

# GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



**GANNAWARRA**  
*Shire Council*

November-December 2022

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## FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to congratulate the community for their efforts during the recent flood emergency. The way we have united to help protect our communities and support each other has been inspiring to watch.

Please remember that the recovery process can take time, and that help is available. Our floods website - [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods) - has some great resources and contacts.

Finally, with this being the last edition of *Gannawarra Connect* for 2022, I hope all residents have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been a busy 12 months, so I hope you and your family take the time to relax, reflect and look forward to what should be a prosperous year.

Regards,

**Mayor Charlie Gillingham**



## A SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Residents are encouraged to play their role in improving the recycling of household glass bottles.

As part of the State Government's Kerbside Reform program, residents are encouraged to take their household glass bottles to any of Council's transfer stations at Cohuna, Kerang, Lalbert and Quambatook for recycling.

This process will not only increase the amount of glass recycled and turned into new products such as roads and construction material, it will reduce instances where contents from yellow household recycling bins are redirected to landfill due to broken glass materials.

For more information regarding Council's waste services, including transfer station locations and how to sign up for green waste services for households in Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WHAT'S ON

3 DECEMBER

Murrabit Country Market

10 DECEMBER

Kerang Community Market

18 DECEMBER

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

26 DECEMBER

Kerang Turf Club Boxing Day meet

31 DECEMBER

New Year's Eve celebrations

7 JANUARY

Murrabit Country Market

22 JANUARY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

26 JANUARY

Australia Day celebrations, shirewide

28 JANUARY

Kerang Community Market

EVERY SATURDAY

Kerang and Cohuna parkruns

EVERY SATURDAY

Grow Collective Community Garden, Kerang

Event details can be found at

[www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

To add your event to Council's

calendar of events, visit

[www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

NOTE: Event details were

correct at time of publishing

## KEEP COOL AT COUNCIL'S POOLS

The Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools are a great place to keep cool during our warmer months.

Both venues will be open daily between 3pm and 7pm until Wednesday, 30 November, with opening hours extended to between 10am and 8pm from Thursday, 1 December.

Operating hours may also be extended on days of extreme heat, with changes promoted via Council's Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/gannawarra](http://www.facebook.com/gannawarra)

Please note that Council's outdoor pools will be closed on days the Bureau of Meteorology website's forecast temperature for either town is 23 degrees Celsius or below.

For more information, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools)



## IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

### DECEMBER 2022

Wednesday, 7 December

Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 21 December

Cohuna  
(10.30am – 12 noon)  
Kerang  
(4pm – 5.30pm)

### JANUARY 2023

Wednesday, 5 January

Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 19 January

Cohuna  
(10.30am – 12 noon)  
Kerang  
(4pm – 5.30pm)

**NOTE: Bookings must be made prior to attending any of Council's immunisation sessions, which can be done by phoning (03) 5450 9333.**

**It is encouraged that only one parent/guardian attend with the child to be vaccinated. Anyone showing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or those who are in isolation, should not attend.**

*Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba people as the traditional Owners of the land now known as Gannawarra.*

*We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their rich culture and connection to Country.*



## FAMILY FUN AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

There is something on offer for everyone at your local Gannawarra Library Service leading into Christmas:

### Big Summer Read - 1 December 2022-31 January 2023

The Big Summer Read program is returning to Gannawarra Library Service branches this summer. This year the program is open to ages 0-18 years, allowing pre-readers and youth to participate. Share, read and listen to stories this summer to go into the draw for some fantastic prizes.

### Christmas Story Time

One of the highlights of Gannawarra Library Service's annual program, the popular Christmas Story Time sessions will be held at the Cohuna Library on Tuesday, 13 December at 10.30am and Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library on Thursday, 15 December from 10.30am.



For more details regarding these events, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/libraries](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/libraries) or like the Gannawarra Library Service Facebook page.

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL ITEMS

Council regularly seeks your input regarding strategies, documents, designs or community issues.



You can keep up to date with what we would like to hear from you about by visiting our Have Your Say page, located at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay)

This page features details regarding current matters Council is seeking community feedback regarding, as well as previous matters that have included a community engagement process.

## BEAT THE BITE THIS SUMMER

Recent flooding has created ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes.



You can protect yourself from being bitten by limiting outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, wearing long, loose fitting clothes, and applying a mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET to exposed skin when outdoors. Removing stagnant water and keeping the area around homes well maintained can also reduce mosquito breeding sites.

For more information, visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite)

## Gannawarra for All



NDIS – It's your choice!

Dedicated to providing locals with a quality service by certified and experienced staff.

Let us help you to achieve your goals, we can support you with:

- Personal Care
- Home Care
- Property Maintenance
- Community Access and more...



CONTACT DETAILS:

Community Care Department: 5450 9333  
E: [communitycare@gannawarra.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitycare@gannawarra.vic.gov.au)

# FLOOD SUPPORT

The Gannawarra community has been impacted by the floods in different ways, and each community and its individual members will need different support in the coming days, weeks and months. For the latest information, including flood warnings, road and waterway closures and support available, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)

## Thank you

Thank you to community members, volunteers, emergency services, local businesses and organisations, and Council staff for their continuing hard work and efforts during the current flood events. It has been heartwarming to see communities unite as we endure the flood emergency impacting the Gannawarra.

Our thoughts are with those who have suffered losses during these devastating floods.

## Flood Recovery Hotline

Call the Victorian Government Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 for the latest information on help or assistance with:

- Navigating available supports
- Clean-up
- Temporary accommodation
- Mental health and wellbeing support

The recovery hotline is open from 7.30am - 7.30pm every day. Need an interpreter? Call the hotline on 1800 560 760 and press 9.

The list of help available is at [www.vic.gov.au/2022-flood-recovery](http://www.vic.gov.au/2022-flood-recovery)

## Stay informed

- VicEmergency App and website [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)
- VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226
- [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)
- [www.facebook.com/gannawarra](https://www.facebook.com/gannawarra)
- [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)
- Local radio and newspapers

## Impacted by the Floods?

- Water has gone through your residence or property
- Water is or has surrounded your property, leading to isolation
- Needed to evacuate, or have chosen to evacuate
- Your business has closed
- Your agricultural business has been impacted

If you have been impacted by one of the ways listed above or require assistance from Council for a similar situation, please register your details by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or call Council on 03 5450 9333.



## Personal Health and Wellbeing

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. There is always help available through:

- Your local doctor
- Nurse-on-Call: 1300 60 60 24
- Northern District Community Health: 03 5451 0200
- Lifeline: 131 114
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- MensLine: 1300 789 978
- Kid's Help Line: 1800 55 1800
- Parent Line: 13 22 89

**If you need assistance due to flooding, phone VICSES on 132 500. If you are in immediate danger, please call 000.**

## Support Available

### Financial Assistance and Grants

The Victorian and Australian governments are providing financial support for people, businesses and farmers affected by the floods including;

- Relief Assistance Payment
- Re-establishment Assistance
- Disaster Recovery Allowance
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment
- Small Business Immediate Flood Relief Program
- Primary Producer Recovery Grants
- Primary Producer Concessional Loans
- Primary Producer Transport Subsidies
- Rural Landholder Grant
- Business and Community Sport Flood Recovery Grant

For more information please visit [www.vic.gov.au/2022-flood-recovery](http://www.vic.gov.au/2022-flood-recovery)

### Financial Counselling and Advice

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) provides free financial counselling to farmers, fishing enterprises, forestry growers and harvesters, and small related businesses experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship. More information is available at [www.wswrcs.com.au](http://www.wswrcs.com.au) or by calling 1800 260 425.

If you require assistance relating to insurance, please call the Insurance Council Australia's disaster hotline on 1800 734 621.

## Community Relief Hubs

Community Relief Hubs are operating from the Sir John Gorton Library, Kerang between 10am - 2pm daily and Council's Customer Service Centre, Cohuna between 10am - 4pm weekdays.

These hubs offer information regarding support and services available as well as Wi-Fi, computer and printing facilities. If you cannot access the Relief Hub you can call 03 5450 9333 for more information.

## Support for Farmers

A support package is available for flood-affected farmers. Please see the Financial Assistance and Grants section or visit [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au)

### Animal Welfare and Landholder

Agriculture Victoria is assisting rural landholders with agricultural relief needs, with a priority on addressing urgent animal welfare issues.

Affected landholders can call 1800 226 226 for:

- Urgent animal welfare needs including assessment of injured animals and destruction
- Livestock management information e.g., emergency access to saleyards
- Technical information on pasture re-establishment, pest animal or plant control
- Information on assistance available and access to personal support and other services.

**For information on what to do during and after a flood event including checking hazards, animal welfare, asset recovery and navigating supports, please visit [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods)**

## Clean Up and Recovery

The Victorian Government has announced a coordinated clean-up program for the hardest hit areas of the floods. The clean-up program will assess damage to structures and provide detailed assessment reports. For further information and to check eligibility, call the Victorian Government clean-up register on 1800 560 760.

As communities move into recovery, Emergency Recovery Victoria will be supporting communities to develop local and municipal recovery plans.

Members of the community wanting to have a structural assessment of their property can register via the Emergency Recovery Victoria website at [www.vic.gov.au/register-structural-assessment-october-2022-floods](http://www.vic.gov.au/register-structural-assessment-october-2022-floods)

**When returning to your home after a flood, protect yourself and your family from possible injury, illness or disease. For information and checklists please visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)**

*NOTE: Information was correct at time of printing. For the latest information regarding support available, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)*

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## KERANGLINK UPDATE

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and TransGrid is assessing feedback received during recent community engagement regarding the Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR) for the Victoria – New South Wales Interconnector (VNI) West project - also known as KerangLink.

This proposed high capacity 500 kilovolt transmission line will provide a link between a new terminal station at Ballarat end EnergyConnect's transmission line and substation at Dinawan, New South Wales, passing through the Gannawarra Shire.

The transmission line will allow electricity to be shared between Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia from a range of resources, including wind, hydro and solar - including currently active and proposed renewable energy projects in the Gannawarra.

VNI West is one of five actionable projects in the 2022 Integrated System Plan (ISP), developed by AEMO with industry in its role as the national transmission planner to support Australia's transition to a net-zero emissions power system and economy.

Feedback regarding the project is still being accepted, with the team looking forward to an open and ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders. AEMO will continue to provide updates as they move through this program and welcome your thoughts via their stakeholder engagement activities and contact points.

For more information, email [VNIWestRITT@aemo.com.au](mailto:VNIWestRITT@aemo.com.au) or phone 1800 845 044.



## MARKETING THE GANNAWARRA TO THE REGION

Council's Economic Development team is responsible in implementing an annual marketing plan that encourages further economic diversity and visitation across the Gannawarra.

As part of this plan, a television advertisement highlighting the Gannawarra's attractions has been broadcast on WIN TV. To view the advertisement, please visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp1Vqy7Nni4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp1Vqy7Nni4)

The marketing plan also includes regular advertisements in newspapers and publications across the region, monthly mailouts to more than 1,200 contacts, @thegannawarra Instagram page, radio broadcasts, a social media presence and direct contacts with a range of businesses with a focus on agriculture and hospitality.

## VHM MINERAL SANDS PROJECT UPDATE

Community engagement regarding VHM Limited's Mineral Sands project at Goschen continues, with information sessions held regularly throughout the Gannawarra.

To be located near Lalbert, the project - which is forecast to create 200 jobs during construction and 270 jobs once production begins - involves extracting and processing rare earth materials on-site before being containerised for export.

There is significant international demand for rare earths, with the material used in the development of smartphones, LED lights, televisions, electric vehicles, paints, ceramics, wind turbines, pharmaceuticals, medical and military hardware.

If you have any questions regarding this project, visit [www.vhmltd.com.au](http://www.vhmltd.com.au) or contact VHM Limited Community and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Vesna Rendulic on 0429 462 524.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## GANNAWARRA JOBS BOOM PREDICTED

The Gannawarra’s economy continues to diversify, with various employment options available now or forecast for the coming years.

Below is a table outlining what projects are occurring or proposed, as well as the number of jobs forecast:

Project	Direct jobs	Forecast opening
VHM Limited - Lalbert	270	2024
ECS Botanics medicinal cannabis – Murrabit (pictured)	30	Operating
Peace Family Wines - Kangaroo Lake	10	Operating
Spring Ranch Organic Eggs - Beauchamp	10	Operating
Riverina Poultry - Kerang East	5	Property and permit secured
Agriculture - various	10	Ongoing growth
Industrial - various	50	13 lots sold and building commenced
Western Plains Pork Piggery - Kerang east	2-5	Proposed to open 2023
Hospitality/Accommodation	5	Operating
	10	Commenced and in the planning phase
Construction - various	25	Various roles linked to new projects, including residential
Energy - various	25	Permanent positions in wind, solar and micro grid developments
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>452-455</b>	

The number of jobs forecast to be created during the construction phases of local projects will also be significant:

Project	Jobs	Description
Energy projects	120-150 jobs per project, equalling 1,050 in total	250 wind turbines, 5 solar farms and battery – construction to start in 2023
KerangLink	800 jobs annually for 3 years	Approved by AEMO and State and Federal Governments
Renewable Energy Zone upgrades	50 jobs	Works commencing in 2023 on upgrades to the Kerang-Mildura transmission line
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1900</b>	

## RESIDENTIAL GROWTH CONTINUES

The emerging jobs growth within the Gannawarra is forecast to put additional pressure on the residential housing market.

Council’s Economic Development staff are facilitating new residential opportunities by introducing developers to local landowners.

These discussions have led to the following projects and proposals:

- A large residential project, capable of hosting around 250 lots, has been proposed for Cohuna. This would be a staged development and subject to rezoning and permit approvals.
- Staff are facilitating several potential residential projects for Kerang. One company, which specialises in housing developments to support large mining projects, has advised Council’s Economic Development team it has the capacity to construct around 50 houses for rental and sale. A second company is looking at potential greenfield sites in Kerang to support further residential activity.
- There is also opportunity for caravan parks to consider installing additional cabins on-site to cater for demands in the mining and energy sectors. Government funding programs are also being explored to support these options.

Residents interested in accommodation or wanting to learn more are encouraged to contact Council’s Economic Development team on (03) 5450 9333.

# COUNCIL INFORMATION

## YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



**Cr Charlie Gillingham**  
(Mayor)  
0457 719 874  
[charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au)



## MURRAY WARD



**Cr Ross Stanton**  
0417 515 769  
[ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## PATCHELL WARD



**Cr Kelvin Burt**  
0407 319 414  
[kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Travis Collier**  
0433 269 577  
[travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Jane Ogden**  
(Deputy Mayor)  
0476 786 051  
[jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## YARRAN WARD



**Cr Keith Link**  
0427 564 138  
[keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Garner Smith**  
0418 871 054  
[garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **December 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 21 December at 10am.

Meetings are held at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre, located at 169 Boundary Street, Kerang, with a recording available to view 24 hours after the meeting at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings). Changes to meeting details and times will be promoted via *Gannawarra News* and Council's Facebook page.

Agendas for Meetings of Council are available online at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings) two days prior to each meeting.

If you have any questions about Council or would like to lodge a request, please refer to the *Contacting Council* section of this newsletter.

## CONTACTING COUNCIL

### IN PERSON

**Cohuna Customer Service Centre**  
21-23 King Edward Street  
**Kerang Customer Service Centre**  
47 Victoria Street

### BY PHONE

(03) 5450 9333 during business hours

### BY EMAIL

[council@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@gsc.vic.gov.au)

### BY MAIL

PO Box 287  
Kerang VIC 3579

### ONLINE

Lodge a request at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook** – [www.facebook.com/gannawarra](http://www.facebook.com/gannawarra)

**Twitter** – [www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire](http://www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire)