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**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

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**PRESENT**

The Mayor, Doug Curran in the Chair; 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 Shari Blumer 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**

25/070

**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 11 March 2025, 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

Against

Councillor Laurie Testoni

**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 Anne Napoli

Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee held 6 March 2025

Reason – Re: CL06 Project Update McCormack Road Yoogali Levee, Stage 2 Project. I own a property along McCormack Road, Yoogali

##### **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.*

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet

CC01 Minutes of the General Manager Recruitment Committee held 12 March 2025

Reason – This matter relates to the position I currently hold.

##### **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 Anne Napoli

CL01 Final Endorsement of Community Strategic Plan 2025 - 2035

Reason – I am an ordinary member of the Local Health Advisory Council

#### **6 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

#### **7 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

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

##### **CL01 FINAL ENDORSEMENT OF COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2035**

25/071

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Jenny Ellis that Council endorse

the Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 as attached to the report including proposed amendments recommended in the below 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.**

## **CL02 ADOPTION OF DRAFT BOARDING HOUSE & CO-LIVING HOUSING POLICY**

25/072

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Tony O'Grady that Council adopt the draft Boarding House & Co-living Housing Policy with the amendments proposed in the report.

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.**

## **9 INFORMATION REPORTS**

### **CL03 INVESTMENTS AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

25/073

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Jenny Ellis 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.**

## **10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

*Councillor Anne Napoli left the meeting having declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:09pm.*

### **MINUTES OF THE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2025**

25/074

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Tony O'Grady that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held on 6 March 2025 be adopted.

For

Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Shari Blumer  
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 8 votes to 0.**

*Councillor Anne Napoli returned to the meeting, the time being 7:12pm.*

### **MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025**

25/075

**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 11 March 2025 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**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR TONY O'GRADY**

25/076

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Scott Groat that the Onsite Detention Policy CS-CP-404 be reviewed by the Director and be brought before Council for comment.

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.**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION - THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR DOUG CURRAN - NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE UPDATE AND COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTIES**

Councillors Doug Curran and Tony O'Grady moved the following MOTION that:

- (a) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing the progress on demolition of the old neighbour house located at 80 Benerembah St.
- (b) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing all properties owned by Council in the LGA.

Councillors Anne Napoli and Christine Stead moved the following AMENDMENT that:

- (a) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing the progress on demolition of the old neighbour house located at 80 Benerembah St.
- (b) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing all properties owned by Council in the LGA.
- (c) Council make contact with the Griffith Multicultural Council and offer to work with their organisation towards seeking and applying for a grant to build a multicultural centre at 80 Benerembah Street, Griffith.

The AMENDMENT was PUT and LOST.

For

Councillor Anne Napoli

Against

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

**The division was declared LOST by 8 votes to 1.**

Councillors Scott Groat and Mark Dal Bon moved the following AMENDMENT that:

- (a) Council prepare a report regarding the status of the building before pending demolition.
- (b) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing the progress on demolition of the old neighbour house located at 80 Benerembah St.
- (c) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing all properties owned by Council in the LGA.

The amendment was PUT and CARRIED.

For  
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  
Councillor Doug Curran

**The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.**

25/077

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

- (a) Council prepare a report regarding the status of the building before pending demolition.
- (b) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing the progress on demolition of the old neighbour house located at 80 Benerembah St.
- (c) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing all properties owned by Council in the LGA.

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.**

**NOTICE OF MOTION - THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR DOUG CURRAN - NAMING OF  
MEDIAN STRIP**

25/078

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council include the name 'Goslett' for the purpose of naming the Median Strip between the 2 sections of Ortella Street into the Griffith City Council Road and Park Names Register;

- (b) Council approves the name of 'Goslett' and advertise as required;
- (c) Council staff liaise with the Goslett family about the location of a donated seat in the park and provide a concrete base for the seat to be placed on.

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.**

25/079

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Bernie Connolly from the Griffith Jockey Club 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.**

25/080

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

**NOTICE OF MOTION - THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR DOUG CURRAN - WATER USE CHARGES**

25/081

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Tony O'Grady that Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing the water use charges for registered sporting organisations and not for profit organisations in the Griffith LGA for FY24.

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.**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION - THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR DOUG CURRAN - BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR**

25/082

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Anne Napoli that Griffith City Council make application to become a 'Supporter Council' of the 'Back Your Neighbour' campaign.

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.**

### **13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**

25/083

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

25/084

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead 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 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2025**

Reason: Commercial Advantage 10A(2)(d)

Council closed its meeting at 7:53pm.

The public and media left the Chamber.

Livestream was disconnected.

*General Manager, Brett Stonestreet left the meeting having declared a Non-Significant Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:53pm.*

*The Senior Management Team were asked to leave the Chamber for the discussion on CC02, the time being 7:53pm.*

**REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL**

25/085

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady 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 8:09pm.

*The General Manager and Senior Management Team returned to the meeting, the time being 8:09pm.*

Livestream was reconnected.

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

**MATTERS DEALT WITH IN CLOSED COUNCIL**

**CC01 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2025**

25/086

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the General Manager Recruitment Committee meeting held on 12 March 2025 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.**

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:10pm.

Confirmed: .....

CHAIRPERSON