



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Keep our cultural heritage - open with prayer**

The move by a group of Victorian councillors lead by Victorian Moyne Shire Councillor Jordan Lockett to ditch the religious prayer when commencing local council meetings, is a short-sighted and regrettable move.

Family Voice believes that such a move to ban religious prayer ignores the fact that 61% of Australians have stated adherence to a religious faith, with over 43% identifying as Christian. With the current wording, most faiths can be easily accommodated.

While individual councils already have the power to amend their agendas to remove an opening prayer, many regional municipalities have decided against the move which is to be welcomed.

In the Mildura Rural City, Councillor Glenn Milne one of the advocates for retaining opening prayer, said the letter seeking religion be taken out of council affairs was reflective of local values, and with him Family Voice believes we need to have some respect for our own cultural values.

Family Voice would encourage all people of faith to write to their local council, to the Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne, and the Premier Daniel Andrews, requesting them to retain the religious prayer when opening local council meetings.

Further details:

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