

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

September-October 2022

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FROM THE MAYOR

It has been great to see the community embrace the resumption of traditional events held in the Gannawarra during winter.

I encourage residents to continue this support during the coming months, with some of the area's major events to occur between now and the end of the year.

These events not only benefit the groups organising these celebrations, but provide economic support for local businesses - which is important at this time as we continue our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please do not forget you can promote your event on Council's website. For more information regarding how you can submit your event details, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

Regards,

Mayor Charlie Gillingham



2022/23 RATES NOTICES TO BE DISTRIBUTED

Ratepayers will soon receive their rates notices for 2022/23 in the mail or by email.

Distributed each year, rates notices will also include a brochure outlining how rates are calculated and a message about how your rates contribute to the Council budget.

Ratepayers may choose to pay their rates in full, with payment due by 15 February 2023. The most popular option is by instalments, with the first instalment payment due by 30 September 2022.

Ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact Council early to request a payment plan.



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

3 SEPTEMBER
Murrabit Country Market

12 SEPTEMBER
Creative Gannawarra Art
Salon, Cohuna

14 SEPTEMBER
*The Alphabet of Awesome
Science*, Kerang

24 SEPTEMBER
Kerang Community Market

25 SEPTEMBER
Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

1 OCTOBER
Murrabit Country Market

22 OCTOBER
Kerang Community Market

23 OCTOBER
Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

30 OCTOBER
Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

5 NOVEMBER
Murrabit Country 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

To add your event to Council's
calendar of events, visit
www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

GET TO KNOW THE ALPHABET OF AWESOME SCIENCE

Families will enjoy an evening of science fun when *The Alphabet of Awesome Science* comes to the Kerang Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 14 September.



Join professors Lexi Con and Noel Edge (the Word Nerd and the Science Freak) for a thrilling voyage through the alphabet — where sesquipedalian words inspire mind-blowing scientific surprises! It's a tongue-twisting race from A to Z that's equal parts explosive, messy, hilarious, fascinating and gross.

For more information and how to purchase tickets, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CreativeGannawarra or follow Creative Gannawarra on Facebook.

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

SEPTEMBER 2022

Wednesday, 7 September
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 21 September
Cohuna
(10.30am – 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm – 5.30pm)

OCTOBER 2022

Wednesday, 5 October
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 19 October
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.



COMMUNITY NEWS



NATIONAL AWARDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Have you voted yet for the 2022 National Awards for Local Government?

Fifteen Gannawarra Shire Council initiatives are in the running to take out eight of the 11 award categories, which recognise outstanding projects and activities completed by local governments nationally.

Projects and initiatives in the running for the awards include Cohuna Beach, Koondrook Retreat, the Drought Communities Program and Council's NDIS services.

To vote, visit <https://nalg.awardsplatform.com/>, register an account and select which project should win an award in each of the 11 categories.

Voting closes 11.59pm Wednesday, 14 September, with award winners announced in October.

KEEPING ACTIVE WITH YOUR PETS

With the weather warming up, residents are encouraged to adhere to rules in place when walking their dogs.

It is the animal owner's responsibility to ensure dogs are on a leash and are controlled at all times.

Dogs must be kept on a leash at all recreation reserves when a sporting fixture is taking place, at playgrounds and parks where children's play equipment is installed, and at the following parks:

- Apex Park, Garden Park and Gilruple Park at Cohuna.
- Atkinson Park at Kerang.
- Gorton Point at Kangaroo Lake.

Dogs can be walked off leash on private property, at recreation reserves when a sporting fixture is not taking place and parks not listed in *Council Policy 68 - Dogs and Cats*.

Dogs off leash in approved areas must be under effective voice control, meaning you must be able to control your dog by the second call.

DOES YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REQUIRE A BUILDING PERMIT?

September and October are traditionally the ideal time to complete any home improvement project, especially those put off due to winter.

Please remember that many improvements - including erecting a shed, adding a car port or restumping your home - do require a Building Permit before work can proceed.

If you have any questions whether your project requires a permit, please contact Council on (03) 5450 9333.



THANKING OUR VALUABLE CARERS

Celebrations will occur across Australia during National Carers Week, occurring from 16-22 October.

This year's theme is *Millions of Reasons to Care*, which aims to bring attention to the 2.65 million carers across Australia who provide outstanding care and support to their loved ones.

Locally, Council is partnering with Kerang District Health and Carers Support Services in hosting a free luncheon at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre on Monday, 17 October from 12 noon. To RSVP, phone (03) 5450 9333 before 1pm Wednesday, 12 October.

Council also supports local carers via a Carers Support Group. Run in partnership with Kerang District Health, this group enables carers to meet, make new friends and share in the caring journey in a safe and confidential environment.

Carers Support Group meetings are held from 10am on the second Tuesday of each month at the Kerang Lion Club Den (45 Park Road, Kerang).

For more information regarding the Carers Support Group or the National Carers Week luncheon, please contact Council's Community Care team on (03) 5450 9333.

LEARNER DRIVER PROGRAMS MENTORS NEEDED

Mentors are urgently required for Council's L2P Driver Mentor Program, which helps learner drivers aged between 16 and 20 years gain the necessary 120 hours of driving experience to obtain a probationary licence.



Mentors need to be over 21 years of age and hold a current full Victorian driver's licence. Mentors will also need to undertake a Working With Children Check, a Police Check and a VicRoads Driver History Report, with all costs associated with these checks met by the program.

To apply to be a mentor, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/L2P or phone Council on (03) 5450 9333.

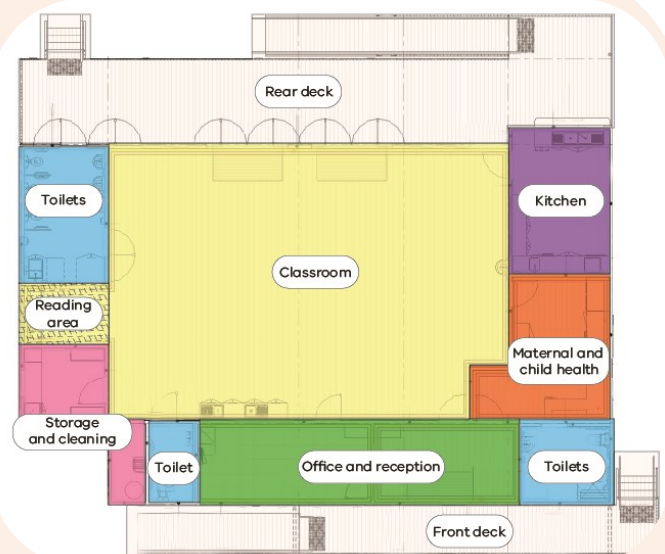
KOONDROOK PRESCHOOL'S NEW HOME

Council is partnering with the State Government to build a new home for the Koondrook Preschool.

To be located at Koondrook Primary School next to Punt

Road and the northwestern end of the school's oval, the new building will cater for 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten programs from 2023.

The modular building will also feature its own administration facilities, an area for Maternal and Child Health services and a dedicated outdoor learning area.



PROJECTS UPDATE

THE GLASSHOUSE @ THE GANNAWARRA

Residents are encouraged to have their say on the concept design of *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra*.

To be located within the Sir John Gorton Library, *The Glasshouse @*



The Gannawarra will feature a dedicated media lab and fully accessible, contemporary meeting spaces that will provide flexibility and creativity for new and emerging library and community programs.

To view the proposed designs and to have your say, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Glasshouse.

The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra is supported by \$1.5 million from the State Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program 2021 - Major Works program.

CHANGING PLACES FACILITY

The Gannawarra's first Changing Places facility is now open.

Located at the Atkinson Park toilets, the facility features a height-adjustable adult-sized change table, ceiling track hoist system and a peninsular-structured toilet.

One of more than 200 Changing Places facilities located nationally and the first to be constructed in northwestern Victoria, the space provides suitable facilities for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

Construction of the Kerang Changing Places Facility, as well as the Kerang All Abilities Play Space, was supported by a \$1 million contribution from the State Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT - STAGE 3 CONCEPT DESIGN FEEDBACK

Thank you to all who provided feedback regarding the concept design for the Kerang CBD Redevelopment - Stage 3.

The \$2.136 million project, fully funded thanks to the third round of the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, will build on improvements completed to improve Kerang's central business district.

Proposed improvements include:

- The remodelling of kerbing along the eastern section of Victoria Street, Kerang between Scoresby Street and Victoria Square. These works, which will reduce the footpath's steep variant, will provide easier access for shoppers accessing businesses along this section of road;
- Replacing existing paved surfaces along Victoria Street to tie this area in with recently completed improvements along Scoresby Street;
- Installing new street furniture and trees;
- Creating new outdoor dining areas for hospitality businesses; and
- Improving lighting and landscaping around the Karlie McDonald memorial clock.

All feedback received during the community engagement period, which occurred in early August, will assist with developing plans further prior to tendering for construction of the project.

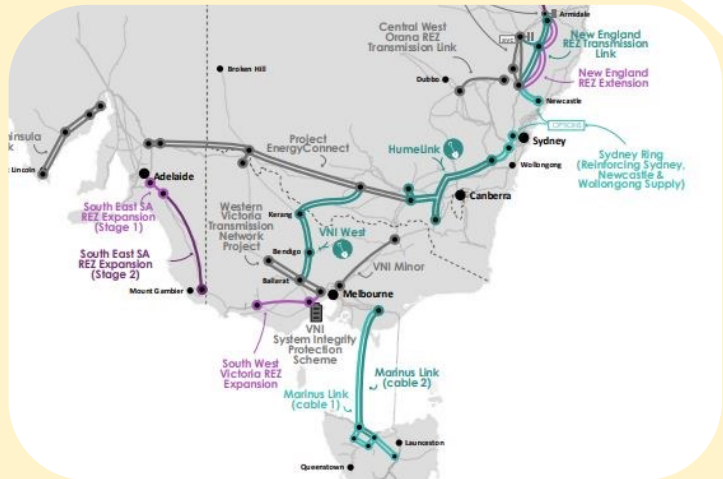
For more information, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KERANGLINK READY TO PROCEED

Transgrid and AEMO (Australian Energy Market Operator) recently published the Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR) for the Victoria – New South Wales Interconnector (VNI) West project - also known as KerangLink.

The report is part of the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) process which is to identify the transmission investment option which maximises net economic benefits and, to assess the technical and economic viability of expanding interconnector capacity between Victoria and New South Wales. The interconnector will address current network limitations, in accordance with the National electricity Rules (NER).



The PADR identifies that VNI West is the preferred option for a major upgrade of the transmission network, which will help facilitate the energy transition at lowest cost for consumers.

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.

“Our investigations with AEMO have determined the option would provide the best outcome for energy consumers, with net market benefits of \$687 million,” Transgrid Chief Executive Officer, Brett Redman said.

“We are leaning into the acceleration of the energy transition to ensure we keep the lights on, drive down wholesale electricity prices and reduce emissions.”

The new transmission networks will allow a range of wind, solar, battery and hydro projects to be connected and shared across the various States. This will greatly increase the capacity to share generation and will provide more flexibility to the network. These infrastructure works proposed in north west Victoria will form a critical part of the National Electricity Market, being the first major upgrade to the transmission network since the original transmission network was constructed in the 1960s.

VNI West will continue to progress through regulatory assessment (RIT-T), which is expected to be completed by early 2023. All stakeholders, including community members, are encouraged to provide written submissions on the PADR, including comments on the inputs, analysis, and preferred option presented within the report.

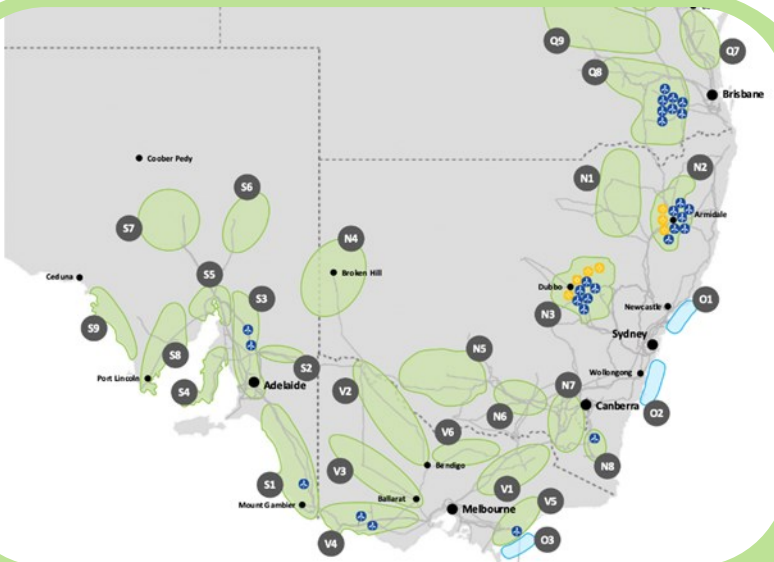
AEMO and Transgrid is undertaking a range of consultations, focusing on the rationale of the project, and to ensure that the benefits are clearly understood, whilst giving stakeholders, community and Traditional Owner input on social and cultural considerations of the proposed preferred option.

“VNI West will help unlock and share a variety of low-cost renewables, from renewable energy zones in Victoria and New South Wales,” AEMO Victorian Planning Group Manager, Nicola Falcon said.

“AEMO and Transgrid recognise the vital role that communities and impacted landholders have in the planning and delivery of major transmission infrastructure projects. Both parties are dedicated to continuously improving engagement practices.

To provide feedback email VNIWestRITT@aemo.com.au. For more information, visit www.aemo.com.au/VNI-West.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



WHAT ARE RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONES?

A range of renewable energy zones have been identified in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria as part of an upgraded National Electricity Market. These renewable energy zones will be used to generate electricity from solar, wind, hydro and includes battery storage. The proposal would see gas peaking plants used to generate power after sunset when solar generation drops.

The Gannawarra is in the Murray River Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), which stretches as far north as Mildura. Primarily the area will be used for solar generation, with three wind farms currently proposed in the area west of Kerang.

One of the features of the Murray River REZ is the 220kv transmission network that passes through Kerang on route to Red Cliffs. Constructed in the 1960s, the network has limited capacity to connect new generation that is proposed between Kerang and Mildura. Plans are underway to upgrade this line, allowing more solar, wind and battery storage to operate in the region.

Wandella farmer, Greg Fowler is the first landowner in Kerang to be directly involved in the energy sector, thanks to the construction of a 60MW solar farm on his family farm in 2018.

Mr Fowler said the solar farm is now an integral part of the family's farming operations, giving greater security and the ability to maintain grazing activities.

"We are producing power on the farm where we once grew crops. We can still graze livestock and energy gives us security from drought, increasing farm inputs and poor farm gate prices," Mr Fowler said.

HOW DO RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS BENEFIT THE GANNAWARRA?

- Construction of a solar farm can take around 14 months with a workforce of around 150-plus people. The estimated value from the workforce alone is around \$4 million per project.
- Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) will generate around \$1.8 million per annum when all of the proposed projects are constructed. The total land area will only be 0.8 per cent of the total land mass.
- Accommodation providers are big winners when major projects occur in the Gannawarra. A local caravan park tripled their income servicing workers during construction of the Gannawarra Solar Farm.
- One wind turbine requires around 600 cubic metres of concrete. A project that includes more than 200 turbines could require in excess of \$30 million worth of concrete.
- Accommodation projects are looking at the number of workers required in the energy and mining sectors. This will drive significant investment in local residential projects with several new sites identified with developers.
- The increased levels of development and investment will have significant flow-on effects for the residential sector and retail sectors which thrive on a growing population.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



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MURRAY WARD



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PATCHELL WARD



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Cr Travis Collier
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YARRAN WARD



Cr Keith Link
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Cr Garner Smith
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COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **September 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 21 September at 10am. The **October 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 19 October 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. 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 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

BY MAIL

PO Box 287
Kerang VIC 3579

ONLINE

Lodge a request at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – www.facebook.com/gannawarra

Twitter – www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire