



MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, 22 JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM

PRESENT

The Mayor, Doug Curran in the Chair; Councillors, Shari Blumer, Mark Dal Bon, Jenny Ellis (ZOOM), Scott Groat, Anne Napoli, Tony O'Grady (ZOOM) and Christine Stead

STAFF

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Acting Director Utilities, Durgananda Chaudhary, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Acting Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Max Turner, Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Matthew Hansen, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and Minute Taker, Joanne Bollen

MEDIA

Not in Attendance

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Shari Blumer 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

25/200

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Anne Napoli that an apology be received from Councillor Laurie Testoni and a leave of absence granted and an application to attend by audio-visual link from Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady be granted.

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

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

25/201

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Scott Groat that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 8 July 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

For	Against
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	

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.

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

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 Jenny Ellis

Notice of Motion – Councillor Jenny Ellis

Reason – I am a member of both the Griffith Musicians Club and the Griffith Art Collective would also collaborate on this project.

Councillor Shari Blumer

Notice of Motion – Councillor Jenny Ellis

Reason – I am a member of the musicians club.

6 PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor welcomed Council's new Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Matthew Hansen.

The Mayor and General Manager thanked Max Turner, who has been acting in the role, for his service to Council.

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 DA 27/2025 - CO-LIVING DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING TWENTY-TWO (22) ACCOMMODATION UNITS, INCLUDING DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DEVELOPMENT - 6 WYANGAN AVENUE, GRIFFITH

25/202

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Scott Groat that from the Ordinary Meeting of Griffith City Council 10 June 2025, Council raise from the table CL02 DA 27/2025 – Co-Living Development Comprising Twenty-Two (22) Accommodation Units, Including Demolition of Existing Development – 6 Wyangan Avenue, Griffith (Attachment (a)).

For	Against
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	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

25/203

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

- Council place the Development Application including the amended plan set and documentation on public exhibition for a period of 14 days in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and Regulations, and the Griffith Community Participation Plan.
- Once public notification period has finished, a new report be presented to Council with any new submissions received and the proposed amendments to the development as submitted.

For	Against
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

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

CL02 NAMING OF NEW YOOGALI PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

MOVED on the MOTION of Councillors Mark Dal Bon and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council note the submissions received.
- (b) Council add the name "Valentini" to the Griffith City Council Road & Park Name Register and name the Yoogali Pedestrian Bridge 'Valentini Bridge'.
- (c) Council hold an official Opening Ceremony inviting State Government representatives, the Member for Murray and the public to attend a "Walk the Griffith to Yoogali Path" event to celebrate the opening of the path and bridge.

MOVED on the MOTION of Councillor Jenny Ellis that the report LAY ON THE TABLE.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady

Against
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Christine Stead

The division was declared LOST by 3 votes to 5.

25/204

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

- (a) Council note the submissions received.
- (b) Council add the name "Valentini" to the Griffith City Council Road & Park Name Register and name the Yoogali Pedestrian Bridge 'Valentini Bridge'.
- (c) Council hold an official Opening Ceremony inviting State Government representatives, the Member for Murray and the public to attend a "Walk the Griffith to Yoogali Path" event to celebrate the opening of the path and bridge.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Christine Stead

Against
Councillor Tony O'Grady

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 1.

**CL03 ENDORSEMENT OF CHILD SAFE POLICY, CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT
AND CHILD SAFE REPORTING POLICY FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

25/205

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

(a) Council endorse the following draft documents:

- Child Safe Policy;
- Child Safe Code of Conduct;
- Child Safe Reporting Policy.

(b) The above draft documents be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

(c) If submissions are received, a further report be prepared for Council.

(d) If no submissions are received, the above documents be considered as 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 Anne Napoli
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

CL04 REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S LOCAL POLICIES 2025 - TREE PRESERVATION ORDER, TREE POLICY AND ONSITE DETENTION POLICY

25/206

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Jenny Ellis that:

- Council endorse the draft Tree Preservation Order, Tree Policy and Onsite Detention Policy as per Attachments (a), (b) and (c) of the report.
- The draft Tree Preservation Order, Tree Policy and Onsite Detention Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days allowing 42 days for submissions to be received from the date of advertising.
- Following the public exhibition period, a further report be presented to Council to adopt the draft Tree Preservation Order, Tree Policy and Onsite Detention Policy or to consider submissions received.

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

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

CL05 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2025

25/207

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Anne Napoli and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council be represented at the 2025 Local Government NSW Water Management Conference to be held in Albury from 9 to 11 September 2025.
- (b) The Mayor's delegate, Councillor Shari Blumer (Alternate – Councillor Scott Groat), and General Manager (or their delegates) attend the Conference.
- (c) Expenses to attend the Conference be paid by Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy.

For	Against
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	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

CL06 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

25/208

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

- (a) The Mayor, two Councillors, being Councillors Tony O'Grady and Jenny Ellis (Alternate – Councillor Anne Napoli) and the General Manager (or his delegate) attend the 2025 Local Government NSW Annual Conference to be held at Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre, Penrith from Sunday 23 to Tuesday 25 November 2025.
- (b) Expenses for attendance at the 2025 Local Government NSW Annual Conference be paid in accordance with Council policy.
- (c) Council determine any motion(s) for inclusion in the Conference business paper such that they can be lodged with LGNSW by the deadline being Tuesday 30 September 2025. These draft motions are to be submitted to the General Manager by Friday 5 September 2025 to enable them to be reported to Council and endorsed.
- (d) Council confirm the three voting delegates at the LGNSW Conference to be the Mayor, Councillor Tony O'Grady and Councillor Jenny Ellis.

For	Against
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	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

CL07 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE - REVIEW

25/209

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council note this report regarding the review of the organisation structure in accordance with Sections 332 and 333 of the Local Government Act 1993.
- (b) Council note that the resources allocated for the employment of staff are in accordance with Council's Strategic Planning documents including Griffith City Council Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035, Delivery Program 2025/26 - 2028/29 incorporating the draft Operational Plan 2025/26 (Budget), Ten Year Long Term Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35, Workforce Management Plan 2025/26-2028/29 and Asset Management Plan 2025/26 – 2034/35.

For	Against
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	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

25/210

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Jenny Ellis that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee meeting held on 26 June 2025 be adopted.

For	Against
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	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE NEW CEMETERY MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2025

25/211

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the New Cemetery Masterplan Committee

meeting held on 2 July 2025 be adopted.

For	Against
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	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2025

25/212

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Anne Napoli and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 8 July 2025 be adopted.

For	Against
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	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JENNY ELLIS

25/213

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Shari Blumer that Council:

- (a) Supports in principle the installation of a public, artist-painted community piano in Griffith, designed to enhance cultural vibrancy and community connection.
- (b) Requests Council staff to:
 - i. Identify and assess suitable public locations that provide shelter, accessibility, and passive security for the installation of a community piano;
 - ii. Provide advice on relevant approvals, maintenance responsibilities, and any public liability considerations.
- (c) Explores partnership opportunities with Pianos for the People, the ABC, the Griffith Musicians Club, the Griffith Art Collective, and local businesses to support the

sourcing, restoration, painting, promotion, and community activation of the piano.

(d) Receives a further report outlining the next steps, including any costs or support that might be required from Council.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Christine Stead

The division was declared TIED.

The Mayor used his Casting Vote to vote in favour of the **MOTION** and the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

25/214

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer 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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 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.

25/215

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Anne Napoli and Christine Stead 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.

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 REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM SINKING FUND - GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL GRIFFITH

Reason: Commercial Advantage 10A(2)(d)

Council closed its meeting at 7:54pm.

The public and media left the Chamber.

Livestream was disconnected.

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

25/216

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Anne Napoli that Open Council be resumed.

For	Against
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

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

Open Council resumed at 8:19pm.

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

CC01 REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM SINKING FUND - GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL ST. VINCENT'S PRIVATE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL GRIFFITH

25/217

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Anne Napoli and Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Griffith City Council endorse the request for \$16,800 excl. GST to be reimbursed to St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith from the Council held Sinking Fund Reserve in order to fund the installation of additional fire sprinklers in the plant room at the hospital.
- (b) Council notes that the balance of the Sinking Fund after the above-mentioned works in (a) are completed will be \$113,200.

For

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

Against

Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 1.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:21pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON