



16 June 2025

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA:

(1) MAYORAL MINUTES

MM3/2025 Vacancy in Civic Office: Resignation of Councillor Jay
Suvaal2

Mayoral Minute

Report No. MM3/2025

General Manager's Unit



MAYORAL MINUTE No. MM3/2025

SUBJECT: VACANCY IN CIVIC OFFICE: RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR JAY SUVAAL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the vacancy in civic office and that the NSW Electoral Commission is currently conducting a countback process to fill the casual vacancy in Ward A.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Resignation of Councillor

Councillor and former Mayor Jay Suvaal formally advised the General Manager of his resignation from Council on Friday 6 June 2025.

Mr Suvaal indicated that this was not a decision taken lightly and that employment and family commitments meant that he was unable to commit the time to the role of Councillor.

Countback process

Council staff are now liaising with the NSW Electoral Commission to progress the countback process.

Council unanimously resolved in October that should a Councillor resign in the first 18 months of this term, a countback election would take place.

A countback process does not require voters of Ward A to return to the polls and a by-election is not required. The NSW Electoral Commission will contact all unelected Ward A candidates to confirm their interest in being elected to Council.

If there is only one eligible candidate, that candidate is elected. If there are multiple eligible candidates, a countback election is conducted based on votes from the election in Ward A in September 2024.

Information about the countback process is available on the NSW Electoral Commission website: <https://elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/how-counting-works/countback-elections>

Acknowledgement of contribution

On behalf of Councillors and staff, we thank Mr Suvaal for his contribution as a Councillor and as the former Mayor.

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The resignation brings to a close Mr Suvaal's more than 8 year participation on Cessnock City Council, having been first elected as a Ward A Councillor in 2016, before being elected as Mayor in 2021.

Mr Suvaal has stated:

Serving our community for the past eight years, including almost three years as Mayor, has been one of the greatest honours of my life. I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved together.

As someone who grew up in Kearsley, I would have never dreamed that one day I would have the privilege of leading our City as Mayor. I'm deeply grateful to the Cessnock community for putting their trust in me.

I want to thank the amazing Council staff, led by General Manager Ken Liddell, for their ongoing dedication to delivering for our community. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated team.

Though I am stepping down from Council at this time, I will always continue to be a strong advocate for the Cessnock community in whatever role I can.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to my family. It's not always easy being in public life and it's definitely not something I could have done without their ongoing love and support.

We wish Mr Suvaal well in his future wherever that may take him.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report