

Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, 11 November 2025
Council Chamber - Civic Centre

Information for Councillors and the community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nation peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands and waterways.

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: Gareth Ward
Chirnside Ward: Richard Higgins
Lyster Ward: Peter McIlwain
Melba Ward: Mitch Mazzearella

O'Shannassy Ward: Jim Child
Ryrie Ward: Fiona McAllister
Streeton Ward: Jeff Marriott
Walling Ward: Len Cox OAM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & DIRECTORS

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose
Director Built Environment & Infrastructure, Hjalmar Philipp
Director Communities, Leanne Hurst

Director Corporate Services, Vincenzo Lombardi
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 634TH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC CENTRE

1 COUNCIL MEETING OPENED

Tammi Rose (Chief Executive Officer) declared the meeting open.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chief Executive Officer then read the Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed all present.

3 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors

Councillor Jim Child
Councillor Richard Higgins
Councillor Jeff Marriott
Councillor Peter McIlwain
Councillor Gareth Ward
Councillor Mitch Mazzearella
Councillor Fiona McAllister
Councillor Tim Heenan
Councillor Len Cox OAM

Officers

Tammi Rose, Chief Executive Officer
Hjalmar Philipp, Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
Kath McClusky, Director Planning & Sustainable Futures
Leanne Hurst, Director Communities
Vincenzo Lombardi, Director Corporate Services

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies received for 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 BUSINESS PAPER

6.1 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 the Mayor also applies to the term of the Deputy Mayor.

This report is 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.

In accordance with Governance Rule 29.1, Cr Cox spoke to the Motion.

Moved: Cr Cox

Seconded: Cr Mazzearella

That Council 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.

In Favour: Cr Child, Cr Cox, Cr Heenan, Cr Higgins, Cr Marriott, Cr Mazzearella, Cr McAllister, Cr McIlwain and Cr Ward

Against: Nil

7 ELECTION OF MAYOR

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

Cr Child nominated Cr Higgins to be elected as Mayor.

Cr Heenan seconded the nomination.

Cr Higgins advised the Chief Executive Officer that he accepted the nomination.

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

8 MAYORAL RESPONSE

The Mayor expressed gratitude to the Councillors for their nominations and shared the honour he felt in being elected Mayor. He acknowledged the challenges ahead and thanked members of the gallery for their support.

He also extended his appreciation to the outgoing Mayor, Cr Child, for his leadership and significant contributions over the past year, highlighting the exceptional work achieved during that time.

The Mayor further commended Cr Child's dedication to local issues, his unwavering support to all Councillors and his strong engagement with local groups throughout his term as Mayor.

Cr Child Response:

Cr Child thanked the Councillors and former Deputy Mayor for the support they had shown over the past 12 months.

9 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council.

Cr Mazzarella nominated Cr Ward to be elected as Deputy Mayor.

Cr Marriott seconded the nomination.

Cr Ward advised the Mayor that hey accepted the nomination.

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

10 DEPUTY MAYORAL RESPONSE

Cr Ward read the following statement:

Firstly, I wanted to begin by acknowledging and thanking our outgoing Mayor, Cr Jim Child, over the past year, your leadership has guided this Council through some challenging and defining moments.

You have set a high bar in professionalism and commitment to our community, and I wanted to thank you for the example you have set for us all and to our newly elected Mayor, congratulations. I think it is going to be a great year ahead.

I am genuinely looking forward to working alongside you, and I know that we share the same commitment to serving our residents with transparency, respect, and a genuine drive to make our community stronger. You have my full support every step of the way.

And to my fellow Councillors, thank you for placing your trust and confidence in me, and I give you my word that I will tackle this role with humility, hard work, and integrity, and I'll do my very best not to let you down, and to be a Deputy who represents us all fairly and responsibly.

Lastly, I would also like to thank my wife, Rachel, and my kids, who are in attendance tonight. Thank you. You have put up with countless meetings, late nights and weekends, where I have been elsewhere in the community instead of at home. Your patience and encouragement have not gone unnoticed. Thank you very much.

Moved: Cr Mazzearella

Seconded: Cr Heenan

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 28 October 2025, as circulated, be confirmed.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

In Favour: Cr Child, Cr Cox, Cr Heenan, Cr Higgins, Cr Marriott, Cr Mazzearella, Cr McAllister, Cr McIlwain and Cr Ward

Against: Nil

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 TO COUNCIL

Chelsey Cooper of Montrose asked;

As you are aware, Boral has submitted an application to the State Planning Minister to extend the Montrose quarry. The community is undertaking unified efforts to call for an EES, with submissions sent to Minister Kilkenny.

While Council will not have decision making authority in this matter, it does have an opportunity to take a position and communicate this to the Minister. The EES decision is imminent. Will Council request an EES, for the health of our people, our biodiversity and waterways?

Director Planning and Sustainable Futures, Kath McClusky

Thank you for your question.

Council has written to the Minister for Planning. In this correspondence Council expressed its view that the community, in particular surrounding and impacted residents, should be provided with an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed quarry expansion as early as possible through an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process.

Please note, Council was only advised of the EES referral after the referral had been made. Council shares community concerns about potential environmental impacts—such as vegetation loss, waterway disruption, bushfire risk, and amenity issues from noise and dust—and supports further assessment through an EES, including technical studies and community input. Council notes that a decision has not yet been made by the Minister on the EES referral.

SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL

There were no Submissions listed on the Agenda for this meeting.

13 PETITIONS

13.1 Petition to Council

SUMMARY

The following general petition be received:

General Petition

1. Object to the proposed construction of a footpath along North Road, Lilydale.
Request that Council reconsiders the necessity and priority of this project and focus on repair and maintenance of existing roads and footpaths (especially on Alexandra Road)
33 valid signatures.

In accordance with Governance Rule 29.1, Cr McAllister and Cr Heenan spoke to the Motion.

Moved: Cr McAllister

Seconded: Cr Heenan

That Council receives and notes the

1. *Object to the proposed construction of a footpath along North Road, Lilydale Petition in accordance with the Governance Rule and refers these petitions to the appropriate officers for investigation and response.*

The motion was Carried unanimously.

In Favour: Cr Child, Cr Cox. Cr Heenan, Cr Higgins, Cr Marriott, Cr Mazzarella, Cr McAllister, Cr McIlwain and Cr Ward

Against: Nil

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at: 7.25 pm.

Confirmed this day, Tuesday, 25 November 2025.

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Councillor Richard Higgins (Mayor)