Geelong Regional Library Corporation

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 25 June 2026, 5:30pm

Board Members & Officers only

Geelong Library and Heritage Centre Boardroom
& MS Teams

SECTION A - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At **5.30pm** GRLC Chair, Cr Liz Pattison opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The meeting was held both online and in-person at the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

‘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.’

2. ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS		ATTENDANCE		
Name	**Council**	**In Person**	**Online**	**Apology**
Cr Liz Pattison (Chair)	Surf Coast Shire	X		
Cr Elise Wilkinson (Deputy Chair)	City of Greater Geelong		X	
Cr Emma Sinclair	City of Greater Geelong			X
Cr Rowan D. Story AM RFD	City of Greater Geelong		X	
Cr Trent Sullivan	City of Greater Geelong	X		
Cr Mick McCrickard	Colac Otway Shire		X	
Mayor Owen Sharkey	Golden Plains Shire		X	
Cr Isabelle Tolhurst	Borough of Queenscliffe	X		
COUNCIL OFFICERS				
Damian Waight	General Manager Community Life, SCS		X	
Amie Higgs	Manager Community Participation, CoGG	X		
Ian Seuren	General Manager Development & Community Services, COS			X
Lynnere Gray	Director Corporate Services, GPS		X	
Abbey Tatterson	Manager Customer Experience, Borough of Queenscliffe		X	
Jane Grover	CEO Borough of Queenscliffe			X

GRLC OFFICERS				
David Semmens	Acting, Chief Executive Officer	X		
Skye Wilson	Director, People, Culture and Strategic Engagement		X	
Deanne Verity	Acting, Director, Community Experience	X		
Daniyal Ali	Manager, Finance & Governance	X		
Tanya Robertson	Executive Assistant		X	
GUESTS				
Angela Savage	CEO Public Libraries Victoria		X	

3. APOLOGIES

Cr. Emma Sinclair

4. INTERESTS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil Declared

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES DATED 30 APRIL 2026

Recommendation:

That the draft minutes of the Board Meeting held 30 April 2026 be confirmed.

Moved: Isabelle Tolhurst
Second: Mick McCrickard
Passed: Unanimously

SECTION B – PRESENTATIONS

6. PUBLIC LIBRARIES VICTORIA (CONFIDENTIAL)

Angela Savage, CEO Public Libraries Victoria

SECTION C – REPORTS

7. GRLC DRAFT BUDGET 2026-2027

David Semmens, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Recommendation:

That the Draft GRLC Budget 2026-2027 be adopted

Decision:

Moved: Isabelle Tolhurst
Second: Trent Sullivan
Passed: Unanimously

The CEO presented the final draft budget following public exhibition, noting one submission was received but no changes were made to the existing draft budget.

The report noted the budget remained consistent with what was presented in April, and staff were acknowledged for their work in preparing it. Clarifications were sought on the assumptions in the Strategic Resource Plan (including forecast member contributions linked to percentage increases). Savings in materials and contracts were also noted, driven by the transfer of payroll and finance services to be coordinated by GRLC.

The Board supported the budget, noting the positive framing, strong financial outcomes, and minimal community feedback. The budget was passed unanimously, with recognition that it also provides strong material for advocacy, including membership growth and regional engagement figures.

8. TURNING THE PAGE – CORPORATE TRANSITION (CONFIDENTIAL)

David Semmens, Acting Chief Executive Officer

For Noting:

Recommendation:

1. The Turning The Page report be noted.

9. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT – MAY 2026 (CONFIDENTIAL)

David Semmens, Acting Chief Executive Officer

For Noting:

Recommendation:

That the Monthly Finance Report be noted.

10. CEO REPORT

David Semmens, Acting Chief Executive Officer

For Noting

Recommendation:

That the CEO Report be noted.

The report notes key highlights, activities, and projects demonstrating several key achievements. This includes events such as the success of National Simultaneous Storytime, which attracted strong local media coverage supporting our messaging about the importance of early years literacy, and the launch of another Voice of Customer survey, which received almost 2,000 responses and an overall satisfaction rating of 9.4/10. The survey results will inform future customer experience initiatives and contribute to Public Libraries Victoria reporting.

The Chair acknowledged the positive outcomes highlighted throughout the report and the value they demonstrate to the community. A brief discussion was also held regarding GRLC's participation in the Sydney Writers' Festival live-streaming program, with staff confirming it has been a successful initiative for several years, providing the community with access to high-quality author events.

11. ACTIVITY REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

Deanne Verity, Acting Director, Community Experience

For Noting

Recommendation:

That the Activity Report be noted.

12. HEALTH SAFETY & WELLBEING REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

Skye Wilson, Director, P&C and Strategic Engagement

For Noting

Recommendation:

That the HWS Report be noted.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting ended 6:43pm

Next Meeting: **27 August 2026 5:30-7:30pm**

Location: **GRLC Boardroom, Level 4 & Teams**

Signed: ______________________________

Cr Liz Pattison
Chair

Date of Confirmation: 15 / 09 / 2026