



**GANNAWARRA**  
*Shire Council*

## **Council Meeting**

# **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, 17 July 2024**

**6:00PM**

**Senior Citizens Centre**

**Koondrook**

**Order Of Business**

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, KOONDROOK  
ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2024 AT 6:00PM**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Cr Ross Stanton (Mayor)</b>	<b>Murray Ward</b>
<b>Cr Charlie Gillingham (Deputy Mayor)</b>	<b>Avoca Ward</b>
<b>Cr Jane Ogden</b>	<b>Patchell Ward</b>
<b>Cr Kelvin Burt</b>	<b>Patchell Ward</b>
<b>Cr Travis Collier</b>	<b>Patchell Ward</b>
<b>Cr Garner Smith</b>	<b>Yarran Ward</b>
<b>Cr Keith Link</b>	<b>Yarran Ward</b>

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **Chief Executive Officer  
Manager Governance**

**Gallery: 9**

**Media: 0**

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor read the Acknowledgment to Country.

**2 OPENING DECLARATION**

The Deputy Mayor read the Opening Declaration.

**3 APOLOGIES**

Nil

**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Travis Collier

**Seconded:** Cr Kelvin Burt

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 June 2024 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil

## **6 BRIEFING SESSIONS**

### **6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 5 JUNE 2024 TO 9 JULY 2024**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents to Council written records of Councillor Briefings in accordance with Clause 31 of the Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham**

**Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden**

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings 5 June 2024 to 9 July 2024.

**CARRIED**

## **7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **7.1 2024 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

Conducted by Local Government Victoria (LGV), this survey assesses the performance of councils across a range of measures and provides insight into the ways to provide improved or more efficient service delivery. The survey also provides councils with a means to fulfil some statutory reporting requirements for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

The report found that Council's overall performance has not changed from the 2023 survey, whilst improvements have occurred in categories relating to overall council direction, consultation and engagement and numerous Council service areas. However, responses relating to value for money, family support services, business/community development/tourism, informing the community and lobbying declined compared to the 2023 survey.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Garner Smith**

**Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden**

That Council note the results of the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey for Gannawarra Shire Council.

**CARRIED**

**7.2 GANNAWARRA SHIRE ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-2029****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

An Onsite Wastewater Management Plan forms part of Council's obligations to prevent public health risk and contamination of the environment from the disposal of domestic wastewater.

Council is required by legislation to have such a plan in place to manage risk relating to the disposal of wastewater and to approve and regulate any onsite wastewater management systems (septic tanks) that generate less than 5,000 litres per day.

Council first developed an Onsite Wastewater Management Plan for the Gannawarra Shire in 2007. This plan was reviewed in 2020, with a full review due in 2023.

An Onsite Wastewater Management Plan helps guide consistent decision making when Council's delegated officers are assessing applications to install or alter domestic wastewater systems. The plan also supports planning decisions to reduce or minimise future impacts from domestic wastewater.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham**

**Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt**

That Council adopt the Gannawarra Shire Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024-2029.

**CARRIED**

### **7.3 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHARTER**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) support Council in discharging its oversight responsibilities related to financial and performance reporting, risk management, fraud prevention systems and control, maintenance of a sound internal control environment, assurance activities including internal and external audit and Council's performance with regard to compliance with its policies and legislative and regulatory requirements.

The Committee is directly responsible to Council for discharging its responsibilities as set out in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (the Charter). The Charter is reviewed annually and presented to Council for adoption.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Garner Smith**

**Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham**

That Council adopt the Audit and Risk Committee Charter v6.

**CARRIED**

## **7.4 DRAFT GANNAWARRA RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council and a range of partner agencies have a long history of working with local Aboriginal communities on local issues. This relationship strengthened in 2013 with the establishment of the Kerang Elders and Leaders Group.

The Kerang Elders and Leaders Group currently includes membership of Aboriginal Elders and emerging leaders, Council, Mallee District Aboriginal Services, Northern District Community Health, Victoria Police, Kerang District Health and Cohuna District Hospital. Other agencies join discussions from time to time.

A Partnership Agreement, originally signed on 30 May 2016, further strengthened the partnership. The agreement was updated and re-signed on 27 May 2022, reaffirming the commitment of all partners to continued collaboration and in working together to develop a Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan.

The Council Plan 2021 – 2025 *Growing Gannawarra* has a priority action under its Strategic Priority 1: *Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our community through partnerships, services and programs* to develop and implement a Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan.

Reconciliation Action Plans are endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. The draft Innovate Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan as presented has received conditional endorsement from Reconciliation Australia.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Jane Ogden**

**Seconded: Cr Travis Collier**

That Council endorse the attached Draft Gannawarra Reconciliation Action Plan for community feedback from Thursday 18 July 2024 until Thursday 15 August 2024.

**CARRIED**

## **8 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

## **8 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**9 QUESTION TIME**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Thomas Chick</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Koondrook</b>
<b>QUESTION:</b>	
<p>Gannawarra Shire has experienced rapid population growth in recent years. Koondrook has had the highest percentage growth in the Shire. In addition, Koondrook is a popular visitor destination. Increased population brings many challenges and pressure on basic infrastructure. Drainage, Sewerage, Water, Power and Communications. An increasing ageing population will require health, mobility and transport services. What strategies and strategy priority are in place to meet Koondrook's current and future needs?</p>	
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
<p>The program is guided by a LDS Governance Handbook provided by DEECA who are the funding body. The handbook provides the framework for the project and sets out the roles for the key stakeholders including DEECA, the host agency (GSC), the project manager, the project steering committee, specific working groups and the community. We have a meeting Thursday with DEECA to work through next steps in the project.</p>	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Thomas Chick</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Koondrook</b>
<b>QUESTION:</b>	
<p>The Local Development Strategy Consultants were announced by media release yesterday 16/7/24. This is an opportunity for Koondrook to identify future needs and options and is expected to provide business cases and funding proposals toward town improvements and attracting investment. How will community consultation take place and what governance and oversight will there be to ensure that the processes are rigorous and transparent and that the Koondrook Community will be heard and listened to?</p>	
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
<p>Consultation with the community will be substantial and will occur across the 2 years of the project timeframe. Community consultation will be critical to the direction and focus of the LDS. The timber industry transition funding is supporting LDS projects in Orbost, Yarram, Heyfield and Noojee, some of these projects are nearing completion. Council will work closely with DEECA and the local community to get the best outcome for the Koondrook community.</p>	



<b>Name</b>	<b>Andrew Mick Hollingworth*</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Koondrook</b>
<p><b>QUESTION:</b></p> <p>I have noticed that the Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy has been revised and was wondering where does the Koondrook Pool fit into this revised plan. I understand that the pool is a community owned pool and receive financial support of \$17,000.00 from the council to which we appreciate but with the cost of running the pool becoming more expensive each year I am not sure how long this community and its volunteers can keep the pool going without extra support from the council, for example this year we have to repaint the pool at a cost of \$21,600.00 and I contacted the council for some kind of financial support towards this project but was told there was no extra money in the budget to help us. We don't have much here in Koondrook and certainly don't want to lose what we have.</p>	
<p><b>ANSWER:</b></p> <p>The recent revision of the Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy focused on adjusting the timing of projects linked to Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools which Council operates. There has been no change to Council's commitment to Koondrook pool as outlined in the strategy which includes supporting the Koondrook Pool committee with compliance related requirements of operating a public swimming pool, and provision of annual funding as per Council's annual budget. Council understands that many community groups are struggling operating community facilities, particularly those that are under a Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) committee arrangement, and commit to contacting DEECA and advocating for additional support for community Committees of Management.</p>	

## 10 DELEGATES REPORTS

### 12.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

<b>COUNCILLOR COMMITTEES 2024</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR</b>
Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC)	Cr Ross Stanton, Mayor
Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils	Cr Ross Stanton, Mayor
Community Halls Community Asset Committee	Cr Kelvin Burt
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Cr Travis Collier
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC)	Cr Keith Link
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)	Cr Keith Link
Transport Committee Role including Rail Freight Alliance and Road Transport	Cr Keith Link
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)	Cr Jane Ogden
Audit and Risk Committee (x 2)	Cr Charlie Gillingham Cr Garner Smith
Rural Councils Victoria	Cr Garner Smith
Timber Towns Victoria	Cr Garner Smith

## 11 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

**The Meeting closed at 6.48pm.**

**The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 17 July 2024.**

**Mayor Ross Stanton**  
**CHAIRPERSON**