



MINUTES

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

PRESENT

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

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 and Minute Secretary, Leanne Austin

Councillor Testoni chaired the meeting at the request of Councillor Shari Blumer who was attending the meeting remotely.

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from staff member Cheryl Tucker, Operations Assistant.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Stephen Parker that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 May 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

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.

Councillor Mark Dal Bon

CL09 – Notice of Motion – Upgrade to Original Bagtown’s First Blacksmith Store Site 12 March 2024

Reason – I have a farm down the road on Research Station Road Hanwood. I will not make money off this venture and it will not impact my property.

Kevin Taylor

CL08 – Letter Regarding Pathway / Lighting in Noorla Street

Reason – As the Committee I discussing a pathway along Noorla Street, I have a rental on Noorla Street and live in the vicinity.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 RECOMMENDATION FOR ALTERNATE MEMBERS REPRESENTING SOROPTIMIST

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Jenna Thomas that the Committee accept Lisbeth (Libby) Trembath and Patricia Clarke as alternate members for Soroptimist, and the Terms of Reference be updated. It was noted that Soroptimist representatives would have one vote collectively.

CL02 REVIEW OF GRIFFITH PLAYGROUND STRATEGY

Mr King presented a review of parks and playgrounds within the Griffith Local Government Area (LGA) following a recommendation on 8 May 2025 by the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee 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 were reported back to the Committee prior to being presented to Council.”

The presentation provided demographic data as well as a list of parks and playgrounds in the LGA including recent improvements. Mr King stated that the review highlighted that there are sufficient parks and green spaces and that priority should now be given to upgrading existing parks and playgrounds, for example by installing shade structures or removing dangerous infrastructure.

Ms Thomas raised the issue of the reserve in Altin Street which had previously had some vegetation but was now being used as a parking area. Mr King advised no irrigation is provided in this location and that Council may consider developing it as a formal car park in future.

Mr King advised playground equipment has a life span of approximately 20 years. Staff undertake a comprehensive inspection of playground equipment annually with high use areas inspected daily and operational inspections performed every 3 months.

Mr Savage enquired if there were any future plans to develop the Railway Street parking adjacent to Memorial Park to extend the park area? Councillor Testoni advised this option had been investigated during the latest upgrade of Memorial Park. Mr Badenhorst advised

any future plans would require community consultation as it would require the loss of parking spaces.

Simone Murphy joined the meeting by Zoom at 4:30 pm.

Ms Renouf enquired if Council would be considering removal of green space in the future as a means of reducing reliance on its resources. Mr King responded that Council has already undertaken measures to reduce reliance on resources, including the removal of a playground in Hanwood which was replaced with exercise equipment and the management of some detention basins through slashing rather than mowing. These actions have contributed to some cost savings.

Mr Parker enquired if Council would consider neighbourhood working parties to assist with maintaining open spaces as proposed in the Strategy? Ms Mead stated that Soroptimists had been involved in the Don Best Park upgrade and they have held a number of successful events. Mr King advised volunteers would need to be registered with Council and inducted however this option could be implemented.

Councillor Blumer requested that the Strategy and options discussed should be put out to the community for feedback.

Mr King suggested that Council look at the medium and low priorities in the Strategy and bring a reviewed document back to the next meeting. Community consultation will also be required at some point.

Ms Thoner enquired if the Dog Park petition would be considered as feedback to the Playground Strategy? Mr King advised the Dog Park is not included in the current Playground Strategy however a budget bid was recently approved for improvements to the dog off leash area and Council would be consulting with users to upgrade the facilities.

Mr Kidman enquired about the difference between playgrounds and parks and what constitutes a park. Mr Badenhorst responded that with new parks consultation is undertaken with the local community and a design developed based on consultation and budget.

Councillor Dal Bon enquired if public toilets would form part of the Strategy review? Mr King advised that this can be looked at, particularly in terms of public safety.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Carmel La Rocca that the information be received and noted. A report is to be presented to the next meeting incorporating the updated data and review of the medium and low priority areas.

Councillor Shari Blumer left the meeting at 4:57 pm.

CL03 RECOMMENDED TREE SPECIES LIST

The Committee considered Council's Tree Species list as requested at the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee held on the 8 May 2025.

Ms Munro enquired if a meeting had been organised with the Prendergast family regarding beautification of the traffic island? Mr King advised he would contact the family in the coming week.

Councillor Jenny Ellis left the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Mr Craig advised the tree species listed were the preferred trees for Council's street trees.

CL04 REVIEW OF LOCAL POLICIES - TREE POLICY & TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

Mr King advised that the Infrastructure & Operations directorate's local policies (PG-CP-401) Tree Preservation Order and (PG-CP-402) Tree Policy have been reviewed by staff and are being presented to the Committee for endorsement.

Ms Thomas enquired what action Council would undertake should members of the public not comply with the Tree Preservation Order policy. Mr King advised the policy does place a monetary value on trees and Council may request payment.

Ms Munro enquired whether there were any plans to plant additional trees, particularly in areas with significant open space such as the Hospital grounds, especially along the western side near Wyangan Avenue, which would benefit from additional shade. This was taken on notice.

Ms Thomas enquired if Council planned to plant trees along the Yoogali pathway, replacing trees that had been removed during construction of the pathway? Mr Chugha advised it would depend on available budget and site restrictions.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Wil Mead and Anthony Kidman that the revised (PG-CP-401) Tree Preservation Order and (PG-CP-402) Tree Policy local policies be endorsed by the Committee.

CL05 THE GRIFFITH PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE STRATEGY 2021

Mr King presented the current Griffith Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy 2021 which is the overall guiding document for new paths and cycleways for the Griffith Local Government Area. The Strategy guides the priority listing of projects and ensures that the path network is expanded in a strategic manner. Mr King advised that Noorla Street and Coolah Street pathways are Council's next priority areas.

Mr Savage asked if the pathway along Wakaden Street between Beal Street and Burrell Place could be reviewed due to safety concerns regarding its width. Mr King advised this would require kerb realignment.

Ms Renouf requested that Clifton Boulevarde be considered as a priority area as this location is heavily used by both pedestrians and cyclists. Mr King advised he would assess this using the Strategy criteria and bring the results back to the next meeting.

Ms Murphy enquired if the pathways in Council's new Masterplans would be included in the Strategy? Mr King advised that pathways listed in the Masterplans would be added to the Strategy and would form part of the conditions imposed on developers.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Amy Renouf and Councillor Mark Dal Bon that the Committee receive and note the report and the priority matrix be brought back to the next meeting.

CL06 REVIEW OF LOCAL POLICIES - DRIVEWAYS – MAINTENANCE & WIDTH

Ms Murphy left the meeting the time being 5:31 pm.

Mr King presented (CS-CP-402) Driveways – Maintenance & Width Policy to the Committee for consideration and review. The Committee discussed the availability of various options for driveways rather than using concrete.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steven Parker and Wil Mead that the (CS-CP-402) Driveways – Maintenance & Width Policy be endorsed by the Committee.

CL07 COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUEST - SEE IT, REPORT IT

Mr King informed the Committee that Council is currently in the process of implementing a new Customer Relationship Management System (CRMS) to effectively manage end-to-end customer request workflows. This will assist members of the public in tracking requests.

CL08 LETTER REGARDING PATHWAY / LIGHTING IN NOORLA STREET

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Wil Mead and Jenna Thomas that this item be carried over to the next meeting pending review of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy priority listing.

CL09 NOTICE OF MOTION - UPGRADE TO ORIGINAL BAGTOWN'S FIRST BLACKSMITH STORE SITE - 12 MARCH 2024

Mr King advised Council currently has a budget of \$20,000 to improve the original Bagtown first blacksmith store site. Mr King noted that there are a number of concerns with the site including how the site might be accessed by motorists, lack of parking, amount of traffic through the intersection and pedestrian safety.

The Committee considered a number of options including fencing the area, signage, installation of a boardwalk, relocation of the tree and other limitations of the site.

Committee members are to indicate, through a poll, their availability to attend an on-site visit.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and Anthony Kidman that members attend an on-site visit and the matter be brought back to the next meeting for further consideration.

Nicola Thoner left the meeting 5:40 pm.

CL10 NOTICE OF MOTION - NAMING OF ROUNDABOUT - 10 DEC 2024

Mr King advised that at the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2024, Council resolved to refer to the Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee for consideration the following:

- Develop a framework for naming proposals, ensuring alignment with community values, cultural significance, and existing local ties.
- Explore ways to reflect Griffith's multicultural diversity in public spaces, including roundabouts, entrances and other landmarks.

Mr King pointed out that Council has in place a Roads and Open Spaces Naming policy and Plaques Installed by Council policy.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and Ema Munro that a draft policy be presented to the next Committee meeting.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Wil Mead and Councillor Mark Dal Bon that the report be noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Thorne Road

At the request of Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Mr King provided the Committee with an update on the Thorne Road works.

7.2 Tree Planting Day

Ms Munro enquired if Council would recommend any suitable sites for Tree Planting Day which is to be held in one month's time. Mr King will liaise with Ms Munro on this matter.

8 NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:05 pm.