

GEELONG
REGIONAL
LIBRARIES



Geelong Regional Library Corporation

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 30 April 2026, 5:30pm

Board Members & Officers only

Geelong Library and Heritage Centre Boardroom
& MS Teams





SECTION A - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At **5.34pm** 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	
Anthony Basford	Executive Director, City Life, City of Greater Geelong	x		
Jane Grover	CEO, Borough of Queenscliffe		x	
Ian Seuren	General Manager, Development Community Services COS			x
Lynnere Gray	Director Corporate Services, GPS		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				
Anoja Bandara	Acting Manager, financial Audit, VAGO		x	

3. APOLOGIES

Ian Seuren

The Chair acknowledged & congratulated Jane Grover, new CEO Borough of Queenscliffe on her new appointment and welcomed Deanne Verity in her interim role as GRLC Acting Director of Community Experience.

4. INTERESTS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil Declared

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES DATED 26 FEBRUARY 2026

Recommendation:

That the draft minutes of the Board Meeting held 26 February 2026 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Rowan Story
Second: Cr Elise Wilkinson
Passed: Unanimously



SECTION B – PRESENTATIONS

6. AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM 2025-2026 (CONFIDENTIAL)

Anoja Bandara | Acting Manager, Financial Audit Victorian Auditor-General's Office

For Noting:

Cr Owen Sharkey arrived in person at 5:44pm (at this point).

The Chair reverted to Agenda item 5 – to confirm Minutes of Board Meeting held 26 February 2026.

SECTION C – REPORTS

7. DRAFT BUDGET 2026–2027 AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2027–2030 (CONFIDENTIAL)

David Semmens, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Recommendation:

- a. That the Draft GRLC Budget 2026-27, incorporating any changes agreed at the Board meeting, be approved and advertised for public comments and submissions in accordance with sections 158 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 and section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020.
- b. That a Board meeting be held on 11 June 2026 for any public submissions to be heard.
- c. That the Draft Budget will be presented for adoption by the Board at the meeting on 25 June 2026.
- d. That the GRLC Acting CEO forward a copy of the Draft Budget 2026-27 to all Member Council CEOs.

Decision:

Moved: Cr Trent Sullivan
Second: Cr Elise Wilkinson
Passed: Unanimously



8. GENDER EQUALITY PLAN – DRAFT (CONFIDENTIAL)

Skye Wilson, Director, P&C and Strategic Engagement

Recommendation:

That the Draft Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) be endorsed by the Board.

For Endorsement:

Moved: Cr Emma Sinclair
Second: Cr Elise Wilkinson
Passed: Unanimously

9. LIBRARY COURIER SERVICE CONTRACT TENDER AWARD (CONFIDENTIAL)

Deanne Verity, Acting Director Community Experience

Commercial in confidence.

10. TURNING THE PAGE – CORPORATE TRANSITION (CONFIDENTIAL)

David Semmens, Acting Chief Executive Officer

For Noting:

Recommendation:

That the Turning The Page – Corporate Transition report be noted.

11. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT – MARCH 2026 (CONFIDENTIAL)

David Semmens, Acting Chief Executive Officer

For Noting:

Recommendation:

That the Monthly Finance Report be noted.



12. 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 delivery of the Library Plan 2025–2029 priorities in support of the purpose of knowledge and connection for communities. This includes events such as author talks, the launch of the Birregurra Kiosk, Library Lovers Day, International Women’s Day, Cultural Diversity Week, and a celebration of Wayne Gurrie’s 40 years of service. Updates on community feedback and impactful stories from across the library network were also provided.

Action:

CEO to write to the new Minister for Local Government introducing him to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation.

Jane Grover left meeting at 6:38pm. (During CEO Report presentation.)

Damian Waight left meeting at 6:58pm. (Prior to Activity Report presentation.)

13. ACTIVITY REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

Deanne Verity, Acting Director, Community Experience

For Noting

Recommendation:

That the Activity Report be noted.

14. 2026 STAFF ENGAGEMENT SURVEY (CONFIDENTIAL)

Skye Wilson, Director, P&C and Strategic Engagement

For Noting

Recommendation:

That the Staff Engagement Survey be noted.



15. HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

David Semmens, Acting Chief Executive Officer

For Noting

Recommendation:

That the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Report be noted.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting ended 7:12pm

Next Meeting: 11 June 2026 5.30 – 6.30pm
Online format - to hear budget submissions if required.

25 June 2026 5.30 – 7.30pm

Location: GRLC Boardroom, Level 4

Signed:

Cr Liz Pattison
Chair

Date of Confirmation: / / 2026