
**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 9 JUNE 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT

The Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran in the Chair; Councillors, Christine Stead, Jenny Ellis, Anne Napoli, Mark Dal Bon, Scott Groat, Tony O'Grady, Laurie Testoni and Shari Blumer

STAFF

General Manager, Scott Grant, Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Matthew Hansen, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and Minute Taker, Antoinette Galluzzo

MEDIA

Nil.

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Mark Dal Bon reading the Opening Affirmation and the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

No apologies or requests for leave of absence were received.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

26/152

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 26 May 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady

Against

Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

The division was declared **PASSED** by 9 votes to 0.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.

There were no less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL 2026 - DETERMINATION OF FEES PAYABLE TO MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

26/153

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Jenny Ellis that:

- (a) Council endorse the Councillor Annual Fee for the 2026/27 financial year at a rate increase of 3.7% which amounts to \$22,537.
- (b) Council endorse the additional Annual Mayoral Fee for the 2026/27 financial year at a rate increase of 3.7% which amounts to \$49,175.

For	Against	Abstained
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran	Councillor Mark Dal Bon	Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Christine Stead		
Councillor Jenny Ellis		
Councillor Anne Napoli		
Councillor Tony O'Grady		
Councillor Laurie Testoni		
Councillor Shari Blumer		

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 2.

CL02 CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

26/154

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Shari Blumer that:

- (a) Council rescind Minute No. 25/388 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held 9 December 2025:

25/001

RESOLVED on the Motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council adopt the Code of Meeting Practice Policy as presented including the following amendments.
 - (b) Remove the following statement from Clause 5.2 “The standard of dress for Councillors is business casual. Council blazers are provided for Councillors to wear at Council Meetings”.
 - (c) Council formally records its objection to Clause 5.19 relating to attendance by audio-visual link, and write to the Minister for Local Government outlining Council’s concerns with the clause, including its impracticality for rural and regional councils, the impact on quorums and meeting scheduling, and its inconsistency with modern workplace practices.
 - (d) In relation to Procedural Motions, Clause 22.15 (e) be amended read “the Chairperson may decline to accept the motion, but should supply a reason”.
- (b) The Code of Meeting Practice previously adopted on 22 January 2025 be reinstated.

For	Against
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Anne Napoli	
Councillor Mark Dal Bon	
Councillor Scott Groat	
Councillor Tony O'Grady	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Shari Blumer	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL03 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2026

26/155

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Anne Napoli that:

- (a) Council be represented at the 2026 Local Government NSW Water Management Conference to be held in Ballina from 2 to 4 September 2026.
- (b) The Mayor and General Manager (or their delegates), Councillors Shari Blumer and Scott Groat attend the Conference.
- (c) Expenses to attend the Conference be paid by Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy. Note: Councillor Groat requires registration only (not travel and accommodation). Councillor Blumer requires travel and accommodation (not registration).

For

Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL04 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2026

26/156

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Mark Dal Bon that:

- (a) Council be represented at the 2026 Murray Darling Association Conference to be held in Shepparton from 24 to 27 August 2026.
- (b) The Mayor (or his delegate), General Manager (or his delegate) and Councillors Scott Groat, Laurie Testoni and Shari Blumer attend the Conference.
- (c) Expenses to attend the Conference be paid by Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy. Note: Councillor Blumer does not require registration as she is already attending as chair of the Murray-Darling Association.

For

Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL05 REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP MLHD - WAIVE FEES - HIRE OF GRIFFITH REGIONAL THEATRE

26/157

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that Council approves the request for sponsorship by waiving venue hire fees at the Griffith Regional Theatre for the Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct Regional Health Innovation Showcase to be held 11 August 2026 including room hire, setup, provision of technical assistance and equipment (up to a maximum of \$2,000).

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL06 REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP - GRIFFITH'S BIGGEST LAP FESTIVAL 3 OCTOBER 2026

26/158

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Shari Blumer that:

- (a) Council support the Griffith Biggest Lap Festival 2026 to the value of \$6,000, noting this event request falls outside of current sponsorship Policy criteria.
- (b) Council endorse promotion of the Event through normal Council communication & promotional channels with collateral provided by Event Organisers.
- (c) Council decline providing staff resources for the implementation of related traffic control for this Event.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL07 QUICK TURN AROUND GRANT - EMA MUNRO - ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

26/159

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer that:

- (a) Council approve the application submitted by Ema Munro, on behalf of the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee (s355 of Council), to register and host a National Tree Day event, with volunteers to be registered for the event.
- (b) Given the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee has no delegated authority administer budgets, Council will be the auspicing organisation to administer the grant.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.

CL08 ST VINCENT DE PAUL CARE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

26/160

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis that Council approve the application for St Vincent De Paul, Care and Support Program.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL09 TREASURY POLICY ON COUNCIL LOAN BORROWINGS

26/161

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Shari Blumer that:

- (a) Council endorse the draft Treasury Policy on Council Loan Borrowings.
- (b) The draft Treasury Policy on Council Loan Borrowings be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.
- (c) If any submissions are received, a further report be prepared for Council.
- (d) If no submissions are received, the draft Treasury Policy on Council Loan Borrowings be considered as adopted by Council as at the date of the conclusion of the advertised exhibition period.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL10 TREASURY POLICY FOR INVESTMENTS

26/162

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Shari Blumer that:

- (a) Council endorse the draft Treasury Policy for Investments.
- (b) The draft Treasury Policy for Investments be placed for public exhibition for 28 days.
- (c) If any submissions are received, a further report be prepared for Council.
- (d) If no submissions are received, the draft Treasury Policy for Investments be considered as adopted by Council as at the date of the conclusion of the advertised exhibition period.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

CL11 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PAID IN ADVANCE - BUDGET IMPACT

26/163

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Shari Blumer that Council note this report.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2026

26/164

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee meeting held on 20 May 2026 be adopted.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

Councillor Dal Bon questioned how the prickly pears will be removed? This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE.**

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

Nil

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

26/165

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the report be noted.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

14 MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY CLOSED COUNCIL

Nil

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7:50 pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON