
**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

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 Takers, Leanne Austin and Antoinette Galluzzo

MEDIA

Cai Holroyd, The Area News

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

25/087

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 25 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

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

CC01 Enter into Lease Agreement for Operation of a Cremator

Reason – Pecuniary Conflict of Interest as I am employed by and have an interest in the firm which prepared the Lease.

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.

Councillor Anne Napoli

Notice of Motion – Councillor Jenny Ellis

Reason – I have been lobbied in regards to this Motion. The outcome of this Report will have no effect to my family or to myself.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 BOORGA ROAD R5 - LARGE LOT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

25/088

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

- (a) Council endorse the public exhibition of proposed Section 12.3 of the Griffith Residential Development Plan for a period of 28 days.

- (b) Should submissions be received, a report with recommendations be presented back to an Ordinary Council Meeting for final endorsement.
- (c) Should no submissions be received, the amendments to the Griffith Residential Development Control Plan are considered endorsed the day after the close of the public exhibition period.

For

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

Against

Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Christine Stead

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 2.

CL02 NSW SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM - EARLY INVESTMENT ROUND

25/089

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

- (a) Council submit an application under the NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round.
- (b) The project to be submitted is the "Griffith City Beautification & Tourism Enhancement Project Stage 1" and as detailed in this report.

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.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2025

25/090

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment

Management Committee meeting held on 19 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.

MINUTES OF THE ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2025

25/091

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee meeting held on 26 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.

MINUTES OF THE SCENIC HILL USER GROUP MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2025

25/092

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Scenic Hill User Group meeting held on 25 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

25/093

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Christine Stead that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Brian Sainty to address 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.

25/094

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the meeting resume standing orders.

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 - COUNCILLOR JENNY ELLIS

25/095

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady that Council allocate sufficient funds from the cash reserves set aside for the Regional Art Gallery project (currently at \$109K) based on quotes received for the following items and report back to Council:

- (a) Signage for the front of the Gallery - to be designed, manufactured, and installed. (Approximately \$5K)
- (b) New hanging track system - to enhance the display and functionality of exhibition spaces. (Approximately \$10K)
- (c) Repainting of the walls and ceiling of the whole gallery - To refreshen and cover water damaged ceilings (National average: \$60-\$100/ sqm; Gallery is 422sqm therefore up to \$42K).

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

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

25/096

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Tony O'Grady 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.**

25/097

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis 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
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

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 ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR OPERATION OF A CREMATOR

Reason: Council Business 10A(2)(c)

Council closed its meeting at 7:38pm. The public and media left the Chamber. Livestream was disconnected.

Councillor Shari Blumer left the meeting having declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:38pm

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

25/098

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that Open Council be resumed.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
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 8 votes to 0.

Open Council resumed at 8:34pm.

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

25/099

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Daniel Calabro, Peter and Michelle Woodward to speak.

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
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 8 votes to 0.

25/100

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Scott Groat that the meeting resume standing orders.

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
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 8 votes to 0.

CC01 ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR OPERATION OF A CREMATOR

Councillors Jenny Ellis and Laurie Testoni moved the following MOTION:

- (a) Council enter into a lease agreement with Griffith Regional Funeral Services and the Landowner of 172-174 Wakaden Street, Griffith for the operation of a Cremator. Refer Attachment A, subject to an amendment to the term of the Lease being 3 years from the commencement date with the first option 1 year and second option 1 year.
- (b) Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to sign the Cremator Lease Agreement under Council Seal.
- (c) Council commence the tender process to procure a cremator in 2025/26 subject to approving funding to purchase the cremator in the final 2025/26 budget.

Councillors Scott Groat and Tony O'Grady moved the following AMENDMENT that Council commence the tender process to procure a cremator in 2025/26 subject to approving funding to purchase the cremator in the final 2025/26 budget.

The amendment was PUT and LOST.

For
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli

Against
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared LOST by 3 votes to 6.

25/101

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council enter into a lease agreement with Griffith Regional Funeral Services and the Landowner of 172-174 Wakaden Street, Griffith for the operation of a Cremator. Refer Attachment A, subject to an amendment to the term of the Lease being 3 years from the commencement date with the first option 1 year and second option 1 year.
- (b) Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to sign the Cremator Lease Agreement under Council Seal.
- (c) Council commence the tender process to procure a cremator in 2025/26 subject to approving funding to purchase the cremator in the final 2025/26 budget.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli

The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 3.

Councillor Shari Blumer returned to the meeting, the time being 8:34pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:36pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON