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**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, 13 MAY 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, Tony O'Grady, Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni

**STAFF**

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Acting Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Max Turner, Acting Director Sustainable Development, Carel Potgieter and Minute Takers, Leanne Austin and Antoinette Galluzzo

**MEDIA**

The Area News, Cai Holroyd

**1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Meeting opened with Councillor Jenny Ellis 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**

25/119

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that apologies be received from Deputy Mayor, Anne Napoli, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon and Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and a leave of absence granted.

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.**

### **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

25/120

**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 22 April 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 Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Christine Stead  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 8 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

CL05 - Surrender of Lease Agreement with Atkinson Agriculture and request for New Lease Agreement between Atkinson Agriculture and Robert Ryan - Hangar Site 21 Griffith Aerodrome, Old Aerodrome Road, Griffith - Part Lot 1 DP1146897

Reason – The business that I work for and have an interest in, does work on the documents if endorsed by Council.

#### **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 Laurie Testoni

CL01 - DA 141/2024 - Review of Determination of Refusal to Grant Consent - Free-Standing Digital Advertising Structure

Reason – Cousins husband is a Director of a company involved with the DA process.

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet

Minutes of the General Manager Recruitment Committee Meeting held on 28 April 2025

Reason – These Minutes relate to the position I currently hold with Council.

#### **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 significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

## **6 PRESENTATIONS**

The Mayor advised Councillors that the Griffith Parkinson's Support Group had recently presented Griffith City Council with a Community Hero Award.

## **7 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

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

*Councillor Laurie Testoni left the meeting having declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest, the time being 7:05pm.*

### **CL01 DA 141/2024 - REVIEW OF DETERMINATION OF REFUSAL TO GRANT CONSENT - FREE-STANDING DIGITAL ADVERTISING STRUCTURE**

25/121

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

- (a) Council as the consent authority pursuant to Section 8.4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, review the original determination to approve Development Application 141/2024(2) for the construction of a free-standing digital advertising structure at 10-12 Yambil St Griffith.
- (b) The Director Sustainable Development be delegated to issue the notice of determination with conditions of consent as per Attachment (a) in the report.

In accordance with the Local Government Action (section 375A - Recording of voting on planning matters) Council must record the Councillor's vote in relation to the matter.

For

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

Against

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

*Councillor Laurie Testoni returned to the meeting, the time being 7:08pm.*

**CL02 ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025/26 TO 2028/29  
INCORPORATING THE DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN (BUDGET) 2025/26 AND  
RESOURCING STRATEGY**

Councillors Shari Blumer and Scott Groat moved the following **MOTION** that:

- (a) Council endorse the placement of the following draft documents on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days:
  - ☐ Draft Delivery Program 2025/26 - 2028/29 incorporating the draft Operational Plan 2025/26,
  - ☐ Draft Ten Year Long Term Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35
  - ☐ Draft Workforce Management Plan 2025/26-2028/29
  - ☐ Draft Asset Management Plan 2025/26 – 2034/35.
- (b) Council hold a Community Opinion Group (COG meeting) during the public exhibition period to review and discuss the draft documents.
- (c) Following the public exhibition period, the abovementioned documents, including any submissions received, will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption before 30 June 2025.

Councillors O'Grady and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 10 Public cemeteries New cremator \$400K - move this item to 2026/2027 budget.**

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

For	Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon	Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Scott Groat	Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Tony O'Grady	Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Christine Stead	Councillor Laurie Testoni
<b>The vote was tied 4 votes to 4.</b>	

The Mayor used his casting vote, to vote against the amendment.

The amendment was declared LOST.

Councillors O'Grady and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 26 Roads and bridges Kerb and gutter renewal \$225,721 - reduce this figure by \$100k.**

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

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Tony O'Grady	Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Christine Stead	Councillor Jenny Ellis
	Councillor Scott Groat
	Councillor Laurie Testoni
<b>The division was declared LOST by 3 votes to 5.</b>	

The amendment was declared LOST.

Councillors O'Grady and Ellis moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 34 Civil Infrastructure Drone replacement \$7,410 - move this item to 2027/28 going forward 7.5 yr replacement.**

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

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

**The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 2.**

The amendment was declared CARRIED.

Councillors O'Grady and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 37 Street lighting Additional lights general \$33,051 - reduce this figure to \$16,525.**

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

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

**The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 3.**

The amendment was declared CARRIED.

Councillors O'Grady and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 44 IT services Annual PC replacement \$124,218 - reduce this figure to \$110K.**

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

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

**The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 1.**

The amendment was declared CARRIED.

Councillors O'Grady and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 65 Parking Areas Reseal car parks \$62,870 - reduce this figure by \$50k.**

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

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

**The division was declared LOST by 6 votes to 2.**

The amendment was declared LOST.

Councillors O'Grady and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 68 Footpaths and cycleways \$75,573 - reduce this Figure by \$15k.**

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

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

**The division was declared LOST by 6 votes to 2.**

The amendment was declared LOST.

Councillors O'Grady and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 72 Roads and bridges Seal gravel Rd intersections \$100k - remove this from the 2025/26 budget**

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

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

**The division was declared LOST by 6 votes to 2.**

The amendment was declared LOST.

Councillors O'Grady and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 74 Parks and gardens Scenic hill lighting etc \$140k - move \$70k of this budget to 2026/27 budget.**

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

For	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 PASSED by 8 votes to 0.**

The amendment was declared CARRIED.

Councillors O'Grady and Blumer moved the following **AMENDMENT** that:

**Line 76 Parks and gardens Wood park toilet block \$250K - move this item to 2026/27 budget.**

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

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

**The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 3.**

The amendment was declared CARRIED.

25/122

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

- (a) Council endorse the placement of the following draft documents on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days:
  - ☐ Draft Delivery Program 2025/26 - 2028/29 incorporating the draft Operational Plan 2025/26,
  - ☐ Draft Ten Year Long Term Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35
  - ☐ Draft Workforce Management Plan 2025/26-2028/29
  - ☐ Draft Asset Management Plan 2025/26 – 2034/35.
- (b) Council hold a Community Opinion Group (COG meeting) during the public exhibition period to review and discuss the draft documents.
- (c) Following the public exhibition period, the abovementioned documents, including any submissions received, will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption

before 30 June 2025.

Council also endorse for exhibition, the following further amendments relating to the Draft Delivery Program and Draft Ten Year Long Term Financial Plan - Ten Year Capital Works Program.

- (d) Line 34 Civil Infrastructure Drone replacement \$7,410 - move this item to 2027/28 going forward 7.5 yr replacement.
- (e) Line 37 Street lighting Additional lights general \$33,051 - reduce this figure to \$16,525.
- (f) Line 44 IT services Annual PC replacement \$124,218 - reduce this figure to \$110K.
- (g) Line 74 Parks and gardens Scenic hill lighting etc \$140k - move \$70k of this budget to 2026/27 budget.
- (h) Line 76 Parks and gardens Wood park toilet block \$250K - move this item to 2026/27 budget.

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.**

### **CL03 GRALC SURVEY RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION ON OPERATING STATUS**

25/123

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

- (a) Council note the Survey Results Report conducted in relation to the Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre (GRALC) Gymnasium.
- (b) Council endorse the Gymnasium facility remaining under the control and operation of Council into the future.

For

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

Against

Councillor Mark Dal Bon

**The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 1.**

### **CL04 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES - CUSTOMER SERVICE & USE OF COUNCIL FOOTPATHS**



25/124

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

- (a) Council place the draft Customer Service Policy and Use of Council Footpaths Policy on public display for 28 days.
- (b) If any submissions are received, a further report be prepared for Council.
- (c) If no submissions are received, the reviewed policies be considered adopted by Council as at the date of the conclusion of the advertised exhibition period.

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 Shari Blumer left the meeting having declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:45pm.*

**CL05 SURRENDER OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ATKINSON AGRICULTURE AND REQUEST FOR NEW LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ATKINSON AGRICULTURE AND ROBERT RYAN - HANGAR SITE 21 GRIFFITH AERODROME, OLD AERODROME ROAD, GRIFFITH - PART LOT 1 DP1146897**

25/125

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

- (a) Council approves the surrender of the current lease with Atkinson Agriculture.
- (b) Council approves to enter into a new lease with Atkinson Agriculture and Robert Ryan over Hangar Site 21 of the Griffith Aerodrome (Part Lot 1 DP 1146897) for a term of 5 years, effective as at the date of the surrender of the current lease, with a further option of 5 years.
- (c) The annual lease fee will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy, currently \$3.01 per sq/metre for 'landside' areas between 1000 - 4000 sq/metres for the 2024/2025 Financial Year, in addition to rates and charges.
- (d) Robert Ryan to pay all applicable costs and charges associated with the surrender of the current lease and the preparation of the new lease agreement together with Council's Administration Fee.
- (e) Council authorise the General Manager and Mayor to execute the lease agreement on behalf of Council under the Common Seal.

For

Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Mark Dal Bon  
Councillor Jenny Ellis

Against

Councillor Scott Groat  
Councillor Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Christine Stead  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

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

*Councillor Shari Blumer returned to the meeting, the time being 7:47pm.*

## **9 INFORMATION REPORTS**

### **CL06 WESTERN RIVERINA REGIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN**

25/126

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that Council endorse 'Action 1.4 - Councils to review stormwater management and town sewerage discharge strategies and approaches to maximise opportunities for reuse of water resources' from the Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan as part of the implementation phase.

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.**

### **CL07 PETITION RECEIVED 29 APRIL 2025**

25/127

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

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.**

### **CL08 INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

25/128

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead 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 Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Christine Stead  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.**

## **10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **MINUTES OF THE SALEYARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2025**

25/129

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Saleyards Committee meeting held on 22 April 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.**

### **MINUTES OF THE LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2025**

25/130

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 24 April 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.**

*General Manager, Brett Stonestreet left the meeting having declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:58pm*

*The Senior Management Team left the meeting, the time being 7:58pm.*

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2025**

25/131

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the General Manager Recruitment Committee meeting held on 28 April 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.**

*The General Manager and Senior Management Team returned to the meeting, the time being 7:59pm.*

**11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS**

Nil

**12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS**

**NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR MARK DAL BON**

25/132

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Mark Dal Bon and Christine Stead that :

- (a) Council place the naming proposal (Valentini Bridge) for the new walkway bridge adjacent to Mackay Avenue and Macedone Road, on public exhibition for 28 days.
- (b) If no public submissions received, the name be formally adopted and appropriate new signage be developed for Council's review and implementation,
- (c) If any public submissions are received, then a further report be provided to Council for determination.

For

Councillor Doug Curran  
Councillor Shari Blumer  
Councillor Mark Dal Bon  
Councillor Jenny Ellis

Against

Councillor Scott Groat  
Councillor Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Christine Stead  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

**The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR MARK DAL BON**

Councillors Mark Dal Bon and Jenny Ellis moved the following **MOTION** that "I would like Cr Ellis to explain her posting about the funding for carols and candlelight's, witch has caused some conterversy out in the public, to council and the general public."

No vote was taken.

### **13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**

25/133

**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 Tony O'Grady  
Councillor Christine Stead  
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.**

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

Nil

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:22pm.

Confirmed: .....

CHAIRPERSON