

# Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 16 March 2026

Realm - Council Chamber  
Level 2, 179 Maroondah Highway  
Ringwood

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 16 March 2026 at 7:30pm.

**PRESENT**

Cr Claire Rex	Jubilee Ward
Cr Daniella Heatherich	Wicklow Ward
Cr Kylie Spears	Wombolano Ward
Cr Linda Hancock	Wonga Ward
Cr Paul Macdonald	Tarralla Ward
Cr Rob Steane OAM	Yarrunga Ward
Steve Kozlowski	Chief Executive Officer
Tony Rocca	Director Corporate
Adam Todorov	Director Assets & Leisure
Marianne Di Giallonardo	Director Community
Andrew Fuaux	Director City Growth & Precincts
Joanne Ellis	Governance Officer
Dan Glass	Multimedia Officer

The Mayor, Cr Hancock welcomed all to the March 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 Andrew Shahzadi from the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’i.

The Councillor Pledge was read by the Mayor.

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Mayor.

**APOLOGIES**

Cr Catherine Gordon	Bungalook Ward
Cr Nathaniel Henderson	McAlpin Ward
Cr Chris Jones	Barneong Ward

*Cr Jones was granted a Leave of Absence for the 16 March 2026 Council Meeting.*

*Crs Gordon and Henderson were granted a Leave of Absence at the 16 March 2026 Council Meeting.*

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE - CR CATHERINE GORDON AND CR NATHANIEL HENDERSON

MOVED CR REX, SECONDED CR SPEARS

9/26

**THAT CR CATHERINE GORDON AND CR NATHANIEL HENDERSON BE GRANTED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 16 MARCH 2026 COUNCIL MEETING**

**CARRIED**

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**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Nil

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

MOVED CR SPEARS, SECONDED CR MACDONALD 10/26

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2026 BE CONFIRMED**

**CARRIED**

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Resident

*"In order to keep Maroondah "A green and sustainable community" we need local owned and operated businesses. How have the council and councillors helped rebuild Colchester nursery. after the devastating fire?"*

Director, City Growth and Precincts

*"Council has worked closely with the property owner to make the site safe and enable them to reopen the day following the fire. Any new buildings provided on the land may require a planning permit and there is a 10 day turn-around period available for the land owner. This typifies Council's support of local businesses and its pledge towards being a Small Business Friendly Council - an initiative which streamlines the processes for business moving through business approvals."*

Resident

*"There are currently over one dozen healthy canopy trees on 3-5 LOUISA ST, Croydon. How will the council guarantee they will be preserved, maintained and cared for, if the land is to be rezoned to Neighbourhood Residential Zone Schedule 6."*

Director, City Growth and Precincts

*"The canopy trees at 3-5 Louisa Street, Croydon will be protected by the existing Significant Landscape Overlay."*

**OFFICERS' REPORTS****DIRECTOR CORPORATE**

ATTENDANCE REPORT ITEM 1

MOVED CR STEANE OAM, SECONDED CR HEATHERICH 11/26

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORTS AS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS**

**CARRIED**

Councillors who spoke to their reports - Crs Macdonald, Rex, Heatherich, Spears, Steane and Hancock.

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**Cr Hancock (Mayor)**

- 17/02 Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting
- 17/02 Meeting with Resident
- 18/02 Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony
- 19/02 Municipal Association of Victoria Regional Meeting – Metro East
- 19/02 Your Library Board Meeting
- 19/02 Exhibition Launch - Skybox by Rel Pham
- 20/02 Eastern Region Group of Councils Meeting
- 20/02 Chin National Day Celebration Event
- 25/02 Meeting with U3A Croydon
- 25/02 Biala Annual General Meeting
- 26/02 Webinar for Councillors: Small Business Friendly Council Charter
- 01/03 Maroondah Indian Community - Holi Milan 2026 - Colour Run Event
- 04/03 Maroondah Winter 2026 Sporting Forum
- 05/03 Maroondah Australia Day Honours Presentation Event
- 05/03 Eastern FM Broadcast
- 05/03 Maroondah Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 06/03 Meeting with Leading Health Communities
- 06/03 Karralyka Event
- 11/03 Maroondah International Women's Day Event
- 11/03 North Ringwood Community House Annual General Meeting
- 11/03 Yarra Ranges Council Mayor visit to Maroondah Nets
- 13/03 Victorian Local Government Association International Women's Day - Give to Gain-A Path to Gender Equality Event

**Cr Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)**

- 17/02 Meeting with Resident
- 18/02 Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony
- 19/02 Exhibition Launch - Skybox by Rel Pham
- 21/02 Celebrate Maroondah Movie Night 'IF'
- 24/02 Meeting with Resident
- 24/02 Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee Meeting
- 04/03 Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee Meeting
- 05/03 Maroondah Australia Day Honours Presentation Event
- 05/03 Maroondah Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
- 06/03 Meeting with Resident
- 10/03 Meeting with Eastern Palliative Care
- 11/03 Maroondah International Women's Day Event
- 13/03 Celebrate Maroondah Movie Night - 'How to Train your Dragon'

**Cr Gordon**

- 17/02 Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting
- 18/02 Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony
- 21/02 Celebrate Maroondah Movie Night 'IF'
- 03/03 Maroondah Business Group - Maroondah Business Reboot 2026 Seminar
- 05/03 Maroondah Australia Day Honours Presentation Event
- 11/03 Maroondah International Women's Day Event
- 12/03 The Maroondah Foundation Meeting
- 12/03 Australian Local Government Women's Association Online Masterclass "Focus on Financials"

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- 13/03 Victorian Local Government Association International Women's Day - Give to Gain - A Path to Gender Equality Event  
13/03 Celebrate Maroondah Movie Night - 'How to Train your Dragon'

**Cr Rex**

- 18/02 Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony  
19/02 Exhibition Launch - Skybox by Rel Pham  
21/02 Celebrate Maroondah Movie Night 'IF'  
22/02 Meeting with Maroondah Volleyball  
24/02 Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee Meeting  
25/02 Biala Ringwood Annual General Meeting  
01/03 Maroondah Indian Community - Holi Milan 2026 - Colour Run Event  
05/03 Celebrate 50 years of Blue Light Victoria Event  
11/03 Maroondah International Women's Day Event  
12/03 Australian Local Government Women's Association Online Masterclass "Focus on Financials"  
13/03 Celebrate Maroondah Movie Night - 'How to Train your Dragon'

**Cr Henderson**

- 17/02 Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting  
18/02 Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony  
19/02 Exhibition Launch - Skybox by Rel Pham  
04/03 Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee Meeting  
05/03 Maroondah Australia Day Honours Presentation Event

**Cr Heatherich**

- 18/02 Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony  
01/03 Croydon and District Obedience Dog Club Meeting  
01/03 Maroondah Indian Community - Holi Milan 2026 - Colour Run Event  
05/03 Maroondah Australia Day Honours Presentation Event  
06/03 Karralyka Event  
11/03 Maroondah International Women's Day Event  
12/03 Australian Local Government Women's Association Online Masterclass "Focus on Financials"  
12/03 Croydon Football Club meeting

**Cr Spears**

- 17/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association Executive Team Meeting  
17/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association 75th Conference Meeting  
18/02 Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony  
19/02 Municipal Association of Victoria Regional Meeting – Metro East  
19/02 Your Library Board Meeting  
19/02 Exhibition Launch - Skybox by Rel Pham  
20/02 Eastern Region Group of Councils Meeting  
20/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association - Tasmanian State Meeting  
23/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association - Queensland Committee Meeting  
24/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association Executive Team Meeting  
24/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association 75th Conference Meeting

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- 25/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association - Northern Territory Branch Meeting
- 25/02 Planning Consultation Meeting - M/2025/604 - 19 Freeman Street, Ringwood East
- 26/02 Maroondah Business Advisory Committee Meeting
- 26/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association - South Australia Executive Committee Meeting
- 27/02 Meeting with Your Library Chief Executive Officer
- 27/02 Melbourne East Netball Association Netball Festival
- 27/02 Australian Local Government Women's Association Masterclass Pre meeting
- 02/03 Australian Gender Equality Committee Backlash and Beyond; Power, Progress and Participation Forum
- 03/03 Australian Local Government Women's Association Executive Team Meeting
- 03/03 Australian Local Government Women's Association 75th Conference Meeting
- 03/03 Victorian Local Governance Association International Women's Day Panelist Briefing
- 04/03 Arrabri Community House - International Women's Day Event
- 04/03 Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee Meeting
- 05/03 Maroondah Australia Day Honours Presentation Event
- 11/03 Maroondah International Women's Day Event
- 11/03 Australian Local Government Women's Association Executive Team Meeting
- 12/03 Your Library Discussion Meeting- Pre Planning Day
- 12/03 Municipal Association of Victoria Delegate Connect Session
- 12/03 Australian Local Government Women's Association Online Masterclass "Focus on Financials"
- 12/03 Maroondah Foundation Sub-committee meeting
- 12/03 Your Library Meeting with Knox City Council
- 13/03 Victorian Local Government Association International Women's Day - Give to Gain-A Path to Gender Equality Event

### **Cr Steane**

- 18/02 Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony
- 19/02 Exhibition Launch - Skybox by Rel Pham
- 26/02 Maroondah Business Advisory Committee Meeting
- 03/03 Maroondah Business Group - Maroondah Business Reboot 2026 Seminar
- 05/03 Maroondah Australia Day Honours Presentation Event
- 06/03 Karralyka Event
- 11/03 Maroondah International Women's Day Event
- 12/03 Meeting with Resident

REPORTS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS

ITEM 2

MOVED CR REX, SECONDED CR HEATHERICH

12/26

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE PUBLIC RECORD OF THE COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2026 AND 2 MARCH 2026**

**CARRIED**

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COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION REPORTS ITEM 3

MOVED CR REX, SECONDED CR SPEARS 13/26

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING BODIES**

**1. MAROONDAH ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2026**

**CARRIED**

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Cr Rex

FINANCIAL REPORT: SIX MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 2025 ITEM 4

MOVED CR REX, SECONDED CR SPEARS 14/26

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**CARRIED**

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Crs Spears and Steane

PROPOSED MOTION FOR MAV STATE COUNCIL MEETING - 29 MAY 2026 ITEM 5

MOVED CR SPEARS, SECONDED CR HEATHERICH 15/26

**THAT COUNCIL ENDORSE SUBMITTING THE FOLLOWING MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 29 MAY 2026:**

**MOTION: *REVIEW OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT 1994***

**THAT MAV CALL ON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION (DEECA) TO PROMPTLY INITIATE A LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT 1994 AND RELEVANT COMPANION REGULATIONS, TO RE SET THE PENALTY FOR NUISANCE ANIMAL INFRINGEMENTS, AND TO ENSURE THE ACT:**

- **PROVIDES A CONTEMPORARY LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK THAT MEETS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPECTATIONS OF COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENTS, AROUND THE SERIOUSNESS OF NUISANCE ANIMAL OFFENCES AND THE ADVERSE IMPACT NUISANCE ANIMALS CAN HAVE ON NEIGHBOURS AND GOVERNMENTS ACROSS VICTORIA AND;**
- **STRONGLY ENCOURAGES COMPLIANCE THROUGH APPROPRIATE EDUCATION, COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS AND REALISTIC DETERRENTS, SUCH AS APPROPRIATE INFRINGEMENTS AND COURT PENALTIES.**

**CARRIED**

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Crs Spears and Macdonald

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REPORT OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 5 MARCH 2026 ITEM 6

MOVED CR REX, SECONDED CR STEANE OAM 16/26

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORT FROM THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2026**

**CARRIED**

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Cr Spears

### **DIRECTOR CITY GROWTH & PRECINCTS**

AMENDMENT C161 MARO TO THE MAROONDAH PLANNING SCHEME, PROPOSED ZONING OF 3-5 LOUISA ST, CROYDON ITEM 1

MOVED CR HEATHERICH, SECONDED CR SPEARS 17/26

**THAT COUNCIL, UNDER SECTION 16F OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987, SEEK AUTHORISATION FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING TO PREPARE AND EXHIBIT MAROONDAH PLANNING SCHEME C161MARO WHICH PROPOSES TO REZONE THE LAND AT 3-5 LOUISA STREET, CROYDON FROM PUBLIC USE ZONE 6 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTIAL ZONE SCHEDULE 6.**

**CARRIED**

Councillors who spoke to the motion - Cr Heatherich

### **DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING**

Nil

### **MOTIONS TO REVIEW**

Nil

### **LATE ITEMS**

Nil

### **REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE - CR DANIELLA HEATHERICH

MOVED CR REX, SECONDED CR STEANE OAM 18/26

**THAT CR DANIELLA HEATHERICH BE GRANTED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 18 MAY 2026 COUNCIL MEETING**

**CARRIED**

The open forum closed at 8:15pm.

Confirmed .....

Date .....