

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 3 March 2026
6:00 pm

City Hall
57 Little Malop Street, Geelong 3220

LIVE STREAMED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE:

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/meetings

COUNCIL:

Cr S Kontelj (Kardinia Ward) - Mayor
Cr E Kontelj (Hamlyn Heights Ward) - Deputy Mayor
Cr R Nelson (Barrabool Hills Ward)
Cr E Sinclair (Charlemont Ward)
Cr M Cadwell (Cheetham Ward)
Cr E Wilkinson (Connewarre Ward)
Cr A Aitken (Corio Ward)
Cr A Katos (Deakin Ward)
Cr T Sullivan (Leopold Ward)
Cr R Story (Murradoc Ward)
Cr C Burson (You Yangs Ward)

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Present: Cr S Kontelj
Cr R Nelson
Cr T Sullivan
Cr A Aitken
Cr E Wilkinson
Cr E Sinclair
Cr A Katos
Cr E Kontelj
Cr M Cadwell
Cr R Story
Cr C Burson

Also Present: A Wastie (Chief Executive Officer), T Edwards (Executive Director, Corporate Services), J Stirton (Executive Director, Placemaking), A Locke (Acting Executive Director, City Infrastructure), F Bolitho (City Life Representative), A Martin (Chief Governance and Risk Officer) J Douglas (Manager Council & Corporate Governance) E Ryan (Senior Governance Advisor – Council Business) D Pangrazio (Governance Advisor – Council Business).

Opening: The Mayor declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

1.2. Apologies

Nil

1.3. Leaves of Absence

Nil

1.4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

1.5. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLUTION - Item 1.5.1

Cr A Aitken moved, Cr A Katos seconded -

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026 be confirmed.

Carried

2. REPORTS

2.1. Election of Deputy Mayor

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Purpose

1. To elect a Deputy Mayor of the Greater Geelong City Council.

Background

2. Council resolved to establish an office of Deputy Mayor on 12 November 2020 in accordance with section 20A of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act).
3. Having established an office of Deputy Mayor, the Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor if the Mayor is unable or incapable of performing their role or if the office of the Mayor is vacant.
4. In accordance with Section 27 of the Act Councillors must elect a Councillor to be Deputy Mayor at a Council meeting open to the public.

Key Matters

5. The election of the Deputy Mayor must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Governance Rules.
6. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors.

The Mayor called for nominations.

Cr R Nelson moved to nominate **Cr E Kontelj** for Deputy Mayor. Cr A Aitken seconded the nomination.

Cr E Kontelj accepted the nomination and briefly addressed the meeting.

Cr E Sinclair moved to nominate **Cr E Wilkinson** for Deputy Mayor. Cr R Story seconded the nomination.

Cr E Wilkinson accepted the nomination and briefly addressed the meeting.

The Mayor put the nominations to the vote.

RESOLUTION – Item 2.1

That Council elect Cr E Kontelj as the Deputy Mayor of Greater Geelong City Council until November 2026.

Carried

Financial Sustainability

7. Funds for allowances for the office of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are allocated in the annual budget process.
8. Allowances are set in accordance with section 23A of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019 (Vic), the Victorian Independent Remunerations Tribunal sets the Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and Councillors.

Community Engagement

9. The Act provides that the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be Deputy Mayor of the Council once the office of Deputy Mayor is established, therefore community engagement is not appropriate.

Social Equity and Sustainability

10. There are no social equity or sustainability considerations associated with this report.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

11. A Gender+ Impact Assessment was not required for this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

12. The election of Deputy Mayor is to be conducted in accordance with section 27 of the Act and the Governance Rules.
13. The role of the Deputy Mayor is set out in section 21 of the Act.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

14. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Governance and Integrity

Conflict of Interest

15. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

16. In accordance with section 25(5) of the Act, if an absolute majority of the Councillors cannot be obtained at the meeting to elect a Deputy Mayor, the Council may resolve to conduct a new election at a later specified time and date.

Environmental Sustainability

17. There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Attachments

Nil

3. CLOSE OF MEETING

RESOLUTION –

Cr T Sullivan moved, Cr E Sinclair seconded –

That the meeting be closed.

Carried

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 6.18pm on Tuesday 3 March 2026.

Signed: _____

Cr Stretch Kontelj (Mayor)

Date: _____