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**ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025 COMMENCING AT 4:03 PM**

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**PRESENT**

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Councillor Jenny Ellis, Amy Renouf (Community Representative), Anthony Kidman (Community Representative (via zoom)), Brian Savage (Community Representative), Elizabeth (Will) Mead (Community Representative), Ema Munro (Community Representative), Kevin Taylor (Community Representative), Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Stephen Parker (Community Representative), Doreen Wood (Community Representative), Lisbeth (Libby) Trembath (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, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, Operations Assistant, Cheryl Tucker and Minute Secretaries, Antoinette Galluzzo and Joanne Bollen

**1 APOLOGIES**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Councillor Mark Dal Bon that apologies be received from Jenna Thomas (Community Representative), Nicola Thoner (Community Representative), Carmel La Rocca (Community Representative) and Patricia Clarke (Invited Guest).

**2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Elizabeth (Will) Mead and Councillor Mark Dal Bon that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 March 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

**3 BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Pecuniary Interests**

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.*

Community Representative Simone Murphy

CL03 Item Raised By Committee Member

Reason – In relation to the letter submitted to this committee expressing concerns about Prendergast Park. I declare that the person submitting this letter is my Cousin and that the park was named after my Uncle Len Prendergast.

## **Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

## **5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **CL01 RECOMMENDATION FOR ALTERNATE MEMBERS REPRESENTING SOROPTIMISTS**

Councillor Blumer welcomed new members.

No recommendation was made.

### **CL02 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE REPORT**

At the meeting held on 26 March 2025, two questions were taken on notice and Director of Infrastructure and Operations, Phil King addressed these matters in a report.

Councillor Blumer, requested an update on behalf of Ms Thomas regarding the replanting of trees recently removed from Railway Street, behind Memorial Park.

Mr King informed the Committee that Council will first install water and irrigation infrastructure at the site. Following this, the planting of the Plane Trees is scheduled to begin in approximately six weeks.

The Committee noted the information.

### **CL03 ITEM RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER**

*Simone Murphy left the meeting at 4:15pm having declared a significant non pecuniary conflict of interest.*

A letter was received on the 7 May 2025, from a community member requesting reinstatement of water, planted trees and garden seat at Prendergast Park, located on Ortella Street, Gordon Avenue and Yoolooma Street.

In response, Parks & Gardens Manager Peter Craig informed the Committee that several years ago, the coupling turf valves at the site were turned off as part of a water-saving initiative. He raised several considerations regarding the potential reinstatement of irrigation and redevelopment of the area, including:

- There are already several nearby parks equipped with seating and play equipment.
- When the site was previously irrigated, Council received numerous complaints about excess water runoff onto the road rather than benefiting the park.
- Safety concerns may arise if the area was to be redeveloped.
- Ongoing maintenance and necessary traffic control present logistical challenges due

to the site's location.

Mr Craig also clarified that the area is a traffic island / road reserve, not a designated park, with a perimeter of 200 metres and a total area of 1,700 square metres.

Ms Munro suggested that if the Committee decided to proceed with planting, she would be happy to supply native plants, proposing that the initiative could be tied in with National Tree Day.

Works Manager – Maintenance, Manjit Chugha advised that any shrubs planted must not obstruct driver sight lines, highlighting the need for careful species selection.

Mr Kidman suggested a xeriscape garden as the most suitable option for the site. This approach would use indigenous or locally native plants, requiring minimal irrigation and reducing water filtration through the soil.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Councillor Mark Dal Bon that Council staff and Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee members, Anthony Kidman, Kevin Taylor and Councillor Shari Blumer, organise a meeting with the Prendergast family to discuss options for beautification of the Prendergast traffic island and come back to the Committee for discussion.

*Simone Murphy returned to the meeting at 4:30pm.*

An item was raised by Committee member Ms Thoner regarding whether the Dog Park falls under the CBD Strategy, and if Council receives funding under this strategy, whether those funds could be allocated to the Dog Park.

In response, Mr King clarified that the dog park is not included within the CBD Strategy. As such, any funding received under that Strategy cannot be directed towards the dog park. He further explained that the dog park is classified as a recreational area.

#### **CL04 REVIEW OF PLAYGROUND STRATEGY**

The Committee considered the Griffith Playground Strategy which guides the provision and management of playgrounds within the Local Government Area. Mr King advised the Strategy is now ten years old and almost all of the high priority parks have been upgraded in accordance with the recommendations from the strategic document.

Mr King suggested the review of the Strategy should look at what Council has in place now as well as the demographics of our community.

Councillor Blumer suggested that consideration be given to providing parks for people with special needs, such as Alzheimer's, so that all members of the community can access parks which meet their needs.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Amy Renouf that a stocktake of Council's current parks and associated infrastructure be undertaken, including a review and update of the data, metrics, and underlying assumptions that informed the existing strategy. The findings are to be reported back to the Committee prior to being presented to Council.

#### **CL05 REVIEW OF LOCAL POLICIES - TREE POLICY & TREE PRESERVATION ORDER**

*Joanne Bollen left the meeting at 5:00pm.*

*Lisbeth (Libby) Trembath left the meeting at 5:02pm.*

Council has a number of local policies (policies which relate to orders and approvals), these policies provide the framework from within which Council staff work and make decisions. Council staff have reviewed the (PG-CP-401) Tree Preservation Order and (PG-CP-402) Tree Policy which were presented to the Committee for comment and endorsement.

Councillor Blumer requested that the list of species be presented to the next Committee Meeting.

Councillor Blumer requested any Committee members wishing to provide feedback relating to the review of the policies do so via email and staff present report to the next Committee meeting.

Mr Parker suggested that section 3.5, part C of the Tree Preservation Order Policy is too vague and questioned who is assessing that item. Mr King will look into this and update the Policy.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Stephen Parker and Will Mead that the Committee review the (PG-CP-401) Tree Preservation Order and (PG-CP-402) Tree Policy at the next Committee meeting.

## **6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**

*Councillor Jenny Ellis left the meeting at 5:24pm.*

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Doreen Wood and Ema Munro that the report be noted.

Councillor Blumer provided an update on CL09 Review of the Griffith CBD Strategy from the action report, informing the Committee that when Council is advised whether they are successful in obtaining grant funding, the CBD Strategy will come back to this Committee.

Ms Wood highlighted that the Griffith CBD should have more colour and trees to beautify the area.

Ms. Murphy raised a query regarding the dirt section in front of the Griffith Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre (GRALC) carpark, specifically asking whether planting vegetation would help deter people from walking through the area. In response, Mr. King noted that GRALC has its own maintenance staff who have previously attempted to establish plantings in the space. However, it has been unsuccessful, as the plants are frequently trampled on.

Mr Savage questioned how high the trees in Yambil Street will grow, due to safety concerns of not being able to see the oncoming traffic. Mr Craig informed the Committee they will grow 10-12 meters high.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Intersection of Banna Avenue and Lenehan Road**

Councillor Dal Bon raised safety concerns at the intersection of Banna Avenue and Lenehan Road, which has been referred to the Traffic Committee.

### **7.2 Meeting Dates**

Ms Munro requested that the meeting date be reconsidered. A poll will be circulated to determine the most suitable date for the Committee meetings.

### **7.3 Review of Policies / Strategies**

Councillor Blumer informed the Committee the next policies/ strategies to review at the next Committee meeting include the Griffith Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy 2021 and the Driveways Maintenance Width Policy.

### **7.4 See it, Report it**

Mr King clarified how the 'See it – Report' it system works, and highlighted when communicating with Council staff, request the CRM number for your reference.

## **8 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 25 June 2025 at 4:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5:40pm.