



MINUTES

MEETING OF THE GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION

Thursday 1 May 2025
Board Members and Officers only

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation acknowledges the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin nation, and the Gulidjan and Gadubanud Peoples of the Maar nations as the Original Owners of the lands on which our library services operate. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and celebrate First Nations Peoples of this land as the custodians of learning, literacy, knowledge and story.



SECTION A - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At 5.39pm GRLC Chair, Cr Liz Pattison opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The meeting was held in person and via MS Teams. It was closed to the public and opened and closed in camera.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Pattison acknowledged the Traditional Owners of this land and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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2. ATTENDEES

		Attendance		
Name	Council	In person	Online	Apology
BOARD MEMBERS				
Cr Isabelle Tolhurst	Borough of Queenscliffe (BoQ)	X		
Cr Elise Wilkinson	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG)	X		
Cr Emma Sinclair	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG)	X		
Cr Rowan D. Story AM RFD	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG)	X		
Cr Trent Sullivan	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG)			X
Cr Mick McCrickard	Colac Otway Shire (COS)			X
Cr Owen Sharkey	Golden Plains Shire (GPS)	X		
Cr Liz Pattison (Chair)	Surf Coast Shire (SCS)	X		
Cr Chrissy De Deudg	Colac Otway Shire (CoS) delegate		X	
COUNCIL OFFICERS				
Damien Waight	General Manager, Community Life, SCS	X		
Amie Higgs	Manager Community Participation, CoGG			X
Anthony Basford	Executive Directory City Life, CoGG	X		
Gayatri Baskaran	Finance Coordinator, CoGG			X
Ian Seuren	General Manager Development & Community Services, COS			X
Martin Gill	CEO, BoQ		X	
Jo Wilson	Director Community Planning & Growth, GPS	X		
GRLC OFFICERS				
Vanessa Schernickau	Chief Executive Officer	X		
David Semmens	Director, Community Experience	X		
Skye Wilson	Director, P&C and Strategic Engagement	X	X	
Robbie Cullens	Director, Digital and Finance	X		
Vanessa Rechichi	Executive Assistant		X	
GUEST				
Lee Blashki	VAGO		x	



3. **APOLOGIES**

Ian Seuren, Cr Trent Sullivan, Cr Mick McCrickard, Amie Higgs and Gayatri Baskaran

The Chair welcomed Cr Chrissy De Deugd from Colac Otway Shire and Less Blashki from VAGO to the meeting.

4. **INTERESTS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Nil

5. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES DATED 27 FEBRUARY 2025 (ATTACHMENT 1)**

Recommendation:

That the draft minutes of the Board Meeting held on 27 February 2025 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Second: Cr Isabelle Tolhurst
Passed: unanimously

SECTION B – PRESENTATIONS

**GRLC Draft Audit Strategy Memorandum
Lee Blashki, VAGO**

SECTION C – REPORTS

1. **CEO REPORT**

Vanessa Schernickau, Chief Executive Officer

Recommendation

That the CEO Report be noted.

The Turning the Page Executive Steering Committee is reviewing the draft constitution with the draft library agreement to be presented for comment at the next meeting in May. Councillor briefings for each member Council will be scheduled for later in the year.

Director of Community Experience gave an update on Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Out of Hours access.



GRLC CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 1 MAY 2025

There are 10-20 people testing the out of hours access from 8am – 10am then from 6pm – 8pm during the pilot. A couple of surveys have been conducted with this pilot group to understand how it is working from the customer's perspective, and operationally in terms of opening the library, controlling that space and making sure the space is used appropriately.

The pilot has been successful. A broader media release has encouraged other people to come forward and we now have 38 members signed up.

We are capping numbers to 100 although we don't think that we would have 100 people there at one time. It is proving to be popular with young families who need to come in earlier than 10am and for those who wanting quieter space to work and study. The evenings are popular also.

We will continue to keep the Board updated.

The finance and HR/payroll systems migration from CoGG to inhouse is progressing well. Thanks to City of Greater Geelong team and new CFO, Gayatry, Anthony and Amie for working with us to progress. There are two options: 1 system that provides financial and HR solutions or 2 systems that integrate. We are currently going through an EOI process for the HR and payroll system and aiming for a 1 October transition. We will continue to update the Board.

2. DRAFT GRLC BUDGET FY26

Robbie Cullen, Director Digital and Finance

Recommendation:

That the GRLC Preliminary Budget FY26 be endorsed.

Mover: Isabell Tolhurst

Second: Cr Emma Sinclair

Approved unanimously

Cr Rowan Story left the meeting and Damian Waight – 6.30pm

3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Robbie Cullen, Director Digital and Finance

Recommendation:

That the Monthly Financial Report be noted

ACTIVITY REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

David Semmens, Director Community Experience

Recommendation:

That the Activity Report be noted.

Home Library Service review underway, looking at different ways to deliver with partners.

4. ACCESS & INCLUSION PLAN (CONFIDENTIAL)

Skye Wilson, Director People, Culture and Strategic Engagement

Recommendation:

That the Access and Inclusion Plan be noted.

HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT - OCT (CONFIDENTIAL)

David, Director People, Culture & Strategic Engagement

Recommendation:

That the Health Safety and Wellbeing Report be noted.

Other Business:

Next Meeting:

Thursday 12 June, 5.30pm – special budget meeting TBC

Signed: 

Cr Liz Pattison
Chair

Date of Confirmation: 08 / 07 / 2025

