

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 29 April 2026

Council Chamber, Bass Coast Civic Centre

Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi

Commencing at 1:00 pm



Community Vision 2045

From its flowing hills to its coastal woodlands and wild unspoiled coastlines, the Bass Coast is a source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region.

Our townships are vibrant, rich with culture and full of life, each with its own distinct character. Drawing on our creativity, innovation and resilience we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture and industry.

We live proudly on Bunurong Country, and build on learnings from our First Peoples and their knowledge. We coexist in harmony with our environment, and are prepared for future challenges and changes.

We are the people of the Bass Coast. Experience our cultures and history, and contribute to our story.



The meeting commenced at 1.00pm.

CEO Greg Box read the Temporary Chair Statement, Mobile Telephone Reminder and Statement of Acknowledgement

Temporary Chair Statement

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) section 25 states the election of the Mayor must be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer.

Part B, Section 4 of the Governance Rules states that the Chief Executive Officer must facilitate the election of the Mayor in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The Chief Executive Officer must open the meeting at which the Mayor is to be elected, and invite nominations for the office of Mayor.

Once the Mayor has been elected, they will assume the position of Chair.

Cr. Rochelle Halstead read the Councillor Statement.

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I Present and Apologies

Councillors: Cr Brett Tessari, Bunurong Ward (Mayor)
 Cr Ron Bauer, Island Ward (Deputy Mayor)
 Cr Meg Edwards, Bunurong Ward
 Cr Mat Morgan, Bunurong Ward
 Cr Tracey Bell, Island Ward
 Cr Tim O'Brien, Island Ward
 Cr Rochelle Halstead, Western Port Ward
 Cr Jon Temby, Western Port Ward
 Cr Jan Tompson, Western Port Ward

Officers: Mr Greg Box, Chief Executive Officer
 Mr Patrick Dillon, General Manager Innovation & Engagement
 Ms Jodi Kennedy, General Manager Communities & Culture
 Ms Donna Taylor, General Manager Future Places
 Ms Jade Glen, Manager Governance & Communications

Apologies: Nil

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Council Meeting 15 April 2026

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jon Temby / Seconded: Cr. Jan Thompson

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 April 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Mayor and Councillor Reports

4.5 Reports Requiring Council Decision Elections

4.5.1 Election of Mayor

Council Decision

CEO Greg Box received one nomination for the position of Mayor.

Cr. Brett Tessari was nominated by Cr. Ron Bauer and seconded by Cr. Rochele Halstead.

There were no other nominations, Cr. Brett Tessari was declared duly elected to the position of Mayor.

CEO Greg Box removed themselves from the position of Chair at 1:06pm

The Mayor Cr. Brett Tessari assumed the position of Chair at 1:06pm

Additional Business – Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Cr. Brett Tessari sought Council's consideration of admitting an additional item of business to this meeting, being the election of Deputy Mayor, in accordance with Governance Rule 11.4 relating to additional business.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jan Thompson / Seconded: Cr. Jon Temby

That Council admit additional business – Election of Deputy Mayor

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.5.2 Election of Deputy Mayor

Item 4.5.2, Election of Deputy Mayor, was admitted as additional business to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned to allow for written nominations to be completed in accordance with Governance Rule 6.2.

Meeting Adjourned: 1.10pm

Meeting Resumed: 1.16pm

The Mayor received two nominations in line with the Governance Rules for the election of the Deputy Mayor.

Cr. Ron Bauer was nominated by Cr. Rochelle Halstead and seconded by Cr. Brett Tessari.

Cr. Jon Temby was nominated by Cr. Mat Morgan and seconded by Cr. Tracey Bell.

Vote:

Cr. Ron Bauer received six votes

Cr. Jon Temby received three votes

Cr. Ron Bauer with the absolute majority of votes was declared as Deputy Mayor.

5 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

6 Petitions and Joint Letters

There were no Petitions and Joint Letters.

7 Reports Requiring Council Decision

7.1 Appointments to External Committee

Motion

That Council appoints one Councillor and one Councillor substitute to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) external committee, until the 8 December 2026.

Cr Tracey Bell moved an Alternative

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Tracey Bell / Seconded: Cr. Jan Thompson

That Council defer the report until the 20 May Council Meeting

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8 Statutory Reports

There was no Statutory Reports.

9 Urgent Business

There was no Urgent Business.

10 Mayoral Announcement of Next Meeting of Council

The next Council Meeting will be held on 20 May 2026 in the Bass Coast Civic Centre Council Chamber, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi commencing at 1.00pm.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Ron Bauer / Seconded: Cr. Jan Thompson

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to consider an item/s as they deal with:

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned

That the meeting be adjourned at 1.20pm

Meeting resumed

That the meeting be resumed at 1.21pm

Items Closed to the Public

Excerpt of Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020.

- (5) If a Council or delegated committee determines that a meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential information, the Council or delegated committee must record in the minutes of the meeting that are available for public inspection—
- (a) the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public by reference to the grounds specified in the definition of **confidential information** in section 3(1); and
 - (b) an explanation of why the specified ground or grounds applied.

confidential information means the following information—

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;
- (b) security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person;
- (c) land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;
- (d) law enforcement information, being information which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person;
- (e) legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;
- (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
- (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
 - i. relates to trade secrets; or
 - ii. if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;
- (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a);
- (i) internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145;
- (j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169;
- (k) information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition;
- (l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the **Local Government Act 1989**;

11 Confirmation of Closed Minutes

11.1 Closed Council Meeting held on 22 April 2026

12 Reports Requiring Council Decision Closed to the Public

12.1 Wonthaggi to Inverloch Shared Path - Contract Variation Request

(a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;

13 Meeting Closed

That the meeting be closed at 1.29pm