



# Ordinary Meeting

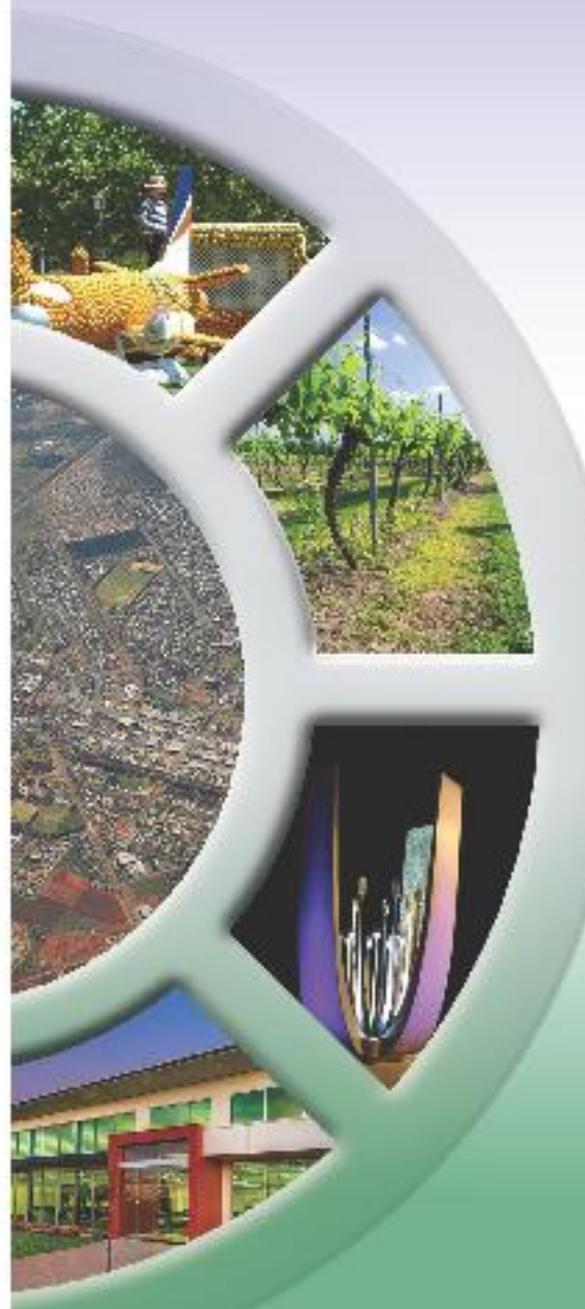
## MM01

# BUSINESS PAPER

**Tuesday, 10 February 2026 at 7:00 PM**

Griffith City Council Chambers  
Phone: 1300 176 077

Web: [www.griffith.nsw.gov.au](http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au) Email: [admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au)



**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7:00 PM**

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**MEETING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Griffith City Council Chambers on **Tuesday, 10 February 2026**.

In accordance with Griffith City Council's Code of Meeting Practice and as permitted under the Local Government Act 1993, this meeting is being live streamed and recorded by Council staff for minute taking and webcasting purposes.

No other webcasting or recording by a video camera, still camera or any other electronic device capable of webcasting or recording is permitted without the prior approval of Council.

Those that are participating in this meeting are advised that your image and what you say will be broadcast live to the public and will also be recorded. You should avoid making statements that might defame or offend and note that Council will not be responsible for your actions and comments.

Mayoral Minutes

MM01          p3          Application for Funding – NSW Government Sustainable Communities Program

**Scott Grant**

**GENERAL MANAGER**

<b>CLAUSE</b>	<b>MM01</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Application for Funding – NSW Government Sustainable Communities Program</b>
<b>FROM</b>	<b>Scott Grant, General Manager</b>
<b>TRIM REF</b>	<b>26/16109</b>

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### **SUMMARY**

The NSW Government Sustainable Communities Program provides funding for infrastructure projects that support regional economic resilience, liveability and long-term community sustainability.

Council has identified three priority infrastructure projects suitable for submission under the program:

1. Griffith Regional Saleyards – Staged Roof and Amenity Upgrade
2. Lake Wyangan – Water Quality and Liveability Infrastructure (Stage 1)
3. Lake Wyangan – Enabling Infrastructure (Stage 2: Boorga Road Upgrade)

To support the preparation of competitive funding applications, Council officers propose to engage specialist support, including grant writing and quantity surveying services.

This report seeks Council approval for officers to prepare and submit funding applications for all three projects and to allocate modest funding to support application preparation.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) Council approve Council officers to prepare and submit funding applications under the NSW Government Sustainable Communities Program for the following projects:**
  - (i) Griffith Regional Saleyards – Staged Roof and Amenity Upgrade;**
  - (ii) Lake Wyangan – Water Quality and Liveability Infrastructure (Stage 1); and**
  - (iii) Lake Wyangan – Enabling Infrastructure (Stage 2: Boorga Road Upgrade);****and**
- (b) Council approve the allocation of up to \$20,000 to engage specialist support (including grant writing, quantity surveying and technical advice) to assist with the preparation of the funding applications; and**
- (c) Council delegate authority to the General Manager to coordinate, plan and undertake the preparation and submission of the funding applications, including engagement of specialist support, in accordance with Council’s procurement policies; and**
- (d) Council note that any acceptance of grant funding, including financial commitments or budget variations, will be subject to a further report to Council.**
- (e) That the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 5 February 2026 be adopted.**

## **REPORT**

### **Background**

The NSW Government Sustainable Communities Program supports infrastructure investments that strengthen regional economies, improve liveability and enhance community wellbeing.

Council officers have assessed the program criteria and identified three projects that align strongly with Council's strategic priorities and the objectives of the program.

Approval is sought at this stage to proceed with the preparation and submission of funding applications only.

### **Proposed Projects**

#### **Griffith Regional Saleyards – Staged Roof and Amenity Upgrade**

The Griffith Regional Saleyards is a key regional asset supporting livestock producers, agents and transport operators across the Western Riverina.

The proposed project involves a staged upgrade of roofing and amenities to improve all-weather operation, animal welfare, workplace safety and operational resilience. The project includes provision for solar infrastructure to reduce operating costs and emissions.

The indicative project cost is approximately \$2.5 million, with a proposed Council co-contribution of approximately 25 per cent or \$625,000.

#### **Lake Wyangan – Water Quality and Liveability Enabling Infrastructure (Stage 1)**

Lake Wyangan is a significant recreational, tourism and liveability asset for the Griffith community.

Stage 1 focuses on enabling infrastructure to improve lake reliability, amenity and usability, establishing a foundation for future recreation and tourism enhancements. While water quality improvement is a key enabler, the project is framed as a place-based investment supporting liveability, community wellbeing and economic activity.

The indicative project cost for Stage 1 is approximately \$3.0 million, with Council contributing planning, coordination and ongoing asset management and a co-contribution of approximately 25% or \$750,000.

A meeting of the Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee was held on 5 February 2026 to consider suitable projects. The minutes of this meeting are attached to this report.

#### **3. Lake Wyangan – Enabling Infrastructure (Stage 2: Boorga Road Upgrade)**

Stage 2 involves the upgrade of Boorga Road to unlock the Lake Wyangan residential growth area and enable the delivery of up to 1,660 residential lots in close proximity to the Griffith CBD.

The project directly supports housing supply, workforce attraction and regional growth objectives. It builds on significant prior investment in enabling infrastructure and is shovel-ready, with approvals and supporting planning work already in place.

The indicative grant request for Stage 2 is \$5.0 million, with a proposed Council co-contribution of approximately 25% or \$1.25 million.

### **Strategic Alignment**

All three projects align with Council's Community Strategic Plan objectives relating to:

- Economic resilience and regional growth
- Housing supply and liveability
- Sustainable infrastructure investment

They are also consistent with NSW Government priorities for sustainable, place-based regional development.

### **OPTIONS**

#### **OPTION 1 – Support the Recommendation (Preferred)**

Approve officers to proceed with the preparation and submission of funding applications and allocate funding for specialist support.

**Risk:**

Low. Enables Council to submit high-quality applications while retaining full Council control over any future financial commitments.

#### **OPTION 2 – Do Not Support the Recommendation**

Do not proceed with funding applications or engagement of specialist support.

**Risk:**

Moderate. Council may miss the opportunity to secure external funding for priority infrastructure projects.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Consistent with Council's adopted strategic planning and infrastructure priorities.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK**

The proposed allocation of up to \$20,000 is a one-off cost to support preparation of funding applications.

There is no commitment to capital expenditure arising from this report. Any Council co-contribution or acceptance of grant funding will be subject to a further report to Council.

**Minor Low Risk: Low financial loss <\$10,000**

### **COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK**

Engagement of specialist support and submission of funding applications will be undertaken in accordance with Council's procurement policies and legislative requirements.

**Minor Low Risk: Policy or regulatory breach has no impact.**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK**

Environmental considerations will be addressed through detailed design and approvals should funding be secured.

**Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.**

### **REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK**

Positive community and reputational outcomes are anticipated through proactive pursuit of funding for priority infrastructure.

**Minor Low Risk: Limited adverse public/staff reaction and/or negative publicity.**

### **SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK**

No impact on Council service delivery at this stage.

**Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.**

### **WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK**

No WHS or HR implications arise at this stage.

**Minor Low Risk: No injuries/Nil impact to service delivery.**

### **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 6.1 Provide, renew and maintain a range of quality infrastructure, assets, services and facilities.

### **CONSULTATION**

Senior Management Team

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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| (a) Minutes - Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee - 5<br>February 2026 <a href="#"> </a> | 7 |
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## MINUTES

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### LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM

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#### **PRESENT**

Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran (Chair), Councillor Tony O'Grady, Councillor Laurie Testoni, Mark Dal Bon (Councillor - Alternate), Frank Battistel (Community Representative), Jade Salvestro (Community Representative), John Tagliapietra (Community Representative), Kelvin Williams (Community Representative), Lisa Parker (Community Representative), Reginald Brown (Community Representative), Scott Collis (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

#### **STAFF**

General Manager, Scott Grant, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst and Minute Taker, Leanne Austin

#### **1 APOLOGIES**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillor Tony O'Grady and John Tagliapietra that apologies be received from Ema Munro (Community Representative), Matthew Woodward (Community Representative) and Lindsay Golsby-Smith (MI).

#### **2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillor Lou Testoni and Scott Collis that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 December 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

#### **3 BUSINESS ARISING**

##### **3.1 Nanobubble Technology System**

Councillor O'Grady noted that Lake Albert at Wagga Wagga is currently on red alert despite efforts to treat the blue-green algae issue, while Lake Wyangan remains on amber alert. Mr Tagliapietra advised that water temperatures are remaining around 28 °C due to the cooler start to summer, which has helped maintain lower temperatures and limit algae growth.

#### **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**

There were no less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

#### **5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

##### **CL01 OPTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT FUNDING**

Mr Rizzo provided an overview of the NSW Sustainable Communities Program Economic Development and Infrastructure Round which closes 24 February 2026.

Criteria for the grant includes infrastructure or land development projects that support economic development, increase workforce participation, or open economic opportunities in regional communities. The project must be deliverable by 31 May 2029.

Consistent with current strategies to improve water quality at Lake Wyangan, it is proposed that Council apply for grant funding to deliver a staged program of works comprising:

Stage 1 – In-drain sediment and nutrient interception

Stage 2 – Carp exclusion and habitat restoration

Stage 3 – Solar circulation, monitoring and maintenance access.

These improvements will deliver significant community benefits, including enhanced public health and wellbeing, increased recreational and tourism opportunities and improved environmental outcomes.

Mayor Curran suggested that Council should include the preparation of a masterplan incorporating the surrounding wetlands in the grant application as a long-term solution to assist with salt and nutrient removal.

Mr Rizzo advised that Council is currently undertaking a flood study for the Lake Wyangan area, and that the outcomes and recommendations of this study will need to be considered in any future planning.

Mayor Curran further noted that potential future residential development should also be taken into account when developing a masterplan for the area.

Mrs Parker suggested that universities may have an interest in using Lake Wyangan as a study site and could assist by providing data to inform future planning.

Mr Rizzo advised that Council would investigate options for monitoring water quality such as the installation of an electronic monitoring system.

Mr Grant advised that Council is currently preparing the grant application and that a formal commitment from Council is required. The application will be drafted to align with the grant

criteria, highlighting the community benefits, including improved health and wellbeing, increased recreational opportunities for residents, as well as positive tourism and environmental outcomes.

Mr Collis queried whether the existing data loggers in the lake are operational. Mr Rizzo advised he would investigate this, noting that the loggers would most likely require recalibration.

Mrs Parker enquired whether grant funding could be used to provide potable water to the lake. Mr Rizzo stated that delivering potable water to the area presents challenges due to elevation constraints and cost considerations.

Mr Tagliapietra left the meeting at 5:42 pm.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillor Tony O'Grady and Frank Battistel that the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee note the information in the report and propose the following infrastructure or enabling projects for submission under the NSW Sustainable Communities Program – Economic Development and Infrastructure Round:

- Stage 1 – in drain sediment and nutrient interception
- Stage 2 – carp exclusion and habitat restoration
- Stage 3 – solar circulation, monitoring and maintenance access.
- Stage 4 – preparation of a Masterplan including investigation of Tharbogang wetlands to improve water quality at the Lake.

## **6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**

The Committee noted the Outstanding Action Report.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Technical Committee**

Mrs Parker advised she had reviewed previously provided information and noted that Carp removal is a critical issue as it would enable increased vegetation growth within the Lake system and contribute to improved water quality.

### **7.2 Water Inflows**

Councillor Dal Bon enquired if Council is provided with evidence from Murrumbidgee Irrigation as to the amount of water that is going into the Lake. Mr Rizzo advised he would take this on notice.

### **7.3 Boat Ramp**

Mr Salvestro asked for an update on the progress of the current works at the Lake and sought clarification on when the boat ramp is expected to be constructed. Mr Badenhorst advised that the works underway form part of Stage 1 of the initial presentation, which has been divided into two sub-stages. He noted that the boat ramp is included in Stage 2, which is not currently funded. Mr Badenhorst will provide further information on this matter at the next meeting.

Minutes of Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee 05 February 2026

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**8      NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 19 March 2026 at 5:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5:58pm.