

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



**5:30 pm on Tuesday November 7, 2023**

Livestreaming at <https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings#live-stream>

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can be obtained online at <https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings>

## **NEXT MEETING:**

November 20, 2023

## COMMUNITY VISION 2021–2031

*Greater Bendigo celebrates our diverse community.*

*We are welcoming, sustainable and prosperous.*

*Walking hand-in-hand with the Traditional custodians of this land.*

*Building on our rich heritage for a bright and happy future.*

The community vision is underpinned by five values –  
Transparency, sustainability, inclusion, innovation and equity.

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## COUNCIL PLAN (MIR WIMBUL) – OUTCOMES

The [Council Plan](#) (Mir wimbul) is based on seven outcomes, which are the main focus of the Council Plan.

Each outcome has a set of goals, objectives and actions that will help to achieve the community vision, and indicators to measure achievement against each goal:

1. Lead and govern for all
  2. Healthy, liveable spaces and places
  3. Strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
  4. Aboriginal reconciliation
  5. A climate-resilient built and natural environment
  6. A vibrant, creative community
  7. A safe, welcoming and fair community
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## STAFF VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

The City of Greater Bendigo's [values and behaviours](#) describe how Councillors and staff will work together to be the best we can for our community.

They are aligned to our strategic documents, such as the Council Plan, which ensure they are meaningful for Council and the organisation.

A shared commitment to living our values and behaviours will help us to build the type of culture we need to be able to work together and support each other to deliver the best possible outcomes for the community.



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This Council Meeting is conducted in accordance with the

- Local Government Act 2020
- [Governance Rules](#)

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## **1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge that the City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country.

We would like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land that we are standing on today.

Today, we pay our respects to leaders and Elder's past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung People.

We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

## **2. TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE STATEMENT**

Bangek Koorarook Bunjil Dja Dja Wurrung  
William Talle tallingingorak wirrmbol bunjil

I honour the wisdom of the Dja Dja Wurrung.  
We will speak words of truth and listen to your wisdom

## **3. OPENING STATEMENT**

## **4. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

## **5. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

### **Attendance**

- Cr Dr Jennifer Alden
  - Cr Matthew Evans
  - Cr David Fagg
  - Cr Andrea Metcalf
  - Cr Margaret O'Rourke
  - Cr Greg Penna
  - Cr Julie Sloan
  - Cr Vaughan Williams
- 
- Craig Niemann, Chief Executive Officer

### **Apologies**

- Cr Rod Fyffe OAM

### **MOTION**

That any apologies are accepted.

Moved: Cr O'Rourke

Seconded: Cr Penna

**Resolution No. 2023-179**

**CARRIED**

## 6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No attendee declared a conflict of interest.

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (**the Act**) provides that a relevant person must disclose a conflict of interest in respect of a matter and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee meeting and any action in relation to that matter.

The procedure for declaring a conflict of interest at a Council Meeting is set out at rule 18.2.4 of the Governance Rules.

Section 126 of the Act sets out that a relevant person (Councillor, member of a delegated Committee or member of Council staff) has a conflict of interest if the relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** or a **material conflict of interest**.

A relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** in a matter if an impartial, fair minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

A relevant person has a **material conflict of interest** in a matter if an *affected person* would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

## **7. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE 2023/24 TERM**

### **7.1. Election of Mayor**

The Chief Executive Officer, as Chair, called for nominations for the position of Mayor for 2023/2024.

Cr Sloan nominated Cr Metcalf.

There being no further nominations the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Metcalf elected as Mayor of the Greater Bendigo City Council for 2023/2024.

### **7.2. Congratulations to Newly Elected Mayor**

Congratulations were extended to the Mayor from fellow Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the staff, together with other messages of congratulations that had been received by the Mayor.

### **7.3. Response by Mayor 2023/24**

The Mayor responded to her appointment and messages of support and was looking forward to the year ahead.

Cr Metcalf assumed the Chair.

### **7.4. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Mayor**

Not applicable.

### **7.5. Mayor's Report for 2022/23**

The Mayor spoke to the many achievements of Council during the last 12 months including:

- Continued strengthening of the close relationship with Djaara.
- Work to prepare the draft Managed Growth Strategy.
- Continued advocacy by all Councillors on many issues, including Comm Games legacy outcomes.
- Waste and landfill management.
- The many Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Emergency recovery following the October 2023 floods.
- Capital project delivery, including Mercy Junortoun, Ewing Park and Harry Trott Oval.
- Various tourism initiatives, including Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival, Bendigo Easter Festival and Bendigo Art Gallery exhibitions.
- Charing the Regional Cities Victoria forum.

## **8. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE 2023/24 TERM**

### **8.1. Election of Deputy Mayor**

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2023/2024.

Cr O'Rourke nominated Cr Evans.

There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared Cr Evans elected as Deputy Mayor for 2023/2024.

### **8.2. Congratulations to Newly Elected Deputy Mayor**

Fellow Councillors congratulated Cr Evans on the appointment as Deputy Mayor for 2023/2024.

### **8.3. Response by Deputy Mayor 2023/24**

The Deputy Mayor responded to the appointment.

### **8.4. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Deputy Mayor**

Fellow Councillors acknowledged the professionalism of Cr Alden in fulfilling the role of Deputy Mayor during the previous term.

### **8.5. Outgoing Deputy Mayor Response**

Cr Alden responded to the acknowledgements of Councillors.

## **9. CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further business, this Council Meeting closed at 7:10 pm.