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

PRESENT

The Mayor, Councillor 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 Shari Blumer reading the Opening Affirmation and the Acknowledgement of Country.

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

No apologies or requests for leave of absence were received.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

26/025

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 27 January 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

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

Against

Councillor Christine Stead
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.

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.

General Manager, Scott Grant

CCMM02 - Motor Vehicle Leaseback Deductions – Governance Update and Management Response

Reason - I am provided with a leaseback motor vehicle by Council as a condition of employment. There is no actual gain or loss involved.

Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Matthew Hansen

CCMM02 - Motor Vehicle Leaseback Deductions – Governance Update and Management Response

Reason - I am provided with a leaseback motor vehicle by council as a condition of Employment. There is no actual gain or loss involved.

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson

CCMM02 - Motor Vehicle Leaseback Deductions – Governance Update and Management Response

Reason - I am a participant of the scheme. I am not voting on the matter. The outcome of this report will not result in a loss or gain for me outside of the normal parameters of the scheme.

Director Utilities, Graham Gordon

CCMM02 - Motor Vehicle Leaseback Deductions – Governance Update and Management Response

Reason - I currently have a motor vehicle leaseback agreement in place with Council. The report is for information only and no decision is to be made that will affect the current payment of my leaseback agreement. I currently pay leaseback fees as per the agreement.

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King
CCMM02 - Motor Vehicle Leaseback Deductions – Governance Update and Management Response

Reason - I have a leaseback motor vehicle. I have a leaseback motor vehicle and have signed a leaseback agreement form.

Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo
CCMM02 - Motor Vehicle Leaseback Deductions – Governance Update and Management Response

Reason - I currently have a motor vehicle leaseback agreement in place with Council. The report is for information only with no decision to be made which will affect my leaseback agreement. I currently pay leaseback fees as part the agreement.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

MM01 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – NSW GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

26/026

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

- (a) Council approve Council officers to prepare and submit funding applications under the NSW Government Sustainable Communities Program for the following projects:
 1. Lake Wyangan – Water Quality and Liveability Infrastructure (Stage 1); and
 2. Griffith Regional Saleyards – Staged Roof and Amenity Upgrade;
 3. 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.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 3.

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL'S MEETING SCHEDULE 2026

26/027

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

- (a) The Council Meeting scheduled to be held Tuesday, 23 June 2026 be rescheduled to Tuesday, 16 June 2026.
- (b) The Council Meeting scheduled to be held Tuesday, 24 November 2026 be rescheduled to Thursday 26 November 2026.
- (c) The Council Meeting scheduled to be held on 14 July 2026 be cancelled.

For

Mayor, 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 PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE – LAKE WYANGAN INFRASTRUCTURE ENABLING PROJECT (STAGE 1)

26/028

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that Council notes the contents of this report regarding the status of the Lake Wyangan Residential Housing Infrastructure Enabling Project (Stage 1).

For

Mayor, 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.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

CL03 INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 OCTOBER AND 30 NOVEMBER 2025

26/029

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

For
Mayor, 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.

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil.

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

Nil.

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

26/030

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that the report be noted.

For
Mayor, 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.

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.**

26/031

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady 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
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Tony O'Grady

Against

Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

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.

CCMM01 MOTOR VEHICLE LEASEBACK DEDUCTIONS – GOVERNANCE UPDATE AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Reason: Personnel Matters 10A(2)(a)

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

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

Council closed its meeting at 7:26pm. The public and media left the Chamber. Livestream was disconnected.

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

26/032

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that open Council be resumed.

For

Mayor, 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.

Open Council resumed at 7:36pm.

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

CCMM01 MOTOR VEHICLE LEASEBACK DEDUCTIONS – GOVERNANCE UPDATE AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

26/033

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

- (a) Council note the update regarding Council's motor vehicle leaseback scheme; and
- (b) Council note the actions taken by the General Manager to address the matter.
- (c) Council note that the General Manager has appropriate governance arrangements in place to manage any real or perceived conflict of interest.

For
Mayor, 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.

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

26/034

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

- (a) Council endorse the allocation of funds from the Council-held Sinking Fund Reserve to undertake security upgrades to the St Vincent's Private Community Hospital staff accommodation located at Koorungal Avenue and Wakaden Street; and
- (b) Note that, should the request be approved, Griffith City Council will procure the required works through its own purchasing and procurement processes, with the attached quotations used as indicative cost estimates only.
- (c) Delegate authority to the General Manager to approve the final scope of works, select the preferred contractor in accordance with Council's procurement policies and enter into any necessary contracts to deliver the approved works.

For
Mayor, 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.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7:39pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON