



GANNAWARRA MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024 - 2027



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Silent Elk Pty Ltd trading as ResilientCo
ABN 69 650 501 723
E: hello@resilientco.au
P: 1300 955 428
W: resilientco.au



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1. Introduction

1.1 Foreword

All Victorian communities are likely to experience emergencies from time to time, many of which are due to factors outside of their control. Changed climatic conditions and extreme weather events, combined with the challenges of urbanisation, growing populations and rapid changes in technology have seen marked transformation within the emergency management space in the last decade.

Reducing the likelihood, effect and consequences of emergencies involves both individuals and organisations within the community. It is only when emergency services, industry, business, government, and community come together that it becomes possible to prepare for, respond efficiently to, and minimise the effects and consequences of emergencies.

The goal of municipal emergency planning is to compliment, and support emergency planning strategies developed at state, regional and national levels by providing local knowledge and expertise and documenting capacity and responsibilities within the municipality.

The preparation of a Municipal Emergency Management Plan involves identifying and reducing the risks specific to the geographical area, outlining capability and capacity of local agencies, and documenting relief and recovery strategies that can be delivered at a local level to help communities become safer and more resilient in the event of an emergency.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (Committee) acknowledge and pays respect to the Barapa Barapa, Wamba Wamba and Yorta Yorta people, as the original custodians of the land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices. We acknowledge that the land on which we protect is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Barapa Barapa, Wamba Wamba and Yorta Yorta peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.

1.3 Authority

In 2020, the [*Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*](#) amended the [*Emergency Management Act 2013*](#) to provide for new integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at the state, regional and municipal levels. The legislation creates an obligation for a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee to be established in each of the municipal districts of Victoria. Each Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee is a multi-agency collaboration group whose members bring organisation, industry or personal expertise to the task of emergency management planning for the municipality.

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the [*Emergency Management Act 2013*](#) requirements, and complies with all of the [*Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans*](#) issued under section 77 of the Act.

1.4 Plan Assurance and Approval

1.4.1 Assurance

A Statement of Assurance (including a checklist and certificate) has been prepared and submitted to the Loddon Mallee Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) pursuant to the Emergency Management Act 2013 (s60AG).

The Statement of Assurance can be found in **Appendix K: Statement of Assurance**

1.4.2 Approval

This Plan has been approved by the Loddon Mallee Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee. This Plan comes into effect when it is published and remains in effect until it is superseded by an approved and published update.

1.5 Plan Review

To ensure the Plan provides for a current integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management and is effective, it is to be reviewed at least every three years or as required:

- Annually in full or part at each Committee meeting
- After each major event where the plan has been activated
- Where the Plan has been exercised

Urgent updates of this Plan are permitted if there is significant risk that life or property will be endangered if the Plan is not updated (EM Act 2013 section 60AM). Updates come into effect when published on the municipal council website and remain in force for a maximum period of three (3) months.

This Plan will be reviewed not later than 27 November 2027. It is current at the time of publication and remains in effect until modified, superseded or withdrawn.

1.6 Planning Context

1.6.1 Municipal Emergency Management Functions

The Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 amended the Emergency Management Act 2013 ('the Act') to provide for new integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at the State, Regional and Municipal levels, starting in December 2020.

These changes included a requirement for the establishment of a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee that is no longer overseen by the local Council.

Under the revised legislation, a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee becomes the peak planning body for emergency management within the municipal district. It is the forum for government and non-government agencies to develop policies, procedures, strategies, and frameworks to support coordinated emergency management planning for the municipality.

In the establishment of this plan the Committee has a role in enabling community participation in emergency preparedness, including mitigation, response and recovery activities (Emergency Management Act 2013 section 59F(b)).

A summary of the new planning reform can be found at the [Emergency Management Victoria website](#).

In developing this Plan the Committee has reviewed and sought to align with existing legislation, frameworks and procedures including the:

- [Guidelines for preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans](#)
- [Victorian Preparedness Framework](#)
- [Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management](#)
- [Assurance Framework for Emergency Management](#)
- [National Emergency Risk Management Guidelines](#)
- [Community Emergency Risk Assessment \(CERA\)](#)

1.7 Plan Aim and Objectives

1.7.1 Aim

The aim of this plan is to:

- minimise the effects of
- coordinate the response to
- facilitate the recovery from

a disaster or emergency affecting the Gannawarra municipality.

This plan and the associated management arrangements have been developed with a focus on community resilience.

1.7.2 Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to support the Gannawarra community and visitors to prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from an emergency impacting the municipality. Our priority is to preserve lives, livelihoods and the environment before, during and after an emergency.

1.7.3 Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

- Ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to emergency management, including promoting appropriate interoperability and integration of emergency management systems across agencies,
- Identify and evaluate hazards, risks and consequences that could impact the Gannawarra community,
- Identify and implement measures to prevent or reduce the likelihood or consequences of emergencies on communities,
- Establish arrangements for the use of resources available in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from emergencies, and

- Support the community to effectively plan, mitigate risks and strengthen its resilience to respond to and recover from an emergency.

2. Municipal District Characteristics

2.1 Topography

The Gannawarra municipality encompasses 3,735 square kilometres in the northern part of Victoria on the border of New South Wales. The municipality is bordered by several municipalities, such as Swan Hill in the north east, Buloke in the east and Loddon and Campaspe in the south. Gannawarra is located within a 3 hour drive from Melbourne and around an hour drive from the regional centres of Bendigo, Echuca and Swan Hill.

Gannawarra has a reputation for its abundance of natural features, rivers, lakes, wetlands and forest interwoven by few regional towns and rural villages, making the municipality for those looking to connect with nature and take part in recreation activities.

2.2 Climate

In the Loddon Mallee region, the impacts of climate change have become increasingly pronounced, marked by prolonged and more severe bushfire seasons, altered precipitation trends, heightened vulnerability to drought, intensified instances of extreme heat, and a heightened frequency of both intense rainfall events and ecological transformations. In Gannawarra, the average number of days over 35° C has increased by 33%. Over the last 40 years, the average temperature has increased from an average of 22.8° C to 30.5° C.

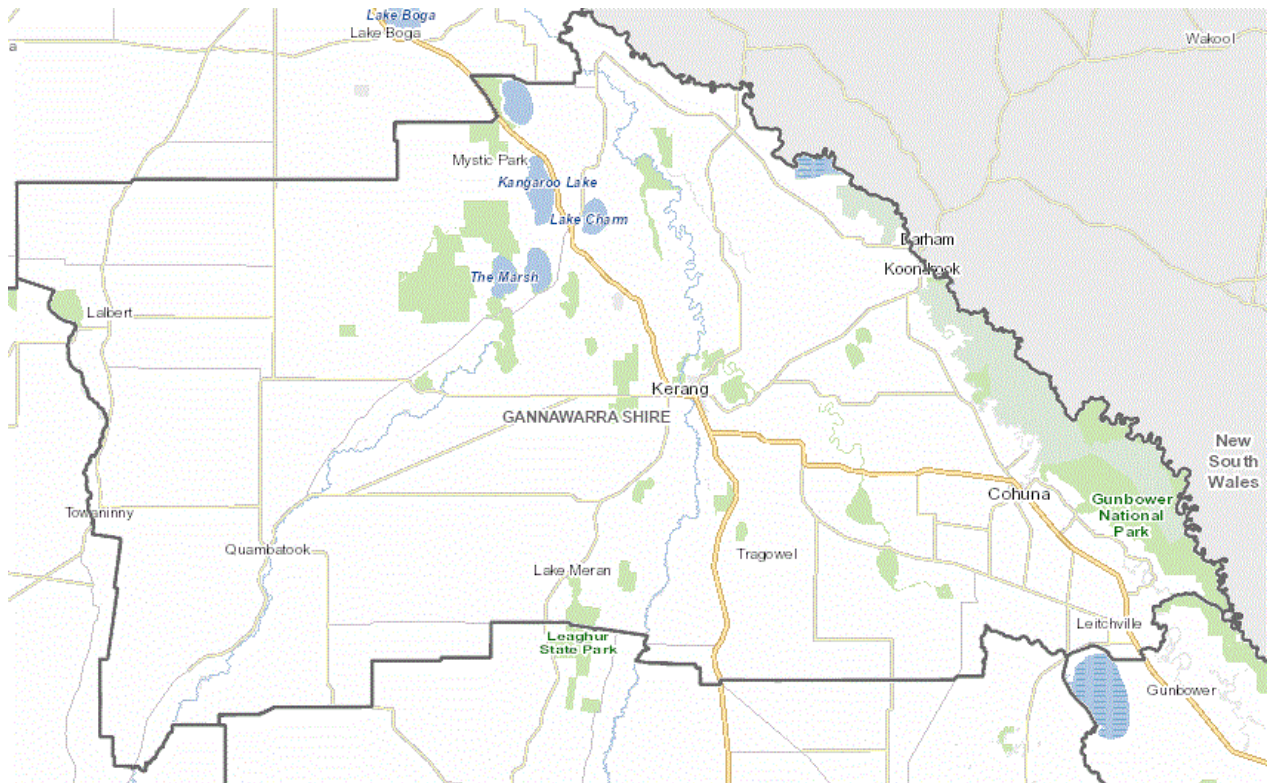
The potential impacts of climate change affect aspects of the natural, built, social and economic environments of the Gannawarra and the Loddon Mallee region, including primary production, infrastructure, tourism, as well as the health of the community and natural environment. These changes will have short and long term implications on Gannawarra's landscape, economic productivity, cultural heritage, and health of wellbeing of the community.

2.3 Demography (Map)

The population of Gannawarra is spread across townships with Kerang (3,633 people) and Cohuna (1,866 people) being main townships and service a catchment population of roughly 10,000 people located in rural townships, such as Koondrook, Leitchville, Quambatook and Murrabit and smaller townships, such as Lalbert, Mystic Park, Tragowel and Lake Charm.

Gannawarra Shire has a lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older compared to other parts of regional Victoria. This provides insight into the level of demand for age based services and facilities and indicates how the role and function of the community will likely shift into the future. In 2021, the three largest ancestries in Gannawarra were Australian, English, and Scottish. Of the 10,683 people living in Gannawarra in 2021, only 5.5% were born overseas compared to 12.4% in regional Victoria. Of the total population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 2.4% of the population.

In 2021, 96.5% of Gannawarra's labour force had full time or part time employment. This equates to an unemployment rate of 3.5% which is lower rate than regional Victoria (4.1%). Between 2016 and 2021, the overall unemployment rate has decreased by 1.2%.



In addition to the information above, the Gannawarra Shire Community Profile has a comprehensive set of data and information for population trends and characteristics of the municipal footprint.

Figure 1 - Map of Gannawarra Shire

2.3 Environment and landscape

Gannawarra is bordered by the Murry River to the north east, Gunbower State Forest in the south east and the Mallee region to the West. The municipality encompasses several bodies of water including the Murray, Loddon, and Avoca rivers, along with 13 streams such as Gunbower, Pyramid, Nine Mile and more. It features 57 lakes and swamps, with the more notable Lake Charm, Kangaroo Lake, and Lake Meran known for recreation, and others such as Middle Reedy Lake, Hird, and Johnston Swamps, known for conservation. There are also several salt lakes; Cranes Lake, Duck Lake, and Lake Tutchewop.

The municipality has a diverse agricultural landscape encompassing dairy, cereal and legume cropping, livestock including beef, lamb and pork, viticulture and horticulture comprising of walnuts, olives, tomatoes, apples, peaches and citrus, along with small plantings of vegetables and herbs. With a variety of soil types in which a suitable climate can support a range of enterprises across both irrigated and dryland properties. The municipality is split distinctively between the riverine plain to the east and the Mallee to the west.

Irrigation plays an important role in agriculture. Water is supplied from the Murray River and Goulburn River systems via a network of automated channels and natural lakes and streams. Lake Charm, Kangaroo Lake and the Gunbower Creek are natural assets that play a key role in the distributed of irrigation water from the Murray River.

2.4 Potential for isolation of communities within Gannawarra

The capacity of residents to escape an emergency situation is a critical factor in planning for emergency management. The geographic landscape of Gannawarra makes the municipality and communities at risk of isolation during emergencies. Large scale events and, even, single incidents can limit and restrict access to some communities, as well as cause extensive power and communication outages.

The Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee aims to continue to learn from events that result in isolation of communities or individuals, as well as to continue to monitor changes within the municipality that may impact the potential for isolation to occur. All members of the planning committee bring intelligence from their agency's day-to-day activities within the municipality to the committee meetings and it is expected that they will report on emerging risks. This will then allow the potential for isolation, or impact on the community, to be fully explored in the context of risk management and planning for emergency events.

2.5 Vulnerable Persons

The focus of vulnerability is not exclusively on people, it also includes facilities and resources. Understanding vulnerability in an emergency management planning context can help to shape the emergency management planning process and adds another dimension of complexity to the development and implementation of prevention and preparedness activities.

Vulnerable persons in Gannawarra may be isolated due to their geographic locations, socioeconomic situation, and/or their mental and physical health. This may include frail or aged persons living on their own, people with physical and/or mental health issues due to illness, age or disability, visitors and tourists to the area, and residents living in areas prone to natural and/or other hazards.

Vulnerability indicators specific to Gannawarra, sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 data and Regional Development Victoria:

Population aged 60+	29.3%
Lone person households	27.5%
People with a disability	7.4%
People with poor English proficiency	0.3%
Estimated homeless population	20 persons
People with no motor vehicles	4.5%
Population with no internet connection at home (2016)	25.4%

Additional statistics, include:

- 788 people within the Gannawarra Shire need assistance with core activities.
- 253 people are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

According to Social-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), which measure the relative level of socio-economic advantage or disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics (where higher scores indicate lower levels of disadvantage), with a score of 952, Gannawarra is ranked 5th most

disadvantaged municipality in the Loddon Mallee Region and 14th most disadvantaged municipality in Victoria.

A list of these vulnerable facilities and people is maintained by the Gannawarra Shire Council and is made available within the Incident Control Centre should an emergency occur.

Meeting the requirements for inclusion on the Vulnerable Persons Register is fairly involved and the criteria for inclusion are quite narrow. Therefore, the Gannawarra Shire register only captures people who are at the highest level of risk and is not a comprehensive list of every single person or facility in the municipality that may have increased vulnerability in an emergency.

2.6 Essential Infrastructure

Essential infrastructure includes those physical facilities, supply chains, systems, assets, information technologies and communications which if destroyed, degraded or disrupted for an extended period, would significantly impact the social and / or economic wellbeing of the community.

The Committee considers the reliance on essential infrastructure within its planning and highlights the need to continually protect and strengthen its resilience, as well as build redundancies and resilience of the community for when essential infrastructure sectors are disrupted.

Further information on essential infrastructure within Gannawarra can be found in the [Environmental Scan Report for the Loddon Mallee region](#).

Essential Infrastructure	Details	Location	Owner
Communications	Telephone Exchange	Kerang and Cohuna	Telstra
Electricity	Hi-voltage terminal station	Kerang	AusNet
	Power Terminal Sub-Station	Horfield	AusNet
	Electricity generation and storage facility (solar farm)	Wandella Horfield	Edify Energy Enel
Transport routes	Murray Valley Highway	Swan Hill – Kerang - Echuca	Vic Roads
	Loddon Valley Highway	Bendigo – Kerang Link	Vic Roads
	Passenger rail (V Line)	Swan Hill – Kerang - Bendigo	V/Line
	Rail Station	Kerang	V/Line
	Airport	Kerang	Council
Water supply	Water storage	Reedy Lakes Kangaroo Lake Lake Charm	Goulburn Murray Water
	Water Treatment Plants	Kerang, Koondrook and Murrabit	Lower Murray Water
		Cohuna and Leitchville	Coliban Water
		Quambatook	Grampians Wimmera-Mallee Water
	Transfer stations	Cohuna, Kerang, Lalbert & Quambatook	Council

Table 1 – Essential infrastructure in Gannawarra

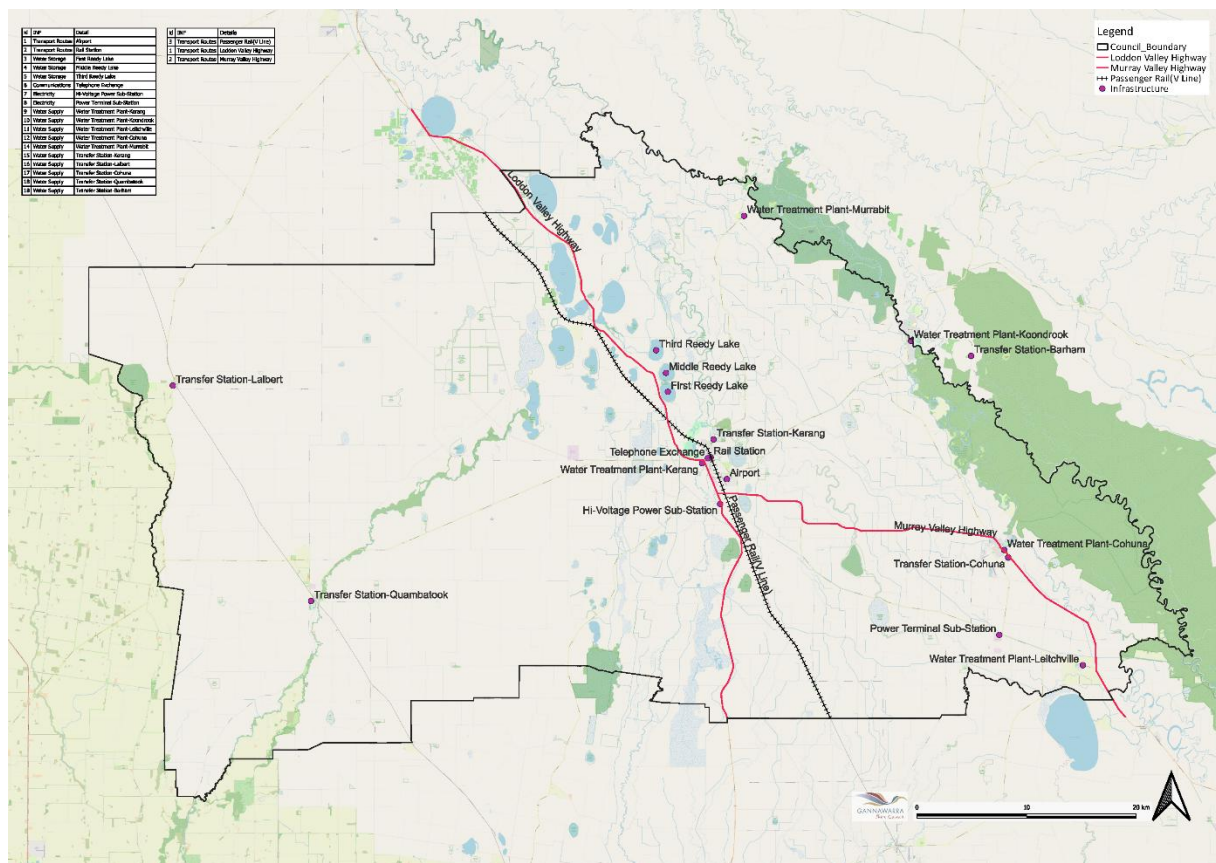


Figure 2 - Map of Gannawarra Shire

2.7 History of Emergencies

The full list of past emergency events can be found in Appendix B.

3. Planning Arrangements

3.1 This Plan within Victoria's emergency management planning framework

This Plan supports holistic and coordinated emergency management arrangements within the region. It is consistent, contextualised and should be read in conjunction with the State Emergency Management Plan and Loddon Mallee Regional Emergency Management Plan. This Plan does not conflict with or duplicate other in-force emergency management plans that exist.

The new planning arrangements make available the ability for communities to undertake their own localised planning and connect their plans into the Victoria's Emergency Management Planning Framework.

The committee will support groups that may wish to explore developing a community level plan that assists in building community preparedness and resilience to emergencies. Figure 3 demonstrates the hierarchy of Emergency Management plans in Victoria.

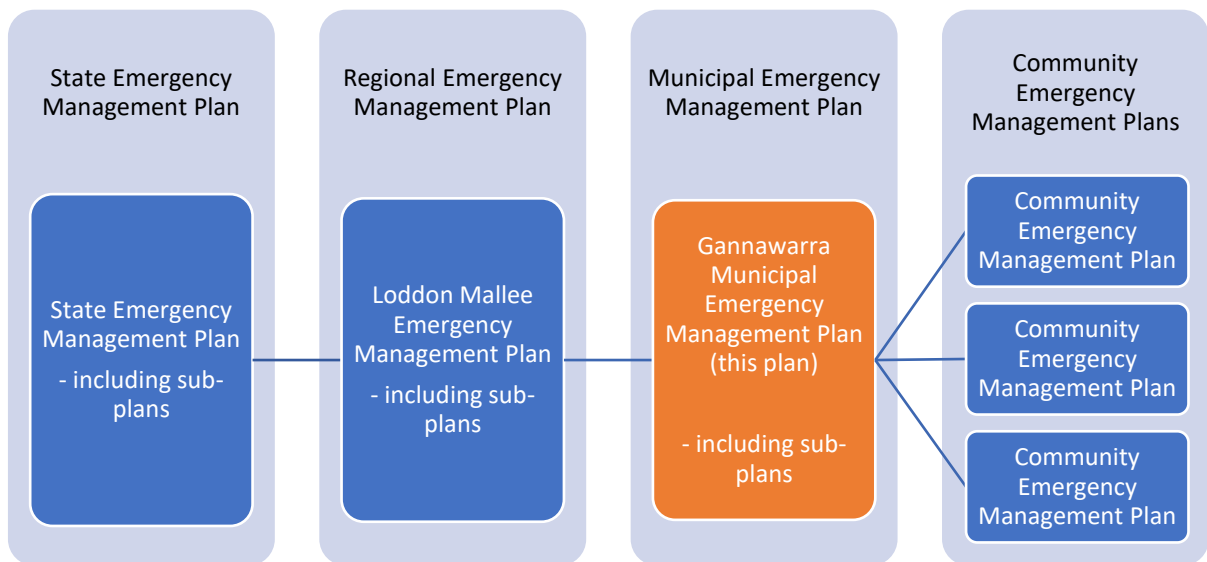


Figure 3 - Victorian Emergency Management - Plan Hierarchy

3.2 The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee, sub-committees and working groups

The Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee consists of representatives as stipulated in Section 59A of the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#), namely:

- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Victoria Police
- Country Fire Authority
- Ambulance Victoria
- Victoria State Emergency Services

- Australian Red Cross
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry
- Department of Health
- Forest Fire Management of Victoria
- Agricultural Victoria
- Community representatives
- Emergency Recovery Victoria

An updated list of the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee members can be obtained from Council.

The Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee has established the following Sub- Committees:

- Fire Sub-Committees – responsible for planning for fire management. It also has a working group who meet when required – tasked with monitoring, reviewing, and developing the Municipal Fire Management Plan and providing information to community regarding fire management.
- Flood Sub-Committees – responsible for planning for a flood emergency. It also has a working group who meet when required – tasked with preparing the flood emergency plan and supporting the implementation of measures to minimise the cause and impacts of floods in Gannawarra.
- Community Resilience Sub-Committees – responsible for developing and implementing the Community Resilience Action Plan within the municipality. It also has a working group made up of community members that is tasked with providing community leadership, supporting social connectiveness, support community-led activities, and building community resilience to future emergencies.
- Public Health Sub-Committee – responsible for the planning of public health related emergencies, including heatwaves and arbovirus.

More information about the Committee structure, roles and Terms of Reference can be found by visiting - www.emv.vic.gov.au/publications/advisory-material-mempc-terms-of-reference.

It is important to note that the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee does not have a financial delegation and does not hold a budget. There is an expectation that the local Council, through the Chair of the Committee, will facilitate meetings and provide some limited secretariat function to the Committee to ensure that it functions efficiently.

4 Risk Management

The established international and Australian risk management standard [*AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management - Guidelines \(ISO 31000:2018\)*](#), supported by a range of supplementary materials (including the [*National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines \(NERAG\) 2020*](#)), provide risk managers with principles and general guidance to be considered when developing risk management frameworks and programs. The risk management process underpins all emergency management planning, including this Plan.

The committee manages its risk through the following process:

- establishing the scope, context and criteria
- risk assessment
 - risk identification
 - risk analysis
 - risk evaluation
- risk treatment
- monitoring and review
- communication and consultation
- recording and reporting.

4.1 Hazard, Exposure, Vulnerability and Resilience

While conducting the emergency risk management process, the Committee has considered:

- a broad range of hazards from across the municipal district,
- the exposure of these hazards to people, property, systems, or other elements that are subject to potential losses,
- the vulnerability of the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of the hazard, and
- the level of resilience which can be defined as the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

4.2 Risk Assessment

Municipal level planning aims to apply risk-based analysis to identify and interrogate potential risks that could impact the local area.

All of the significant emergency risks that have previously been identified with a potential to occur within Gannawarra are reviewed and considered regularly, taking into account changes and development within the municipal area, and in light of lessons learned from events across the emergency management sector.

Using the Victorian State Emergency Service-based [*Community Emergency Risk Assessment \(CERA\) - Online tool*](#), the Committee undertakes the formal risk assessment, monitor and review process for each identified risk following a documented review schedule.

The CERA process will be utilised to:

- Identify the risks that pose the most significant threat to community and discuss the exposure and vulnerability of key community assets, values and functions essential to the normal functioning of the community,
- Discuss and understand the consequence and likelihood, causes and impacts for each risk,
- Identify opportunities for improvement to prevention, control, mitigation measures and collaboration; and
- Inform emergency management planning.

Although the CERA tool provides a standardised method for assessing and comparing identified risks, there also needs to be consideration of the residual risk to the community, as well as the consequences should an emergency event occur. Consequences have the potential to significantly impact local communities just as much as the emergency event, these may also need to be managed or mitigated to minimise their impact.

Moving forward, the Gannawarra Emergency Management Planning Committee will have an increasing focus on evaluating the potential consequences for each risk or emergency event type as part of the assessment process.

The Gannawarra Emergency Management Planning Committee then considers the assessed level of risk, ownership of the mitigation, response, relief and recovery roles (ensuring there is no duplication or conflict with either the [State](#) or [Regional Emergency Management Plans](#) or their [Sub-Plans](#)), municipal-level treatments that need to be added to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, and whether there is the need to develop additional sub-plans or complimentary plans to provide further detail.

The committee also undertook an additional review of risks in the preparation for the development of this Plan.

4.3 Risk Summary Table

Hazard	Risk Rating	Control Agency
Human disease (pandemic)	Medium	Department of Health
Extreme Temperatures	Medium	Emergency Management Commissioner
Major Flood	Medium	Victoria State Emergency Service
Storm / Severe Weather	Medium	Victoria State Emergency Service
Bushfire / Grassfire	Medium	Country Fire Authority
Emergency Plant Pest	Medium	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (Agriculture Victoria)
Emergency Animal Disease	Medium	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (Agriculture Victoria)

Hazard	Risk Rating	Control Agency
Arbovirus	Medium	Department of Health
Blue-Green Algae	Medium	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Table 2 – Risk Summary Table

Full hazard tables can be found in Appendix C.

5. Mitigation Arrangements

5.1 Introduction

Mitigation activities, taken in advance of a disaster, aim to decrease or eliminate the disaster's impact on society and the environment (National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) 2020). Mitigation involves employing strategies to reduce the risk of an emergency occurring, and for those events that cannot be prevented, reducing the impacts or intensity of such an event, should it occur.

Because all members of the community have a role in reducing risk, mitigation includes educating and engaging the community so that individuals, households, and families can better understand the risks that may impact them or their property, and what they need to do to reduce these risks. With information, they can then play their part in preparing for emergency events.

Strategies at the municipal level also aim to promote community resilience and mitigate the post-emergency complications and consequences seen during the relief and recovery stages of an emergency. This includes undertaking pre-planning events, encouraging, and facilitating the development of community plans and ensuring community resources and facilities are fit for purpose should an emergency event occur.

For every potential risk assessed by the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee, a recommendation is made regarding the need for mitigation treatments. Each potential hazard is assessed in regard to the municipality's exposure, vulnerability, and resilience. For existing risks undergoing review, there is also monitoring and assessment of the success of any mitigation strategies already in place, so that resources are directed at those strategies that are most successful.

5.2 Risk Treatment Plans

Proactive risk treatment plans and actions help reduce risk, creating safer and more resilient communities. Whilst many treatment plans are developed at the national, state and regional levels, this Plan highlights those that are significant at the municipal and local community levels.

5.2.1 Sub-Plans

The Committee has capacity to establish sub-committees to develop sub-plans where the consequences are likely to be significant. Hazard-specific sub plans have been developed which contain mitigation, response and or recovery arrangements specific to that risk, for example the Municipal Flood Emergency Plan.

These are listed in Appendix D.

5.2.2 Complementary Plans

Complementary plans are prepared by industry/sectors or agencies for emergencies. They are often prepared under other legislation, governance or statutory requirements for a specific purpose. These plans are often developed and informed by the member agencies of the Committee, however complementary plans do not form part of this Plan and are not subject to approval, consultation and other requirements under the Emergency Management Act 2013.

A list of complementary plans that have significance in Gannawarra is included in Appendix D.

5.2.3 Other community level treatments through agencies

Agency led treatments include:

- Local Flood Guides (VICSES and Gannawarra Shire). The VICSES [website](#) provides an overview of flooding within the municipality. Local Flood Guides within Gannawarra include:
 - Kerang Local Flood Guide
 - Quambatook Local Flood Guide
 - Murrabit and Benjeroop Local Flood Guide

5.3 Community Planning and Resilience

There is a limit to the capacity of our agencies and our planning to effectively mitigate all risk. It is therefore important that each and every one of us that live, work and play in Gannawarra consider the risks and work to build their own resilience. More resilient communities:

- are mindful of the risks that may impact them, and their vulnerabilities
- use their abilities, experience and resources to prepare for, and manage the consequences of emergencies
- work together to support emergency service organisations before, during and after emergencies

The Committee has a role and a desire to support community to build its capacity and resilience. In the development of this Plan the Committee has been cognisant of ensuring that community can access relevant information to assist in building knowledge and therefore help inform their own planning and preparation.

To assist with the Committee with their focus on building community resilience, there is a permanent community representative position on the Committee. During the development of this plan a community survey was conducted to further inform community input into the plan, highlighted feedback included:

- The need for agencies to better work together and connect with residents before, during and after emergencies.
- A strong sense of community spirit and a willingness of residents to volunteer.
- An ageing volunteer population and the need to recruit and train a younger demographic.
- A demonstrated lack of awareness for existing emergency management plans and arrangements.

6 Response Arrangements (including Relief)

6.1 Introduction

The following section outlines the arrangements in place for the activation and implementation of response activities for emergency events impacting Gannawarra, including regional collaborative arrangements to facilitate an effective response to emergency events that impact an area larger than the municipality.

6.2 Command, Control, Coordination

Command, Control and Coordination are familiar and traditional mechanisms in emergency and incident management in Victoria, with Emergency Management systems have been built on these over the past few years.

Command

Command is the internal direction of personnel and resources of an agency, operating vertically within the agency. Each agency appoints agency commanders to supervise their personnel and ensure they are working safely. The “chain-of-command” refers to an agency’s organisational hierarchy that defines the accountability of people or positions and identifies the link between individuals and their supervisor. An agency might formally agree for a person from another agency to supervise their personnel for a fixed period during emergencies. However, this does not replace the home agency’s responsibility to their personnel.

Control

Control is the overall direction of response activities in an emergency, operating horizontally across agencies. Authority for control is established in legislation or an emergency response plan and carries with it the responsibility for tasking other agencies in accordance with the needs of the situation.

The ‘line-of-control’ refers to the line of supervision for those appointed to perform the control function.

Coordination

Coordination is the bringing together of agencies and resources to ensure an effective response to and recovery from emergencies. The Emergency Management Commissioner is responsible for response coordination at the state tier supported by the Senior Police Liaison Officer, while Victoria Police is responsible for the coordination function at the regional and municipal tiers.

6.3 Local response arrangements and responsible agencies

The State Emergency Management Plan provides arrangements for an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management at the state level. The Emergency Management Act 2013 requires the State Emergency Management Plan to contain provisions for the mitigation of, response to and recovery from emergencies, and to specify the roles and responsibilities of agencies in relation to emergency management.

This section details EM agency roles and responsibilities for: Mitigation, Response (including Relief), and Recovery. It also maps agency roles for core capabilities and critical tasks under the Victorian Preparedness Framework for the management of major emergencies. The Victorian Preparedness Framework identifies 21 core capabilities, and subsequent critical tasks for each, that Victoria

requires to effectively prepare for, respond to and recover from major emergencies. To be effective, the core capabilities are interdependent, coordinated and overlap across mitigation, response and recovery.

The organisations listed in this document are those with either broad or state-wide presence, Government organisations, those with a statutory EM involvement and some private corporations with specific roles. The Victorian community receives significant benefit from the EM contributions of a wide range of volunteer groups and organisations whose operations are either quite specialised and/or available mainly in a specific locality. These groups should be identified in relevant municipal and/or regional EM plans, as appropriate.

Roles and responsibilities are outlined in the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP):

- SEMP Table 8 lists mitigation activities and agencies for managing Victoria's significant emergency risks, by emergency.
- SEMP Table 9 lists response control agencies. The control agency is the primary agency responsible for responding to the specified emergency. Where multiple control agencies are listed for the same emergency type in the table, the control agency responsibility is delineated through legislation or administrative arrangements.
- SEMP Table 10 lists response support agencies by functional area.

The roles and responsibilities outlined in this plan are specific to the region and are in addition to, or variations on, what is outlined in the SEMP and/or the Loddon Mallee REMP. As such no additional Roles and Responsibilities have been identified.

6.4 Municipal Emergency Coordination

Incident management and control will be set up and activated by the controlling agency at a pre-determined Incident Control Centre. In some cases, it may be initially set up from a police station or predetermined municipal facility.

An Emergency Management Team communicates through the Incident Control Centre when an alert is issued. The team comprises the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator, Control Agencies, and the Municipal Emergency Management Officer. The main role and function is to assess agency readiness, which includes their capacity for deployment and determine the extent of resources available locally.

The Incident Control Centre (ICC) operates using the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS). AIIMS provides a management system that facilitates the coordination of all activities, by all parties involved, in the resolution of any emergency. The nearest ICC's for the Gannawarra Municipality are located at the following locations:

LEVEL 3

- Bendigo – DELWP Facility (DEECA Office)– Midland Highway, Epsom
- Mildura – DEECA Office Cnr 11th Street and Koorlong Avenue, Irymple
-

LEVEL 2

- Bendigo – VicSES Regional Office- 7 Rohs Road, East Bendigo
- Mildura- DEECA Office Cnr 11th Street and Koorlong Avenue, Irymple

6.4.1 Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC)

A Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC) is established by Council in the response phase of an emergency. Its main function is to coordinate Council resources in response to the emergency event.

The Primary MECC is located at: Municipal Chambers Council Office 49 Victoria Street

The MECC will activate when there is an emergency which:

- Requires a prolonged response from more than one agency
- Requires the relocation of people
- Has the potential to escalate

The MECC can operate in either a virtual or physical state. The number of staff required to run an event will be dependent on the event, with the crisis incident management team able to scale up the incident and onboard more staff. The key software utilised in the activation of the MECC component during an event is Crisisworks (see below).

Under the EM Act 2013 it is not compulsory for councils to establish a physical Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC) during an emergency, although Gannawarra Shire may elect to do so if appropriate.

6.4.2 Relief including Emergency Relief Centres (ERC)

A list of sites that are suitable for being used as a relief centre is maintained by Gannawarra Shire Council. (Appendix H – List of Key Emergency Management Sites). The community should be aware that the Incident Controller in consultation with the Municipal Recovery Manager will determine the most appropriate sites during an incident to establish a relief centre. These sites may be some distance away to ensure people are moving away from potential future threats.

The ERC's purpose is to provide immediate and basic services to people impacted by an emergency. Essentially an emergency relief centre could provide:

- Emergency shelter
- Food and water
- Material aid
- Information on the emergency
- Registration in the Register – Register, Find, Reunite database
- Personal support
- First aid and primary health care
- Environmental health advice
- Reconnection of family members
- Overnight accommodation (if needed)
- Animal welfare
- Emergency financial assistance

The call to open an emergency relief centre will generally come from the ICC Incident Controller. Council may also activate a relief centre in response to a local need. This call

will be made when one or more of the following events occur:

- Members of the community are displaced by the emergency and cannot get to their homes until the emergency is brought under control
- VicPol evacuate sections of the community which are facing imminent danger
- Members of the community, in response to reports about an emergency in the media, self-evacuate their homes or workplaces
- A request for assistance is received from a neighbouring municipality via the ICC
- There is no emergency, but the threat is so extreme that an ERC is opened as a precaution

The activation of an ERC, its setting up and operation is outlined in the Gannawarra Emergency Relief Centre Operations Plan.

6.4.3 Crisisworks

Gannawarra Shire uses a web-based emergency management system ([Crisisworks](#)) to record and track actions taken during an emergency, including during the relief and recovery phases. Crisisworks also stores relevant emergency management documentation, including this Plan, that are maintained by Council.

6.5 Financial Considerations

As described in the SEMP (pages 34 – 35), all agencies are responsible for any and all costs incurred in fulfilling their role and responsibilities.

The use of municipal resources in emergencies must be authorised by the MEMO or the MRM, and be in accordance with the normal financial arrangements of Gannawarra Shire Council. An account number for emergencies should be allocated, with a work order number created for each emergency.

In some instances the State or Federal Government will make funding available to cover costs for prevention, response (inc. relief) and recovery activities. These schemes are administered by Emergency Management Victoria on behalf of the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

6.6 Neighborhood Safer Places (Places of Last Resort) and Community Fire Refuges

A '[Neighbourhood Safer Place](#)' also known as a 'Bushfire Place of Last Resort' (NSP-BPLR) is a place of last resort when all other bushfire plans have failed.

The following location are designated Neighbourhood Safer Placed (Places of Last Resort)

- Kerang Racecourse, Alexandra Park, Kerang
- Murrabit Football Ground, Browning Ave, Murrabit
- Cohuna Secondary College Oval, Murray Valley Highway, Cohuna
- Koondrook Recreation Reserve, Penglase Street, Koondrook

See the CFA [website](#) for further details on NSP-BPLR.

There are no Community Fire Refuges within the Shire.

6.7 Planning for Cross Boundary Events

Large scale emergency events can easily cross municipal boundaries, requiring response and recovery activities from more than one municipality or Control agency. Events of this size and nature are automatically escalated to regional (or even state level) control and coordination under the [State Emergency Management Plan](#).

This means that the protocols and processes for requesting support and resources such as [Joint Standard Operating Procedures](#) are already defined, and local agencies involved in response and recovery are already clear on their role, and the way in which formal requests for assistance will be received.

All agencies are expected to initially use their own resources during an emergency. Where additional resources are required, there are detailed processes and protocols (page 24), including funding arrangements (page 34) detailed in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#).

To further facilitate the sharing of resources and activation in cross-boundary events, Gannawarra Shire Council representatives on the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee work closely with their counterparts at the regional level and maintain relationships with the emergency management staff at neighbouring councils.

6.8 Resource Sharing Protocols

Gannawarra Shire Council is currently a signatory on the Protocol for Inter-Council Resource Sharing organised and hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria which sets out an agreed position between councils regarding the provision of resources to assist other municipalities with response and recovery tasks during and after emergencies.

It details the process for initiating requests for resources from another council and identifies associated operational and administrative requirements. The protocol applies to requests for human resources, equipment and/or facilities in relation to response or recovery activities associated with an emergency. The protocol is intended to clarify operational, insurance and reimbursement issues that may arise through municipal resource-sharing arrangements.

The protocol is consistent with the concepts and policy guidelines articulated in the Emergency Management Act 2013 and the State Emergency Management Plan. Further information on the protocol for inter-council resource sharing can be found on MAV's website. Version 3.1 of the protocol came into effect in February 2023 and can be found [here](#).

6.9 Response debriefing arrangements

Lessons management involves the identification and learning of lessons captured through assurance activities (including debriefing, monitoring and reviews) occurring before, during and after emergencies.

Debriefing helps participating agencies and organisations to learn from an event and address issues as soon as possible, leading to improved performance and communication. It assists agencies and organisations to improve policy, processes and practices.

The Control Agency is responsible for conducting an Operational Debrief. The Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC) is responsible for ensuring the Control Agency organises the debrief, which is expected to take place soon as practicable after an emergency.

The meetings to assess the adequacy of the MEMP should be chaired by the Committee Chairperson. All debrief information will be disseminated by the Committee Chair to all present at the debrief and also all personnel on the Committee contact list.

An additional debrief may be conducted for the Recovery Team to cover specific relief and recovery issues. This will be convened by the MRM and will be in addition to debriefs conducted by the MERC and Committee.

6.10 Transition to Recovery

Although recovery activities commence concurrently with response and relief, there is a detailed process within the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (Page 28) that describes the formal de-escalation of response and relief activities and the 'Transition to Recovery'.

The Municipal Recovery Manager in consultation with the Incident Controller and Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator will be assessing information to further determine the recovery needs of the affected community.

The response phase of an emergency is not deemed concluded until a number of key elements are identified, such as:

- Response handover
- Financial handover
- Response data
- Initial Impact Assessment data
- Validate information
- MECC function
- Needs Analysis form

7. Recovery Arrangements

7.1 Introduction

Once the initial threat of an emergency has subsided or resolved and the immediate survival needs of those affected have been addressed, the recovery process encompasses all the steps and strategies that work towards rehabilitation of the community and the local environment. From addressing the emotional, physical and economic effects of those impacted by the emergency, to restoring infrastructure and rehabilitation the natural environment.

Recovering from an emergency may take many years, depending on the scale of the event, and it has been acknowledged that, in many instances, it will be a return to a 'new normal' rather than a return to an identical pre-emergency state.

'There is no timeframe for recovery. Recovery cannot be measured by how long it takes or by a definition of what a successful recovery looks like. It is impossible to return to a pre-disaster state. In many instances, people may never recover fully from a disaster'. – [Resilient Recovery Strategy](#)

Ideally, the process of recovery begins as soon as possible after an emergency occurs, with some strategies being implemented concurrently with response and relief activities. This can only occur if there is the capacity and capability at the Local Council level, and clarity around the co-ordination and support for recovery activities. Therefore, planning for recovery is a very important step in the emergency management process.

A lot has been learnt from the large-scale emergencies of the last decade, and there is now a raft of resources such as the [Resilient Recovery Strategy](#), [National Principles for Disaster Recovery](#) and the [Disaster Recovery Tool Kit for Local Government](#) to help direct those involved in the Recovery planning process. It has been recognised that recovery cannot be prescriptive, instead it needs to include the community and address their actual, rather than perceived, needs.

7.2 Objectives of Recovery

The strategic priorities of Recovery include:

1. ***Deliver a people and community centred recovery.*** A community-centred approach ensures government and those delivering recovery services partner with community and allow people to play a greater role in their recovery.
2. ***Strengthen recovery through better emergency management planning.*** By bringing community into the planning process before an emergency, and drawing on community involvement after an emergency, recovery activities will be able to better reflect community needs and values.
3. ***Streamlined and flexible recovery system.*** Improving operating processes and providing clearer, more-timely resourcing for recovery will ensure recovery services and supports are delivered in a more coordinated and effective way.
4. ***Support the recovery workforce.*** This strategy aims to better connect and enhance existing support and wellbeing programs across the sector to ensure appropriate wellbeing support for all people working in recovery. [Resilient Recovery Strategy](#)

Planning for Recovery following the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has also seen a need for Community Recovery Committees to look at new ways of delivering recovery programs and has shifted the traditional focus of rebuilding the physical structures of a community to one of focussing more on rebuilding the economic and psychosocial elements of affected communities.

7.3 Management Structure

Details of the [Roles and Responsibilities in Recovery](#) for each of the four environments - Social, Economic, Built, and Natural - are clearly defined in the State Emergency Management Plan.

Due to its community-based focus and need for local knowledge, the responsibility for co-ordinating the recovery process is assigned to Councils. There is then a list of 'Lead' and 'Support' agencies for each of the different recovery activities that may be required subject to impact and needs assessment outcomes.

Even when the scale of the emergency dictates that regional or state level assistance is required, escalation builds on the local arrangements. Council staff with dedicated recovery roles co-ordinate the recovery activities and are assisted and supported by a raft of other agencies as required.

At the municipal level, the focus of recovery planning and management is on the impacted community. Within their emergency planning responsibilities, local arrangements incorporate recovery planning to deliver a range of services. These arrangements should provide for the co-ordination of local agency activities.

7.3.1 Structure and categories of recovery environment functional areas

The following diagram (Figure 8) represents the structure and categories of sub committees (working groups) from the designated recovery environment functional areas.

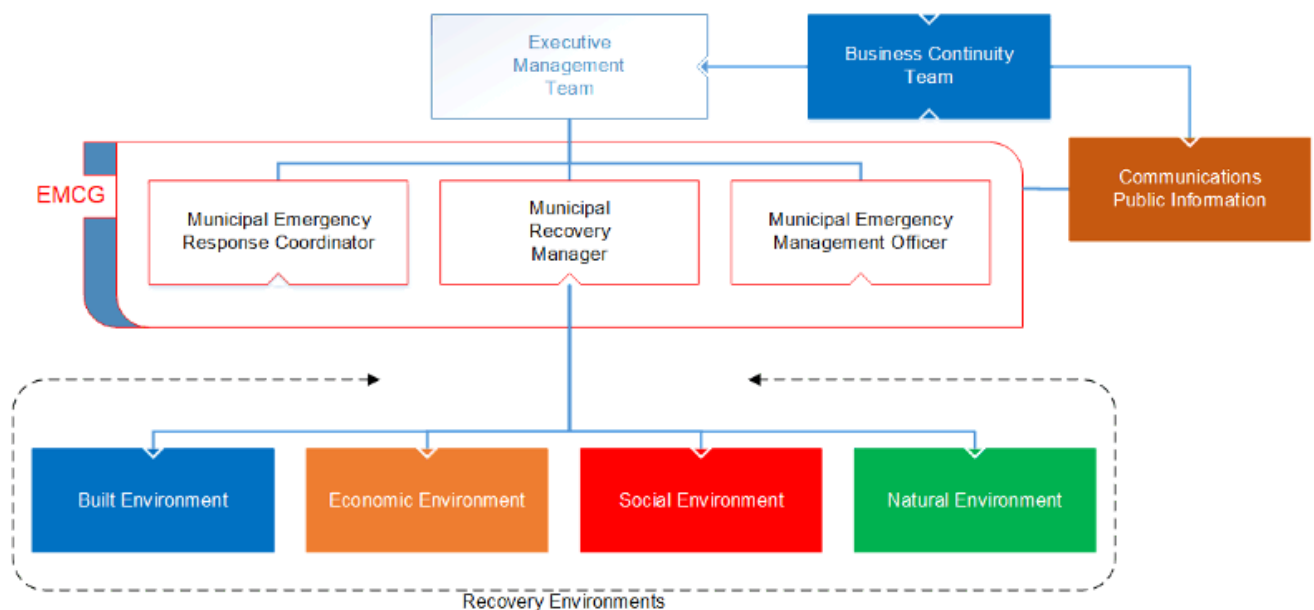


Figure 4 – Gannawarra Shire Community Recovery arrangements - structure chart.

7.3.2 Recovery service team and functional areas

Composition of recovery service team

The recovery service teams (as identified above in Figure 8) include representatives of key organisations involved in the recovery process. Both infrastructure and human service agencies are represented.

Roles

The roles of recovery service teams include:

- Prepare and maintain a recovery service Operational Procedures Plan;
- Meet regularly to maintain liaison between agencies, enhance understanding of agency roles, update contact arrangements and ensure the currency of local arrangements;
- Review sub-committee membership in consultation with MRM;
- Conduct regular familiarisation and training programs to fit into overall recovery exercise planning in consultation with MRM;
- Establish arrangements for the conduct of municipal secondary impact assessment and for collation, evaluation and use of information gathered;
- Manage the provision of recovery services at the local level;
- Identify resources to supplement local government resources, which may be exhausted by an emergency, e.g. building inspectors, environmental health officers, human services staff, etc., to ensure that an adequate recovery program is provided;
- Formalise links with regional plans and recovery agencies;
- Consider all aspects of a local community's recovery, including both the restoration of physical infrastructure and the provision of human services;
- Activate and co-ordinate service delivery;
- Identify responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of contact and resource listings

The Gannawarra Shire community recovery service team comprises a series of functional areas (working groups) each with a team leader.

7.4 Community Recovery Committee

Where the magnitude of the event requires community input into the recovery process one or more Community Recovery Committees may be established within the affected area.

7.4.1 Community Recovery Committee membership

The composition of the committee will vary depending on the affected area. The membership of the committee should include community leaders and representatives such as:

- Municipal Recovery Manager and deputies;
- Councilor (local ward representatives);
- Government agencies; (DFFH, DET, ERV and DoH as required);
- Community groups; (Lions/Rotary Clubs, Community Health Service as required);
- Affected persons;
- Non-government agencies; (Red Cross, Salvation Army, Family Life, Religious Leaders as required).
- Control Agency for the initial meetings, then Community Education from the Control Agency ongoing as required

7.4.2 Community Recovery Committee functions

The functions of the Community Recovery Committee are as follows:

- Represent community needs after an event. Monitor the overall progress of the recovery process in the affected community.
- Identify community needs and resource requirements and make recommendations to appropriate recovery agencies, municipal councils and the State's recovery management structure.

- Liaise, consult and negotiate, on behalf of affected communities, with recovery agencies, government departments and municipal councils. Liaise with the DFFH Regional Director or delegate. Undertake specific recovery activities as determined by the circumstances and the committee.

7.5 Activation of Recovery

The Municipal Recovery Manager will be requested for recovery services by one of the following:

- Municipal Emergency Management Officer (Council)
- Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (VICPOL)
- Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (DFFH).

The Municipal Recovery Manager will manage recovery process within Council, although this may be escalated to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) at the regional level, if required.

7.6 Government Assistance Measures

The use of municipal resources in emergencies must be authorised through the Municipal Emergency Management Officer or the Municipal Recovery Manager, and be in accordance with the normal financial arrangements of Gannawarra Shire. An account number for emergencies should be allocated, with a work order number created for each emergency.

For any costs that can't be provided by Council and/or other agencies, the Municipal Recovery Manager will liaise with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, to coordinate the purchasing of goods and services. See the State Emergency Management Plan for further information on government assistance measures relevant to this Plan (pages 34 – 35).

8. Roles and Responsibilities

An agency that has a role or responsibility under this Plan or a Sub Plan must act in accordance with the Plan. The following organisations are listed as additional service applicable to the Gannawarra Shire and are not listed within the State and Regional Plans.

Organisation / Agencies	Role and Responsibilities
Cohuna District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical care • Contingency planning
Kerang District Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical care • Contingency planning • Social Recovery
Northern District Community Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social recovery • Health and wellbeing • Community prevention • Contingency planning • Aged and Disability Care
Neighbourhood House (Kerang and Cohuna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Relief • Material Aid • Community transport • Social recovery
Mallee District Aboriginal Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For First Nations peoples: • Medical Care • Food Relief • Social recovery • Health and wellbeing • Community prevention • Transport
Rotary Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support community through donations • Catering for community events
Rapid Relief Team – Plymouth Brethren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbags equipment • Catering for frontline workers • Food Relief • Fodder • Water
Flood Wardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood intelligence • Local knowledge
Fire Brigades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide response support for residents (e.g. logistics, sandbagging, etc)

9. Monitoring and Review

A critical factor in emergency management is to establish ongoing processes for monitoring and review across the emergency management systems and processes.

The committee regularly undertakes a review process to improve risk assessments, analysis of lessons learned from events, changes to exposure and vulnerability, and changes in the nature (frequency and severity) of hazardous events.

Currently the review process involves a regular standing agenda item during the quarterly Committee meetings to review the Community Emergency Risk Assessment to see if any additional risks are required to be added.

In addition, it is the intent of the Committee to learn through multi-agency exercises, After Action Reviews (AAR), and other appropriate forums, to learn from emergency events. This will lead to continual improvement, in accordance with the Lessons Management Framework, that can be found at the EMV website. Appendix I details the multi-agency exercises undertaken recently, including learnings from each (if recorded).

Finally, emergency management plans and subplans, including this Plan, will be reviewed at least every three years or as required:

- Annually in full or part at each Committee meeting
- After each major event where the plan has been activated
- Where the Municipal Emergency Management Plan has been exercised

9.1 Debriefing arrangements post event

The Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee aims to learn from each event, even those that have no direct impact on the municipality, and to strive towards constant improvement across all of the areas of emergency management that this plan covers in line with the [Lessons Management Framework \(EM Learn\)](#).

The Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee can meet to formally facilitate a review or debrief following any emergency event. This process aims to ensure that the Municipal Emergency Management Plan remains current, and in line with best practice learning outcomes.

Appendices

Appendix A: Plan Administration

Document Details

Criteria	Details
Document Title:	
Document Owner:	

Amendment History

Amendment No:	Revision No:	Revision Date:	Amendment Details:

Definitions and Acronyms

Whilst the Committee aims to minimise the number of acronyms used within this plan, the following terms and definitions are used extensively within the Emergency Management sector.

Term	Definition
AAR	After Action Review
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
CERA	Community Emergency Risk Assessment
CFA	Country Fire Authority
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DET	Department of Education and Training
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DEECA	Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action
DoT	Department of Transport

DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance
EM ACT 2013	Emergency Management Act 2013
EMCG	Emergency Management Coordination Group
EMLO	Emergency Management Liaison Officer
EMT	Emergency Management Team
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria
ERC	Emergency Relief Centre
FRV	Fire Rescue Victoria
IAP	Incident Action Plan
ICC	Incident Control Centre
IEMT	Incident Emergency Management Team
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
MECC	Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre
MEMO	Municipal Emergency Management Officer
MEMP / MEMPlan	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
MERC	Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator
MRM	Municipal Recovery Manager
NERAG	National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines
NSP-BPLR	Neighbourhood Safer Place - Bushfire Place of Last Resort
REMP	Regional Emergency Management Plan
REMPC	Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee
RERC	Regional Emergency Response Coordinator
SEMP	State Emergency Management Plan
VicPol	Victoria Police
VICSES	Victoria State Emergency Service

Useful Support Materials

Support Material	Link
Other Emergency Management Plans	

Loddon Mallee Regional Emergency Management Plan	https://files.emv.vic.gov.au/2021-05/Loddon%20Mallee%20Regional%20Emergency%20Management%20Plan_Redacted.pdf
Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan Report	https://files.emv.vic.gov.au/2021-05/Environmental%20Scan%20Loddon%20Mallee%20V2.pdf
State Emergency Management Plan	https://files.emv.vic.gov.au/2021-10/Victorian%20State%20Emergency%20Management%20Plan%20%28SEMP%29%20-%20Interactive%20and%20functional%20PDF%20document%20-%20October%202021.PDF
Legislation and Guidelines	
National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines	https://www.aidr.org.au/media/7600/aidr_handbookcollection_nerag_2020-02-05_v10.pdf
Emergency Management Planning Reform	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/emergency-management-planning
Emergency Management Act 2013	https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/emergency-management-act-2013/019
Other Useful Websites (agency only login)	
EM-COP	https://emcop.zendesk.com/hc/en-us
DELWP FloodZoom	https://www.floodzoom.vic.gov.au/FIP.Site/Identity/Login
eMAP	https://emap.ffm.vic.gov.au/emapLauncher/index.html

Appendix B: History of Emergencies

Table 1 summarises the major emergency incidents that have occurred in Gannawarra.

Hazard Type	Incident	Date
Flood	This event was the fourth largest along the Murray at Echuca since 1870 (4% AEP). It was also the largest flood (in terms of volume) along the Avoca River	1956
Flood	Widespread flooding occurred in May and October 1974. The May flood was more significant along the Murray (6% AEP at Echuca) than the October event. These floods caused significant problems in the Kerang Lakes, Pyramid Creek, Lower Loddon, Appin South and upstream of Kerang.	1974
Arbovirus	Outbreak of Murray Valley Encephalitis – 1/3 of cases dies, 1/3 were permanently disabled, and 1/3 made a full recovery. The event had a significant impact on tourism across the Murray Valley.	1974
Flood	The 1975 flood was the third largest in the Murray at Echuca since 1870 (3% AEP). It was also the third biggest in terms of volume along the Avoca River. These floods caused significant problems in the Kerang Lakes, Pyramid Creek, Lower Loddon, Appin South and upstream of Kerang.	1975
Flood	Prior to the completion of Kerang Township Levee network. Major flood on Loddon River with water level of 77.84 AHD	1981
Flood	This event was the second largest flood along the Avoca (in terms of volume) and has a return period of around 50 years.	1983
Flood	In September 1993, a major flood substantially reduced flood storage along the lower	1993

	reaches of the Goulburn River floodplain. Consequently, a larger flood in October 1993 along the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee produced a peak a little higher than the 1916 event.	
Human Disease	H5N1 Outbreak	2003
Bushfire / Grassfire	The Batemans Fire was a large fire incident in the Gunbower State Forest (313ha)	2003
Transport Incident	Kerang Rail Disaster – 11 people died, Swan Hill/Bendigo rail line was closed for 7 days.	2007
Human Disease	H1N1 Outbreak	2009
Extreme Temperatures	Heatwave	2009
Flood	Approximately 50 % of the shire land mass flooded, more than 100 homes inundated, Kerang and Quambatook townships evacuated	2011
Bushfire / Grassfire	The Bael Bael Grasslands Fire was large fire incident in Bael Bael Nature Conservation Reserve (138 ha)	2013
Extreme Temperatures		2014
Storm / Severe Weather	A significant wind event impacted the area around Lake Charm, although only minor property damage was reported, this event damaged the two main electricity feeder lines to the north. This caused a loss of electricity to some 13,000 customers for a period in excess of 24 hours.	2015
Bushfire / Grassfire	The Top Marsh Fire was a large incident in the Koorangie Nature Conservation Reserve (220 ha)	2015
Blue-Green Algae	Outbreak	2016
Flood	Major flooding along the Loddon and Avoca Rivers	2016
Emergency Animal Disease	Avian Influenza Outbreak	2020
Human Disease (Pandemic)	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2, 2019 Outbreak	2020
Flood	Impacted 44% Gannawarra's land mass, significant crop losses across agriculture sector, issue with still water	2022

Appendix C: Principal Emergency Risks

1. Human Disease (Pandemic)

Hazard	Pandemic
Risk description	Infectious diseases are categorised as a viral illness that attacks the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs) in humans. Worldwide pandemics of influenza occur when a novel virus capable of person to person transmission, emerges to which the population has little or no immunity. When the next pandemic will occur, how rapidly it will emerge and how severe the illness will be are all unknown. It can overwhelm our health systems and in more severe scenarios, cause significant disruption to our economy and to society. Potential for significant staff absence. Communities unable to function without significant support - significant economic loss, major disruption to schools.
Consequences	Potential consequences of pandemics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fatalities and high levels of absence from work • disruption to essential services, particularly health and education • economic disruption, including disruption to business and tourism. • physical / psychological casualties • economic damage, particularly to the agricultural sector and via lost trade • loss of tourism revenue
Locally relevant examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2, 2019 (COVID-19) – 2020 • H1N1 – 2009 • H5N1 - 2003
Control agencies	Department of Health
Supporting agencies	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
What is being done	<p>Hazard Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influenza Pandemic Plan • National, state and local influenza pandemic plans <p>Infection control measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable disease reporting system • Global detect systems in place • Maintain nurse immunizer qualifications and staff availability <p>Community education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene and cough etiquette <p>Vaccine program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified immunization team • Annual influenza vaccination program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment on hand to mass vaccinate
What community members can do	<p>Individuals can do the following when preparing for pandemics such as COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise good hygiene and regularly and thoroughly wash your hands • Maintain physical distancing, keep at least 1.5 metres away from others • Carry a face mask when you leave home unless you have a lawful reason not to. It is strongly recommended you wear one whenever you cannot keep 1.5 metres distance from others • Wear a face mask when required, unless a lawful exception applies • If you feel unwell do not go to work • Get tested at a nearby testing location. Return home immediately • If you are worried you will lose pay while you wait for test result or you have tested positive and need to self-isolate you may be eligible for a worker support payment • If your condition worsens contact your GP or a health professional. If you become very unwell and are having trouble breathing contact triple zero, you may need to be admitted to hospital <p>Further information on preparing for pandemics can be found at the Victorian Government Coronavirus website.</p>

2. Extreme Temperatures

Hazard	Extreme heat
Risk description	Extreme heat or heatwave is a period of unusual and uncomfortable hot weather that could negatively affect human health. Extreme heat can also affect community infrastructure (such as power supply and public transport) and other services. Extreme heat can affect everyone, however some people are more vulnerable.
Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in hospitalisation and pressure on the health system. • Impacts elderly and young • Extended heatwave can impact power reliability which can impact forms of cooling (air conditioning, fans) • Heatwave can also trigger an increased risk of bushfire - some community messaging and mitigation actions can compete. or conflict. E.g. leave early • Increased visitations to the region to beaches

Locally relevant examples	<p>January 2009 – there were an estimated 374 excess deaths compared with the average rate over the previous five years.</p> <p>January 2014 heatwave - there were an estimated 167 excess deaths reported in Victoria. An increase in demand from health services was also noted (including nurse on call, hospital presentations, home doctor service and ambulance call outs. Victoria experienced the hottest 4-day period on record.</p>
Control agencies	Emergency Management Commissioner
Supporting agencies	<p>Department of Health</p> <p>Ambulance Victoria</p> <p>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action</p>
What is being done	<p>Weather detection systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Government’s heat health alert system notifies local governments, programs areas, hospitals and state-wide and major metropolitan health and community service providers and the general community of forecast extreme heat and heatwave conditions which are likely to impact on human health. <p>Hazard Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat Health Plan (2017) Health service heatwave response systems Local fire plans <p>Community education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community awareness and information Staff training SunSmart program <p>Maintaining backup equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upkeep of essential infrastructure, including hospital generator, power shedding strategies
What community members can do	<p>To prepare for a heatwave, the following can be undertaken before the weather gets too hot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> look at the things you can do to make your home cooler, like installing awnings or shade cloths check fans and air-conditioners are clean and working well. A clean fan helps keep ventilation fresh stock up on food, water and medicines, and put ice blocks and packs in the freezer store medicines safely at the recommended temperature Check on neighbours or people you know to be isolated or otherwise vulnerable <p>The Australian Red Cross website has further information on how to prepare for a heatwave. You can subscribe to heat health alerts.</p>

3. Major Flood

Hazard	Major Flood
Description	<p>Flooding can happen anywhere, at any time, and can be caused by more than just rain. Even if you don't live near a river or creek, different types of flooding may still happen in your area from other causes.</p> <p>Large severe floods within the Municipality generally result from a warm airflow from northern Australia bringing moderate to heavy rainfall over a period of 12 hours or more following a prolonged period of general rainfall that “wet up” the catchment.</p>
Consequences	<p>Consequences of flood are potentially significant and varied including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human (loss of life, serious injury) • Environmental impacts (loss of vegetation, biodiversity, cultural values) • Built form (damage to onsite and neighbouring property and infrastructure) • Economic (business interruptions, loss of tourism, assets and livestock)
Local relevant examples	<p>Significant flood events have been experience in 1870, 1909, 1931, 1956, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1981, 1983, 1989, 1993, 1996, 2011, and 2022.</p> <p>2011 Flood – approximately 75% of shire land mass flooded and more than 100 homes were inundated. The township of Benjeroop was severely flooded for an extended period, while Kerang and Quambatook were isolated but not inundated.</p> <p>2016 Flood – major flooding along the Loddon and Avoca rivers</p> <p>2022 Flood – impacted 44% of the shire’s land mass, significant impact of crops</p>
Control agencies	Victoria State Emergency Services
Supporting agencies	<p>Gannawarra Shire Council Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Country Fire Authority Bureau of Meteorology Parks Victoria Victoria Police</p>
What is being done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan • Land use planning overlays • Levee systems, maintenance, and inspections • Building and planning regulations • Severe weather warning systems • Drainage systems, maintenance, and inspections • River gauges and monitoring
What community members can do	<p>When riverine flooding is predicted, decide what you will do before flooding occurs.</p> <p>What to do if a flood occurs near you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay safe by never entering or driving through floodwater.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 132 500 for emergency assistance from VICSES. • Call Triple Zero (000) in life-threatening emergencies • Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, canals, culverts and floodwater. • Be aware of driving hazards, such as mud, debris, damaged roads and fallen and damaged trees. • Be prepared - You may be isolated for an extended period of time. Make sure you have essential supplies prepared to last for at least three to five days, including food, drinking water, medications and pet food. • Be prepared - You may lose services including power, water, sewerage and gas. • Stay informed – monitor weather warnings and forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology website, and warnings through the VicEmergency app, website and hotline (1800 226 226). <p>Further information on how to prepare for flood can be found at ses.vic.gov.au</p>
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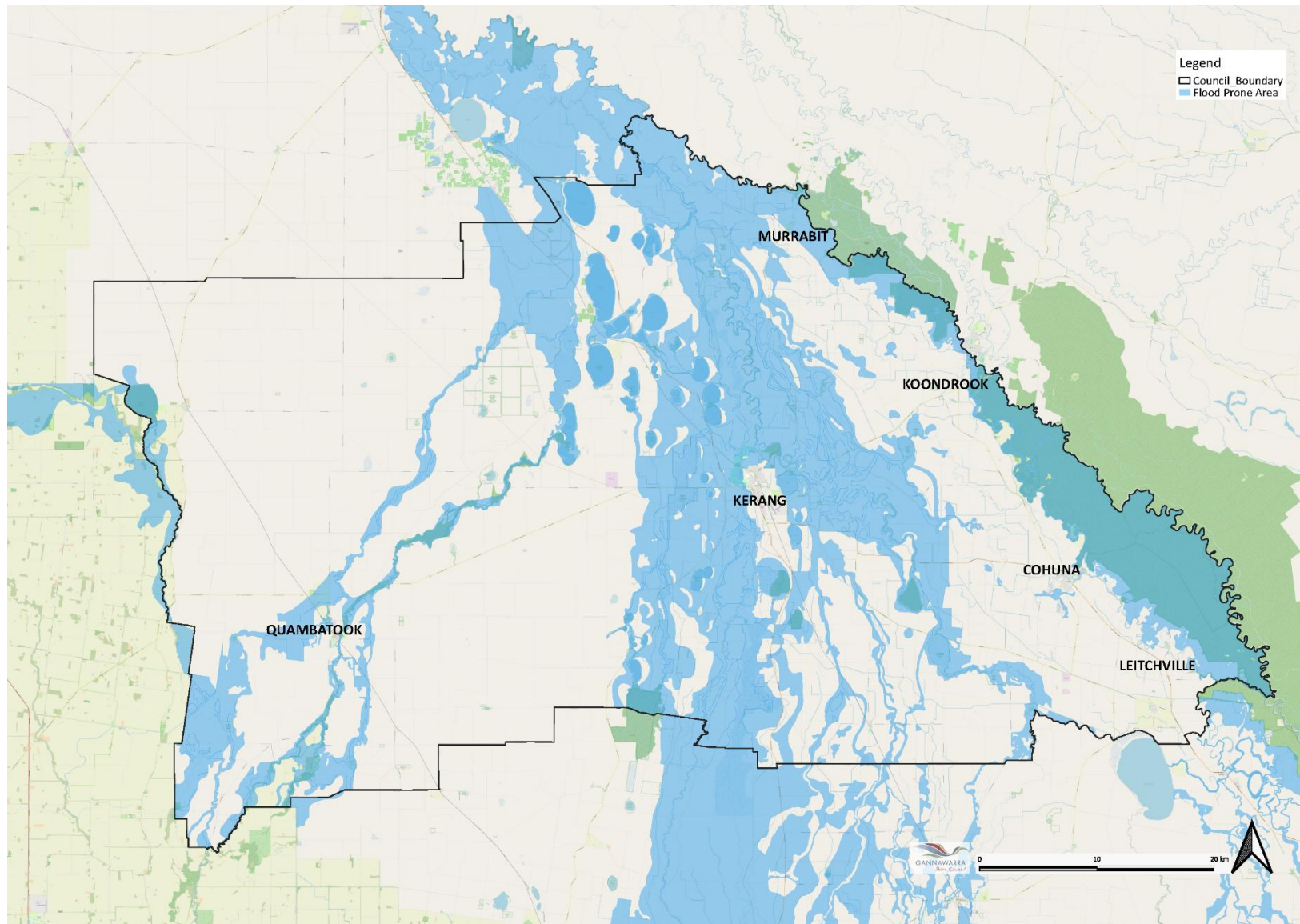


Figure 5 – Flood Prone Land in Gannawarra (maps prepared by Gannawarra Shire Council)

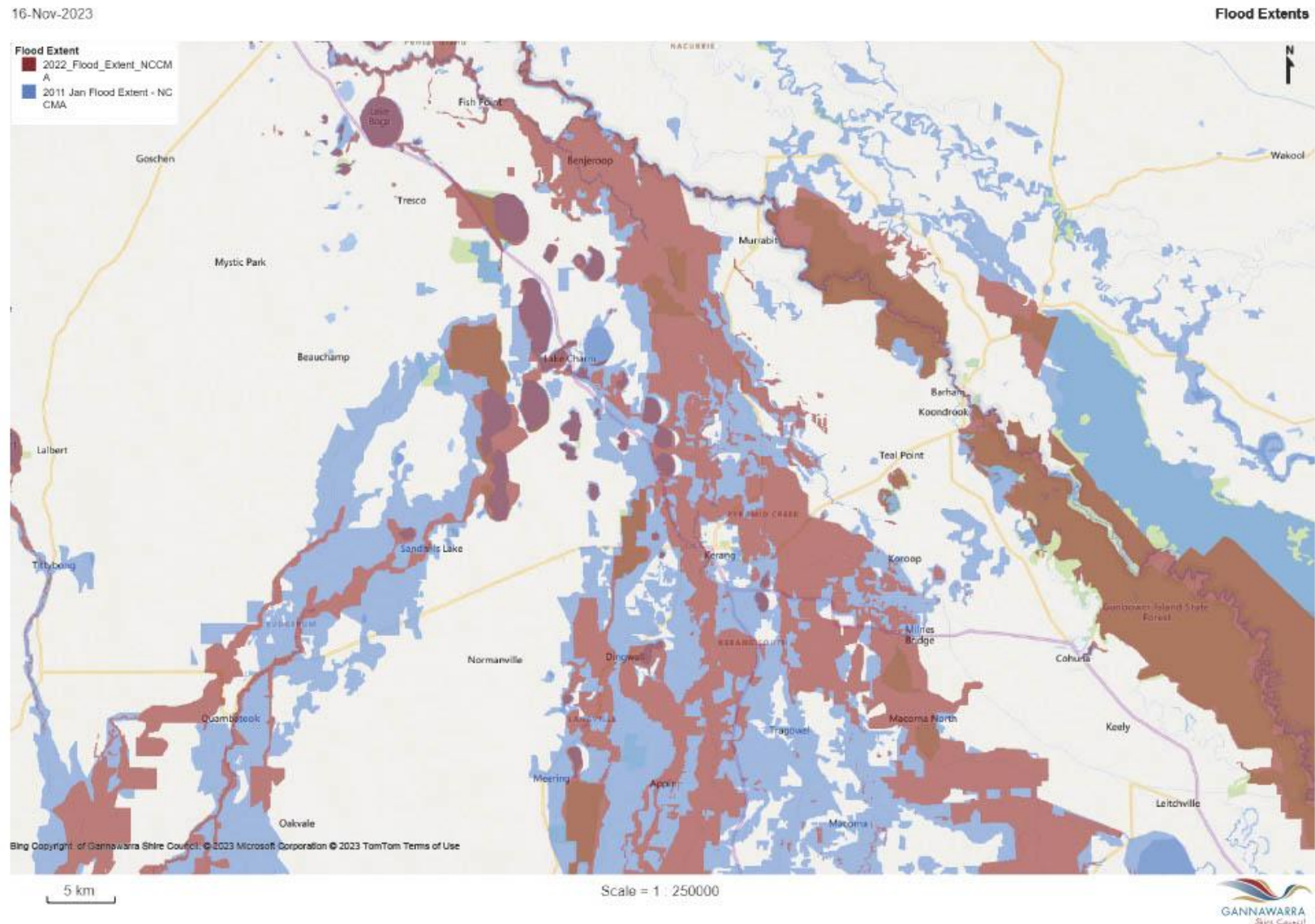


Figure 6 – Flood Extent in Gannawarra (maps prepared by Gannawarra Shire Council)

4. Storm / Severe Weather

Hazard	Storm / severe weather / flash flooding
Risk description	<p>With climate change, we are witnessing increasing and more severe weather events and storm.</p> <p>Severe winds have the capacity to cause tree branches to fall and uproot entire trees especially after rain events when soils are less stable. Building roof damage, roads blockage and impacts into power infrastructure is common during severe storms.</p> <p>Flash floods occur within six hours of a rain event, or after a dam or levee failure and can catch people unprepared. As land is converted from fields or woodlands to roads and parking lots, it loses its ability to absorb rainfall. Urbanization increases runoff two to six times over what would occur on natural terrain. During periods of urban flooding, streets can become swift moving rivers, while basements and viaducts can become death traps as they fill with water.</p>
Consequences	<p>Consequences include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant widespread damage to infrastructure • Injury and death • Loss of power and communications infrastructure for significant lengths of time • Water inundation to low lying land
Locally relevant examples	<p>Gannawarra generally expects two to four large storm events per year. Events generally occur between August and March and have been increasing since the 1990s. Significant storms and flooding have occurred on a less frequent basis. This information is based on the VICSES database which shows the number and type of call the local SES unit has responded to during this period.</p> <p>There is a strong likelihood of reoccurrence associated with climate change. In early 2015, a significant wind event impacted the area around Lake Charm, although only minor property damage was reported, this event damaged the two main electricity feeder lines to the north. This caused a loss of electricity to some 13,000 customers for a period in excess of 24 hours.</p>
Control agencies	Victoria State Emergency Services
Supporting agencies	<p>Bureau of Meteorology Victoria Police Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Actions Parks Victoria</p>

	Country Fire Authority
What is being done	<p>Community education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community access to SES storm information • Programs, such as StormSafe and FloodSafe • Push notifications to community for severe weather <p>Maintenance activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of drainage hotspots in conjunction with Water Authorities • Tree Pruning Program • Public area maintenance • Drainage strategy / capacity standard /regulation • Anti erosion measures along all waterways <p>Hazard Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan <p>Weather warnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather warnings/detection/forecasting – radar, obseration and modelling <p>Building regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance, building regulation – building controls, planning regulation
What community members can do	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The VICSES website contains the information on how to plan for storms and severe weather: 2. Plan for what you will do and take with you, if you need to evacuate. Find out how to prepare your home and/or workplace, and consider the advice below 3. Before a storm hits: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Park your car undercover and away from trees b. Clean your gutters, downpipes and drains to ensure they are not blocked c. Check that loose items such as outdoor furniture, umbrellas and trampolines are safely secured 4. Be alert to dangerous road conditions when driving, including low visibility, fallen and damaged trees and powerlines. Avoid travel if possible 5. Be prepared - You may be isolated for an extended period of time. Make sure you have essential supplies prepared to last for at least three to five days, including food, drinking water, medications and pet food 6. Be prepared - You may lose services including power, water, sewerage and gas 7. Stay informed – monitor weather warnings and forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology website, and warnings

	through the VicEmergency app, website , and hotline (1800 226 226)
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5. Bushfire / Grassfire

Hazard	Bushfire / Grassfire
Risk description	<p>Most fires will occur in the grasslands during late spring and early summer where at least 90% of the land is under crop or covered by pastures</p> <p>Bushfires can start for many reasons, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidents such as mishandled camp fires or barbecues • Agriculture harvest activities by machinery or land use practices • Malicious activity such as fire-starting • Infrastructure incidents such as sparks from electricity lines or rail transport • Natural phenomena such as lightning <p>The distribution of fuel load across the Municipality is closely aligned to land use. Within the Municipality, 90% of the fuel load is rated as Low or Moderate levels. The remaining 10% having fuel load rated as High, Very High or Extreme associated within riverine forest, wetlands and roadsides.</p> <p>Bushfire and grassfire are a hazard within Gannawarra Shire. Due to flat topography and good access to fire responders, the vast majority of fires do not exceed 500 ha in size.</p>
Consequences	<p>Consequences of bushfires, including grassfires, are also potentially significant and varied, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business interruptions • Environmental impacts (direct and indirect) • Loss of assets, infrastructure and livestock • Loss of life • Loss of tourism revenue
Locally relevant examples	Past examples of larger fire incidents with the Municipality include, Batemans Fire (Gunbower State Forest) in 2003, Bael Bael Grasslands in 2013 and Top Marsh Fire in 2015.
Control agencies	Country Fire Authority/Forest Fire Management Victoria
Supporting agencies	Environment Protection Authority WorkSafe Victoria Bureau of Meteorology
What is being done	<p>Emergency management plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gannawarra Fire Management Plan

	<p>Burning permits</p> <p>Patrols by Parks Vic and FFMV crews on public land during high fire risk</p> <p>Emergency Services Response Framework</p>
What community members can do	<p>A well thought out bushfire survival plan can help if you live or holiday in high-risk bushfire areas of Victoria.</p> <p>Further information on how to prepare for bushfires can be found at the CFA website.</p> <p>You don't have to live near bush to be at risk of fire as grassfire can be just as dangerous as bushfire. See further CFA information on what to do if you <u>live close to grass in a rural area</u> or <u>where the suburbs meet grasslands</u>.</p> <p>Another option for the community to prepare is through the <u>Community Fireguard</u> program run by the CFA. This is available for residents in high risk bush or grass fire areas, and is designed to help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for a range of scenarios • Make informed decisions when it counts • Maintain a fire smart house and garden • Work together with your community to reduce everyone's bushfire risk

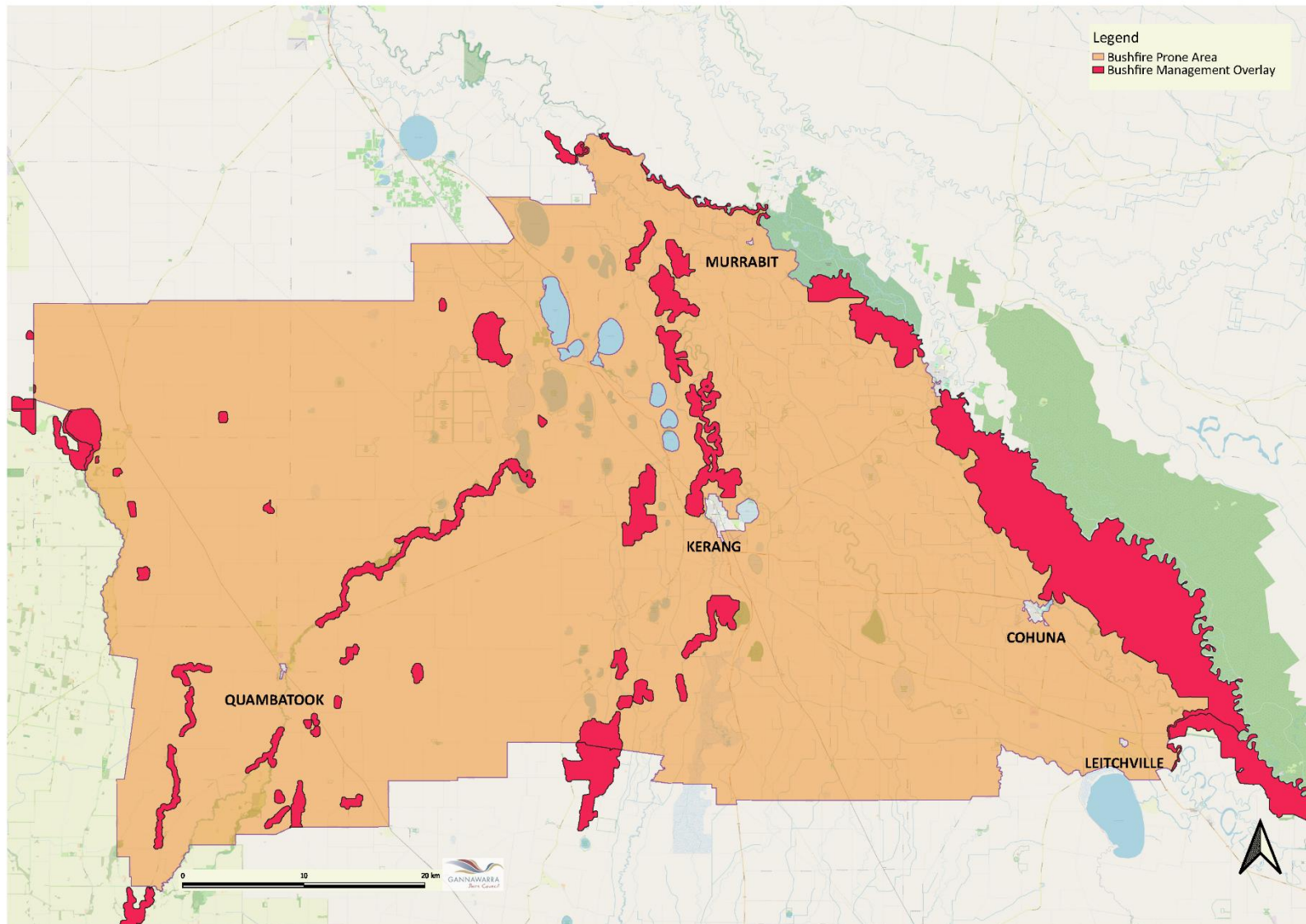


Figure 7 – Bushfire Risk in Gannawarra (maps prepared by Gannawarra Shire Council)

6. Emergency Plant Pest

Hazard	Emergency Plant Pest
Risk description	Emergency plant pests (exotic pests and diseases not present in Victoria) have the potential to destroy our food production and agriculture industries and could damage our natural environment. Plant pests (including plague locusts, bees and other insects) and plant diseases (predominantly bacteria, fungi and viruses) are found all over the world, wherever there are plants.
Consequences	Losses from Emergency Plant Pest incursions may include direct production losses to crops, as well as increased costs associated with implementing controls and restrictions on market access to other states or international markets. For example, a major outbreak of karnal bunt (a fungal infestation of wheat) in Victoria would likely have major economic and social consequences as trade restrictions would be imposed by many countries.
Locally relevant examples	https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-insects-and-mites/priority-pest-insects-and-mites https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/plant-diseases
Control agencies	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Supporting agencies	Industry businesses Gannawarra Shire Council
What is being done	<p>Biosecurity is a collective effort to prevent and manage the harms caused by pests and diseases, and the impact they have on what we value most. The responsibility falls to all of us to help protect and enhance Victoria.</p> <p>The Strategy outlines five goals and twenty actions to manage pests and diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and other threats that would impact what matters to Victorians.</p> <p>https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/990666/Victorias-Biosecurity-Strategy.pdf</p>
What community members can do	Report any unusual plant pest or disease immediately using the Agriculture Victoria online reporting system or by calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. Good quality

	<p>photos of the pests or damage are essential for rapid pest and disease diagnosis and response.</p> <p>https://biotraininghub.com.au/about/ The National Biosecurity Training Hub provides a national repository of online biosecurity training for industry, government and community, connecting biosecurity training providers across Australia.</p>
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7. Emergency Animal Disease

Hazard	Emergency Animal Disease (EAD)
Risk description	<p>Under the Australian EAD Response Agreement (EADRA), listed EADs must meet one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> known disease that does not occur in Australia, and for which it is considered to be in the national interest for the country to be free (exotic disease) a variation of an established (endemic) disease which, if it became widespread here, would have a national impact a serious infectious disease of unknown or uncertain cause, which may be an entirely new disease a known established disease, but is occurring in such a severe outbreak form, that an emergency response is required to ensure that there is neither a large-scale epidemic of national significance or serious loss of market access
Consequences	<p>EADs have the potential to cause devastating impacts to the livestock industries of Victoria with serious economic and social implications along with affecting animal, human and environmental health. EADs can affect production animals such as cattle, sheep, horses and poultry, companion pets such as dogs and cats and wildlife species such as bats. An outbreak of an EAD in Victoria could result in animal deaths, production losses and trade restrictions.</p>
Locally relevant examples	<p>Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) African Swine Fever (ASF) Anthrax https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases</p>
Control agencies	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Supporting agencies	Gannawarra Shire Council Industry business

What is being done	<p>Biosecurity is a collective effort to prevent and manage the harms caused by pests and diseases, and the impact they have on what we value most. The responsibility falls to all of us to help protect and enhance Victoria.</p> <p>The Strategy outlines five goals and twenty actions to manage pests and diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and other threats that would impact what matters to Victorians.</p> <p>https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/990666/Victorias-Biosecurity-Strategy.pdf</p>
What community members can do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice good Biosecurity https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity • National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) & Traceability https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/national-livestock-identification-system • If a disease is suspected in livestock Call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24/7). This option must be used for all diseases (other than bee diseases) that must be reported immediately. <p>Obligations under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994. Specifically the LDCA states (in section 7):</p> <p>If a person knows or has reason to suspect that a disease is present in livestock, livestock products or hives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. owned by that person or in the possession, control or charge of that person b. on land owned and occupied by that person c. dealt with by that person as a veterinary practitioner, inspector under the Meat Industry Act 1993 or the Export Control Act 1982 of the Commonwealth, operator of a meat processing facility licensed under the Meat Industry Act 1993 where a quality assurance program is in force, the owner or person in charge of premises registered as a diagnostic veterinary laboratory, knackery, stock agent or other person dealing with livestock, livestock products or hives by way of a profession, trade or business. <p>The person must notify an inspector as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of an exotic disease, the person must notify an inspector without delay after becoming aware or suspecting that the disease is present by the quickest means of communication available. • In the case of a disease other than an exotic disease, the person must notify an inspector within the

	prescribed time and in the prescribed manner after becoming aware or suspecting that the disease is present.
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8. Arbovirus

Hazard	Arbovirus
Risk description	<p>An arbovirus is a group of viruses transmitted by a mosquito, tick or other arthropod. In Victoria the most common arboviruses are Ross River Virus and Barmah Forest Virus. Neither disease is fatal nor permanently disabling but it can cause considerable distress and become an economic burden for an individual and the community. Japanese encephalitis is a virus spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Most cases are mild. Rarely, it causes serious brain swelling with a sudden headache, high fever and disorientation. Murray Valley Encephalitis is however a serious, disabling and fatal arbovirus disease. Viruses are transmitted to humans via bites from infected arthropods. Viruses do not transmit human-human. There are more than 275 species of mosquitoes but only a few species bite humans and fewer still are capable of transmitting disease. The species that transmit disease are common in the Gannawarra Shire and throughout the Murray Valley. Gannawarra is particularly at risk during summer seasons of heavy rainfall or flood where ponding of shallow and warm water provides ideal breeding conditions.</p>
Consequences	<p>Consequences of an arbovirus outbreak are potentially significant and varied, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health implications for community members and visitors • Loss of income due to the impact on tourism • Additional costs to Council for running the Arbovirus Management Program • Harm to other insects water creature from using chemicals in the environment
Locally relevant examples	<p>Ross River Virus Disease, Barmah Forest Virus Disease and Murray Valley Encephalitis are notifiable disease in Victoria. It is therefore compulsory for doctors and laboratories to notify the Department of Health. Adverse publicity accompanying past epidemics has created alarm in communities and a downturn in tourism and local economies. Outbreaks of Murray Valley Encephalitis occurred in 1918, 1951, 1956, 1974 (one third of</p>

	<p>cases died (13), one third were permanently disabled, and one third made a full recovery). The 1974 outbreak had a significant impact on tourism across the Murray Valley. After 1974 the Victorian Arbovirus Management Program commenced under the direction of the Department of Health. Gannawarra Shire Council has been part of this program since its commencement along with all other Councils bordering the Murray River. The program generally runs from 1 November to 31 March annually and focuses on surveillance and treatment (where necessary) of mosquito breeding sites and early warning systems including a sentinel chicken flock and adult mosquito trapping.</p>
Control agencies	Department of Health
Supporting agencies	Gannawarra Shire Council
What is being done	<p>Infection control measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentinel chicken flock – early detection • Suppression of breeding sites, avoidance of being bitten • Lavaciding as preferred method of control <p>Weather forecasting and monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather detention systems in place <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and local systems in place to engage in annual preventative measures • Health service response system • Annual review of Arbovirus Management Program capacity of local level – equipment, trained staff, time and resources to implement • Climate change impacts and incorporation into strategic planning <p>Community education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education programs – reduce mosquito breeding, cover up, avoid dawn and dusk <p>Gannawarra Arbovirus Plan 2017</p>
What community members can do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any signs of infection • Regularly monitor stock, etc

9. Blue-Green Algae

Hazard	Blue-Green Algae
Risk description	<p>Blue-Green Algae (cyanobacteria) is a common seasonal occurrence in Victoria and a natural component of most aquatic systems, including streams, lakes, estuaries and the sea. Blooms can be triggered by nutrient levels, low inflows, lower storage volumes and warmer weather condition.</p> <p>In Victoria, blue-green algae is monitored regularly by water corporations and local waterway managers through sampling and testing. An algae outbreak is managed based on the use of the water body and the density and nature of the bloom.</p> <p>Large number of blue-green algae in water bodies can produce toxins that can affect the health of humans, animals, birds and livestock as well as harm the environment.</p>
Consequences	<p>Consequences of blue-green algae include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health implications for humans, such as irritation of eyes and blisters • Impacts tourism • Long term health implications for livestock
Locally relevant examples	2016 outbreak
Control agencies	Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action
Supporting agencies	Gannawarra Shire Council Goulburn Murray Water Industry business
What is being done	Water sampling and monitoring Community education
What community members can do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any signs of blue-green algae • Proactively monitor water quality • Advocate for health ecosystems

Appendix D: Special Plans

Sub-plans

The following sub plans have been developed by the committee to guide arrangements associated with the municipalities highest risks.

Sub-plan	Year Published	Description	Link
Gannawarra Municipal Fire Management Plan	2019	<p>The Gannawarra Fire Management Planning Committee worked cooperatively and collaboratively on the development and implementation the Gannawarra Municipal Fire Management Plan through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing common planning models and methodologies • Allocating resources and responsibilities • Participating in common decision-making through the committee process • Collaboratively delivering fire management activities • Engaging cooperatively 	Gannawarra Municipal Fire Management Plan
Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan	2015	New version being developed soon.	Gannawarra Flood Emergency Plan

Other documents relevant to Gannawarra municipal emergency management planning

Sub-plan	Year	Description	Link
Gannawarra Community Emergency Risk Assessment - CERA	2023	<p>The CERA process, facilitated by VICSES Operations Officer Emergency Management (OOEM), is designed for Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees (MEMPCs) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the risks that pose the most significant threat to their community • Identify, describe and understand the exposure 	

		<p>and vulnerability of key community assets, values, and functions essential to the normal functioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and understand the consequence and likelihood, causes and impacts for each risk • Identify opportunities for improvement to prevention, control, mitigation measures and collaboration • Inform emergency management planning 	
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Complementary Plans

The following are complementary plans managed by individual agencies. This is not an exhaustive list.

Complementary Plan	Year	Description	Link
Gannawarra Arbovirus Plan	2017	The aim of the Plan is to provide guidance on mosquito surveillance, control, and community awareness initiatives to minimize the incidence of arbovirus illness and disease to the community.	Gannawarra Arbovirus Plan
Influenza Pandemic Plan	2018	This complementary plan provides a framework and guidance for council and other pandemic influenza stakeholders in the municipality to properly plan for and effectively respond to pandemic influenza conditions.	Influenza Pandemic Plan
Heat Health Management Plan	2017	The aim of this Heat Health Plan is to support the community to prepare for, respond to and recovery from heatwaves and extreme heat events.	Heat Health Management Plan

Appendix E: Bushfire Place of Last Resort – Neighbourhood Safer Places

Name	Address
Koondrook Football Oval	Penglase Street (opposite Reserve Street), Koondrook
Murrabit Football Oval	Browning Avenue (opposite Danson Street), Murrabit
Alexandra Park / Kerang Racecourse	Kerang – Koondrook Road (entry also off Park Road), Kerang
Cohuna Secondary College Oval	Murray Valley Highway, Cohuna

Appendix F: MEMPC Terms of Reference

The *MEMPC Terms of Reference* contains restricted information and as such is available to agencies only. To access, contact the Municipal Emergency Management Officer at Gannawarra Shire.

Appendix G: Contact Directory

The *Contact Directory* contains restricted information and as such is available to agencies only. To access, contact the Municipal Emergency Management Officer at Gannawarra Shire.

Appendix H: Locations of potential Emergency Relief Centres (ERCs)

The *Locations of potential Emergency Relief Centres (ERCs)* contains restricted information and as such is available to agencies only. To access, contact the Municipal Emergency Management Officer at Gannawarra Shire.

Appendix I: Multi Agency Exercises

Exercise Name (Date)	Host	Lead Agency	Hazard/ Theme	Examples of Key Learnings
Operation 'Pancake' (28 September 2022)	Victoria Police	Victoria Police	Aircraft crash at Kerang Airport	

Appendix J: Full Incident Record – Gannawarra

Incident Date:	Township Affected:	Lead Agency:	Details of Incident: (inc. MECC or ERC activations)

Appendix K: Statement of Assurance

Municipal Emergency Management Planning Statement of Assurance



Part 1: Checklist

For sub-plans: As a sub-plan forms a part of the principal MEMP, the assurance checklist may refer to where the principal MEMP addresses a certain requirement to acquit the sub-plan of that requirement.

Number	Checklist Requirement (Act section and/or <u>Guidelines section</u>)	Self-assessment	Evidence (include MEMP or MEMP sub-plan page number/s)
Plan has been prepared in accordance with the following legislative requirements under the <i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i> (the Act):			
1.	The MEMP or sub-plan has been prepared by the municipal emergency management planning committee (MEMPC) ¹ (Sections 59D(a) and 60ADB(1))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This MEMP has been prepared by the MEMPC between June – November 2023. The Final MEMP was endorsed at the 29 February 2024 MEMPC meeting.
2.	In the case of an updated MEMP or sub-plan, the plan has been reviewed within three years or sooner as required (Section 60AN, <u>section 6.1</u>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	The plan was due for review May 2023 but was delayed due to flooding in October 2022.

¹ In the case of a sub-plan, it may be that a MEMPC member agency has prepared a sub-plan on behalf of the MEMPC.

Number	Checklist Requirement (Act section and/or <u>Guidelines</u> section)	Self-assessment	Evidence (include MEMP or MEMP sub-plan page number/s)
3.	To the extent possible, the MEMP or sub-plan does not conflict with or duplicate other plans in relation to emergency management that are currently in force within Australia (Section 60AC(c), <u>section 4</u>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See Section 3.1 <i>This Plan does not conflict with or duplicate other in-force emergency management plans that exist.</i>
4.	The MEMP or sub-plan is consistent with the State Emergency Management Plan and the relevant regional emergency management plan (Section 59D(b))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See Section 3.1 <i>This Plan supports holistic and coordinated emergency management arrangements within the region. It is consistent, contextualised and should be read in conjunction with the State Emergency Management Plan and Loddon Mallee Regional Emergency Management Plan.</i>
5.	The MEMP or sub-plan is consistent with the principles underlying the preparation of emergency management plans. Principles require that the plan is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepared in a collaborative manner, • prepared efficiently and effectively, • prepared in a manner that acknowledges and reflects the importance of community emergency management planning (Section 60AA(1), <u>sections 3.1 and 4.1</u>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Collaborative Working Group Workshops: 14 April, 9 May, 31 May, 30 June, 11 July, 17 July, 10 Oct, 24 Oct, 9 Oct, 16 Oct See Section 5.2 Community Planning and Resilience

Number	Checklist Requirement (Act section and/or Guidelines section)	Self-assessment	Evidence (include MEMP or MEMP sub-plan page number/s)
6.	<p>The MEMP or sub-plan is consistent with the principles underlying the contents of emergency management plans. Principles require that the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aims to reduce the likelihood of emergencies and the effect and consequences they have on communities; • ensures a comprehensive and integrated approach to emergency management; • promote community resilience in relation to emergencies; • and promote appropriate interoperability and integration of emergency management systems <p>(Section 60AA(2), Section 60ADB(1), <u>section 3.6.3</u>)</p>	☒	<p>See 1.7.3 Objectives for consistency with principles</p> <p>See Sections 5.2.3 Other community led treatments through agencies and Section 5.3 Community Planning and Resilience</p> <p>See Appendix I: Multi Agency Exercises</p>
7.	<p>The MEMP or sub-plan contains provisions for the mitigation of emergencies</p> <p>(Section 60AE(a), <u>section 3.2</u>)</p>	☒	<p>See Section 5</p> <p>Appendix C: Hazard Tables</p>
8.	<p>The MEMP or sub-plan contains provisions for the response to emergencies</p> <p>(Section 60AE(b), <u>sections 3.3, 3.6.2 and 3.6.3</u>)</p>	☒	<p>See Section 6</p>

Number	Checklist Requirement (Act section and/or <u>Guidelines</u> section)	Self-assessment	Evidence (include MEMP or MEMP sub-plan page number/s)
9.	The MEMP or sub-plan contains provisions for the recovery from emergencies (Section 60AE(c), <u>section 3.4</u>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See Section 7
10.	The MEMP or sub-plan specifies the roles and responsibilities of agencies in relation to emergency management (Section 60AE(d), <u>sections 3.3 and 3.5</u>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See Section 8 <i>The roles and responsibilities outlined in this plan are specific to the region and are in addition to, or variations on, what is outlined in the SEMP and/or the Loddon Mallee REMP. As such no additional Roles and Responsibilities have been identified.</i>
11.	The MEMPC consists of membership from required agencies (Section 59A)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See Section 3.2
12.	In the case of a MEMPC that has collaborated with other MEMPCs in preparing its own MEMP or sub-plan, the MEMPC has separately ensured that its own MEMP or sub-plan has been prepared in accordance with the Act and relevant guidelines issued under section 77 of the Act (Section 60ADB)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Writing Group involved with the development of the MEMP included agencies, as well as consultation with the community for input relating to the emergency management arrangements.

Number	Checklist Requirement (Act section and/or <u>Guidelines</u> section)	Self-assessment	Evidence (include MEMP or MEMP sub-plan page number/s)
13.	<p>In developing the MEMP or sub-plan, the following have been consulted and engaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any sector of the community the MEMPC considers appropriate - had regard to any relevant Community Emergency Management Plan - Any body, Department or other agency the MEMPC considers appropriate <p>(Section 60AFB(1), <u>sections 4.2 and 4.2.3</u>)</p>	☒	See Section 5.3 Community Planning and Resilience
<p>Plan has been prepared with regard to the following guidance in Ministerial guidelines issued under section 77 of the Act (Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans):</p>			
14.	<p>The MEMP or sub-plan provides a brief municipal level overview and environmental scan that explains the hazard profile and key considerations for emergency management arrangements across the key areas of mitigation, response and recovery.</p> <p>(<u>Section 3.6.2 and 3.6.3</u>)</p>	☒	See Section 2: Municipal District Characteristics
15.	<p>The MEMP or sub-plan identifies and plan for cross-agency/cross boundary/cross-border opportunities</p> <p>(<u>Section 3.6.2 and 3.6.3</u>)</p>	☒	See Section 6.7 Planning for cross boundary events and Section 6.8 Resource Sharing Protocols

Number	Checklist Requirement (Act section and/or <u>Guidelines</u> section)	Self-assessment	Evidence (include MEMP or MEMP sub-plan page number/s)
16.	An appropriate risk management process (consistent with Australian / New Zealand ISO 31000, such as the Community Emergency Risk Assessment) has been conducted by the MEMPC during the development of the MEMP or sub-plan. (Sections 3.2 and 4 (step 1))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See Section 4
17.	The MEMP or sub-plan assesses existing and future capability and capacity requirements for the municipality utilising the Victorian Preparedness Framework. Through this process the MEMP or sub-plan considers where emergency management capability would be drawn from that cannot be met from within the municipality and mechanisms to escalate requests for emergency management capacity. (Section 3.5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See section 5.3 Community Planning and Resilience
18.	Exercises have been undertaken during the planning life cycle to test the MEMP or sub-plan (Section 4 (step 5))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See Appendix I: Multi Agency Exercises
The MEMPC may provide the following optional evidence, for consideration by the REMPC as part of the approval process:			

Number	Checklist Requirement (Act section and/or <u>Guidelines</u> section)	Self-assessment	Evidence (include MEMP or MEMP sub-plan page number/s)
19.	Provide examples where the MEMP or sub-plan presents any innovative approaches to emergency management that could be shared across other MEMPCs and strengthen their capabilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See Section 5.3 Community Planning and Resilience and Section 8: Roles and Responsibilities – this section lists the community organisations that are involved in emergency management that are not listed within State and Regional Plans.
20.	Any additional comments for the REMPC relating to the MEMP	<i>At the MEMPCs discretion</i>	

Municipal Emergency Management Planning Statement of Assurance




Part 2: Certificate of Assurance for the Gannawarra Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Plan Preparer: Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

I certify that the attached Municipal Emergency Management Plan complies with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, including having regard to any relevant guidelines issued under section 77 of that Act, to the extent outlined in the attached checklist.

The last review of the plan was conducted on 29/02/2024

<p><i>(For MEMP and MEMP sub-plans)</i></p> <p>On behalf of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee:</p>  <p>Leigh Hollingworth Chair, Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee 6/05/2024</p>	<p><i>(For sub-plans only, if prepared by an agency on behalf of the MEMPC)</i></p> <p>Nominated representative of preparer:</p> <p>Insert signature here</p> <p>Name of nominated representative of preparer Title and agency Click or tap to enter a date.</p>
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