



# Council Meeting

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## Minutes

**Tuesday, 14 November 2023**

**Council Chamber - Civic Centre and via  
Videoconference**

## Information for Councillors and the community

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands. We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region. We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.



### COUNCIL VISION

Whether you live here or visit, you will see how much we care for country, how inclusive and connected our communities are, and how sustainable balanced growth makes this the best place in the world.

### VALUE OF HISTORY

We acknowledge that history shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations.

### COUNCILLOR COMMITMENT

We'll be truthful, represent the community's needs, be positive and responsive and always strive to do better.

### OUR COUNCILLORS

**Billanook Ward:** Tim Heenan  
**Chandler Ward:** David Eastham  
**Chirnside Ward:** Richard Higgins  
**Lyster Ward:** Johanna Skelton  
**Melba Ward:** Sophie Todorov

**O'Shannassy Ward:** Jim Child  
**Ryrie Ward:** Fiona McAllister  
**Streeton Ward:** Andrew Fullagar  
**Walling Ward:** Len Cox

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & DIRECTORS

**Chief Executive Officer,** Tammi Rose  
**Director Built Environment & Infrastructure,**  
Hjalmar Philipp  
**Director Communities,** Jane Price

**Director Corporate Services,** Andrew Hilson  
**Director Planning and Sustainable Futures,**  
Kath McClusky

### GOVERNANCE RULES

All Council and Delegated Committee meetings are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-documents/Policies-strategies/Governance-rules>

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

Members of the community can participate in Council meetings in any of the following ways:

- making a verbal submission for up to 5 minutes on matters not listed on the agenda.
- submitting a question.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a specific item on the agenda. For planning applications and policy issues, the Chair will invite one person to speak on behalf of any objectors and one person to speak on behalf of the applicant. For other matters on the agenda, only one person will be invited to address Council, unless there are opposing views. At the discretion of the Chair, additional speakers may be invited for items of large interest.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a petition to be presented at a meeting.

For further information about how to participate in a Council meeting, please visit: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-meetings/Submissions-questions-petitions-to-Council>

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A person in attendance at the meeting must not operate film, photographic, tape-recording or other equipment to reproduce sound and/or images at any meeting without first obtaining the consent of the Chair.

The Minutes produced after each Council Meeting form the official record of the decisions made by Yarra Ranges Council.

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## CONTACT US

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# YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

## MINUTES FOR THE 593<sup>RD</sup> COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.01 PM COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC CENTRE AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

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### 1 COUNCIL MEETING OPENED

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose declared the meeting open.

### 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose, then read the Acknowledgement of Country, and welcomed all present.

### 3 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

#### Councillors

Councillor Jim Child  
Councillor Sophie Todorov  
Councillor Andrew Fullagar  
Councillor Fiona McAllister  
Councillor David Eastham  
Councillor Tim Heenan  
Councillor Richard Higgins  
Councillor Johanna Skelton  
Councillor Len Cox OAM

#### Officers

Tammi Rose, Chief Executive Officer  
Hjalmar Philipp, Director Built Environment & Infrastructure  
Jane Price, Director Communities  
Andrew Hilson, Director Corporate Services

### 4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies received prior to the commencement of this meeting.

### 5 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

*In accordance with Chapter 7, Rule 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.*

There were no disclosures of conflicts of interest made for this meeting.

## 6 Term of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

### SUMMARY

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires Council to determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one year or two year term. This must be done before the election of the Mayor takes place.

The term of office of the Mayor also applies to the election of the Deputy Mayor, whose office has been established by Council under section 20A of the Act.

This year, Council can only consider a one-year term for these appointments given the end of the term of all current Councillor positions at the date of the Local Government election scheduled in October 2024.

This report has been submitted for Council's consideration by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the requirements of sub-Rule 6.1 of Council's Governance Rules.

*Cr McAllister joined the meeting at 7.05pm prior to a vote being taken.*

**Moved: Cr Child**

**Seconded: Cr Heenan**

*That, in accordance with the requirements of section 26(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a one (1) year term.*

**The motion was Carried unanimously.**

## 7 ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council.

Cr Skelton nominated Cr Todorov to be elected as Mayor. Cr Child seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Todorov elected as Mayor for a term of one year.

## 8 MAYORAL SPEECH

Mayor Todorov took the Chair and thanked Cr Skelton and Cr Child for her nomination and expressed her appreciation for the unanimous support from all Councillors.

Mayor Todorov reflected on her first term as a Councillor and thanked her fellow Councillors for their resilience during some difficult times and thanked Cr Child for his previous two years as Mayor and acknowledged his leadership.

Mayor Todorov opened the floor to any other Councillors wishing to say a few words regarding outgoing Mayor Cr Child.

- Cr Heenan thanked Cr Child for the tremendous work and congratulated him for the work over the past two years as Mayor.
- Cr Cox congratulated Cr Child for the work he has done over the past two years.
- Cr Skelton thanked Cr Child for his leadership over the past two years and thanked him for his representation of Councillors and Community.
- Cr Eastham thanked Cr Child for his representation of Council and O'Shannasy Ward during his term as Mayor.
- Cr McAllister thanked Cr Child for representing Councillors and thanked the Cr Child's wife, Teresa, for her support during his time as Mayor.
- Cr Higgins thanked Cr Child for his leadership over the past two years as Mayor.
- Cr Fullagar thanked the Mayor for his tireless work and personal support during his time as Mayor.
- Cr Child thanked each Councillor for their steadfast support during his time as Mayor and congratulated Cr Todorov.

The Mayor also stated her excitement and honour in leading Council over the next year, she then acknowledged the challenges ahead and the importance of connection to Indigenous voices in the community she will continue to influence positive culture and inclusivity through her role.

## **9 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cr Fullagar nominated Cr Eastham to be elected as Deputy Mayor. Cr Skelton seconded the nomination.

Cr Eastham advised the Mayor that he accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared Cr Eastham elected as Deputy Mayor for a term of one year.

## **10 DEPUTY MAYORAL SPEECH**

Cr Eastham congratulated Mayor Todorov then thanked Councillors for their support and confidence in being elected to the Deputy Mayor role.

Cr Eastham noted how fortunate he was to have Cr McAllister as Mayor when he started as a Councillor.

He acknowledged the importance of leveraging Councillors skill sets, and the importance of collaboration between the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

He stated his commitment to continue to deliver best outcomes for the community. Cr Eastham expressed how proud he was to be a Councillor in Yarra Ranges.

*In accordance with Chapter 3, Rules 57 and 59, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.*

### QUESTION 1

**Samantha Wahrenberger of Mooroolbark asked;**

After Tuesday night's [24 October 2023] decision to permanently close Kilsyth Centenary Pool, why wasn't there, in the amended proposed resolution that was passed (yes I was there at the meeting) a section included for the councillors to request that the executive team begin the process of Business Planning for the new Integrated Aquatics and Leisure Centre immediately? Does council have the authority to demand this process begin now, and if so why haven't they?

**Hjalmar Philip, Director Built Environment and Infrastructure:**

*Thank you for your question, Samantha,*

*The draft Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, currently out for consultation, has a recommendation to commence a detailed business case for a new Aquatics and Leisure facility.*

*Once consultation feedback occurs, the draft strategy will be updated and presented to Council for consideration. This is anticipated to occur in early 2024.*

*Please visit [shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au) to provide any feedback on the draft Aquatic and Leisure Strategy.*



## QUESTION 2

### **Anonymous asked;**

*Yarra Ranges, and in particular, the neighbourhoods less "regional," are growing in cultural and ethnic diversity. However, being a person of non Anglo-saxon/European complexion, I struggle to build a sense of belonging in my neighbourhood. I have had racist comments directed at me and often feel isolated, sometimes unsafe. What is Council going to do to foster community inclusion and eradicate racism? Do you have diversity and experience within your staff to drive this work?*

### **Jane Price, Director Communities:**

*Thank you for your question.*

*Council is committed to creating an inclusive community, valuing cultural diversity, and addressing and preventing any discriminatory or exclusionary practices.*

*To guide this commitment Council has a Cultural Diversity Policy. This policy sets out Council's commitment that people from all cultural backgrounds are valued, included and have the freedom to express their cultural, linguistic and faith traditions without fear or discrimination. This policy is also further guided by Council's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and Access, Equity and Inclusion Reference Group*

*Council remains committed to attracting and retaining a culturally diverse and inclusive workforce. We are working with local providers to promote an inclusive workforce, have strategies to remove unconscious bias and support cultural diversity in our workforce.*

*Council officers will be in contact to recommend local groups and networks to help you feel more connected and less isolated in community.*

### QUESTION 3

**Wendy Wright of Wandin North asked;**

*In the motion (Oct 24 meeting) to permanently close the Kilsyth Centenary Pool, it is mentioned that there were discussions with pool users during the temporary closure.*

*What was the nature of these discussions, were they documented?*

*Did those users understand that these discussions would form part of the decision process to permanently close the pool?*

*Please provide documented details of these discussions (suitably de-identified).*

**Hjalmar Philip, Director Built Environment and Infrastructure:**

*During the temporary facility closure, a survey of Yarra Ranges residents regarding aquatic facility usage was undertaken which attracted 2040 responses. Of these respondents, 79% indicated they were users of the Kilsyth Centenary Pool.*

*In addition to this survey Belgravia Leisure have directly communicated to members during the temporary closure period. Furthermore, ongoing discussions are being held with the Lilydale Swim Club relating to how Council can best support the Lilydale Swim Club through the now permanent closure of the facility.*

*During the development of the draft Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, a members focus group was undertaken to assist in the early development of the strategy. These results are available on our Shaping Yarra Ranges website. These community engagement processes, and associated findings have been managed in line with Council's data management obligations.*

*Whilst noting the request Council will not be providing detailed documentations of these discussions. The process to permanently close the Kilsyth Pool considered community feedback, including a desire to retain the facility. It is fully acknowledged the members and regular users of the Kilsyth Pool have been impacted by this decision. As such, Council is continuing discussion with neighbouring Councils and private pool providers to accommodate users in alternative programs; and remains in community with members through Belgravia Leisure.*

**12                    DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at: 7.31 pm.

Confirmed this day, Tuesday, 28 November 2023.

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**Councillor Sophie Todorov (Mayor)**