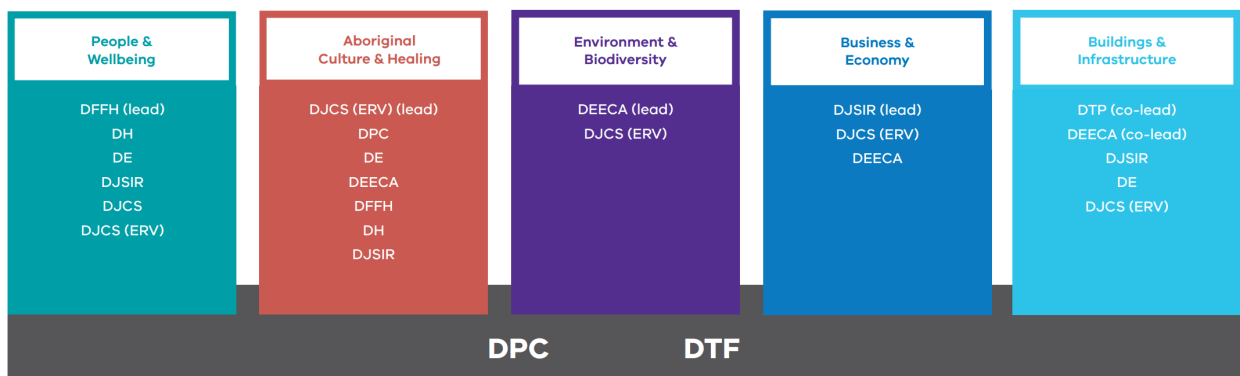
Recovery planning is a partnership between the affected community, the broader community, governments, non-government agencies and the private sector.

In an emergency management context, **Emergency Recovery Victoria** is the lead agency for recovery across Victoria.

Emergency Recovery Victoria’s approach to recovery builds on the State Emergency Management Plan, identifying four lines of recovery – social, economic, built, and natural - and includes a separate line of recovery for Aboriginal Culture and Healing. This additional line of recovery embeds Aboriginal self-determination into practices to strengthen recovery outcomes, in line with Victorian Government commitments under the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework and Self-Determination Reform Framework.

Council will work closely with **Emergency Recovery Victoria** to provide recovery coordination at a local level. This partnership approach will help facilitate accurate and timely information to the community and for community needs and priorities to be represented to regional, state and commonwealth organisations.

Several government departments have recovery responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Plan. The Lines of Recovery diagram provides a useful reference:



Further information on Emergency Recovery Victoria and the Lines of Recovery can be accessed from the Emergency Recovery Victoria website at the following link:

www.vic.gov.au/emergency-recovery-framework

This Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Resilience Action Plan has been formulated under the direction of the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

Recovery arrangements are in accordance with Part 7 – Recovery Arrangements, of the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

The Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee is nominated as Council’s Municipal Recovery Committee.

Community Resilience is a standing agenda item on the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). This provides a reporting mechanism for priority issues to be raised with emergency management agencies.

The MEMPC consists of Victoria Police, Victorian State Emergency Service, Country Fire Authority, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Department of Health, Ambulance Victoria, Agriculture Victoria, Parks Victoria, Red Cross, Victorian Council of Churches, Emergency Recovery Victoria, and Council representatives.

Community resilience is strengthening the capacity of the community to cope with change and challenges.

Five key considerations to strengthen community resilience as part of Recovery:

- Work in **partnership** with the community.
- **Build on existing** networks, resources, and strengths.
- Identify and support the development of **community leaders**.
- **Be flexible** in how we **communicate** with, and within, communities.
- **Empower** the community to make their own decisions and implement agreed actions that are place-based and community-led.

The evidence for Community Resilience lies within a number of strategies including:

National Strategy for Disaster Resilience

www.homeaffairs.gov.au/emergency/files/national-strategy-disaster-resilience.pdf

National Gender and Emergency Management Guidelines

<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-jan-2017-national-gender-and-emergency-management-guidelines/>

Victorian Resilient Recovery Strategy

[Resilient Recovery Strategy | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](http://www.vic.gov.au)

The evidence base has informed the priority areas and actions contained within this 2023-2025 Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan.

Review and Evaluation:

This Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan is place-based, and outcome driven.

The philosophy is to work with the community, report back to the community and celebrate achievements with the community.

The Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan will therefore remain flexible to changing opportunities and the needs of the community as they arise.

Progress of actions contained within the Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan will agenda items at each meeting of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee.

The Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan will be **evaluated** in **June 2024** and again in **June 2025**. The evaluation will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the local operational response to the needs of the community.

The Plan will be evaluated by asking the questions:

- What worked?
- What did not work?
- What do we need to change or adapt for the Plan to work better?

Outcomes will be collected and collated and based on community uptake, participant numbers, partnerships, link to photos, and record any identified barriers to participation or achievement of actions.

Outcomes and evaluation will be openly shared between agencies and celebrated with the community.

Understanding and documenting the role the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee played in the overall recovery process implemented for the October-December 2022 floods is a key factor in learning from, and improving, the municipalities' capacity to respond to and recover from an event.

It provides Council with a strategic tool to review and assess the committee's performance in planning, responding to and recovering from these incidents, as well as providing a critical resource bank of information, such as key learnings, and challenges.

Recommendations detailed in the evaluation will assist in planning and preparedness arrangements for future emergency incidents to ensure the organisation fosters continuous improvement through its experiences and lessons learnt for the betterment of communities within the Gannawarra Shire.

Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan:

A Community Resilience Action Plan has been included as Appendix 1. This plan provides a framework for the coordination of recovery planning across the municipality.

The implementation of this Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan will be overseen by the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee.

Recovery coordination has been divided across three key recovery environments: Wellbeing & Social; Agriculture & Economic; and Built & Natural. Aboriginal self-determination has been included as a separate line item within the recovery environment of Wellbeing & Social to reflect a commitment to State Government policy frameworks and the Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan.

In addition to the three recovery environments, the Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan for Gannawarra Shire also outlines actions required to support recovery and service coordination. This will ensure support for the partnership approach in delivering this Community Resilience Action Plan as well as identifying action areas where advocacy is required to support the Gannawarra community.



Resources will be required to financially support actions included in the Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan and for human resources to support the management, coordination, and implementation of these actions across Gannawarra communities.

Advocacy from Council and the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee will be paramount to ensure localised investment can be directed to key initiatives outlined in the Action Plan.

APPENDIX 1: GANNAWARRA COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FLOOD RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Public Infrastructure Reconstruction	1.1	Reinstate strategic protection levees alongside major waterways				NCCMA GMW VICSES GSC	February 2024	<p>Kerang and Quambatook township levees are Council managed and maintained. Other levees are not under formal management structures.</p> <p>The number one priority issue raised by the Gannawarra community and Council is reinstating rural levees breached as a result of the 2022 floods.</p> <p>This issue was included as a priority issue in the Gannawarra Shire Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023.</p> <p>A number of advocacy meetings were held and letters submitted from Council to Commonwealth and State.</p> <p>Some breached rural levees were repaired by emergency services in advance of the 2023/2024 floodwaters (via Pyramid Creek) arriving in Gannawarra.</p> <p>NCCMA funded to deliver a Strategic Levee project. This was in the pipeline since 2011 floods but funded after the 2022 floods. Referred to Action 1.3 below.</p> <p>Council has completed an integrity assessment of the Kerang township levee and is undertaking design for rehabilitation of the section of levee from the Murray Valley Highway south to Leng Street.</p>

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Public Infrastructure Reconstruction (Continued)	1.2	Build flood resilience into major transportation routes to ensure connectivity				RRV GSC	Ongoing – New timeline June 2027	<p>Included as a priority issue in the Gannawarra Shire Council’s Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023.</p> <p>A number of advocacy meetings have been held and letters submitted from Council to Commonwealth and State.</p> <p>Council Priority Betterment Program announced by Fed and State Govt.</p> <p>Update: Six priority projects identified. Kenny Road (additional culverts), Suttie Road (culvert upgrade), Gilmour Lane (concrete floodway), Lalbert-Kerang Rd (culvert headwalls), Connelly Road (culvert upgrade), and Knight Road (culvert replacement and concrete floodway). Additional five projects identified with delivery dependent on pricing: Lalbert-Kerang Rd (culvert upgrade), Normanville Road (culvert headwall installation), O’Donohue’s Bridge Road (culvert headwall installation), Wishart Road (culvert upgrade) and Potter Lane (concrete floodways).</p> <p>Betterment work to be completed by 30 June 2027.</p> <p>Council advocating for Department of Transport and Planning to upgrade the Wandella Creek floodway on the Murray Valley Highway near Reedy Lake.</p>

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Public Infrastructure Reconstruction (Continued)	1.3	Identify mechanisms to build additional resilience into the irrigation and rural drainage networks to relieve future flood impacts				NCCMA GMW GSC	Ongoing – New timeline June 2026	<p>Included as a priority issue in the Gannawarra Shire Council’s Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023.</p> <p>NCCMA continuing work on the Strategic Levee project. This was in the pipeline since 2011 floods but funded after the 2022 floods.</p> <p>Update November 2025: NCCMA contracted two large consultancies to assist with mapping and categorising levees across the North Central CMA region – including Gannawarra Shire.</p> <p>Contractors gathering data to feed into Geographic Information System (GIS).</p> <p>Work is occurring to define classifications of levees and significant floodplain features (e.g. things that act like levees such as roads, railways, channels).</p> <p>NCCMA engagement with local VICSES and LGAs on the initial classifications for review and refinement planned to follow on maps and classification.</p> <p>Community engagement occurred in June 2025. Sessions held in Kerang (60 attended), Murrabit and Cohuna.</p> <p>Specific to the Gannawarra Shire, will be engagement with the listed Flood Wardens.</p> <p>Once initial classifications are determined, there is scope and budget for further investigations if required. Example assessments could include flood consequence mapping, levee condition assessments, or mitigation feasibility assessments.</p> <p>The ultimate goal is to update Municipal Flood Emergency Plans with detailed information on the levee networks, how they operate and which ones are strategically important – including GIS outputs with the levee classifications. This will help determine, before the flood, where VICSES will or won’t act during the next flood emergency.</p> <p>Stormwater improvement projects have been completed at Leng Street, Brolga Street, Tate Drive and Franke Road in Kerang as part of Council’s CFSF funding. These projects will reduce the risk and impacts of urban flooding.</p>

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Public Infrastructure Reconstruction (Continued)	1.4	Prioritise the reinstatement of roads and access				GSC RRV EMV DoT	June 2025	A number of advocacy meetings were held and letters submitted from Council to Commonwealth and State. Flood damaged roads assessed and divided into 12 packages in 2023. All works were completed by June 2025. A total of 109kms of gravel roads were re-sheeted, 312 km received a heavy grade and 162km a medium grade. 13.4kms of sealed road shoulders were re-sheeted, 4kms of edge breaks repaired and 1km of sealed road rehabilitation completed. Total value of DRFA flood rehabilitation works is approximately \$6.913M.
	1.5	Advocate and provide guidance to improve the recovery funding support systems				GSC ERV	June 2024	Included as a priority issue in the Gannawarra Shire Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023. Separate submission submitted to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) into the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Support (August 2023). Council captured lessons learnt and has contributed to inquiry hearings and Emergency Recovery Victoria review processes and debriefs on flood recovery support services. Advocacy letter seeking broadening of ERV Community Hubs Program funding (Sept 2023). Response received from Senator Watt November 2023. Continued advocacy has occurred on Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) claims process.

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Private Land and Building Recovery	2.1	Identify mechanisms to support at risk properties to build ring levees around important assets				GSC DEECA	June 2023	<p>Included as a priority issue in the Gannawarra Shire Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023.</p> <p>Council conducted a phone audit of government funded ring-bank levees around private dwellings installed following the 2011 floods across the Lower Loddon floodplain. Phone calls were made directly with property owners to ascertain the number, condition of ring-bank levees and direct flooding impacts. Thirty-four properties impacted in 2011 located in the Lower Loddon floodplain were eligible for government assistance to construct ring bank levees around homes. These ring bank levees, where maintained and closed off prior to the 2022 floodwater arriving and with constant monitoring and pumping by residents, have been successful in protecting homes in 2022.</p> <p>Nine homes with government funded ring bank levees incurred damage in 2022. The two main reasons for flood damage were that floodwaters entered via the access gap, or that the home was flooded from pipes and wastewater disposal systems running to the outside of the ring bank levee.</p> <p>This was documented in the Gannawarra Shire Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023 (page 12).</p> <p>Advocacy relating to government assistance for additional ring bank levees to protect homes was included in advocacy meetings and letters regarding rural levees across Gannawarra. Response has been that protection of private assets is deemed to be the responsibility of individual property owners.</p>

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Private Land and Building Recovery (Continued)	2.2	Ensure impacted communities are supported with recovery clean-up				GSC DEECA ERV	June 2023	Council supported impacted residents with recovery clean-up through to the end of the State Government's flood waste levy waiver and gate fee rebate scheme on 30 June 2023. Septic tank pump outs were completed as part of Category A of the DRFA. Council supported impacted residents to access recovery clean-up assistance via Emergency Recovery Victoria programs. Council sponsored Blazeaid to be based in Gannawarra from January-May 2023. Council provided coordination support for Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) to provide a clean-up service for property owners in Gannawarra in January-February 2023. Council supported RuralAid to be based in Gannawarra for a week in May 2023.
	2.3	Provide case-support and fast-track approval process for planning rebuilds				GSC	December 2024	Raised with Council's Manager Planning and Regulatory Services 1 August 2023. Update November 2024: No applications for planning rebuilds as a result of the 2022 floods have been received by Council.
	2.4	Improve guidance and management including enforcement of private levees				GSC NCCMA	June 2023	Council sought a statement from the North Central Catchment Management Authority to distribute to the community. This was included in the Flood Support Newsletter on 21/4/23 and 19/5/23 and the Gannawarra Connect Newsletter July/August 2023 edition: <i>Levees in rural areas of Gannawarra Shire are not under any formal management arrangements and there is no obligation on any landowner or agency (including Council) to maintain them. A permit is required to repair a levee bank on Crown Land by phoning North Central Catchment Management Authority on (03) 5440 1896. Council and NCCMA have been made aware of works on private land that occurred during and after the recent flood event and will be working with landowners to ensure that they gain the necessary approvals or remove the works if they have the potential to adversely affect neighbouring properties.</i>

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Natural Environment Resilience	3.1	Support a coordinated approach to the management of invasive species across all land tenures				DEECA Landcare GSC	December 2023	A newsletter article was compiled for the Gannawarra Community Update Flood Support Newsletter on 21/4/23: <i>The wet weather and floods have led to an increased risk of weed spread on land across Gannawarra. Residents are asked to be vigilant about weeds, including noxious weeds, on their properties and take measures to control these weeds and their spread, which have the potential to impact on neighbouring properties and the wider community. For further information on noxious weeds and their control, as well as the advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria, visit: www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/flood-recovery-resources/weeds-2/</i> Council followed up whether any financial assistance was available for property owners to control weeds. Funding to control weeds was available to farmers who applied through the Rural Finance Agriculture Victoria Flood Recovery Grants Program.
	3.2	Support a coordinated approach to waterway and impacted land restoration and clean up				DEECA NCCMA Parks Vic GSC GMW	June 2024	Council collaborated with Goulburn Murray Water on restoration works north of 2 nd Reedy and near Scott's Creek take-off from 3 rd Reedy Lake, and clean-up at Middle Reedy Lake (Ibis Rookery) which is located on Crown Land with GMW the land manager.

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Natural Environment Resilience (Continued)	3.3	Support traditional owners with the inspection, restoration and recovery of cultural significant sites and locations				DEECA Parks Vic	June 2024	Traditional Owner Flood Recovery Forum held in Swan Hill 30-31 March 2023 facilitated by DEECA. 20 agencies and 60 Traditional Owners represented. Traditional Owners access to land in Guttrum and Benwell State Forest area (between Koondrook and Murrabit) was restored May 2023 to conduct Traditional Owner cultural inspections. Traditional Owner Engagement Working Group in place. Follow up Traditional Owner Flood Recovery Forum was held in Nyah 17-18 June 2024. Agencies and Traditional Owners well represented. Council officers attended and presented as part of local government presentation of embedding Aboriginal Self-Determination into Flood Recovery through the ERV Community Hubs Program.
	3.4	Prioritise restoration and recovery of nature-based tourism infrastructure and locations				DEECA Parks Vic GSC GMW	June 2024	Koondrook Retreat restoration following flood impact. Clean up works at Council managed boat ramps on the Murray River. Arborist assessment on Koondrook Walking Trail and Twin Bridges Koondrook undertaken by DEECA April 2023. Council convened a working group consisting of Council, NCCMA, DEECA, GMW, MDAS, Aboriginal Elder, and community member to develop an action plan for clean-up and upgrades to RAMSAR listed Middle Reedy Lake (Ibis Rookery). Actions agreed continued in the 2024/2025 financial year with additional funding secured by Kerang Landcare and Council through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).
	3.5	Prioritise restoration of the wetlands and natural areas along the rivers with significant biodiversity value				DEECA Parks Vic	June 2024	DEECA and Parks Vic have been working to restore wetlands and natural areas along rivers.

1. Built and Natural Environment Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Improved Flood Planning	4.1	Undertake municipal wide flood modelling within four years and review every 20 years or upon significant changes to characteristics, or water infrastructure, in the floodplain				NCCMA GSC VICSES	Ongoing	Included as a priority issue in the Gannawarra Shire Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023. Input into the North Central Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018–2028 when next reviewed.
	4.2	Proactively recruit and mentor new flood wardens/observers				GSC VICSES NCCMA	June 2023	Included as a priority issue in the Gannawarra Shire Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023. Council distributed a media release in February 2023 calling for expressions of interest for volunteer flood observers, particularly from along the Pyramid and Wandella Creek areas. New flood wardens/observers were recruited as a result. Flood Wardens/observers met regularly in 2023 and inputted into debriefs and future planning.
	4.3	Improve flood monitoring and messaging				VICSES GSC NCCMA	Ongoing	Included as a priority issue in the Gannawarra Shire Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023. Update November 2025: Review of the Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan is planned with the review to be led by VICSES. (VICSES awaiting standard template). NCCMA has received funding to investigate potential designs for a Total Flood Warning System for the Loddon River catchment and associated tributaries. Investigations into what systems can be put in place to war appropriately (ie rain gauges, river gauges, community messaging type and content). Tenders have been advertised. Community engagement sessions held in June 2025 across Gannawarra at Kerang, Murrabit and Cohuna.

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Building Understanding and Awareness	5.1	Establish mechanisms to build awareness and understanding of the impacts of the floods across the municipality				GSC	June 2025	18 community members representing impacted communities across Shire came together to form the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Committee and met on 5 occasions between February and May 2023. These community members provided invaluable input into the development of the submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event and priorities contained within this Flood Recovery Action Plan.
	5.2	Explore opportunities for people to share their stories – stage 1				GSC NDCH NCFH MFC	June 2025	<p>Council and Northern District Community Health developed a series of seven Gannawarra Reflection video clips which have been promoted widely. These are available from Council’s Flood Recovery website portal: www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au/Council/Emergency-Management/October-December-2022-floods</p> <p>The development of the video clips supported a range of people and communities across the Gannawarra Shire to tell their flood story. Each person was presented with a local produce hamper to thank them for their contribution.</p> <p>The National Centre for Farmer Health compiled a series of videos from across Victoria, including Gannawarra, to support farming families to tell their story. These are available from: #Building Farm Spirit</p> <p>The Agriculture Victoria Podcast – After the Floods features a local farmer from Macorna in Episode 2: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/podcasts/agvic-talk-podcast-series/agvic-talk-season-7</p> <p>The development of the submission into the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event played an important role in recovery by enabling residents the opportunity to tell their story and more importantly, put forward solutions to mitigate future flood risk. Community submissions were also actively encouraged.</p>

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Building Understanding and Awareness (Continued)	5.2	Explore opportunities for people to share their stories – stage 2 (Continued)				GSC NDCH NCFFH RAV MFC	June 2025	One Year On from the floods program included re-interviewing community members who participated in the development of the 7 Gannawarra Reflection video series, newsletter articles, activation of Kerang CBD and launch of Flood Reflections Exhibition held in Kerang in March 2024. The exhibition then travelled to Murrabit, Cohuna and Quambatook.
	5.3	Conduct programs that help people reconcile with, and understand the impacts of recent events				GSC MFC RFCS – NW NDCH Red Cross Kerang Rotary	June 2023	A series of events were held throughout Gannawarra Communities from November 2022 through to June 2023. Events have been held in Kerang, Cohuna, Koroop, Dingwall, Myall, Macorna, Murrabit, Benjeroop, Kerang West, Leitchville, Koondrook and Quambatook. Key debriefs held February/March 2023. Captured into Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023. Red Cross provided outreach into Gannawarra in June 2023. Kerang Rotary provided catering at community events and worked with Council to support individual families, such as through a Winter Warmth Package for 14 families living in temporary living conditions coming into Winter, Dog and Cat food donations and garden plants. The Kerang Combined Churches provided fuel vouchers which were distributed to impacted residents.
	5.4	Use the '5 Ways of Wellbeing' – Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give, and Wellbeing Matters to us all in Gannawarra to provide consistent promotion of health and wellbeing.				GSC NDCH GLAM	June 2025	5 Ways to Wellbeing and Wellbeing Matters to us all in Gannawarra have been consistently included in the Gannawarra Community Update Flood Support Newsletter since October 2022. A marketing package/portal of localised designs, merchandise and messages that can be used across Gannawarra to support flood recovery events was reviewed. 5 Ways to Wellbeing with a flood recovery wellbeing overlay has supported consistent wellbeing messages across GLAM agencies and local neighbourhood houses.

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Building Community Empowerment	6.1	Support community leaders in steering disaster recovery				GSC NDCH	December 2024	A Community Flood Recovery Committee was established and chaired by Council's Mayor. The Committee met 5 times between February 2023 and May 2023. In July 2023 the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee reconvened to act as the Municipal Recovery Committee. This committee has overseen the implementation of the priorities agreed to in the Flood Recovery Plan.
	6.2	Build capacity across the community by delivering on the initiatives within the Sustainable Community Recovery and Resilience Program				NDCH GSC	December 2025	Funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria Community Recovery Hubs Program, the project has been led by Northern District Community. Governance meetings held 5 September, 8 November 2023, 17 January, 10 May, 14 August and 26 September 2024. Second phase of project being delivered by consultants. Meetings held with 3 LGAs October 2024. Combined meeting with 3 LGA, consultants and NDCH 14 November, 12 December 2024 and 14 April and 22 May 2025. Update December 2025: Action Plan developed to guide future steps. Work will continue to include Recovery and Resilience into existing community plans and the Recovery Capitals into the Gannawarra Community Resilience Action Plan.
	6.3	Support communities to activate local community recovery programs and resilience planning by developing updated community plans				GSC	June 2025	The Connecting Gannawarra project across six small agricultural dependent communities has seen the development of updated community plans for six of Gannawarra's small, agricultural dependent communities – Leitchville & District Murrabit & District, Quambatook & District, Kerang Lakes, Macorna/Tragowel and Lalbert. ERV Community Hubs Program funded the development of Kerang and Cohuna Community Plans.

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Building Connections	7.1	Establish connections between communities and agencies to support recovery and community resilience to future events				GSC NDCH MFC NCFH RFCS NW RDV Neighbourhood Houses Community Groups	December 2025	Host a series of programs, workshops, and events across multiple impacted communities focused on flood recovery that bring the community together and support social connections and mental health and wellbeing, and to support the local economy, around the themes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Creative Recovery •Building resilience, skills, and capacity for future emergencies •Children and young people-fun days, events for young people •Business development workshops •Community events that hire local businesses Update December 2025: 337 flood recovery community events hosted by Council, partner agencies or led by a range of community groups. Emergency Recovery Victoria extended Gannawarra Community Recovery Officer Program to 31 December 2025 and Gannawarra Community Recovery Hubs Program to 31 January 2026. Total value of events (in addition to grants in 7.2 below) was \$160,248.64.
	7.2	Support programs that strengthen healthy and respectful connections within communities				GSC	June 2025	Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Grants Program supported community-led events, programs and activities that brought people together to support social connections and mental health and wellbeing. 4 rounds of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Grants Program held with grants valued at \$279,899.14.
	7.3	Improve connectivity (Improve digital connectivity and support to access recovery information across communities)				GSC Telstra (contracted to Star 21)	June 2025	Relief and recovery services were limited by poor digital connectivity across rural Gannawarra. This limited services to the community at the point of contact due to the inability of services to connect back into their own systems. This created double handling, further work for agencies, and in some cases caused further trauma and distress to residents and staff. Due to this experience, Council sought funding to install Telstra signal boosters at a number of sites. This includes the community halls of Benjeroop, Myall, Gannawarra, Dingwall, Koroop, Gannawarra, and Lake Charm and Macorna Recreation Reserve. These ICT systems were installed in July 2024 at a cost of \$68,310.15.

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Building Connections (continued)	7.4	Support access to recovery information across communities				GSC All agencies	December 2025	<p>A virtual Flood Recovery hub developed November 2022 via Council’s website: www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au/Council/Emergency-Management/October-December-2022-floods Website fully reviewed August 2023, January 2024 and November 2025</p> <p>A series of events following the floods were held in impacted communities. These were attended by emergency services, government departments and support agencies.</p> <p>A Flood Update newsletter containing relief and recovery information was distributed 21/10/23 and 28/10/23 before a Community Update Flood Newsletter was compiled and distributed fortnightly from 6/1/23 to 24/2/23. The newsletter was produced and distributed monthly from February 2023 to January 2024. 20 volumes of the newsletter were produced and distributed through to December 2025.</p>

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Hope and Confidence for a Better Future	8.1	Invest in Strong Youth, Strong Communities Project				NDCH GSC NC LLEN	June 2025	<p>Strong Youth, Strong Communities project had been supported by Council 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. North Central LLEN has \$90,000 Umbrella funding to support young people. Two programs “Live4Life” youth mental health training for Year 8 and 10 students across Gannawarra, and a Buloke, Gannawarra, Loddon (BLG) chapter of the Youthrive Rural Youth Network.</p> <p>Local primary schools were supported by Council to attend the GRIP Leadership Program in April 2024 - 104 Gannawarra students and teachers participated. This support was funded by ERV.</p> <p>A Youth Take Over Program funded by ERV and delivered as a partnership between Council, Cohuna District Hospital and Cohuna Secondary College by the Cohuna Campaspe LLEN was finalised at an event held in September 2024.</p> <p>GRIP attendance supported in May 2025 for Grade 5 and 6 students (case study developed to capture outcomes). Youth Take Over Program funded by ERV in Kerang was finalised at an event held in June 2025. The Kerang program was a partnership between Council, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Kerang Technical High School and delivered by Murray Mallee LLEN. Case study developed.</p>
	8.2	Invest in early years programs that support every child to have a great start to life				GSC NDCH GLAM	June 2025	<p>A State of Gannawarra Children and Young People report was identified as a priority under the GROW Gannawarra project. The report was finalised late 2022.</p> <p>Next steps is to launch the State of Gannawarra Children and Young People report and explore the next steps to GROW Gannawarra through the facilitation of a partnership event and workshop. ERV funded a launch and workshop to develop a Family and Community Engagement Action Plan held 27 November 2024. Action Plan developed.</p>

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Hope and Confidence for a Better Future (Continued)	8.3	Activate opportunities for individuals and families to 'take a break'				GSC	June 2023	Work with local service clubs to support local families impacted by the flood to enjoy time away. Murrabit Lions Club has supported local families to take a break through to April 2023. Council explored options with Kerang Rotary, but timing for local families was not appropriate. Instead, Kerang Rotary provided 14 x \$250 Kerang Cash Cards to distribute as a Winter Warmth program to assist families who were living in temporary housing the opportunity to purchase necessities coming into Winter from local businesses.
	8.4	Identify support and resources to activate the goals and projects within existing community plans				GSC Community Planning Committees	June 2025	Provide resources to support the implementation of Connecting Gannawarra Community Plans developed by six small agricultural dependent communities – Lalbert & District, Leitchville & District, Macorna/Tragowel, Murrabit & District, Quambatook & District and Lakes District. Communities supported through the Flood Recovery Grants Program to implement community-led projects identified through community planning process that fit within the criteria for the flood recovery funding Council has available to support events, programs and activities.

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Hope and Confidence for a Better Future (Continued)	8.5	Initiate opportunities for communities to build awareness and plan for their own flood resilience				GSC Neighbourhood Houses Sporting and Community Groups Red Cross	June 2025	Support communities to build capacity to future change. Three self-nominated sporting clubs supported to participate in a one-on-one Flood Recovery Club Support project through Sports Focus – Cohuna Golf Bowls Club, Kerang Football Netball Club and Leitchville Football Netball Club. Participate in Sustain project as next steps of the Gannawarra Healthy Food for All project to improve local food relief systems and community gardens. Bendigo Public Health Unit Murray Sub-Region Work plan provided funded to Gannawarra’s Community Garden managers as part of the Healthy Eating/Healthy Food Systems in Gannawarra project. Priority groups have been supported through the Flood Recovery Grants Program. Funding has supported The Kerang Neighbourhood Houses Cooking Program and the establishment of a new Soup Kitchen program. Kerang Neighbourhood House funded to deliver emergency management training in 2024/2025 and CPR training. Council developed an Emergency Preparedness campaign in partnership with Mallee Family Care and emergency service agencies. A new emergency preparedness dashboard incorporated into Council existing website.

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Respect and Inclusion	9.1	Implement <i>Reconnect with your Gannawarra</i> Program to promote inclusion and participation with a focus on celebrating community diversity (Stage 1)				GSC NDCH MFC WHLM MPHN FRRR DFFH ERV Neighbourhood Houses Community Groups	June 2024	<p>Events, programs, and activities focused on social connections, supporting mental health and wellbeing and addressing disadvantage, including a gendered approach to inclusion and participation.</p> <p>DFFH provided Council with \$12,500 funding to support Reconciliation Week activities and a creative recovery outreach program – 5 community-led workshops were organised in July 2023 1 x Quambatook, 1 x Lake Charm/Benjeroop, 1 x Murrabit, 3 x Kerang.</p> <p>Northern District Community Health received funding from Women’s Health Loddon Mallee/DFFH for a Women in the Warra Women’s Wellness Day – held on 26 July 2023 with 100+ attending. Case Study developed</p> <p>Men’s Breakfast at Murrabit held 16/8/23 – 32 attended. Hosted by Mallee Family Care</p> <p>Council was successful in a \$5,000 application to the FRRR Gardiner Foundation funding program to support mental health and wellbeing across Gannawarra’s rural communities. This included a partnership with Murray Dairy’s Young Dairy Network to host an event in Cohuna with Warren Davies The Unbreakable Farmer as keynote speaker on 7 February 2024, a Sporting Club Dinner with Beyond Blue Ambassador. Brad McEwan on 15 February and Men’s Health events including Jeremy Forbes HALT Tour of the Gannawarra mental health and wellbeing workshops in March 2024.</p> <p>Northern District Community Health received \$10,000 from the Murray Primary Health Network to support a series of events to strengthen mental health and social connections.</p> <p>Other events have included Women in the Warra event to coincide with International Women’s Day 2024, RUOK Day and IDAHOBIT Day partnership activities and support to partners to host Volunteer Week and Refugee Week activities.</p> <p>Funds have also targeted community led events focused around men’s sheds, community playgroups, neighbourhood houses, public halls, carer and disability groups, and community newsletters.</p>

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Respect and Inclusion (Continued)	9.1	Implement <i>Reconnect with your Gannawarra</i> Program to promote inclusion and participation with a focus on celebrating community diversity (Stage 2)				GSC NDCH MFC WHLM MPHN FRRR DFFH ERV Neighbourhood Houses Community Groups	June 2025	Events, programs, and activities focused on social connections, supporting mental health and wellbeing and addressing disadvantage, including a gendered approach to inclusion and participation. Gannawarra Giving Account (NDCH)– funds to be distributed to Gannawarra schools to support inclusion and whole school wellbeing activities. Bendigo Public Health Unit Murray Sub-Region Work plan funded activity to support Mental Health across Gannawarra. Council funded a range of community-programs and activities that supported connections and mental health and wellbeing throughout 2024/2025 (Refer to Action 7.2 above).
	9.2	Provide pathways for First Nation people in self-determining their own recovery (Stage 1)				NDCH GSC Kerang Elders and Leaders Group Regional Arts Victoria	June 2025	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recovery and resilience projects, events and activities identified through consultation with the Kerang Elders and Leaders Group and through the Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan. \$100,000 from the Emergency Recovery Victoria Community Recovery Hubs Gannawarra allocation allocated to support First Nation self-determined priorities. NDCH was funded to deliver a number of agreed priorities throughout the 2023/2024 year including family events and excursions and Ridzyray performing at the Summerwave Festival in Kerang. Reconciliation Week 2024 event and cultural event was led by Council with over 300 attending. Case Study developed. An indigenous themed StoryWalk was developed and installed for Reconciliation Week 2024 (Kerang) and NAIDOC Week (Cohuna). Kerang Technical High School funded for an indigenous-led art program with a local Aboriginal Artist (Tobie Cameron)

2. Wellbeing and Social Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Respect and Inclusion (Continued)	9.2	Provide pathways for First Nation people in self-determining their own recovery (Stage 2)				NDCH GSC Kerang Elders and Leaders Group Regional Arts Victoria	June 2025 – timeline extended by ERV to 31 Dec 2025	Implementation of six projects approved by ERV. 1). Establishment of a Bush Tucker Garden at the Kerang Aboriginal Gathering space at Mallee District Aboriginal Service, including the development of a local yarnning circle and associated artwork – Tyapa Kurra Kahl (meaning ‘to plant on Country’) Bush Tucker Garden was officially opened on 1 October 2025. Completed and Case Study developed. 2). The Little Long Walk and Dance Project through Hip Hop Indigenous Outreach Projects - delivered in March 2025 in all of Gannawarra’s primary and secondary schools. 1200 students participated. Completed and Case Study developed. 3). Supporting a Healing on-Country Men’s Group activity at Middle Reedy Lake (RAMSAR listed wetland of international significance) including development of a cultural trail, signage and brochure. Completed and Case Study developed 4). Sista’s on Country Retreat - incorporating health checks, nutrition, mental wellbeing activities, bush tucker cooking. Paid as a grant to NDCH. Held in Koondrook April 2025. Completed. 5). Bush tucker education and engagement sessions/ Little Wombat incursion program supported by the Department of Education – completed 28-30 October 2025 at Kethawil Pembengguk playgroup, Cohuna Preschool, Kerang South Preschool, Koondrook Preschool and Gannawarra Children’s Centre. 6). Reconciliation Week activities including a Walk and Talk event, May 2025. Completed and Case Study developed.

3. Agriculture and Economic Recovery

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Agriculture and Business Recovery	10.1	Advocate for improved, fit-for-purpose grant and support programs for both agriculture and business				GSC	July 2023	Post flood state government funding was available to businesses who experienced direct impact from floodwaters. Business Victoria's Small Business Bus visited Kerang and Cohuna on 30-31/5/23 and Kerang again on 22/8/23. Council successfully advocated for an extension of time to the Rural Finance Agricultural Victoria Flood Recovery Grants Program. Closed for applications on 13/7/23. The Rural Financial Counselling Service - Northwest supported primary producers with the application process. Positive feedback received and good uptake from Gannawarra farmers.
	10.2	Highlight the breadth of impacted businesses and associated recovery challenges				GSC RDV	June 2024	Data regarding impact to businesses has been lacking as government funding was only available to businesses who experienced direct impact from floodwaters. Anecdotal recovery challenges of local businesses have been used to inform planning. Providing an additional opportunity for community to tell their story will help build hope and confidence for the future. Update June 2025: Two live radio broadcasts have been held in Gannawarra in March 2024 and March 2025. These live broadcasts visited businesses across Gannawarra and culminated in a community event at Garden Park Cohuna.
	10.3	Deliberately missed						No action 10.3 included in original Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan.
	10.4	Deliver a recruitment campaign to address labour shortages within the local job market				GSC	April 2023	New TV collateral was released in July 2023 promoting industry and job opportunities in Gannawarra Shire. \$12,000 from LGV Gannawarra funding allocation.

3. Agriculture and Economic Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Agriculture and Business Recovery (Continued)	10.5	Develop and deliver promotional campaigns around supporting local business, partnering with local business and community groups				GSC NDCH	June 2024	A series of promotional materials and activities enabled the local community to be made aware of upcoming events, workshops, activities, and flood recovery support. This included a live radio broadcast opportunity for community to reflect and look to the future Oct-Dec 2023. Professional photography workshops for local businesses to improve their promotions and online marketing skills to increase resilience to future emergency events were also held along with business development workshops to support the mental health and social connectedness across the Gannawarra business sector.
	10.6	Continue to provide a coordinated approach to business recovery support and communication				GSC	June 2024	Develop a campaign and collateral to promote the importance of supporting local business – ‘your support can help business recover after the floods’.
	10.7	Ensure that the agricultural sector is represented in future levee and flood planning				GSC	June 2025	Consultation occurred with the agriculture sector and this information was included in the Gannawarra Shire Council’s Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023. Update June 2025: Community Consultation on the NCCMA levee project. Community engagement sessions with NCCMA held in June 2025 in Kerang, Murrabit and Cohuna.

3. Agriculture and Economic Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Agriculture and Business Recovery (Continued)	10.8	Advocate for and support the attraction of new agricultural business to the Gannawarra				GSC	September 2025	A newsletter was developed to promote new developments in mining, agriculture, and energy to highlight potential employment opportunities for those effected by the floods and to improve community resilience to future emergency events. Newsletter distributed to all households across Gannawarra Shire with the September-December 2025 edition of the Gannawarra Connect.
	10.9	Continue to facilitate major projects, both private and public, to ensure the growth and diversity of the local economy (e.g., mining projects, renewable energy projects, residential developments, public amenities, tourism projects)				GSC	Ongoing	Council continues to facilitate major projects to ensure growth and diversity of the local economy and improve community resilience to future emergency events.
	10.10	Actively promote and support Gannawarra landholders in accessing the Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant to re-establish their properties after the October 2022 Floods.				GSC	July 2023	Council successfully advocated for an extension of time to the Rural Finance Agricultural Victoria Flood Recovery Grants Program. Closed for applications on 13/7/23. Grants of up to \$75,000 per primary producer were available under this two-tiered payment structure. Council actively promoted the grants program across the community and to eligible landholders. The Rural Financial Counselling Service - Northwest supported primary producers with the application process. Positive feedback received and good uptake from Gannawarra farmers.
	10.11	Identify key impacts to businesses (Agricultural and Urban) and learnings from the October 2022 Floods and look for potential solutions (eg road access, bus/truck routes, flood notifications, agistment co-ordination)				GSC RDV	June 2025 – New timeline Dec 2025	Consultation occurred with local businesses as to the learnings from the October 2022 flood event and potential solutions. This was included in the Gannawarra Shire Council’s Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023. Update: There is additional work that needs to occur as part of the review of the Gannawarra Shire Council Flood and Storm Emergency Plan – (First draft has been developed).

3. Economic and Business Recovery (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Tourism Recovery	11.1	Develop and deploy a marketing campaign to encourage visitation and expenditure into the region				GSC RDV	June 2024	Develop collateral to promote the impacts of floods to the broader community ‘the economic impact to local business was significant – support your local flood events which in turn support the local business sector’ and Explore Local, Shop Local collateral – ‘Explore your backyard’ or ‘support the businesses that support your community’.
	11.2	Advocate for the prioritisation of infrastructure recovery that supports businesses, farming, and tourism				GSC	June 2023	The stringent process required for infrastructure recovery was included in the Gannawarra Shire Council’s Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event – June 2023. A separate submission submitted to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) into the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Support (August 2023). Advocacy letters to key government ministers and emergency services have also raised this issue.
	11.3	Promote visitation to the Gannawarra with a focus on bringing greater numbers of people to the region that will support the business community				GSC	June 2025	Events have occurred to coincide with mayor events such as Christmas, Easter and School Holiday periods to draw people and visitors to Gannawarra to support recovery of business and community enterprises and existing tourism events. A grants program supported Christmas and New Year community gatherings and increased visitation numbers through a coordinated campaign. A grants program also supported existing tourism events across Gannawarra to add additional activities to attract greater visitation for Easter 2024 and 2025. In addition, two new festivals were supported to commence - the Cohuna Chilli Festival and Kerang Lunar Festival.

4. Enablers of Recovery - Recovery Support and Service Coordination

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Support coordination of agencies, resource planning, and recovery	12.1	Hold meetings of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee				GSC Community Resilience Committee	December 2025	Information sharing /partnership building/coordination of resources Five flood recovery specific committees combined into the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee July 2023. The committee met on 13 occasions to December 2025 to implement the Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan.
	12.2	Review the Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan to ensure relevance to community need				GSC Community Resilience Committee	June 2025	Endorsed by Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee August 2023. Report presented to each meeting of the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) Review document through to 30 June 2024 and November 2025. Implementation extended in line with extension of time to ERV Community Recovery Officer and ERV Community Recovery Hubs Program funding.
	12.3	Advocate for resources to implement flood recovery priorities				GSC ERV	June 2024	Council received staffing resources through the ERV Community Recovery Officer Program in April 2023 to deliver social flood recovery priorities. Additional resources were received through the ERV Community Recovery Hubs Program in June 2023 to support approved events, programs and activities. Council claims processed by the DRFA (Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements) was very slow. A \$1.5M allocation from Local Government Victoria (Council Flood Support Fund) was received by Council in Nov/Dec 2022. An application for advance payments to enable infrastructure reconstruction was received with road packages 6-10 still to be processed as at November 2024. Road reconstruction was completed at June 2025.
	12.4	Provide resources to provide staffing for Council to deliver flood recovery activities and to oversee the development and implementation of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Action Plan				GSC	December 2025	Resources received through two Emergency Recovery Victoria programs covered the full cost of Council staff required to implement the Gannawarra Community Resilience Flood Recovery Plan and associated activities through to 31 December 2025. A dedicated Flood Recovery team was in place through to 23 December 2023.

4. Enablers of Recovery - Recovery Support and Service Coordination (Continued)

Priority	Action No.	Action	Progress			Partnerships	Timeline	Comments/Outcomes
			Complete	Underway	Not Commenced			
Support coordination of agencies, resource planning, and recovery (Continued)	12.5	Support the Gannawarra recovery by providing training and development for staff and committee members to build capacity to provide outreach and improve community recovery outcomes				GSC	November 2025	<p>At November 2025, the following training and capacity building opportunities had been attended by Council staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phoenix Australia Psychological Mental Health Training x 3 staff July/August 2023 • Lessons in Disaster Training by Gender and Disaster Australia x 2 staff July 2023 • Local Government Gender Impact Assessment Training x 3 staff • Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training x 5 staff • Women’s Rising workshop delivered by Women’s Health Loddon Mallee x 2 staff • Red Cross Communicating in Recovery workshop x 4 staff • Promoting Gender Equality in Communication, Marketing and Advertising x 2 staff • Showcase Victoria x 3 staff • Level 2 First Aid x 4 staff • Lifeline Loddon Mallee Accidental Counsellor Foundations x 1 staff • Mental Health First Aid Training x 4 staff • Crisisworks Training x 2 staff • Secondary Impact Assessment training x 2 staff • Participation in the Loddon Mallee Community Recovery Officer Network and activities x 3 staff