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

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, Water and Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary and Minute Taker, Leanne Austin

MEDIA

Nil.

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Scott Groat 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

26/062

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis 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

26/063

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 10 March 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

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 Anne Napoli

Minutes of Floodplain Management Committee Meeting

Reason - This report mentions a Levy along McCormack Road, Yoogali. I own a property along McCormack Road. This Levy could increase or decrease the value of my property.

Councillor Shari Blumer

CC01 Licence Agreement – Linking Communities Network Ltd – Part 4 DP 864407, Kookora Street, Griffith

Reason – The fact that a business that she has an interest in often drafts these documents.

Senior Management Team

CCMM02 General Manager Performance Agreement

Reason – The entire SMT has a conflict due to the GM's performance management program, and objectives being discussed.

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 Tony O'Grady

CL04 Lake Wyangan Flood Study

Reason – I live near Lake Wyangan although my house isn't impacted by the most recent flood events and this study doesn't impact my house.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY

26/064

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

- (a) Council endorse the draft Asset Management Policy.
- (b) The draft Asset Management 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 Asset Management 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.

CL02 INCREASE - BUSINESS CARD LIMIT

26/065

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

- (a) Council endorse a Business Credit Card Facility limit of \$150,000.
- (b) Council authorise the use of the Council Seal to be affixed to the documentation required to increase the facility limit.

Councillor Groat queried the purpose of maintaining a \$1 million overdraft facility that has not been utilised. This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE** by Mr Hansen.

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

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.

CL03 SUBMISSION FROM GRIFFITH TENNIS CLUB - PICKLEBALL FACILITY

26/066

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

- (a) Council note the submission from the Griffith Tennis Club regarding the proposed development of a Pickleball Facility at Jubilee Park.
- (b) Council support in principle further investigation of the proposal, subject to land tenure, planning, funding and governance considerations.
- (c) Council authorise continued discussions with the Tennis Club and undertaking of further assessment, including land use permissibility, delivery models and funding opportunities.
- (d) Council note this Report introduces the concept of a Pickleball Facility at the Griffith Tennis Club, and at the present time, no financial commitment by Council to any funding model including the provision of a loan facility or the seeking of external grant funding. Any project delivery, funding or loan support would be subject to a further report and formal Council resolution.

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 REVIEW OF LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY

26/067

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

- (a) Council endorse the Lake Wyangan Flood Study to go on public exhibition for a period of 42 days.
- (b) Should no submissions be received, the Lake Wyangan Flood Study 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
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.

CL05 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (ALGA) NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NGA) 23 - 25 JUNE 2026

26/068

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council nominate the Mayor, two Councillors, Councillor Napoli and Councillor Blumer (Councillor O'Grady and Councillor Ellis Alternates) and the General Manager (or his delegate) to attend the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra from 23 to 25 June 2026.
- (b) Council endorse funds to be allocated to the event:
 - i. Conference (and Forum) @ \$1,350 per person (including Early Bird rate)
 - ii. Accommodation @ \$300 per night/per person.

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

CL06 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM - APPLICATIONS

26/069

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Shari Blumer that Council note the report and the revised scope of works, project budgets and co-contributions.

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.

CL07 INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026

26/070

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead 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 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2026

26/071

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 26 February 2026 be adopted.

For

Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

Against

Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

Councillor Anne Napoli left the meeting having declared a pecuniary interest, the time being 7:18pm.

MINUTES OF THE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2026

26/072

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Tony O'Grady that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held on 5 March 2026 be adopted.

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

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

Councillor Anne Napoli returned to the meeting at 7.19 pm.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR TONY O'GRADY

This Notice of Motion was Withdrawn.

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR MARK DAL BON

26/073

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Mark Dal Bon and Christine Stead:

- (a) Council to review the policy on quick turn around grants to enable non for profit and other organisations that donate money to charities to be able to access these grants from Council that benefit the community.
- (b) The relevant policies be brought to a Council Workshop for Councillor input.

For	Against
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

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR SCOTT GROAT

26/074

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Anne Napoli that Council requests the General Manager to prepare a report to investigate all options to accelerate housing in Griffith.

Including staging of developments.

An assessment of the current sequencing of current approved developments, including the Hanwood Growth Masterplan, where there are mechanisms available to alter the sequences of these developments.

Benchmark approaches used by other regional councils to facilitate planning mechanisms to improve housing supply outcomes.

Consideration of any infrastructure, regulatory, or procedural barriers that may be impacting timely delivery of housing approvals.

Report back to Council within a reasonable time frame to allow Council to implement these findings.

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

Against
Councillor Jenny Ellis

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

26/075

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

Against

Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

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.**

26/076

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 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.

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 LICENCE AGREEMENT - LINKING COMMUNITIES NETWORK LTD - PART LOT 4 DP 864407, KOOKORA STREET, GRIFFITH

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

CCMM02 GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

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

Council closed its meeting at 7:30 pm. The public and media left the Chamber. Livestream was disconnected.

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

26/077

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Anne Napoli and Christine Stead that Open Council be resumed.

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.

Open Council resumed at 7.46 pm.

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

Councillor Shari Blumer left the meeting having declared a pecuniary interest, the time being 7:30pm.

CC01 LICENCE AGREEMENT - LINKING COMMUNITIES NETWORK LTD - PART LOT 4 DP 864407, KOOKORA STREET, GRIFFITH

26/078

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Anne Napoli and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council to approve the relinquishment of the current licence agreement held by Linking Communities Network Ltd over Part Lot 4 DP 864407, Kookora Street, Griffith.
- (b) Council advertise its intention to enter into a lease agreement with Linking Communities Network Ltd over Proposed Lot 3 of the subdivision of Lot 4 DP 864407 for the continued operation, improvement and expansion of a Group Home 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 enter into a lease agreement with Linking Communities Network Ltd over Proposed Lot 3 of the subdivision of Lot 4 DP 864407, for a term of 30 years. The commencement date of the new lease agreement will be the date on which the current licence agreement is formally relinquished, ensuring continuous occupation by Linking Communities Network Ltd.
- (d) Linking Communities Network Ltd are responsible to pay for all costs associated with the preparation of the lease agreement, together with Council's administration fee, in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy.
- (e) The annual lease fee will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy, for lease of Crown Reserves, together with rates and charges, as applicable.
- (f) Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to execute the lease agreement on behalf of Council under the Common Seal if required.

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

Councillor Shari Blumer returned to the meeting at 7:32pm.

Mr Hansen, Ms Donaldson, Mr King, Mr Rizzo and Mr Chaudhary left the meeting having declared a pecuniary interest, the time being 7:32pm.

Mr Grant left the meeting having declared a pecuniary interest, the time being 7:43pm.

CCMM02 GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

26/079

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

- (a) The Mayoral Minute on the General Manager’s 2025/2026 Performance Agreement be received.
- (b) The 2025/2026 General Manager’s Performance Agreement as attached to the report 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.

Mr Grant, Mr Hansen, Ms Donaldson, Mr King and Mr Rizzo returned to the meeting at 7:46 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7:51pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON