
**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 COMMENCING AT 4:10 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Geoff Tarr (via zoom)(Community Representative), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Ralph Twaddell (Community Representative), Soheil Derakhshan (via zoom)(Community Representative), Suzanne Biondo (Community Representative), Lindsay Wickey (Community Representative), Dene Beltrame (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, Project Planner, Melanie Vella, Community Development Officer, Viviana Degenkamp and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo

Absent: Debbie Honeychurch (Community Representative)

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Dene Beltrame that apologies be received from Councillor Laurie Testoni, Community Development Coordinator, Melissa Canzian, Jaimee Damini (Community Representative), Rocco Catanzariti (Community Representative) and Jodie Ridge (Community Representative).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Lindsay Wickey and Ralph Twaddell that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 June 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.

Suzanne Biondo

CL01 - Committee Member Agenda Item - Suzanne Biondo

Reason - The matter concerns a complaint I previously lodged with the Australian Human Rights Commission.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Mr Tarr raised the issue of long waiting times for wheelchair accessible taxi services. The Committee discussed requesting information from taxi services.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Geoff Tarr and Dene Beltrame that Council:

- (a) Write to local taxi services to find out how many wheelchair accessible taxis there are in Griffith and when they are operating.
- (b) Enquire about the booking process, policies and priorities.

CL01 COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEM - SUZANNE BIONDO

The Committee discussed Suzanne Biondo's correspondence and employment for people with disability within the community.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Suzanne Biondo and Dene Beltrame that Council Staff write to the Minister for Disability to discuss the regional issues with employment for people with a disability and seek information on current programs, funding opportunities and initiatives available to support employment pathways, workforce participation and inclusion within regional communities.

CL02 UPDATE: GRIFFITH PLAY GROUND STRATEGY

Mr Twaddell left the meeting at 4:52 pm and returned at 4:56 pm.

Councillor Blumer left the meeting at 4:45 pm and returned at 4:57 pm.

Ms Vella provided an update on the review of the Playground Strategy, noting that the current strategy was adopted in March 2014 and is now over ten years old. A comprehensive review is planned over the next 12 to 18 months, with all aspects of the strategy to be reassessed. The review process will include the development of a draft strategy, public exhibition, and final consideration by Council.

Staff advised that work on the strategy has temporarily slowed due to competing infrastructure projects however, preliminary work continues in the background. An external community survey has been undertaken and reviewed, with consideration being given to reopening the survey to obtain further community feedback.

Discussion highlighted the importance of designing playgrounds that promote inclusive and all-abilities.

Ms Vella left the meeting at 5:10 pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Ralph Twaddell that the Committee note the information.

CL03 UPDATE: AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT FUND THROUGH MUSEUMS & GALLERIES OF NSW

Ms Degenkamp informed the Committee that Council was successful in the Audience Development Funds through Museums and Galleries of New South Wales, and staff thanked the Committee for the letter of support from the previous meeting.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Dene Beltrame and Suzanne Biondo that the information be received.

CL04 UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Dene Beltrame that the information be received.

Ms Degenkamp informed the Committee that Council will once again host an event to celebrate International Day of People with Disability on 3 December 2026. Following the success of last year's event, this year's celebration is proposed to be held at the Griffith Regional Sports Stadium and will feature a range of activities and a community art project. Further details regarding the event program will be provided as planning progresses.

CL05 SCHOOL HOLIDAY COOKING WORKSHOP

The Committee was advised that the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) successfully secured funding through the Department of Communities and Justice and the Office for Youth to deliver a series of *Cooking and Connect* workshops during the October school holidays. The workshops will be held at Piccolo Family Farm.



RECOMMENDED on the motion of Lindsay Wickey and Marilyn Hams that the information be received.

Mr Tarr left the meeting at 5:21 pm.

CL06 COMMITTEE MEMBER APPLICATION - ABBEY IERACI

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Lindsay Wickey and Marilyn Hams that the Committee accept Abbey Ieraci and Kylie Gatto Brown as members of the Disability, Inclusion and Access Committee, accept the resignation of Roy Catanzariti and the Terms of Reference be updated.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Committee noted the Action Report.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 11 November 2026 at 4:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5:36 pm.