
**ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 3:30 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
- CL01 p9 Update on Invigorate Griffith
- CL02 p14 NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round
- CL03 p24 Griffith Business Chamber Ideas for \$3 Million
- CL04 p27 Communication and Community Engagement Strategy
- 6 p28 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Councillor Jenny Ellis, 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), Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Stephen Parker (Community Representative), Doreen Wood (Community Representative)

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King; Works Manager – Maintenance, Manjit Chugha; Works Manager – Construction, Shree Shrestha; Operations Assistant, Cheryl Tucker; Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, Parks & Gardens Manager, Peter Craig and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

**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 Soroptomists 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 Boulevard 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.

CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **Update on Invigorate Griffith**

FROM **Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development**

TRIM REF **25/107137**

SUMMARY

Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development to provide an update on Invigorate Griffith.

RECOMMENDATION

For the information of the Committee.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Media Release - \$3 million boost for Griffith CBD and tourism sites ↓ | 10 |
| (b) | Connect Griffith Post - Invigorate Griffith ↓ | 11 |
| (c) | Invigorate Griffith Poster ↓ | 12 |



MEDIA RELEASE

Griffith City Council

Tuesday 26 August 2025

\$3 million boost for Griffith CBD and tourism sites

Griffith is set to benefit from a \$3 million investment from the Albanese and Minns Governments to beautify the CBD and improve local tourism sites.

The funding is part of the NSW Sustainable Communities Program, which is aimed at creating new jobs, supporting business innovation and strengthening tourism across the Southern Basin.

Griffith City Council's project will be considered by the Roads Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee, which will make recommendations to Council to finalise the scope of works.

The process will also include opportunities for the community to contribute ideas through workshops, walkshops and other engagement activities.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran welcomed today's funding announcement.

"This investment provides us with an exciting opportunity to further enhance our city centre and tourism attractions," Councillor Curran said.

"It's important that our community has a voice in shaping this project. Through workshops and other activities, we'll be inviting people to share their ideas so the end result reflects what matters most to Griffith."

The NSW Government's Sustainable Communities Program is designed to help minimise the social and economic impacts of water recovery measures on Basin communities under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

This \$3 million allocation to Griffith comes from the Program's Early Investment Round, the first round of funding targeted to nine Southern Basin local government areas identified as most vulnerable to water recovery measures.

Council will continue to work with the community to ensure the project delivers the best possible outcomes for residents and visitors.

ends

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Invigorate Griffith



[Home](#) / [Invigorate Griffith](#)

Invigorate Griffith

Invigorate Griffith is a key initiative within the [We Are Griffith](#) campaign, aimed at enhancing the City's vibrancy and appeal.

This project focuses on ways we can collectively revitalise Griffith's main street, improve entrances and maintain the overall cleanliness.

Through community engagement and collaboration, Invigorate Griffith seeks to create a more welcoming and attractive environment for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

We are focusing on the following themes to 'Invigorate Griffith':

1. **We are Local & Loyal** – Supporting our local businesses means supporting our neighbours, friends, and families. Every dollar spent in Griffith helps our community thrive.
2. **We are Evolving** – Responding to changing consumer behaviours.
3. **We are Thriving** – Strategies for business growth and sustainability in Griffith.
4. **We are Connected** – Strengthening collaboration between businesses to boost the local economy.
5. **We are Visible** – Enhancing marketing and digital presence to attract new and existing customers.
6. **We are Unique & Innovative** – A rich mix of history, culture, and innovation makes Griffith a one-of-a-kind destination. We embrace what makes us special.
7. **We are Creative** – From stunning murals to world-class festivals, Griffith's artistic heart beats strong. We nurture talent and celebrate creativity in all forms.
8. **We are Welcoming** – Enhancing customer and visitor experiences through better service and accessibility

[Sign up](#) to the monthly Evolve Newsletter to stay up to date with Invigorate Griffith progress here.

Please provide any ideas or feedback below.

The feedback provided will be reported back to Council's Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee and will directly inform the Griffith CBD Strategy and Economic Development Strategy.

Invigorate Griffith

We are a vibrant community



What we are doing now

Currently funded initiatives

Economic Development

- Evolve newsletter (monthly)
- Grant writing support
- Prepare & distribute Business Investment Prospectus
- Access to Informed Decisions (.id) statistics
- Easy to do Business service in partnership with Service NSW for new start-ups
- Spendmapp data presentation with Griffith Business Chamber 3 April 2025
- Tree lights & street art to increase nighttime economy
- Economic Development Strategy (under review)
- Annual Small Business Week sessions such as, Business Planning, Building a Website, Social Media Marketing (free to all businesses)
- Griffith Women in Business
- Supporting and attracting new investors, developers and business expansion

Shop local promotions/campaigns

- Glow 2680 Star Shopper Campaign
- We Love Griffith Campaign
- We Are Griffith - We are Local on website

Upcoming video series

- EOI for businesses to have their shop in the spotlight. To run on Council YouTube & social media

Report an Issue

- See it, Report it! Campaign
- Report issues like broken footpaths, graffiti or vandalism to Council

New garbage bins

- To be installed along Banna Ave

Street Sweeping

- Every day at 4.30am TfNSW funded

Memorial Gardens Upgrade (\$200,000)

- Stage 1 completed 2024

Campaign banners

- Main Street & entrances

Visit Griffith

Sidewalk sales - Griffith Easter Party, A Taste of Italy Griffith & Glow2680

List your event for free Visit Griffith website/Bookable event calendar

- These events get included in social media, seasonal What's on Guides, event programs and weekly radio chats

Visit Griffith Business Ambassadors

- 107 registered businesses

New Griffith Mural Art Trail Map

- Strategically mapped out/numbered so that the length of the main street (Banna Ave) is walked for a coffee or a shop

In-house publications handed out to all visitors to Griffith

- Eating Guide, Accommodation Guide, Cellar Door Guide, Attractions Guide and Venues Guide- business listings are free.
- New Resident Kits

Point of sale for local producers

- Opportunity for local producers to sell their products at Tourism Hub

Event campaign business activation kits

- Griffith Easter Party (Easter Fun for Kids in Memorial Park), A Taste of Italy Griffith & Griffith Spring Fest

Other

- Sporting events
- Youth and Community Development events
- Multicultural eg. Festival & Sikh Games
- Glow2680 lights launch with Rotary Hams Carnival
- Griffith Business Chamber Awards
- Kooyoo Street Mall activations
- Kooyoo Cafe available for hire
- Free event planning
- Sydney Weekender & Morning Show TV campaigns

Invigorate Griffith

We are a vibrant community



Other possible initiatives

Not funded and would require budget bid or other sources

Main Street Activation

Vacant to Vibrant Griffith:

- Turning vacant spaces into vibrant places
- Shopfront window decals or wraps (quotation being sought for 2700h x1200w)
- Pop up art installations

Other ideas

- Why Leave Town - shop local gift cards
- Discount and loyalty vouchers
- Paid promotional campaigns
- Local 100 wines (restaurants)

Let's Glow Griffith! -

- Encourage everyone to pick up rubbish, take pride in Griffith and keep it clean.
- Urge landlords of vacant shops to do their bit and businesses nearby vacant shops to sweep down and de-cobweb beside them. Urge residents to use **See it, Report it!**

Co-working spaces

- Home businesses or small start-ups share space and costs

Increase street flags/banners

- New infrastructure and designs needed

CBD Master Plan revision

- Footpath audit to identify worst areas
- Secure funding for repairs and upgrades

Digital Noticeboards

- Currently being investigated

Small business start-up grants

- Budget bid 25/26 - \$15,000

Retail activity

- Encourage late night shopping
- Encourage extended hours during busy periods (Christmas and other major events)

Kooyoo Street enhancements

- Investigate ways to add colour and appeal (wrap bollards with artwork)
- Shade sails, synthetic turf, seating and play area to expand use

Your ideas here

Griffith City Council would love to hear from you.

Please provide your ideas here:



connect.griffith.nsw.gov.au/invigorate-griffith or email ed@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Sign up to monthly Evolve Newsletter here:



CLAUSE	CL02
TITLE	NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round
FROM	Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations Peter Badenhorst, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager
TRIM REF	25/110164

SUMMARY

In 2015, Council adopted an ambitious plan that seeks to rejuvenate the city centre of Griffith. The strategy primarily focuses on developing an attractive city centre that people want to visit more frequently and stay for longer periods of time - allowing businesses greater opportunity.

In March 2025 the NSW Government announced the NSW Sustainable Communities Program (NSW SCP) which will provide \$160 million to projects and initiatives that support and create jobs, establish industry, and support existing industry to innovate and stimulate economic development.

A media release was made on 26 August 2025 announcing that Griffith was successful in obtaining \$3M for the “Griffith City Beautification & Tourism Enhancement Project Stage 1”.

RECOMMENDATION

To note the information presented for the “Griffith City Beautification & Tourism Enhancement Project Stage 1”.

REPORT

A presentation will be made to the Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee providing some background information of the CBD Strategy, the proposed funding application, call for any new ideas, the project definition / scope, and an agreement to update the CBD Place Strategy.

Currently the CBD Strategy is presented in 4 parts published on Council’s website. The four parts include the Introduction, Analysis, Recommendations and Implementation. The strategy is focused on the entire CBD identified by the out boundary of Kookora Street, Willandra Avenue, Coolah Street, Jondaryan Avenue, Bridge Road, Crossing Street, Wakaden Street, Koorungal Avenue.

The main recommendations presented in the strategy are included in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: CBD Strategy Recommendations.

Upgrading Kooyoo Street and Yambil Street as inviting areas to walk, socialise and stay	COMPLETED 2025
Redeveloping Neville Place into a civic open garden	
Upgrading Banna Avenue to promote the main street and retail core	
Developing Olympic Park into a major Youth precinct and activity zone	COMPLETED 2024
Redeveloping the Main Canal as recreational attraction in the City	PARTIALLY COMPLETE 2024
Upgrading off-street car park to provide a higher level of amenity	COMPLETED 2023

The CBD Strategy Recommendations are broken into the following individual components:

- 01 Strategy - Responsive Streets
- 02 Strategy - North-South Connection
- 03 Strategy - City full of Places
- 04 Strategy - Celebrated Canal
- 05 Strategy - Consolidated Centre
- 06 Strategy - Green City

Within each of the strategies there are a number of recommendations and within each recommendation there are number of initiatives. Many of the initiatives have been enacted through incorporation into the projects that have been completed in the past 10 years.

A review of the CBD strategy would provide an opportunity to form a number of achievable projects, each one would have a with clear objective. Each project will also have a scope of works and identified milestones that would allow the formation of a project schedule and cost estimation. Each project could be based on a CBD Strategy initiative that has yet to be fully implemented.

At the Roads, Parks, & Pathways Enhancement Committee meeting held on 26 March 2025, the Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that:

- (a) Council apply for funding for the upgrading of Banna Ave as reflected in the CBD Strategy.
- (b) Council review the CBD Strategy to identify the completed initiatives and consolidate the remaining recommendations into achievable projects with clear objectives and scope of works.

Please find attached NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round Report which was presented at the Council Meeting 8 April 2025.

[LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 4.8 Improve the aesthetic of the City and villages by developing quality places and improved public realm that supports active, healthy and inclusive communities.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Council Report - NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round [↓](#) 17

Griffith City Council

REPORT

CLAUSE CL02

TITLE NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round

FROM Brett Stonestreet, General Manager

TRIM REF 25/35467

SUMMARY

The NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round (\$15M) is the first of several rounds of funding provided by the Australian Government and administered through the NSW Government to help minimise social and economic impacts of water recovery/buy back policy of the current Australian Government. Applications opened 13 March 2025 and will be processed as they are received until the fund is exhausted. There is no closing date for applications and consequently it is very important that Council submit an application as soon as practicable.

This report details the rationale for a potential application by Griffith City Council and recommends an application be submitted.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That Council submit an application under the NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round .**
- (b) The project to be submitted is the “Griffith City Beautification & Tourism Enhancement Project Stage 1” and as detailed in this report.**

REPORT

The following is a reproduction of a “Message from the Minister” Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Western NSW released Thursday 13 March 2025.

“The NSW Sustainable Communities Program, run by the NSW Government, will provide community assistance to help minimise the social and economic impacts of water recovery measures on NSW communities under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

The Early Investment Round is the first of several rounds of funding that form part of the Sustainable Communities Program. It’s designed to provide fast and immediate economic opportunities to those Southern Basin communities that are most vulnerable and exposed to water recovery under the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

This Early Investment Round is the first \$15 million available to NSW Basin communities and will be targeted to the 9 Local Government Areas of Balranald, Berrigan, Carrathool, Edward River, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River and Murrumbidgee.

The Early Investment Round ensures that communities will receive real and positive outcomes through the creation of new jobs, innovations and industry productivity. It will support local economies to sustain for the future, expand workforces and up-skill local workers. The Early Investment Round will look to ensure, where possible, that the timing of investment follows the pace and scale of the Australian Government’s water recovery measures.

CL02 NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round

Importantly, the Early Investment Round is real support, available swiftly, for communities to mitigate the anticipated effects of the Australian Government's water recovery.

The NSW Government does not support water buybacks, but we do believe that investing in services and infrastructure is crucial to building strong, vibrant regional communities.

By delivering the Sustainable Communities Program, we are building a better NSW and giving regional NSW the support it needs to grow and thrive well into the future."

Griffith City Council does not support water buybacks in any form. Nevertheless, the reality is that the Australian Government is rolling out this water recovery policy regardless of the protests by communities such as Griffith, and the buybacks have already commenced. The "Sustainable Communities Program" has been established by the Australian Government with a total amount of \$300M to be allocated across all impacted communities under the Murray Darling Basin Plan over four (4) years i.e. 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28. An agreement has been signed by the Australian and NSW Governments that targets \$160M of the fund to impacted communities in NSW.

The Early Investment Round of \$15M as referred to in the "Minister's Message is the first of several funding rounds to come. Below is a link to the relevant NSW Government web site.

[NSW Sustainable Communities Program Early Investment Round | NSW Government](#)

The Early Investment Round identifies nine (9) eligible local government areas including Balranald, Berrigan, Carrathool, Edward River, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River and Murrumbidgee.

The intended recipients of grants under the Program are companies incorporated in Australia, NSW Local Government organisations, joint organisations of councils, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, incorporated associations or co-operatives, incorporated not-for-profit organisations, nationally accredited providers of tertiary education, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth).

- **Grant amount:** Between \$50,000 (GST exclusive) and \$1 million (GST exclusive) for Programs and Initiatives and Capital Investment projects.

Between \$250,000 (GST exclusive) and \$4 million (GST exclusive) for Infrastructure projects.

- **Applications opened:** 13 March 2025
- **Closing Date:** There is no closing date. Applications will be assessed by the Department as received and funds allocated until the fund is exhausted.

Given that there is no closing date for applications, time is of the essence for Council to submit an application.

Griffith City Council adopted a Griffith CBD Strategy during 2015. Refer Griffith City Council web site link below.

[Griffith CBD Strategy | GCC](#)

CL02 NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round

The CBD Strategy has been a very useful reference document to provide justification for several projects to uplift the CBD Streetscape.

Examples include:

- Yambil Street upgrade
- Kooyoo Street revitalisation
- Griffith City “Her Way” Project
- Banna Avenue electricity infrastructure upgrade
- Banna Avenue festive lighting
- Railway Street additional carparks x 2
- Memorial Park embellishment
- Olympic Street Youth Precinct
- City Park
- Community Garden

The above projects have been achieved through the use of Council funds and leveraging additional support from the NSW and Australian Governments.

A “Petition for the cleanliness and revitalisation of our city” was tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 11 March 2025 and was subsequently discussed at a workshop held 17 March 2025. The petition was discussed in the context of the Griffith CBD Strategy and the alignment of purpose the Strategy has with the petition.

This report recommends that Council submit an application under the NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round: “Griffith City Beautification & Tourism Enhancement Project Stage 1.”

Total Project: \$4,000,000
Funding Application: \$3,000,000
GCC Funds: \$1,000,000

The NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round requires a co-contribution by the applicant of 25% of the total project. Council has \$1M included in the 2025/26 Capital Works Program for the construction of recreational/tourism infrastructure at Lake Wyangan Recreation Area and this funding can be utilised to satisfy the 25% co-contribution.

The scope of works for the project proposed are as follows:

- Lake Wyangan Foreshaw improvements
- Griffith CBD embellishment: (Refer Confidential Attachment A).
 - Completion of footpath between Blumer Ave/Mackay Ave lights to Crossing Street.
 - Replacement/Upgrade irrigation systems in centre medians along Mackay Avenue from Blumer Ave intersection to Neville Place as required
 - Tree replacement program, tree surrounds in centre medians from Blumer Ave intersection to Kookora Street
 - Beautification of the roundabouts between Blumer Avenue and Kookora Street
 - Modifications to all tree lights in Banna Avenue as required
 - Replacement banners for all Bannercondas

Community Consultation

CL02 NSW Sustainable Communities Program - Early Investment Round

Should Council endorse the submission of the application as recommended in this report and the application is successful the following is intended as next steps:

Step 1 - Commence work on Lake Wyangan Foreshore Recreation Area.

Step 2 - The scope of works for Griffith CBD be referred to the Roads Parks, and Pathways Enhancement Committee to make recommendation to Council to finalise the scope of works. The grant application scope of works to be provided to the Committee for guidance.

As stated earlier in this report, the NSW Sustainable Communities Program will have further rounds of funding available during the next few years and these funding rounds will provide the opportunity for applications for further stages of the CBD Strategy or other projects that councillors consider a high priority. Confidential Attachment A includes a reference of possible location for subsequent grant applications under the next stages of this program. It is highly likely of the future stages of this grant fund will require a co-contribution by applicants similar to the current round.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the recommendation in this report.

OPTION 2

Other resolution of Council

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Griffith CBD Strategy 2015

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Total Project: \$4,000,000
Funding Application: \$3,000,000
GCC Funds: \$1,000,000

Council's co-contribution of \$1M will be achieved through the Lake Wyangan Foreshore Improvements Project which is included in the existing capital works program for 2025/26.

LEGAL/STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

All works undertaken by Council particularly at Lake Wyangan will ensure appropriate environmental safeguards are in place.

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

A “Petition for the cleanliness and revitalisation of our city” was tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 11 March 2025. This project is in part a response to the aspirations expressed in the petition.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council’s Strategic Plan item 1.2 Actively engage with and seek direction from our community and stakeholders.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Griffith CBD Upgrade - Sustainable Communities Funding (under separate cover) (confidential)

A graphic with a dark grey background and a white wavy bottom edge. It features a light grey vertical bar on the left and an orange vertical bar on the right. The text 'GRIFFITH CBD UPGRADE' is centered in large white bold letters, and 'Sustainable Communities Funding Application' is centered below it in smaller white bold letters.

GRIFFITH CBD UPGRADE

Sustainable Communities Funding Application

Griffith City Beautification & Tourism Enhancement Project –
Stage 1, will include the following works:

- 1. Completion of Shared Footpath: A 2.5-metre-wide shared footpath will be completed between the Blumer Avenue/Mackay Avenue intersection and Crossing Street, filling in gaps in the existing network and ensuring seamless connectivity.
- 2. Irrigation System Replacement/Upgrade: The irrigation systems in the center medians along Mackay Avenue, from the Blumer Avenue intersection to Neville Place, will be replaced or upgraded as required.
- 3. Tree Maintenance and Surrounds: Tree maintenance and the renewal of tree surrounds will be carried out in the centre medians between Blumer Avenue and Kookora Street.
- 4. Roundabout Beautification: The roundabouts between Blumer Avenue and Kookora Street will undergo beautification, including the replanting of annuals and the removal of grass verges. These areas will be replaced with paving or crushed granite to enhance the visual appeal.
- 5. Modifications to Tree Lighting on Banna Avenue: Modifications to the tree lighting along Banna Avenue will be made as needed, including the removal of lower lights from the tree trunks.
- 6. Replacement of Bannercondas: New banners will be installed on all Bannercondas to enhance the city's aesthetic and promote tourism efforts.
- 7. Memorial Gardens Entrance
- 8. Power and Data Upgrade
- 9. Median Strip redevelopment

CLAUSE **CL03**

TITLE **Griffith Business Chamber Ideas for \$3 Million**

FROM **Shari Blumer, Councillor**

TRIM REF **25/107016**

SUMMARY

The Griffith Business Chambers has submitted the attached document and has requested that the suggestions be considered by the Committee when making recommendations to Council about how to use the grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION

For the information of the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Griffith Business Chamber Ideas for \$3 Million Funding [↓](#) 25



Griffith Business Chamber Idea's on how to utilise \$3 million in funding through the NSW Sustainable Communities Program. Collated by members of Griffith Business Chamber

- Fix uneven footpath on Banna Avenue - *they are known for tripping hazards*, especially for the elderly residents and visitors.
- Increase tree plantings where possible and shade to make shopping and walking more comfortable during the hot months.
- Upgrade and add new street furniture, including more benches, bins and colourful features to create a safer more welcoming space.
- Improved pavements, tree planting and colourful street furniture
- Similar idea that Leeton Shire Council have done. They currently offer a dollar-for-dollar grant program from \$500 to \$5,000 for their local businesses to repair & paint their facades/signage. Maybe part of the 3 million could be used for a similar initiative for our CBD shopkeepers. This not only improves the look of our main street but would provide work for local contractors.
- More CCTV security
- Better lighting at night, more fairy lights.
- More flag poles with community message of support local all year round and replace when it's spring fest, Christmas etc
- Use of speakers all year round not just at festival times
- Use funding to subsidise cost of having racks/stands at the front of stores. Currently businesses have to pay I'm pretty sure.
- Invest in more Christmas decorations
- Digital signage for businesses to advertise- 2 placed in each block.
- Defibrillators- and well advertised where they are located
- FREE WiFi in CBD – suggested by Il Corso

• **Angela Morris school teacher at Marian Catholic College.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on how this funding can be used to benefit our Griffith Community.

As a local and proud Griffith resident, Secondary Educator and young parent living and working in this area, I have a number of suggestions with help from a Year 12 class. Please consider:

- finish connecting pedestrian footpaths around North Griffith to connect the hospital circle, the two primary schools and connect a safe and sealed footpath up to Pioneer Park and new mural on water tower
- PLEASE fix the Lake Wyangan - this could be another wonderful hub for tourism
- more signage for Noorilla St and Boonah Street intersection (incredibly dangerous intersection)
- overhaul ALL entrances to our city. The gardens and signage are such an eyesore and need an immediate revamp.
- consider engagement programs and entertainment tailored to adolescents

• **Scott Groat:**

I asked numerous visitors at La festa on their opinion of the city and how we could improve. Most of the feedback was to enhance our entrances to the town with either sculptures or garden landscaping, being a garden city and an irrigation food bowl we should highlight what we do at our entries to the LGA boundaries .Travelling around I've noticed sculptures to the town of Parkes, beautiful stone entries near

Tamworth numerous towns have beautiful signs and sculptures .We need recognition of our Irrigation history and Italian history and the role of pioneering farming history. We need to employ a junk artist for a horse and plough sculpture and waterwheels and artists for tile murals that can withstand weathering. There also was some comment on the Main Street needing a really good clean.

- **Doreen Wood – Valentine Mode:**

The first is to pave the centre block and get rid of the ugly broken concrete. Next would be to beautify our entrance down Prods straight which is an eyesore, the bushes need to go and be replaced with shrubs recommended by a specialist gardener as too much money has already been wasted on the wrong plantings, for example Yambil street.

Making sure that all our entrances are mowed and slashed, Yenda is a perfect example of tidiness.

Bringing back our plane trees to their original beauty.

These are just a few ideas there is a lot more Council can do to beautify our city

Tom Ford: Griffith Business Chamber:

- **Increased CCTV in Banna Ave & Business CCTV Grants**

I've been surprised by the scourge of crime in our community, and frequency of theft from our local businesses. This requires action and proactiveness. Such an approach would aid businesses to deter crime and provide evidence of crime such as theft through the installation of CCTV within their premises, in the hope of receiving an ounce of leadership from our entrenched and impotent law enforcement establishment

- **Banna Ave Pedestrian Crossing Indicators/Lights**

Reduce the frequency of near misses at our poorly indicated pedestrian crossings through the install of flashing yellow lights, particularly on the eastern entrance to Banna Ave, where vehicles frequently proceed without giving way. Unfortunately, an incident here is presently a matter of when, not if

- **Streetscape Enhancements**

In line with others, tree plantings, street furniture, green spaces to make for a more appealing and less dated entrance to our town. Not to mention the maintenance of existing greenery with sufficient water and upkeep. Festoon lighting particularly in areas such as the Kooyoo Street mall would also be beneficial in lifting the aesthetic of the main street while also enhancing safety

CLAUSE **CL04**

TITLE **Communication and Community Engagement Strategy**

FROM **Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development**

TRIM REF **25/107196**

RECOMMENDATION

For the information of the Committee.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 25/110198

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Action Report - Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee - 25 Sep 2025 [↓](#) 29

Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee Action Report

25 September 2025

Date of Meeting	Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer	Comment
26 June 2025	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.	GO	17/09/2025: Terms of Reference, spreadsheets and email group updated.
26 June 2025	CL02 Review of Griffith Playground Strategy	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.	Phil King	17/09/2025: Report to Committee 23 October 2025.
26 June 2025	CL04 Review of Local Policies - Tree Policy & Tree Preservation Order	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.	Phil King	17/09/2025: Response to Committee 23 October 2025.
26 June 2025	CL04 Review of Local Policies - Tree Policy & Tree Preservation Order	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.	Phil King	3 July 2025 - Report to Council 22 July 2025. 17/09/2025: Adopted 9 September 2025.
26 June 2025	CL05 The Griffith Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy 2021	Ms Renouf requested that Clifton Boulevard 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	Phil King	17/09/2025: Report to Committee 23 October 2025.

		<p>Strategy criteria and bring the results back to the next meeting.</p> <p>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.</p>		
26 June 2025	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.	Phil King	
26 June 2025	CL09 Notice of Motion - Upgrade to Original Bagtown's First Blacksmith Store Site - 12 March 2024	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.	Phil King	17/09/2025: On-site visit at the Bagtown's First Blacksmith Store Site on 30 July 2025 and finding to be reported back to the Committee 23 October 2025.
26 June 2025	CL10 Notice of Motion - Naming of Roundabout - 10 Dec 2024	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and Ema Munro that a draft policy be presented to the next Committee meeting.	Phil King	
8 May 2025	CL03 Item Raised by Committee Member	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.	Phil King	17/09/2025: A meeting was held on 20 August 2025 with the family to discuss options for beautification of the Prendergast traffic island and the finding to be reported back to the Committee 23 October 2025.
26 March 2025	CL06 Presentation - Petition for The Cleanliness and Revitalisation of Our City	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that the Committee endorse the proposed horticultural actions proposed	Phil King	<p>29 April 2025 – Council staff to proceed with soil tests, fertiliser treatments for both soil and folia.</p> <p>26 June 2025 – Soil tests have been</p>

		by staff.		completed and fertiliser treatments will be applied over spring. There has been some suggestion that there is a disease impacting the London Plane Trees, further information to be obtained.
26 March 2025	CL09 Review of Griffith CBD Strategy	<p>RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that:</p> <p>(a) Council apply for funding for the upgrading of Banna Ave as reflected in the CBD Strategy.</p> <p>(b) Council review the CBD Strategy to identify the completed initiatives and consolidate the remaining recommendations into achievable projects with clear objectives and scope of works.</p>	Phil King	<p>29 April 2025 – Council staff have completed the funding submission. Further reviews will be completed of the CBD Strategy to consolidate remaining objectives</p> <p>26 June 2025 – Council has not received any further advice to date regarding the funding submission.</p>