



Council Meeting Minutes

Mayoral Election

18 November 2025 at 1pm

COPACC Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 18 November 2025

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COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the **COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** held at
COPACC on Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 1:00 PM.

MINUTES

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING OF MEETING

Chief Executive Officer – Andrew Tenni

*“Good afternoon. I formally declare open this meeting of the Colac Otway Shire Council of the
18 November 2025.*

My name is Andrew Tenni, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Colac Otway Shire Council.

I would like to start this afternoon by acknowledging the traditional custodians and law makers of this land, their elders past, present and emerging.

Today Council will elect the Mayor for the Council in accordance with Sections 25-27 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Council may also elect a Deputy Mayor at this meeting in accordance with the Act.

Section 25(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 requires that the election of the Mayor be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer.

Once the election of the Mayor has occurred, I will vacate the Chair and the elected Mayor will assume the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

I would like to advise that all Council meetings are recorded and live streamed, with the exception of confidential matters. This includes the public participation sections of meetings. The live stream recording of this afternoon’s meeting will be available on the website as soon as practicable.”

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Colac Otway Shire acknowledges the original custodians and law makers of this land, their elders past, present and emerging.

RECORDING AND PUBLICATION OF MEETINGS

Please note: All Council meetings will be live streamed and recorded when the meeting is held either at COPACC or online. This includes the public participation sections of the meetings. When meetings are held in other locations, Council will endeavour to make an audio recording of the meeting for community access. Matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda will not be live streamed or recorded regardless of venue or mode.

By participating in open Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

As soon as practicable following each open Council meeting, the live stream recording will be accessible on Council's website. Audio recordings are also taken to facilitate the preparation of the minutes of open Council meetings and to ensure their accuracy. Recordings will be retained by Council for a period of four years.

This meeting will be livestreamed to the public via Council's YouTube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at www.youtube.com).

3 MEETING ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Present

Cr Chris Potter
Cr Jason Schram
Cr Zoe Hudgell
Cr Phil Howard
Cr Charlie Buchanan
Cr Mick McCrickard
Cr Chrissy De Deugd

Andrew Tenni, Chief Executive Officer
David Butterfield, Acting General Manager Corporate Services
Doug McNeill, General Manager Infrastructure and Environment
Ian Seuren, General Manager Community and Economy
Steven O'Dowd, Manager Customer and Communications
Anita Craven, Executive Officer Governance
Matilda Hardy-Smith, Coordinator Council Business

3.2 Apologies and Leaves of Absence

Nil.

3.3 Declarations of Interest

The Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations provide specific exemptions relating to both the **nomination** and **election** of Councillors to the role of Mayor or Deputy Mayor, that enable all Councillors to participate in this meeting without a conflict of interest under legislation.

4 QUESTION TIME

A maximum of 30 minutes was allowed for question time. In accordance with rule 47.4 of Councils Governance Rules, lengthy questions have been summarised. Two questions per person, per meeting are allowed as per rule 47.3. Any additional questions will be responded to in writing.

QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE MEETING

James Judd

1. Will Colac ever be provided with a reliable supply of renewable electricity?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

The electricity supply to Colac currently includes power from renewable sources.

James Judd

Question is in relation to Elliminyt Wetlands project.

2. How will that development be of any value to all areas north and east of that project? Or will they still remain subject to uncontrolled flooding that this area has long suffered from.

Response from General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

The Elliminyt Wetlands redevelopment project will result in reduced downstream flooding within the Deans Creek catchment by retarding some of the overland stormwater flow currently experienced on low lying land in high rainfall events.

Leslie Fisk

1. Can you please tell me the council's definition of a dangerous dog.

Response General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Council does not define what a dangerous dog is. A dog can be declared as dangerous under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 if....

1. ***The dog has caused death or *serious injury to a person or another animal by biting or attacking that person or animal; or***
2. ***If the dog has been declared 'menacing' and the owner has received at least two infringement notices with respect to various other offences regarding the control and management of a 'menacing' dog; or***
3. ***The dog has been declared 'dangerous' by another state or territory; or***
4. ***There has been a finding of guilt (or the serving of an infringement notice) with respect to two or more offences relating to dog attacks or rushing***

QUESTIONS RECEIVED VERBALLY AT THE MEETING

Nil.

MOTION

Moved Cr Schram, Seconded Cr McCrickard

That Council determines to elect a Mayor for a period of 1 year.

CARRIED 7 : 0

Item: 5.1
Election of the Mayor

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| OFFICER | Anita Craven |
| CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | Andrew Tenni |
| DIVISION | Executive |
| ATTACHMENTS | Nil |

ELECTION

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for Mayor for the next year of the Council term.

NOMINATION 1

Cr Schram

Moved Cr Howard, Seconded Cr Hudgell

NOMINATION 2

Cr Potter

Moved Cr McCrickard, Seconded Cr De Deugd

No further nominations were received.

The Chief Executive Officer called for a vote by show of hands in order of nomination.

Nomination 1 - Cr Schram = 4 Votes (Cr Schram, Cr Hudgell, Cr Howard, Cr Buchanan)

Nomination 2 - Cr Potter = 3 Votes (Cr Potter, Cr De Deugd, Cr McCrickard)

With an absolute majority of votes, Cr Schram was declared elected Mayor of Colac Otway Shire Council for the next year of the Council term.

The Mayor assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Item: 5.2

Establishing the Office of the Deputy Mayor

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| OFFICER | Anita Craven |
| CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | Andrew Tenni |
| DIVISION | Executive |
| ATTACHMENTS | Nil |

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Potter, Seconded Cr Hudgell

That Council establishes the office of Deputy Mayor for a period of 1 year.

CARRIED 7 : 0

Item: 5.3
Election of Deputy Mayor

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| OFFICER | Anita Craven |
| CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | Andrew Tenni |
| DIVISION | Executive |
| ATTACHMENTS | Nil |

ELECTION

The Mayor called for nominations.

NOMINATION 1

Cr Howard

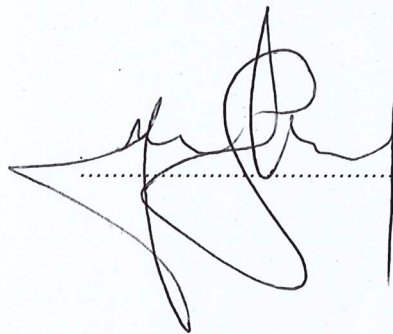
Moved Cr Hudgell, Seconded Cr McCrickard

No other nominations were received.

With an absolute majority of votes, Cr Howard was declared the Deputy Mayor of Colac Otway Shire Council.

The meeting was declared closed at 1.13pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 25 November 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a vertical line.

.....**MAYOR**