
**ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 4:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Councillor Jenny Ellis, Councillor Laurie Testoni (Observer), Amy Renouf (Community Representative), Anthony Kidman (Community Representative), Brian Savage (Community Representative), Carmel La Rocca (Community Representative), Elizabeth (Will) Mead (Community Representative), Jenna Thomas (Community Representative), Kevin Taylor (Community Representative), Nicola Thoner (Community Representative), Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Stephen Parker (Community Representative), Doreen Wood (Invited Guest)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Works Manager - Maintenance, Manjit Chugha, Works Manager - Construction, Shree Shrestha, Parks & Gardens Manager, Peter Craig, Operations Assistant, Cheryl Tucker, Governance Manager, Leanne Austin and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo.

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Ema Munro (Community Representative).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Members 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

Members 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

Members 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 significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

3 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 INDUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - MANDATORY

Leanne Austin, Governance Manager, provided an overview of the Committee induction process which Committee members may access on Council's website. Committee members are required to read the Code of Conduct policy and procedures, Code of Meeting Practice policy, Statements to the Media Policy, Social Media Policy, Information Protection Principles and Child Safe policy. Committee members are also required to complete the online policy acknowledgment form. Explanation was provided in relation to the requirement to declare any Conflicts of Interest Committee members may have in their consideration of Committee matters.

CL02 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Amy Renouf that the Committee adopt the Terms of Reference attached to the report with the addition that representatives of the Dog Park and Soroptimists have one voting right each but alternate representatives may attend if the adopted Committee member is unable to attend.

CL03 PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2025

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Councillor Mark Dal Bon that the following Committee Meeting dates for 2025 be adopted.

- Thursday, 8 May 2025.
- Wednesday, 25 June 2025.
- Wednesday 24 September 2025.
- Thursday, 6 November 2025.

CL04 CUSTOMER REQUESTS MANAGEMENT

Director of Infrastructure and Operations, Phil King provided the Committee with an explanation on the most appropriate methods Committee members can report an issue. This includes:

- See it, Report it - report an issue electronic form – Council website and QR Code.
- In person in Customer Service.
- Via telephone or email.
- After hours contact numbers.
- The Mayor and Councillors can also be contacted regarding issues.

Mr King explained the Customer Request Management system can be used to track service requests from customers.

CL05 PRESENTATION - GRIFFITH DOG PARK PETITION

Council has received a request for a number of upgrades to be considered for the Off Leash Dog Park located on the western end of Community Gardens on Coolah Street, Griffith. Mr King presented the Committee with a number of options to improve the Off Leash Dog Park including:

- Enlargement of existing park
- Installation of lighting
- Obstacles for the dogs
- Upgrade of Carpark

Mr King advised the Committee that maintenance and safety issues need to be considered in any proposed upgrades.

Will Mead entered the meeting, the time being 5:06pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Nicola Thoner and Carmel La Rocca that:

- (a) The Committee note the report
- (b) The Committee request Council to consider allocating \$50,000 in the 2025/26 budget to provide upgrades to the Off Leash Dog Park, Community Gardens, Griffith.

CL06 PRESENTATION - PETITION FOR THE CLEANLINESS AND REVITALIZATION OF OUR CITY

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 11 March 2025 a Petition for the Cleanliness and Revitalisation of Our City was presented to Council by Doreen Wood. This was referred to the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee for consideration. Mr King provided an overview of Parks and Gardens areas of responsibility advising 26 Staff maintain 42 playgrounds, 2 skate parks, 7 major sporting grounds, 349Ha of grass, 177 separate parks and reserves. The Committee discussed the state of the Plane trees in Banna Avenue. Council is conducting soil testings on the areas around the affected Plane trees and will apply appropriate fertiliser / nutrients to improve the health of the trees.

The Committee discussed the condition of some of the plants in Yambil Street. Mr King advised that some of the plants are recovering from the hot summer conditions and some will be replaced. Mr Taylor suggested Lomandra Cultivar as an alternative native grass which is more heat resistant.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that the Committee endorse the proposed horticultural actions proposed by staff.

CL07 INVIGORATE GRIFFITH

The Committee was advised that a community forum (Invigorate Griffith) has been organised on the 3 April 2025, at the Gem Hotel in partnership with the Griffith Business Chamber. All interested members are encouraged to register and attend.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Anthony Kidman that Doreen Wood be endorsed as a member of the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee.

Doreen Wood left the meeting at 5:55pm.

CL09 REVIEW OF GRIFFITH CBD STRATEGY

Councillor Blumer advised the Committee that the NSW Government had recently announced the NSW Sustainable Communities Program (NSW SCP) which will provide \$160 million to projects and initiatives for communities in the Southern Basin affected by water buy backs. Mr King advised Council is applying for grant funding under this program to upgrade Banna Avenue in line with the Griffith CBD Strategy. Councillor Blumer encouraged Committee members to review the Strategy and provide ideas for improvement.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that:

- (a) Council apply for funding for the upgrading of Banna Ave as reflected in the CBD Strategy.
- (b) Council review the CBD Strategy to identify the completed initiatives and consolidate the remaining recommendations into achievable projects with clear objectives and scope of works.

CL08 REVIEW OF POLICIES & STRATEGIES

Councillor Blumer provided an overview of the policies and strategies relevant to the Roads, Parks and Pathways Committee. The Committee nominated the Playground Strategy and Tree Policy to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr Savage raised an issue regarding traffic congestion at Crossing Street, Blumer Avenue and Macedone Road during peak travel times and enquired if Council has a strategy in place to manage future traffic congestion. Mr King took this on Notice.

Councillor Ellis left the meeting at 6:11pm.

Mr Savage also raised traffic issues at Farronato Road with vehicles performing U-turns, safety concerns at the St Francis bus drop off and pick up locations and turning lanes on Banna Avenue between Crossing Street and Blumer Avenue. Mr King took these issues on Notice and will report back to the Committee and refer appropriate items to Traffic Committee. Councillor Blumer advised Committee members should report these type of issues by email to the Committee secretary or to Council's customer service.

Cheryl Tucker left the meeting at 6:15pm.

CL10 REVIEW OF PLAYGROUND STRATEGY

This clause is deferred to the next Committee Meeting due to time constraints.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Savage stated his concerns with the seed pods dropping from the Plane trees in Kooyoo Street. Mr King advised Council staff will maintain this area.

5 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee is to be held on Thursday, 8 May 2025 at 4:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:20pm.