

Mayor sorry for religious slur.

By Yvette Gray.

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[Oakleigh Springvale Dandenong times](#)

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MONASH Mayor Geoff Lake publicly apologised to Councillor **Kathy Magee** at last week's council meeting, ending a long-running saga.

Council sources told the Leader it was part of an agreement reached at the Equal Opportunity Commission by the two councillors.

The apology stemmed from alleged religious comments made by Cr Lake to Cr Magee during, and after, a special council meeting on June 18.

In the short apology, Cr Lake said he "privately spoke and behaved towards Cr Magee in a manner that was demeaning and degrading and could be particularly offensive to females".

He said his comments and actions were "aggressive and totally inappropriate" and apologised to others who were in the chamber and overheard the remarks.

Cr Lake said: "There is no doubt that I spoke in an inappropriate way and I offer this sincere apology in an attempt to rectify this matter" It is the second time Cr Lake has said sorry to Cr Magee, having first apologised at the start of a July 2 council meeting.

At that time, Cr Magee argued the apology was not recorded in the official minutes of the meeting.

She later lodged a complaint with the Equal Opportunity Commission against the mayor (the Leader, July 23).

After Cr Lake's remarks on June 18, Cr Magee raised the matter during the special council meeting.

Cr Lake allegedly made offensive remarks to Cr Magee about her actions in the council chamber.

An Equal Opportunity Commission spokeswoman said she could not comment on the matter.

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