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**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, 22 JULY 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 (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

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.**

### **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

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.**

25/203

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

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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

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

Against

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:

(a) Council endorse the draft Tree Preservation Order, Tree Policy and Onsite Detention Policy as per Attachments (a), (b) and (c) of the report.

(b) 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.

(c) 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

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.**

**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

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.**

## **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

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.**

## **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

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.**

### **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

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.**

## **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

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.**

## **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

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

Against

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