



Goulburn Murray
Community Leadership

2025



Canberra Advocacy Tour

About GMCL

Goulburn Murray Community Leadership is evolving from delivering a single leadership program to creating a comprehensive learning system aimed at building stronger local communities and enhancing the region's well-being and liveability. For nearly three decades, the Fairley Leadership Program has laid a strong foundation for change, equipping hundreds of leaders to tackle local challenges. However, the growing complexity of regional pressures — ranging from population growth and diversity to climate preparedness and rising costs — requires a new approach.

To address these challenges, we are shifting from a standalone program to a dynamic community development system. This transformation will increase participation, foster localised learning, and ensure our strategies reflect the diversity of our communities. By mobilising more community leaders, we can amplify our impact across the region.

Our commitment is to build stronger communities by developing people. With a focus on the future, we are dedicated to implementing an action-based learning system that will significantly contribute to the Goulburn Murray region's well-being and liveability, creating a future-ready community.

Our Vision

Prosperous Goulburn Murray regional communities driven by locally developed community leaders.

Our Mission

To be an adaptive organisation that is a catalyst for positive change, cultivating a willing, ready, and able pool of community leaders.

Our Why

We believe in the power and necessity of community leadership to more effectively address the complex issues and critical opportunities in our region.

Our Model

The GMCL Community Leadership Model is the foundation for every program we deliver. The model encompasses three key areas of learning and exploration, which we believe to be the core components of what makes a community leader.



CL = Community Leader



Leadership

The development of leadership capacity at the individual, community and organisational level.



Regional Awareness

An awareness of the strengths, challenges and foundations of our regional communities.



Mobilisation

Demonstrations of leadership through civic engagement and action in community.

Our Commitment

At GMCL, we are committed to fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is respected, and every voice is valued. We believe that different perspectives strengthen our communities, and we work to ensure everyone feels welcome and able to contribute meaningfully. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live and work, paying respect to Elders past, present, and emerging. We recognize their enduring connection to the land and culture, and are committed to supporting reconciliation and inclusion for all.

Our Region

Goulburn Murray Community Leadership operates across the communities of the Goulburn Murray region, including 10 local government areas, and defined by the intersection between the Goulburn (Warring) and Murray (Dhungala) rivers.



The Fairley Leadership Program

Specifically designed to develop and maximise an individual's capacity for community leadership, the Fairley Leadership Program immerses participants from sectors and locations across the Goulburn Murray region. Balancing the exploration of leadership and community building, this unique and immersive program enables participants to realise their potential and demonstrate community leadership in action.

The Fairley Leadership Program is informed and continually evolves to develop leaders with the capacity to respond to emerging needs of the region. The program plays a critical role in succession planning for the region, continually developing a pool of emerging community leaders who are supported to engage in programs and initiatives supporting the region.





Canberra Advocacy & Study Tour

For many years, GMCL has delivered the Canberra Advocacy & Study Tour, offering firsthand exposure to the workings of federal government and national advocacy.

This immersive experience promotes meaningful dialogue, encourages collaborative solutions to regional challenges, and elevates the voices of our communities on a national platform; providing community leaders with a powerful opportunity to enhance their advocacy skills and engage directly with national decision-makers.

Participants gain valuable insights into federal policy-making and build strategic relationships that strengthen their ability to drive positive change across regional Victoria.

This experience sits outside the core program, it requires an additional financial investment from participants.

Tour Objectives

Promote Knowledge and Awareness

- Increase awareness of government processes, structures, and decision-making at the federal level.
- Understand the key factors influencing community development and regional progress.
- Discuss critical challenges and opportunities shaping the future of the Goulburn Murray and wider regional Australia.
- Identify opportunities for collective advocacy and collaborative action across regional communities

Empower Local Leaders:

- Utilise insights from place-based exploration to advocate for the needs and priorities of the Goulburn Murray region.
- Champion the region's strengths, challenges, and opportunities through informed dialogue with key stakeholders.
- Engage directly with decision-makers to elevate regional voices and perspectives

What do our past participants say?

"The Canberra trip would be the stand-out highlight however with each day of the four days bringing a wealth of knowledge, experience and insight." - 2019 Participant

"The program was truly enlightening, with compelling talks from distinguished speakers, an immersive tour of Parliament House, and a firsthand view of Question Time. Engaging with MPs and Senators offered invaluable insights into the legislative process and the complexities of governance. This experience has profoundly deepened my understanding of public policy and the critical role of leadership" - 2023 Participant

Tour Overview

Day 1

- Travel to Canberra
- Leader Meet and Greet
- Group Dinner

Day 2

- Parliament Tour
- Federal Member Meet and Greet
- Social Activity

Day 3

- Leader Meet and Greet
- Reflective Session
- Travel home

Tour Conditions

- Minimum numbers are required for the tour to go ahead.
- Subject to cancellation if minimum numbers are not secured.
- Cost is a barrier to many participants, so many participants will be unable to attend without sponsorship.

What is included in the cost of the Tour?

"The investment for the 2025 Canberra Tour is estimated at \$2,500 plus GST per participant. This includes:

- Transport to and from Canberra (with pick-ups in Shepparton, Benalla and Albury)
- Accommodation
- All Meals (except for dinner on Day 2, food during travel to and from Canberra, snacks and alcohol)
- Parliament Tour
- Access to MPs & Political Leaders

Invest in Regional Voices and Future Leaders

Why we need your support

Due to the significant cost of the tour, it is not included in the standard program fees for this year. Participation originally required an additional \$2,500 per person, which may be a barrier for some. Thanks to the commitment of the 2025 cohort, we have co-designed a streamlined tour format, allowing us to reduce the individual cost to **\$1,000 per person** without compromising core outcomes. We are seeking **sponsorship to subsidise** this cost for participants in the 2025 Fairley Leadership Program, and interested FLP Alumni from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 cohorts who missed out due to COVID disruptions.

We are inviting partners to contribute toward the estimated \$32,000 total tour cost. A minimum investment of \$10,000 would provide much-needed relief to multiple participants — and any contribution will help ensure this vital experience remains accessible.

By supporting the Canberra Tour, you are investing in:

- Stronger local advocacy
- More confident, informed community leaders
- Long-term regional development

Be part of a legacy that shapes our region's future.

Sponsor the 2025 Study and Advocacy Tour to amplify the voices of Goulburn Murray's emerging leaders on the national stage. For more information, go to -

[GMCL Website - Canberra Advocacy Tour](#)



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Contact

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Connect with GMCL

To find out more about who we are and what we do, contact us using the details below or connect with us on social media.

