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**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

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**PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

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

**MEDIA**

Nil.

**1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Meeting opened with Councillor Jenny Ellis 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**

26/035

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Stead and O'Grady that an apology be received from Director Utilities, Graham Gordon.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

### **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

26/036

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Laurie Testoni that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 10 February 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

For

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

### **4 BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil.

### **5 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**

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

Councillor Jenny Ellis

CL02 – Quick Turn Around Grant Application for Griffith Musicians Club Inc

Reason – I am an ordinary member of the Griffith Musicians Club. I am not on the executive board of the Musicians Club, I haven't had anything to do with preparing this grant and I don't stand to gain any personal financial benefit from it should it be passed.

Councillor Shari Blumer

CL02 – Quick Turn Around Grant Application for Griffith Musicians Club Inc

Reason – I am a non-board member of the Musician's Club and will not directly benefit from decision.

### **6 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

## **7 MAYORAL MINUTES**

### **MM01 NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR SHARI BLUMER - DRAFT MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION - NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NGA) - AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

26/037

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Tony O'Grady that Council endorse the following motions to be submitted for inclusion in the National General Assembly - Australian Local Government Association - to be held in Canberra 23 – 25 June 2026:

1. Impacts of population growth on water allocations:

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government and Murray-Darling Basin Authority, as part of the 2026 Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review, to model and consider the impacts of population growth on consumptive water requirements within the Basin, including for communities, irrigators and industry, in light of the risk of reduced flows due to climate change.

National objective

This motion supports National Objective 9 – Climate Change and National Objective 4 – Roads and Infrastructure.

Key arguments / background

Climate Change is expected to reduce flows within the Murray-Darling Basin, putting further pressure on water use. That risk will be compounded by population growth within the Basin, as more water users compete for fewer resources. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is currently undertaking a review of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. It is critical that the interrelated impacts of population growth and climate change be modelled when reviewing the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, to enable all tiers of government to focus on appropriate climate change adaptation infrastructure, particularly in relation to alternative water sources and efficiency measures for town water.

2. Objects of the Water Act 2007 (Cth) and purpose of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan:

This National General Assembly calls upon the Australian Government and Murray-Darling Basin Authority, as part of the 2026 Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review, to amend the Water Act 2007 (Cth) and regulations to prescribe further international agreements / treaties relevant to the management of Basin water resources, in particular those relating to clean drinking water and critical human water needs, in order to broaden the objects of the Water Act 2007 (Cth) and purpose of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

National objective

This motion supports National Objective 9 – Climate Change and National Objective 4 – Roads and Infrastructure.

Key arguments / background

Climate Change is expected to reduce flows within the Murray-Darling Basin, putting further pressure on water use. That risk will be compounded by population growth within the Basin, as more water users compete for fewer resources. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is currently undertaking a review of the Murray-Darling Basin

Plan. The focus of the Water Act 2007 (Cth) is environmental management of international recognised wetlands, being the constitutional basis for the legislation pursuant to the Commonwealth foreign affairs power and internationally ratified wetland preservation treaties. As part of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review, the objects of the Act must be genuinely broadened, to properly take into account forecast town water use, including drinking water. To that end, it is submitted that the Act and regulations should prescribe further international agreements / treaties relevant to clean drinking water and critical human water needs. This would enable a greater focus on appropriate climate change adaptation infrastructure, particularly in relation to alternative water sources and efficiency measures for town water.

3. Water buybacks:

This National General Assembly calls upon the Australian Government and Murray-Darling Basin Authority, as part of the 2026 Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review, to amend the Water Act 2007 (Cth) to exclude any further environmental water recovery by way of water buy-backs, until such time as Sustainable Development Limit Adjustment Mechanism projects are delivered in full, particularly those relating to constraints and the Enhanced Environmental Water Delivery (EEWD) project.

National objective

This motion supports National Objective 9 – Climate Change and National Objective 4 – Roads and Infrastructure.

Key arguments / background

Approximately 30 percent of water within the Murray-Darling Basin has now been recovered for environmental use. A large part of that water has been recovered through water buybacks, with a 450 GL buyback scheme currently underway. A further 605 GL of water could also be recovered by way of water buybacks, if Sustainable Development Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) projects are not delivered by December 2026. Water buybacks impose significant impacts on Basin communities, by permanently removing water from productive use. As part of the Murray Darling Basin Authority's 2026 review into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review it has already stated in its Early Insights paper that it is time to move beyond a 'just add water' mentality when trying to improve environmental health. In addition to integrated catchment management, what is required is an investment in knowhow and expertise in how to use existing water allocations more effectively. That is what SDLAM projects do, which must be properly resourced and implemented, before further water buybacks are considered.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

## **8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **CL01 GRIFFITH URBAN CROWN LAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTIVATION - MASTERPLAN AND BUSINESS CASE**

26/038

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Christine Stead that the meeting suspend standing orders.

The General Manager, Mr Scott Grant and Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Mr Matt Hansen, provided a presentation on the Griffith Urban Crown Land Housing Project – Business Case and Masterplan. Mr Leonard McKinnon and Mr Rod McInnes from the Stable Group, were available on Zoom to answer questions.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

26/039

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the meeting resume standing orders.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

Councillor Testoni asked whether Council could include upgrades to the Canal precinct if any development takes place in that area. This matter was taken on notice.

Councillor Dal Bon enquired about the amount of Council's contribution toward the proposed projects and whether Council is in a position to afford this contribution. This matter was taken on notice.

26/040

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

- (a) Council endorse the Griffith Urban Crown Land Affordable Housing Activation - Masterplan and Business Case.

- (b) The General Manager and Mayor be authorised to approach State and Federal bodies and other relevant stakeholders and government agencies to progress this process further.
- (c) A report be brought back to Council providing updates in due course.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

### **CL02 QUICK TURN AROUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR GRIFFITH MUSICIANS CLUB INC**

26/041

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that Council approve the application for the Quick Turnaround Grant from Griffith Musicians Club Inc for the amount of \$2,460.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

### **CL03 GRANTS AND WORKS ON COMMUNITY FACILITIES ON COUNCIL CONTROLLED LAND POLICY**

26/042

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council endorse the draft Grants and Works for Community Facilities on Council-controlled Land Policy.
- (b) The draft Grants and Works for Community Facilities on Council-controlled Land Policy be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.
- (c) If any submissions are received, a further report be prepared for Council.
- (d) If no submissions are received, the draft Grants and Works for Community Facilities on Council-controlled Land Policy be considered as adopted by Council as at the date of the conclusion of the advertised exhibition period.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

#### **CL04 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT (QBR) - DECEMBER 2025 (QUARTER 2)**

26/043

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

- (a) Endorse the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBR) for the period ending 31 December 2025, prepared in accordance with the NSW Office of Local Government guidelines.
- (b) Note the Responsible Accounting Officer's certification that Council's financial position remains satisfactory.
- (c) Approve the proposed variations to the 2025–26 budget as outlined in the QBR.
- (d) Authorise submission of the QBR and electronic data return to the Office of Local Government.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

### **9 INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### **CL05 DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT DECEMBER 2025**

Councillor Testoni asked when the dead plants at Memorial Park will be replaced. This matter was taken on notice.

26/044

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that Council note the Delivery Program Progress Report as at 31 December 2025.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

## **CL06 INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**

26/045

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Tony O'Grady that the report be noted by Council.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

## **10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **MINUTES OF THE SALEYARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2025**

26/046

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Saleyards Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025 be adopted.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

**MINUTES OF THE ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2026**

26/047

**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 29 January 2026 be adopted.

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC FORUM MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2026**

26/048

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Anne Napoli and Tony O'Grady that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Local Traffic Forum meeting held on 10 February 2026 be adopted.

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

Against

**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**

26/049

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

For

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

Against

**The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.**

**14 MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY CLOSED COUNCIL**

Nil

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.45 pm.

Confirmed: .....

CHAIRPERSON