



**GLEN EIRA
GEL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The GEL Advisory meeting commenced at 6:00pm.

**Thursday 11 December 2025
6:00pm–8:00pm**

***Yarra Yarra Room
Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield***

Present:

<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Luca Ragni (Chair) Cr Kimberley Young Cr Margaret Esakoff	Councillor committee member Councillor committee member Councillor committee member
<i>Community Representatives:</i>	Louise Russell Kathryn Watt	Community committee member Community committee member
<i>Skills-Based Representatives:</i>	Mick Cummins Carl Partridge Taya Phillips	Skills-Based committee member Skills-Based committee member Skills-Based committee member
<i>Council Officers:</i>	Niall McDonagh Peter Tillotson Natalie Mreulje Kylie Hill	Director Sustainability, Assets and Leisure Manager GEL GEL Manager Assistant Executive Management Office

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country Cr Luca Ragni (Chair)

The committee was welcomed and the Traditional Owners and Custodians were acknowledged.

2. Apologies Cr Luca Ragni (Chair)

Rebecca Yien
Kathryn Watt arrived at 6.55pm

Conflict of Interest

Nil

3. Introduction – Councillors, Council Officers and Committee Members
Cr Luca Ragni (Chair)

Councillors, council officers and committee members introduced themselves to the committee.

4. Committee Terms of Reference and Purpose Niall McDonagh

The ToR were taken as read and it was advised that a local government training day is being held in February which the committee members will be invited to. Future meetings will also be offered as hybrid.

5. Members Roles and Responsibilities Cr Luca Ragni (Chair)

The roles and responsibilities of each of committee were outlined and it was mentioned that these meetings will be held in such a way that they are effective and that everyone is included and feels respected and valued.

The Chair communicated that he valued the time that people have given to attend these meetings, and he is hoping that these meetings are collaborative, respectful, considerate, open, lighthearted, and enjoyable.

Chair- Appointed annually to run meetings, ensure orderly business, present minutes to Council, and draft resolutions when needed. Deputy Chair steps in when unavailable.

The Chair communicated that he valued the time that people have given to attend these meetings, and he is hoping that they are considerate, respectful, light-hearted, effective, and enjoyable.

Council- Receives all committee minutes at public meetings and votes on any recommendations requiring decisions.

Community members- Appointed based on the committee's needs.

Executive Sponsor - A Director who supports the Chair, oversees agenda/minutes, ensures proper documentation, and prepares reports for Council when decisions are needed.

Secretary - Nominated by the Executive Sponsor to prepare meeting documentation.

6. Contextualising Glen Eira Leisure Peter Tillotson

A presentation was given which went through the four below reports:

- ❖ GEL Strategic Plan

- ❖ 25/26 Business Plan Overview
- ❖ Quarterly Performance Report
- ❖ CMSP Update

Glen Eira Leisure Strategic Feedback

The existing 2022-2025 Plan is finishing, and a new plan is required to prepare for the long-term.

Feedback was sought on the following areas: Key Themes, Mission Statement, Strategic Pillar, and Structure and Components.

Key Themes: overall they were well received and agreed upon. A suggestion was made that perhaps “community wellbeing” could be included and it was also noted that wording to community could be emphasised more.

Mission Statement: Feedback indicated that the statement was generic, not specific enough, and “safe”. It was suggested that the mention of “diversity”, “accessibility” be included for more engagement to target groups and use of the word “socialisation” was good and could cover a lot of things.

Strategic Pillars: response was positive with members who stated that it was clear, comprehensive, straight forward and direct.

Structure and Components: A key question was raised: Who is the primary audience for this document? Is it intended for staff/business use, or will it be public facing? Given GEL’s large casual workforce, it was suggested to keep the document as a “Strategy on a Page.” If the document is to be shared with staff, the public, council, and councillors, it will need to be simplified for broader accessibility.

25/26 Business Plan Overview

The overview highlighted the key priorities, and council is currently reviewing the draft actions for the next financial year.

Regarding risks, a question was asked about fraud, corruption, child safety and cyber security and why were these not included? If we are trying to run as an entity, it is unusual that generic risks are not included along with local mitigation strategies. It was acknowledged that the list was originally designed to be risks specific to GEL and that council already has strategies in place for enterprise risks; however, it is worth reconsidering.

Social safety was also mentioned, and it was acknowledged that more work needs to be done regarding psychosocial risks and patron behaviour however we do have an existing GEL Customer Behaviour Policy.

Quarterly Performance Report

The report was taken as read with a few focal areas currently being fine-tuned. Utilities costs have been a challenge, providing important learnings for future planning. A key takeaway is that the volume of Major incidents and WorkSafe notifiable incidence remain below industry standards.

Members agreed the report was well-balanced, showcasing positive data alongside areas for improvement. It was asked if there is a trend in cancellation reasons and what actions are being taken to retain members. Suspension rules will be relaxed and there will be a strong focus on value for money with some investigation to take place as to the reasons members are cancelling.

A query was asked in relation to fee increases and if these go through council. They do go through council and fees are increased alternatively across the board.

CMSP Update

The overview showed that GMSP has exceeded all expectations in terms of numbers for visitation , memberships, and financial. The only exception to this is the budget for electricity which far exceeded what was budgeted for.

It was asked if there were any additional security costs and as yet there has not been. We have had an increase in car theft and general violence, and some use of security has been budgeted for.

7. General Business

Items for Discussion:

Carl Partridge: The question was raised whether GEL has any plans for significant initiatives, large or small, that could be transformative. It was noted that we are currently reviewing AI technologies broadly and that an operational review of CRC is planned.”

8. Meeting schedule

Meetings of the Committee will be held quarterly and in will be in person and will be made available online also.

The meeting schedule for 2026 was discussed and it was suggested the next meeting would occur in February 2026. The proposed meeting date is Thursday 26 February 2026.

9. Closure of Meeting:

The meeting closed at 7.57pm.

Minutes to be presented for adoption at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 3 February 2026.

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/ Closed
GEL Strategic Plan	Amend wording of safety dot point		Peter	Active
GEL Strategic Plan- Structure and Components	Provide a “Strategy/Plan on a Page” and also a full document		Peter	Active
25/26 Business Plan Overview	Rethink the list of risks		Peter	Active
Quarterly Performance Report	To investigate the reason for membership cancellations		Peter	Active