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**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

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**PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Acting Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Max Turner, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and Minute Taker, Joanne Bollen

**MEDIA**

Cai Holroyd, The Area News

**1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Meeting opened with Councillor Anne Napoli reading the Opening Affirmation and the Acknowledgement of Country.

*Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King arrived at the meeting the time being 7:02pm.*

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

25/001

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that an application to attend by audio-visual link from Mayor Doug Curran be granted.

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

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

### **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

25/002

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 10 December 2024, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

For

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

Against

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

### **4 BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil.

### **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.*

Councillor Shari Blumer  
CL02 Extension of Lease Term – Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) (Safe Haven)  
Lease of State Bank House – 81 Kooyoo Street, Griffith  
Reason – The Business I work for does work relating to these clauses

Councillor Shari Blumer  
CL03 Renewal of Licence Agreement – Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) – 78  
Kookora Street, Griffith  
Reason – The Business I work for does work relating to these clauses

#### **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.*

Councillor Anne Napoli  
CL02 Extension of Lease Term – Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) (Safe Haven)  
Lease of State Bank House – 81 Kooyoo Street, Griffith  
Reason – I am the Vice President of the Local Area Health Advisory Committee  
Councillor Anne Napoli  
CL03 Renewal of Licence Agreement – Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) – 78  
Kookora Street, Griffith  
Reason – I am the Vice President of the Local Area Health Advisory Committee

## **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.*

Councillor Laurie Testoni

CL01 Request to Enter Into a Licence Agreement – Yenda Progress Association for the Use of the Yenda Tennis Club House

Reason – I have been actively helping the progress association with works to the centre

Councillor Anne Napoli

CL09 Notice of Motion – Councillor Scott Groat – 4 November 2024 24/302

Reason – I have previously been lobbied by developers mentioned in this Report

Councillor Anne Napoli

Adoption of Committee Minutes – Minutes of the Griffith Health Facilities Limited Committee Meeting

Reason – I hold a Directors position in this Company

Councillor Anne Napoli

CC01 Appointment of Committee Chairperson and Committee Members – Audit Risk and Improvement Committee and Appointment of Committee Members – Floodplain Management Committee

Reason – One of the applicants was a former Council candidate appointed on my how to vote card

Councillor Mark Dal Bon

CC01 Appointment of Committee Chairperson and Committee Members – Audit Risk and Improvement Committee and Appointment of Committee Members – Floodplain Management Committee

Reason – I know one of the nominees. He has done work on my farm long time ago. We do not socialise together. Have no close personal dealing together.

## **6 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

## **7 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

## **8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **CL01 REQUEST TO ENTER INTO A LICENCE AGREEMENT - YENDA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF THE YENDA TENNIS CLUBHOUSE - PART CROWN RESERVE 62949, LOT 701 DP 1030376, YENDA PLACE, YENDA**

25/003

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

- (a) Council enters into a short-term licence agreement for a 12-month term with the Yenda Progress Association over Part Crown Reserve 62949, Lot 701 DP 1030376, Yenda Place, Yenda for use of the Yenda Tennis Clubhouse commencing on 3 February 2025.
- (b) The Yenda Progress Association will be required to pay an administration fee to Council

on the signing of the agreement by all parties, currently \$182.00 in accordance with Council's Revenue Policy.

- (c) In lieu of an Annual Fee the Yenda Progress Association will be responsible for the general cleaning and upkeep of the building.
- (d) The Yenda Progress Association will be responsible to pay for the power used during the term of the agreement. Council will attend to the supply charges.
- (e) Council authorise the General Manager to execute the short-term licence agreement on behalf of Council.

For

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

Against

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

*Councillors Shari Blumer and Anne Napoli left the meeting having declared Conflicts of Interest, the time being 7:16pm.*

**CL02 EXTENSION OF LEASE TERM - MURRUMBIDGEE LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT (MLHD) (SAFE HAVEN) LEASE OF STATE BANK HOUSE - 81 KOOYOO STREET, GRIFFITH**

25/004

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council approves the amendment of the current lease term with MLHD (Safe Haven) for 1 year + 2-year term (3 years) with the commencement date of 15 December 2023 to 14 December 2026.
- (b) Griffith City Council and MLHD shall pay their own legal expenses in regards to the amendment of the current lease term. MLHD will attend to the registration and agency costs in relation to the registering of the lease, together with Council's administration fee, as per Council's adopted Revenue Policy.
- (c) Council authorise the Mayor & General Manager to execute the lease agreement on behalf of Council under the Common Seal, if required.

For

Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Mark Dal Bon  
Councillor Jenny Ellis  
Councillor Scott Groat  
Councillor Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Christine Stead  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.**

**CL03 RENEWAL OF LICENCE AGREEMENT - MURRUMBIDGEE LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT (MLHD) - 78 KOOKORA STREET, GRIFFITH**

25/005

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

- (a) Council enters into a licence agreement with Murrumbidgee Local Health District over part Lot 3 Section 125 DP 758476 for a term of 2 years, backdated, commencing 1 January 2024, with an optional third year in Council's favour.
- (b) Council advertises its intention to enter into a licence agreement with Murrumbidgee Local Health District over part Lot 3 Section 125 DP 758476 for a period of 28 days. Should any submissions be received, a report will be presented to Council for consideration.
- (c) Should no submissions be received, Council enters into a licence agreement with Murrumbidgee Local Health District over part Lot 3 Section 125 DP 758476 for a further term of 2 years, backdated, commencing 1 January 2024, with an optional third year in Council's favour.
- (d) Murrumbidgee Local Health District pay all applicable costs and charges associated with preparation of the licence agreement together with Council's Administration Fee.
- (e) The licence fee be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy, currently \$686 per annum for the 2024/2025 financial year, together with rates and charges if applicable.
- (f) Council authorises the Mayor and General Manager to execute the licence agreement on behalf of Council under the common seal, if required.

For

Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Mark Dal Bon  
Councillor Jenny Ellis  
Councillor Scott Groat  
Councillor Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Christine Stead  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.**

*Councillors Shari Blumer and Anne Napoli returned to the meeting, the time being 7:23pm.*

**CL04 ENDORSEMENT OF DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

25/006

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council place the draft Griffith Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 on public exhibition for 28 days.
- (b) At the completion of the public exhibition period, a report will be provided to Council for consideration and adoption of the Griffith Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035.

Councillor Christine Stead asked if based on the number of submissions received during the

Public Exhibition period, is it possible to delay the Council Workshop scheduled for 18 February 2025. This was **Taken on Notice**.

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

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

### **CL05 REQUEST FOR FUNDING - MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL FOR RENTAL AT GRIFFITH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

25/007

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Carmel La Rocca to address Council.

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

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

25/008

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that the meeting resume standing orders.

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

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

25/009

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Scott Groat that:

- (a) Council support the rental of an office in the Griffith Community Centre for a nominated period of 12 months at a value of \$1,248 (ex. GST) per month for the Multicultural Council of Griffith.
- (b) Council investigate further funding options for Multicultural Council of Griffith at a Council Workshop during the 2025/26 budget process.

For  
Councillor Shari Blumer  
Councillor Jenny Ellis  
Councillor Scott Groat  
Councillor Anne Napoli  
Councillor Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against  
Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Mark Dal Bon  
Councillor Christine Stead

**The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 3.**

**CL06 ADOPTION OF COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY AND REPORT RE PROVISION & CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL**

**MOVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Scott Groat that:

- (a) Council adopt the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy as attached to the report, including the suggested amendments as listed in Table 1 of the report.
- (b) Council note the information provided in relation to the Notice of Motion considered at the 26 November 2024 Council meeting.
- (c) Council declare the Council Administration Building/Chambers alcohol free and prohibit the consumption of alcohol at the Griffith City Council Administration Building/Chambers at 1 Benerembah Street, Griffith.

For  
Councillor Mark Dal Bon  
Councillor Scott Groat  
Councillor Anne Napoli  
Councillor Christine Stead

Against  
Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Shari Blumer  
Councillor Jenny Ellis  
Councillor Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

**The division was declared LOST by 5 votes to 4.**

Councillor Jenny Ellis **MOVED** a **MOTION** that Council adopt the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy as attached to the report, including the suggested amendments as listed in Table 1 of the report.

Due to the lack of a Secunder this **MOTION LAPSED**.

**9 INFORMATION REPORTS**

**CL07 DISCLOSURES BY COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS RETURN - JANUARY 2025**

25/010

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that the

Disclosures by Councillors and Designated Persons Return for Councillors elected for the 2024-2028 term be noted.

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

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

### **CL08 RESPONSES TO COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

25/011

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that the report be noted by Council.

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

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

### **CL09 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR SCOTT GROAT - 4 NOVEMBER 2024**

**24/302**

25/012

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the report be raised from the table.

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

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

25/013

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Mark Dal Bon that the report be



noted by Council.

For

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

Against

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

### **CL10 INVESTMENTS AS AT 30 NOVEMBER AND 31 DECEMBER 2024**

25/014

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

For

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

Against

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

### **10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

#### **MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2024**

25/015

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Anne Napoli and Tony O'Grady that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 10 December 2024 be adopted.

Councillor Shari Blumer asked the date of the Light up the Lane event. This was **Taken on Notice**.

For

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

Against

Councillor Laurie Testoni

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

**MINUTES OF THE GRIFFITH HEALTH FACILITIES LIMITED (GHFL) COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2024**

25/016

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Anne Napoli that he recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Griffith Health Facilities Limited (GHFL) Committee meeting held on 10 December 2024 be adopted.

For

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

Against

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

**11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS**

Nil

**12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS**

Nil

**13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**

25/017

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

For

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

Against

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

## **14 MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY CLOSED COUNCIL**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Set out below is Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to matters which can be dealt with in the closed part of a meeting.

**The matters and information are the following:**

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)**
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer**
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business**
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:**
  - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or**
  - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or**
  - (iii) reveal a trade secret**
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law**
- (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property**
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege**
- (h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on Community land.**
- (i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440 of the Local Government Act 1993.**

25/018

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council resolve to go into closed Council to consider business identified.
- (b) Pursuant to section 10A(1)-(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provision of section [10A(2)] as outlined above.
- (c) The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

For  
Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Shari Blumer  
Councillor Mark Dal Bon  
Councillor Jenny Ellis  
Councillor Scott Groat  
Councillor Anne Napoli  
Councillor Tony O'Grady

Against

Councillor Christine Stead  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

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

Council resolved that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items listed below, and that discussion of the report in open Council would be contrary to the public interest.

**CC01 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
- AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS - FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**

Reason: Personnel Matters 10A(2)(a)

Council closed its meeting at 8:15pm

The public and media left the Chamber.

Livestream was disconnected.

**REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL**

25/019

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Anne Napoli that Open Council be resumed.

For

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

Against

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

Open Council resumed at 8:32pm.

Livestream was reconnected.

Upon resuming open Council the General Manager reported that the following resolutions had been made in Closed Council:

**MATTERS DEALT WITH IN CLOSED COUNCIL**

**CC01 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS -  
AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS - FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

25/020

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council appoint Mr Stuart Heffer as the Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.
- (b) Council appoint Dorian Radue and Helen Brill as independent members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, subject to the approval of the appointed Chairperson.
- (c) Council appoint Ian Parisotto, Paul Rossetto, Ema Munro, John Kerrigan and Richard Mortlock as members of the Floodplain Management Committee.

Councillor Christine Stead asked a question regarding the eligibility criteria for appointment to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. This was **Taken on Notice**.

For  
Councillor Mark Dal Bon  
Councillor Scott Groat  
Councillor Anne Napoli  
Councillor Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Christine Stead

Against  
Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Shari Blumer  
Councillor Jenny Ellis  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

**The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 4.**

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:35pm.

Confirmed: .....

CHAIRPERSON