



MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM

PRESENT

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

STAFF

General Manager, Scott Grant, Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Matthew Hansen, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and Minute Takers Leanne Austin and Antoinette Galluzzo

MEDIA

Nil.

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Tony O'Grady reading the Opening Affirmation and the Acknowledgement of Country.

A Minute's silence was held in respect of the recent passing of Professor Maxwell Hopp.

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

No apologies or requests for leave of absence were received.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

25/297

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 23 September 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

Against

Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared PASSED by 9 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.

Councillor Shari Blumer
CL03 Licence Agreement Renewal - Western Riverina Community College - 23 Hickey Crescent, Griffith
Reason - Pecuniary, the business that I work for and have an interest in, often drafts the documents for these matters.

Councillor Shari Blumer
CL04 Licence Agreement Renewal - Romeo & Giulietta Restaurant - 40 Mackay Avenue, Griffith
Reason - Pecuniary, the business that I work for and have an interest in, often drafts the documents for these matters.

Councillor Shari Blumer
CL05 Permanent Road Closure of Lots 41 & 42 DP 1308674 and Consolidation of Lots 40 & 41 DP 1308674 and Lots 34 & 42 DP 1308674 Thomas Place, Griffith
Reason - The business that I work for and have an interest in, often drafts the documents for this type of matter and is listed within the documents.

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 Mark Dal Bon
CL04 Licence Agreement Renewal - Romeo & Giulietta Restaurant - 40 Mackay Avenue, Griffith
Reason – I do know these people. We do not have personal or business interests together.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

MM01 CHANGE OF COUNCIL MEETING DATE

25/298

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Tony O'Grady that Council amend its adopted Council Meeting Schedule for 2025 to reschedule the Ordinary Meeting of Council originally set for Tuesday, 25 November 2025, to be held on Wednesday, 26 November 2025.

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	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 ANNUAL CLOSURE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND COUNCIL FACILITIES 2025-2026

25/299

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

- (a) Council's Administrative Office at 1 Benerembah Street and the Council Depot/Workshop be closed from 1pm Wednesday, 24 December 2025 to Thursday, 1 January 2026 inclusive and will re-open for business on Friday, 2 January 2026.
- (b) Each of the nominated Council facilities operate in accordance with the times detailed as follows:

Griffith Regional Art Gallery

Closed from 2pm Sunday, 21 December 2025 and will re-open 10am Wednesday, 7 January 2026.

Griffith Regional Theatre

Closed from 5pm Monday, 22 December 2025 and will reopen 10am Monday, 19 January 2026.

Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre

Wednesday 24 December	6am – 8pm
Thursday 25 December – Christmas Day	CLOSED

Friday 26 December – Boxing Day	12pm – 5pm (Pool Only) *subject to staff availability
Saturday 27 December	8am – 6pm
Sunday 28 December	10am – 5pm
Monday 29 December	6am – 8pm
Tuesday 30 December	6am – 8pm
Wednesday 31 December	6am – 8pm
Thursday 1 January 2026 – New Year's Day	12pm – 5pm

Creche will be closed Wednesday, 24 December 2025 until Monday, 5 January 2026. From Friday, 2 January 2026 normal summer trading hours resume. Check with the centre regarding Aerobics classes during the school holidays.

Pioneer Park Museum

Closed from Monday, 22 December 2025 and re-open Monday, 5 January 2026.

Griffith Regional Sports Centre

Last day of opening is Saturday, 23 December 2025 (normal trading hours) and will reopen Friday, 2 January 2026 (normal trading hours).

Griffith Tourism Hub

Wednesday 24 December	9am – 3pm
Thursday 25 December – Christmas Day	CLOSED
Friday 26 December – Boxing Day	CLOSED
Saturday 27 December	10am – 3pm
Sunday 28 December	10am – 3pm
Monday 29 December	10am – 3pm
Tuesday 30 December	10am – 3pm
Wednesday 31 December	10am – 3pm
Thursday 1 January 2026 – New Year's Day	CLOSED

Griffith City Library

Closed from 1pm Wednesday, 24 December 2025 to Thursday, 1 January 2026 inclusive and will re-open for business on Friday, 2 January 2026.

Griffith City Pound and Rehoming Centre

Closed from 1pm Wednesday, 24 December 2025 to Thursday, 1 January 2026 inclusive and will re-open for business on Friday, 2 January 2026.

After hours emergencies for serious dog attacks and straying stock only contact our afterhours service on 0408 210 196. If the matter is urgent you will be directed to contact the Griffith Police Station.

Griffith Livestock Marketing Centre

Closed from Saturday, 13 December 2025 and will re-open Friday, 9 January 2026.

Tharborgang Waste Management Centre

Thursday 25 December – Christmas Day	CLOSED
Friday 26 December – Boxing Day	CLOSED
Thursday 1 January 2026 – New Year's Day	CLOSED

Yenda Waste Management Centre

Yenda Landfill will be opened as per usual.

All domestic recycling and commercial garbage collections will be as per normal over the Christmas/New Year period, i.e. garbage will still be collected on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day holidays. Garbage bins need to be put out the night before as usual.

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
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL02 ENDORSEMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

25/300

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council endorse the Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy to go on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
- (b) Should no submissions be received, the draft policy be considered adopted as at the completion of the exhibition period.
- (c) If submissions are received, a further report is to be provided to Council.

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
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

Councillor Shari Blumer left the meeting having declared a pecuniary interest, the time being 7:17pm.

CL03 LICENCE AGREEMENT RENEWAL - WESTERN RIVERINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - 23 HICKEY CRESCENT, GRIFFITH

25/301

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council enters into a licence agreement with Western Riverina Community College Inc.

for one car parking space located on the road reserve adjoining 23 Hickey Crescent, Griffith for a term of five years commencing 1 July 2025.

- (b) Council advertise its intention to enter into a licence agreement with Western Riverina Community College Inc. for one car parking space adjoining 23 Hickey Crescent, Griffith for a period of 28 days. Should any submissions be received, a report will be presented to Council for consideration.
- (c) Should no submissions be received, Council will enter into a licence agreement with Western Riverina Community College for one car parking space located on the road reserve adjoining 23 Hickey Crescent, Griffith for a term of five years commencing 1 July 2025.
- (d) Western Riverina Community College Inc. pay all applicable costs and charges associated with the preparation of the licence agreement together with Council's Administration Fee of \$566.
- (e) The licence fee be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy reviewed annually, currently \$67.60 per car space per annum, plus rates and charges if applicable.
- (f) Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to execute the licence agreement on behalf of Council under the Council Seal if required.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

CL04 LICENCE AGREEMENT RENEWAL - ROMEO & GIULIETTA RESTAURANT - 40 MACKAY AVENUE, GRIFFITH

25/302

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council enters into a licence agreement with Mr Paul Romeo for 16 car parking spaces adjoining Lot 1 DP 413530, Farronato Road, Griffith for a term of ten years commencing 1 July 2025 and expiring 30 June 2035.
- (b) Council advertises its intention to enter into a licence agreement with Mr Paul Romeo for 16 car spaces adjoining Farronato Road (40 Mackay Avenue, Griffith) for a period of 28 days. Should any submissions be received, a report will be presented to Council for consideration.
- (c) Should no submissions be received, Council will enter into a licence agreement with Mr Paul Romeo for 16 car spaces located on the road reserve adjoining Farronato Road for term of 10 years commencing 1 July 2025.
- (d) Mr Paul Romeo will be responsible to pay all applicable costs and charges associated with the preparation of the licence agreement together with Council's Administration Fee

of \$566.

- (e) The licence fee be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy reviewed annually, currently \$67.60 per car space per annum, plus rates and charges if applicable.
- (f) Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to execute the licence agreement on behalf of Council under the Common Seal.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

**CL05 PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE OF LOTS 41 & 42 DP 1308674 AND
CONSOLIDATION OF LOTS 40 & 41 DP 1308674 AND LOTS 34 & 42 DP 1308674
THOMAS PLACE, GRIFFITH**

25/303

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Jenny Ellis that:

- (a) Council commences the public notification process associated with the closure of a public road in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 of Lots 41 & 42 DP 1308674 Thomas Place, Griffith.
- (b) Council advertises its intention to proceed with the road closure of Lots 41 & 42 DP 1308674 Thomas Place, Griffith for a period of 28 days. Should any submissions be received, a report will be prepared to Council for consideration.
- (c) Council to notify any relevant authorities and adjoining landowners of the proposed road closure.
- (d) Should no submissions be received at the expiry of the public notification period, Council resolves to proceed with the road closure process.
- (e) Council authorises the execution, under its Common Seal where required, of all associated transaction documentations necessary to affect the transfer and consolidation of the part closure of the road Lots 41 & 42 DP 1308674 Thomas Place, Griffith.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 1.

Councillor Dal Bon requested an update on the Community Hub adjacent to Dave Taylor Park. This was TAKEN ON NOTICE.

Councillor Shari Blumer returned to the meeting at 7:22pm.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

CL06 ANNUAL DISCLOSURES BY COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS RETURNS - 30 JUNE 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

25/304

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the report be noted by Council.

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	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL07 RESPONSES TO COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

25/305

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady that the report be noted by Council.

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Shari Blumer	Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Scott Groat	
Councillor Anne Napoli	
Councillor Tony O'Grady	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 2.

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

25/306

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Anne Napoli that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 9 September 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
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

**MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2025**

25/307

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee meeting held on 17 September 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	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

**MINUTES OF THE LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2025**

25/308

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Tony O'Grady that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 18 September 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	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

**MINUTES OF THE ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2025**

25/309

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 25 September 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	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

Nil

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

25/310

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that the report be noted.

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	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 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.

25/311

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer 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.

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
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

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 TENDER NO. 4-25/26 - SPRAYED BITUMINOUS SURFACING

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

**CC02 TENDER NO. 6-25/26 - GRIFFITH WATER RECLAMATION PLANT -
MEMBRANE REPLACEMENT**

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

Council closed its meeting at 7:38pm. The public and media left the Chamber. Livestream was disconnected.

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

25/312

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady 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	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

Open Council resumed at 7:49pm.

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 TENDER NO. 4-25/26 - SPRAYED BITUMINOUS SURFACING

25/313

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

(a) Council accepts the tenders received from:

- 1) Downer Edi Works Pty Ltd
- 2) Menz Plant Pty Ltd
- 3) Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd

for panel contract, Tender No. 4-25/26 - Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing, subject to monthly rise & fall for bitumen products and annual rise & fall for other contract items, for period of three (3) years.

(b) Council, in accordance with Section 178(1) (b) of the Local Government Regulation 2021, reject tenders received from:

- 1) Bitupave Ltd T/A Boral Asphalt
- 2) Central Vic Stabilising Pty Ltd
- 3) Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd

submitted for Tender No. 4-25/26 - Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing, due to non-compliant

tender requirements.

- (c) The General Manager is endorsed to approve expenditure in accordance with the annual budget allocation.
- (d) Council authorise the contract documents to be signed by the General Manager.

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

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson left the meeting at 7:36pm and returned at 7:40pm.

CC02 TENDER NO. 6-25/26 - GRIFFITH WATER RECLAMATION PLANT - MEMBRANE REPLACEMENT

25/314

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council, in accordance with Section 178(1) (b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, reject all tenders submitted for Tender No. 6-25/26: Griffith Water Reclamation Plant - Membrane Replacement due to tenders received being non-compliant.
- (b) Council, in accordance with Section 178(4) (a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, does not need to call fresh tenders for Tender No. 6-25/26: Griffith Water Reclamation Plant - Membrane Replacement as the 2 tenders are suitably qualified and experienced to negotiate with.
- (c) At the completion of negotiations, a further report to be presented to Council recommending the preferred contractor.

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
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7:55pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON