

Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 15 December 2025

Unconfirmed Minutes

It should be noted that these minutes are not in their final form until Council has formally resolved to confirm them.

These minutes will be presented to Council for confirmation on 16 February 2026.

Realm - Council Chamber
Level 2, 179 Maroondah Highway
Ringwood

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 15 December 2025 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT

Cr Linda Hancock (Mayor)	Wonga Ward
Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)	Tarralla Ward
Cr Chris Jones	Barneong Ward
Cr Catherine Gordon	Bungalook Ward
Cr Nathaniel Henderson	McAlpin Ward
Cr Daniella Heatherich	Wicklow Ward
Cr Kylie Spears	Wombolano Ward
Cr Rob Steane OAM	Yarrunga Ward
Steve Kozlowski	Chief Executive Officer
James Herron	Acting Chief Financial Officer
Tim Cocks	Acting Director Assets & Leisure
Marianne Di Giallonardo	Director People & Places
Andrew Fuaux	Director Strategy & Development
Emma Hills	Governance Officer
Joanne Ellis	Governance Officer
Dan Glass	Multimedia Officer

The Mayor, Cr Hancock welcomed all to the December Council meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer read the following Statement of Recording -

"Please note that this meeting is being recorded and streamed live on the internet. All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however, as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded."

A prayer was read by Reverend Sam Anthony from St John the Divine Anglican Church, Croydon.

The Councillor Pledge was read by the Mayor.

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Mayor.

A minute of silence was held as a mark of respect for the victims, their families and friends and all who witnessed the tragic events in Bondi.

APOLOGIES

Cr Claire Rex	Jubilee Ward
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Cr Rex was granted a Leave of Absence at the 15 December 2025 Council Meeting.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE - CR CLAIRE REX

MOVED CR STEANE, SECONDED CR JONES

152/25

THAT CR CLAIRE REX BE GRANTED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 15 DECEMBER 2025 COUNCIL MEETING

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED CR SPEARS, SECONDED CR HEATHERICH

153/25

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2025 BE CONFIRMED.

CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Resident

"There are numerous studies which link glyphosate (Roundup's active ingredient) to increased risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and other cancers, with mechanisms including DNA damage, oxidative stress, and hormonal disruption, when will the council take responsibility to inform us when and where this harmful chemical is sprayed? We don't want our children and pets coming in contact with this."

Acting Director, Assets and Leisure

"Council uses glyphosate in parks and reserves in accordance with the guidelines and requirements of Worksafe Victoria and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Glyphosate only becomes active once inside the cell of a plant where it works by disrupting photosynthesis. Once the glyphosate comes into contact with soil it breaks down to become chemically inactive. Council does not use products containing glyphosate near schools, kindergartens, BBQ areas and playgrounds."

Resident

"What influence, control or limits are the council able to implement with the development on 71-95 Belmont East (The former Croydon South Primary School)? For example are you placing limits on number of dwellings, number of levels of each dwelling, Road structure or design?"

Director, Strategy and Development

"The Victorian Government rezoned 71-95 Belmont East Road, formally the Croydon South Primary School in 2024 from a Public Use Zone to a Neighbourhood Residential Zone. Council successfully advocated for the implementation of a Neighbourhood Residential Zone as opposed to a General Residential Zone. This Neighbourhood Residential Zone incorporates planning controls featuring reduced heights and lower densities resulting in new development that is more keeping with the area. Council will aim to ensure that any future development complies with the requirements of the Neighbourhood Residential Zone in terms of road locations, dwelling numbers and building levels."

Tim

“Dear Council public servants, what is the total amount of Maroondah residents that have lodged an application for a payment plan this calendar year and how does the recent council rate rise help these resident's burden of paying council rates?”

Acting Chief Financial Officer

“From December 2024 to November 2025, a total of 1,385 assessments have lodged applications for payment plans.

Since the recent Council rate increase applied on July 1st 2025, the overall number of residents seeking assistance has not changed significantly, with more residents choosing to manage their payments through standard payment plans rather than applying for financial hardship assistance.”

OFFICERS' REPORTS

ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

ATTENDANCE REPORT

ITEM 1

MOVED CR JONES, SECONDED CR HENDERSON

154/25

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORTS AS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS

CARRIED

Councillors who spoke to their reports - Crs Hancock, Macdonald, Jones, Gordon, Henderson, Heatherich, Spears and Steane

Cr Hancock (Mayor)

26/11	Karralyka Theatre Season Launch Event
27/11	Victorian Local Government Association - Mary Rogers Awards Ceremony
27/11	Maroondah Youth Awards Event
27/11	Physio Times Bond Street Celebrate 1 Year in Business
29/11	Eastern All-Abilities Netball 2025 Presentation Evening
30/11	Official Opening of Gracedale Park Tennis Club Clubrooms
02/12	Maroondah School Crossing Supervisor Christmas Event
02/12	Exhibition launch: Power of Print: Works from the Maroondah City Council Art Collection
03/12	Glen Park Community Centre Woodwork Market
03/12	2025 Volunteers Recognition Event and Bill Wilkins Award Presentation Event
04/12	Municipal Association of Victoria Mayor's Institute Mandatory Training Program 2025
04/12	Mayors Institute Oration and Celebration of Mayoral Achievements Event
05/12	Library Volunteers Christmas Celebration Millers Homestead
06/12	Melbourne East Netball Association Spring Season 2025 Grand Final Presentations Event
06/12	Maroondah Carols
07/12	Metropolitan Traffic Education Centre Christmas Celebration Event
09/12	Grand Re-Opening of Ringwood Medical Centre Event
09/12	Stroke A Chord Christmas Concert
09/12	Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates Presentation at Realm
10/12	Meeting with Will Fowles MP
10/12	Healesville Library Celebrating 50 years in the Community Event

10/12	Ringwood & District Historical Society "Artists of the Area" Book Launch Event
10/12	Your Library End of Year Celebration Event
11/12	Glen Park Community Centre Garden Furniture Project Showcase
11/12	Eastern FM Broadcast
12/12	Karralyka Event
13/12	Ringwood Men's Shed Christmas Celebration Event
13/12	Ringwood RSL Presidents Evening Event
14/12	HE Parker Reserve Tennis Club 50 Year Celebration Event
14/12	Croydon Hills Baptist Church Christmas Carols and Market
15/12	Eastern Region Group of Councils Meeting
15/12	Your Library Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting

Cr Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)

26/11	Karralyka Theatre Season Launch Event
27/11	Cheong Park Historical Signage End of Works Celebration Event
27/11	Premier Allan State of the State Address Seminar
27/11	Maroondah Youth Awards Event
28/11	Maroondah Rotary Annual Charity Golf Day Event
30/11	Official Opening of Gracedale Park Tennis Club Clubrooms
02/12	Maroondah School Crossing Supervisor Christmas Event
03/12	Glen Park Community Centre Woodwork Market
03/12	2025 Volunteers Recognition Event and Bill Wilkins Award Presentation Event
04/12	Municipal Association of Victoria Mayor's Institute Mandatory Training Program 2025
04/12	Mayors Institute Oration and Celebration of Mayoral Achievements Event
06/12	Maroondah Carols
07/12	Summer Sundays - Aquahub Event
07/12	Ringwood Salvation Army - Christmas at the Lake Event
10/12	Caulfield Racecourse Children's Day Event
10/12	Ringwood & District Historical Society "Artists of the Area" Book Launch Event
10/12	Communities of Wellbeing Christmas Celebration Event
11/12	Glen Park Community Centre Garden Furniture Project Showcase

Cr Jones

28/11	Maroondah Rotary Annual Charity Golf Day Event
29/11	Wyreena Makers Market
02/12	Maroondah School Crossing Supervisor Christmas Event
03/12	2025 Volunteers Recognition Event and Bill Wilkins Award Presentation Event
04/12	U3A Croydon Home Task Force Meeting
05/12	Ringwood Ballet presents Coppelia Event
06/12	Maroondah Carols
07/12	Summer Sundays - Aquahub Event
10/12	Ringwood & District Historical Society "Artists of the Area" Book Launch Event
10/12	Croydon Golf Links Estate Christmas Event
10/12	Rotary Club of Maroondah Christmas Celebration and End of Year Event
10/12	Community of Wellbeing Christmas Event
11/12	Glen Park Community Centre Garden Furniture Project Showcase
14/12	Croydon Hills Baptist Church Christmas Carols and Market

Cr Gordon

29/11 Wyreena Makers Market
02/12 Maroondah School Crossing Supervisor Christmas Event
03/12 Women for Election - In Conversation With the Lord Mayor, Cr Tania Brown Meeting
03/12 2025 Volunteers Recognition Event and Bill Wilkins Award Presentation Event
06/12 Maroondah Carols
07/12 Summer Sundays - Aquahub Event
11/12 Glen Park Community Centre Garden Furniture Project Showcase
14/12 Croydon Hills Baptist Church Christmas Carols and Market

Cr Rex

26/11 Karralyka Theatre Season Launch Event

Cr Henderson

27/11 Maroondah Youth Awards Event
28/11 Maroondah Rotary Annual Charity Golf Day Event
02/12 Exhibition Launch: Power of Print: Works from the Maroondah City Council Art Collection
03/12 2025 Volunteers Recognition Event and Bill Wilkins Award Presentation Event
06/12 Melbourne East Netball Association Spring Season 2025 Grand Final Presentation Event
06/12 Maroondah Carols
07/12 Summer Sundays - Aquahub Event
08/12 Maroondah Business Advisory Committee Online Workshop
10/12 Ringwood and District Historical Society "Artists of the Area" Book Launch Event
10/12 Rotary Club of Maroondah Christmas Celebration and End of Year Event
13/12 Ringwood Men's Shed Christmas Celebration Event

Cr Heatherich

26/11 Karralyka Theatre Season Launch Event
27/11 Maroondah Youth Awards Event
29/11 Wyreena Makers Market
03/12 Meeting - Croydon Bowling Club Jarrod Pepper
03/12 2025 Volunteers Recognition Event and Bill Wilkins Award Presentation Event
04/12 U3A Croydon Home Task Force Meeting
04/12 Life Activities Croydon Event
06/12 Melbourne East Netball Association Spring Season 2025 Grand Final Presentations Event
06/12 Maroondah Carols
07/12 Summer Sundays - Aquahub Event
10/12 Rotary Club of Maroondah Christmas Celebration and End of Year Event
14/12 Croydon Hills Baptist Market and Christmas Carols

Cr Spears

25/11	Australian Local Government Women's Association National Executive Team Meeting - 75th Conference
25/11	Australian Local Government Women's Association Northern Beaches Meeting
26/11	Karralyka Theatre Season Launch Event
27/11	Premier Allan State of the State Address Seminar
27/11	Victorian Local Government Association - Mary Rogers Awards Ceremony
29/11	Wyreena Makers Market
02/12	75th Conference Meeting with Simon Waller
02/12	Australian Local Government Women's Association Meeting
02/12	Exhibition launch: Power of Print: Works from the Maroondah City Council Art Collection
03/12	2025 Volunteers Recognition Event and Bill Wilkins Award Presentation Event
04/12	Australian Local Government Women's Association Vic Meeting
04/12	Victorian Local Government Association Connect Interview
06/12	Melbourne East Netball Association Spring Season 2025 Grand Final 11 and Under Presentations Event
08/12	Maroondah Business Advisory Committee Online Workshop
09/12	Stroke A Chord Christmas Concert
09/12	Australian Local Government Women's Association Executive Team Meeting
10/12	Ringwood & District Historical Society "Artists of the Area" Book Launch Event
10/12	Your Library End of Year Celebration Event
11/12	Tintern Board Christmas Celebration Event
11/12	Glen Park Community Centre Garden Furniture Showcase
15/12	Eastern Region Group of Councils Meeting
15/12	Your Library Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting

Cr Steane

26/11	Karralyka Theatre Season Launch Event
27/11	Maroondah Youth Awards Event
02/12	Maroondah School Crossing Supervisor Christmas Event
02/12	Exhibition launch: Power of Print: works from the Maroondah City Council Art Collection
03/12	2025 Volunteers Recognition Event and Bill Wilkins Award Presentation Event
04/12	The Foothills Foundation Christmas Rendezvous Event
06/12	Maroondah Carols
08/12	Maroondah Business Advisory Committee Online Workshop
10/12	Ringwood & District Historical Society "Artists of the Area" Book Launch Event
12/12	Karralyka Event

REPORTS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS

ITEM 2

MOVED CR SPEARS, SECONDED CR GORDON

155/25

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE PUBLIC RECORD OF THE COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2025 AND 1 DECEMBER 2025

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION REPORTS

ITEM 3

MOVED CR SPEARS, SECONDED CR STEANE

156/25

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES MINUTES OF THE MAROONDAH BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2025

CARRIED

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Crs Spears and Henderson

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION 2025/26

ITEM 4

MOVED CR JONES, SECONDED CR SPEARS

157/25

THAT WITH RESPECT TO COMMITTEES/BODIES/ADVISORY GROUPS REQUIRING A FORMAL COUNCIL DELEGATE, COUNCIL

- 1. NOTES THAT THE MAYOR IS ABLE, AS EX-OFFICIO, TO ATTEND ANY OF THE BODIES/ADVISORY GROUPS WHERE THEY ARE NOT A SPECIFIC MEMBER AS A DELEGATE; AND**
- 2. MAKES THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:**

Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee

CRS. HENDERSON, MACDONALD AND SPEARS AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MAROONDAH ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Maroondah Business Advisory Committee

CRS. JONES, SPEARS AND STEANE AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MAROONDAH BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Maroondah Community Health and Wellbeing Committee

CRS. GORDON, HANCOCK AND HEATHERICH AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MAROONDAH COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE.

Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee

CRS. GORDON, HANCOCK AND HENDERSON AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MAROONDAH DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee

CRS. JONES, MACDONALD AND REX AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MAROONDAH ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Maroondah Liveability, Safety and Amenity Committee

CRS. HEATHERICH, REX AND STEANE AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MAROONDAH LIVEABILITY, SAFETY AND AMENITY COMMITTEE.

Maroondah Audit and Risk Committee

THE MAYOR AND CR. JONES AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES WITH CR. MACDONALD AS SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE.

Eastern Regional Group – Mayors and CEO's

THE MAYOR, CR. SPEARS, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES WITH CR. MACDONALD AS SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EASTERN REGIONAL GROUP – MAYORS AND CEOS.

Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action

CR. JONES AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE WITH CR. MACDONALD AS SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EASTERN ALLIANCE FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION.

Your Library Limited

CRS. HANCOCK AND SPEARS AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES WITH CR. REX AS SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE TO YOUR LIBRARY LIMITED.

METEC (Metropolitan Training Education Centre Inc.)

CR. HENDERSON AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE WITH CR. REX AS SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE TO METEC.

Municipal Association of Victoria – State Council

CR. SPEARS AS COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE WITH CR. JONES AS SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR EXPENSES POLICY 2025

ITEM 5

MOVED CR STEANE, SECONDED CR JONES

158/25

THAT COUNCIL ADOPTS THE COUNCILLOR EXPENSES POLICY 2025, PURSUANT TO SECTION 41 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020

CARRIED

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Crs Steane and Henderson

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY - 19-21
DEVON STREET CROYDON

ITEM 6

MOVED CR HEATHERICH, SECONDED CR MACDONALD

159/25

THAT COUNCIL

1. **AUTHORISES COMMENCEMENT OF STATUTORY PROCEDURES UNDER SECTIONS 114 AND/OR 115 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 FOR THE PROPOSED SALE OR LEASE OF THE LAND AT 19-21 DEVON STREET, CROYDON**
2. **NOTES THAT AN INDEPENDENT MARKET VALUATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED**
3. **ENDORSES USE OF AN EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PROCESS TO TEST MARKET DEMAND AND ASSESS PROPOSALS AGAINST COUNCIL'S SALE AND LEASE DECISION CRITERIA**
4. **AUTHORISES THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (OR DELEGATE) TO UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS TO ENABLE COUNCIL TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS UNDER THE ACT IN RELATION TO THIS MATTER**
5. **AUTHORISES THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (OR DELEGATE), WHERE NO OBJECTIONS ARE RECEIVED, TO FINALISE AND EXECUTE A LEASE OF THE LAND, SUBJECT TO**
 - **COMPLETION OF ALL STATUTORY PROCEDURES**
 - **THE LEASE PROPOSAL MEETING OR EXCEEDING COUNCIL'S MINIMUM COMMERCIAL RETURN THRESHOLD, DEFINED AS A SUSTAINED ANNUAL NET RENTAL CONSISTENT WITH PREVAILING MARKET YIELDS FOR A PROPERTY OF EQUIVALENT CAPITAL VALUE WITHIN THE CROYDON MAJOR ACTIVITY CENTRE**
6. **REQUIRES THAT WHERE OBJECTIONS ARE RECEIVED IN RELATION TO THE MATTER AND/OR THE RECOMMENDED OPTION IS TO SELL THE PROPERTY, THESE BE REFERRED TO A PANEL OF COUNCILLORS COMPRISING THE MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND WARD COUNCILLOR FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT TO COUNCIL**

CARRIED

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Crs Steane and Jones

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - FURTHER TERM APPOINTMENT FOR
CURRENT MEMBER

ITEM 7

MOVED CR JONES, SECONDED CR SPEARS

160/25

THAT MR. MICHAEL ULBRICK BE APPOINTED AS AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE FOR A FURTHER THREE-YEAR TERM

CARRIED

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Cr Jones

ACTING DIRECTOR ASSETS & LEISURE

COMMUNITY FACILITIES HIRE POLICY UPDATE ITEM 1

MOVED CR HENDERSON, SECONDED CR MACDONALD 161/25

THAT COUNCIL ENDORSES THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES HIRE POLICY

CARRIED

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

LETTER UNDER SEAL - 2025 BILL WILKINS VOLUNTEER AWARD ITEM 1

MOVED CR SPEARS, SECONDED CR GORDON 162/25

THAT COUNCIL NOTES THAT A LETTER UNDER SEAL HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO NAOMI WALSH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEM AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2025 BILL WILKINS VOLUNTEER AWARD

CARRIED

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR 1A BEDFORD ROAD WITH DROM BAKERY PTY LTD ITEM 2

MOVED CR STEANE, SECONDED CR HENDERSON 163/25

THAT COUNCIL SIGNS AND SEALS THE LEASE WITH DROM BAKERY PTY LTD FOR THE OCCUPATION OF 1A BEDFORD ROAD, RINGWOOD

CARRIED

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Cr Steane

MOTIONS TO REVIEW

Nil

LATE ITEMS

Nil

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

The open forum closed at 8.22pm.

Confirmed

Date