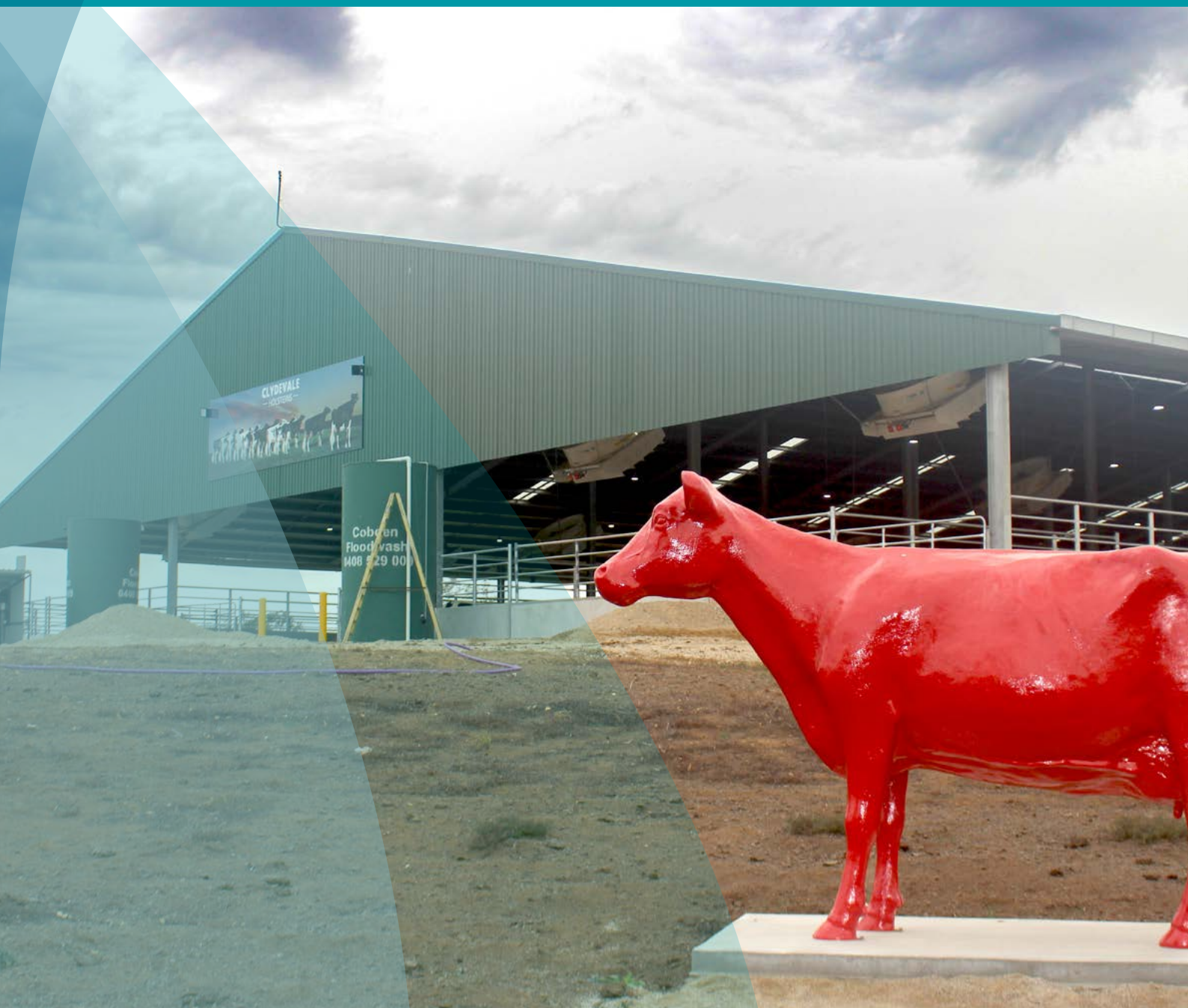


Connecting Gannawarra

MACORNA/TRAGOWEL & DISTRICT

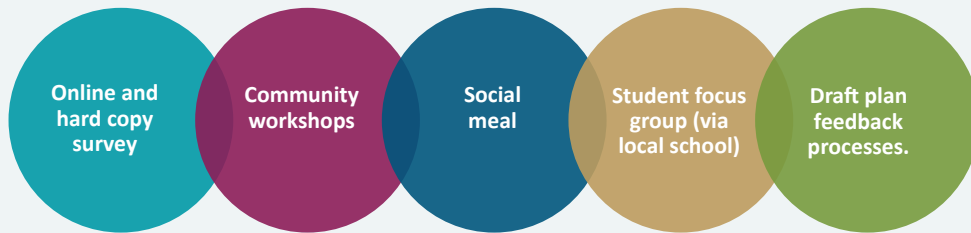
COMMUNITY PLAN
2024 – 2029



Macorna/Tragowel & District Community Plan

The Macorna/Tragowel & District Community Plan 2024-2029 sets out the community's vision for the next six years. Developed and owned by the community, the plan captures the community's voice for what is most important for them.

Community planning commenced in January 2023 and was completed in September 2023. Community members in and around Macorna/Tragowel and district were invited to share their input into the planning process via a variety of methods:



The Macorna/Tragowel & District Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government). This project was delivered with funding from the Agriculture-Dependent Community Resilience Project.

Our Vision

In 2029 Macorna/Tragowel & District will LOOK LIKE, FEEL LIKE and HAVE:

- A connected, healthy, supportive and welcoming community
- A growing population
- Thoughtful development
- Thriving agriculture
- Great sporting and community facilities

Building On Past Work

The Macorna/Tragowel & District Community Plan also builds on previous community planning and community consultation efforts.

The previous planning work has been reviewed and embedded into the 2024-2029 Community Plan (where relevant).

The community had achieved a number of goals:



➤ Tragowel Hall restoration works



➤ Community Activation and Social Isolation funding for the Macorna Football Netball Club

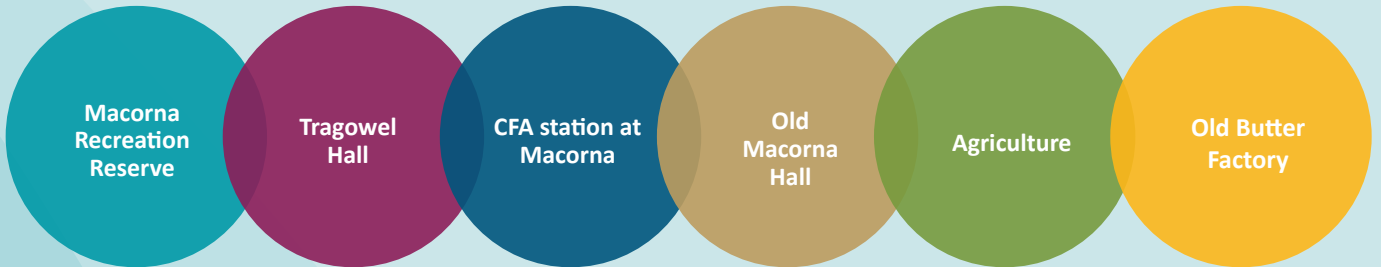
Recent consultation has identified additional opportunities which have been added to the local community plan. The community plan is a shared common format across all communities that connects with the Gannawarra Shire Council, Council Plan strategic themes.



Our District

Macorna is located 22 km south-east of Kerang, 108 km north of Bendigo and 259 km from Melbourne.
Tragowel is located 15km south of Kerang, 114 km from Bendigo and 267 km from Melbourne.

KEY COMMUNITY ASSETS OF NOTE [BUILT AND NATURAL] INCLUDE THE:



The community groups and organisations, sporting clubs and social activities also greatly enrich the community.



Macorna/Tragowel District

KEY STATS & FACTS - 2021



Macorna
Population
67

Male **58.6%**
Female **41.4%**



Macorna
Age

Median age in Macorna: **52 years** (VIC 38 years)
No further Quickstats data available



Tragowel
Population
83

Male **53.2%**
Female **46.8%**



Tragowel
Age

Median age in Tragowel: **48 years** (VIC 38 years)
No further Quickstats data available

Community Consultation

Residents living in Macorna/Tragowel & District were invited to share their thoughts on the strengths, challenges and opportunities for their community.

A range of strategies were selected from to ensure as many community members as possible could inform the development of the Macorna/Tragowel & District Community Plan. Strategies included: an online and hard copy survey, community workshop and attendance at a community social meal.

The following broad community engagement was achieved:

- 23 people filled in a survey
- 29 key stakeholders and community members attended community workshops
- 9 people attended a social meal

Overall, a total of 61 people shared their thoughts, ideas and dreams for the future of Macorna/Tragowel & District.



In Macorna/Tragowel & District We Love.....

The top four things survey respondents liked about their community were:



Residents who attended the community workshop and social meal shared that they really liked that Macorna/Tragowel & District had:

- › Friendly people
- › Community support
- › The Macorna Football Netball Club
- › Peace and quiet
- › Open space
- › Safe place to live
- › Good neighbours
- › The social events and functions
- › Walking areas
- › Bird life and nature
- › Playground at Recreation Reserve



Key Issues/Challenges

The most important issues/challenges that survey respondents shared were:

“Loss of neighbours. Farmers buying out neighbours which means there are less people in our community. Less people means less volunteers for our community.”

“We need people to move here.”

“The blocks are here but you can’t build on them unless they are 100 acres.”

Additionally, residents who attended the community workshop and social meal shared a range of challenges/issues/threats:



› Roads



› Poor mobile phone and internet service



› Population decline



› Ageing population



› Lack of housing



› Access to health services



› Lack of farming workers



› A shortage of young people in rural areas



› Water quality and pressure in Macorna



› Lack of volunteers



› Support for older residents



› Flooding



› Managing community infrastructure



› Loss of water/water leaving the district



› Dealing with bureaucracy and planning red tape

A complete summary of findings from the community consultation processes can be found in the Macorna/Tragowel & District Consultation Summary Report.

Our Key Priorities

Gannawarra Shire Council's 2021 - 2025 Council Plan is guided by the following Strategic Statement:

“The Gannawarra will be renowned as an Australian destination and home of choice for its liveability and unique opportunities in innovative agriculture, renewable energy and nature-based tourism.

We focus on inclusive services and assets that enhance the health and wellbeing, cultural heritage, connectivity and productivity of our communities.”

The achievement of which will be achieved through action on three goals.

Goal 1. Liveability



Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

Goal 2. Growth



Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy.

Goal 3. Sustainability



Achieve long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

The Macorna/Tragowel and District Community Plan is couched within these goals of Liveability, Growth and Sustainability. In this way the Macorna/Tragowel & District Community Plan both aligns with and extends Council's strategic focus.

Goal 1. Liveability

Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

MACORNA/TRAGOWEL & DISTRICTS' STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

1: TOWN BEAUTIFICATION AND SIGNAGE

1. Beautify the town entrances to Macorna and Tragowel.
2. Improve road signage to Macorna and Tragowel, especially from highways.
3. Develop a billboard to feature signage that lists key events.

2: ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Upgrade and maintain the Macorna Recreation Reserve facilities (extra change room, resurfacing netball courts, new roof and upgrade of function room).
2. Maintain the Tragowel Hall, a key community asset.
3. Improve town water pressure in Macorna.
4. Update town water supply for Tragowel.
5. Continue to work with Council to strengthen support and lessen community costs for maintaining and updating ageing community infrastructure.

3: A HEALTHY, CONNECTED AND SERVICED COMMUNITY

1. Offer events, activities and programs that strengthen social connections.
2. Advocate for adequate GP, emergency care and health and wellbeing and aged care service access.

4: STRENGTHEN VOLUNTEERING

1. Attract new and younger volunteers.
2. Increase awareness of grant funding opportunities and support volunteers with accessing grants.
3. Seek advocacy support from Council to support volunteer sustainability.

5: PROMOTE AND CELEBRATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

1. Explore the development of a heritage walk at Macorna.
2. Develop history plaques for key places to share history and heritage information for Macorna and Tragowel.
3. Develop history boards for Macorna and Tragowel.
4. Update the Tragowel History Book.

Goal 2. Growth

Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy.

MACORNA/TRAGOWEL & DISTRICTS' STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

1: POPULATION STABILITY/GROWTH

1. Advocate for zoning changes to increase the availability of housing blocks.
2. Work together with Gannawarra Shire Council to increase available housing in Macorna/Tragowel & District.
3. Promote the liveability of Macorna/Tragowel & District.

2: A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT

1. Develop a caravan/RV free camp at the Tragowel Hall.
2. Enhance and promote history and heritage tourism in Macorna/Tragowel & District.
3. Explore and grow on-farm tourism opportunities.

3: A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY

1. Support, encourage and develop the agricultural sector.
2. Improve and maintain roads so that they safely support residents, visitors and agriculture needs and equipment.
3. Explore ways to attract more farming workers to the area.
4. Explore ways to diversify and maximise agriculture with lower water use.
5. Attract local business and industry that would offer more employment in the area.
6. Advocate for improved mobile and internet services.
7. Support existing and new events that strengthen social connections and build economic development.

Goal 3. Sustainability

Achieve long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

MACORNA/TRAGOWEL & DISTRICTS' STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

1: PROTECT, ENHANCE AND IMPROVE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Join the Loddon Plains Landcare Network.
2. Increase planting of trees.
3. Manage weeds and slash long grass on vacant blocks and road sides.

2: PREPARE AND RESPOND TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

1. Undertake local level flood planning.

Putting Our Plan Into Action

Implementation of the Macorna/Tragowel & District Community Plan will be led by the Tragowel Progress Association Inc. and the Macorna Recreation Reserve Committee in partnership with Gannawarra Shire Council.

Relevant key community stakeholders will be invited to inform projects and activities and work together on shared priorities. Yearly progress updates on community priorities and activities will be provided to the wider community.

If you would like to get involved contact: Vicki Wilkinson on 0457 807 777.

