



Ordinary Meeting

BUSINESS PAPER

Tuesday, 28 July 2026 at 7:00 PM

Griffith City Council Chambers

Phone: 1300 176 077

Web: www.griffith.nsw.gov.au Email: admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au



COUNCILLORS

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

dcurran@griffith.com.au
sblumer@griffith.com.au
mdalbon@griffith.com.au
jellis@griffith.com.au
sgroat@griffith.com.au
anapoli@griffith.com.au
togrady@griffith.com.au
cstead@griffith.com.au
ltestoni@griffith.com.au

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ADDRESS COUNCIL IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

Addressing the Council at a Public Forum

Members of the public may address the Council on matters listed in the Council Meeting Agenda at the Public Forum held prior to the Council Meeting, provided proper notice is given. Visit Council's website for more information. To apply to address Council on Business Paper matters, please complete an online [Request to Speak at a Public Forum](#) before 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting. Public Forums will commence at 6:30 pm prior to the Council Meeting as required.

Notice of Motion via Councillor

You are able to lobby a Councillor to raise a Notice of Motion to have a matter considered by the Council at a future meeting.

Petition

A petition can be presented to the Council through a Councillor. If you would like to present a petition to an Ordinary Meeting of Council, please contact one of the Councillors to arrange.

Customer Request Management system

The Customer Request Management system (CRM) manages the processing of customer requests. Customer requests can be then easily responded to, allocated to responsible officers and checked. The system will automatically escalate requests that have not been actioned. To log a request, please contact Council's Customer Service Team on 1300 176 077.

Direct correspondence to the General Manager

You may write directly to the General Manager about your issue or concern via letter or email. You may contact the General Manager at admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au or mail correspondence to: The General Manager, PO Box 485 Griffith NSW 2680.

For more information on public participation refer to [Council's Agency Information Guide](#).

Councillors' obligations under the Oath or Affirmation of Office are as follows:

Oath

I [*name of Councillor*] swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Griffith and the Griffith City Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the [Local Government Act 1993](#) or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Affirmation

I [*name of Councillor*] solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Griffith and the Griffith City Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the [Local Government Act 1993](#) or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Councillors' obligations under the Code of Conduct in relation to conflicts of interest include:

[What is a pecuniary interest?](#)

A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3 of the Code of Conduct.

[Disclosure of pecuniary interests at meetings](#)

A Councillor who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which Council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of Council at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.

The Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of Council:

- (a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or
- (b) at any time during which the Council is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

[What is a non-pecuniary conflict of interest?](#)

Non-pecuniary interests are private or personal interests a Council official has that do not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in clause 4.1 of the Code of Conduct. A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.

[Managing non-pecuniary conflicts of interest](#)

Where Councillors have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter they must disclose the relevant private interest they have in relation to the matter fully and in writing as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the non-pecuniary conflict of interest.

[Click here to lodge an online Conflict of Interest Form.](#)

How Councillors manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will depend on whether or not it is significant.

A non-pecuniary conflict of interest will be significant where it does not involve a pecuniary interest, but it involves:

- (a) a relationship between a Councillor and another person who is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly close, such as a current or former spouse or de facto partner, a relative or another person from the Councillor's extended family that the Councillor has a close personal relationship with, or another person living in the same household.
- (b) other relationships with persons who are affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that are particularly close, such as friendships and business relationships. Closeness is defined by the nature of the friendship or business relationship, the frequency of contact and the duration of the friendship or relationship.
- (c) an affiliation between the Councillor and an organisation (such as a sporting body, club, religious, cultural or charitable organisation, corporation or association) that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly strong. The strength of a Councillor's affiliation with an organisation is to be determined by the extent to which they actively participate in the management, administration or other activities of the organisation.
- (d) membership, as the Council's representative, of the board or management committee of an organisation that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration, in circumstances where the interests of Council and the organisation are potentially in conflict in relation to the particular matter.
- (e) a financial interest (other than an interest of a type referred to in clause 4.6 of the Code of Conduct) that is not a pecuniary interest for the purposes of clause 4.1 of the Code of Conduct.
- (f) the conferral or loss of a personal benefit other than one conferred or lost as a member of the community or a broader class of people affected by a decision.

If the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to a matter under consideration at a Council meeting, Councillors must manage the conflict of interest as if a Councillor had a pecuniary interest in the matter by complying with clauses 4.28 and 4.29 of the Code of Conduct. That is, a Councillor who has a significant non-pecuniary interest in a matter under consideration at a Council meeting must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. The Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of Council:

- (a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or
- (b) at any time during which the Council is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

If Councillors determine that they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is not significant and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest they must explain in writing why they consider that the non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.

Councillors should refer to Council's Code of Conduct policy for further information in relation to managing conflicts of interest at Council Meetings.

Opening Affirmations

Option 1

Let us meet in this Council Chamber in a spirit of fellowship and goodwill to represent all the members of our community in its cultural and religious diversity.

To be honest and objective in all our deliberations.

To respect the views of the residents, the rights of all Councillors to express their opinions without fear or favour and to make decisions for the common good of our community.

Option 2

Almighty God

We ask that you guide us in our decision making.

Protect us and the community we serve.

Direct our deliberations for the progress of this City and the true welfare of its people.

Option 3

I ask those gathered to join us now for a few moments of silence as we reflect on our roles in this Chamber. Please use this opportunity for reflection, prayer or thought, to focus on our shared intention to work respectfully together for the well-being of our whole community.

Acknowledgment of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
TO BE HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2026 AT 7:00 PM**

MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Griffith City Council Chambers on **Tuesday, 28 July 2026**.

In accordance with Griffith City Council's Code of Meeting Practice and as permitted under the Local Government Act 1993, this meeting will be livestreamed via Facebook and a person's image and / or voice may be broadcast.

A recording of the livestream will be published on Council's website for at least 12 months after the meeting or for the balance of the Council term, whichever is the longer period.

Attendance at a Council meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and / or voice being livestreamed.

All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent.

Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments.

No other 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.

The agenda for the meeting is:

- 1 Council Acknowledgments
- 2 Apologies and Applications for a Leave of Absence or Attendance by Audio-visual Link by Councillors
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes
- 4 Business Arising
- 5 Declarations of Interest
- 6 Presentations
- 7 Mayoral Minutes
- 8 General Manager's Report

CL01	p30	DA 48/2026 - Electricity Generating Works – 5MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
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CL02	p42	Sustainable Communities Program - Business and Industry Round
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CL03	p46	Regional Airport Program - Round 5
CL04	p49	Application to 2026 NSWRL Infrastructure Investment Fund
CL05	p61	Renewal of Lease Agreement - St Vincent's Private Hospitals Ltd - 41-45 Animoo Avenue, Griffith
CL06	p66	Local Government NSW Annual Conference November 2026
CL07	p69	Review of Council's Agency Information Guide 2026
CL08	p72	Review of Privacy Management Policy and Plan
CL09	p75	2026 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress
CL10	p90	Request for Support – 10th Anniversary Community Gala Dinner in support of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith

9 Information Reports

CL11	p95	Summary Development Application DA 57/2026 for Electricity Generating Works comprising a 7.1MW Solar Farm and 5MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 11 Duchatel Road, Griffith
CL12	p104	New State Planning Entity - Development Coordination Authority (DCA)
CL13	p106	Councillor Conduct Framework Reform
CL14	p111	OLG Circular - Code of Meeting Practice
CL15	p122	Questions Taken on Notice
CL16	p126	Investments as at 30 April 2026
CL17	p136	2026 NSW Local Roads Congress

10 Adoption of Committee Minutes

p145	Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2026
p150	Minutes of the Local Traffic Forum Meeting held on 14 July 2026
p153	Minutes of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2026

11 Business with Notice – Rescission Motions

12 Business with Notice – Other Motions

p157	Notice of Motion - Councillor Jenny Ellis
p161	Notice of Motion - Councillor Scott Groat
p165	Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer
p172	Notice of Motion - Councillor Mark Dal Bon

13 Outstanding Action Report

14 Matters to be dealt with by Closed Council

CC01 Tender No. 20-25/26 - GWTP - Design & Supply of Powder Activated Carbon Dosing System

- 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 10A(2) (d)

Scott Grant

GENERAL MANAGER

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT

The Mayor, Doug Curran in the Chair; Councillors, Christine Stead, Jenny Ellis, Anne Napoli (Zoom), 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, Manager Water and Wastewater, Durgananda Chaudhary 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

26/166

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Scott Groat that an apology be received from Director 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.

26/167

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

attendance by audio-visual link from Councillor Anne Napoli be approved.

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

26/168

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 9 June 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
MM01 Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) 2026/27
Reason – I own a property along where the Yoogali Levy is considered to be constructed.

Councillor Christine Stead
CC01 Major Event request for Council Assistance
Reason – The report mentions Griffith Show Ground and I am President of the Showground Trust.

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 Laurie Testoni

CL01 Adoption of the Delivery Program 2025/26 – 2028/29 Incorporating the Operational Plan (Budget) 2026/27 and Long Term Financial Plan 2026/27 Annual Review

Reason – In relation to the Wood Park request for funding. I live in North Griffith and so does some of my relatives.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

MM01 DISASTER READY FUND (DRF) 2026/27

Councillor Anne Napoli left the meeting having declared a pecuniary interest, the time being 7:05 pm.

Mayor Doug Curran and Councillor Tony O'Grady moved the following **MOTION** that:

- (a) Council apply to Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for Yoogali levee Construction – Stage 3 Project.
- (b) Council apply to Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for Yenda Drainage Network and Flood Pump Project.
- (c) Council support the application with \$15,000 for preparatory costs per project.

Councillors Dal Bon and Blumer moved the following **AMENDMENT** that items (a) and (b) be considered separately.

The **AMENDMENT** was **PUT** and **WON**.

For

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

Councillor Testoni asked what the timeframes for completion would be if successful with the grant application. This was taken on Notice.

26/169

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Doug Curran and Councillor Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council apply to Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for Yoogali levee Construction – Stage 3 Project.
- (b) Council support the application with \$15,000 for preparatory costs.

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

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 2.

26/170

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Doug Curran and Councillor Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council apply to Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for Yenda Drainage Network and Flood Pump Project.
- (b) Council support the application with \$15,000 for preparatory costs.

For
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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

Councillor Anne Napoli returned to the meeting at 7:13 pm.

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 ADOPTION OF THE DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025/26 - 2028/29 INCORPORATING THE OPERATIONAL PLAN (BUDGET) 2026/27 AND LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/27 ANNUAL REVIEW

Mayor Doug Curran and Councillor Tony O'Grady moved the following **MOTION** that Council adopt the following documents:

- Delivery Program 2025/26 - 2028/29 incorporating the Draft Operational Plan 2026/27 (Budget), and
- Long-Term Financial Plan 2026/27 Annual Review

as exhibited and attached to the report including the below additional amendments as a result of submissions received during the exhibition period:

1. Amendments to Revenue Policy/Fees & Charges

Fee/Charge:	Recommendation:
Water Inspection Fee	Delete duplicate
Investigation Fee	Delete duplicate
Use of Griffith Harness Track	\$110/week
603 Certificates	\$105
Overdue Rates Interest	9.5%
Water Meter Relocation (20mm)	\$1,646
Water Meter Relocation Description	Add "includes disconnection"
Planning & Development Fees	Updated per EP&A Regulation
Legionella Inspection Fees	\$100–\$150/year
Domestic Waste Management Charge	\$458
Recycling Charge	\$152

2. Amendments to Operating Budget

Item	Exhibited Budget	Proposed Budget
Waste collection costs	\$760,000	\$860,000
Waste collection charges	\$1,381,518	\$1,481,518
Senior Citizens Centre Internet	Not included	\$3,000
Financial Assistance Grant	\$7,856,865	\$1,571,373

Councillors Groat and Dal Bon moved the an **AMENDMENT** that Council remove the Use of Griffith Harness Track Fee - \$110/week.

The AMENDMENT was PUT and **WON**.

For
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Shari Blumer

The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 4.

Councillors Groat and Dal Bon moved an **AMENDMENT** that the domestic waste management charge remain at the exhibited fee of \$429.

The AMENDMENT was PUT and **LOST**.

For

Against

Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat

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

The division was declared LOST by 4 votes to 5.

Councillors Dal Bon and Groat moved an **AMENDMENT** that the proposed new Legionella Inspection Fees be reduced to \$50 per year.

The AMENDMENT was PUT and **LOST**.

For
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat

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

The division was declared LOST by 3 votes to 6.

Councillors Dal Bon and Stead moved an **AMENDMENT** that the Recycling Charge remain at the exhibited fee of \$142.

The AMENDMENT was PUT and **LOST**.

For
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat

Against
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

The division was declared LOST by 5 votes to 4.

Councillors Testoni and Ellis moved an **AMENDMENT** that:

- (a) The allocation for Item 78 Wood Park toilet Construction be reduced by \$50,000 (from \$250,000 to \$200,000) with the savings redirected as follows:
- (b) \$25,000 to the development and delivery of a professional advertising and promotional campaign for Pioneer Park Museum on Scenic Hill; and
- (c) Exercise equipment for the Yenda community (Item 11 – Councillor Requests), increasing funding by \$10,000 to a total of \$25,000, with the increase offset by removing the roundabout landscaping refurbishment.

The AMENDMENT was PUT and **WON**.

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

Against
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat

The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 4.

26/171

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Doug Curran and Councillor Tony O'Grady that Council adopt the following documents:

- (a) Delivery Program 2025/26 - 2028/29 incorporating the Draft Operational Plan 2026/27 (Budget), and
- (b) Long-Term Financial Plan 2026/27 Annual Review as exhibited and attached to the report including the below additional amendments as a result of submissions received during the exhibition period and inclusive of the above carried amendments:

1. Amendments to Revenue Policy/Fees & Charges

Fee/Charge:	Recommendation:
Water Inspection Fee	Delete duplicate
Investigation Fee	Delete duplicate
603 Certificates	\$105
Overdue Rates Interest	9.5%
Water Meter Relocation (20mm)	\$1,646
Water Meter Relocation Description	Add "includes disconnection"
Planning & Development Fees	Updated per EP&A Regulation
Legionella Inspection Fees	\$100–\$150/year
Domestic Waste Management Charge	\$458
Recycling Charge	\$152

2. Amendments to Operating Budget

Item	Exhibited Budget	Proposed Budget
Waste collection costs	\$760,000	\$860,000
Waste collection charges	\$1,381,518	\$1,481,518
Senior Citizens Centre Internet	Not included	\$3,000
Financial Assistance Grant	\$7,856,865	\$1,571,373

- 3. The allocation for Item 78 Wood Park toilet Construction be reduced by \$50,000 (from \$250,000 to \$200,000) with the savings redirected as follows:
- 4. \$25,000 to the development and delivery of a professional advertising and promotional campaign for Pioneer Park Museum on Scenic Hill; and
- 5. Exercise equipment for the Yenda community (Item 11 – Councillor Requests), increasing funding by \$10,000 to a total of \$25,000, with the increase offset by removing the roundabout landscaping refurbishment.

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

Against
 Councillor Mark Dal Bon

Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.

CL02 MAKING OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2026 TO 30 JUNE 2027

26/172

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

- (a) Levying of Ordinary Rates and Charges for 2026/2027 Ordinary Rates.
- (i) That Council, having adopted its Operational Plan for the year commencing 1 July 2026 and after giving public notice in accordance with Section 532 of the Local Government Act, 1993 of its draft Operational Plan for the year commencing 1 July 2026 and after considering submissions concerning that Plan in accordance with Section 494 of the Local Government Act, 1993 hereby resolve to make and levy an Ordinary Rate consisting of a base amount percentage (minimum charge) and also an ad valorem rate for the residential, farmland and business categories of all rateable land in the Local Government Area as per the following differential rating mix per category:
- Residential - 25% base amount / 75% ad valorem amount levied
 - Business - 10% base amount / 90% ad valorem amount levied
 - Farmland - 30% base amount / 70% ad valorem amount levied
 - Farmland - Irrigable - 20% base amount / 80% ad valorem amount levied
- (ii) The percentage and dollar value of the base amount payable by the making and levying of an ordinary rate for the residential, farmland and business categories is calculated to produce the following minimum base amounts of the total ordinary rate levy:
- Residential - 25% base amount / \$371.00 per rateable assessment
 - Business - 10% base amount / \$377.00 per rateable assessment
 - Farmland - 30% base amount / \$964.00 per rateable assessment
 - Farmland – Irrigable - 20% base amount / \$1,047.00 per rateable assessment
- (iii) An ad valorem amount for the various rating categories, including residential, farmland and business categories for all rateable land within the Local Government Area for an ordinary rate commencing 1 July 2026 according to the following amounts;
- Residential (75% ad valorem rate) resulting in a dollar value of zero point zero zero four nine six five zero zero (\$0.00496500) cents in the dollar applied to the land value for all rateable lands within the residential category in the City based upon the land value at a base valuation date of 1 July 2024.
 - Business (90% ad valorem rate) resulting in a dollar value of zero point zero zero seven two nine three zero zero (\$0.00729300) cents in the dollar applied to the land value for all rateable lands within the business category in the City based upon the land value at a base valuation date of 1 July 2024.
 - Farmland (70% ad valorem rate) resulting in a dollar value of zero point zero zero three one six eight zero zero (\$0.00316800) cents in the dollar

applied to the land value for all rateable lands within the farmland category in the City based upon the land value at a base valuation date of 1 July 2024.

- Farmland – Irrigable (80% ad valorem rate) resulting in a dollar value of zero point zero zero three nine six one zero zero (\$0.00396100) cents in the dollar applied to the land value for all rateable lands within the farmland (irrigable intensive) category in the City based upon the land value at a base valuation date of 1 July 2024.

- (b) That Council, having adopted its Operational Plan for the year commencing 1 July 2026 and after giving public notice in accordance with Section 496(A) of the Local Government Act, 1993 and after considering submissions concerning that Plan, hereby resolve to make and levy a charge of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) per residential assessment and twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) per residential Strata title assessment and five dollars (\$5.00) per business Strata assessment in the urban area for the provision of Urban Stormwater Management Services. Business assessments will be charged based on property size using the below table:

Property size	Charge	Capped charge
Less than 350m ²	\$25	\$25
Between 350m ² and 1ha	\$25 per 350m ² or part thereof	\$150
Between 1ha and 2ha		\$250
Greater than 2ha		\$500

- (c) Waste Management Charges for 2026/2027 (incorporating waste collection, landfill operations, maintenance and capital developments).

- (i) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a charge of four hundred and fifty eight dollars (\$458.00) for the provision of domestic waste management services for each residence for which the service is available within the City and surrounding villages. Such charge to provide for the removal on a once per week basis of waste contained in one 240 litre mobile garbage bin from each separate occupancy, whether rateable or not.
- (ii) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a domestic waste service charge in respect of vacant residential land an annual charge of fifty nine dollars (\$59.00) per assessment.
- (iii) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a charge of one hundred and fifty two dollars (\$152.00) for the provision of domestic waste recycling collection services for each residence for which the service is available within the City and surrounding villages. Such charge to provide for the removal on a once per fortnight basis of recyclable waste contained in one 240 litre mobile garbage bin from each separate occupancy, whether rateable or not. For any new assessments for the service, the charge will only become effective upon the

commencement of the service and will be charged on a pro-rata basis.

- (iv) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a charge of seven hundred and twenty eight dollars (\$728.00) per requested service for the year commencing 1 July 2026 for the provision of waste management services for each non-residential property for which the service is utilised within the City. Such a charge to provide the removal as requested on a once per week basis of waste contained in one 240 litre mobile garbage bin from each separate occupancy, whether rateable or not.
 - (v) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a charge of one thousand eight hundred and forty one dollars (\$1,841.00) per requested service for the year commencing 1 July 2026 for the provision of waste management services for each non-residential property for which the service is utilised within the City. Such charge to provide for the removal as requested on a once per week basis of garbage contained in a 660 litre mobile garbage bin from each occupancy, whether rateable or not.
 - (vi) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a charge of three thousand and forty two dollars (\$3,042.00) per requested service for the year commencing 1 July 2026 for the provision of waste management services for each non-residential property for which the service is utilised within the City. Such charge to provide for the removal as requested on a once per week basis of garbage contained in an 1,100 litre mobile garbage bin from each occupancy, whether rateable or not.
 - (vii) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a charge of two hundred and eighty four dollars (\$284.00) for the provision of industrial/commercial waste recycling collection services for each requested service for which the service is available within the City and surrounding villages. Such charge to provide for the removal on a once per fortnight basis of recyclable waste contained in two 240 litre mobile garbage bin. For any new assessments for the service, the charge will only become effective upon the commencement of the service and will be charged on a pro-rata basis.
- (d) Sewerage Rates and Charges for 2026/2027
- (i) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a residential sewerage charge in respect of residential land an annual charge of one thousand and fifty nine dollars (\$1,059.00) per tenement.
 - (ii) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, in accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a residential sewerage charge in respect of non-connected residential land within 75 metres of service, an annual charge of eight hundred and twenty five dollars (\$825.00) per assessment.
 - (iii) That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy, the

following charges in relation to non-residential properties, in accordance with Section 535 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Sewerage charges for non-residential properties for the 2026/2027 year will be based on:

- Water Consumption (C)
- Sewer Discharge Factor (SDF)
- Annual Access Charge (AC)
- Sewerage Treatment Charge (STC)
- Trade Waste Administration Charge (if applicable) (TWAC)
- Trade Waste Usage Charge (if applicable) (TWUC)
- Trade Waste Discharge Factor (if applicable) (TWDF)

An annual sewer charge of one thousand nine and fifty nine dollars (\$1,059.00) for all chargeable properties connected to the Griffith City sewer system that has no water meter connection and has an estimated annual usage of less than five hundred kilolitres per annum (<500 kL). No consumption is chargeable. (CBD Area - Low)

An annual sewer charge of two thousand four hundred and eighty one dollars (\$2,481.00) for all chargeable properties connected to the Griffith City sewer system that has no water meter connection and has an estimated annual usage of greater than five hundred kilolitres but less than eleven hundred kilolitres per annum (>500 to <1,100 kL). No consumption is chargeable. (CBD Area - Medium)

An annual sewer charge of four thousand three hundred and forty seven dollars (\$4,347.00) for all chargeable properties connected to the Griffith City sewer system that has no water meter connection and has an estimated annual usage of greater than eleven hundred kilolitres per annum (>1,100 kL). No consumption is chargeable. (CBD Area - High)

An annual sewer charge of five hundred and sixty four dollars (\$564.00) for all non-residential properties not connected to the Griffith City sewer system that are within 75 metres of a water meter connection. No consumption is chargeable.

(iv) Access Charges (based on meter size)

An annual sewer access charge of five hundred and sixty four dollars (\$564.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 20mm connection.

An annual sewer access charge of seven hundred and seventy one dollars (\$771.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 25mm connection.

An annual sewer access charge of one thousand two hundred and fifty seven dollars (\$1,257.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 32mm connection.

An annual sewer access charge of one thousand nine hundred and forty four dollars (\$1,944.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 40mm connection.

An annual sewer access charge of three thousand nine and three dollars (\$3,003.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a

50mm connection.

An annual sewer access charge of seven thousand six hundred and seventy one dollars (\$7,671.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has an 80mm connection.

An annual sewer access charge of eleven thousand nine hundred and seventy nine dollars (\$11,979.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 100mm connection.

An annual sewer access charge of twenty six thousand eight hundred and eighty three dollars (\$26,883.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 150mm or 200mm connection.

A sewerage treatment charge of two dollars and fourteen cents (\$2.14) per kilolitre.

(v) Annual Trade Waste Administration Charge

An annual trade waste administration charge of one hundred and forty four dollars (\$144.00) for Category One properties.

An annual trade waste administration charge of two hundred and fifty five dollars (\$255.00) for Category Two properties.

An annual trade waste administration charge of six hundred and sixty six dollars (\$666.00) for Category Three properties.

A trade waste treatment charge of one dollar and seventy five cents (\$1.75) per kilolitre.

(e) Water Charges 2026/2027

That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 it hereby resolves to make and levy the following charges, in accordance with section 535 of the Local Government Act 1993:

(i) Access Charges

An annual water access charge of one hundred and sixty two dollars (\$162.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 20mm connection.

An annual water access charge of two hundred and forty six dollars (\$246.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 25mm connection.

An annual water access charge of three hundred and eighty seven dollars (\$387.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 32mm connection.

An annual water access charge of six hundred dollars (\$600.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 40mm connection.

An annual water access charge of nine hundred and twenty seven dollars (\$927.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 50mm connection.

An annual water access charge of two thousand three hundred and forty three dollars (\$2,343.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has an 80mm connection.

An annual water access charge of three thousand six hundred and sixty dollars (\$3,660.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a 100mm connection.

An annual water access charge of eight thousand two hundred and fourteen dollars (\$8,214.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has either a 150mm or 200mm connection.

An annual water access charge of two hundred and forty six dollars (\$246.00) for all land rateable to the Yenda water supply that has a dual connection (one raw meter and one potable meter regardless of meter size).

An annual water access charge of one hundred and sixty two dollars (\$162.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that is within 225 metres of a water main and can be connected to that supply but is not connected. No consumption is chargeable.

An annual water access charge of two hundred and ninety seven dollars (\$297.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that is part of a neighbourhood or strata title development which has a shared meter. No consumption is chargeable.

An annual water access charge of six hundred and twenty four dollars (\$624.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith water supply that has a connection but is unmetered and has an estimated daily usage of less than one kilolitre per day (<1 kL), these being CBD (C1) properties. No consumption is chargeable.

An annual water access charge of one thousand and eighty nine dollars (\$1,089.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith water supply that has a connection but is unmetered and has an estimated daily usage of more than one kilolitre but less than six kilolitres per day (>1 - <6 kL), these being CBD (C2) properties. No consumption is chargeable.

An annual water access charge of three thousand nine hundred and seventy two dollars (\$3,972.00) for all land rateable to the Griffith water supply that has a connection but is unmetered and has an estimated daily usage of more than six kilolitres per day (>6 kL), these being CBD (C3) properties. No consumption is chargeable.

(ii) Consumption Charges

A water supply consumption charge of ninety one cents (\$0.91) per kilolitre for all potable water supplied per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply up to a maximum of two hundred kilolitres (200 kL).

A water supply consumption charge of ninety one cents (\$0.91) per kilolitre for all potable water supplied per rateable connection to crisis accommodation centres as determined by council.

A water supply consumption charge of one dollar and ninety three cents (\$1.93) per kilolitre for all potable water supplied per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply in excess of two hundred kilolitres (200 kL).

A water supply consumption charge of fifty one cents (\$0.51) per kilolitre for all

raw water supplied per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply.

A water supply consumption charge of three dollars and twenty nine cents (\$3.29) per kilolitre for all potable water supplied from designated standpipes at Griffith and Yenda.

A water supply consumption charge of one dollar and sixty seven cents (\$1.67) per kilolitre for all non-potable water supplied from designated standpipes at Griffith and Yenda.

The rebate for an additional one hundred kilolitres (100kL) of free water for publicly accessible nature strips or reserves will be available for the 2026/2027 financial year.

(iii) Backflow Charges

An annual backflow prevention testing charge of one hundred and seventy four dollars (\$174.00) per high risk testable backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention testing charge of eighty four dollars (\$84.00) per medium risk testable backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of sixty three dollars (\$63.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 20mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of sixty six dollars (\$66.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 25mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of seventy eight dollars (\$78.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 32mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of eighty one dollars (\$81.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 40mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of eighty seven dollars (\$87.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 50mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of two hundred and nineteen dollars (\$219.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 80mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of two hundred and sixty four dollars (\$264.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 100mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of three hundred and ninety three dollars (\$393.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 150mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of six hundred and thirty dollars (\$630.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 200mm medium-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of seventy two dollars (\$72.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 20mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of eighty four dollars (\$84.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 25mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of ninety six dollars (\$96.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 32mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of ninety nine dollars (\$99.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 40mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of one hundred and eight dollars (\$108.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 50mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of two hundred and fifty five dollars (\$255.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 80mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of three hundred and thirty dollars (\$330.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 100mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of five hundred and seven dollars (\$507.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 150mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

An annual backflow prevention rental charge of nine hundred and fifty seven dollars (\$957.00) per rateable connection to the Griffith or Yenda water supply that has a testable 200mm high-risk backflow prevention device.

(f) Interest on Overdue Rates for 2026/2027

That whereas the Council has adopted the Operational Plan for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027, it is determined that in pursuance of Section 566 of the Local Government Act, 1993 the interest rate for overdue rates and charges from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 will be 9.5% per annum as advised by the Office of Local Government.

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

Against
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 3.

CL03 COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION - GRIFFITH SHED FOR MEN INC

26/173

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Anne Napoli that Council decline the Community Grant application for Griffith Shed for Men Inc, noting that the application does not meet the eligibility criteria of Council's Community Grant Program.

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

Against
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 3.

CL04 ADOPTION OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2026-2030

26/174

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that Council adopt the final draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

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 REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP - GRIFFITH EMPLOYMENT & CAREERS EXPO

26/175

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that Council support the Griffith Business Chamber Employment Expo on Friday, 30 October 2026 through in-kind sponsorship of venue hire at Griffith Regional Sports Centre to the value of approximately \$2,000.

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 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR SCOTT GROAT

26/176

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Shari Blumer that Council note the report.

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 LANDFILL FOGO COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2026

26/177

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Landfill FOGO Committee meeting held on 13 May 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.

Councillor Napoli left the meeting at 8:05 pm and did not return.

MINUTES OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2026

26/178

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Airport Committee meeting held on 27 May 2026 be adopted.

For

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

Against

Councillor Shari Blumer

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2026

26/179

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 28 May 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.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

Nil

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

26/180

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

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 Dal Bon requested a final costing for the Art Gallery project. This was taken on Notice.

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.**

26/181

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni 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 Jenny Ellis
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

Councillor Christine Stead left the meeting having declared a pecuniary interest, the time being 8:11 pm.

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 MAJOR EVENT REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ASSISTANCE

Reason: Council Business 10A(2)(c)

CC02 CONTRACT NO 6 - 25/26 - GWRP - MEMBRANE REPLACEMENT - PLC UPGRADE VARIATION ORDER

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

Council closed its meeting at 8:11 pm. The public and media left the Chamber. Livestream was disconnected.

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

26/182

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

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.

Open Council resumed at 8:34 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

The event organiser attended the meeting via Zoom to answer questions.

CC01 MAJOR EVENT REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ASSISTANCE

26/183

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Scott Groat that Council support the event as detailed in the report to the value of \$35,000.

For	Against
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran	Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Scott Groat	

Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Shari Blumer

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 1.

Councillor Christine Stead returned to the meeting at 8.30 pm.

**CC02 CONTRACT NO 6 - 25/26 - GWRP - MEMBRANE REPLACEMENT - PLC
UPGRADE VARIATION ORDER**

26/184

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

- (a) Council approve Veolia Water Technologies & Solutions Pty Ltd VO (Variation Order) 1: PLC hardware upgrade of \$139,980.20 ex GST funded from PLC Upgrade Budget (as per "Financial Implication")
- (b) Council approve Veolia Water Technologies & Solutions Pty Ltd VO (Variation Order) 2: PLC/SCADA modifications as required anticipated by the project in the amount of \$144,020.80 ex GST funded from PLC Upgrade Budget funded from Membrane Project Contingency (as per "Financial Implication")
- (c) The General Manager is endorsed to approve expenditure in accordance with the annual budget allocation.

For
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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:38 pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON

CLAUSE	CL01
PROPOSAL	DA 48/2026 - ELECTRICITY GENERATING WORKS - 5MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)
PROPERTY	LOT 2 DP 1126055, 37 Hanwood Avenue HANWOOD
LOCATION	Hanwood
ZONING	RU1 Primary Production Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014
APPLICABLE PLANNING INSTRUMENT	State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021 (for determination)
EXISTING DEVELOPMENT	Dwelling House and Vineyard
APPLICANT	Servo Energy Pty Ltd
OWNER	Mr Steven Careri
DIRECTORS OF COMPANY (IF APPLICABLE)	Servo Energy Pty Ltd, Mr Steven Careri
APPLICATION DATE	27 March 2026
REASON FOR REFERRAL FROM	Submission objecting to the development Joe Rizzo, Director Sustainable Development
TRIM REF	26/79512

SUMMARY

Proposal

This application seeks consent to develop Electricity Generating Works – 5MW Battery Energy Storage System. The proposed BESS and associated works consist of:

- 52m x 54m fencing facility, with a 1.8-metre-high chain mesh perimeter fence around perimeter of facility, including a gate along the east and an emergency exit gate from the south boundary.
- Landscaping along the entire perimeter of the facility, as shown on the Landscape Plan, directly outside the compound fence.
- One (1) new above-ground power pole within the proposed facility, with an overhead connection to the existing electricity distribution network.
- Two (2) medium voltage power stations, with a length of approximately 6.1m, width 2.5m and height of 2.9m
- Four (4) battery energy storage containers positioned centrally within the facility – each with a length of 6.1m, width of 2.5m, and height of 2.9m.

The 5MW battery energy storage system and the ancillary equipment that will occupy approximately 0.39 hectares of the 30.36-hectare property.

Type of Development

Local Development

Main Issues

- The application has been referred to Council on the basis of one (1) submission received during the public notification period.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Development Application No. 48/2026 for Electricity Generating Works – 5MW Battery Energy Storage System at lot 2 DP 1126055, 37 Hanwood Avenue HANWOOD, be approved subject to draft conditions of consent.**
- (b) The application be delegated to the Director Sustainable Development for the issue of the notice of determination.**

In accordance with the Local Government Act (section 375A - Recording of voting on planning matters) Council must record the Councillors' votes in relation to this matter.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is within a rural locality of Hanwood and is surrounded by irrigated farm lots used for horticulture and other agricultural activities with dispersed dwellings on them. There are no neighbouring dwellings within a 1km radius from the subject site. The village of Hanwood is located 5.2km north of the subject site consisting of a small residential community, with rural living properties on to the east, a school, a sports ground, service club and local stores.

The site is located on the south western side of Hanwood Avenue. The land has an area of 30.1 hectares and is irregular shape with a frontage to Hanwood Avenue of 490 metres and has a depth of approximately 550 metres. The site currently contains a dwelling house and farm shed and can be accessed via a gravel driveway. The site is generally flat and planted to vines.

Land located within a 6-kilometre radius of the subject site, to the southwest and west of the subject site accommodates established food-processing industries and poultry farming operations.

The main local connector road, Kidman Way located to the west of the subject site, provides connection to the nearby properties, and to the City of Griffith located approximately 13km to the north.

Surrounding local roads provide connectivity to adjacent rural lots and the broader road network. The site is within a short distance from all the available essential town services and amenities.

LOCATION MAP



Figure 1 – location map. Site is approximately 4km south east of Hanwood.

BACKGROUND

Site History

A property file is not available for the subject site however a dwelling house and shed are established on the land. Based on historic aerial mapping, it can be established that the development site has been used for intensive agriculture.

Timeline of Events Pertaining to the Development Application

Date	Event
31 March 2026	DA referred to internal staff within Council: - Development Engineers response received 14 April 2026 and updated 7 July 2026, - Environmental Health Officers response received 26 May 2026.
1 April 2026	Essential Energy referral response received 22 April 2026 providing advice.
2 April 2026	Request for Information from Council to applicant with final

	information requested received 1 May 2025.
8 May 2026	8 - 22 May Notification & public exhibition of the application via Council's DA tracker, notification webpage and Facebook page along with letters to landowners within 250m of the boundary of the property. Submission received – 13 May 2026.
2 June 2026	Submission sent to applicant for consideration. Response from applicant to submission received 4 June 2026.
28 July 2026	Report presented at Ordinary Meeting of Council for determination.

PROPOSAL IN DETAIL

This application seeks consent to develop Electricity Generating Works, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) as per the plans and supporting information submitted with the application (See Attachment B). Specifically, it will consist of:

- 52m x 54m fencing facility, with a 1.8-metre-high chain mesh perimeter fence around perimeter of facility, including a gate along the east and an emergency exit gate from the south boundary.
- Landscaping along the entire perimeter of the facility, as shown on the Landscape Plan, directly outside the compound fence.
- One (1) new above-ground power pole within the proposed facility, with an overhead connection to the existing electricity distribution network.
- Two (2) medium voltage power stations, with a length of approximately 6.1m, width 2.5m and height of 2.9m
- Four (4) battery energy storage containers positioned centrally within the facility – each with a length of 6.1m, width of 2.5m, and height of 2.9m.

The 5 MW battery energy storage system and the ancillary equipment that will occupy approximately 0.39 hectares of the 30.36 hectare property.

ASSESSMENT UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

In determining a development application, a consent authority is to take into consideration Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. The following matters are of relevance to the development the subject of the development application.

SECTION 4.15 (1)(a)(i) any environmental planning instrument

Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014

(a) Permissibility

The proposed development is for 5MW Battery Energy Storage System and this falls under the definition of *electricity generating works* in the Dictionary of Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014, which is defined as:

electricity generating works means a building or place used for the purpose of—

- making or generating electricity, or*
- electricity storage.*

The site is zoned RU1 Primary Production under Griffith LEP 2014. Whilst electricity generating works are not otherwise permissible under the Griffith LEP 2014, clause 2.35 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 defines electricity generating works to include electricity storage. The proposed Battery Energy Storage System therefore falls within the definition of electricity generating works. Pursuant to clause 2.36(1)(b) of the SEPP, electricity generating works may be carried out with development consent on land within a prescribed non-residential zone, including RU1 Primary Production land. The proposal is therefore permissible with development consent.

(b) *Aims and Objectives*

The proposed development has been considered with regard to the aims of Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 as set down in Part 1, clause 1.2(2) which states:

- (a) *to prevent unnecessary urban sprawl by promoting business, industrial, rural and residential uses within and adjacent to existing precincts related to those uses,*
- (b) *to minimise land use conflict in general by creating areas of transition between different and potentially conflicting land uses,*
- (c) *to provide a variety of development options to meet the needs of the community with regard to housing, employment and services,*
- (d) *to manage and protect areas of environmental significance,*
- (e) *to recognise the historical development of the area and to preserve heritage items associated with it.*

The objectives for Zone RU1 Primary Production set down in the GLEP 2014 Land Use Table are as follows:

- *To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base.*
- *To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area.*
- *To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands.*
- *To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.*
- *To permit a range of activities that support the agricultural industries being conducted on the land and limit development that may reduce the agricultural production potential of the land.*
- *To permit tourist facilities that promote an appreciation of the rural environment and associated agricultural and horticultural activities, while ensuring the continued economic viability of the land.*

The proposed BESS complies with the objectives of the RU1 – Primary Production land zoning outlined in the *Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014*. By storing energy resources, the BESS supports solar farms in the region. This not only helps preserve and improve the natural resource base but also reduces reliance on fossil fuels, in accordance with the first objective. The development of the BESS will have minimal impact on the surrounding rural lands and can coexist with existing agricultural practices nor compromise the agricultural production potential of the land.

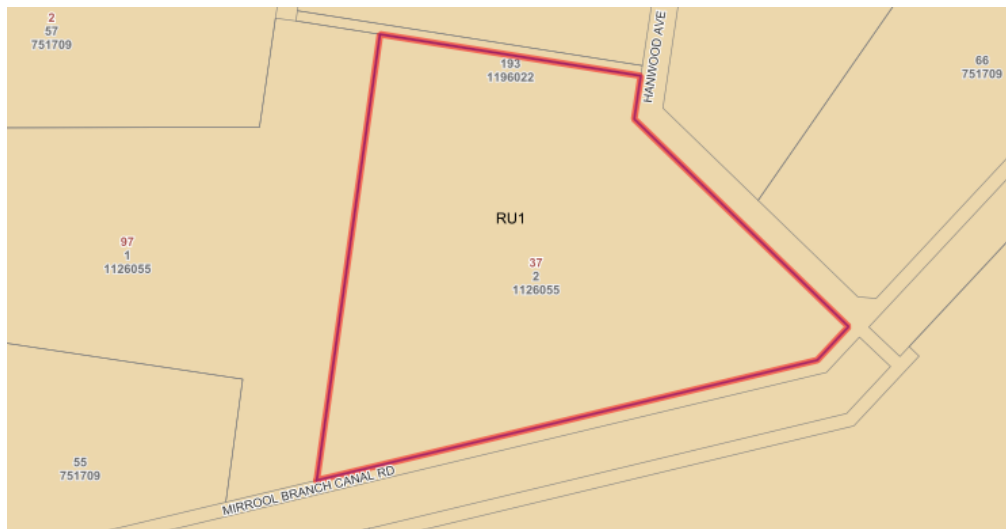


Figure 2 - Zoning of site and surrounding lands

State Environmental Planning Policies

Resilience and Hazards 2021

The land has been used for agriculture in the past and that potentially would result in some chemical accumulation in the soil. However, this application is not for a sensitive land use as outlined in the *Managing Land Contamination Guidelines* (DPIE 1998) or Council's *Contaminated Land Policy EH-CP-203*. Council's policy defines a sensitive receptor as *Receiving environment or sensitive receiver. This is either a use of land for residential, educational, recreational or childcare purposes, or for the purposes of a hospital, or land identified as sensitive environmental land.*

SECTION 4.15 (1)(a)(ii) any draft environmental planning instrument

There are no draft EPI's which apply to the proposal.

SECTION 4.15 (1)(a)(iii) any development control plan.

DCP No. 1 Non-Urban Development applies to the land. The proposal is generally consistent with the development control plan provisions.

SECTION 4.15 (1)(a)(iiia) any planning agreement

There are no planning agreements relative to this property

SECTION 4.15 (1)(a)(iv) the regulations

Section 4.15(1)(a)(iv) requires Council to take into consideration the provisions of clauses 61-63 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*. No demolition or erection of buildings requiring fire safety measures are proposed.

SECTION 4.15 (1)(b) the likely impacts of the development

The scale and nature of the proposed development will create no significant detrimental impact on the built and natural environment. The social and economic impact relates to the renewable energy approach on a national level and in general promotes capital investment in rural areas, increased landowner income and increased energy reliability with positive social impacts.

SECTION 4.15 (1)(c) the suitability of the site

The subject site is zoned RU1 Primary Production and the permissibility of the development under Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 provides a broad indication that the site is suitable for the proposed development.

Based on the assessment under this and other sections within this report it is considered that the site is suitable for the proposed development.

SECTION 4.15 (1)(d) any submissions made in accordance with the Act or the Regulations

The provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 and Community Participation Plan set down consultation, concurrence and advertising requirements for specific types of development applications and taking into consideration any submissions received in response to the notification process.

In addition to the statutory referral process identified earlier in this report, the notification of the development included the following:

Notification Description	Required	Submission Period
Publication in Council Catchup and on Facebook	Yes	6 May 2026 – 22 May 2026
Letters to Neighbours	Yes	6 May 2026 – 22 May 2026

As a result of the public participation process, Council received one (1) submission in response to the notification and referral of the development application. The details of the submission, which Council has taken into consideration in accordance with section 4.15(1)(d) are as follows:

Issues; Applicant Response; Council Assessment
Issue 1: Liquid components associated with BESS <i>Applicant Response:</i> <i>The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility uses limited liquid components as it is associated with electrical infrastructure only. The BESS utilises an integrated liquid cooling thermal management system to maintain optimal operating temperatures of the battery modules within safe and efficient performance limits. This system circulates the coolants within the internal components to regulate heat dissipation, with no contact with the external environment. Under normal circumstances there is no routine discharge, consumption, or release of cooling fluid from the batteries.</i> <u>Council Assessment:</u> While the BESS utilises a closed-loop liquid cooling system with no routine discharge. Small volumes of coolant are present within the system. Although risks under normal operation are low, potential impacts in the event of system failure, leakage, or fire must be appropriately managed. Subject to conditions requiring containment, spill management, and emergency response measures, the proposal is considered acceptable from a liquid handling and environmental risk perspective.
Issue 2: Management of any potential discharge <i>Applicant Response:</i>

The BESS is engineered as a sealed and pressurised closed-loop circuit, incorporating industrial-grade fittings, welded or sealed pipework connections, and multiple layers of integrity protection. These include real-time pressure monitoring, temperature sensors, and leak detection systems integrated into the Battery Management System (BMS), enabling automatic shutdown if required. In an unusual circumstance if/when internal leak occurs, additional measures such as drip trays and secondary containment prevent any leaks from escaping the battery enclosure.

To complement the above, the following is found in the SEPP RH assessment done by RiskCon submitted in support of this application –

- *The battery chemistry of the proposed BESS unit is lithium-ion phosphate (LiFePO₄, or simply LFP), which is considered one of the safest battery chemistries in the industry.*
- *Additional testing for shock and damage to batteries (through tests such as a nail puncture test) shows that LFP batteries punctured through membranes do not result in ignition of the battery. This demonstrates that the battery chemistry is protected against shock damage.*
- *The BESS shall also be equipped with a **Battery Management System (BMS)**, which monitors the operating status in real time and alerts if a fault is detected. Independent to this is a Fire Alarm Control Panel.*
- *A review of the facility's operations indicates that there are no processes that would result in the manufacture, production, or transfer of materials in a form that may release of bulk materials at the site.*

As all coolants are internally contained and recirculated, we submit that the system does not generate any regular discharges/transfers containing “harmful toxins” or pose significant risk to surface water, groundwater, or the surrounding environment. It is also submitted in the SEE report that the facility will be intermittently maintained during its operational phase.

“...intermittent general maintenance, which will include two light vehicles (4 trips) attending the site every fortnight. The facility does not include storage of any dangerous goods on site. The site will be remotely monitored in real time, and local contractors would be rapidly deployed to deal with any fault or other matter, which provides the added benefit of local jobs for the local community.”

Therefore, if/when there is a fault in the system or a potential leak, which is highly unlikely, it will be resolved in suitable time to avoid any consequential impact on site or surrounds.

Council Assessment:

The proposed BESS is designed as a closed-loop system with multiple monitoring and protection measures, and no routine discharge of liquids is anticipated. The assessment focuses on the management of potential discharges under fault or emergency conditions. The report identifies monitoring and containment measures. Subject to appropriate conditions requiring secondary containment and spill management, the proposal is considered acceptable with respect to potential discharge management.

Issue 3: Drainage Management

Applicant Response:

To address concerns related to water drainage system and runoff from site to the neighbouring property, we refer to the Stormwater Management Plan submitted in support of this proposal. It is prepared to model the post development flows and potential impact on existing stormwater quality as a result of the proposed BESS. The Hydraulic Assessment results in the SWMP report conclude the following –

*“...there is **no increase** in peak flows between the pre- and post-development conditions. Accordingly, it is not proposed to provide any detention for peak flow mitigation.”*
The following is concluded with respect to water quality on and around the site –

- *Peak discharge rates from the proposed development are similar to pre-development rates, hence avoid any detrimental downstream impacts.*
- *Runoff from the hardstand area shall be treated appropriately by sheet flowing over grass areas acting as buffer strips prior to discharge offsite.*
- *Overall, due to rural nature of the site and minimal increase in hardstand area, the proposed development will not impact the stormwater quality, and the existing conditions will prevail.*

Based on the above, any potential runoff from the site will be effectively managed onsite through permeable grassed areas that allow infiltration prior to offsite discharge. Considering the absence of any wastewater or chemical discharge, and the sealed and contained nature of battery systems, it is unlikely that the development will result in any contamination of soil, surface water, groundwater, or downstream agricultural land.

Council Assessment:

Council acknowledges that the submitted Stormwater Management Plan demonstrates no increase in peak discharge and proposes the use of grassed areas to facilitate infiltration and water quality treatment, noting that grass coverage can be variable pending the seasonal conditions.

The development is of a relatively small scale with limited additional impervious area, and no routine discharge of contaminants is proposed. However, Council's assessment also considers potential stormwater quality impacts under abnormal or emergency conditions. While these risks are low, reliance solely on passive infiltration measures may not be sufficient to manage any contaminated runoff. Subject to conditions requiring appropriate containment of potential pollutants, the proposal is considered acceptable with respect to drainage management.

Issue 4: Potential fire and explosion hazard

Applicant Response:

As identified in the SEPP-RH study and the SEE report, the BESS chemistry and integrated fire safety systems are designed to prevent off-site impacts and minimise the risk of incident propagation. The proposal will also be developed in accordance with RFS requirements to effectively address potential fire risks.

Council Assessment:

The proposed BESS utilises LFP battery chemistry and incorporates integrated fire detection and safety systems, which reduce the likelihood of fire and explosion incidents. The proposal is also supported by a SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) assessment and will be designed in accordance with NSW Rural Fire Service requirements. Notwithstanding this, the potential risk of a fire or explosion event, including off-site impacts is considered low, however is not negligible. Subject to conditions ensuring appropriate fire safety design, and emergency management measures, the proposal is considered acceptable with respect to fire and explosion hazard.

Issue 5: Toxic gas emission or chemical releases

Applicant Response:

Under normal operating conditions, the BESS facility is highly unlikely to produce or release any gas or chemical substances. The SEPP-RH study also confirms that the facility is unlikely to generate any potential odour or environmental impact on site.

Council Assessment:

Under normal operating conditions, the proposed BESS is unlikely to emit gases or release chemical substances, as supported by the SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) assessment. The use of LFP battery chemistry further reduces the likelihood of such emissions. There is still the potential for gas release under abnormal or emergency conditions, such as battery failure or fire. The likelihood of such events is considered low, however is not negligible. Subject to conditions ensuring appropriate emergency management plan, the proposal is considered acceptable with respect to toxic gas emissions and chemical release.

Issue 6: Risk of electric shock

Applicant Response:

The BESS infrastructure is situated at a distance of 50 metres from the property boundary and is enclosed by a perimeter fence and landscape screen. Therefore, the likelihood of electric shock risk to an individual is extremely low.

Council Assessment:

Council acknowledges that the proposed BESS infrastructure is setback from property boundaries and enclosed within a secure fenced area, which substantially reduces the likelihood of public access and associated electric shock risk. Subject to the development providing appropriate security measures and compliance with relevant electrical standards, the proposal is considered acceptable with respect to electric shock risk.

Issue 7: Excessive Noise disturbance

Applicant Response:

An Acoustic Assessment by Acoustic Dynamics is submitted in support of this application. It is concluded that noise emission resulting from the operation of the proposed development is predicted to comply with the relevant noise emission criteria of Griffith City Council, and the NSW EPA when assessed at the nearest sensitive receivers. Therefore, it is considered, acoustic risks associated with the proposal can be adequately controlled and the amenity of neighbouring properties and residents can be satisfactorily protected.

Council Assessment:

The submitted Acoustic Assessment demonstrates that the proposed BESS is predicted to comply with relevant noise criteria at the nearest sensitive receivers. The development benefits from separation distances on 1.4km to the nearest non related dwelling and a rural setting, which reduces the likelihood of significant adverse noise impacts. The assessment is based on predicted modelling and that operational noise, particularly tonal or low-frequency noise associated with BESS infrastructure which may vary over time.

In addition, the construction works will generate noise particularly during the day over the installation period of the BESS units.

Subject to conditions requiring verification of compliance and ongoing noise management, the proposal is considered acceptable with respect to noise impacts.

SECTION 4.15 (1)(e) the public interest

The provisions of section 4.15(1)(e) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 provides an overarching requirement to take into account the public interest. It is considered that the public interest is best served by the consistent application of the requirements of the relevant Commonwealth and State government legislation, environmental planning instruments, development control plan, Council policy, and by Council ensuring that any adverse effects on the surrounding area and the environmental are avoided.

On the basis that the proposed development is considered to be consistent with the aims and objectives of Griffith Land Use Strategy: Beyond 2030; Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 and other relevant environmental planning instruments, development control plans or policies; and Land and Environment Court Planning Principles, it is therefore unlikely to raise any issues that are contrary to the public interest.

OPTIONS**OPTION 1**

As per Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Refusal to grant consent to the development application subject to reasons provided by Council.

OPTION 3

Any other resolution of Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

There are no reasonably anticipated adverse financial implications

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Where an applicant is dissatisfied with a development determination, they may lodge an appeal with the Land & Environment Court. Further, an objector may lodge an appeal where they believe the determining authority has not followed due process under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act / Regulations, in assessing an application.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Council has undertaken notification of this development application in accordance with the adopted Community Participation Plan.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 8.3 Promote business and industry participation in clean and renewable energy initiatives.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team, Director Sustainable Development, Planning & Environment Manager, Development & Traffic Coordinator, Development Assessment Staff and the community through notification of the application.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Attachment A - DA 48/2026(1) - Draft Notice of Determination - 37 Hanwood Avenue, Hanwood (under separate cover) 
- (b) Attachment B - DA 48/2026(1) - Application Documents - 37 Hanwood Avenue, Hanwood (under separate cover) 
- (c) Attachment C - DA 48/2026(1) - Submission – 37 Hanwood Avenue, Hanwood (under separate cover) 
- (d) Attachment D - DA 48/2026 (1) - Response to Submission - 37 Hanwood Avenue, Hanwood (under separate cover) 
- (e) Attachment E - DA 48/2026(1) – Development Assessment Report - 37 Hanwood Avenue, Hanwood (under separate cover) 

CLAUSE	CL02
TITLE	Sustainable Communities Program - Business and Industry Round
FROM	Matthew Hansen, Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services
TRIM REF	26/81869

SUMMARY

This report proposes two (2) applications for funding under Sustainable Communities – Business and Industry Round.

The report seeks:

- Council approval to lodge the applications,
- commitment of the required co-contributions, and
- a priority ranking for each project.

RECOMMENDATION

Council approve the lodgement of the following applications for funding under the Sustainable Communities – Business and Industry Round.

- (a) Business Capability and Growth Hub - \$236,000, with a co-contribution of \$94,060 funded from general revenue.**
- (b) Event Space Activation – Community Gardens - \$1,578,860, with a co-contribution of \$551,000 funded from s7.12 developer contributions.**
- (c) Council to rank the applications in the following order:**
 - 1. Community Gardens**
 - 2. Business Capability and Growth Hub**

REPORT

Background

The NSW Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) is a \$160 million initiative supporting regional NSW communities affected by water recovery under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The Business and Industry Round makes \$50 million available to help businesses and industry improve sustainability, retain and create local jobs, and deliver lasting economic growth in NSW Basin communities exposed to the Australian Government's Voluntary Water Purchase Program (450 GL).

Eligible projects include initiatives that sustain/strengthen local businesses and jobs, increase economic activity through innovation and productivity, support value-adding or diversification, and enable new/emerging industries — excluding irrigation infrastructure or water entitlement purchases.

Unlike the previous rounds which were associated with infrastructure programs, this round is targeted at industry, business and investment with a direct link to economic growth and job creation.

Grant amount: \$100,000–\$5,000,000.

Closing date: 3 August 2026

Co-contribution: Local government must contribute a minimum 25% of total project cost.

The short period between the Council meeting on 28 July and the closing date of 3 August required staff to complete these applications prior to confirmation by Council.

Applications

Two applications:

1. Business Capability & Growth Hub – Griffith CBD
2. Event Space Activation – Griffith Community Gardens

Business Capability & Growth Hub – Griffith CBD

Amount: \$236,000

Co-contribution: \$94,060

Co-contribution source: General Revenue, incorporating existing staff salaries

Scope: The Griffith Business Capability & Growth Hub establishes a dedicated business support presence within an existing Griffith CBD co-working facility.

A Business Concierge Officer coordinates program delivery and business engagement activities. The project delivers specialist one-on-one business improvement support including process discovery, operational reviews, business health checks, workforce planning, quality assurance, government procurement readiness, and strategic growth planning. Group workshops cover business management, financial management, and procurement topics.

Operating for 12 months, the Hub provides local businesses with improved access to advisory services, capability development and growth opportunities to enhance productivity,

Event Space Activation – Community Gardens

Amount: \$1,578,860

Co-contribution: \$551,000

Co-contribution source: s7.12 developer contributions

Scope: This project will activate the Griffith Community Gardens outdoor stage as a regionally significant events precinct, delivering the supporting infrastructure needed to host larger, safer and commercially viable events.

Works include perimeter fencing, power infrastructure, site lighting, emergency and service vehicle access, an expanded spectator viewing area, shade structures and vendor servicing infrastructure. The upgrade will increase venue capacity and utilisation, support community, cultural, multicultural and ticketed events, and strengthen Griffith's reputation as a regional events and tourism destination, at a total estimated project cost of \$2,129,860.

The works include removing the western amphitheatre wall, as advised to Council in response to a Question on Notice at the Council meeting on 14 October 2026

Note: Council has lodged grant application for this project under the Active Communities program. The application is still under assessment. This application under Sustainable Communities is likely to have a better chance of success.

Action required

Council is requested to consider each application for submission, considering the nature of the project and the co-contribution required.

If Council wishes to submit the applications, it is required to confirm the co-contributions by resolution.

If Council wishes to submit more than one application, the funding program requires Council to rank these in priority order. This ranking does not guarantee that the funding body will fund these projects in order – it is only a guide.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to lodge all, none or some of the applications provided. However, the limited timeframe does not allow for an application outside the ones listed to be scoped up and developed for submission.

While this round is specifically targeted at business and industry, Council is not aware of any local business proposing to lodge an application under this program. If there were particular projects or programs proposed to be submitted by local businesses that Council thought worth supporting, it could choose not to submit an application and instead support those applications.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The applications comply with Council Policy [FS-CP-605 Incoming Grants and Sponsorship](#).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Council is required to confirm its minimum 25% co-contribution before lodging any application. These co-contributions are available and sustainable.

Any grant-funded project exposes Council to the risk of budget over-spend and this will need to be managed carefully by staff through its project management framework.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor financial loss > \$10,000 to \$1 million.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

They may be reputational risk associated with not lodging applications under this program.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Council will need to consider its capacity to deliver each of these projects, noting the timeframes for delivery extend to May 2029.

Moderate Low Risk: Short term interruption of services or operations. Limited impact to staff and service standards. Short term contractor performance affected.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 2.2 Maximise opportunities to secure external funding for partnerships, projects and programs.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE	CL03
TITLE	Regional Airport Program - Round 5
FROM	Joe Rizzo, Director Sustainable Development
TRIM REF	26/86442

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to provide the required co-contribution, should Council's application submitted under the Regional Airports Program – Round 5 be successful.

The proposed project will automate key security gates throughout Griffith Regional Airport, improving the management of controlled airside access for authorised users while reducing manual intervention by airport staff.

The total estimated project cost is \$262,123 excluding GST.

The Regional Airports Program is expected to fund 50% of eligible project costs, with Council contributing the remaining \$131,061.

The funding application closes 28 July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Endorse Griffith City Council providing the required co-contribution for automation of security gates at Griffith Regional Airport should the application submitted under Regional Airports Program – Round 5 be successful.**
- (b) Authorise the General Manager to execute any documentation required to accept the funding and deliver the project should the application be successful.**

REPORT

Applications have opened for Round 5 of the Regional Airports Program, which provides funding to improve the safety, accessibility and climate resilience of airports and aerodromes in regional areas of Australia.

Griffith City Council has prepared an application seeking funding to automate security gates at Griffith Regional Airport. The proposed project will automate key security gates throughout Griffith Regional Airport, improving the management of controlled airside access for authorised users while reducing manual intervention by airport staff.

The project aligns with Council's ongoing commitment to improving airport infrastructure, operational efficiency and compliance with aviation security requirements. Automation of the airport's security gates will also support future operational growth and reduce the risk associated with gates being inadvertently left unsecured.

The Regional Airports Program provides grant funding on the basis that applicants contribute a proportion of the project costs.

Council's contribution will only be required if the funding application is successful.

The closing date for the Regional Airports Program Round 5 coincides with the date of this Council Meeting. As a result, there is insufficient time to obtain a Council resolution authorising the submission of the application prior to the funding deadline. To avoid missing this opportunity, the application will be submitted before the Council meeting, subject to confirmation of Council's commitment to provide the required co-contribution if the application is successful.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Any other resolution as determined by Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The applications comply with Council Policy [FS-CP-605 Incoming Grants and Sponsorship](#).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The total estimated project cost is \$262,123 excluding GST.

The Regional Airports Program is expected to fund 50% of eligible project costs, with Council contributing the remaining \$131,061.

Should the application be unsuccessful, Council will not incur any expenditure associated with the project.

If successful, it is proposed that Council's co-contribution be funded initially from the General Fund, with the cost subsequently recouped through revenue generated by the airport's paid parking operations.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor financial loss > \$10,000 to \$1 million.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 6.2 Maintain and develop an effective transport network (airport, public roads, pathways, pedestrian accesses and transport corridors) for Griffith and villages.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE CL04

TITLE Application to 2026 NSWRL Infrastructure Investment Fund

FROM Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations

TRIM REF 26/88677

SUMMARY

This report proposes one (1) application for funding to the 2026 NSWRL (NSW Rugby League) Infrastructure Investment Fund.

The report seeks:

- Council endorsement to lodge the application, and
- Commitment of the required co-contribution.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Council endorse the lodgement of an application for funding to the 2026 NSWRL Infrastructure Investment Fund.
- (b) If successful, Council support the application with 50% Co-contribution made through a budget adjustment at the quarterly review depending on elements that are funded.

REPORT

The Infrastructure Investment Fund is a fantastic opportunity for clubs to make real improvements to their training and competitive environment for players, coaches, referees and volunteers. NSWRL encourages clubs to read the guidelines and, if eligible, apply for funding by following the process contained within this document.

The Infrastructure Investment Fund will provide financial assistance for all eligible Rugby League clubs, associations and local councils, across the state, with the aim of supporting the upgrade and improvement of rugby league facilities and infrastructure.

During the 2026/27 Griffith City Council Budget public exhibition, a submission was received from Waratah Tigers Junior Rugby League Club for a Public Address system to be installed at Jubilee Oval, Griffith. It is proposed to make the application to the Infrastructure Investment Fund for both the Public Address System and the installation of additional lights on the field with automatic switches linked to Council's Bookable System. The number of lights will be dependent upon the quotes obtained, although it is hoped to maximise the grant opportunity of \$150,000 maximum application for the 2026 round.

The proposed application will be completed in partnership with Waratah Tigers Junior Rugby League Club and meets the eligibility requirements for the fund.

It is expected that the grant application will include:

Public Address	\$ 8,000	
Lighting upgrade	\$ 50,000	installation
	\$230,000	supply of lights & poles (estimate)
Automatic switching	\$ 12,000	
TOTAL	\$300,000	

Proposed Total Grant Application \$150,000

50% Co Contribution \$150,000

Closing date: Wednesday 29 July at 2pm 2026.

The short period between the Council meeting on 28 July 2026 and the closing date of 29 July 2026 required staff to complete these applications prior to confirmation by Council.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Any other resolution as determined by Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The applications comply with Council Policy FS-CP-605 Incoming Grants and Sponsorship.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Council is required to confirm its minimum 50% co-contribution as part of the application. These co-contributions are currently not available and would require a quarterly budget adjustment if the grant was successful.

Any grant-funded project exposes Council to the risk of budget over-spend and this will need to be managed carefully by staff through its project management framework.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor financial loss > \$10,000 to \$1 million.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The proposed upgrades do not require Development application approval and are deemed permissible within the State Environmental Planning Policy (transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Suitable steps will be taken to ensure that the electrical installations are bird proof. The lighting designs will be completed to minimise light spill from Jubilee Oval.

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

There is an excellent opportunity for Council to show its support for Junior Rugby League and enhance the Jubilee Oval facilities to build additional capacity.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Council has delivered sports ground lighting upgrades recently and has good experience with these types of installations.

Moderate Low Risk: Short term interruption of services or operations. Limited impact to staff and service standards. Short term contractor performance affected.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The majority of the works will be completed by suitably qualified contractors.

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 4.7 Provide a range of sporting and recreational facilities and events.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

Waratahs Junior Rugby League Club

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | NSWRL Infrastructure Investment Fund Guidelines   | 52 |
| (b) | Submission from Waratahs Junior Rugby League Club   | 60 |

2026

**INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT FUND
GUIDELINES**



Open: Friday 29 May
Closes: Wednesday 29 July at 2pm



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FUND OVERVIEW

The Infrastructure Investment Fund is a fantastic opportunity for clubs to make real improvements to their training and competitive environment for players, coaches, referees and volunteers. NSWRL encourages clubs to read the guidelines and, if eligible, apply for funding by following the process contained within this document.

The Infrastructure Investment Fund will provide financial assistance for all eligible Rugby League clubs, associations and local councils, across the state, with the aim of supporting the upgrade and improvement of rugby league facilities and infrastructure.

FUND OBJECTIVES

- 1. Elevate Facility Playing Standards**
Enable a safe playing experience across all NSW Rugby League clubs
- 2. Create More Inclusive Facilities**
Create more inclusive environments across all Rugby League clubs
- 3. Unlock Additional Capacity**
Grow capacity of Rugby League facilities to enable future growth
- 4. Create a more connected network**
Create a more connected and aligned environment between NSWRL, Clubs and





■ GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY

- Clubs have completed club facility audit – speak to your local NSWRL staff to complete your facility audit.
- Clubs must have completed a NSWRL Health Check within the last 12 months - speak to your local NSWRL staff to complete.
- Clear demonstration of alignment to the NSWRL Infrastructure Strategy, i.e. the Fund objectives
- Projects must be in NSW
- Applicant has demonstrated the 50% or more financial co-contribution, either from the club or other sources e.g. other grant funding, local council, sponsors.
- Projects must be 'shovel ready' and have received all the required quotes and development approvals from their local council prior to submitting the application.
- For projects that don't require development approvals, applicants must provide a letter from council stating that a development application is not required.
- Applicants should consider a contingency within the project budget, 5% being the minimum.

■ FUNDING AVAILABLE

- The minimum amount requested under Infrastructure Investment Fund is \$20,000
- The maximum amount requested under the Infrastructure Investment Fund is limited to a maximum of 50% of the total project cost with a maximum of \$150,000
- Applications for more than \$150,000 will be considered on a case-by-case basis by NSWRL. Noting any amount requested over \$150,000 must not be more than 50% of the total project cost.
 - For example:
 1. Applicant applies for \$250,000; the total project is \$1,000,000 – this application is eligible
 2. Applicant applies for \$250,000; the total project is \$400,000 – this application is ineligible as \$250,000 represents more than 50% of the total project cost.
- If there are not enough projects to expend the allocated funding in a particular year, the funding will be rolled over to the next year.
- For scoreboards, the requested amount can be below the minimum of \$20,000. Although the Infrastructure Investment Fund will only fund only up to 50% of the total cost.
- NSWRL will have final discretion on how much funding is released each year.





■ ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- All affiliated NSW Rugby League clubs and associations across NSW and ACT are eligible
- Local government authorities (LGAs) in NSW
- Schools – only where Rugby League clubs are using the venue or have an agreement to use a school venue

■ INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Individuals
- Private companies
- Unaffiliated rugby league clubs
- Other sporting codes

■ ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Infrastructure Investment Fund can be used for upgrading existing or constructing new Rugby League facilities that demonstrate inclusive and accessible design and maximise community participation.

Examples of eligible project types and project components include:

- **New or upgraded natural turf fields which could include:**
 - Drainage
 - Irrigation
 - Field resurfacing
 - Synthetic surfaces
- **Amenity buildings which could include:**
 - Complete knock down and rebuild
 - Player and Referee Changeroom upgrades
 - Canteen upgrades
 - Grandstands
 - Storage
 - Other components within the building that builds capacity
- **Lighting**
 - New or upgrading
 - New poles and/or light fittings
- **Scoreboards**

If you are unsure if your project is eligible, please contact NSWRL for confirmation prior to starting your application.





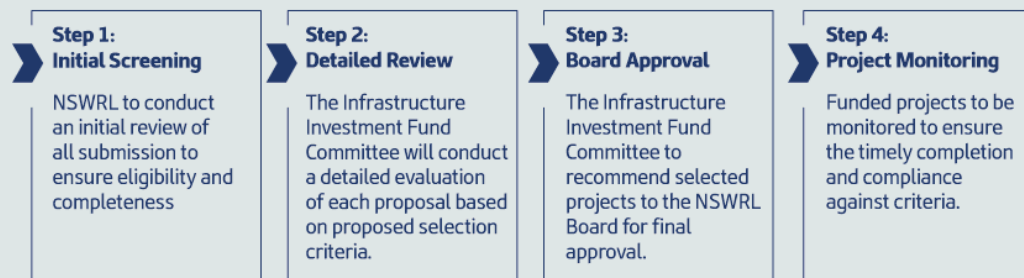
■ INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Infrastructure Investment Fund will not fund the following projects or project components:

Facilities that are not used for Rugby League activities

- Infrastructure upgrade on NRL venues/stadiums
- Purchase or lease of land/facility
- Costs affiliated, design, or development stages including feasibility studies, business cases and masterplans
- General maintenance or repair of normal wear and tear of facilities, e.g. painting, running costs and minor repairs.
- General administration or operating expenses, e.g. rent or wages
- Ancillary infrastructure e.g. car park
- Projects that have already been completed

■ ASSESSMENT PROCESS



Throughout the assessment process NSWRL may request additional information from the applicant.





■ EVALUATION AND REPORTING

All successful applicants are required to complete an acquittal form within three months of the project's completion. The acquittal must include a summary of how the funds were used, outcomes achieved, and photographic evidence showcasing the project in action. This information helps demonstrate the value and impact of the grant program and supports future funding opportunities.

■ NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOMES

Once the recommendations have been made, all applicants will be notified in writing and details of successful projects will be published on the NSW Rugby League website.

NSW Rugby League will contact the successful applicants to finalise the project milestones and establish a funding agreement.





HOW TO APPLY

Visit Infrastructure NSWRL	Download and read these guidelines	Prepare your application, identify the various documents that you need to obtain, i.e. quotes, letters of support, etc.	Submit the application before the closing date and time via the online form.
VISIT			APPLY HERE

TIMELINES

Applications OPEN	Friday 29 May
Applications CLOSE	Wednesday 29 July at 2pm
Assessment by NSWRL	August
Approval by NSWRL Board	August/September
Announcement to successful applicants	September



CONTACT DETAILS:



Daniel Ristic
Government Relations and Infrastructure Manager
E: dristic@nswrl.com.au
P: 02 8756 7029





WARATAH JUNIOR TIGERS RLFC

ABN : 31652892375

President: Robert Donovan [REDACTED] | Vice President: Tania Magoci [REDACTED]

21 May 2027

Griffith City Council
1 Benerembah St,
Griffith NSW 2680

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

RE: Request for Budget Allocation Towards Proposed PA System Installation at Jubilee Oval.

On behalf of the Waratah Tigers Junior Rugby League Club, we write to respectfully request that Griffith City Council consider including funding for the installation of a new public address (PA) system at Jubilee Oval as part of its upcoming budget deliberations.

Jubilee Oval is a valued community sporting facility that hosts junior rugby league matches, training sessions, representative fixtures, school activities and a range of community events throughout the year. As participation numbers and spectator attendance continues to increase, the absence of a suitable PA system has become a significant limitation for effective operation of events at the venue.

The installation of a modern PA system would greatly enhance communication across the grounds, provide clear and reliable announcements for game scheduling, player and team coordination, presentations, community events and emergency notifications. This upgrade would improve both the functionality and safety of the venue while enhancing the experience for the players, officials, volunteers, families and visitors.

As a volunteer - driven community sporting organisation, the Waratah Tigers Junior Rugby League Club remains committed to developing local sporting infrastructure and creating positive opportunities for young people and families in our region. While the club continues to investigate funding opportunities and contribute where possible, the scale and community benefit of this project make it an ideal candidate for Council support.

Accordingly, the Waratah Tigers Junior Rugby League Club respectfully requests that Council make a budget submission and allocate funding within the forthcoming Griffith City Council budget to support the installation of a PA system at Jubilee Oval. We believe this investment would deliver lasting benefits to the many sporting groups, community organisations and residents who utilise this facility each year.

The Club is also open to working collaboratively with Council to explore alternative funding pathways should a budget allocation not be possible. This may include community fundraising initiatives, grant opportunities, sponsorship arrangements or a shared funding model. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these options and partner with Council to achieve an outcome that benefits the broader Griffith community.

We would be pleased to meet with Council representatives to discuss the proposal further and provide any additional information.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for Council's continued support of grassroots sport and community development throughout Griffith.

Yours sincerely
Robert Donovan

Email: waratahjuniorrtigers@gmail.com

CLAUSE	CL05
TITLE	Renewal of Lease Agreement - St Vincent's Private Hospitals Ltd - 41-45 Animoo Avenue, Griffith
FROM	Joe Rizzo, Director Sustainable Development
TRIM REF	26/86506

SUMMARY

Griffith City Council has received a request from St Vincent's Private Community Hospital (SVPCH) for the renewal of its existing lease.

SVPCH is seeking a further lease term of five (5) years, together with an option to renew for an additional five (5) years.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Council enters into a lease agreement with St Vincent's Private Hospitals over Lot 1 DP 1043580, 41-45 Animoo Avenue, Griffith for a term of 5 years, commencing 1 October 2026, with a further option of 5 years.**
- (b) Each party is responsible to pay their own legal costs and other associated charges in relation to the preparation of the lease agreement. The lessee will be responsible to pay Council's administration fee in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy.**
- (c) The annual lease fee payable by St Vincent's Private Community Hospital (SVPCH) is a nominal rental of \$1.00 per annum.**

SVPCH is required to make a Sinking Fund Contribution of \$65,000 plus GST per annum, plus CPI for the term of the new agreement until the balance of the Sinking Fund reaches \$500,000.

- (d) Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to execute the lease agreement on behalf of Council under the Common Seal.**

REPORT

The current lease with SVPCH has expired.

Griffith City Council has received a request from St Vincent's Private Community Hospital (SVPCH) for the renewal of its existing lease. The tenant is seeking a further lease term of five (5) years, with an option to renew for an additional five (5) years.

The proposed renewal will provide ongoing tenure certainty for SVPCH and will support the continued delivery of vital healthcare services to the Griffith community and surrounding region.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council approve the renewal of the lease for a term of 5 years with a further 5-year option.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

As otherwise determined by Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no adverse policy implications associated with the proposed lease renewal. The renewal is consistent with Council's property management objectives and supports the ongoing provision of health services to the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The annual lease fee payable by St Vincent's Private Community Hospital (SVPCH) is a nominal rental of \$1.00 per annum.

SVPCH is required to make a Sinking Fund Contribution of \$65,000 plus GST per annum plus CPI, payable on the first anniversary of the commencement date and thereafter on each anniversary of the commencement date until the balance of the Sinking Fund reaches \$500,000.

The Sinking Fund applies to both the Private Hospital Lease and the Accommodation Facility Lease and is intended to provide funding for future capital maintenance, repair and replacement works associated with the facilities.

Griffith City Council is responsible to pay for ordinary rates in relation to the property. SVPCH is responsible for the payment of council water charges.

The proposed lease renewal presents minimal financial risk to Council, as the ongoing Sinking Fund contributions assist in mitigating future asset maintenance liabilities and support the long-term sustainability of the facilities.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor financial loss > \$10,000 to \$1 million.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The proposed renewal presents a low legal and statutory risk to Council, as it continues an existing tenancy arrangement and facilitates the ongoing provision of healthcare services to the community.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor policy or regulatory breach resolved through amended practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The expired lease contained provisions relating to the construction and establishment of the hospital. The proposed lease renewal is limited to the continued occupation and operation of the existing hospital facilities by SVPCH. As no new development or change in land use is proposed, there are no significant environmental implications and the associated environmental risk to Council is considered low.

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The proposed lease renewal will support the continued operation of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital (SVPCH), which provides important healthcare services to the Griffith community and surrounding region.

Renewing the lease demonstrates Council's commitment to supporting essential community infrastructure and maintaining established healthcare facilities for residents. As the proposal relates solely to the continuation of an existing tenancy arrangement, no adverse community impacts are anticipated.

Overall, the proposed lease renewal supports the continued delivery of healthcare services to the community.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The proposed lease renewal supports the ongoing delivery of a vital community service and contributes positively to community wellbeing and access to healthcare services.

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

There are no significant WHS or human resource implications associated with the proposed lease renewal.

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

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Letter from St Vincent's - Lease Renewal - 41-45 Animoo Avenue, Griffith  | 64 |
| (b) | Location Map - St Vincent's Hospital   | 65 |



St Vincent's Private
Community Hospital Griffith
ABN: 61085645505

A: 41-45 Animoo Ave
Griffith NSW 2680
P: 02 6966 8300 F: 02 6966 8310
W: www.svpchg.org.au

8 April 2026

Scott Grant
Griffith City Council
1 Benerambah Street
Griffith, NSW 2680
By email only to [REDACTED]

Dear Scott

NOTICE OF FURTHER TERM

We refer to the lease between St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney Limited and Griffith City Council which commenced on 1 October 2016 for a term of 10 years (**Lease**), and was subsequently novated to St Vincent's Private Hospital Ltd (**St Vincent's**) on 31 August 2016.

Further to the discussion between Gabrielle Wood, General Manager and Director of Clinical Services, and with Scott Grant, General Manager, St Vincent's hereby notifies that it would like to act on its option for a further term of five years, with an option to renew for five years. We look forward to receiving the proposed terms of the renewed lease.

Please kindly sign where indicated to confirm receipt of this notice.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Richard Ryan.

Richard Ryan
Chief Executive Officer
Private Hospital Division

Griffith City Council hereby acknowledges receipt of this notice dated 8 April 2026 from St Vincent's.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Name: *SCOTT GRANT* General Manager

Date: *21/4/2026*



CLAUSE CL06**TITLE Local Government NSW Annual Conference November 2026****FROM Scott Grant, General Manager****TRIM REF 26/79829**

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to nominate delegate(s) to attend the 2026 Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference to be held at WIN Sports & Entertainment Centres, Wollongong from Sunday 22 November 2026 to Tuesday 24 November 2026 and call for any motions for inclusion in the Conference business paper.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) The Mayor, two Councillors, being Councillors and and the General Manager (or his delegate) attend the 2026 Local Government NSW Annual Conference to be held at WIN Sports & Entertainment Centres, Wollongong from Sunday 22 to Tuesday 24 November 2026.**
- (b) Expenses for attendance at the 2026 Local Government NSW Annual Conference be paid in accordance with Council policy.**
- (c) Council determine any motion(s) for inclusion in the Conference business paper such that they can be lodged with LGNSW by the deadline being Wednesday 30 September 2026. These draft motions are to be submitted to the General Manager by Friday 4 September 2026 to enable them to be reported to Council and endorsed.**
- (d) Council confirm the three voting delegates at the LGNSW Conference to be the Mayor, Councillor and Councillor**

REPORT

The 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference will be held from Sunday 22 to Tuesday 24 November 2026 at the WIN Sports & Entertainment Centres, Wollongong. Attachment (a) is a copy of the draft Program.

The conference is the pre-eminent policy making event for the Local Government sector. Delegates will vote on motions which help determine the policies and priorities for LGNSW and the sector. It is a key event for Local Government where Councillors come together to share ideas and debate issues that shape the way the sector functions and is governed.

For Council to participate fully in the conference, it is recommended that Council register attendees, nominate voting delegates and submit motions for debate within the timeframes specified in this report.

Council is invited to submit motions for possible debate at the conference to advance the sector wide policy agenda. Motions are strategic local government issues which affect members state-wide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions.

LGNSW has requested that motions for inclusion in the business paper for the Conference be submitted by Wednesday 30 September 2026.

Registrations for the Conference close 30 October 2026.

This report recommends that current Councillor names be registered to take advantage of the 'Early Bird' Registration discount with the offer ending 30 September 2026.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Council not be represented at the 2026 Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy (GOV-CP-407).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Member Early Bird Registration - \$1,315.50 (Inc. GST)

Member Standard Registration - \$1,627.50 (Inc. GST)

Plus travel, meals and accommodation. Below is a list of optional extras for conference delegates.

- Conference Dinner – \$245 (Inc. GST)
- ALGWA Breakfast (members only) – TBC
- Should cancellation of registration be required, an admin fee of \$350 per person is payable by 30 October 2026.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Not Applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Not Applicable

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Not Applicable

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Not Applicable

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Not Applicable

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 2.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with community, government and non-government agencies to benefit our community.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) 2026 Annual Conference Program (under separate cover) 

CLAUSE	CL07
TITLE	Review of Council's Agency Information Guide 2026
FROM	Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development
TRIM REF	26/35980

SUMMARY

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) requires that Council must review and adopt a new Agency Information Guide at intervals of not more than 12 months.

The purpose of this report is to endorse amendments made to Council's Agency Information Guide as per the requirements of the GIPA Act.

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopt the revised Agency Information Guide 2025 as per the requirements of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

REPORT

The GIPA Act requires that Council must have an Agency Information Guide which describes Council's structure, functions, how those functions affect the public, ways in which the public can participate in Council policy and the exercise of its functions, the type of information held and how it is made publicly available. Council's Agency Information Guide promotes the object of the GIPA Act by opening government information to the public and encouraging public participation in Council's decision-making and functions.

The GIPA Act requires that Council must review and adopt a new Agency Information Guide at intervals of not more than 12 months. A review of Council's Information Guide (last adopted 22 April 2025) has been carried out taking into consideration feedback from staff, members of the public and the Information Privacy Commissioner.

The Information Privacy Commissioner (IPC) has been notified of the proposed amendments to the Information Guide in accordance with the GIPA Act. Council's draft Agency Information Guide (Attachment A) has been assessed against the requirements of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act), and [Information Access Guideline 6 – Agency Information Guides](#) published by the [Information and Privacy Commission](#).

The feedback provided by the Information Privacy Commissioner is attached (Attachment B). The draft Information Guide has been updated to highlight changes, with new text shown in red and deletions indicated by strikethrough. Additional comments have been incorporated into the draft in line with the IPC's feedback, and hyperlinks have been revised accordingly.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Should Council wish to make any further changes to the draft attached document, Council is required to notify the Information Privacy Commissioner before adoption of the Information Guide.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Related documents include:

- Access to Information Policy GOV-CP-605
- Privacy Policy GOV-CP-602
- Privacy Management Plan

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

[Government Information \(Public Access\) Act 2009 – Part 3 Division 2 Agency Information Guides](#)

- Section 20 - Agencies must have agency information guide
- Section 21 - Adoption and review of agency information guide
- Section 22 - Role of Information Commissioner.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The community expects Council to be open, transparent and accountable and to proactively make available and release information.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.1 Undertake Council activities within a clear framework of risk management, strategic planning, policies, procedures and service standards to enhance accountability, resilience and informed decision making.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

Information Privacy Commission

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Draft Agency Information Guide - 2026 (under separate cover) 
- (b) Information Privacy Commissioner Review (under separate cover) 

CLAUSE	CL08
TITLE	Review of Privacy Management Policy and Plan
FROM	Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development
TRIM REF	26/35844

SUMMARY

Griffith City Council is committed to embedding privacy best practice into all business practices and decision making. Whilst the main objective of Council's Privacy Management Policy and Privacy Management Plan is to enshrine best practice in everything we do, these documents also aims to ensure Council's compliance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act) and Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (HRIP Act).

Council has recently reviewed its Privacy Management Policy and Plan for endorsement to go on public exhibition and adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Council endorse the Privacy Management Policy and draft Privacy Management Plan and place the documents on exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- (b) Should any submissions be received, a report be provided to Council.**
- (c) Should no submissions be received, the Privacy Management Policy and draft Privacy Management Plan be considered adopted as at the end date of the public exhibition period.**

REPORT

The purpose of Council's Privacy Management Policy and Plan is to outline how Griffith City Council manages personal and health information in accordance with NSW privacy laws.

Council's Privacy Management Policy has been reviewed with no changes required. The Privacy Management Plan has been comprehensively reviewed with a view to making the document more user friendly and easier to understand. Both documents are presented for endorsement by Council to be placed on public exhibition.

Council is required to describe the measures it proposes to take to ensure that it complies with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (PPIP Act) and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* (HRIP Act).

Every NSW public sector agency that is bound by the PPIP Act must prepare and implement a privacy management plan that explains:

- the agency's policies and practices for complying with the PPIP Act and the HRIP Act
- how the agency will make its staff aware of these policies and practices
- the agency's procedures for dealing with privacy internal reviews

- other relevant matters relating to the protection of the personal and health information that the agency holds.

Council's draft Privacy Management Plan complies with the Information Protection Principles (IPPs) in the PPIP Act and the Health Privacy Principles (HPPs) in the HRIP Act which regulate the collection, storage, use and disclosure of personal and health information. The principles also give members of the public a right to request access to their personal or health information or to ask for amendments to that information to ensure it is accurate.

The Privacy Management Plan also refers to relevant exemptions of the PPIP Act or HRIP Act, the Local Government Privacy Code of Practice, Council's responsibilities in terms of public registers, offence provisions and explains Council's strategies to minimise the risk of its employees committing an offence. The Plan further explains how Council will provide training and education for staff and members of the public.

A copy of Council's draft Privacy Management Plan was provided to the NSW Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) for review prior to presenting to Council.

The recommendations from the IPC (refer Attachment C) have been incorporated into Council's draft Privacy Management Plan attached to this report and are displayed as red text in the draft document.

A copy of the final adopted Plan will be provided to the IPC in accordance with section 33(5) of the PPIP Act.

OPTIONS

Council is required to adopt a Privacy Management Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Privacy Management Policy and Privacy Management Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Not applicable

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Moderate Low Risk: Minor policy or regulatory breach resolved through amended practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Failure to comply with Privacy requirements could result in reputational risks / risks to community members.

Serious Moderate Risk: Significant adverse public/staff reaction and/or significant negative publicity. Director intervention required over one to two weeks. Limited impact on staff morale.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.1 Undertake Council activities within a clear framework of risk management, strategic planning, policies, procedures and service standards to enhance accountability, resilience and informed decision making.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

Information Privacy Commissioner

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Privacy Management Policy - Public Policy (under separate cover) 
- (b) Draft Privacy Management Plan (under separate cover) 
- (c) IPC Review (under separate cover) 

CLAUSE CL09

TITLE 2026 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress

FROM Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations

TRIM REF 26/87678

SUMMARY

This report is to advise Council of the 2026 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress hosted by ALGA (Australian Local Government Association) to be held in Cairns, Queensland from 25 to 25 August 2026

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Two Councillors (Cr and Cr.....) attend the 2026 National Local Roads, Transport & Infrastructure Congress in Cairns, Qld from 24 to 25 August 2026.**
- (b) Expenses for attendance at the 2026 National Local Roads, Transport & Infrastructure Congress be paid in accordance with Council policy.**

REPORT

The Australian National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress is an opportunity to engage with the Government on how its policies will impact on the provision and maintenance of local roads as well as the broader infrastructure and transport agenda. The Congress will feature national and international speakers along with Government and Opposition representatives.

The attached program, attachment (a), shows a wide range of topics and speakers presenting on many different items. Some of these are very relevant to Griffith City Council and others are less relevant.

It is important for Griffith to be represented at major conferences like these as Council ought to be keep abreast of policy announcements and available grant opportunities. Council has been successful with several funding opportunities for a number of large scale road projects over the past 6 years.

In 2025 a staff delegate attended the Congress in Bendigo and this was found to be very informative. Unfortunately, the Council nominated delegate was unable to attend.

The General Manager (and or his delegate) will not be attending the 2026 conference.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation

OPTION 2

Council not send any representatives to attend the 2026 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress

OPTION 3

Any other resolution of Council, for example only one Councillor delegate attend the congress.

It is acknowledged that there is a cost associated with attendance at these conferences although it should be noted that Council opted not to attend the 2024 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Western Australia.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Councillors Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities' Policy (GC-CP-407).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Registration fee is \$1,195.00 and includes all Congress sessions, welcome reception, Congress dinner and other meals as per the Congress program.

Travel, accommodation and other expenses will be as per Council policy. If Council was to attend, it would be proposed to drive from Griffith to Canberra in one vehicle and then fly from Canberra to Cairns. Accommodation will be required on Monday 24, Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 August 2026. Travel days will be Monday 24 August and Thursday 27 August 2026. It is possible that the journey could commence on Sunday 23 pending flight availabilities and an extra night's accommodation.

It is estimated that travel costs would be approximately \$1200 each for flights. Accommodation costs is approximately \$250 to \$320 per night per room.

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Council's attendance is contingent on compliance with Council's policies. Further, Council being made aware of national transport policy decisions is of great value.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor policy or regulatory breach resolved through amended practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Attendance to the conference has a very low environmental implication.

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Attendance or non-attendance would have minor low risk. There is a balance between the investment of attending the congress and value that is gained when compared with not spending the money to attend. The host city does have an element of reputational risk due to the recognition as a desired holiday destination.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor adverse public/staff reaction and/or negative publicity. Resolved with Manager or Director Comment. No impact on staff morale.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Attendance to the National Local Roads, Transport & Infrastructure congress has moderate low risk, while the General Manager or their delegate is attending the congress and not at work.

Moderate Low Risk: Short term interruption of services or operations. Limited impact to staff and service standards. Short term contractor performance affected.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Attendance to the National Local Roads, Transport & Infrastructure congress has minor WHS / HR implication and risk.

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 2.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with community, government and non-government agencies to benefit our community.

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 6.2 Maintain and develop an effective transport network (airport, public roads, pathways, pedestrian accesses and transport corridors) for Griffith and villages.

Council's participation in the National Congress provides an excellent measure to determine if Council's usual practice is consistent with national best practice.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | 2026 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Program   | 78 |
| (b) | 2026 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Speakers   | 85 |

REGISTER NOW

ALGA ROADS CONGRESS 2026

LOCAL ROADS • TRANSPORT • INFRASTRUCTURE

25 - 26 August 2026 | Cairns, Queensland

Preliminary Program

Below is the Congress program outline

Monday, August 24

6PM

6pm → 8pm

Welcome Reception & Exhibition Opening

Congress Welcome Reception: Mezzanine | Cairns Convention Centre

📍 Mezzanine

Tuesday, August 25

8AM**8am** → 9am**Registrations Opens****9AM****9am** → 10am**Opening Session**

MC Welcome & Introduction | Welcome to Country | Cairns Mayor Welcome and Address | MC Welcome & Introduction of ALGA President | ALGA President Speech | Shadow/Opposition Minister Address (invited) | Minister Address (invited) | Key sponsor address: NBN

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

10AM**10am** → 11am**Enabling Infrastructure: Funding and Sequencing**

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

11AM**11am** → 11:35am**Day One Morning Tea**

📍 Mezzanine

11:35am → 1pm**Infrastructure Design and Driver Behaviour**

Mr David Fulton Principal Engineer, Infrastructure Planning, Bundaberg Regional Council



📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

12PM**12:15pm** → 1pm**Session TBC**

Mr Jonathan Jones Head of Education, IPWEA

JJ

1PM**1pm** → 2pm**Day One Lunch**

📍 Mezzanine

2PM**2pm** → 3pm**Gordonvale Water Security Project**

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

3PM**3pm** → 3:30pm**Day One Afternoon Tea**

📍 Mezzanine

3:30pm → 3:45pm**Sponsor Update****Mr Arman Namvar** Executive Officer, Australian Paint Approval Scheme, CSIRO · **Elenora Stepanova** Executive Officer, Paint Contractor Certification Program, CSIRO

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

3:45pm → 5pm**Accessibility and Inclusive Design****Dr Katie Butler** Lecturer, Human Services, The University of Newcastle · **Anna Bray Sharpin** Principal Transportation Advisor, Abley

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

Concurrent Session 1**3:45pm** → 5pm**Road Manager Responsibilities for Level Crossing Safety****Mr Grant Windsham** Manager, Operations, ONRSR · **Mr Andrew Mogg** Senior Manager, Programs, Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator

📍 Plenary 1 (Breakout Room)

Concurrent Session 2**6PM**

6:30pm → 10:30pm

Congress Dinner

Congress Dinner: Trinity Room | Cairns Convention Centre

📍 Trinity Room

Wednesday, August 26

9AM

9am → 9:05am

MC Welcome | Day Two Opening

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

9:05am → 10am

Fuel Security and Supply Chain Resilience

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

10AM

10am → 11am

Road Managers & Heavy Vehicles: Better data makes better decisions

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

11AM

11am → 11:30am

Day Two Morning Tea

📍 Mezzanine

11:30am → 12:30pm

Safe Industry Practices

Noel Pinkerton Director – Awareness, Engagement and Specialist Advice, Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency • **Ms Patsy Thomas** National Temporary Traffic Management Operations Manager, Austroads



📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

Concurrent Session 1

11:30am → 12:30pm

Grants & Opportunities: Update from the Federal Government

📍 Plenary 1 (Breakout Room)

Concurrent Session 2

12PM

12:30pm → 1:30pm

Day Two Lunch

📍 Mezzanine

1PM

1:30pm → 2:30pm

Urban Design: The benefits & challenges of micromobility

Prue Oswin Active Transport Engineer, Sidelines Traffic · **Ms Sarah Pilgram** Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Walks



📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

Concurrent Session 1

1:30pm → 2:30pm

Sweating Your Assets: How technology can help extract value

Corey Gray Chair & President, Smart Cities Council · **Mr Mark Griffiths** Commercial Manager, Neuweb



📍 Plenary 1 (Breakout Room)

Concurrent Session 2

2PM

2:30pm → 3pm

Day Two Afternoon Tea

📍 Mezzanine

3PM

3pm → 4pm

Leadership in Complicated Systems: How to drive change and build consensus

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

4PM

4pm → 4:30pm

ALGA President Wrap & Congress Communique

📍 Plenary (Trinity Room)

4:30pm → 4:30pm

Congress Close

Thursday, August 27

8AM

8:30am → 12:30pm

TECHNICAL TOUR

Cairns Gordonvale Water Security Project

**National Local Roads, Transport
& Infrastructure Congress**

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● Conference Coordinators
E: roads@confco.com.au
P: 02 6292 9000

● ALGA
E: alga@alga.asn.au
P: 02 6122 9400



2026 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress



ALGA ROADS CONGRESS 2026

LOCAL ROADS • TRANSPORT • INFRASTRUCTURE

25 - 26 August 2026 | Cairns, Queensland

Congress Speakers

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Grid

List



Anna Bray Sharpin Principal Transportation Advisor, Abley

**Dr Katie Butler** Lecturer, Human Services, The University of Newcastle

Katie is a disabled community development practitioner and social researcher. Her work focuses on strengthening organisational planning, policy and practice for disability inclusion while working directly with diverse communities to build connection and opportunity. ...

**Mr David Fulton** Principal Engineer, Infrastructure Planning, Bundaberg Regional Council

David is a Principal Civil Engineer who leads transport infrastructure planning at Bundaberg Regional Council in Queensland. With more than 15 years' experience across the public and private sectors, he is passionate about improving road safety and delivering evidence-based infrastructure solutions that reduce road trauma and its devastating impact on communities.

**Corey Gray** Chair & President, Smart Cities Council

Corey's diverse 30-year career spans architecture, engineering, science, technology, academia, professional sport, fine art painting, film production, charity & philanthropy....

**Mr Mark Griffiths** Commercial Manager, Neuweb

Mark Griffiths is the Commercial Manager and Co-founder of Neuweb, an Australian AI video analytics company that helps organisations unlock greater value from existing CCTV infrastructure. He leads Neuweb's strategy and commercial operations, working with government, transport agencies, retailers, and public safety organisations to implement AI solutions improve safety, efficiency, an...

**Mr Jonathan Jones** Head of Education, IPWEA**Mr Andrew Mogg** Senior Manager, Programs, Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator



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Mr Arman Namvar Executive Officer, Australian Paint Approval Scheme, CSIRO

Arman Namvar is the Executive Officer of the Australian Paint Approval Scheme (APAS), a national, independent third-party product certification scheme administered by CSIRO. He works closely with surface coatings manufacturers, asset owners, government agencies, and industry stakeholders to promote quality, durability, and confidence in road marking, protective and decorative coatings...



Prue Oswin Active Transport Engineer, Sidelines Traffic

Prue Oswin is Director of Sidelines Traffic, an RPEQ and Chartered Professional Engineer specialising in active transport, road safety and community-led planning. She works with local and state governments to deliver active transport infrastructure. Her work combines road safety engineering with community insights to identify opportunities to stitch active transport networks back together across ...



Ms Sarah Pilgram Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Walks

Sarah Pilgrim is the Chief Executive Officer of Victoria Walks, an evidence-based health promotion charity working to create healthier, connected communities where walking is safe, easy and part of everyday life. Victoria Walks works with governments, industry and communities to influence the policies, infrastructure and investment decisions that shape walkable places, translating evidence into ...



Noel Pinkerton

Director – Awareness, Engagement and Specialist Advice, Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

Noel Pinkerton is a Certified Occupational Hygienist and senior work health and safety leader. He is the Director – Awareness, Engagement and Specialist Advice at the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA), where he contributes to national initiatives that support improved work health and safety outcomes. Noel has extensive experience in education, awareness, stakeholder...



Elenora Stepanova Executive Officer, Paint Contractor Certification Program, CSIRO

Elenora Stepanova is the Executive Officer of the Painting Contractors Certification Program (PCCP), Australia's national independent third-party accreditation scheme administered by CSIRO. She works closely with asset owners, government agencies, contractors, and industry stakeholders to promote quality and safety in the linemarking industry...



Ms Patsy Thomas National Temporary Traffic Management Operations Manager, Austroads



Mr Grant Windsham Manager, Operations, ONRSR

Grant started his career in aviation, working in a range of flying operations, safety, and compliance roles specialising in operational safety, fatigue management, and incident investigation, before taking a role in railway regulation in 2011. In his role as Manager, Operations (Sydney) with the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator, Grant manages a team of rail safety ...

**National Local Roads, Transport
& Infrastructure Congress**

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E: roads@confco.com.au
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● ALGA
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2026 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress

CLAUSE **CL10**

TITLE **Request for Support – 10th Anniversary Community Gala Dinner in Support of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith**

FROM **Scott Grant, General Manager**

TRIM REF **26/88444**

SUMMARY

A request to support the 10th Anniversary celebrations of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith has been received.

A community gala dinner is being planned for the 24 September 2026 at the Yoogali Club and St Vincent's has requested Council consider becoming a Platinum Sponsor to the value of \$10,000. The dinner will be a celebration along with a fundraiser to support nursing excellence at the hospital to ensure future growth of health specialties along with leadership opportunities to strengthen healthcare in the region.

As this request does not align with Council's Community Grant Program, Business Support Program or Event Sponsorship policies, a report has been prepared to allow the determination of the request by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) For the determination of Council.**
- (b) Should Council endorse Platinum Sponsorship to the value of \$10,000 in support of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner, an amendment to the 2026/27 Budget to increase line item 92210.298 Industry, Attraction & Development – Sponsorship from \$4,500 to \$14,500 will need to be made via the September 2026 Quarterly Review.**

REPORT

To mark this milestone, the Griffith Community are hosting a ticketed community gala dinner that will celebrate the achievements of the past ten years and acknowledge the many partners who contributed to the hospital's success. We anticipate strong community interest and are committed to delivering an event that reflects the significance of this occasion.

The event will be led by a committee of Griffith community members including Joe Casella, Roy Spagnolo, Bill Calabria and Anne Napoli along with support from the hospital and St Vincent's Curran Foundation.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

- a) Council become a Platinum Sponsor to the value of \$10,000, to support of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner and;
- b) Should Council endorse Platinum Sponsorship to the value of \$10,000 in support St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner, an

amendment to the 2026/27 Budget to increase line item 92210.298 Industry, Attraction & Development – Sponsorship from \$4,500 to \$14,500 will need to be made via the September 2026 Quarterly Review

OPTION 2

Council not support the request for Platinum Sponsorship of the 10th Anniversary Community Gala Dinner in support of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

1. Requests for donations to individuals or businesses are not covered by normal Council funding streams and require consideration by Council.
2. If considered as an Event, this request, due to the value of support requested, is also outside of the Event Sponsorship Policy
3. Due to the nature of the event and the amount requested, this request is not eligible for Council Community Grant Program funding.
4. Due to the number of employees (more than 20) and amount requested, St Vincent's Hospital is not eligible for funding under the Business Support Grant program

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

This is an unbudgeted item. Should Council support Platinum Sponsorship, a quarterly review budget adjustment will need to be made to the Industry, Attraction & Development – Sponsorship budget to increase from \$4,500 to \$14,500.

Ad hoc requests for sponsorship are frequently received by Council. Requests for donations to individuals or businesses are not covered by normal Council funding streams and require consideration by Council. Council should be aware of perceptions of precedence when considering requests for financial donations to individuals or businesses.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor financial loss > \$10,000 to \$1 million.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Moderate Low Risk: Minor adverse public/staff reaction and/or negative publicity. Resolved with Manager or Director Comment. No impact on staff morale.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Moderate Low Risk: Short term interruption of services or operations. Limited impact to staff and service standards. Short term contractor performance affected.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 2.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with community, government and non-government agencies to benefit our community.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Request for Support - Letter to Griffith City Council   | 93 |
| (b) | Save the Date - St Vincent Private Hospital - Gala Dinner   | 94 |



**St Vincent's Private
Community Hospital Griffith**
ABN: 61083645505

A: 41-45 Animoo Ave
Griffith NSW 2680
P: 02 6966 8300 **F:** 02 6966 8310
W: www.svpchg.org.au

**Mr Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council
1 Benerambah Street Griffith NSW 2680**

Dear Scott,

**Re: Request for Support – 10th Anniversary Community Gala Dinner in support of
St Vincent's Private Hospital Griffith**

I am writing to seek Griffith City Council's support for the upcoming Gala Dinner celebration, to be held on Thursday 24 September 2026 at the Yoogali Club.

As we reflect on a decade of service to the Griffith community, we are also reminded of the vital role Griffith Council played in helping establish the private hospital. In particular, your support leading up to and during the fundraising campaign, which was instrumental in bringing the project to life. The community's generosity, combined with Council's leadership, helped ensure that high-quality private healthcare could be delivered locally.

To mark this milestone, the Griffith Community are hosting a ticketed community gala dinner that will celebrate the achievements of the past ten years and acknowledge the many partners who contributed to the hospital's success. We anticipate strong community interest and are committed to delivering an event that reflects the significance of this occasion. The dinner will be a celebration along with a fundraiser to support Nursing Excellence at the hospital to ensure future growth of health specialties along with leadership opportunities to strengthen healthcare in the region.

The event will be led by a committee of Griffith community members including Joe Casella, Roy Spagnollo, Bill Calabria and Anne Napoli along with support from the hospital and St Vincent's Curran Foundation.

In this context, we kindly request your consideration to support the event as a Platinum Sponsor at a cost of \$10,000. Your support will help us continue delivering exceptional healthcare close to home for the Griffith community.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this request further at your convenience.
Yours sincerely,

Gabrielle Wood

General Manager and Director of Clinical Services
St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith

Roy Spagnolo, Joe Casella, Bill Calabria, Anne Napoli
invite you to

SAVE THE DATE

Griffith Community celebrates our

10
YEAR

2016 - 2026

ANNIVERSARY
GALA DINNER

Supporting
St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith
Nursing and Medical Excellence

Join us for an evening of food, wine and friends as we
come together to celebrate 10 years and to raise vital funds
for St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith.

Thursday 24 September 2026
Yoogali Club

FURTHER INFORMATION TO FOLLOW



**ST VINCENT'S
PRIVATE COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL**
GRIFFITH

CLAUSE CL11**TITLE Summary Development Application DA 57/2026 for Electricity
Generating Works comprising a 7.1MW Solar Farm and 5MW Battery
Energy Storage System (BESS) at 11 Duchatel Road, Griffith****FROM Joe Rizzo, Director Sustainable Development****TRIM REF 26/87025**

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding Development Application DA 57/2026 for Electricity Generating Works comprising a 7.1MW Solar Farm and 5MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 11 Duchatel Road, Griffith. This report outlines the development proposal, a summary of the statutory planning framework applicable to the assessment, Council's assessment and the decision of the Western Regional Planning Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted by Council.

REPORT

Development Application DA 57/2026 was lodged on the 10 April 2026 seeking consent for the construction and operation of a renewable energy facility consisting of a 7.1MW solar farm and a 5MW Battery Energy Storage System. The proposal included approximately 9,330 fixed solar photovoltaic panels, four battery storage units, associated inverter infrastructure, security fencing, grid connection infrastructure, internal access arrangements and perimeter landscaping. The development site is located at 11 Duchatel Road, Griffith, which has historically been used for horticultural purposes including orchards and vineyards.

The application was determined by the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) and not Council as the development is classified as regional development due to the declared capital investment value being over \$5 million. Council's role was limited to undertaking the assessment process, coordinating public exhibition and agency referrals, preparing an assessment report and providing a recommendation to the WRPP. The final determination of the development remained solely with the WRPP.

The planning panel process included a preliminary briefing, a site inspection, consideration of public submissions, review of Council's assessment report, consideration of applicant responses and a determination meeting conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The application was publicly exhibited by Council between 1 May and 15 May 2026. Notification occurred through Council's website, Development Application Tracker website, Facebook page, Council's weekly publication and direct correspondence to surrounding landowners located within 150m of the development. Three submissions objecting to the proposal were received during the exhibition period. Concerns raised related to visual impacts, loss of agricultural land, noise generation, fire risk, traffic impacts, inconsistency with Council policy, proximity to residential development, impacts on Council's Pound and the public interest. These matters were considered by Council as part of its assessment and were also reviewed by the Planning Panel during its determination.

A key feature of the assessment was the interaction between the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 (Transport and Infrastructure SEPP), Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 and Griffith City Council's Solar Energy Farms and Battery Energy Storage Systems Policy SD-CP-202. This relationship became the central issue separating Council's recommendation from the Planning Panel's final determination.

Additionally, Council assessed the proposal in comparison to Council Policy *SD-CP-202 - Solar Energy Farms and Battery Energy Storage Systems*. The policy provides guidance regarding the location and assessment of renewable energy infrastructure within the Griffith Local Government Area. The policy discourages the establishment of solar farms and battery storage systems on Class 1 to 3 agricultural land, on land with significant irrigation entitlements, within one kilometre of residential zones, on classified roads and in visually prominent locations. Council formed the view that the proposal was inconsistent with several provisions of the policy including its location on Class 1 to 3 agricultural land, its proximity to residentially zoned land, its frontage to Kidman Way and its prominent gateway location on the western approach to Griffith. Council concluded that the development was not suitable for the site, did not achieve the objectives of Council's renewable energy policy and was not in the public interest. Council therefore recommended refusal of the development application.

The WRPP acknowledged Council's assessment in regards to the policy and accepted that the policy reflected Council's strategic position regarding renewable energy projects. However, the WRPP concluded that the adopted Council policy could not limit powers available under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 or the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP and that the policy provisions relied upon by Council did not constitute valid reasons for refusal in circumstances where the development was otherwise permissible under State planning legislation. The Panel ultimately afforded greater weight to the requirements of the State planning framework than to the provisions of Council's policy.

Following consideration of Council's assessment report, public submissions, applicant responses, site inspection observations and the relevant planning legislation, the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) unanimously determined to approve the application on 1 July 2026 pursuant to section 4.16 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The WRPP formed a different conclusion from Council regarding the significance of the proposal's impacts.

The primary issue considered by the WRPP related to section 2.42 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP, which requires the consent authority to be satisfied that electricity generating works are unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on scenic quality and landscape quality. In evaluating this requirement, the WRPP considered the extent, distribution, maintenance and layout of the proposed landscaping. The WRPP concluded that the proposed landscaping measures were sufficient to mitigate visual impacts and were adequate to prevent significant adverse effects on Griffith's scenic and landscape character, including views from Kidman Way.

The WRPP accepted that concerns regarding noise, fire safety, operational management and eventual decommissioning could be effectively addressed through conditions of development consent rather than through refusal of the application. The Panel further noted that the total area of Class 1 to 3 agricultural land occupied by approved or proposed renewable energy developments within the Griffith Local Government Area represented less than one per cent of the overall area of such land within the municipality and concluded that this issue did not justify refusal.

The WRPP determined that the development could be approved subject to conditions notwithstanding Council's recommendation for refusal.

All information associated with the determination can be viewed on the Department's website.

[Electricity Generating Works - 5mw distribution BESS & 7.1 MW Solar Farm | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment](#)

Since the determination, Council has received correspondence from a neighbouring landowner who would like Councillors to explore the option of taking the matter to the Land and Environment Court to overturn the WRPP decision; a copy of that correspondence is attached.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Any other Recommendation of Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Moderate Low Risk: Minor financial loss > \$10,000 to \$1 million.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Email from neighbouring landowner to Council General Manager – 13-7-26 [↓](#) 99
- 

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 5:35 PM
To: Scott Grant [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: DA 57/2026 - 11 Duchatel Road Griffith

Hi Scott

The Solar Farm and Battery storage development approved on the Corner of Duchatel Rd and Kidman Way just up from the sale yards in Griffith.

This development did not meet most of the councils own Solar Farm and Battery storage policy but still received approval from the Western Regional Planning Panel.

Can Griffith City Council councillors explore the option of taking this to the Land and Environment Court to overturn the Western Regional Planning Panel decision.

Can this email be forwarded to all the councillors for their consideration.

Regards
[REDACTED]

As per Council Solar Farm and Battery Storage Policy SD-CP-202

Under Section 5 Site Selection

b). Sites which have a delivery entitlement and volume of water available under that entitlement that is or will be adequate for the use of the land for the purpose of intensive plant agriculture and the lands are currently or have historically been cultivated for intensive plant agriculture crops without severe limitations.

Which would render this property unsuitable for this development, given it was used for intensive agriculture and could still be used for that purpose.

d). Sites which are located less than 1 km from land zoned R1 – General Residential, R5 – Large Lot Residential or RU5- Village.

The site in question is only 875 metres from Harward Road which is residential street.

Sale yard kiosk and toilet block approx. 400m from development site and battery location.

[REDACTED] on Brayne Road Griffith is only approx 660m from the proposed development.

[REDACTED] residence is approx. 60 m from the proposed development.

[REDACTED] residence is approx. 175 m from the proposed development.

[REDACTED] residence is approx. 290m from proposed development site.

[REDACTED] residence is approx. 260m from proposed development site.

[REDACTED] residence approx. 360m from proposed development site.

[REDACTED] residence approx. 440m from proposed development site.

e). Sites located on classified or arterial roads.

This proposed development is situated on the Kidman Way main arterial road on the western entrance to Griffith with potential to cause glare and glint to passing traffic given the panel will face the afternoon sun which would reflect towards incoming traffic.

f). This site would definitely have a visual impact on nearby properties and incoming traffic and effect future development of neighbouring properties.

I had plans as many of my neighbours did to develop our properties in the future as the town expanded into light commercial or residual developments if and when permitted.

Under Section 7 Development Controls

d) Solar farms should be located at least 25m from all property boundaries and 200 m of any dwelling not associated with the development or residential zoned land.

██████████ is within that distance .

e) Battery Storage 50m from boundary and 500m from any dwelling not associated with the development

██████████ residence is only 200 m from the BESS site and sales yard kiosk and toilet block 400 from BESS location and most of the above residences are all within the 500m of the development and BESS site.

8. Conditions of Consent for Solar Farms and BESS

Will council be liable if the Solar Energy Farm and Battery Storage in the event of a fire, hail storm or bad event of nature to make this project unviable and then just leave it there as an eyesore as with the project in the Forbes Shire. Given that the original developer or land owner may not be around if and when rehabilitation is required.

There are many disadvantages around having a solar farm and battery storage facility so close to farm houses and residential area.

Staff members at the saleyards and the Sewerage Treatment works and dog pound can be effected as stated in many health risk reports and also by the World Health Organisation. Council will need to make their staff aware of any potential health hazards from this development application as council's duty of care.

There is also the potential workers compensation claims which could arise from this development application which will impact on your yearly premiums and all ratepayers will be paying for this.

Animals housed at the pound e.g. Dogs and cats who have very sensitive hearing will be affected by the noise of the invertors as they will be less than 30m from the boundary. Has the animal welfare department been advised of this proposed development and risk to dogs and cats or will the council be required to move the dog pound.

Other Potential risks are if there were to be a fire or hail storm which would damage the batteries and panels and create an environmental disaster with water and land on that site and surrounding properties and water ways becoming contaminated with Forever Chemicals, PFAS , Lead, Cadmium, nickel, cobalt and other contaminant minerals and then Hydrogen Fluoride and carbon monoxide and many other dangerous gases drifting over the town from westerly winds.

Council's own property the sales yards are where stock are held over time being the closest and the most vulnerable if fire where to occur with batteries releasing toxic chemicals and contaminating the soil and water as the soil slopes towards the sales yards.

This site is only approx. 1.9kms from council chambers and the main street of Griffith, is this really the right location for this development.

The entrance of this proposed development is from a non-officially listed road. Does council give permission for this development application to enter from a road leading only to council facilities?

Second Submission

Further to my submission on the above Development Application 57/2026 11 Duchatel Road Griffith NSW 2680 I would like to point out a few more factors for consideration for this application not to be approved and to be submitted to the Planning Panel along with Griffith City Council documentation.

Upon reading through the Traffic Impact Statement, I find it hard to believe that there are no turning lanes to be constructed on the Kidman Way turning into Duchatel Road in both directions with the amount of traffic movements on that road and predicted movements during construction.

They state in their Development Application that there will be approximately 100 vehicles movements per day including large trucks during the construction stage. This road is already a major entry and exit point to Griffith with an incredible amount of heavy traffic, thus making it busier.

Duchatel Road is on the side of a crest of a slight hill. They state that there will be trucks turning into Duchatel Road, but you cannot physically turn into Duchatel Road if there is a car at the T junction. If a semi-trailer needs to turn into Duchatel Road, it is required to veer onto the other side of the upcoming traffic and then proceed to turn as the road is just not wide enough. Many a time after living here for nearly 40 years have I seen too many close calls with trucks trying to access and enter Duchatel Road.

Without turning lanes on Kidman Way and with the number of movements with semi-trailer and trucks predicted it is an accident waiting to happen.

If this application was to be approved there should be a turning lane in both directions on the Kidman Way so that the flow of traffic will not be impeded and lesson the case of an accident with many heavy vehicles using this road.

Also, Duchatel Road will not accommodate two heavy vehicles at one time on the road, one will need to be on the soil beside the road thus impacting the road.

In 1.3 The Level of Assessment Required it states "The subject proposal involves construction of a BESS and Solar Farm with direct access to a local road. This does not have direct access to a local road unless council gives its approval for them to create another entrance to this farm, the only access point to this property is along the Kidman Way which should be their primary point of entry.

2.2.2 Existing Road Conditions, Duchatel road is two ways with no line marking and has a speed limit of 100kms per hour, which is extremely dangerous considering the amount of traffic movements

that this development will create. There is quite a significant amount of traffic movements with just local traffic and council vehicles going to their Critical Infrastructure. As said previously "Pound Road" is not two ways because it is nearly impossible to fit two cars on there at once unless one goes off the road.

Pound Road does not have a speed limit sign on it as stated.

In the report they say visibility is Safe Intersection Sight Distance (SISD) but there are no intersections they are T- Sections with poor visibility if anyone cares to come and see for themselves.

In Clause 2.42 this could have a significant impact upon future development to the West side of Griffith as it is only 1.5 kms from the end of our main street Banna Avenue Griffith. All the properties within .5km of the surrounding area are wanting to develop in the future and though it is not targeted at the moment there is hope in the LEP done every five years that many of our submissions will be granted a rezoning and development can take place due to its close proximity to the centre of town.

The visual impact upon entering Griffith will not be good as this is a major entrance from the West and the solar farm and batteries will be visible even though it states that trees will be planted but as with many solar farms they plant seedlings which are about 6 inches tall and most of them die within the first 2 years and would take many years to fully establish if they survive .

In their report Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment states that the noise during construction will be excessive in some locations as that is a concern the major concern is the continuous noise produced when in operation by the PCS Modular Unit and the BESS Modular Unit the worst scenario of all is the impact upon the local pound and the animals housed in that facility. As you will be aware dogs and cats have very acute hearing approximately 110% above our hearing standard and the noise from the PCS and BESS modular units will be 87 dB(A) and reach the pound at 36 dB(A) taking into account the animals better hearing and the continuous nature it is not an acceptable risk for animals as there is no buffer for error .

Also, the Griffith Saleyards are directly adjoining the Solar Farm proposal the noise impact will be worse on the sheep housed in the paddock directly adjacent the PCS and BESS modular units as they will be closer to the noise source than the pound.

Council has critical infrastructure within 50 metres of the proposed development.

If the battery were to catch fire and it is in Bushfire Prone Land with the saleyards paddock which has dry hay and grass, and they say this is very remote but we all know that this is not the case with many instances occurring and the outcome is not a pretty one. This development adjoins Critical Council Infrastructure mainly the Water Reclamation Plant if the fire gets away and this causes destruction or harm to the critical facility the township of Griffith will have nowhere for their sewerage to be processed and this will need to be taken into account when approving this development along with the impact that it will have on council employees in direct line and in contact with the battery and inverter noise, which could cause workers compensation claims upon Griffith City Council. The continuous humming that the PCS and BESS modular units are known to cause stress in humans and other mental issues associated with the sound.

Also, in the Statement of Environmental Effects 6.4 Earthworks. The Earthworks that this development will create a substantial amount of dust and with adjoining citrus orchards in the direct line dust will cause scale upon the fruit which is difficult to control.

The Land and Environment court rejected the Burrundulla solar farm development in Mudgee in the state's central west it was to be a 10 mw solar farm on the outskirts of Mudgee stating that the project would be an "alien feature" in the existing landscape which would be "irreversibly changed" by the development.

In her judgement, NSW Land and Environment Court Senior Commissioner Susan Dixon said the proposed solar farm was located too close to Mudgee 2.4 kms similar distance as Griffith from the proposed site and the visual impact would have a significant adverse impact on the regional city's city scenic quality and landscape as it would in Griffith.

The decision also states a development cannot be granted if it renders significant conflict with existing or approved residential or approved residential and commercial use of land around it, nor can it be found to impact the regional city's capacity for growth or scenic quality and landscape again similar to Griffith.

In the development application it also states that this site was chosen for its proximity to the Tharbogang substation, but there is a greater amount of land within 1 km of the Tharbogang Sub Station which would be far more suitable and in close proximity and not have the visual impact upon entering Griffith City Council township and is further from the town centre
There is a solar farm on Brown's Road approximately 4 kms down the road and this has been there for approximately 2 years with trees planted as their buffer and most of them dead as would happen on this development.

The development as stated is too close to farm houses , pound and critical council infrastructure. All the residents living around the proposed development are all opposed to this development.

Regards

[Redacted signature]



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CLAUSE CL12**TITLE** New State Planning Entity - Development Coordination Authority (DCA)**FROM** Joe Rizzo, Director Sustainable Development**TRIM REF** 26/77563

SUMMARY

The Planning System Reforms Act 2025 was passed by NSW Parliament in November 2025 with reforms commencing progressively from December 2025. Part of the reforms include the establishment of the Development Coordination Authority (DCA) to coordinate, streamline and oversee complex or large-scale development projects, particularly those involving multiple stakeholders, agencies and infrastructure requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted by Council.

REPORT

The Development Coordination Authority (DCA) was established as part of the NSW Government's broader planning system reforms to address long-standing inefficiencies in the development assessment process. Historically, councils and applicants were required to engage with multiple State agencies separately, resulting in delays, inconsistent advice and increased complexity.

The key purpose of the DCA is to improve integration between planning, infrastructure delivery, and servicing; reduce delays caused by fragmented approval processes; ensure strategic alignment with regional or local planning objectives; facilitate timely delivery of housing, employment lands, and key infrastructure; provide a single point of coordination for development proponents and public agencies.

The new framework will come into effect on 1 July 2026, simplifying requirements for when a development application or modification application needs to be referred by a consent authority for consultation or concurrence.

OPTIONS

Council note the information.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 7.1 Encourage strategic planning, balanced growth and sustainable design.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

Department Planning and Public Spaces

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) DCA Factsheet - Guidance for Councils (under separate cover) 
- (b) DCA Factsheet - Guidance for Applicants (under separate cover) 
- (c) Correspondence from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (under separate cover) 

CLAUSE **CL13**

TITLE **Councillor Conduct Framework Reform**

FROM **Scott Grant, General Manager**

TRIM REF **26/71956**

SUMMARY

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is seeking feedback from the local government sector on proposed reforms to the regulation of councillor conduct in New South Wales. Public consultation is currently underway on stage 2 of the reforms.

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted by Council.

REPORT

The NSW Government is reforming the Councillor Conduct Framework to set clearer standards, strengthen accountability and build confidence in local government decision-making.

Since the release of the OLG document, *Councillor conduct and meeting practices – A new framework*, reforms have progressed and will be delivered in 2 stages, allowing priority changes to be progressed while broader improvements to the conduct framework are developed and implemented.

The proposed changes introduce a new, centralised model for managing councillor conduct complaints. Key elements include:

- **Centralised Complaint Handling**
Complaints against councillors will be managed by the OLG rather than individual councils. This approach is intended to:
 - Improve consistency and independence
 - Enable early dismissal of trivial complaints
 - Ensure serious matters are addressed more efficiently
 - Remove the need for Councils to investigate their own councillors
- **Privileges Committee**
A newly established Privileges Committee, comprising experienced mayors and councillors, will assess less serious complaints relating to unsatisfactory conduct.
- **Investigation of Serious Misconduct**
More serious matters will be investigated by OLG and may be referred to the Land and Environment Court where appropriate.
- **Revised Codes of Conduct**
The current Model Code of Conduct will be split into:
 - A dedicated Councillor Code of Conduct
 - A separate code for council staff, delegates and committee members

- **Modernised Councillor Code**

The proposed councillor code:

- Recognises the political nature of the councillor role
- Supports the implied freedom of political communication
- Requirements for councillors to disclose personal interests will be modernised and aligned with those applying to Members of the NSW Parliament.

Stage 1 reforms will introduce tougher and more effective action to address serious misconduct. These are being progressed through the [Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment \(Councillor Conduct\) Bill 2025](#). Subject to parliamentary processes, stage 1 reforms are expected to start later this year.

Feedback is being sought on stage 2 of the reforms which focuses on simplifying and strengthening the conduct framework so that councils and the NSW Government can direct resources to serious councillor misconduct, rather than minor or trivial complaints.

Information on how to make a submission is available via the [Councillor Conduct Framework Reform webpage](#). Submissions close Friday 7 August 2026 at 5 pm.

Feedback on the Policy Statement: Improving Councillor Accountability can be made [here](#).

Feedback on the draft new Model Code of Conduct for Councillors can be made [here](#).

OPTIONS

Report to be noted.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Code of Conduct Policy will require review following finalisation of the Councillor Conduct Framework Reform.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.1 Undertake Council activities within a clear framework of risk management, strategic planning, policies, procedures and service standards to enhance accountability, resilience and informed decision making.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) OLG Circular 26-08 - Consultation on Councillor Conduct Reforms   109

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Consultation on Councillor Conduct Reforms
Circular Details	Circular No 26-08 / 12 June 2026 / A1005891
Previous Circular	<u>Circular 24-17 Councillor conduct and meeting practices – a discussion paper</u>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council Governance Staff
Contact	Strategic Reform Team / Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Response to OLG

What's new or changing?

- The Office of Local Government (OLG) is inviting feedback from the Local Government sector on the next steps of the NSW Government's proposed reforms to the regulation of councillor conduct.
- The proposed changes are detailed in a Councillor Conduct Reform Policy Statement and a draft Model Code of Conduct for Councillors, which are available on OLG's website: www.olg.nsw.gov.au.

What will this mean for council?

- Under the proposed new framework, the handling of complaints against councillors will be centralised through OLG ensuring a more consistent, efficient and independent process. This will allow trivial complaints to be dismissed early, ensure serious matters receive timely attention, and remove councils from investigating complaints about their own councillors.
- A new Privileges Committee of experienced mayors and councillors will assess less serious complaints of unsatisfactory councillor conduct, while serious misconduct will be investigated by OLG and, where appropriate, referred to the Land and Environment Court.

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- As part of the reforms, the existing Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW will be split into two with a dedicated code for councillors and a separate code for council staff, delegates and committee members. Breaches of the councillor code will be managed under the new conduct framework.
- The new councillor code has been designed to reflect the political nature of elected councillor roles, support the implied freedom of political communication, simplify conflict-of-interest rules, and remove provisions that could be misused or "weaponised" in complaints.
- The reforms will also modernise how councillors disclose their personal interests, aligning requirements with those applying to Members of NSW Parliament.

Key points

- The proposed changes respond to growing concerns that the current Councillor Conduct Framework has been overwhelmed by trivial and vexatious complaints leading to delays in complaint resolution and undermining confidence in local democracy.
- The changes were foreshadowed in the September 2024 discussion paper, 'Councillor Conduct and Meeting Practices - A New Framework'. There was broad support for the reforms outlined in the discussion paper.
- The proposed new framework will be finalised following public consultation before legislation is introduced to Parliament.

Where to go for further information

- The Councillor Conduct Reform Policy Statement and the Model Code of Conduct for Councillors are available on the [Councillor Conduct Framework Reform](#) webpage on the Office of Local Government's website.
- Information about how to make a submission is also available on the [Councillor Conduct Framework Reform](#) webpage.
- For more information, contact OLG by telephone on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au. Questions about the Councillor Conduct Reform Policy Statement should be directed to the Strategic Reform Team and questions about the Model Code of Conduct for Councillors to the Council Governance Team.

A blue ink signature of Brett Whitworth.

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

CLAUSE	CL14
TITLE	OLG Circular - Code of Meeting Practice
FROM	Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development
TRIM REF	26/77606

SUMMARY

The Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025, which prescribed the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice, was disallowed by the NSW Legislative Council on 26 May 2026. As a result, the 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice has been reinstated as the prescribed code under section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

To progress key policy objectives from the disallowed regulation, the Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026 has been passed. This Regulation implements measures to improve transparency, strengthen meeting order provisions and provide greater flexibility in meeting arrangements.

The new provisions apply automatically and will prevail over Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice.

RECOMMENDATION

Council note the report.

REPORT

On 26 May 2026, the NSW Legislative Council disallowed the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025*. This has the effect that the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice is no longer prescribed and the previous 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice is reinstated as the applicable prescribed code.

In response, the Office of Local Government (OLG) advised Councils to rescind any resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code. Accordingly, Council rescinded this resolution at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 9 June 2026 and reinstated the previous Code of Meeting Practice, which incorporates the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Code.

Under section 8 of the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989*, a replacement model code cannot be prescribed within four months of the disallowance. As an interim measure, the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026* (Amendment Regulation) has been introduced to implement key elements of the disallowed reforms.

The Amendment Regulation introduces several significant changes to meeting practices, including:

- **Mandatory livestreaming:**
 - Meetings of Councils and Committees comprised solely of Councillors must be livestreamed, with recordings retained on Council websites for the duration of the Council term or a minimum of 12 months, whichever is longer.

- **Councillor–staff interaction protocols:**
 - Councillors (other than the Mayor or meeting chair) are prohibited from discussing agenda items with staff prior to meetings. Requests for information must be provided in writing and, where practicable, published on the Council's website prior to the meeting, unless confidential.
- **Enhanced meeting order provisions:**
 - Councils must formally authorise the presiding officer to exercise expulsion powers at the first meeting following an ordinary election and following adoption of a new meeting code.
- **Stronger enforcement mechanisms:**
 - Councillors who fail to comply with directions to remedy disorder may be expelled from successive meetings until the matter is resolved.
- **Remote meeting flexibility:**
 - County councils are permitted to conduct meetings using audio-visual technology, provided all participants can hear each other.

The Amendment Regulation has taken effect from 26 June 2026. Any provisions within Council's existing Code of Meeting Practice that are inconsistent with the Regulation are rendered void to the extent of the inconsistency. Accordingly, councils are not required to immediately amend their Code for these provisions to apply.

OPTIONS

The report be noted.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Code of Meeting Practice will be reviewed in full once a replacement model code has been prescribed. The above changes have been incorporated into Council's meeting procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.1 Undertake Council activities within a clear framework of risk management, strategic planning, policies, procedures and service standards to enhance accountability, resilience and informed decision making.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

Office of Local Government

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | OLG Circular 26-09 Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026   | 114 |
| (b) | Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026   | 117 |

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026
Circular Details	Circular No 26-09 / 25 June 2026 / A1009885
Previous Circular	<u><i>Circular No 25-20 - 2025 Model Meeting Code</i></u>
Who should read this	Mayors / Councillors / General Managers / Joint Organisation Executive Officers / Council governance staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- The Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025 (**2025 Regulation**) which prescribed the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (**2025 Model Meeting Code**) was disallowed by the Legislative Council on 26 May 2026.
- The disallowance of the 2025 Regulation means that the 2025 Model Meeting Code is no longer prescribed for the purposes of section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (**LG Act**) and the previous 2021 version of the Model Meeting Code now becomes the prescribed version.
- OLG has issued guidance to councils recommending that they rescind the resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code. This will have the effect of reinstating their previous adopted code of meeting practice containing the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code.
- Under section 8 of the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989*, a new model code of meeting practice cannot be prescribed in the 4 months following the disallowance of the 2025 Regulation. The Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026 (**Amendment Regulation**) has therefore been made to secure some of the policy objectives of the 2025 Model Meeting Code.

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- The Amendment Regulation prescribes measures to improve the transparency of council meeting practices, equip chairpersons at meetings with more effective tools to address disorder at meetings and allow greater flexibility for meetings of county councils.

What will this mean for council?

- The Amendment Regulation contains the following measures:
 - Meetings of councils and committees whose members are all councillors must be livestreamed. Recordings of meetings must be retained on councils' websites for the balance of the council term or 12 months, whichever is the longer period. This requirement will not apply to joint organisations or to county councils. However, it remains open to joint organisations and county councils to resolve to livestream their meetings and publish the recordings if they choose to do so.
 - Councillors other than the mayor or a chairperson of a meeting are prohibited from meeting staff before meetings of the council or committees of the council to discuss matters that are or will be listed on the agenda. Councillors may ask staff questions or seek further information about items on the agenda for meetings, but this information must be provided in writing and, if practicable, published on the council's website before the meeting, unless it relates to a confidential matter under section 10A of the LG Act.
 - Councils will be required to determine at the first meeting following each ordinary election and after the adoption of a new meeting code to authorise the person presiding at meetings under section 10(2) of the LG Act to exercise the power of expulsion for acts of disorder by councillors or disorderly conduct by members of the public.
 - A councillor who has failed to remedy an act of disorder at a meeting in accordance with a requirement by the chairperson, may be expelled from successive meetings until they take the necessary action to remedy the disorder.
 - Like joint organisations, county councils will have the option of holding meetings where some or all members attend remotely by audio-visual device. Where a meeting is held by these means, it must be conducted in a way that all members are able to hear each other.

Key points

- The Amendment Regulation takes effect on its publication on the NSW Legislation website.



- The Amendment Regulation provides that a provision of a council's code of meeting practice that is inconsistent with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (**LG Regulation**) is void and of no effect to the extent of the inconsistency. This will not void a council's whole meeting code where it contains provisions that are inconsistent with the LG Regulation, just the relevant provision.
- In practice, this means that councils do not need to amend their code of meeting practice for the new provisions in the Amendment Regulation to apply. When the Amendment Regulation is published on the NSW Legislation website, the provisions contained in it will automatically prevail over any provision of a council's meeting code that is inconsistent with them.

Where to go for further information

- For further information, please contact OLG's Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica van den Honert'.

Erica van den Honert
Acting Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government



Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026

under the

Local Government Act 1993

Her Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has made the following regulation under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

RON HOENIG, MP
Minister for Local Government

Explanatory note

The object of this regulation is to amend the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* to—

- (a) create a corruption prevention mechanism, and
- (b) ensure public scrutiny of council meetings in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 4, Part 1, and
- (c) ban certain briefing sessions, and
- (d) clarify rules for council workshops, and
- (e) provide for the operation of meetings.

In particular, this regulation—

- (a) provides that a council's code of meeting practice is void to the extent the code is inconsistent with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, and
- (b) requires a council to consider whether to authorise the person presiding at a council meeting to be able to exercise the power of expulsion, and
- (c) provides that a councillor continues to be subject to a power of expulsion until the councillor remedies an act of disorder, and
- (d) requires a council to make audio visual recordings of a meeting of the council or committee of the council publicly available on a council website while the meeting takes place, and
- (e) specifies the period for which the recording must continue to be available on the website, and
- (f) limits when a councillor or member of a committee of a council may obtain information from, or discuss matters with, council staff in relation to a matter due to be discussed by the council or committee, and
- (g) provides for certain meetings to be conducted remotely.

This regulation is made under the *Local Government Act 1993*, including sections 400(1), 490A and 748, the general regulation-making power, and Schedule 6.

Published LW 26 June 2026 (2026 No 302)

Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026 [NSW]

Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026

under the

Local Government Act 1993

1 Name of regulation

This regulation is the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026*.

2 Commencement

This regulation commences on the day on which this regulation is published on the NSW legislation website.

Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026 [NSW]
Schedule 1 Amendment of Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

Schedule 1 Amendment of Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

[1] Sections 232A and 232B

Insert after section 232—

232A Code of meeting practice must be consistent with this regulation

A provision of a council's code of meeting practice that is inconsistent with this regulation is void and of no effect to the extent of the inconsistency.

232B Council must consider whether presiding member has power of expulsion

The person presiding at the following meetings of a council must move a motion to resolve to authorise the person presiding at each council meeting, or committee meeting of which all members are councillors, to exercise the power of expulsion under the Act, section 10(2)—

- (a) the first council meeting after the commencement of the council's term,
- (b) the first council meeting after the adoption by the council of a new code of meeting practice.

[2] Section 233 Expulsion for acts of disorder

Omit section 233(2) and (3).

Insert instead—

- (2) The following may be expelled from a meeting of the council under the Act, section 10(2)—
 - (a) a councillor who has failed to comply with a requirement under subsection (1),
 - (b) another person who has engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting.
- (3) The councillor who is expelled may also—
 - (a) be expelled from future meetings until the councillor complies with the requirement under subsection (1), and
 - (b) be subject to other action for the relevant act of disorder.

[3] Section 236 Councils to broadcast meetings online

Omit "audio or" from section 236(1).

[4] Section 236(2)

Omit section 236(2) and (3).

Insert instead—

- (2) The recording must—
 - (a) be made publicly available on the council's website while the meeting is taking place, and
 - (b) remain publicly available on the council's website until the later of the following days—
 - (i) the day that is 12 months after the meeting,
 - (ii) the day the council's term ends.

Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026 [NSW]
Schedule 1 Amendment of Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

[5] Section 236(5)(b)

Omit the paragraph.

Insert instead—

- (b) a joint organisation or county council, unless the joint organisation or county council otherwise resolves.

[6] Sections 236A and 237

Insert after section 236—

236A Briefing before meetings

- (1) A councillor must not attend or participate in a meeting with council staff to discuss a matter if—
 - (a) the meeting takes place before a council meeting, and
 - (b) the matter is or will be listed on the agenda for the council meeting.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the councillor is—
 - (a) the mayor, or
 - (b) the chairperson of the council meeting.
- (3) Council staff may give information to a councillor about a matter that is or will be listed on the agenda for a council meeting if—
 - (a) the councillor asks for the information, and
 - (b) the information is given in writing, and
 - (c) the information, but not information about matters listed in the Act, section 10A(2), is published on the council's website, and
 - (d) the information is, if practicable, published before the council meeting.
- (4) This section applies to a meeting of a committee of a council and a member of the committee in the same way as this section applies to a council meeting and a councillor.

237 County councils—conduct of meetings

- (1) A meeting of a county council, including a committee of the county council, may be conducted—
 - (a) in person, or
 - (b) remotely, or
 - (c) in person with some members attending remotely.
- (2) A meeting conducted remotely, or with some members attending remotely, must be conducted in a way that all members are able to hear each other.
- (3) The way in which the meeting is conducted does not affect the voting rights of the chairperson or members.
- (4) In this section—

member means—

 - (a) for a meeting of the county council—a councillor, or
 - (b) for a meeting of a committee of the county council—a member of the committee.

Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026 [NSW]
Schedule 1 Amendment of Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

[7] Section 397G

Omit the section.

Insert instead—

397G Conduct of meetings

- (1) A meeting of the board of a joint organisation may be conducted—
 - (a) in person, or
 - (b) remotely, or
 - (c) in person with some representatives attending remotely.
- (2) A meeting conducted remotely, or with some representatives attending remotely, must be conducted in a way that all representatives are able to hear each other.
- (3) The way in which the meeting is conducted does not affect the voting rights of the chairperson or representatives.

CLAUSE **CL15**

TITLE **Questions Taken on Notice**

FROM **Matthew Hansen, Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services**

TRIM REF **26/68053**

SUMMARY

Questions Taken on Notice from 9 June 2026

MINUTES OF THE GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2026

Councillor Dal Bon questioned how the prickly pears will be removed? This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE**.

Council's biosecurity officer is assisting the volunteers with application of chemical approved for prickly pear as well as providing specific advice on how to treat this weed.

Questions Taken on Notice from 16 June 2026

MM01 DISASTER READY FUND (DRF) 2026/27

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Doug Curran and Councillor Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council apply to Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for Yoogali levee Construction – Stage 3 Project.
- (b) Council support the application with \$15,000 for preparatory costs.

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Doug Curran and Councillor Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council apply to Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for Yenda Drainage Network and Flood Pump Project.
- (b) Council support the application with \$15,000 for preparatory costs.

Councillor Testoni asked what the timeframes for completion would be if successful with the grant application. **THIS WAS TAKEN ON NOTICE**.

If the grant is successful, the proposed commencement date is 1 July 2027 with a proposed completion date of December 2028, subject to the final funding arrangements.

This timeframe is based on the use of one small dedicated team to do the entire project one item after the other. If multiple teams are used, and multiple items are completed concurrently the schedule could be compressed.

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**8 April 2025 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JENNY ELLIS**

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady that Council allocate sufficient funds from the cash reserves set aside for the Regional Art Gallery project (currently at \$109K) based on quotes received for the following items and report back to Council:

- (a) Signage for the front of the Gallery - to be designed, manufactured, and installed. (Approximately \$5K)
- (b) New hanging track system - to enhance the display and functionality of exhibition spaces. (Approximately \$10K)
- (c) Repainting of the walls and ceiling of the whole gallery - To refreshen and cover water damaged ceilings (National average: \$60-\$100/ sqm; Gallery is 422sqm therefore up to \$42K).

2/03/2026: Gyprock repairs and painting complete – October 2025.

New hanging system installed – February 2026.

New sign is being designed and costed. Will require development consent. Scheduled for installation in mid-2026.

Councillor Dal Bon requested a final costing for the Art Gallery project. This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE**.

The following update is provided:

Background

Council resolved to allocate funds from the cash reserves set aside for the Regional Art Gallery project (then \$109,000) to cover three items, based on preliminary quotes:

Item	Original Estimate	Status
(a) Exterior signage	~\$5,000	Proposed budget now up to \$15,000
(b) New hanging track system	~\$10,000	Ordered – \$3,460
(c) Repainting of walls and ceiling	Up to ~\$42,000	Completed – \$10,300

Progress to date

- Painting: Completed at a cost of \$10,300, significantly under the original estimate of up to \$42,000.
- Hanging track system: Ordered at a cost of \$3,460. Installation is scheduled for later in the year, once there is a suitable break in the exhibition program and the *Sharing the National Collection* jewellery exhibition (on loan from the National Gallery of Australia) has been removed.
- Signage: The Gallery Coordinator has researched and developed a signage proposal comprising:
 - A 3D, internally lit aluminium-coated sign for the building façade (eastern side), improving day and night visibility and distinguishing the Gallery from the adjacent War Memorial Museum; and
 - 3–4 printed aluminium panels on the upper eastern-facing wall (adjacent to the CWA park) highlighting the Gallery's key programs — Exhibitions,

Programs, and Collections — with potential for artist collaboration on panel design.

The proposed budget for signage is now up to \$15,000, exceeding the original \$5,000 estimate under the Notice of Motion. This is due to the change from vinyl to aluminium signage, which is more durable and weather-resistant and will not fade or deteriorate as quickly as the vinyl signage previously used by the Gallery.

Financial summary

Notwithstanding the increase in the signage estimate, overall expenditure under the Notice of Motion resolution remains within the original budget allocation, due to the significant savings achieved on the painting works and hanging track:

Item	Original Estimate	Actual / Proposed
Painting	Up to \$42,000	\$10,300
Hanging track	\$10,000	\$3,460
Signage	\$5,000	Up to \$15,000
Total	Up to \$57,000	Up to \$28,760

Overall expenditure related to the resolution (painting, hanging track, and signage) will therefore be well under the total amount allocated, with a saving of approximately \$28,000 against the original combined estimate.

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted by Council.

REPORT

Not Applicable

OPTIONS

Not Applicable

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This report has no relevance to the Council's Strategic Plan.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE **CL16**

TITLE **Investments as at 30 April 2026**

FROM **Matthew Hansen, Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services**

TRIM REF **26/71567**

SUMMARY

This report details Council's investments performance at the month of April 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted by Council.

REPORT

In accordance with Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, it is hereby certified that the investments detailed in the attached schedules have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, its Regulations and Council's current Investment Policy and Strategy which were last amended and adopted on 14 July 2023.

Management is striving to continuously build up cash and investment returns to ensure ongoing financial stability, allocate funds to reserves and provide ongoing liquidity into the future.

Note - Of the cash and investments shown in this report:

- 86.63% is externally restricted, i.e., there are binding legal restrictions about how and where Council can use these funds.
- 8.15% is internally restricted, i.e., Council has made a decision to put these funds aside for a specific purpose.
- 5.22% is unrestricted, i.e., Council can use this money for discretionary projects or activities.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Any other Resolution of Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The actions taken comply with Council's current investment policy and strategy, and the Ministerial Order as provided by the NSW Office of Local Government.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

As at 30 April 2026, Council had received a total of **\$3,067,226** in interest coupon payments.

The overall net interest income recognised (when combining both interest received and mark-to-market entries) at 30 April 2026 was **\$3,398,223**. The revised annual budget for 2025/26 is **\$3,173,000**.

Council has a mix of growth and fixed income investments in the portfolio and at certain times growth assets are exposed to equity market fluctuations (volatility) as well as rises in interest rates and may incur non-cash valuation reductions that can impact on reported profits. These are long term assets and Council has no intention of divesting any of these assets when at cyclical lows and therefore crystallising any losses. Invariably, these assets will regain and increase their values over time and they make up a valuable diversity in Council's portfolio overall.

Due to the high volatility across investment markets, it is difficult to obtain cash yields whilst maintaining appropriate diversification of investments and not be exposed to potential fluctuations in the carrying value of these assets. Council's investments are diversified primarily across TCorp Managed Funds, term deposits, fixed income bonds and floating rate notes which are largely determined by the restrictions in place by the Minister's Order. Council's investments are diversified, all highly rated and of high quality.

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor policy or regulatory breach resolved through amended practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Statement of Funds at 30 April 2026   | 129 |
| (b) | Investments Returns Analysis - 12 month Annualised Yields   | 130 |
| (c) | TCorp Monthly Economic Report   | 131 |

(a) Statement of Funds at 30 April, 2026

GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL

Statement of Funds Invested under Section 625 of the Local Government Act, 1993
30 April, 2026

INVESTMENTS

Annual Return	Type	Valuation Balance as at 30 April, 2026	Interest Recognised April, 2026	Revaluation Movements Recognised April, 2026	Fund as a Percentage of Total Investments
Cash/Managed Funds					
2.860%	Pendal Institutional Cash Fund	9,295.18		39.74	0.01%
3.630%	Perpetual Credit Income Fund	1,168,948.79		(3,678.28)	1.55%
7.94%*	NSW Treasury Corp -Long Term Growth Fund	2,082,481.38		81,420.38	2.78%
4.9%*	NSW Treasury Corp -Medium Term Growth Fund	6,466,385.12		131,483.57	8.58%
3.73%*	NSW Treasury Corp - Short Term Income Fund	4,256,504.99	3,828.12	15,433.95	5.63%
2.800%	UBS Cash Management Trust Account	78,040.75	131.44		0.10%
3.500%	ANZ Premium Business Saver Account	8,095.88	23.00		0.01%
Term Deposits					
4.000%	AMP 365 Day Term Deposit Maturity 5/6/26	2,000,000.00	6,886.88		2.65%
4.000%	BOQ 1 Year Term Deposit Maturity 10/6/2026	1,099,763.48	3,665.88		1.48%
4.480%	Westpac Bank 2 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 9/9/2026	3,000,000.00	11,200.00		3.97%
4.150%	NAB 1 Year Term Deposit Maturity 9/9/2026	2,000,000.00	6,916.67		2.65%
4.000%	BOQ 1 Year Term Deposit Maturity 10/6/26	2,000,000.00	6,886.87		2.65%
4.590%	Westpac Bank 18 Month Term Deposit Maturity 30/3/26	3,000,000.00	13,575.00		3.97%
4.550%	Westpac Bank Notice Saver 60 Day	2,867,632.49	10,684.20		3.80%
4.500%	Westpac Bank Notice Saver 31 Day	6,063,383.35	22,343.57		8.03%
5.000%	NAB 3 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 9/10/2026	3,500,000.00	14,583.33		4.63%
4.400%	Rabo Bank 5 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 28/6/2029	2,500,000.00	9,186.67		3.31%
4.430%	Rabo 4 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 2/7/2029	2,000,000.00	7,383.33		2.65%
4.580%	Rabo Bank 5 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 1/7/2030	2,000,000.00	7,633.33		2.65%
5.250%	Rabo Bank 4 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 25/7/2029	2,000,000.00	8,750.00		2.65%
5.190%	NAB 2 Year Term Deposit Maturity 29/6/2026	2,000,000.00	8,650.00		2.65%
5.300%	Rabo Bank 4 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 26/6/2028	2,500,000.00	11,041.66		3.31%
5.060%	Rabo Bank 5 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 14/1/2030	2,000,000.00	8,483.33		2.65%
4.840%	Rabo Bank 3 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 12/01/2029	4,000,000.00	16,133.34		5.30%
5.250%	BankVic 1 Yr Term Deposit Maturity 12/03/2027	2,000,000.00	8,750.00		2.65%
4.250%	Bendigo Adelaide Bank 2 Month Term Deposit Maturity 5/6/2026	2,000,000.00	6,889.85		2.65%
Bank Bonds/Floating Rate Notes #					
1.250%	NSW Treasury Corp Bond (\$2M Face Value) Maturity 20/11/30	1,691,520.00		(400.00)	2.24%
2.000%	NSW Treasury Corp Bond (\$2M Face Value) Maturity 8/3/33	1,621,120.00		(1,880.00)	2.15%
1.750%	Government of the ACT Bond (\$800k Face Value) Maturity 17/5/30	525,758.00		(420.00)	0.70%
4.640%	NAB FRN (\$1.7M Face Value) Maturity 10/05/2027	1,705,185.00		697.00	2.28%
4.450%	NAB FRN (\$1.6M Face Value) Maturity 18/10/2027	1,583,872.00	35,600.00	144.00	2.10%
5.089%	NAB FRN (\$1.6M Face Value) Maturity 18/03/2030	1,609,312.00		2,816.00	2.13%
5.182%	WBC Floating Bond (\$1.5M Face Value) Maturity 21/01/2030	1,509,015.00	16,899.78	2,370.00	2.00%
4.957%	Bendigo Adelaide Bank FRN (\$800k Face Value) Maturity 08/05/2027	803,808.00		200.00	1.06%
5.460%	Maitland Mutual Limited FRN (\$500k Face Value) Maturity 15/05/2028	496,380.00		210.00	0.66%
5.480%	Newcastle Greater Mutual Ltd FRN (\$1.4M Face Value) Maturity 23/01/2	1,394,498.00	17,047.97	28.00	1.85%
	Total	75,540,997.17	262,693.80	228,466.36	100%

*YTD Fund Return

Bank Bonds/Floating Rate Notes will have positive or negative revaluations from month to month. Upon maturity date the principal investment will be paid back in full.

Balance of Griffith City Council Trading Bank Account 26,238,810.06
GHFL/HHF Bank Account Balances 24,282.87

Total Cash & Investments at 30/04/2026 103,804,069.90

RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

Return on Investments Analysis	Actual
Accumulated Return on Investments Brought Forward	2,818,384.83
Interest received on Griffith Health Facilities Limited Bank Accounts YTD April 2026	40.88
Return on Investments for the month of April 2026	491,160.18
Trading Bank Account Interest Received for the month of April 2026	88,636.76
Total Return of Investments YTD April 2026	3,398,222.61

Fund	Original Budget Annual Total	Revised Budget Annual Total	Revised Budget YTD	Actual YTD
Ordinary Fund	1,150,000.00	1,400,000.00	1,168,887.00	1,175,965.22
Water Fund	1,020,000.00	1,020,000.00	850,000.00	1,233,816.90
Sewerage Fund	500,000.00	500,000.00	41,687.00	732,485.13
Waste Fund	250,000.00	250,000.00	208,333.00	251,081.84
Western Riverina Library	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,500.00	4,873.72
Total	2,923,000.00	3,173,000.00	2,269,167.00	3,398,222.61
			Percentage of Year at Report Date	83.33%

In accordance with Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I hereby certify that the investments detailed above are made in accordance with the Local Government Act, its regulations and Council's investment policy adopted on 14 July, 2023.

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

(b) Investments Returns Analysis - 12 month Annualised Yields

INVESTMENT RETURNS ANALYSIS - 12 MONTH ANNUALISED YIELDS			
Month	Average Funds Invested for the month	Return on Investment/ Revaluation Adjustments	Yield %
May-25	\$78,289,264	\$467,698	0.60%
Jun-25	\$78,756,807	\$417,921	0.53%
Jul-25	\$78,909,976	\$296,953	0.38%
Aug-25	\$79,101,138	\$366,819	0.46%
Sep-25	\$79,313,036	\$381,594	0.48%
Oct-25	\$79,488,097	\$364,284	0.46%
Nov-25	\$77,560,632	\$165,065	0.21%
Dec-25	\$74,300,071	\$218,076	0.29%
Jan-26	\$75,842,864	\$283,302	0.37%
Feb-26	\$78,691,421	\$337,994	0.43%
Mar-26	\$79,617,434	-\$84,511	-0.11%
Apr-26	\$78,007,086	\$491,160	0.63%
12 Month Annualised Performance			4.74%
Current Year Performance Jul 25 - Jun 26			3.61%
(Cash basis only, net of fees)			



April 2026
Published: 1 May 2026

Monthly economic report

The global economy

Financial markets continue to be dominated by developments in the Iran war. Investor optimism was boosted in the first half of April by the announced ceasefire, which saw oil prices fall, and global equity markets rise strongly. Sentiment weakened in the second half of the month as hopes for an imminent end to the conflict waned, with oil prices rising and some of the risk-on moves earlier in the month partly unwound.

Despite investors being cautiously optimistic, the Strait of Hormuz remains closed. As countries scramble to secure oil and refined fuels, inventories globally are being run down. This is more severe for some sectors, such as jet fuel in Europe, which has seen European airlines significantly reduce flights. Asian economies have also introduced fuel conservation measures, including reducing business operating hours and limiting energy use. Some countries have also introduced bans on the export of refined fuels to preserve supply for domestic use. The risk of additional countries introducing export bans increases as the conflict continues, which is a key risk for Australia as we import almost all our oil and refined fuel.

Sharp rises in the price of oil and other fuels have seen inflation globally spike higher. For example, the US experienced the largest monthly rise in gasoline prices in March since 1935. Australian petrol prices rose by 33% in March and diesel prices rose by 41%. Timely survey data for April shows that businesses globally are facing rapidly escalating input costs because of the war. Price pressures are being felt on a broad range of items and industries, including transport, construction, travel and manufacturing (as many manufactured and household goods use plastics that are derived from petroleum products). Australian businesses have started announcing price increases in response, ranging from large temporary surcharges to permanent price rises.

Consumer confidence globally has plummeted since the war started, with households concerned about higher petrol prices, high inflation and – in many cases – higher interest rates. The risk of a sharp slowdown in consumer spending increases the longer the conflict drags on.

The Australian economy

March quarter inflation data was broadly as expected, with headline inflation rising by 1.4% and trimmed mean inflation increasing by 0.8%. Fuel prices accounted for almost all the increase in inflation in the month of March (1ppt out of the 1.1% increase). Most of the announced price increases will start to flow through in the June quarter and beyond, broadening the inflationary impact of the oil price shock.

Investors see a 75% chance that the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) will raise rates again at its May meeting, and once or twice more in the remainder of this year. The RBA is concerned that inflation expectations and wages growth will permanently increase if the war pushes inflation higher, as it was already elevated before the conflict.

With consumer and business confidence plummeting, the RBA will be balancing the risk of higher inflation with downside risks to growth and the labour market from a prolonged conflict. Indeed, the minutes from the RBA's March Board meeting, where rates were increased in a 5-4 decision, showed that several Board members had doubts about whether the Bank needed to raise rates.

Financial market commentary

Improved risk sentiment saw strong gains in global equity markets and the US dollar weaken. While bond markets were more stable in April, yields rose moderately in most economies.

Equity markets (performance in local currency, excluding dividends)

Following sharp falls in March, most global equity markets rose strongly in April. The MSCI All Countries excluding Australia rose by 9.5% and the MSCI Emerging Markets index gained 14.5%. Investor optimism was buoyed by the ceasefire, with markets not expecting the conflict to result in severe or long-lasting economic damage.

Equity markets in Japan and the US rose particularly strongly in April, gaining 16% and 10% respectively, with both markets now above their pre-conflict levels. US equities have been boosted by a strong corporate earnings reporting season and large gains in AI-related stocks.

Australia's equity market underperformed most other advanced economies, rising by 2.2% in April, but was supported by strong gains in mining stocks. In contrast to the US, where the S&P500 ended the month almost 5% above its pre-war level, equity markets in Australia, Europe and the UK are still 5-7% below their pre-war levels.

Bond yields

Bond yields rose slightly in most economies in April, following sharp increases in March as investors priced in higher interest rates in response to the inflationary shock. Australian 10-year bond yields rose 9bps in April and are 40bps above their pre-conflict level (as are bond yields in the US, Germany and Japan).

Consistent with the improved risk sentiment in April, the spread between 10-year TCorp bonds and Australian Commonwealth Government bonds narrowed by 4bps, to 59bps.

Unlike in Australia, central banks in other advanced economies are waiting to see how the conflict unfolds before adjusting interest rates. While central banks are alert to the risk of higher inflation becoming embedded in their economies, they won't need to raise rates if the conflict results in a sharp slowing in economic growth. This has led central banks to take a 'wait and see' approach, as the risks to economic activity will rapidly increase if energy shortages intensify.

Currency and commodity markets

The Brent crude oil price trended lower in the first half of April as optimism around the ceasefire took hold, though prices rose throughout the second half of the month. Oil prices reached US\$126/bbl intraday on 30 April – the highest level since the war began. The spread between prices of refined fuels and oil (e.g. diesel, jet fuel) remains elevated. The price of urea, a key ingredient in fertiliser, rose sharply further in April as shortages intensified.

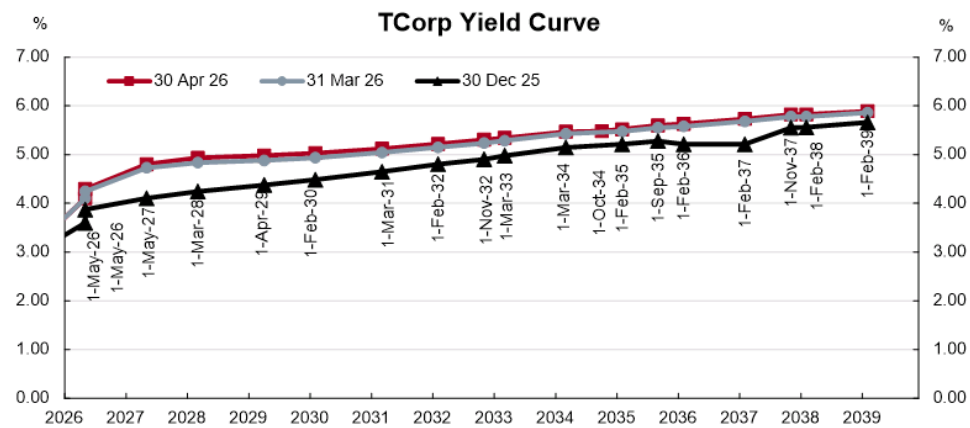
The Australian dollar rose by 4.4% against the US dollar, reaching US\$0.72 – it's strongest level since 2022. Aside from the positive risk sentiment in April, the Australian dollar has been supported by stronger commodity prices and higher interest rates in Australia (that are expected to rise further).

In contrast, the Japanese Yen depreciated further against the US dollar towards the end of April, prompting Japanese authorities to intervene in the market to support the Yen. However, Japan's weaker terms of trade (because of the high prices of imported energy) and relatively low interest rates are likely to keep downward pressure on the Yen, at least in the near term.

Financial market performance

Currency markets	Previous	Month	Month	Month	Month
April 2026	month close	high	low	close	change
AUD/USD	0.690	0.720	0.706	0.720	4.4% ▲
AUD/EUR	0.597	0.614	0.603	0.614	2.8% ▲
AUD/JPY	109.52	114.62	112.51	112.76	3.0% ▲
AUD/GBP	0.522	0.531	0.525	0.529	1.5% ▲
AUD/BRL	3.575	3.581	3.536	3.568	-0.2% ▼
AUD/INR	65.42	68.35	65.51	68.35	4.5% ▲
AUD/CNY	4.757	4.917	4.824	4.917	3.4% ▲
Equity markets*	Previous	Month	Month	Month	Month
April 2026	month close	high	low	close	change
MSCI World ex Australia	4379	4795	4597	4795	9.5% ▲
MSCI Emerging Markets	1397	1630	1536	1600	14.5% ▲
S&P/ASX200	8482	8979	8666	8666	2.2% ▲
S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries	3325	3561	3433	3434	3.3% ▲
S&P500 (US)	6529	7209	6817	7209	10.4% ▲
FTSE 100 (UK)	10176	10668	10213	10379	2.0% ▲
Stoxx600 (Europe)	583	627	603	611	4.8% ▲
DAX (Germany)	22680	24702	23742	24292	7.1% ▲
CAC 40 (France)	7817	8425	8072	8115	3.8% ▲
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	51064	60537	56503	59285	16.1% ▲
Hang Seng (HK)	24788	26487	25661	25777	4.0% ▲
Shanghai Composite (China)	3892	4112	3986	4112	5.7% ▲
Bovespa (Brazil)	187462	198657	184750	187318	-0.1% ▼
IPC (Mexico)	68611	70084	67097	67858	-1.1% ▼
S&P/BSE Sensex (India)	71948	79273	76664	76914	6.9% ▲
*Returns are in local currency, and exclude dividend payments					
Bond markets (%)	Previous	Month	Month	Month	Month
April 2026	month close	high	low	close	change
RBA Official Cash Rate	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	0.00 –
90 Day Bank Bill	4.31	4.39	4.32	4.37	0.07 ▲
180 Day Bank Bill	4.78	4.78	4.71	4.77	-0.01 ▼
New institutional term deposits	3.90	4.00	3.90	4.00	0.10 ▲
3 Year CGS Bond	4.65	4.76	4.56	4.76	0.11 ▲
10 Year CGS Bond	4.97	5.06	4.91	5.06	0.09 ▲
10 Year US Bond	4.32	4.43	4.25	4.37	0.05 ▲
10 Year German Bond	3.00	3.11	2.96	3.04	0.03 ▲
10 Year Japanese Bond	2.35	2.53	2.39	2.53	0.17 ▲

TCorp bonds (%)	Previous month close	Month high	Month low	Month close	Month change
April 2026					
20-May-26	4.25	4.29	4.16	4.29	0.05 ▲
20-May-27	4.73	4.80	4.65	4.80	0.07 ▲
20-Mar-28	4.83	4.93	4.73	4.93	0.10 ▲
20-Apr-29	4.88	4.98	4.77	4.98	0.10 ▲
20-Feb-30	4.94	5.03	4.82	5.03	0.09 ▲
20-Mar-31	5.04	5.12	4.93	5.12	0.08 ▲
20-Feb-32	5.15	5.22	5.03	5.22	0.07 ▲
22-Nov-32	5.24	5.30	5.12	5.30	0.07 ▲
08-Mar-33	5.28	5.34	5.16	5.34	0.06 ▲
20-Mar-34	5.43	5.47	5.30	5.47	0.04 ▲
17-Oct-34	--	5.48	5.30	5.48	-- --
20-Feb-35	5.47	5.52	5.35	5.52	0.04 ▲
20-Sep-35	5.55	5.60	5.43	5.60	0.05 ▲
20-Feb-36	5.58	5.63	5.47	5.63	0.05 ▲
20-Feb-37	5.68	5.73	5.57	5.73	0.05 ▲
20-Nov-37	5.78	5.82	5.67	5.82	0.04 ▲
24-Feb-38	5.78	5.82	5.67	5.82	0.04 ▲
22-Feb-39	5.86	5.89	5.76	5.89	0.03 ▲
CIB 2.50% 20 Nov 35	3.00	2.97	2.87	2.92	-0.08 ▼



Source: TCorp

Commodity markets (US\$)	Previous month close	Month high	Month low	Month close	Month change
April 2026					
Brent Oil (per barrel)	118.4	118.0	90.4	114.0	-3.7% ▼
Iron Ore (per tonne)	107.5	108.0	105.1	107.2	-0.3% ▼

TCorp forecasts	Jun-26	Dec-26	Jun-27	Dec-27
RBA Official Cash Rate	4.35	4.35	3.85	3.35
90 Day Bank Bill	4.50	4.25	3.75	3.25
10 Year CGS Bond	4.75	4.50	4.00	4.00



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CLAUSE **CL17**

TITLE **2026 NSW Local Roads Congress**

FROM **Tony O'Grady, Councillor**

TRIM REF **26/87682**

SUMMARY

The 2026 NSW Local Roads Congress was held in NSW Parliament House in Sydney on Monday, 1 June 2026. Council was represented by Councillor Tony O'Grady and the Director of Infrastructure & Operations, Mr Phil King.

The Local Roads Congress is offered by the Roads and Transport Directorate, a joint initiative between the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) NSW and Local Government NSW (LGNSW) to optimise roads and transport outcomes. The Directorate acts as a focus for research activities, provides technical advice to assist member councils and makes submissions on behalf of its members.

This congress offered an opportunity for Councillor O'Grady to speak directly with NSW politicians during both the lunch break and the gathering after the conference. He was also able to connect with other councillors to discuss road and transport related issues.

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted by Council.

REPORT

The theme for the conference was "Shaping Policies for Stronger Communities".

The Welcome to Country was presented by Uncle Allen Madden of the Gadigal People from the Eora Nation. The MC for the event was Mr The Hon David Elliot CEO of the NSW Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia (IPWEA). The opening address was presented by the NSW IPWEA President, Mr Grant Baker (GM, Bland Shire Council), included a thanks to the many NSW Ministers and shadow ministers that would attend the congress during the day on the programme. Grant outlined the importance for the congress to communicate before the next NSW election. He highlighted that there have been a record number of appearances by the NSW IPWEA before various NSW enquiries and he reminded the congress that Councils can actively shape the local road network and build stronger connected communities through engagement with NSW government and their influence on the State Government budget allocation.

The welcome address from LGNSW was presented by, Cr Khal Asfour, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Vice President Metro Local Government NSW. Cr Asfour explained that LGNSW values the strong relationship with the IPWEA Roads Directorate. And highlighted that our communities depend on a reliable road network, this has been brought into sharp focus with the closure of the Great Western Hwy. It is the Council's bearing the brunt of the closure, while acknowledging that the road is a state managed road, the local communities are hurting. Councils are responsible for 85% of the road network in NSW and the infrastructure backlog is significant. LGNSW has recently called on the NSW Government to fund the infrastructure backlog, there is need to renew the existing funding grants, and also

for the re-categorisation of the state road network. He highlighted that the review of the roads Act has been welcome, but LGNSW is concerned that there is a possible cost shift that Council's might be expected to pick up. There needs to be regulatory reform, budget allocation and support for NSW local road infrastructure. We all know how important the local road network is, getting to school and work and doing all of the daily business that keeps our communities sustainable.

The first presentation for the congress was from **Josh Devitt, Chief Engineer, Roads & Transport Directorate, IPWEA** who gave an overview of the 2025 communiqué. There were 32 items in the communiqué and each of these were assessed against 5 criteria: Meaningful progress, minimal progress, ongoing, no data, No progress. Only 2 items had made meaningful progress "Ensure the program guidelines for the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program allow for equal consideration of projects proposing to upgrade or replace bridges on the local road network." and also "Provide clearer delegation of authority for NSW councils as part of the Roads Act Review, providing councils greater freedom to make decisions in relation to the roads they manage, such as the reduction of speed limits." Unfortunately speed limits are still out of reach for Council's although advocacy will continue. The Keynote Address was presented by **The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Roads, Minister for Regional transport**. The minister firstly highlighted her own background as a heavy vehicle operator, and that her family still drive heavy vehicles, and that safety on the roads is of keen interest to her. She also congratulated the IPWEA for their work building the core framework that helps Council's and the state government connect.

Firstly she spoke of the AusRap data that has now been released, and that NSW was the first jurisdiction to release this data. There are projects in every local government area that constituents are interested in. The development of integrated transport plans has been consulted across the entire spectrum and they recognise that the roads are all used differently by every user. It was important to talk to MP's state and federal as well as all of the stakeholders in local government. The minister highlighted the Asset AI project and recognised that this was a great program to support and see the cost reductions by up to 75% of inspection costs. One of the biggest things that the minister was proud of is the work done to close the gap between the funding for natural disasters in the tripartite agreements. One of the other gaps was between the knowledge and technical know-how for the different the agencies. There has been significant investment in the road maintenance for potholes. \$1.25billion spend on regional roads for regular maintenance over the last budget. The Mitchell Causeway received a bit of attention from the minister and an explanation that this section of road had been critically underfunded over the past 10years.

Mark Coure MP, Member for Oatley, Shadow Minister for Roads provided the opposition's response to the keynote address, and stated that Local government plays a huge role in local roads across NSW. He said it is right to say that the local roads underpin the economic success of our state. NSW is entering one of the most consequential periods of infrastructure investment in this state's history. There is a discipline required to build a network fit for the future, not just maintain what we have. Roads are not merely physical assets they are essential to the success of our state. When roads begin to fail, public confidence fails in the government. The NRMA backlog report indicates that \$3.4billion is not being funded for road infrastructure maintenance. The network is experiencing mounting structural pressures. While freight movements are intensified, the road will continue to deteriorate. There are significant fiscal constraints facing Councils, and they are doing their best, but are continually under resourced. Many in our local areas have the belief that the road network is being neglected. The long term reconstruction is being put on hold and maintenance patching is all that Councils can often do. The pothole problem shows that reactive repairs are not enough, and that underlying structural deterioration hasn't been addressed.

Both speakers stayed on for a Questions and Answer Session and it was very interesting to see the Minister for Roads complete knowledge of so many matters.

The next speaker was **Dr Geoff Allan, CEO AustRoads**, who spoke on **Supporting Improved Transport Outcomes for Local Government**. Dr Allan explained that AustRoads had 11 member agencies, and that what they do includes research, publishing guides, digital services, uplifting industrial capability and aiming for National Consistency. He explained that this matters because Local Governments manage large, complex road networks with constrained budgets, and have to provide consistent, evidence based approaches to their own particular areas. Dr Allan briefly skimmed over the 12 major guides that AustRoads has produced. One of the more interesting topic that Dr Allan spoke about was the webinar titled “Unlocking the Potential of Telematics Analytics Platform for Local Governments” (see this link for more information <https://austroads.gov.au/publications/freight/web-taplq-25>)

The national telematics Framework provides a standardised and harmonised way to collect movement and mass data from approved telematics devices installed on vehicles. This includes over 20,000 vehicles. The TAP provides secure access to assist with enhancing road safety, improve road network performance, support asset management and transport planning and helps Councils to make more informed infrastructure decisions.

After lunch, **Scott Greenow, Executive Director Freight, from Transport for NSW** spoke about **Automated Asset Assessment Project**. Mr Greenow provided some background about the updated HVAP published in September 2024, which offers strategic approach to heavy vehicle access on critical regional and local roads.

The Fundamental principles are:

Safe (zero road trauma by 2050)

Sustainable (freight transport that delivers net zero emissions by 2050),

Productive (optimised connected, end to end networks).

These will minimise cost to government while considering commercial sustainability for industry.

The aim is to maximise existing networks through efficiency and utilisation - innovative vehicles, telematics and data, agile and resilient networks, streamlined access and strong partnerships. Automated access provides an opportunity to streamline the process for road access: A step change in Road access, compare the vehicle requirements and compare with the capability of the road network. Automated access takes the detail of the vehicle and then applies that to the decision to ensure instantaneous access.

Local Government data collection, target key freight networks first, capturing baseline set of asset data, focus on road geometry and structures, working with multiple engineering service.

The challenge has been the size of the vehicles, and these vehicles still use the same trailer on the end of the train. The challenge will require some bridge strengthening. If the access decision has become lineball, for example at a bridge limit, it is recommended to go for it, and then monitor the vehicles through telematics.

There are multiple benefits to industry, road managers, asset owners, community.

The industry might purchase some steerable Axels and fit them to an existing combination. The monitoring can be directed to funding bids or send through to NHVR for compliance. Asset Owners will see the maximum sustainable use, risk-based network maintenance, improved road safety. Community will see improved road safety with reduced environmental impact from freight movement.

The next step will be to seek additional funding over three years from FY27, with final business case requirements, Continued engagement with NAAS project team, finalising the data collection with participating councils, ongoing review and development of technology solutions for automating and improving road access for heavy vehicles.

Alejandra Torres, Sustainable Engagement Officer, Environmental Sustainability, Waverley Council presented on **Sustainable Council Procurement**. Ale presented that climate risks are affecting infrastructure, increasing expectations from government and communities, rising construction and maintenance costs. At Waverley there were roads that collapsed, and millions of dollars damage to Council infrastructure. Infrastructure produces the highest amount of emissions in a council. The big internal shift was the organisation gap analysis. There were 6 key areas, Procurement, Events, Resilience, Leadership, HR & L&D, Infrastructure. The highest impact was in Procurement and Infrastructure. The result was more collaborative, and changed the dialog to adopt sustainable practices.

There was a sustainable policy / a circular policy, but the better answer is to have one policy - Procurement Policy, which had a number of advantages, including value for dollar. There was also threat and opportunity scoring to analyse the way that the suppliers operate. There was a minimal 10% sustainable score, Contract Management matters, KPI's, Reporting, Accountability, Evidence.

Alexandra Lyle, Transport Planning Director from **Transport for NSW** spoke about the **Roads Recategorisation project**. Six months on from the launch of the Road Classification Review Framework, councils are actively using the framework, proposals are progressing, and valuable insights are emerging. This is now an ongoing business-as-usual program, designed to support evidence-based decisions about road classifications and network function.

Road classifications influence how roads are managed, maintained, planned and funded. However, road function can change quickly due to housing growth, freight demands, Renewable Energy Zones, new infrastructure and changing travel patterns. The framework provides a consistent process to assess when classifications may need to change so they better reflect how the network is being used.

Following council feedback, the program has moved to a more flexible operating model. Rather than fixed application periods, councils can engage at any time through a clear, criteria-based process. This allows for stronger proposals supported by better evidence and reduces the pressure of submission deadlines.

Since launch, 102 councils have registered, with strong participation across metropolitan and regional NSW. The self-assessment tool is being widely used, and common themes are emerging around housing growth, freight, REZs, resilience, motorway impacts and regional development. Importantly, the focus is not simply on transferring roads. Opportunities also exist for route swaps and other changes that improve network outcomes.

The strongest proposals clearly explain the strategic context, demonstrate the road's role within the broader network and provide strong supporting evidence. Early engagement, collaboration and a network-wide perspective consistently lead to better outcomes.

A key lesson has been the shift from discussing road ownership to understanding road function. The framework recognises that road function is shaped by the network, not just an individual road segment. Councils can strengthen proposals by engaging early, using the self-assessment tool to support analysis, collaborating across council boundaries and focusing on roads with the strongest network case.

Transport for NSW and councils each bring valuable knowledge to the process. By working together and focusing on evidence and network outcomes, we can ensure road

classifications continue to reflect the changing needs of communities, industry and the broader transport network across NSW.

The next presentation came from **Nikki Cassar, Partner Statewide Mutual - Mills & Oakley** who spoke on **Liability of Road Authorities**. Nikki addressed the proposed changes to the Roads Act raise important considerations regarding the liability of road authorities. While there is no dispute that road authorities owe a duty of care to road users and are required to exercise reasonable care to ensure roads are safe for ordinary use, they are not obliged to guarantee absolute safety in all circumstances.

A key protection for road authorities remains section 45 of the Civil Liability Act 2002, which provides a special non-feasance defence. Under this provision, a roads authority is generally not liable for failing to carry out road work unless it had actual knowledge of the particular risk that caused the harm. Importantly, this protection applies specifically to roads authorities, including councils and Transport for NSW. The concept of "road work" is broadly defined and includes activities affecting roads, footpaths and nature strips that facilitate the use of the road. For example, a council may be protected where it has no actual knowledge that tree roots have created a footpath hazard, whereas hazards unrelated to road work, such as a falling tree branch, may fall outside the protection.

The courts have interpreted "actual knowledge" narrowly. In *North Sydney Council v Roman*, the Court of Appeal held that actual knowledge must exist in the mind of an officer with delegated authority to arrange the necessary repairs. Knowledge held by employees without relevant authority is insufficient. While section 45 provides a significant defence, councils should not rely solely on statutory protections. Section 42 of the Civil Liability Act sets out principles relating to the financial and operational constraints of public authorities, including the reality that resources are limited and must be allocated across a broad range of responsibilities. However, these principles are not a defence in themselves, and councils cannot simply justify inaction by citing a lack of resources. Asset management plans and maintenance programs should therefore be realistic, achievable and adequately resourced, as courts will consider evidence of compliance with established procedures, policies and standards.

Councils should also carefully assess and document the costs and benefits of risk mitigation measures. Decision-making processes that demonstrate a reasonable balancing of risk, cost and available resources are more likely to withstand scrutiny. Further protection is provided by section 43A, which recognises that liability should be assessed against what another reasonable roads authority might have done in the same circumstances, rather than what a court may consider ideal in hindsight. This principle was reinforced in *Curtis v Harden Shire Council*, where the court focused on whether the council's actions were consistent with the practices that could reasonably be adopted by comparable councils. Collectively, these provisions emphasise the importance of sound governance, documented decision-making and realistic asset management in managing liability exposure for road authorities.

Nathan Skelly, Asset AI Project Manager, Roads & Transport Directorate spoke next on the **Asset AI Benefits Realisation**. Griffith is currently using Asser AI and this presentation pointed out a number of opportunities for inspections and the reduced cost of inspection per km.

The final presentation for the day was from **Josh Devitt, Chief Engineer, Roads & Transport Directorate, IPWEA** who spoke on the **Asset Management Maturity**. Consultation with councils was undertaken through a two-tier engagement process comprising a statewide questionnaire (Tier 1) and individual council workshops (Tier 2). The consultation revealed that councils are collectively managing a diverse portfolio of assets, with respondents identifying 52 different asset classes. Despite this complexity, only 58% of councils reported having completed an asset maturity assessment. Overall, 45% of councils rated their asset management maturity as being at a basic level, indicating that many

organisations are still developing a comprehensive understanding of their assets, associated risks and long-term management requirements. Consistent with this finding, only around half of surveyed councils agreed or strongly agreed that they had a good understanding of their asset management systems and practices.

The consultation also highlighted opportunities for greater collaboration and knowledge sharing across local government. While there was interest in learning from peer councils and adopting proven practices, many councils indicated a preference to independently evaluate systems and processes before implementation. Funding emerged as the most significant barrier to advancing asset management maturity, with many councils identifying resource constraints as an obstacle to implementing more comprehensive systems. The survey was distributed to both executive leaders and asset management practitioners, and the responses suggested that executive officers were often less aware of the status and capability of their council's asset management systems than operational staff.

A key learning from the consultation was the need for stronger integration between Asset Management Plans (AMPs) and Long-Term Financial Plans (LTFPs). Improving this alignment was identified as critical to ensuring that asset management decisions are financially sustainable and support long-term service delivery outcomes. In response, guidance material will be developed to assist councils in preparing and integrating these strategic planning documents. Additional support initiatives will include the development of IPWEA-led starter services, practical tools to assist councils with risk management, and improved approaches to capital works handover that incorporate a stronger lifecycle management perspective. These initiatives are intended to help councils strengthen asset management capability, improve decision-making and better manage infrastructure over its full life cycle.

The last task for the Congress was to set the goals for the 2026 congress communiqué, see attached.

OPTIONS

As per the Recommendation

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Attendance to the congress was funded through Councillors Conference Budget and the staff training Budget

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 2.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with community, government and non-government agencies to benefit our community.

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 6.2 Maintain and develop an effective transport network (airport, public roads, pathways, pedestrian accesses and transport corridors) for Griffith and villages.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) 2026 NSW Local Roads Congress Communiqué [!\[\]\(759bc677d33e8a1ea435ce235f7aa6c7_img.jpg\)](#) 

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The NSW Roads and Transport Directorate (RTD), a joint initiative between Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and the NSW Division of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA NSW and ACT), is pleased to present the 2026 Local Roads Congress Communiqué.

Over 120 delegates, encompassing mayors, elected council officials and council executive staff gathered with State Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers at NSW Parliament House on 1st June 2026 to attend the 2026 Local Roads Congress. The discussions and presentations from the Congress inform the advocacy focus of the Roads & Transport Directorate over the next 12 months which is outlined in this communiqué.

Under the theme of 'Shaping Policies for Stronger Communities', congress delegates identified the following list of recommendations as key priorities for Local, State and Federal governments to improve the NSW local road network.

NSW Local Government

The Congress supports a commitment from NSW Local Government to:

- i. Prioritise funding of local road infrastructure to address the current annual shortfall and improve the condition of road assets.
- ii. Investigate AI technology solutions, as a means of improving the efficiency of road maintenance, road safety and natural disaster assessment activities.
- iii. Recognise that rural and regional councils maintain extensive road networks that support state and national economic activity and require a funding model that reflects road length, freight task and economic importance, not simply population.
- iv. Develop and implement integrated local road network plans aligned with federal, state and regional plans, considering critical infrastructure, resilience, local transport needs, asset and risk management, road safety, freight, delivery and operation.
- v. Develop and align Asset Management Plans and Long-Term Financial Plans that fully incorporate service levels, lifecycle costs, and risk.

NSW Government

The Congress calls on the NSW Government to:

- i. Review the Fixing Local Roads Program with an annual allocation aligned to the Roads to Recovery distribution formula to provide greater certainty and allow improved short-medium term infrastructure planning by NSW Local Government.

- ii. Ensure natural disaster funding arrangements allow resilience improvements to be included as a part of restoration works and provide dedicated funding for proactive betterment works to improve the overall resilience of the network.
- iii. Explore funding options to support councils in replacing ageing causeways and concrete, steel and composite bridges.
- iv. Support implementation of integrated local road network plans aligned to federal, state and regional plans, considering critical infrastructure, resilience, local transport needs, asset and risk management, road safety, freight, delivery and operation.
- v. Partner with councils to deliver and fund supporting transport infrastructure in areas where the NSW Government has rezoned for higher housing density. This includes road maintenance, traffic and parking management, and upgrades to the local road network to meet demand.

Australian and NSW Government

The Congress calls on the Australian and NSW Governments to work together with NSW Local Governments to address the following:

- i. An increase in base funding support for Local Government to address the current funding shortfall of road assets, and a corresponding reduction in individual competitive grants.
- ii. Reduce cost shifting to local governments, particularly those associated with the provision and ongoing care of local road assets servicing large-scale economic generators and state significant developments.
- iii. The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) collaborate to streamline natural disaster funding and assessment requirements, including a maximum limit of 6 months to finalise agreements or claims from councils.
- iv. Restore the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) to address roads maintenance and defect backlogs.

Australian Government

The Congress calls on the Australian Governments to:

- i. Increase Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of Commonwealth Tax Revenue and review the funding allocation to ensure an equitable distribution.
- ii. Increase the annual Roads to Recovery Program allocations to align with the construction cost index and the growth in the road asset base, ensuring funding levels are maintained in real terms.
- iii. Provide increased, long-term and predictable funding for local and regional roads, prioritising safety, congestion reduction, freight resilience, and growing communities. This also includes simplifying grant application and reporting processes to reduce administrative burdens on councils.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2026 COMMENCING AT 2:00 PM**

PRESENT

Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran, Councillor Scott Groat (Chair), Councillor Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate), Josh Stanbury (NSW SES), Michael Borg (NSW SES), Joseph Dal Broi (Community Representative), John Kerrigan (Community Representative), Steve Manwaring (DCCEEW via Zoom), Steve Mortlock (Community Representative), Ian Parisotto (Community Representative), Paul Rossetto (Community Representative), Daniel Williams, Torrent Consulting (via Zoom)

Representatives from Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) by Invitation:

Philip Holliday, Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Pasquetti, Chief Operating Officer, Chris Palmer, Manager Water Delivery

STAFF

General Manager, Scott Grant, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Water and Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary, Graduate Stormwater & Flood Engineer, Anthony Portolesi, Minute Taker, Leanne Austin

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Lindsay Golsby-Smith (MI).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Parisotto suggested the Committee consider amendments to the Minutes in relation to statements he made regarding CL04 Correspondence from Committee Members.

Mr Grant raised a Point of Order, noting to the Committee that minutes are not intended to serve as a verbatim transcript of meeting discussions. Instead, the minutes should reflect the Committee's intent and clearly record any actions or recommendations arising from those discussions.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Kerrigan and Michael Borg that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 March 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

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

Ian Parisotto

Reason - Exit Ramp at EMR.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members 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.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

Paul Rossetto

Reason – Representing 1,500 residents of Yenda & District severely impacted in 2012 Flood.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 PRESENTATION BY MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (MI)

Mr Pasquetti provided an overview of MI's role, capabilities and coordination during flood events.

The presentation referenced the 2012 flood event, learnings and improvements implemented since that time. Key points included:

- Enhanced coordination and collaboration between MI, Griffith City Council, SES and other agencies with clearer roles and responsibilities.
- Improved flood planning, response frameworks and defined emergency breaching protocols which provide more information and assist with informed decision making.
- Introduction of more resilient and remotely operated infrastructure upstream and downstream (Floodgates at East Mirrool Regulator). Able to go from fully open to fully closed in a short time, increased resistance to pressure, stronger level of control and responsiveness in flood conditions.
- Greater system capacity and controls.
- Increased use of Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecasting, monitoring and early activation to support decision-making.

MI outlined its operational role during flood events, including monitoring, activation of internal procedures, supporting agencies through infrastructure operations and providing technical expertise.

Mirrool Creek is subject to ongoing maintenance by MI, including inspections, vegetation management and access track works, although there are some constraints due to environmental approval requirements. MI advised that it continues to carry out vegetation and drainage management across its network. Main Drain J is undergoing regular maintenance, with a more structured maintenance program in development.

MI noted the breaching protocol is Council-endorsed, with MI responsible for operational

implementation. The Committee raised concerns regarding the ability to safely control a breach, timeframes for implementation under rapid flood onset conditions and operator safety during breach execution. MI confirmed reliance on forecasting, preparation and established procedures, noting variability depending on conditions. Internal procedures are in place to support safe and controlled execution, including planning, risk assessment and early deployment of equipment.

Other factors raised included:

- Consideration of additional infrastructure solutions (additional gates, increased cross-flow capacity) rather than reliance on temporary breaching.
- Opportunities to improve infrastructure capacity at East Mirrool Regulator and the broader network.
- Vegetation, siltation and flow restrictions at various locations (Widgelli Crossing, McNamara Road, Benerembah) impacting flood movement.
- Request for further investigation into drainage constraints and potential improvements.
- Maintenance responsibility for siphons (confirmed as MI) as well as the condition and life expectancy of siphons with further inspections planned.
- Status of pipeline repairs and canal works.

Discussion was held regarding funding constraints and opportunities for joint funding between MI and Council. MI indicated willingness to collaborate but noted limitations due to funding criteria and availability as well as competing priorities.

Actions:

- MI advised they would provide mapping/visual information of drainage channels and infrastructure (taken on notice).
- MI to investigate concerns regarding vegetation, siltation and flow restrictions in identified areas.
- MI to provide further information on the inspections of the existing siphons at the EMR once carried out.

Representatives from MI left the meeting at 2:50 pm.

CL02 LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY - RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

Mr Williams provided an overview of the submissions received and progress of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study. A high level response has been prepared for Council.

- More detail will be added regarding irrigation history and its impact on flood behaviour.
- Data limitations were identified including lack of contemporary elevation data across the catchment and existing datasets pre-dating significant landform changes.
- Moving forward, consultants will use modelling to develop options not reliant on exact terrain accuracy.
- Data sets include LiDAR data (currently available but at low resolution), consultants are trying to source raw data and MI photogrammetry dataset. Challenges are that the data is not contemporary and may not cover the Lake Wyangan area required.

The next stage will focus on testing flood mitigation options and developing feasible, cost-effective solutions. The consultants will update the Flood Study document to incorporate responses the community has raised and provide formal responses to submissions.

Community consultation will be undertaken during the next stage of the process to present initial mitigation options, inviting community input and co-designing of potential solutions.

Discussion was held regarding significant runoff observed in the upper and mid catchments with water flowing through old creek beds. This suggests that rainfall data may not have been fully captured due to the limited rain gauge network.

Mr Gordon advised the Committee could advocate to the Bureau of Meteorology to provide more rain gauge stations so the modelling is more effective.

Multiple scenarios will be modelled in the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan considering performance, cost and impact. The Committee will then prioritise projects dependant on available funding.

Potential scenarios to be considered include:

- Diverting water away from Lake Wyangan (towards Tharbogang Swamp area).
- Formalising drainage through farmland.
- Controlling flows into Lake Wyangan via infrastructure.

Mr Williams left the meeting at 3:08 pm.

Mr Gordon explained that housing developments have been designed based on flood modelling and elevation analysis. New flood planning levels will be incorporated into planning controls and development requirements based on the outcomes of this study process.

CL03 CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Parisotto requested his letter dated 15 March 2026, addressed to the Floodplain Management Committee, be forwarded to the SES Deputy Commissioner of Operations.

Mr Grant stated his concerns about the content of the letter and raised the issue that Mr Parisotto had a pecuniary conflict of interest in the matter which prohibited him from participating in the debate on this matter. Members of the Committee were reminded that it is a requirement that if a member has a pecuniary interest they are required to not participate in the debate and leave the room.

Mr Grant further stated that the letter was a personal view and had not been endorsed by the Committee.

Mr Stanbury advised he would forward the letter from Mr Parisotto as a personal comment not on behalf of the Committee.

Michael Borg left the meeting at 3.23 pm.

Mr Rossetto referred to correspondence provided by him dated 14 May 2026 and moved a motion that Council commission a geotechnical soil survey of the entire proposed site of Council's endorsed emergency breaching protocol.

Mr Rossetto moved a Point of Order requesting that the Chair ask for a seconder for the motion before allowing Mr Gordon to respond.

Paul Rossetto and John Kerrigan MOVED the MOTION that Council commission a geotechnical soil survey of the entire proposed site of Council's endorsed emergency breaching protocol.

Mr Gordon stated it was not Council's role to interfere with MI infrastructure. Council is the flood authority however MI the owner of the supply channel and is responsible for

undertaking a risk assessment and plan to conduct the required breach safely and reinstate the supply channel once there is no more flooding risk.

Mr Rossetto disagreed and asked what the Director was afraid of. The Chair raised a Point of Order. Mr Rossetto objected and continued to debate at which time the Mayor reminded Mr Rossetto that the Chair had the floor.

Mr Rossetto left the meeting at 3:31 pm. He then returned a short time later and tendered his resignation. Mr Rossetto left the meeting at 3:32 pm and did not return.

The Committee discussed the need to prioritise projects based on what will most likely affect the community, aiming to reduce flooding for the greatest number of people first, while still respecting agricultural impacts.

Discussion took place regarding the estimated cost of a geotechnical soil survey and that MI would have to agree to this request.

A vote on the motion was PUT and LOST.

Councillor Testoni suggested MI may have already tested or may be planning to test the channel soil to ensure its integrity as part of their infrastructure assessment.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Kerrigan and Steven Mortlock that the Committee ask MI if they have already, or if they have not, would they intend or want to perform geotechnical testing in that area to confirm structural integrity.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The report was noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Gordon advised that the funding application had been submitted for Stage 3 Yoogali Levee and Council is awaiting the outcome.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 3 September 2026 at 2:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 3:42 pm.

**LOCAL TRAFFIC FORUM
HELD IN THE MURRAY ROOM ON
TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:35 AM**

PRESENT

Councillor Anne Napoli (Chair), Joanne Cheshire (Transport for NSW Representative, via Zoom), Kerry Lippold (Member for Murray Representative, via Zoom)

STAFF

Development & Traffic Coordinator, Greg Balind, Approvals Officer, Kaitlyn McLean and Minute Secretary, Jessica Bertacco

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Tony O'Grady (Councillor - Alternate), Greg Minehan (Transport for NSW Representative), Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King and Engineering Design Coordinator, Jason Carrozza.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 May 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, were confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Speed Zone Reviews – May 2026

Mr Balind discussed the status of outstanding speed zone reviews. Ms Cheshire advised that the Slopes Road review is progressing through the approval process and that the next priority review will commence once it is finalised. Mr Balind will confirm the priority order for the remaining speed zone reviews, taking into account roads currently under construction. Mr Balind will provide an updated priority list to Transport for NSW. Ms Cheshire confirmed that, following final approval, the Slopes Road speed zone will be coordinated for installation with Council before the review is closed.

3.2 Intersection Merrigal Street/Griffin Avenue – May 2026

Council raised concerns about ongoing crashes at the Merrigal Street and Griffin Avenue (Kidman Way) intersection and requested an update on the previously proposed safety upgrade, which had been withdrawn from the Safer Roads portal. Mr Balind will provide Transport for NSW with previous design information and correspondence for review. Ms Cheshire advised that the matter can be assessed through the regional integration process and referred to the technical team to investigate potential solutions.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Members 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

Members 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

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

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

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - 'SPRINGFEST' AND CITRUS SCULPTURE EVENTS - BANNA AVENUE - OCTOBER 2026

The Committee considered the traffic management plans for the 2026 Spring Fest and Citrus Sculptures events. The plans, including temporary road closures, were noted as being consistent with previous years and were considered satisfactory. Transport for NSW advised that a Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) will be required prior to the event.

CL02 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - 2026 BIGGEST LAP CAR EVENT

Mr Balind advised that due to the submission of traffic management by the event organiser well beyond the advised submission deadline (5 June 2026) an assessment of the provided Traffic Control Plans and Traffic Management Plans had not been undertaken. The Committee deferred consideration of the traffic management arrangements for the 2026 Biggest Lap Car Event to the next meeting, pending assessment of the late and incomplete documentation and the outstanding documentation being provided in a timely manner. Council event staff will continue working with the event organiser to obtain the outstanding information before the application is reconsidered.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

Biggest Lap Traffic Control – Ongoing

Intersection Hillside Drive/Slopes Road – remains under review. The Transport NSW representative advised Slopes Road to the west of Hillside Drive could be considered as a minor road with a Stop sign facing eastbound vehicles giving priority to Hillside Drive and Slopes Road. Mr Balind advised there are inherent dangers with changing intersection priorities – particularly in a 100km/h (soon to be 80km/h) intersection. Council would not be in favour of that proposal. The Committee agreed to leave the matter on the Outstanding Action Report pending further information, with options including vegetation removal to be considered.

Speed Zones – The Committee noted the progress of speed zone reviews and agreed that the timing of the Mallinson Road and Abattoir Road works will be monitored so the speed zone review can be prioritised once construction is complete.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Lenehan Road/Banna Avenue

Mr Balind discussed the Lenehan Avenue/Banna Avenue intersection. Ms Cheshire advised the matter has previously been investigated, including CCTV monitoring. Ms Cheshire noted that a left-in/left-out treatment had been considered but may simply relocate the safety risk and will be referred to the technical team for further investigation, with Council to provide additional information on heavy vehicle movements to assist in identifying suitable treatment options.

7.2 Boorga Road and Jones Road intersection

Mr Balind advised that an assessment is underway for the Boorga Road and Jones Road intersection following recent crashes.

7.3 Intersection at Old Willbriggie Road and Leonard Road

Mr Balind advise that this intersection will be investigated following a request for a stop sign.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Local Traffic Forum is to be held on Tuesday, 11 August 2026 at 10:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 10:55am.

**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026 COMMENCING AT 4:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Laurie Testoni, Jodie Ridge (Community Representative), Ralph Twaddell (Community Representative), Soheil Derakhshan (Community Representative), Lindsay Wickey (Community Representative), Dene Beltrame (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director, Infrastructure and Operations, Phil King, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, Community Development Coordinator, Melissa Canzian, Community Development Officer, Viviana Degenkamp, Isis-Rae Ronan, Public Programs Officer and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo

Absent: Geoff Tarr (Community Representative) and Marilyn Hams (Community Representative)

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jodie Ridge and Soheil Derakhshan that apologies be received from Jaimee Damini (Community Representative), Suzanne Biondo (Community Representative), Rocco Catanzariti (Community Representative), Debbie Honeychurch (Community Representative) and Project Planner, Melanie Vella.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Soheil Derakhshan and Ralph Twaddell that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 April 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Members 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

Members 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

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

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

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 KURRAJONG LIFESTYLE CHOICES

Mr King informed the Committee that line marking has been completed, and footpath is being constructed. Mr King also highlighted as it is a state road, Transport NSW are the authority for speed zones. Ms Ridge to make a submission to Transport NSW in relation to the two other requests within the letter.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and Soheil Derakhshan that the Committee note the information.

CL02 HELEN DALTON MP REQUEST - ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY CONCERN IN RELATION TO BANNA AVENUE IN GRIFFITH

Mr King informed the Committee that a review of the disabled parking spaces along Banna Avenue has been completed, highlighting that there are 21 parking spaces zoned as disabled parking between Jondaryan Avenue and Kookora Street.

Current disabled parking configuration is considered adequate along Banna Avenue as the designs provide direct access from vehicles to raised garden area and crossings, supporting flexible movement for users.

Feedback from a recent Council Café indicated that some disabled parking spaces do not have access to the centre island. The installation of pram ramps on the corners of the islands could create disadvantages, including forcing some users to exit onto the traffic side of vehicles or into the flow of traffic. Having additional access paths from disabled parking spaces in the centre islands would allow access to the centre island.

CL03 “Feedback from Council Café”, also addresses disabled parking concerns in Banna

Avenue. The Committee discussed additional pram ramps in the centre islands.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Ralph Twaddell and Lindsay Wickey that:

Council promote disabled parking spots for wheelchair accessibility in Banna Avenue.

Council consider the installation of additional ramps adjacent to all disabled parking zones in the centre aisle of Banna Avenue and other possible opportunities within Banna Avenue, subject to a successful budget bid in the 2027/28 budget.

CL03 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCIL CAFE

Discussed within the previous clause.

CL04 EASY READ VERSION DIAP

Ms Canzian informed the Committee that an easy read version of the Disability, Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) has been developed and was adopted on the 16 June 2026 in conjunction with the full version.

Ms Ridge thanked Council for the successful event held last December “International Day of People with Disability”.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Lindsay Wickey and Soheil Derakhshan that the information be received.

CL05 REQUEST FOR DESIGNATED DISABILITY CAR PARKS - DOG PARK - COOLAH STREET GRIFFITH

The Committee received correspondence and a petition from community members requesting inclusion of two designated disability car parking spaces at the Coolah Street Dog Park to ensure the facility remains accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all members of the community.

In response, Mr King informed the Committee that extensions of the dog park are currently being completed, and supported the request of the additional disabled car parking spaces.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Dene Beltrame and Jodie Ridge that Council staff respond to the authors of the letters and petition, in favour of the request.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Request for Letter of Support - Audience Development Fund

Ms Ronan informed the Committee that the Art Gallery is applying for funding through the Audience Development Fund through Museums & Galleries of NSW, highlighting the valuable opportunity to strengthen accessibility and equity for neurodivergent audiences visiting the gallery.

Mr King left the meeting at 4:51 pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Ralph Twaddell and Lindsay Wickey that the Committee support the application to Audience Development Fund through Museums & Galleries of NSW, by a letter of support.

Ms Ronan left the meeting at 4:56 pm.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

At the Committee meeting held on 1 April 2026, Councillor Blumer asked when the irrigation system is being installed at Lake Wyangan. This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE**. In response Mr Badenhorst stated there have been delays due to the fuel crisis, and is expected to be completed within the next 12 months.

Councillor Blumer requested a report be presented to the next Committee meeting in relation to the Carers Australia event.

The side gate request at the Community Centre has now been completed, and the Committee thanked staff.

At the Committee meeting held on the 19 November 2025 the Committee requested a report highlighting options and costings for a standalone Adult Change Facility equipped with a hoist and proposed modifications to the Olympic Street Community Centre to allow accessibility to the bathroom facilities. In response, Mr Badenhorst stated that the costing for a standalone Adult Change Facility equipped with a hoist is \$350,000 - \$400,000 and the modifications to the Olympic Street Community Centre to allow accessibility to the bathroom facilities, is not a secure option for a 24-hour bathroom facility as it is not vandal proof, and has many operational issues.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Lindsay Wickey and Jodie Ridge that the report be noted.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 16 September 2026 at 4:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5:12 pm.

TITLE Notice of Motion - Councillor Jenny Ellis

FROM Jenny Ellis, Councillor

TRIM REF 26/87008

SUMMARY

A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Jenny Ellis on 20 June 2026. Please find attached.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) **Prepare and present to Council a draft policy governing the use of Council-owned banner poles and banner infrastructure located within the Griffith CBD, including Banna Avenue and other principal streets.**

Ensure the policy includes:

- **Eligibility criteria for organisations seeking to display banners;**
- **A clear application, assessment and approval process;**
- **Assessment criteria for banner content and messaging;**
- **Guidelines that consider community impact and the appropriate use of Council-owned public infrastructure;**
- **Priority arrangements for Council events, civic occasions, significant community events and approved promotional campaigns;**
- **Duration and timing of banner displays;**
- **Responsibilities for banner design, installation, maintenance and removal;**
- **A transparent decision-making framework that promotes fairness, consistency and equitable access for all applicants.**

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENT

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Notice of Motion - Cr Jenny Ellis - 20 Jun 2026  

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Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion

Councillor's Name * Cr Jenny Ellis

Date * 20-Jul-26

Time * 12:54:15 PM

Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Dear Mr Grant, I NOTICE OF MOTION

hereby give notice of

the following Notice Development of a Policy for the Use of Council-Owned Banner Poles in the CBD

of Motion for the

Council Meeting to be That Council:

held as indicated

below: *

Prepare and present to Council a draft policy governing the use of Council-owned banner poles and banner infrastructure located within the Griffith CBD, including Banna Avenue and other principal streets.

Ensure the policy includes:

- Eligibility criteria for organisations seeking to display banners;
- A clear application, assessment and approval process;
- Assessment criteria for banner content and messaging;
- Guidelines that consider community impact and the appropriate use of Council-owned public infrastructure;
- Priority arrangements for Council events, civic occasions, significant community events and approved promotional campaigns;
- Duration and timing of banner displays;
- Responsibilities for banner design, installation, maintenance and removal;
- A transparent decision-making framework that promotes fairness, consistency and equitable access for all applicants.

Additional Information

Background

The banner poles located throughout the Griffith CBD are prominent community assets situated within the public realm. They provide valuable opportunities to promote local events, celebrate community achievements, support tourism initiatives and enhance the presentation of the city centre.

As Council-owned infrastructure, the use of these banner poles should be governed by a clear and transparent policy that provides certainty for applicants, guidance for staff and confidence for the wider community.

The development of a formal policy would ensure requests for banner displays are assessed through a consistent and equitable process. It would establish clear expectations regarding eligibility, content, approvals and use, while recognising that Council's public infrastructure serves a diverse community with a wide range of views and interests.

A policy framework would assist Council in balancing opportunities for community promotion and expression with its responsibility to manage public assets fairly, responsibly and in a manner that fosters community confidence, inclusiveness and respect.

The proposed policy would strengthen governance, improve transparency in decision-making and ensure equitable access to these highly visible public spaces for all eligible organisations and community groups.

Attachments

Council Meeting Date: * 28-Jul-26

Signature *



Extract from Griffith City Council's Code of Meeting Practice:

Giving notice of business to be considered at Council Meetings

3.10 A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 12 pm, five business days before the meeting is to be held.

3.11 A councillor may, in writing to the general manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

3.12 If the General Manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the general manager may prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the Council.

3.13 A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identify a funding source, the general manager must either:

(a) prepare a report on the availability of funds for implementing the motion if adopted for inclusion in the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the council, or

(b) by written notice sent to all councillors with the business papers for the meeting for which the notice of motion has been submitted, defer consideration of the matter by the council to such a date specified in the notice, pending the preparation of such a report.

Questions with notice

3.14 A councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.10, ask a question for response by the

general manager about the performance or operations of the council.

3.15 A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.14 that comprises a complaint against the general manager or a member of staff of the council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the general manager or a member of staff of the council.

3.16 The general manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.14 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the council or orally at the meeting.

In relation to Section Governance

**3.13 - Please identify
the source of funding
for expenditure if
applicable: ***

Privacy Protection Notice

- This information is being collected to process your notice in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice policy.
- This information is voluntarily required to process your request and will not be used for any other purpose without seeking your consent, or as required by law.
- Your information may comprise part of a public register related to this purpose.
- This form will be retained in Council's Records Management System and disposed of in accordance with the Local Government Disposal Authority.
- You can access and correct your personal information at any time by contacting Council.
- For further details on how the Griffith City Council manages personal information, please refer to our Privacy Management Plan.

TITLE Notice of Motion - Councillor Scott Groat

FROM Scott Groat, Councillor

TRIM REF 26/82634

SUMMARY

A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Scott Groat on 18 July 2026. Please find attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Griffith city council has imposed a 32% domestic waste charge increase From \$209 per tonne to \$276 per tonne. Given the current and projected economic situation of Griffith this increase is unsustainable and needs to be reviewed back to a gradual increase of 5% per annum or align with the consumer price index.

- (a) Reduce the 32% domestic waste charge that has been imposed on ratepayers for the new financial year to a 5% increase.
- (b) Investigate and present a detailed report back to council on the proposed costs of Maintaining and building landfill operations and efficiency measures that can be implemented.
- (c) Credit the \$55 per tonne over charged on all domestic waste delivered to Griffith Landfill by contractors since July 1st 2026.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENT

After consulting with the Office of Local Government on the lawful procedure to amend an adopted fee after the commencement of the operational plan, the General Manager has determined to seek legal advice regarding the enactment of Section 610F – Public notice of fees of the Local Government Act 1993 in conjunction with S372 – Rescinding or altering resolutions of the Local Government Act 1993. At the time of printing this Business Paper, the sought legal advice has not been received by Council. It is recommended that the Notice of Motion be in abeyance until the advice is provided.

In anticipation of the advice being distributed to Councillors prior to the 28 July 2026 Council Meeting, the following information has been provided for the information of Councillors:

- (a) Reduce the 32% domestic waste charge that has been imposed on ratepayers for the new financial year to a 5% increase.

Extract shown below on page 49 of councils adopted 2026/2027 revenue policy shows domestic waste charges increasing from \$408 per year to \$458 per year (12.25% increase).

DESCRIPTION:
PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY:
SUB-CATEGORY:

Fees for 2026/2027
05 HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES
Household Garbage Collection

DESCRIPTION	2025/26 FEE (\$) Adopted Includes GST (If Applicable.)	2026/27 FEE (\$) Adopted Includes GST (If Applicable.)	FEE JUSTIF.	REVISED GST APPLIC.
Collection Charges				
- 240 litre-Domestic Waste Management - Charge per year (served weekly)	270.00/service	313.00/service	FS	N
PLUS Domestic Waste Capital/Landfills Levy	138.00/service	145.00/service	AN	N
TOTAL	408.00/service	458.00/service		

Extract shown below on page 50 of councils adopted 2026/2027 revenue policy shows mixed waste charges increasing from \$209 per tonne to \$276 per tonne (32% increase).

DESCRIPTION:
PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY:
SUB-CATEGORY:

Fees for 2026/2027
05 HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES
Other Sanitary & Garbage

DESCRIPTION	2025/26 FEE (\$) Adopted Includes GST (If Applicable)	2026/27 FEE (\$) Adopted Includes GST (If Applicable)	FEE JUSTIF.	REVISED GST APPLIC.
Public Disposal Charges				
Mixed Waste (per tonne)	209.00	276.00	FS	Y
- Minimum Charge	59.00	67.00	FS	Y
- Commercial load containing recyclable material	419.00	481.00	FS	Y

Forecast revenues in FY26/27 @\$276 / tonne = \$2,194,119.96 (figures based on FY25/26 tonnage).

Proposed revenues at 5% over FY25/26 base in FY26/27 @\$219.45 / tonne = \$1,744,563.86 (figures based on FY25/26 tonnage).

Forecast financial impact to the FY26/27 budget = \$449,556.10.

- (b) Investigate and present a detailed report back to council on the proposed costs of maintaining and building landfill operations and efficiency measures that can be implemented.

Management will prepare a report and provide in due course, however the following is important to note:

- The FY26/27 adopted budget will draw down on the entirety of the waste reserve balance.
- The FY26/27 adopted budget will borrow \$3.2 million, with annual repayments of \$212,085 plus other capital operational and reserves costs as required.
- The adopted FY26/27 long term financial plan signals \$15 million capital investment over the next 10 years.

- (c) Credit the \$55 per tonne over charged on all domestic waste delivered to Griffith Landfill by contractors since July 1st 2026.

Clarify that the rebate is intended for commercial mixed waste charges (not domestic waste).

As such Council can calculate the difference between a previously approved fee and an amended fee and bring a detailed report back to Council for consideration, noting applicable legislative requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Notice of Motion - Councillor Scott Groat - 18 July 2026  

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Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion

Councillor's Name * Cr Scott Groat

Date * 18-Jul-26

Time * 10:20:22 AM

Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Dear Mr Grant, I Background

hereby give notice of

the following Notice

of Motion for the

Council Meeting to be

held as indicated

below: *

Griffith city council has imposed a 32% domestic waste charge increase
From \$209 per tonne to \$276 per tonne.

Given the current and projected economic situation of Griffith this increase is
unsustainable and needs to be reviewed back to a gradual increase of 5% per
annum or align with the consumer price index .

Reduce the 32% domestic waste charge that has been imposed on ratepayers for
the new financial year to a 5% increase.

Investigate and present a detailed report back to council on the proposed costs of
Maintaining and building landfill operations and efficiency measures that can be
implemented.

Credit the \$55 per tonne over charged on all domestic waste delivered to Griffith
Landfill by contractors since July 1st 2026.

Additional Information

Griffith city council domestic waste charges for contractors \$276.00inc

Leeton council domestic waste charges for contractors \$155.00inc

Wagga Wagga city council domestic waste for contractors \$190.00inc

Canberra domestic waste charges for contractors \$210.inc

Attachments

Council Meeting 28-Jul-26

Date: *

Signature *



Extract from Griffith City Council's Code of Meeting Practice:

Giving notice of business to be considered at Council Meetings

3.10 A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 12 pm, five business days before the meeting is to be held.

3.11 A councillor may, in writing to the general manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

3.12 If the General Manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the general manager may prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the Council.

3.13 A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identify a funding source, the general manager must either:

(a) prepare a report on the availability of funds for implementing the motion if adopted for inclusion in the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the council, or

(b) by written notice sent to all councillors with the business papers for the meeting for which the notice of motion has been submitted, defer consideration of the matter by the council to such a date specified in the notice, pending the preparation of such a report.

Questions with notice

3.14 A councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.10, ask a question for response by the general manager about the performance or operations of the council.

3.15 A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.14 that comprises a complaint against the general manager or a member of staff of the council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the general manager or a member of staff of the council.

3.16 The general manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.14 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the council or orally at the meeting.

In relation to Section Landfill revenue

3.13 - Please identify the source of funding for expenditure if applicable: *

Privacy Protection Notice

- This information is being collected to process your notice in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice policy.
- This information is voluntarily required to process your request and will not be used for any other purpose without seeking your consent, or as required by law.
- Your information may comprise part of a public register related to this purpose.
- This form will be retained in Council's Records Management System and disposed of in accordance with the Local Government Disposal Authority.
- You can access and correct your personal information at any time by contacting Council.
- For further details on how the Griffith City Council manages personal information, please refer to our Privacy Management Plan.

TITLE Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer

FROM Shari Blumer, Councillor

TRIM REF 26/85726

SUMMARY

A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Shari Blumer on 14 July 2026. Please find attached.

This Notice of Motion seeks Council support for a targeted review and amendment of Griffith City Council's Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 to recognise the important contribution of arts, culture, heritage, creativity and community cultural events within the Griffith Local Government Area.

The current policy recognises a range of civic, environmental, community project and sporting achievements. It does not currently include a specific arts and cultural category. The proposed amendment would add broad, accessible categories that encourage community nominations and recognise the contribution of individuals, community groups, organisations and events that enrich Griffith's artistic, cultural and creative life.

The proposed Notice of Motion (NoM) also requests a review of the Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 (Awards Policy), last reviewed and endorsed on 11th October 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Council endorse, in principle, the inclusion of two new Australia Day Awards categories: Arts and Cultural Contribution Award; and Arts and Cultural Event of the Year.**
- 2) That the proposed two new categories and the current Awards Policy go on public exhibition for community submissions.**
- 3) That the proposed Awards inclusions and Awards Policy go to a Council workshop for discussion.**
- 4) That Council request the General Manager prepare a report and draft amendments to the Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 for Council consideration at the next appropriate Council meeting.**

REPORT

Griffith has a strong and diverse creative, cultural and multicultural community. Local arts, performance, exhibitions, heritage projects, festivals, cultural celebrations and community events contribute to civic pride, wellbeing, tourism, participation and community connection.

A broad arts and cultural award category would provide a clear way to recognise this contribution through the Australia Day Awards program, without limiting recognition to professional artists or formal arts organisations. It would also enable nominations for community-led initiatives, heritage and history projects, creative education, cultural activities, multicultural events, exhibitions, performances and other accessible forms of creative participation.

The proposed categories are deliberately simple and broad:

- Arts and Cultural Contribution Award — recognising an individual, community group or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the artistic, cultural or creative life of the Griffith Local Government Area.
- Arts and Cultural Event of the Year — recognising an event, exhibition, performance, festival or initiative that has enriched the artistic, cultural or creative life of the Griffith Local Government Area.

OPTIONS

Any Other Resolution of Council

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Notice of Motion proposes a review and amendment of Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401. Any final amendments would need to be considered by Council in accordance with Council's usual policy review and adoption processes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed policy review can be undertaken through existing staff resources unless Council determines that further consultation, promotion or event-related changes require additional funding. Any additional costs associated with promotion, awards, judging or event delivery should be addressed in the staff report.

LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed amendments should be considered consistently with the Local Government Act 1993, Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Code of Conduct, relevant anti-discrimination obligations and Council's policy framework.

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal may increase community participation in the Australia Day Awards by creating a clear and inclusive pathway to recognise arts, cultural, heritage and creative contributions.

CONSULTATION

- Council staff report and workshop process as determined by the General Manager.
- Public exhibition and community submissions.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENT

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer - 14 July 2026   | 167 |
| (b) | Attachment to Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer   | 170 |



Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion

Councillor's Name * Cr Shari Blumer

Date * 14-Jul-26

Time * 09:52:53 AM

Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Dear Mr Grant, I hereby give notice of the following Notice of Motion for the Council Meeting to be held as indicated below: *

NOTICE OF MOTION
Review and amendment of Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401
Councillor: Cr Shari Blumer
Meeting: Ordinary Meeting of Griffith City Council
Subject: Australia Day Awards Policy – Arts and Cultural Award categories and review of the Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy

SUMMARY

This Notice of Motion seeks Council support for a targeted review and amendment of Griffith City Council's Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 to recognise the important contribution of arts, culture, heritage, creativity and community cultural events within the Griffith Local Government Area.

The current policy recognises a range of civic, environmental, community project and sporting achievements. It does not currently include a specific arts and cultural category. The proposed amendment would add broad, accessible categories that encourage community nominations and recognise the contribution of individuals, community groups, organisations and events that enrich Griffith's artistic, cultural and creative life.

The proposed Notice of Motion (NoM) also requests a review of the Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 (Awards Policy), last reviewed and endorsed on 11th October 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse, in principle, the inclusion of two new Australia Day Awards categories: Arts and Cultural Contribution Award; and Arts and Cultural Event of the Year.
2. That the proposed two new categories and the current Awards Policy go on public exhibition for community submissions.
3. That the proposed Awards inclusions and Awards Policy go to a Council workshop for discussion.
4. That Council request the General Manager prepare a report and draft amendments to the Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 for Council consideration at the next appropriate Council meeting.

REPORT

Griffith has a strong and diverse creative, cultural and multicultural community. Local arts, performance, exhibitions, heritage projects, festivals, cultural celebrations and community events contribute to civic pride, wellbeing, tourism, participation and community connection.

A broad arts and cultural award category would provide a clear way to recognise this contribution through the Australia Day Awards program, without limiting recognition to professional artists or formal arts organisations. It would also enable nominations

for community-led initiatives, heritage and history projects, creative education, cultural activities, multicultural events, exhibitions, performances and other accessible forms of creative participation.

The proposed categories are deliberately simple and broad:

- Arts and Cultural Contribution Award — recognising an individual, community group or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the artistic, cultural or creative life of the Griffith Local Government Area.
- Arts and Cultural Event of the Year — recognising an event, exhibition, performance, festival or initiative that has enriched the artistic, cultural or creative life of the Griffith Local Government Area.

OPTIONS

Any Other Resolution of Council

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Notice of Motion proposes a review and amendment of Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401. Any final amendments would need to be considered by Council in accordance with Council's usual policy review and adoption processes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed policy review can be undertaken through existing staff resources unless Council determines that further consultation, promotion or event-related changes require additional funding. Any additional costs associated with promotion, awards, judging or event delivery should be addressed in the staff report.

LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed amendments should be considered consistently with the Local Government Act 1993, Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Code of Conduct, relevant anti-discrimination obligations and Council's policy framework.

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal may increase community participation in the Australia Day Awards by creating a clear and inclusive pathway to recognise arts, cultural, heritage and creative contributions.

CONSULTATION

- Council staff report and workshop process as determined by the General Manager.
- Public exhibition and community submissions.

Additional Information

Attachments

Shari Blumer

Notice_of_Motion_Australia_Day_Arts_Culture_Aw... 38.53KB

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Council Meeting Date: *

28-Jul-26

Signature *



Extract from Griffith City Council's Code of Meeting Practice:

Giving notice of business to be considered at Council Meetings

3.10 A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 12 pm, five business days before the meeting is to be held.

3.11 A councillor may, in writing to the general manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

3.12 If the General Manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the general manager may prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the Council.

3.13 A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identify a funding source, the general manager must either:

(a) prepare a report on the availability of funds for implementing the motion if adopted for inclusion in the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the council, or

(b) by written notice sent to all councillors with the business papers for the meeting for which the notice of motion has been submitted, defer consideration of the matter by the council to such a date specified in the notice, pending the preparation of such a report.

Questions with notice

3.14 A councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.10, ask a question for response by the general manager about the performance or operations of the council.

3.15 A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.14 that comprises a complaint against the general manager or a member of staff of the council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the general manager or a member of staff of the council.

3.16 The general manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.14 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the council or orally at the meeting.

In relation to Section N/A

**3.13 - Please identify
the source of funding
for expenditure if
applicable: ***

Privacy Protection Notice

- This information is being collected to process your notice in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice policy.
- This information is voluntarily required to process your request and will not be used for any other purpose without seeking your consent, or as required by law.
- Your information may comprise part of a public register related to this purpose.
- This form will be retained in Council's Records Management System and disposed of in accordance with the Local Government Disposal Authority.
- You can access and correct your personal information at any time by contacting Council.
- For further details on how the Griffith City Council manages personal information, please refer to our Privacy Management Plan.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Review and amendment of Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401

Councillor: Cr Shari Blumer

Meeting: Ordinary Meeting of Griffith City Council

Subject: Australia Day Awards Policy – Arts and Cultural Award categories and review of the Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy

SUMMARY

This Notice of Motion seeks Council support for a targeted review and amendment of Griffith City Council's Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 to recognise the important contribution of arts, culture, heritage, creativity and community cultural events within the Griffith Local Government Area.

The current policy recognises a range of civic, environmental, community project and sporting achievements. It does not currently include a specific arts and cultural category. The proposed amendment would add broad, accessible categories that encourage community nominations and recognise the contribution of individuals, community groups, organisations and events that enrich Griffith's artistic, cultural and creative life.

The proposed Notice of Motion (NoM) also requests a review of the *Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 (Awards Policy)*, last reviewed and endorsed on 11th October 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse, in principle, the inclusion of two new Australia Day Awards categories: Arts and Cultural Contribution Award; and Arts and Cultural Event of the Year.
2. That the proposed two new categories and the current Awards Policy go on public exhibition for community submissions.
3. That the proposed Awards inclusions and Awards Policy go to a Council workshop for discussion.
4. That Council request the General Manager prepare a report and draft amendments to the Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401 for Council consideration at the next appropriate Council meeting.

REPORT

Griffith has a strong and diverse creative, cultural and multicultural community. Local arts, performance, exhibitions, heritage projects, festivals, cultural celebrations and community events contribute to civic pride, wellbeing, tourism, participation and community connection.

A broad arts and cultural award category would provide a clear way to recognise this contribution through the Australia Day Awards program, without limiting recognition to professional artists or formal arts organisations. It would also enable nominations for community-led initiatives, heritage and

history projects, creative education, cultural activities, multicultural events, exhibitions, performances and other accessible forms of creative participation.

The proposed categories are deliberately simple and broad:

- Arts and Cultural Contribution Award — recognising an individual, community group or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the artistic, cultural or creative life of the Griffith Local Government Area.
- Arts and Cultural Event of the Year — recognising an event, exhibition, performance, festival or initiative that has enriched the artistic, cultural or creative life of the Griffith Local Government Area.

OPTIONS

Any Other Resolution of Council

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Notice of Motion proposes a review and amendment of Griffith City Council Australia Day Awards Policy GOV-CP-401. Any final amendments would need to be considered by Council in accordance with Council's usual policy review and adoption processes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed policy review can be undertaken through existing staff resources unless Council determines that further consultation, promotion or event-related changes require additional funding. Any additional costs associated with promotion, awards, judging or event delivery should be addressed in the staff report.

LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed amendments should be considered consistently with the Local Government Act 1993, Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Code of Conduct, relevant anti-discrimination obligations and Council's policy framework.

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal may increase community participation in the Australia Day Awards by creating a clear and inclusive pathway to recognise arts, cultural, heritage and creative contributions.

CONSULTATION

- Council staff report and workshop process as determined by the General Manager.
- Public exhibition and community submissions.

Cr Shari Blumer | Griffith City Council Notice of Motion | Australia Day Awards Policy

TITLE Notice of Motion - Councillor Mark Dal Bon

FROM Mark Dal Bon, Councillor

TRIM REF 26/87426

SUMMARY

A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Mark Dal Bon on 17 July 2026. Please find attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Can council adopt a policy. On sinage on billboards and posters and any other visual advertisement to the public . That are on council land. Road esment's land. And crown land and all other land in the local L.G.A.that focus on wat can and wat cannot be advertised. Eg political and offensive material. And size requirements.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENT

Councils Policy: - CS-CP-305 Advertising Signs Local Policy, addresses signage eligibility on private and public land and is endorsed every term by Council and is administered by Councils Compliance Team.

Election signage is governed by Section 184 of the *Electoral Act 2017*.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 provides the overarching legal framework of advertisement of signs. Additionally, State Environmental Policy 64 – advertising and signage is a state wide policy to ensure signage is compatible with visual character of the area.

Further the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) include frameworks for approval of signage.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Notice of Motion - Councillor Mark Dal Bon - 17 July 2026   173



Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion

Councillor's Name * Cr Mark Dal Bon

Date * 17-Jul-26

Time * 11:50:35 AM

Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Dear Mr Grant, I hereby give notice of the following Notice of Motion for the Council Meeting to be held as indicated below: *

Can council adopt a policy. On signage on billboards and posters and any other visual advertisement to the public. That are on council land. Road esment's land. And crown land and all other land in the local L.G.A. that focus on what can and what cannot be advertised. Eg political and offensive material. And size requirements.

Additional Information

Attachments

Council Meeting Date: * 28-Jul-26

Signature *

Mark Dal Bon

Extract from Griffith City Council's Code of Meeting Practice:

Giving notice of business to be considered at Council Meetings

3.10 A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 12 pm, five business days before the meeting is to be held.

3.11 A councillor may, in writing to the general manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

3.12 If the General Manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the general manager may prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the Council.

3.13 A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identify a funding source, the general manager must either:

(a) prepare a report on the availability of funds for implementing the motion if adopted for inclusion in the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the council, or

(b) by written notice sent to all councillors with the business papers for the meeting for which the notice of motion has been submitted, defer consideration of the matter by the council to such a date specified in the notice, pending the preparation of such a report.

Questions with notice

3.14 A councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.10, ask a question for response by the general manager about the performance or operations of the council.

3.15 A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.14 that comprises a complaint against the general manager or a member of staff of the council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the general manager or a member of staff of the council.

3.16 The general manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.14 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the council or orally at the meeting.

In relation to Section Not sure

**3.13 - Please identify
the source of funding
for expenditure if
applicable: ***

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- For further details on how the Griffith City Council manages personal information, please refer to our Privacy Management Plan.

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 25/150112

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Outstanding Action Report [!\[\]\(fd863c4ab0213b6a65d4dc287ffdccf7_img.jpg\)](#)  176

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

Council Meeting Date	MEETING ITEM	Action Officer	CRM No.	Minute No.	Council Resolution	Additional Information
26 May 2026	CL09 LICENCE AGREEMENT - ROAD RESERVE - ARGYLE COMMUNITY HOUSING LTD - 2-4 CROSSING STREET, GRIFFITH	CPO	174301	26/142	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Mark Dal Bon that the matter be deferred pending further information.	9/06/2026: Meeting arranged with Argyle reps and Council staff week commencing 15 June 2026 to discuss Licence Agreement terms. 15/07/2026: Waiting on a response from Argyle.
12 May 2026	CL04 LICENCE AGREEMENT - ROAD RESERVE - WESTERN RIVERINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (COMMUNITY SCHOOL) - 68 KOOKORA STREET, GRIFFITH	CPO	173743	26/125	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that: (a) Council enters into a licence agreement with Western Riverina Community College (WRCC) for the occupation of Council's Road reserve, adjoining Lot 1 Sec 127 DP758476, 68 Kookora Street, Griffith for a term of five years, with an option to renew of 5 years. (b) Council advertises its intention to enter into a licence agreement with WRCC for 7 car spaces adjoining 68 Kookora Street, 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 proceed to enter into a licence agreement with WRCC for 7 car spaces located on the road	1/06/2026: On public exhibition until 30 June 2026. 15/07/2026: No submissions received, staff to prepare licence agreement.

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

					reserve, adjoining 68 Kookora Street, Griffith for a term of 5 years, commencement date to be determined following notification period. (d) Western Riverina Community College (WRCC) are responsible to pay all applicable costs and charges associated with the preparation of the licence agreement together with Council's Administration Fee, in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy. (e) The annual licence fee will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Revenue Policy, currently \$67.60 per car space together with rates and charges as applicable. (f) Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to execute the licence agreement under the Common Seal, if required.	
14 April 2026	CCMM01 SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES	DBCF	172744	26/102	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Shari Blumer that: (a) Council, pursuant to Section 713 and other relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1993, authorises sale proceedings to sell the properties listed in this report at a public auction at a time and place to be determined.	28/04/2026: General Manager certificates signed. Real Estate Agent commissioned to sell properties. Notification process underway. 1/06/2026: The auction is scheduled for 13 August 2026.

2 of 6

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

					(b) Outstanding Collections (Aust) Pty Ltd (OSC) be appointed to administer the sale on Council's behalf. (c) Council authorises Council staff and OSC to proceed with the necessary arrangements, pertaining to the sale of the properties listed in this report, as set out in the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2021). (d) Council delegates authority to the General Manager to take the following actions pertaining to the properties specified in the report as listed in the report.	
24 March 2026	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR MARK DAL BON	DE&OD	172020	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.	08/04/2026: The matter is scheduled for the May Workshop for discussion. 28/05/2026: Policies to be presented to Council for public exhibition in August 2026.
27 January 2026	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR TONY O'GRADY	DSD	169647	26/016	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Shari Blumer that Council develops a policy to allow pop up businesses	17/02/2026: Sustainable Development currently drafting policy.

3 of 6

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

					including food vans to be able to trade on council land.	19/05/2026: Policy will be reported to Council in July 2026. 20/07/2026: Policy will be workshopped in August 2026.
8 April 2025	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JENNY ELLIS	DBCF FM MA	158565	25/095	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady that Council allocate sufficient funds from the cash reserves set aside for the Regional Art Gallery project (currently at \$109K) based on quotes received for the following items and report back to Council: (a) Signage for the front of the Gallery - to be designed, manufactured, and installed. (Approximately \$5K) (b) New hanging track system - to enhance the display and functionality of exhibition spaces. (Approximately \$10K) (c) Repainting of the walls and ceiling of the whole gallery - To refreshen and cover water damaged ceilings (National average: \$60-\$100/ sqm; Gallery is 422sqm therefore up to \$42K).	2/03/2026: Gyprock repairs and painting complete – October 2025. New hanging system installed – February 2026. New sign is being designed and costed. Will require development consent. Scheduled for installation in mid-2026. 20/07/2026: Refer to Question on Notice Report.

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT
COMPLETION BY OTHER AGENCIES PENDING

Council Meeting Date	MEETING ITEM	Action Officer	CRM No.	Minute No.	Council Resolution	Additional Information
12 Aug 2025	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE STEAD	GM	163429	25/236	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer that: (a) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing outstanding debts owed to local contractors for the Hanwood Amenities Block. The report is to include options on how Council can assist resolving these debts after the Greenwich Voluntary Administration process. (b) Council staff review procurement processes and policies to prevent a recurrence of situations where local contractors remain unpaid for work undertaken due to a contractor's insolvency.	1/09/2025: Report to Council 9 September 2025. 12/09/2025: GM to report to Council after the finalisation of the ASIC proceedings. 7/04/2026: Other creditors are pursuing recovery however unlikely due to limited assets.
24 February 2026	CL01 GRIFFITH URBAN CROWN LAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTIVATION - MASTERPLAN AND BUSINESS CASE	DBCf/ GM	170792	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.	11/03/2026: The General Manager has reached out to the Minister for Housing The Hon Rose Jackson MP. The Minister's office advises that we should contact the Aboriginal Housing Authority (AHO) in the first instance. Contact has been made, as yet no commitment to meet.

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT
COMPLETION BY OTHER AGENCIES PENDING

					(c) A report be brought back to Council providing updates in due course.	
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