

War of words Complaint against the mayor.

By YVETTE GRAY.

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English

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Complaint against the mayor A COMPLAINT has been made to the Equal Opportunity Commission against Monash Mayor Geoff Lake.

The action follows alleged statements made by Cr Lake to fellow councillor **Kathy Magee** during, and after, a special council meeting on Tuesday, June 18.

The complaint arose from alleged religious comments made by Cr Lake to Cr Magee before the council meeting.

Later, during the open meeting, Cr Magee raised the matter.

After the meeting, Cr Lake allegedly made offensive remarks to Cr Magee about her actions in council.

She said another councillor, Felicity Smith, and a couple of members of the public heard the remarks.

Cr Lake publicly apologised to Cr Magee at the beginning of the most recent council meeting (Tuesday, July 2) for his comments.

But Cr Magee said she was not satisfied and she had "initiated action" against the mayor.

Cr Lake said he was not aware of the complaint being lodged with the Equal Opportunity Commission.

"There is no basis for any complaint. This was a private conversation for which a private apology was made and accepted," Cr Lake said.

"After the meeting (on June 18) as I left I spoke to her in a tone I wouldn't normally use; (I was) very angry at what she'd done and realising it was an angry tone, I (later) that night apologised to her."

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

She said once a complaint was lodged, it was investigated and the matter might undergo a conciliation process. If an agreement was not reached, the matter could be referred to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

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