
**NEW CEMETERY MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE MURRAY ROOM ON
WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 5:00 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
- CL01 p7 Request for Recommendation to Commission Historical Investigation into Thomas Michael MacNamarra and “Clancy of the Overflow”
- CL02 p34 Construction of Below Ground Vaults
- CL03 p48 Review of the New Cemetery Masterplan 2020
- 6 p57 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Jenny Ellis (Chair), Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Daniel Calabro (Community Representative), Wendy Collis (Community Representative), Bruno Guidolin (Community Representative), Jake Hubbard (Community Representative), Pamela Kensett-Smith (Community Representative), Anthony Kidman (Community Representative), Virginia Tropeano (Community Representative), Peter Woodward (Community Representative)

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King; Parks and Gardens Manager, Peter Craig and Minute Secretary, TBA

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

Acknowledgement 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.

**NEW CEMETERY MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MURRAY ROOM ON WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2026
COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Jenny Ellis (Chair), Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Wendy Collis (Community Representative), Anthony Kidman (Community Representative - Zoom), Virginia Tropeano (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

Absent: Daniel Calabro (Community Representative), Bruno Guidolin (Community Representative), Jake Hubbard (Community Representative), Peter Woodward (Community Representative)

STAFF

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King and Parks & Gardens Manager, Peter Craig, Minute Taker, Leanne Austin

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Pamela Kensett-Smith (Community Representative).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Councillor Jenny Ellis that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 October 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 GRIFFITH CEMETERY RESERVATIONS

Mr King presented an overview of the report, outlining the number of burial plots currently available at Griffith Cemetery.

Councillor Dal Bon expressed concerns about the balance between existing reservations and remaining plots.

Mrs Tropeano asked whether the Roman Catholic vault section (RC5) could be reduced; however, Mr King explained that there is strong demand and an existing waiting list for this section, this also generates an income stream for Council. Options discussed included removing some trees, utilising the current car park to create additional space and construction of additional Cappellas.

Mr King advised that the report indicates the cemetery has an estimated seven to eight years of capacity remaining. He added that the presence of two cremators in town may reduce future burial demand.

Councillor Ellis clarified that the report's purpose was to determine the remaining lifespan of the current cemetery and support forward planning for a new one. The Committee acknowledged that several options exist to increase burial capacity at the existing site.

Councillor Ellis emphasised the need to plan for the new cemetery. Mrs Tropeano suggested determining entrance locations early so that tree planting can be established before the site becomes operational. Mr Kidman highlighted the importance of considering community needs over the next 30 years and ensuring the new cemetery is appropriately sized before commencing landscaping.

Mrs Tropeano also recommended that Council review practices in other areas, including options such as more natural settings and designated indigenous areas.

Mr Craig noted that extensive consultation had previously been undertaken with consultants during the development of the New Cemetery Masterplan.

Committee members agreed that the Masterplan should be reviewed, particularly regarding layout, earthworks, traffic and noise impacts and ongoing maintenance. Mr King proposed bringing the Masterplan to the next meeting for review. Councillor Ellis suggested a workshop format to consider timelines, planning requirements, grant funding and budget implications. Mr Kidman further suggested incorporating a memorial wall to help mitigate noise and traffic concerns.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Virginia Tropeano and Wendy Collis that the Committee note the report and the Masterplan be presented at the next meeting.

CL02 OPTIONS FOR AN OSSUARY

Mr King provided an overview of the report.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Virginia Tropeano and Wendy Collis that the Committee receive and note the information.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The report was noted. All actions have been completed.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Feedback Received at Council Café

The Committee discussed feedback that was received earlier in the day at Council Café regarding maintenance concerns at the Cemetery before Anzac Day and also unmarked, poorly maintained graves of servicemen.

Mr King advised he would contact the community member to outline the available options.

Anthony Kidman left the meeting at 6:01 pm.

7.2 Proposed Garden Design

Mr King presented photographs of a cremation interment section from another cemetery (refer to attachments). The Committee agreed that this option warrants further investigation and requested that additional information, including cost estimates, be provided at a future meeting for consideration.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Wendy Collis and Virginia Tropeano that a report on interment options for cremations be presented to the Committee.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the New Cemetery Masterplan Committee is to be held in September 2026 – date to be advised.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:10 pm.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Example of Cremation Interment Garden



CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **Request for Recommendation to Commission Historical Investigation into Thomas Michael MacNamarra and “Clancy of the Overflow”**

FROM **Antoinette Galluzzo, Governance Officer**

TRIM REF **26/79465**

SUMMARY

Please find attached letter received from the Griffith Business Chamber, received 22 June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

For the Committee to discuss.

REPORT

Please note this letter was considered at the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee Meeting held on the 5 August 2026. Staff provided a report with historical information, and the Committee made the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Councillor Jenny Ellis that the Committee:

(a) Note and endorse the report.

(b) Write to the Griffith Business Chambers providing them with the report.

Please find attached report.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Letter - Griffith Business Chamber to Griffith City Council - 22 June 2026   | 8 |
| (b) | Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee - Report - 5 Aug 2026   | 14 |



22 June 2026

Councillor Jenny Eliis, Chair, New Cemetery Masterplan Committee
Shari Blumer, Chair, Pioneer Park Museum Committee
Griffith City Council

By email only: pioneerpark.diary@griffith.nsw.gov.au ; cemetery@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

RE: Request for historical opinion into resting place of Thomas Michael MacNamara aka 'Clancy of the Overflow'

The Griffith Business Chamber has been approached by members regarding the historical significance of Mr Thomas Michael MacNamara, buried at Griffith City Cemetery (date of death, 28 August 1943). The Chamber is writing to request that the Pioneer Park Museum Committee and New Cemetery Masterplan Committee (**Committees**) recommend to Griffith City Council that it fund and commission an opinion from an historian regarding whether Mr MacNamara was the individual who inspired Banjo Paterson's iconic character 'Clancy of the Overflow'.

On 28 May 2026, this matter was presented to the Chamber by a dedicated subcommittee formed to investigate its historical significance and potential tourism opportunities. Following the presentation, the Chamber resolved to refer the matter to the relevant Council Committees responsible for preserving the Griffith's heritage and managing Griffith City Cemetery, to consider the matter generally and recommend to Council that it fund the engagement of a qualified historian to undertake a formal investigation.

Should historical evidence support the connection, the Chamber considers that it could provide cultural, educational and tourism value to the Griffith region, while preserving and celebrating an important piece of Australian literary history.

Please see **enclosed** some material which was presented to the Chamber by Messrs Paul Pierotti and Darren De Bortoli, including historical news articles and a brief summarising some of the potential benefits if it can be reasonably established that Clancy's grave is in Griffith City Cemetery.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Kind regards,

Griffith Business Chamber
info@griffithbusinesschamber.com.au
<https://griffithbusinesschamber.com.au/>

STOCKMAN OF WHOM POET SANG

Clancy of Overflow Soon 90

"CLANCY'S gone to Queensland droving, and we don't know where he are."

Clancy of the Overflow, and his wife, a sister of The Man from the Snowy River, are living quietly in Brisbane, and on Christmas Eve Clancy will be 90 years old. Yesterday he retold the story of the famous ride immortalised by "Banjo" Paterson.

Outside the realm of poetry Clancy is Mr. Thomas Michael Macnamara. His wife, Theresa Mary, formerly Miss Troy, is aged 83. She is tall, graceful, and quick-witted, and her hair is as white as the legendary beard of her big brother, Tom Troy, who commanded the horsemen in the hills at the back of Wagga 58 years ago.

But Jim Troy was The Man from the Snowy River, "a stripling, on a small and weedy roan, called Mungo. He was well-bred, and full of spirit."

"I well remember the ride as it took place yesterday," said Mr. Macnamara. "From Troy's place near Wagga, you could see the hills in the direction of Tumut. Our adventure was not down Kosciuszko's side, as Paterson sang. 'Banjo' shifted the mountain into our country to make the tale poetic."

Three fine horses broke away from Troy's place, including the £1000 colt, 'from Old Regret,' and they joined the wild horses in the hills. The horsemen who rode that day were Tom Troy, my cousin, Andy Macnamara, Jim Troy, and myself.

Jim Held The Mob

"When Jim joined us on little Mungo, long-bearded Tom, who sat on Yellow Clarence, laughed at Jim and his weedy animal. Then I took Jim's part. As Banjo truly says, 'Only Clancy stood his friend,' and I added, 'I think we ought to let him come.'"

Andy Macnamara rode Roan Clarence, and I had a Lintot horse. We started after the colts, up hills and through gullies, but the wild horses took fright as we approached. 'You can say good-bye to the mob,' yelled Tom Troy.

"But Jim and Mungo went on," continued Mr. Macnamara. "Later Jim had the mob moving towards us. Tom told me to get on the next hill and wheel the mob to the right, but they beat us. Jim stuck to them, and ran them, as the poem says, 'single-handed, till their sides were white with foam.'"

Mrs. Macnamara finished the story. She recalled how her brother, Jim, brought the mob round again, and sent a warning coo-ee up the gorge to let the others know he was coming with the mob in full career. "Tom, my husband, and Andy at last held the

wild horses, cut out the colts, and yarded the others," she said.

"It was grand work," she sighed. "Poor Jim—he died when he was 33 at Cootamundra—was tired out after his task, and Mungo, smothered in foam, reared his big head on the side of a hill. 'He's all right,' said Jim, patting the little fellow fondly. That's the true story of The Man from the Snowy River."

Mr. and Mrs. Macnamara were married at Wagga in 1875, and they had a family of 13, of whom four sons and three daughters are living. Mr. Macnamara is interested in Mount Tracy, a sheep and cattle station at the head of the Cloncurry River.

Clancy has been in two big smashes with horses; in one he broke a thigh, and in the other several ribs. But he is still a hale and hearty, long-legged cornstalk of the old colonial school. He loves to talk of horses, cattle, and the droving days. He was a great scrub rider in his time, and yesterday spoke fondly of the best stock horse he ever owned, "Steel, a blue-grey."

Although he regretted that horses were passing out of use, he said that he had enjoyed many motor and aeroplane trips. "I cannot see enough in motor cars," he added, "and still less in aeroplanes."

Clancy of the Overflow came to Queensland with his wife more than 50 years ago, and settled first at Eulo. They have been in Brisbane since April last year and are living at Oakleigh Flats, Gregory Terrace.

Attention
David Frisken

Jim Troy was
17 years & age

Carrier Mail
Brisbane
21st December 1938

58 years ago would
place the ride in 1879
when Clancy was 31 years
old.

Theresa Troy 24 years
old when the ride took
place.

Married for 4 years.

AREA NEWS 9 MAR 1990

Clancy's grave — is it here?

A GRAVE in the Catholic Section of Griffith Cemetery has a modest headstone which bears the name Thomas Michael MacNamara, died August 28, 1943 aged 94 years.

Nothing too remarkable about that except there are strong facts which point to that grave as being the last resting place of a six foot four inch legend named Clancy of the Overflow.

It is possible to believe after investigation that Banjo Paterson may have used poetic licence in his epic poem The Man From Snowy River.

The story of the famous pony chase, first set to words by Australia's father of bush poetry, and since immortalised on celluloid, may have been transposed to the Snowy River Mountain area which the poet believed to be a more picturesque setting for his poem than the original.

Thomas Michael MacNamara, known to millions as Clancy of the Overflow, is alleged to have told his children and their children that there certainly was a real

horse chase but the venue was changed by Banjo Paterson from an area in the Riverina, near West Wyalong, to the Snowy River which the poet thought has more spectacular countryside.

The "real" story of the mammoth horse chase is included in a book by Clancy's grandson, Norman MacNamara, called from Clancy's Day to Mine.

Norman MacNamara, said his grandfather, Clancy, a veritable giant of a man, was a grand horseman and a man of great learning who entertained his grandchildren with stories of his exploits along the Murrumbidgee River as a child, with his father Michael at a place called The Overflow, before the family moved to Barmedman Run near Wyalong.

Thomas Michael MacNamara, "Clancy" later married Teresa Mary Troy, who's younger brother Jim owned a tough little mountain pony called Mungo.

According to Norman MacNamara, his grandfather told him,

By
MaryAnn Stenberg

Jim was the lad, only 17 years old at the time, who brought the horses back.

Norman said Old Clancy would talk about his association with a Mr Bogle Paterson whose son later came to fame and fortune writing poetry.

Clancy said the events of the famous epic did happen but not in the Snowy River area but instead on Barmedman Run, he told his grandchildren the names of every horse and rider in

that chase.

According to Norman his grandfather told how Jim Troy and Mungo raced after the runaway horses and because the he was used to scrub and stone the little bush pony outran all the classy horses which were useless in the scrub.

According to Clancy, Banjo Paterson didn't intend to name anybody, but changed the names and places to suit the poem and being a master poet took the race to the Snowy Mountains to make the events more spectacular and bring more life into the poem.

Clancy and his family upped stakes from New South Wales and went to Queensland when a goldrush overtook the Wyalong district.

He celebrated his 89th birthday at Prairie in Queensland and later he and his wife Teresa went to live with their daughter Mrs Kate Erskine near Griffith.

When Norman's grandfather, Thomas Michael MacNamara, died aged 94, he was buried in Griffith leaving his widow Teresa to travel back to Queensland where she lived with her son, Lewis and died at Cloncurry.

Norman finishes his book "Yes he was the real Clancy, but now he has passed on like Bogle and Banjo Paterson and his son Ius."

If Norman's grandfather was the real Clancy as he claims it doesn't detract from the glory of the poem The Man From Snowy River which was in fact filmed in Victoria.



Thomas MacNamara's grave — is this Clancy's last resting place.

THE AREA NEWS, FRIDAY, SEPT. 3, 1943

sign of Commons

(Continued from Page One)

would not cure the straying

"LITTLE CLEARER"

incident, proceeding said that

beginning to see things a

year since making a purchase

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up to a Magistrate an effort

did not pay his time may be

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STAD FOUNDRY FINE

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the Commission.

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that the next time Mr. Raw-

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the matter.

President (to Cr. Delaney):

you like to be on the deputa-

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to attend.

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will form the deputa-

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Nonagenarian
PassesMr. Thomas Michael
Macnamara

At the advanced age of 84 years, Mr. Thomas Michael Macnamara passed away peacefully in his sleep at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. J. C. Brakine, Farm 74, Griffith, on Saturday.

The late Mr. Macnamara was born at Wagga on December 24, 1858, his father having property in that district.

When deceased was about 17 years of age he father took up Wyalong Station for him, both being there. That was before there was any town at Wyalong. The first discovery of gold at Wyalong was made in 1877 by a shepherd on deceased's station. The late Mr. Macnamara owned one of the prominent mines.

Selling out at Wyalong 56 years ago, deceased went to Queensland where he acquired pastoral holdings at Eulo, on the Paroo, at Cunningham, on the Warrego, and Theroomindah.

Disposing of interests in those parts in 1913 he took up Mount Tracey station, Cloncurry—a property that is now in the hands of one of his sons, Mr. Louis Macnamara.

About four years ago, deceased retired and with his wife came to Griffith to live with their daughter, Mrs. Brakine.

Deceased always took a very keen interest in the public affairs of whatever district he lived in, except this one, and he was over 80 years of age when he came here. He was a Justice of the Peace in the respective districts referred to.

Right up to the end he was mentally alert and followed up the war news with keen interest.

The late Mr. Macnamara was married in Wagga in 1874—68 years ago—to Miss Theresa Mary Troy, Toole's Creek Station, Wagga. Like himself, his bride was a native of Wagga.

There was a family of 13, eight of whom reached manhood and womanhood.

Besides the aged widow, four sons and three daughters survive. The sons are Messrs. Gus (Faine Station, Q.), Louis (Mount Tracey, Q.), Owen (Cookadood Station, Q.), and Patrick (Lessard Station, W.A.); whilst the daughters are Mesdames J. C. Brakine (Farm 74, Griffith), L. McMahon (Griffith), and D. Lucas (Squirrel Hill Station, McKinley, Q.).

There are 26 grandsons and nine grand-daughters. Grandsons in the services are: Lieut. J. C. Brakine, Royal Engineers, British Forces; Sergeant T. R. Brakine, A.I.F.; L.A.C. Dale McMahon, and Pte. Nat McMahon, A.I.F. Seven grand-daughters are also in the services.

Great-grandchildren number eight. Brothers are Mr. Louis Macnamara (Griffith), and Mr. Pat Macnamara (Avondale Station, Barmahman); whilst sisters are Mrs. S. Hydo (Bhaya) and Misses Mary and Therese Macnamara, Barmahman.

The funeral took place on Sunday, the cortege leaving the Sacred Heart Church for the place of interment in the Catholic portion of the Griffith cemetery. Rev. Father O'Donoghue officiated. The pall-bearers were six members of the I.O.O.F.

Messrs. J. Toomey & Son had

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W SYSTEM NEXT YEAR

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for Education (Mr. Clive has announced.

as will be based partly on paper at the examination and partly

student's school record.

Evatt said that the decision to use the new mode followed re-

consideration by the State Cab-

the examination system.

present requirements, he ex-

were that students at the in-

Griffith's Opportunity to Claim Australia's Most Famous Stockman

A Proposal to the Griffith Business Chamber

Regional towns across Australia invest heavily in creating tourism identities people will remember. Griffith may already have one — hidden in plain sight.

There is a compelling historical case that **Thomas Michael Macnamara**, who is buried in Griffith, was the real-life inspiration for Banjo Paterson's legendary character, **Clancy of the Overflow**. If recognised and developed strategically, this could become a significant cultural tourism opportunity for our region.

This claim is not based on folklore alone. It is supported by historical newspaper accounts, family testimony, documented timelines and references published during, or soon after, Banjo Paterson's lifetime. Publications including the *Courier-Mail*, *North Queensland Register* and *Area News* directly identified Macnamara as "Clancy" — accounts that appear to have been accepted historically and were not publicly disputed.

The story has everything modern tourism looks for:

- A direct connection to Banjo Paterson
- Australian literary history
- Bush heritage and stockman culture
- A tangible local landmark through Macnamara's grave
- A uniquely Australian story with national media potential

But this is more than a bush poetry story.

Macnamara was not only a frontier stockman — he later became a successful pioneer agriculturalist. His life reflects the same qualities Griffith is known for today: resilience, innovation, hard work and the transformation of inland country into productive agricultural land.

That connection is powerful.

Griffith is recognised for its food, wine and fibre production. Its identity is built on irrigation, agriculture and the ability to turn harsh inland landscapes into prosperity. Macnamara's life mirrors that journey — from the stock routes of the Australian bush to the rise of productive farming in the Riverina.

In many ways, the story of "Clancy" is also the story of Griffith.

Very few regional communities can claim a credible link to a figure as iconic as Clancy. The poem is embedded in Australian identity and still represents freedom, resilience, bush life and the romance of inland Australia. Yet Griffith has never fully claimed or developed its connection to that legacy.

This opportunity is not simply about historical recognition. It is about cultural and economic activation.

Potential initiatives could include:

- A **Clancy Trail** through Griffith and the Western Riverina
- Literary festivals and bush poetry events
- Farm-to-table tourism linked to Griffith's food and wine industries
- School excursions and educational tourism
- Public art, statues and interpretive signage
- Heritage storytelling experiences
- Partnerships with tourism bodies, museums and arts organisations
- National media positioning Griffith as the home of the real Clancy

Regional Australia is competing for visitors through authentic stories. People travel for stories they can connect with — and few stories are more recognisable in Australian culture than **Clancy of the Overflow**.

This is a story Griffith can own authentically.

Macnamara lived through the era that inspired Paterson's writing. His documented life aligns with the character of Clancy. His descendants maintained the connection. His story appeared in newspapers across decades. And his resting place remains here in Griffith, creating a rare and tangible link between Australian mythology and local history.

At a time when regional communities are searching for identity, visitation and economic diversification, Griffith may already have a nationally significant cultural asset waiting to be recognised.

A story that connects Australian literature, bush heritage, pioneer agriculture, irrigation history, food, wine, fibre and the enduring spirit of regional Australia.

The question is no longer whether the story is strong enough.

The question is whether Griffith is ready to claim it.

Griffith City Council

INFORMATION REPORT

CLAUSE CL10**TITLE** Historical Opinion - Thomas Michael MacNamara and 'Clancy of the Overflow'**FROM** Jenny O'Donnell, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager**TRIM REF** 26/85526

SUMMARY

The Griffith Business Chamber has requested that Council consider commissioning a qualified historian to investigate whether Thomas Michael MacNamara, who is buried in Griffith City Cemetery, was the individual who inspired Banjo Paterson's character 'Clancy of the Overflow'. In response, the Museum Curator undertook an initial investigation, followed by a broader assessment comparing the evidence supporting MacNamara's claim with that of another prominent claimant, Thomas Gerald Clancy. The original request and both reports are attached for the Committee's consideration.

The intention behind the request and the cultural and tourism possibilities it proposes are acknowledged as an exciting prospect for Griffith. However, the research undertaken has not been able to substantiate MacNamara as the definitive inspiration for the character. The available evidence instead supports the view that Clancy was a fictional or composite literary character shaped by several stockmen, incidents and aspects of bush life known to Paterson.

Griffith's connection to MacNamara is limited to being his final place of residence and burial; the pastoral properties, events and landscapes described in the various accounts have no established connection to Griffith. As the question has already been researched extensively over many years without a definitive conclusion, and Banjo Paterson's own memorial and resting place does not appear to generate notable tourism visitation, further investigation is unlikely to produce an outcome that would generate meaningful tourism or justify Council expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) GPPM - 1. Email request and info provided by the Griffith Business Chamber
- (b) GPPM - 2. Curator Report - Thomas MacNamara
- (c) GPPM - 3. Manager Report

CL10 Attachment (a) GPPM - 1. Email request and info provided by the Griffith Business Chamber



22 June 2026

Councillor Jenny Eliis, Chair, New Cemetery Masterplan Committee
Shari Blumer, Chair, Pioneer Park Museum Committee
Griffith City Council

By email only: pioneerpark.diary@griffith.nsw.gov.au ; cemetery@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

RE: Request for historical opinion into resting place of Thomas Michael MacNamara aka 'Clancy of the Overflow'

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On 28 May 2026, this matter was presented to the Chamber by a dedicated subcommittee formed to investigate its historical significance and potential tourism opportunities. Following the presentation, the Chamber resolved to refer the matter to the relevant Council Committees responsible for preserving the Griffith's heritage and managing Griffith City Cemetery, to consider the matter generally and recommend to Council that it fund the engagement of a qualified historian to undertake a formal investigation.

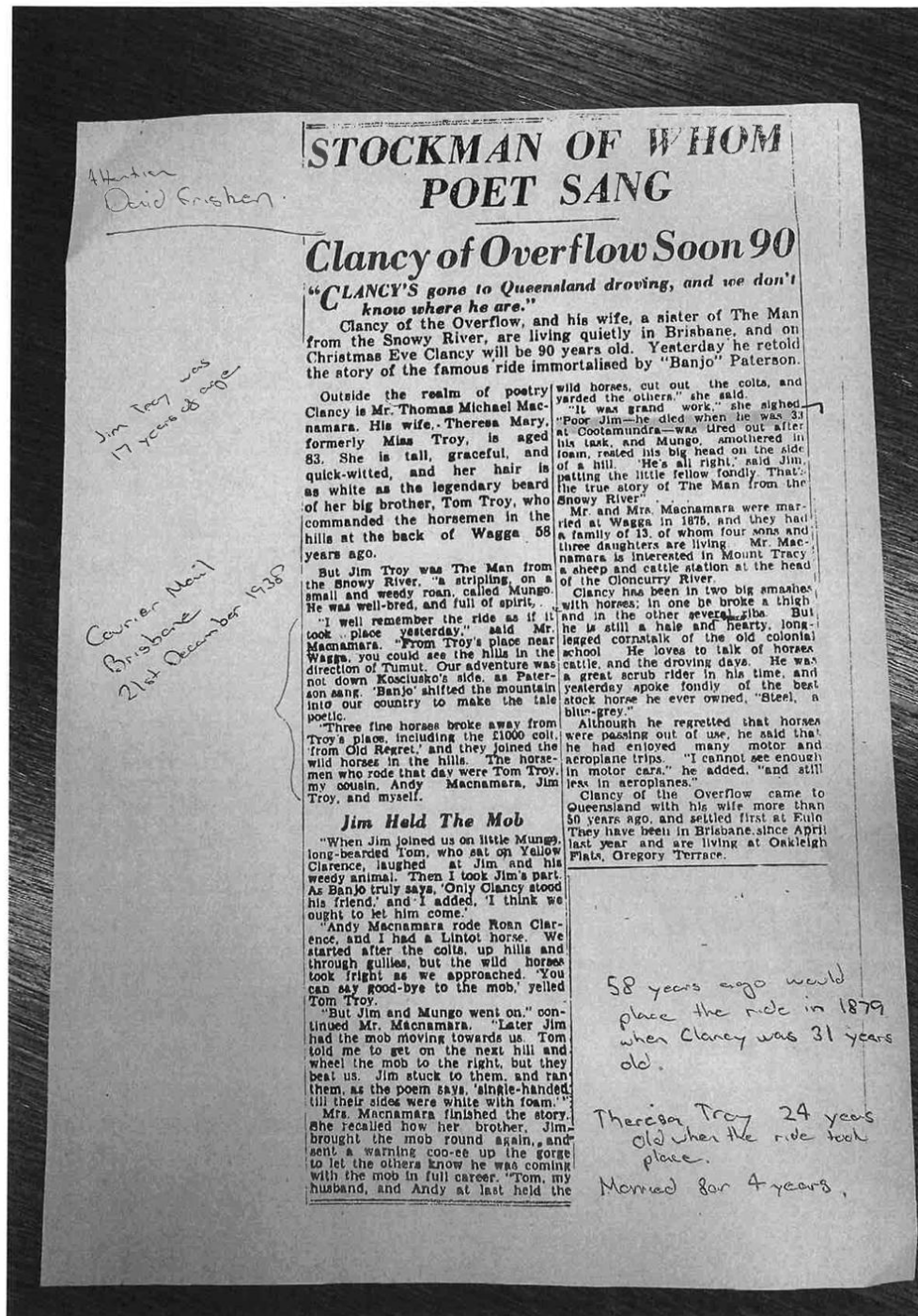
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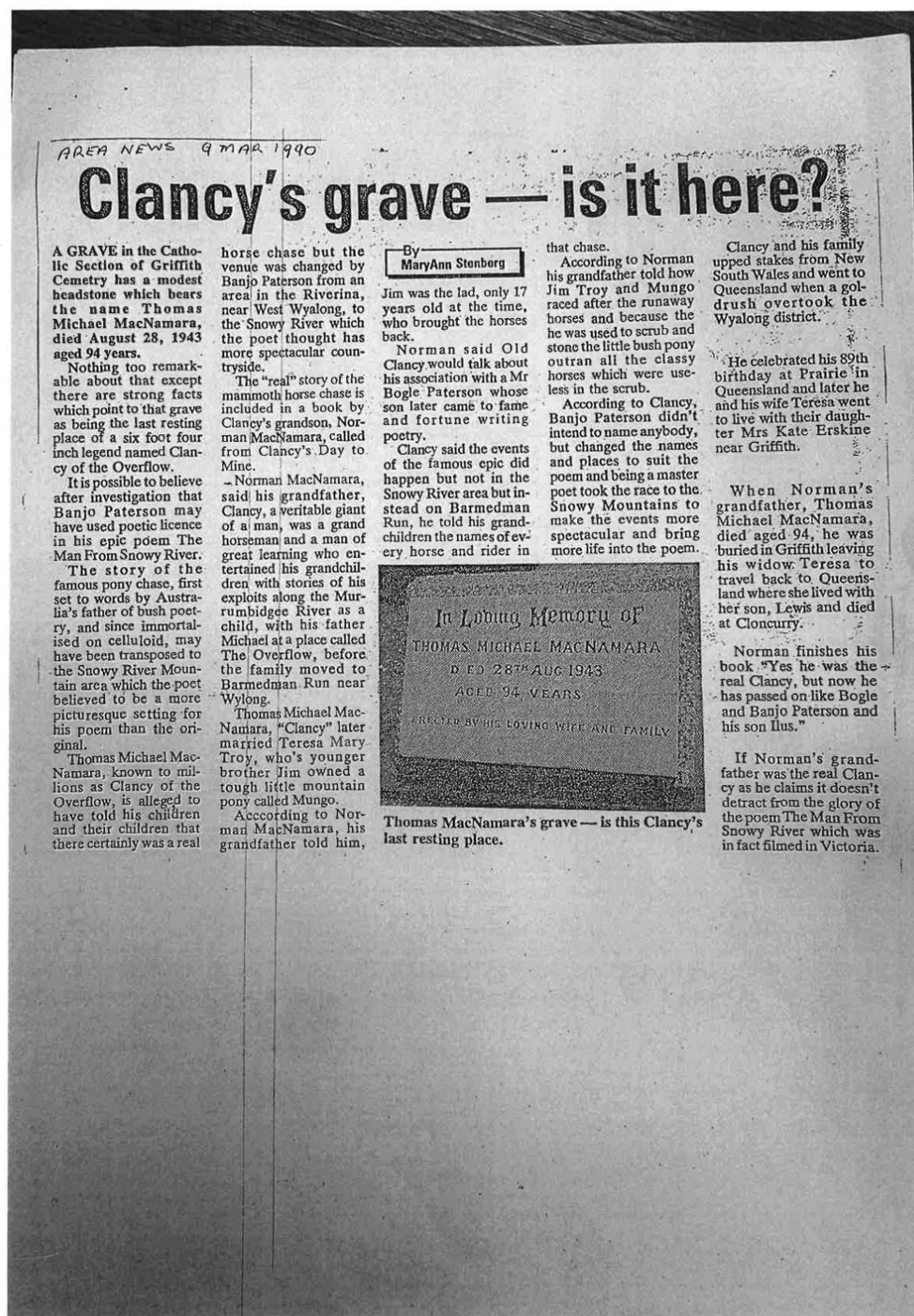
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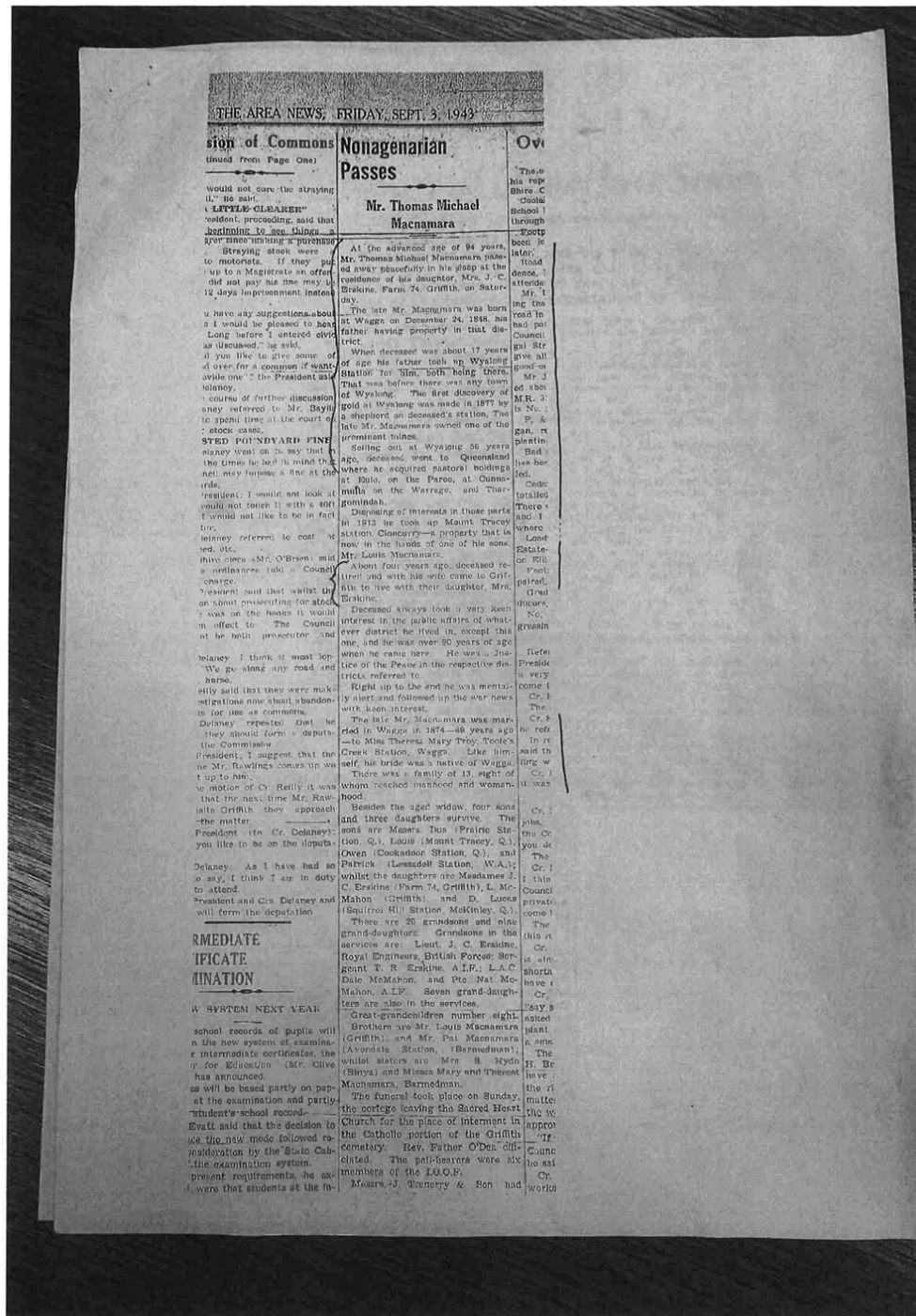
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Kind regards,

Griffith Business Chamber
info@griffithbusinesschamber.com.au
<https://griffithbusinesschamber.com.au/>







CL10 Attachment (a) GPPM - 1. Email request and info provided by the Griffith Business Chamber

Griffith's Opportunity to Claim Australia's Most Famous Stockman

A Proposal to the Griffith Business Chamber

Regional towns across Australia invest heavily in creating tourism identities people will remember. Griffith may already have one — hidden in plain sight.

There is a compelling historical case that **Thomas Michael Macnamara**, who is buried in Griffith, was the real-life inspiration for Banjo Paterson's legendary character, **Clancy of the Overflow**. If recognised and developed strategically, this could become a significant cultural tourism opportunity for our region.

This claim is not based on folklore alone. It is supported by historical newspaper accounts, family testimony, documented timelines and references published during, or soon after, Banjo Paterson's lifetime. Publications including the *Courier-Mail*, *North Queensland Register* and *Area News* directly identified Macnamara as "Clancy" — accounts that appear to have been accepted historically and were not publicly disputed.

The story has everything modern tourism looks for:

- A direct connection to Banjo Paterson
- Australian literary history
- Bush heritage and stockman culture
- A tangible local landmark through Macnamara's grave
- A uniquely Australian story with national media potential

But this is more than a bush poetry story.

Macnamara was not only a frontier stockman — he later became a successful pioneer agriculturalist. His life reflects the same qualities Griffith is known for today: resilience, innovation, hard work and the transformation of inland country into productive agricultural land.

That connection is powerful.

Griffith is recognised for its food, wine and fibre production. Its identity is built on irrigation, agriculture and the ability to turn harsh inland landscapes into prosperity. Macnamara's life mirrors that journey — from the stock routes of the Australian bush to the rise of productive farming in the Riverina.

In many ways, the story of "Clancy" is also the story of Griffith.

Very few regional communities can claim a credible link to a figure as iconic as Clancy. The poem is embedded in Australian identity and still represents freedom, resilience, bush life and the romance of inland Australia. Yet Griffith has never fully claimed or developed its connection to that legacy.

CL10 Attachment (a) GPPM - 1. Email request and info provided by the Griffith Business Chamber

This opportunity is not simply about historical recognition. It is about cultural and economic activation.

Potential initiatives could include:

- A **Clancy Trail** through Griffith and the Western Riverina
- Literary festivals and bush poetry events
- Farm-to-table tourism linked to Griffith's food and wine industries
- School excursions and educational tourism
- Public art, statues and interpretive signage
- Heritage storytelling experiences
- Partnerships with tourism bodies, museums and arts organisations
- National media positioning Griffith as the home of the real Clancy

Regional Australia is competing for visitors through authentic stories. People travel for stories they can connect with — and few stories are more recognisable in Australian culture than **Clancy of the Overflow**.

This is a story Griffith can own authentically.

Macnamara lived through the era that inspired Paterson's writing. His documented life aligns with the character of Clancy. His descendants maintained the connection. His story appeared in newspapers across decades. And his resting place remains here in Griffith, creating a rare and tangible link between Australian mythology and local history.

At a time when regional communities are searching for identity, visitation and economic diversification, Griffith may already have a nationally significant cultural asset waiting to be recognised.

A story that connects Australian literature, bush heritage, pioneer agriculture, irrigation history, food, wine, fibre and the enduring spirit of regional Australia.

The question is no longer whether the story is strong enough.

The question is whether Griffith is ready to claim it.

**Report: On the investigation into the identity of the Clancy of the Overflow,
published by A.B. Paterson 1899**

Fox Darcy
[REDACTED]

History

Andrew Barton Paterson was born in 1864 and grew up on sheep stations Buckinbah and Illalong. The older Paterson, also A.B., lost both stations due to poor returns caused by the drought. He was allowed to stay on at Illalong as station master. Young A.B. Paterson grew up surrounded by drovers, shearers, mounted troops, and swagmen, instilling in him a love for the bush and its lore that stayed with him his entire life. As he continued his schooling, he stayed in Sydney with his grandmother, a poet, Emily Barton. When he failed to secure a university bursary, he took a position as an articled clerk in a law office where he would eventually become partner.

He began publishing in the Bulletin under the name 'The Banjo', saying later that he still blushed to think of the first piece he wrote; 'Australia for Australians'. He would go on to publish both verse and prose in the Bulletin, including a set of bush ballads in friendly competition with Henry Lawson. When Angus and Robertson published a collection of his works, the revelation of his true identity caused a stir in society as the well-respected lawyer was also now a popular author.

Paterson would go on to be not only an accomplished lawyer, but also war correspondent, accomplished horseman and avid sportsman.

Discussion: The Identity of Clancy of the Overflow

The current request to investigate the identity of the character Clancy of the Overflow is, as stated by DeBortoli, part of an attempt to bring tourism to the area based on colonial nostalgia and to correct a perception of Griffith as being tied to 'marijuana and mafia'.

CL10 Attachment (b) GPPM - 2. Curator Report - Thomas MacNamara

A. B. Paterson was very clear about his inspiration for his ballad Clancy of the Overflow, explaining the note which secured both the image and the rhythm of the poem in his mind:

"The ballad had its being from a lawyer's letter which I had to write to a gentleman in the bush who had not paid his debts. I got an answer from a friend of his who wrote the exact words 'Clancy's gone to Queensland droving and we don't know where he are.'"

The man he had sent the letter to was named Thomas Gerald Clancy, who becomes one candidate for the real-life inspiration for Clancy of the Overflow.

Thomas Gerald Clancy

"The Overflow" is a station situated about 32 kilometers (20 miles) to the south-east of the town of Nymagee in New South Wales.

Thomas Gerald Clancy would go on to write and publish a response to Paterson's poem which is less romanticised and portrays the darker, harder aspects of bush life.

Paterson witnessed Clancy's will, lending credence to an ongoing acquaintance between the two men, which would have begun years before when Paterson was pursuing a debt Clancy owed.

Clancy's personal papers placed him droving sheep through the Lachlan in 1882. His brother, John Clancy also worked at the Overflow around the same time.

Thomas Clancy's family are proud of, and extremely protective of, their connection to Paterson and to the ballad.

Thomas McNamara

McNamara, known to Paterson's father Andrew Bogle Patterson, while they were at Illalong was known for his horsemanship.

In an interview with the Nambour Chronicle in March 1939, the 90-year-old McNamara identified his brother-in-law Jim Troy and his horse 'Mungo' as the inspiration for "The Man From Snowy River".

CL10 Attachment (b) GPPM - 2. Curator Report - Thomas MacNamara

McNamara himself appears to have been the loudest voice claiming that he was the 'real' Clancy, appearing twice in 1938 and 1939 in Brisbane newspapers describing a horse chase at Toole's Creek.

Summary

A.B Paterson himself refused to limit the identity of Clancy to one man. He was open about taking inspiration from the bushmen he had met in the course of his life. This certainly included but would not have been limited to Thomas McNamara nor Thomas Clancy.

The ballad and its character struck a chord in the Australian imagination, and was a convincing enough rendition to lead to multiple men claiming the title of the 'real' Clancy, which supports the idea that Clancy is a representation of a type of man that Paterson admired, and who these men aspired to be.

In the process of researching this report, the author contacted the Banjo Paterson Museum in Yeoval. This museum has now unfortunately closed, but their opinion agreed with that of the author, which is to say that Paterson's lifelong association with bushmen inspired the character rather than one particular man. They did not know who Thomas McNamara was.

McNamara's draw for Griffith specifically is of low significance. He lived in Griffith only at the end of his life and was not a pioneer in the development of the early stations nor of the town itself. Other towns hold a stronger claim to Banjo Paterson and to the ballad Clancy of the Overflow, especially where the station is located.

Unfortunately, Paterson's draw for tourism cannot be said to be particularly strong either, especially under so tenuous a connection. Yeoval's Paterson Museum has closed, and if they were unable to make success from Paterson's name when he lived in that area, Griffith has even less likelihood of profiting.

CL10 Attachment (b) GPPM - 2. Curator Report - Thomas MacNamara

It is the opinion of the author that it diminishes the significance of the character to reduce him to one man. He is an archetype, and has a place certainly in the creation of the Nation of Australia (distinct from Australian Nationalism, which at that point in history had not developed) and its outback mythology.

Recommendation

The recommendation of this report is that Council investigate local people and organisations who have contributed to Griffith's growth and development.

The main issue arising from the request to investigate the identity of Clancy of the Overflow is the desire to move Griffith's reputation away from 'marijuana and the mob'. While Banjo Paterson may not be the best route to take, there are others.

In 2026, Griffith was named among Australia's 100 best towns to visit, ranking number 63. An internet search with the query "What is Griffith best known for?" returns information about Griffith's wineries, food, natural environment, and Italian culture.

While in the past, in the immediate aftermath of Donald Mackay's disappearance, Griffith's reputation may have been associated with marijuana and organised crime, there is little indication that this is still the case.

Appendix:

Australian individuals of note with a strong association with Griffith:

Evonne Fay Goolagong Cawley (née **Goolagong**; born 31 July 1951) is an Australian former professional tennis player. She was ranked as the world No. 1 in women's singles by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), and was one of the world's leading players in the 1970s and early 1980s. Goolagong won 86 WTA Tour-level singles titles, including seven singles majors, and 46 doubles titles, including seven doubles majors.

CL10 Attachment (b) GPPM - 2. Curator Report - Thomas MacNamara

Goolagong was named Australian of the Year in 1971. She was appointed as a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1972 and as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1982. Goolagong was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985, the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1988, and the Aboriginal Sporting Hall of Fame in 1989. She leads the Goolagong National Development Camp for Indigenous boys and girls, which encourages Indigenous youth to stay in school.

Audrey Griffin

Audrey Griffin was present at the first Country Women's Association, formed on 20 April 1922 at the bushwomen's conference held in Sydney, that coincided with the Sydney Royal Easter Show. In 1926 she would become the president of the Griffith chapter. The Griffith CWA established one of the first baby health centres, and supported bush nurses, among other important duties.

Further Avenues for Investigation

Other individuals include Keith Hampton Todd and Jessie Marion Todd, who received an OBE and MBR respectively for their services in supporting returned servicemen. Numerous servicemen who lost their lives during World War 2, including Lionel Gibbs who hand built a glider with his brothers before his untimely death.

Consideration could also be given to the contributions to science and agriculture the CSIRO have made in Griffith.

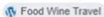
While the reputation and tourist draw of Griffith do not seem to be currently suffering, there is a wealth of positive history and active citizenship to draw from if Council would like to diversify its offerings beyond food and wine.

CL10 Attachment (b) GPPM - 2. Curator Report - Thomas MacNamara

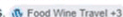
Yes, Griffith is absolutely worth visiting if you love food, wine, and rich cultural heritage. Located in the Riverina region of NSW, this vibrant city is a renowned food bowl. It boasts a strong Italian influence, dozens of cellar doors (like [De Bortoli Wines](#) and [Calabria Family Wines](#)), and major annual events like [A Taste of Italy Griffith](#). 



Key Highlights

- **Food & Wine:** With over 60 nationalities and a deep Italian heritage, you can expect incredible farm-to-table dining, fresh produce tours (such as [Catania Fruit Salad Farm](#)), and world-class wineries. 
- **History:** Explore the region's agricultural and Italian roots at the expansive open-air Pioneer Park Museum. 
- **Nature & Views:** For outdoor activities, you can hike the scenic trails at [Cocoparra National Park](#) or visit the stunning panoramic views at [Hermit's Cave and Lookout](#). 

Planning Your Trip

- **Getting There:** Located roughly a 6-hour drive from Sydney or a 5-hour drive from Melbourne, it is easily accessible by car and serves as a great detour on the Sturt and Newell Highways. 
- **Visitor Resources:** The town is well-g geared for tourists. You can plan your itinerary using the comprehensive Visit Griffith portal or by picking up a visitor guide at the local Griffith Tourism Hub. 

CL10 Attachment (c) GPPM - 3. Manager Report

GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM | REVISED HISTORICAL OPINION

HISTORICAL OPINION

Thomas Michael MacNamara, Thomas Gerald Clancy and the identity of “Clancy of the Overflow”

Prepared for: Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee

Purpose: Independent assessment of the Griffith Business Chamber request

Original report: 17 July 2026

Revision: 20 July 2026 — expanded comparison and chronological analysis

Status: Committee briefing — evidence-based historical opinion

OPINION IN BRIEF

The available evidence does not establish that Thomas Michael MacNamara was the original “Clancy of the Overflow”. His reported evidence relates principally to the horse chase later represented in “The Man from Snowy River”: MacNamara said that Jim Troy was the young rider and that he performed the supportive action Paterson assigned to the already-established character of Clancy. Thomas Gerald Clancy has the stronger claim to the name and The Overflow association in the 1889 poem, but his case is also circumstantial and internally inconsistent. The most defensible conclusion is that Paterson’s Clancy was literary and may have combined a real name or incident with characteristics and actions drawn from more than one bushman.

1. Question referred

The Griffith Business Chamber asks Council to consider funding a qualified historian to determine whether Thomas Michael MacNamara, buried in Griffith City Cemetery after his death on 28 August 1943, was the person who inspired A. B. “Banjo” Paterson’s “Clancy of the Overflow”. The Chamber identifies possible cultural, educational and tourism value if the connection can be reasonably established.

This opinion incorporates further analysis of Thomas Gerald Clancy’s competing claim, the chronology of both men, and the important distinction between “Clancy of the Overflow” (1889) and “The Man from Snowy River” (1890).

2. Method and standard of proof

The assessment reviewed the Chamber correspondence and enclosures, the Curator’s internal report, Paterson’s poems and later explanation, contemporary and retrospective newspaper accounts, and published material about both claimants. Greater weight has been given to records created close to the relevant events, direct statements, independent corroboration and facts capable of chronological verification. Newspaper repetition and later family tradition have been treated cautiously.

The question is historical probability, not legal proof. Even a close biographical match cannot establish artistic inspiration without some bridge between the person, Paterson and the poem. Conversely, a literary character may legitimately combine a name, incident and characteristics drawn from different sources.

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3. The essential distinction between the two poems

3.1 "Clancy of the Overflow" — 21 December 1889

The first poem introduces Clancy as a shearer and drover. The narrator says that he met Clancy "down the Lachlan", later sent a speculative letter to "Clancy, of The Overflow", and received the reply that Clancy had gone to Queensland droving. Paterson later said the ballad arose from a lawyer's letter concerning a bush debtor and the memorable reply from the man's friend. Paterson did not identify either claimant by name in that recollection.

3.2 "The Man from Snowy River" — 26 April 1890

The second poem reuses Clancy as an already-known and respected rider at the great horse chase. When other horsemen dismiss the stripling on his small mountain pony, "Only Clancy stood his friend" and argued that the young rider should be allowed to join the pursuit.

3.3 What MacNamara actually claimed

In the reported 1939 account, MacNamara identified his brother-in-law Jim Troy and the pony Mungo with the young rider in "The Man from Snowy River". He said that the other riders laughed at Jim and that he, MacNamara, defended him. MacNamara expressly mapped his action to the line "Only Clancy stood his friend". This explains why he was subsequently identified with Clancy: he claimed to have performed the real-life action assigned to Clancy in the second poem.

That account may support a possible contribution to Clancy's cameo in "The Man from Snowy River". It does not, without additional evidence, establish that MacNamara was the man named Clancy, the person associated with The Overflow, or the subject of Paterson's earlier lawyer-letter incident. The two propositions must not be treated as interchangeable.

4. Chronological dateline

Date	Event	Historical significance
1835	Thomas Gerald Clancy born at Cork, Ireland.	Later biography; background only.
24 Dec 1848	Thomas Michael MacNamara born near Wagga Wagga.	Supplied obituary material.
17 Feb 1864	Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson born.	Essential when testing later family recollections.
c. 1865 onward	MacNamara's family associated with pastoral properties in the Barmedman/West Wyalong region.	Places him broadly within the Riverina/Lachlan pastoral world, but not at The Overflow.
c. 1880	MacNamara later dated the Troy horse chase to about 58 years before the 1938 report. Paterson would have been about 16.	Could be a family incident later heard by Paterson; it does not show direct observation.
1880s	Paterson trained and worked in law before the poem was published.	Consistent with his later explanation that a legal debt letter prompted the poem.
c. 1887–88	MacNamara reportedly sold his Wyalong interests and moved to Queensland.	A notable chronological match with "gone to Queensland droving", but no Clancy or Overflow link is established.
21 Dec 1889	"Clancy of the Overflow" published in The Bulletin.	The relevant identity evidence must predate this date.
26 Apr 1890	"The Man from Snowy River" published in The Bulletin.	Clancy is reused as a rider who supports the young man.
1897	Thomas Gerald Clancy wrote "Clancy's Reply" under "Clangerald".	An early public association with Paterson's character, eight years after the first poem.
26 Feb 1910	Gerald Clancy interviewed and reportedly said he was "supposed to be" Clancy.	Lifetime claim; cautious wording rather than conclusive proof.

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Date	Event	Historical significance
1914	Thomas Gerald Clancy died.	Later claims about him are retrospective unless supported by earlier records.
Dec 1938	MacNamara publicly presented in newspapers as Clancy; Paterson separately recalled the lawyer-letter origin.	MacNamara claim becomes prominent nearly 49 years after the first poem.
1939	Detailed MacNamara account linked Jim Troy to the young rider and MacNamara to the act "Only Clancy stood his friend".	Primary basis for identifying MacNamara with Clancy's role in the second poem.
5 Feb 1941	Banjo Paterson died.	No located statement from him confirms MacNamara as Clancy.
28 Aug 1943	Thomas Michael MacNamara died in Griffith and was buried in Griffith City Cemetery.	Basis of Griffith's local connection.
11 Dec 1943	The Age published a retrospective life story of Thomas Gerald Clancy.	Claims an Overflow connection and later meeting with Paterson, but gives a different origin story from Paterson's lawyer-letter account.

5. Assessment of the MacNamara claim

5.1 Evidence supporting the claim

- MacNamara was a genuine pastoralist and accomplished horseman with Riverina and Queensland experience.
- His reported move from the Wyalong district to Queensland around 1887–88 is chronologically close to the 1889 phrase that Clancy had gone Queensland droving.
- He gave a detailed lifetime account of the Troy horse chase and identified himself with the action "Only Clancy stood his friend".
- The MacNamara, Troy and Paterson families occupied the broader southern NSW pastoral world, making transmission of a local horse story plausible.
- The claim was made during MacNamara's lifetime and is therefore part of the historical record, not solely a posthumous legend.

5.2 Evidence limiting the claim

- MacNamara's surname was not Clancy, and no verified pre-1889 record has been located showing that Paterson or the district knew him by that name.
- No verified pre-1889 connection between MacNamara and a station called The Overflow has been located.
- No original lawyer's letter, legal file or contemporary correspondence connects MacNamara to Paterson's debt-letter incident.
- The detailed evidence concerns "The Man from Snowy River", published after Clancy had already been created as a literary character.
- The best-known reports appeared almost 49 years after "Clancy of the Overflow" and use assertive journalistic framing that goes beyond the demonstrated facts.
- Later family explanations involving a colt called "Glancy", a nickname that became Clancy, and a MacNamara property called The Overflow have not been independently verified from contemporary records.

Assessment: MacNamara has a plausible connection to the action attributed to Clancy in the 1890 horse-chase poem and an interesting chronological match in his move to Queensland. The evidence does not presently connect him to the identifying framework of the 1889 poem.

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6. Assessment of the Thomas Gerald Clancy claim**6.1 Evidence supporting the claim**

- His actual surname was Clancy.
- His brother worked at The Overflow, and Gerald reportedly drove a large mob of cattle from the station.
- He was an experienced interstate drover with Queensland connections.
- He wrote "Clancy's Reply" in 1897, relatively close to publication, and publicly associated himself with the character during his lifetime.
- Paterson reportedly later witnessed his will, which, if confirmed from the probate record, establishes some later personal acquaintance.

6.2 Evidence limiting the claim

- The 1943 account states that Gerald never worked at The Overflow; his association was through his brother and a droving job from the station.
- The same account states that Gerald and Paterson did not meet until several years after the poem, which does not literally match the narrator's earlier meeting with Clancy down the Lachlan.
- The 1943 explanation says a newspaper report of Gerald's droving caught Paterson's eye, whereas Paterson attributed the poem to a lawyer's letter. These accounts conflict unless more than one source was used.
- The original debt letter has not been located and no verified legal file identifies Gerald as the debtor or addressee.
- Later family testimony contains demonstrable chronological embellishment, including a claim that Gerald and Paterson were together on the Bendigo diggings in 1841, 23 years before Paterson was born.

Assessment: Gerald Clancy has the stronger claim to the name and The Overflow association, and his early response poem is significant. The evidence remains circumstantial and does not prove that the fully developed literary character was a portrait of him alone.

7. Comparative evidence table

Test	Thomas Michael MacNamara	Thomas Gerald Clancy	Finding
Actual name	MacNamara; no verified pre-1889 Clancy nickname.	Clancy by birth.	Gerald
The Overflow	No verified association. Later family claim remains unproven.	Brother employed there; Gerald reportedly drove cattle from it but did not work there.	Gerald
Lachlan/Riverina	Strong regional pastoral connection.	Interstate droving connection; precise Lachlan meeting unverified.	Slightly MacNamara geographically; neither proven
Queensland droving	Moved to Queensland c. 1887–88; close chronological fit.	Experienced Queensland/interstate drover; exact 1889 whereabouts need confirmation.	Both plausible
Lawyer's letter	No link found.	Traditional link, but original letter and legal file not found.	Gerald, weakly
Contact with Paterson before 1889	Alleged connection through Paterson's father; unverified.	1943 account says they met only after publication.	Neither
Earliest public claim	1938, nearly 49 years after publication.	1897 response poem; 1910 lifetime interview.	Gerald
Role in 1890 horse chase	MacNamara expressly identified himself with "Only Clancy stood his friend".	Clancy is the literary rider, but Gerald evidence is directed mainly to the 1889 poem.	MacNamara for this particular action

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Test	Thomas Michael MacNamara	Thomas Gerald Clancy	Finding
Independent corroboration	Pastoral life and burial established; poem connection uncorroborated.	Name, droving and Overflow connection partly corroborative; decisive bridge absent.	Gerald
Main contradiction	Evidence about the second poem is used to claim identity in the first.	Newspaper-origin story conflicts with Paterson's lawyer-letter explanation.	Both materially limited
Best historical interpretation	Possible source for an action assigned to Clancy in "The Man from Snowy River"; documented later claimant.	Strongest candidate for the name and immediate 1889 narrative framework.	Different contributions may have been combined

8. Historical opinion

On the balance of the evidence, it is not historically supportable to state as fact that Thomas Michael MacNamara was "the real Clancy of the Overflow" or that Griffith City Cemetery is definitively "Clancy's resting place". MacNamara's strongest evidence concerns his claimed role in the Troy horse chase represented in "The Man from Snowy River". That does not establish that he was the Clancy introduced in the earlier poem.

Thomas Gerald Clancy has the stronger association with the identifying features of the 1889 poem: the surname, The Overflow and a droving life. However, his claim is not conclusive. He reportedly did not work at The Overflow, may not have met Paterson until after publication, and the later newspaper account of the poem's origin conflicts with Paterson's lawyer-letter explanation.

The evidence is most coherently understood by separating the possible sources: Gerald Clancy may have supplied the name and Overflow association; MacNamara may have contributed, directly or through local tradition, to the supportive action assigned to Clancy in the 1890 horse chase; and Paterson created an idealised literary bushman from real incidents, observation and invention. This composite explanation remains a reasoned interpretation rather than a proven fact.

A narrower statement is supportable: Thomas Michael MacNamara was an authentic pastoralist, a documented lifetime claimant, and a man whose reported account offers a possible local source for part of "The Man from Snowy River". His burial gives Griffith a legitimate connection to the contested history of Australia's Clancy traditions, but not an exclusive claim to Clancy's identity.

9. Recommended Committee position

It is recommended that the Committee:

- note that the available evidence is insufficient to verify MacNamara as the original or sole inspiration for "Clancy of the Overflow";
- recognise that MacNamara's most specific testimony concerns the role attributed to Clancy in "The Man from Snowy River";
- recognise Thomas Gerald Clancy as the stronger candidate for the name and The Overflow association, while recording that his identification is also unproven;
- if interpretation is pursued, present both claims, the two-poem distinction and the possibility of a composite literary character;
- commission further work only under a primary-record brief directed to the years before 1889; and
- assess tourism potential separately from historical verification, cemetery policy, heritage approvals and cost.
- recognise that limited interpretation of MacNamara's grave may be appropriate for local historical and educational purposes, but that the site is unlikely to provide a meaningful tourism draw or justify Council expenditure.

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Consideration	Assessment
Historical interest	Moderate, because MacNamara was a documented claimant
Local cemetery interpretation	Potentially suitable if cautiously worded
Educational value	Limited but genuine as an example of contested history
Standalone tourism attraction	Very low
Likely additional visitation to Griffith	Negligible
Justification for significant expenditure	Not demonstrated

10. Suggested public wording

The following wording would be historically responsible for a plaque, webpage or guided-tour reference:

Thomas Michael MacNamara (1848–1943), a pastoralist and horseman buried in Griffith, was identified in late-life newspaper reports as a possible “Clancy”. MacNamara said that his brother-in-law Jim Troy inspired the young rider in “The Man from Snowy River” and that he performed the supportive action which Banjo Paterson attributed to Clancy. This does not conclusively identify MacNamara as the Clancy introduced in the earlier poem “Clancy of the Overflow”. Thomas Gerald Clancy has a stronger association with that name and The Overflow station, while the full literary character may have drawn upon more than one bushman.

11. Dateline-based research brief

A further historian should build a documented year-by-year timeline for both men from approximately 1875 to 1890. The research should seek evidence capable of confirming or excluding the following propositions:

- MacNamara was known as Clancy or Clancy before December 1889;
- a MacNamara property was officially or commonly called The Overflow before 1889;
- either man was shearing down the Lachlan when Paterson could have met him;
- either man was the debtor or addressee in Paterson’s legal correspondence;
- the precise date MacNamara left Wyalong for Queensland and whether he was droving at that time;
- the precise date and nature of Gerald Clancy’s work connected with The Overflow;
- the date and authenticity of the will reportedly witnessed by Paterson; and
- the earliest written version of the Troy horse-chase story and whether it predates the 1938 publicity.

Priority sources are Paterson’s surviving legal and personal papers, station wage and shearing records, pastoral leases, land transactions, stock-brand registers, droving permits, postal directories, newspapers, probate files and family correspondence created before 1938. Without new primary evidence, further research is likely to refine probability rather than produce a definitive identification.

12. Notes on names and dates

- Paterson is correctly spelled with one “t”, although historical newspapers often printed “Patterson”.
- “Clancy of the Overflow” was published in 1889, not 1899.
- “The Man from Snowy River” followed in 1890; evidence about its horse chase cannot automatically prove the origin of the earlier Clancy character.
- The supplied material uses MacNamara, Macnamara, McNamara and MacNamarra. This opinion uses Thomas Michael MacNamara, matching the grave and obituary material, while retaining variants in source titles.
- Approximate dates derived retrospectively, including the c. 1880 Troy chase and c. 1887–88 move to Queensland, require confirmation from contemporary records.

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Sources consulted

- Griffith Business Chamber, "Request for historical opinion into resting place of Thomas Michael MacNamara aka 'Clancy of the Overflow'", 22 June 2026. Supplied correspondence and enclosures.
- Fox Darcy, "Report: On the investigation into the identity of the Clancy of the Overflow", 2026. Internal Curator report supplied for review.
- A. B. Paterson, "Clancy of the Overflow", *The Bulletin*, 21 December 1889. National Library of Australia: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-488923924/view?partId=nla.obj-488931510>
- A. B. Paterson, "The Man from Snowy River", *The Bulletin*, 26 April 1890. Original publication chronology and text.
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Limitations

This is an independent historical assessment prepared from supplied material and publicly accessible sources. It is not genealogical proof, an archaeological assessment or a formal heritage significance assessment. Newspaper optical character recognition is imperfect, syndicated articles are not independent corroboration, and family traditions may contain accurate memories alongside later interpretation. The conclusions should be revisited if primary evidence predating December 1889 is produced.

Independent assessment • Revised 20 July 2026 | 7

CLAUSE	CL02
TITLE	Construction of Below Ground Vaults
FROM	Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations
TRIM REF	26/114458

SUMMARY

A committee member has requested that a report be brought to the committee to investigate the various options and costs for the construction of below ground vaults at the Griffith Cemetery.

RECOMMENDATION

Note the report.

REPORT

Currently Griffith City Council has been engaging a contractor to construct the below ground vaults in the Roman Catholic Section of the Griffith Cemetery using bricks. This construction technique has been chosen due to the simple process and certainly has been influenced by the available skills of local tradesman.

Council's investigations have revealed that Leeton Shire currently install precast vault components and that the funeral directors arrange for the supply of the components. It would seem that Leeton would be running from a slightly different concept of demand and supply that Griffith does.

The current process in Griffith is to construct a number of below ground vaults and then make these burial sites available for purchase via a reservation. The proceeds obtained are then used to construct more vaults which can assist in raising operational income for the cemetery.

The most recent engagement was for the construction of 28 below ground vaults. Council received quotes from two companies. The details of these quotations are considered to be commercial in confidence. It should be noted that four contractors were approached for quotations, although only two responded. The Quotation from Company B excluded any concrete footpath surrounding the finished vaults, whereas the quotation from Company A also included 21m of 1.2m wide footpath as part of the construction.

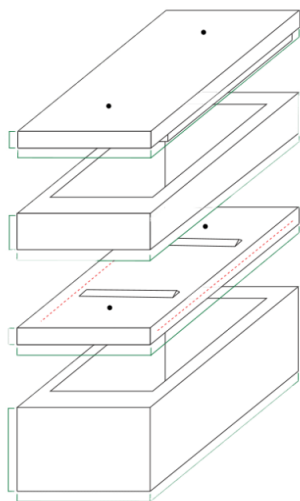
Council has investigated the costs of a precast concrete cemetery vault product that is currently manufactured by CivilMart in Adelaide. The component costs for 28 double vaults, lids, raw material levy and delivery exceeds the cost of the finished product completed by Company A by more than \$11,000. This does not include the excavation and construction costs which could amount to approximately \$70,000 (estimated at \$2,500 x 28), and it also does not include the surrounding concrete path construction.

It should be noted that when 20 vaults become available Council ceases to take any additional reservations until more vaults are constructed.

Attachments (a) and (b) provide the specification for construction that the local contractors are asked to price in order to construct the Double below ground vaults in the Griffith Cemetery.

The precast concrete double vaults have the following specifications:

Product Specification



Double Burial Vault

Our Double Burial Vaults comprise of:

- Base
- Divider
- Increment
- Cover Slab

*This product is manufactured in **South Australia/Victoria** but **could** be supplied to other states. Contact your local Civilmart specialist for more information.*

Product Specification

Description	Width (mm)	Length (mm)	Depth (mm)
Base	1200	2600	1800
Divider Slab	1200	2600	80
Cover Slab	1200	2600	100
Increment	1200	2600	750

This information has been sourced from <https://civilmart.com.au/product/double-burial-vault/>

Council's investigation reveals that the current contractor is providing better value for money utilising a brick and concrete construction on site, rather than obtaining precast components.

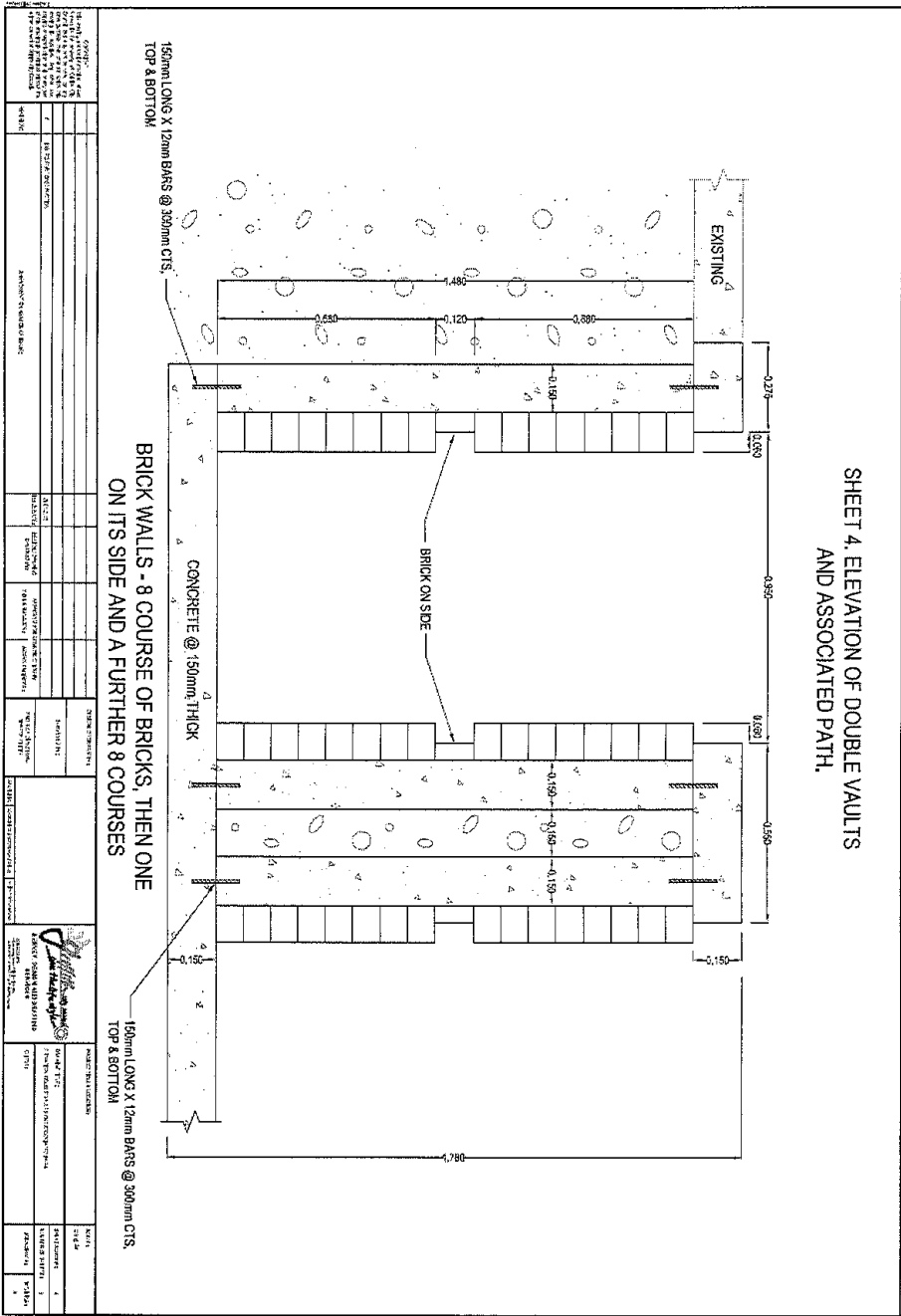
LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 6.1 Provide, renew and maintain a range of quality infrastructure, assets, services and facilities.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Elevation of Double Vaults and associated Path   | 36 |
| (b) | Specification for Below Ground Vault Construction   | 37 |

Griffith City Council





SPECIFICATION
FOR
GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
VAULT CONSTRUCTION

January 2013

Griffith City Council

SPECIFICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VAULTS AT GRIFFITH CEMETERY

1.0 ORDER OF CONSTRUCTION

Vaults shall be constructed alternatively ie typically E28, E30, E32 etc then E29, E31, E33 etc in accordance with the attached plan – Sheet #1, and # 2.

Concrete surround 150mm thick may be poured as a single unit with contraction joint every 1.5m longitudinally (midpoint between vault cavities).

Two paths approximately 21m x 1200 x 150mm shall be constructed as per plan – Sheet # 1.

(i) Double Vaults

2 rows, 14 vaults per row to be constructed adjacent to row F in the Catholic Section.

The area will be identified on the ground by Griffith City Council.

Levels shall match the existing adjacent slab levels.

Contraction joints between adjacent vaults shall be consistent with the existing area.

(ii) Single Vaults

Single row, 5 vaults to be constructed as an extension of the existing row – A11 to A15 inclusive.

The area will be identified on the ground by Griffith City Council.

Levels shall match the adjacent slab levels.

2.0 DIMENSIONS

The dimensions of vaults shall be as shown on the attached plan – Sheets #3, 4 and 5. The path dimension shall be as per plan – Sheet # 1.

Each grave site occupies an area 2800 mm long x 1500mm wide with a concrete and brick vault constructed centrally within this area.

Dimensions and position of forms and/or brickwork shall be carefully checked to ensure they are aligned correctly and the location of cavities are accurately located and the correct dimension.

3.0 METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION

3.1 EXCAVATION

Excavate 2780mm long x 1350mm wide x 1780mm below finished level.

Excavate alternate vaults. This will retain approximately 150mm earth between vaults.

Material excavate is to be retained on site and stockpiled as directed by the Cemetery Manager.

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3.2 BASE

Pour individual base slabs 2780mm x 1350mm x 150mm mass concrete – 25 MPa. Allow 150mm x 12mm Ø bars at 300mm c/c as “tie in” to concrete walls.

Provide a cylindrical depression approximately 250mm Ø x 50mm deep in the centre of each base to aide removal of water.

3.3 BRICK WALLS

Form brick vault using single column, 1 colour common bricks. All joints fully mortared and mortar struck flush with the surface. Brick walls to terminate 150mm below finished surface.

Double vault walls to comprise 8 course of bricks laid on flat side and then a row of bricks on their side followed by a further 8 courses to finished level.

Single vaults shall comprise 8 course of bricks laid on their side.

3.4 MASS CONCRETE WALLS

Once brick works has cured nominal 150mm thick mass concrete walls shall be poured to 150mm below finished level (ie same height as brick wall).

Support brick wall as necessary to prevent bulging or movement.

Insert 150mm x 12mm Ø tie in at 300mm c/c to connect walls to concrete surround.

3.5 VAULT SURROUND

The mass concrete area surrounding the vaults may be poured as a complete section provided expansion joints are provided (in lieu of contraction joints) at approximately 9 metre intervals. Each vault shall retain an opening 60mm wider than the internal brickwork on all sides and be bounded by a expansion jointing material to aid insertion of temporary “lids”.

NOTE: The temporary lids may be placed together with expansion jointing material and used as the former for the vault opening.

3.6 PATHS

Paths shall be constructed at the location shown on the plans. Levels shall match existing concrete levels and new concrete vault surrounds and be 150mm thick. A light broom finish shall be applied to the finished surface.

4.0 FORMWORK

Formwork shall be provided to produce hardened concrete to the lines, levels and shapes shown on the drawings and/or specified elsewhere. It shall have adequate strength to carry all applied loads including the pressure of fresh concrete, vibration loads, weight of workers and equipment without loss of shape. Form shall be mortar tight and designed to allow removal without risk of damage to the completed structure. Formwork material used shall be sound and suitable for the purpose intended.

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5.0 MATERIALS FOR CONCRETE**5.1 CEMENT**

Cement shall be Type GP Portland Cement complying with AS 3972.

Documentary or other acceptable evidence of the quality of the cement shall be furnished by the Contractor if required by the Superintendent.

5.2 WATER

Water shall be free from injurious amounts of materials harmful to concrete and to its reinforcement and neither salty nor brackish.

Water which is not potable for human beings shall not be used in reinforced concrete.

5.3 FINE AGGREGATE

Fine aggregates shall consist of clean, hard, tough, durable uncoated grains, uniform in quality, and shall conform to the requirements of AS 2758.1 in respect of bulk density, water absorption (maximum 5%) material finer than 2 micrometres, impurities and reactive materials.

Fine aggregates shall be evenly graded within the absolute limits shown in Table 1, and shall not deviate from the proposed grading by more than the amounts in Table 1.

Table 1: Fine Aggregate Grading

Australian Standard Sieve	Proportion Passing (% of Mass)	Deviation from Proposed Grading (% of Mass Sample)
9.50 mm	100	
4.75 mm	90 – 100	±5
1.18 mm	40 – 85	±10
300 µm	8 – 30	±10
150 µm	2 – 10	±5
75 µm	0 – 4	±3

5.4 COARSE AGGREGATE

Coarse aggregate shall consist of clean, hard, durable, crushed stone, crushed river gravel, screened river gravel or metallurgical furnace slag and shall conform to the requirements of AS 2758.1 in respect of particle density, bulk density, water absorption (maximum 2.5%), material finer than 75 micrometres, weak particles, light particles, impurities and reactive materials, iron unsoundness and falling or dusting unsoundness. In all other respects the coarse aggregate shall comply with this specification. If required, coarse aggregate shall be washed to satisfy these requirements.

The percentage of wear shall be determined by AS 1141.23, and the loss of weight shall not exceed 30%.

When required by the Superintendent, coarse aggregate shall be tested for conformance for any or all of the properties set out below:

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- (i) Crushing Value – AS 1141.21
The aggregate crushing value shall not exceed 25%.
- (ii) Soundness – AS 1141.24
The loss of mass when tested with sodium sulphate shall not exceed 12%.
- (iii) Particle Shape – AS 1141.14
The proportion of misshapen particles (2:1 ratio) shall not exceed 35%.

Coarse aggregate shall be evenly graded within the absolute limits shown in Table 2 and shall not deviate from the grading by more than the amount shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Coarse Aggregate Gradings

Australian Standard Sieve (mm)	Proportion Passing (% of Mass)			Deviation
	40 mm Nominal	20 mm Nominal	Extrusion Concrete	Proposed Grading (% of Mass of Sample)
	For Walls exceeding 150 mm thickness	For all other structures		
53.0	100			
37.5	95 – 100			±10
26.5		100		
19.0	30 – 70	95 – 100		±10
13.2			100	
9.50	10 – 35	25 – 35		±5
4.75	0 – 10	0 – 10		±5
2.36	0 – 2	0 – 2		

5.5 ADMIXTURES

Chemical admixtures and their use shall comply with AS 1478.1. Admixtures shall not contain calcium chloride, calcium formate, or triethanolamine or any other accelerator. Admixtures or combinations of admixtures, other than specified below, shall not be used.

During the warm season (October to March inclusive), a lignin or lignin-based ("ligpol") set-retarding admixture (Type Re or Type WRRe) approved by the Superintendent may be used to control slump within the limits stated in Clause 5.2. The dosage shall be varied to account for air temperature and haul time in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. A copy of the NATA endorsed Certificate of Compliance with AS 1478.1 for Type Re or Type WRRe shall be submitted to the Superintendent, together with the proposed "dosage chart".

During the cool season April to September inclusive), only a lignin or lignin-based set-retarding admixture containing not more than 6% reducing sugars (Type WRRe complying with AS 1478.1) may be used in the mix.

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6.0 HANDLING AND TREATMENT OF CONCRETE

6.1 MEASURING

All materials shall be measured by weight except that:

- (a) Water may be measured by volume with an approved adjustable water-measuring and discharging device;
- (b) Cement may be measured by bags as packed by the manufacturer in which case batches shall be proportioned on the basis of one or more unbroken bags of cement and for this purpose one bag of cement shall be assumed to weigh 40 kg. Bulk cement shall be weighed in an individual hopper and shall be kept separate from the aggregates until the components of the batch are discharged from the batching hopper.
- (c) Measurement by volume for smaller works may be undertaken with the prior approval of the Superintendent

6.2 CONSISTENCY

A sufficient quantity of water shall be added to the mix so that the consistency of the concrete is such that it can be placed in the forms, compacted and worked into all corners without permitting the ingredients to segregate, or excess free water to collect on the surface. If required by the Superintendent, the Contractor shall determine the consistence of the concrete in accordance with AS 1012.3.1. Except for extruded concrete, the nominated slump shall not exceed 80 mm, plus the field tolerance of ± 15 mm.

6.3 MIXING AND DELIVERY

Ready-mixed Concrete

The concrete shall be mixed and delivered in accordance with the requirements of AS 1379 relating to:

- (i) Mixing and Delivery; and
- (ii) Use of Non-Agitating Equipment

with the exception that in (i) the time taken from the introduction of water until the concrete is completely discharged shall be not more than 1.5 hours, and in (ii) not more than 30 minutes.

The water used for flushing the chutes and for cleaning shall be discharged in an area acceptable to the Superintendent. The chutes shall be long enough to permit delivery to the whole of the area enclosed by the forms.

6.4 PLACING AND COMPACTING CONCRETE

No concrete shall be mixed or placed without the approval of the Superintendent, while the air temperature is, or is likely to be within 24 hours, below 5°C or while the shade temperature exceeds 38°C. All concrete shall be placed in the dry. Prior to placing concrete the area shall be clean and moist, but free from any ponding of water.

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The concrete shall be mixed in the quantities required for immediate use and shall be placed in position as rapidly as possible. Any concrete which has developed initial set, or which does not reach the forms within 30 minutes after the water has been added (except when transported in agitator trucks) shall not be used.

The concrete shall be deposited in the forms without separation of the aggregates. Concrete shall not be dropped freely from a height greater than 1.2 metres, or be deposited in large quantities at any point and moved or worked along the forms. Conveying equipment, including open troughs and chutes, where used, shall be made of metal, or have metal linings. Where used on steep slopes, troughs and chutes shall be equipped with baffles, or be placed in short lengths in such a way that the direction of flow of the concrete is changed. The concrete shall be placed in horizontal layers in one continuous operation between the ends of the work and/or construction joints. Care shall be taken to fill every part of the forms and to work the coarser aggregate back from the face. The freshly placed concrete shall be compacted by continuous spading, slicing or by vibrator units. Vibrators shall not be left in one position for more than 30 seconds and shall not be permitted to rest on reinforcement.

Exposed surfaces of the concrete shall be struck off and either finished with a wooden float or if finished with a steel float receive a light broom finish to provide a non-slip surface. Where shown on the drawings, corners and edges shall be left neatly rounded or chamfered. Re-entrant angles shall be neatly filleted.

Concrete shall not be moved after it has been in the forms for more than 10 minutes.

6.5 FINISHING OF UNFORMED SURFACES

Wearing Surfaces

Where a concrete wearing surface is shown on the drawings, the concrete shall be thoroughly compacted and the surface screeded off. Immediately following compaction and screeding, the concrete shall be tested for high or low spots and any necessary corrections made. The surface shall be finished true and uniform and free from any glazed or trowelled finish and shall be finally dressed with a wooden template or float, or receive a light broom finish in an approved manner. The departure from grade shall not exceed 5 mm in any 3 metre length.

Finished Levels and Location

Footpaths and similar shall not deviate from level or alignment by more than 5 mm from a straightedge 3 metres long, subject to any necessary allowances on vertical and horizontal curves.

6.6 CURING AND PROTECTION

All exposed surfaces of the freshly placed concrete shall be kept moist either by the use of plastic sheeting, damp sand or commercial curing compounds, in accordance with AS 3799, for a maximum period of 3 days. During this time the work must be adequately protected from the effects of excessive surface evaporation, rain, running water, vandalism and other causes likely to damage the concrete. All costs involved in making good or replacing any work that has been damaged due to the abovementioned factors shall be borne by the Contractor.

Curing for concrete shall generally be in accordance with the appropriate surface exposure classification in AS 3600.

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6.7 REMOVAL OF FORMS

All forms shall remain in place, after placement of concrete, for minimum periods specified hereinafter. These periods may be extended by the Superintendent if the air shade temperature falls below 10°C during the periods specified:

Footpaths, driveways and similar 24 hours

Care shall be taken in removing forms so that the concrete will not be cracked, chipped or otherwise damaged. The use of crowbars or other levering devices exerting pressure on the fresh concrete to loosen the forms will not be permitted.

No superimposed load shall be allowed on any part of a structure until the concrete has reached at least 70% of the design strength.

6.8 STRENGTH OF CONCRETE

When tested in accordance with AS 1012.9, the concrete shall have a compressive strength not less than 25 MPa.

7.0 PROTECTION OF WORK

7.1 DURING PROGRESS OF WORK

During the progress of the works pedestrian traffic should be excluded from the immediate work site and from all concrete surfaces until they have cured, edges backfilled and made safe.

7.2 AT COMPLETION OF SHIFT

At completion of each shift the work area shall be made safe, signed and "fenced off" to reduce the chance of accidental pedestrian or vehicle access. Council will provide the necessary material to achieve this however the contractor is responsible for its erection and transfer and removal as the work progresses.

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8.0 LIMITS AND TOLERANCES**8.1 SUMMARY OF LIMITS AND TOLERANCES**

The limits and tolerances applicable to the various clauses in this specification are summarised in Table 3 below:

Item	Activity	Limits/Tolerances
1.	Subgrade (a) Relative Compaction	≤95% (standard compactive effort)
2.	Barriers, Footpaths, etc. (a) Finished Sub-base (b) Relative Compaction of Sub-base	To be trimmed and compacted so that the levels do not vary more than 15 mm under a straight edge 3 metres long. ≤95% (standard compactive effort)
3.	Formwork (a) Position of Forms	Forms shall be aligned accurately so that departure of the forms from the surfaces specified on the drawings shall not exceed 1/300 of the space between supports for any surface visible in the completed work and 1/150 for hidden work.
4.	Fine Aggregate (a) Grading	To be evenly graded within the absolute limits and shall not deviate from the grading of sample aggregate as per Table 1.
5.	Coarse Aggregate (a) Percentage of Wear (b) Crushing Value (c) Soundness (d) Particle Shape (e) Grading	Loss of weight shall not exceed 30%. Crushing value shall not exceed 25%. The loss of mass when tested with sodium sulphate shall not exceed 12%. The proportion of misshapen particles (2:1 ratio) shall not exceed 35%. To be evenly graded within the absolute limits and shall not deviate from the grading of sample aggregate as per Table 2.
6.	Consistency	In accordance with AS 1012.3, Method 1 the slump shall not exceed the nominated slump ±15 mm.
7.	Ready Mixed Concrete	The time taken from the introduction of water until the concrete is completely discharged shall be not more than 1.5 hours.
8.	Placing & Compacting of Concrete	Concrete shall not be placed without the approval of the Superintendent if the air temperature within 24 hours is likely to be below 5°C or the shade temperature is likely to exceed 38°C.
9.	Finishing of Unformed/ Formed Concrete Surfaces	To be finished true and uniform so that departure from designed grade shall not exceed 5 mm in any 3 metre length.

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9.0 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

9.1 PAY ITEMS

Payment shall be made for the activities associated with completing the work detailed in this specification in accordance with Pay Items 9.2 to 9.8 inclusive.

9.2 PAY ITEM – TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN CONTROL

Allow cost to manage day to day traffic and pedestrian control operations including daily checks of traffic and pedestrian control facilities. (Note: All “star pickets” must be capped with an approved device.)

Council will provide appropriate signage, barrier mesh and star pickets.

Contractor will be responsible for set up, daily management and return of signage to Council’s Jensen Road Depot.

The unit of measurement shall be a fixed rate for the works (ie item).

9.3 PAY ITEM – EXCAVATION

Allow cost to excavate vaults to the dimension shown on the plan and in the sequence in Clause 1.0.

There are 28 double vaults and 5 single vaults.

The disposal of excavated material shall be included in the excavation rate.

No additional payment will be made for drying out wet excavated material or replacement of over excavation for any reason.

The unit of measure shall be per vault.

9.4 PAY ITEM – BRICKWORK

Allow to perform all brick work in accordance with industry best practice.

Include any additional costs to support brickwork from construction loads in the respective items ie mass concrete walls.

Include appropriate allowance for supply of 1 colour common bricks for all brick surfaces.

The unit of measure shall be per vault.

9.5 MASS CONCRETE – BASE

Allow to pour a mass concrete base slab to the dimensions shown on plan.

Include cost of steel “tie in” between base and walls as detailed on plans.

Concrete to be a minimum 25 MPa.

The unit of measure shall be per vault base.

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9.6 MASS CONCRETE - WALLS

Allow to pour mass concrete walls to the profile shown on the plans.

Include cost of steel "tie in" between wall and surround as detailed on plans.

Allow to "brace" brickwork to resist construction loading (particularly wet concrete).

The concrete to be minimum 25MPa.

The unit of measure shall be per vault.

9.7 MASS CONCRETE - SURROUND

Allow to complete "surrounds" around the vaults to dimension shown on the plan and levels consistent with the existing layout.

The existing "temporary lids" may be used as internal formers to create the opening above each vault

Allow to place jointing compound around the temporary lids to aid future removal.

The unit of measure shall be square metre.

9.8 MASS CONCRETE – PATH

Allow to construct 2 sections of path approximately 21 metres x 1.2 metres each x 150mm thick adjacent to the new double vaults.

The concrete to be minimum 25 MPa.

The unit measure shall be per square metre.

(NOTE: There is no concrete path adjacent to the single vaults).

9.9 SCHEDULE OF RATES

A separate schedule of rates is included in the Quotation documentation in Schedule 11 and is to be submitted by prospective contractors.

CLAUSE CL03

TITLE **Review of the New Cemetery Masterplan 2020**

FROM **Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations**

TRIM REF **26/114455**

SUMMARY

The New Cemetery Masterplan Committee requested a recap of what the process had been in the past to review the completed Masterplan report for the Rifle Range Road New Cemetery Site.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **Note the report.**
- (b) **Nominate priority reports.**
- (c) **Request Consideration for budget request for 2027/28 to continue the site investigation for Rifle Range Road Cemetery.**

REPORT

The **General Facilities Committee** considered a report on the cemetery masterplan, see attachment (a), on 29 Sept 2020. The Masterplan was the culmination of community consultation that took place between Sept 2019 and March 2020 and included multiple site visits and interviews with many participants. Attachment (b) is all of the various complimentary documents to the report.

It should be noted that the Cemetery Working Group made 6 recommendations a) to f) and these were discussed within the report. It is determined that if the 6 recommendations were adopted then the essence of the draft Cemetery Master Plan is not endorsed that a different master plan would need to be developed.

It should be noted that there are ten recommendations in the Masterplan. There were Senior Management Team comments relating to each of these recommendations in the report to the General Facilities Committee. There was no specific motion from the General Facilities Committee to advance any of the ten recommendations from the Masterplan.

The 6 recommendations made by the Cemetery Working Group were adopted. There is staff commentary relating to each of the 6 recommendations provided for information.

The minutes of the General Facilities Committee were considered at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 27 October 2020. The following resolutions were made:

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

20/241

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreazza and Doug Curran that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Mr Michael Crump to address Council.

20/242

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Doug Curran that the meeting resume standing orders.

20/243

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the General Facilities Committee meeting held on 29 September 2020 be adopted.

The current status of the Masterplan has stalled due to no available budget to proceed with any additional site investigation.

NEXT STEPS

Priority 1: Site Survey - Council has recently utilised council's drone and specific software on Scenic Hill to produce a detailed site survey. It is proposed to utilise the Drone and compile a new contour plan that could be used to verify/update the stormwater investigation of the Rifle Range Road site, this could be completed at minimum cost using existing Council budget. This technology has not been previously available.

Priority 2: Noise Assessment - Council has not had an environment noise assessment completed on the proposed site and this has been an ongoing concern for a number of years. It is proposed to produce an expression of interest document to ascertain what the budget quantum ought to be in order to ensure that both harvest traffic and aeroplane noise are assessed for the future possible development of the Rifle Range Road site.

Priority 3: Traffic Assessment – Council has not completed any additional observations or assessments of the proposed ingress egress to the site. Given that there were concerns raised during the community consultation process, this aspect of the development ought to be assessed by an independent traffic consultant to ensure that there isn't any unintended bias.

Priority 4: Chapel Design – The chapel has the potential to be the hero of the site. The Masterplan contained a number of ideas for an open-air style building. Public consultation suggested that a non-denominational building with multi-functional design features could be tailored to provide a building suitable to the extremes of Griffith's climate. This aspect of the site development could have a high cost and it may be difficult to find an efficient yet striking design. Elements that ought to be considered are material choices, fit for purpose to the landscape, use of natural light or illumination, acoustics, universal access and ongoing maintenance. One option could be the investigation of an architectural design competition, although advice ought to be sought from the Australian Institute of Architects to ensure that the competition is appropriate for the industry.

One significant change from the initial Cemetery masterplan is that there is now one cremator operating in Griffith and a second cremator under development. The impact on the number of burials at the cemetery has not been significant to date, although is likely to have an exponential effect over the next few years.

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.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Report to General Facilities Committee - Cemetery Masterplan - 29 Sept 2020 51
  
- (b) General Facilities Committee - Attachments - 29 Sep 2020.pdf (under
 separate cover) 

Griffith City Council**COMMITTEE REPORT****CLAUSE** CL06**TITLE** New Cemetery and Crematoria Masterplan**FROM** Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations**TRIM REF** 20/93860**SUMMARY**

Council engaged Florence Jaquet Landscape Architects to prepare a masterplan design for the proposed new cemetery site on Rifle Range Road in September 2019. Consultation with Community representatives, the Cemetery Working Group and Councillors took place on 17 September 2019, 13 December 2019 & 11 March 2020.

Council placed the New Cemetery and Crematoria Masterplan on public exhibition by resolution on 9 June 2020 at the ordinary meeting of Council for 42 days. This resolution also called for a presentation to be made to community members. This presentation was undertaken via social media with a Facebook Live event being held on 23 July 2020.

The Masterplan documents are attached to this report, Attachments (a) to (e), these include the cemetery masterplan, a stormwater management plan and a report outlining community engagement and industry insights. The Cemetery Working Group has made a number of recommendations which are included in the minutes from the meeting held 14 September and reproduced below.

The General Facilities Committee are requested to consider the Draft Masterplan proposal, the submissions received and the recommendations made by the Cemetery Working Group in order to provide a recommendation to Council regarding the New Cemetery and Crematoria Masterplan.

RECOMMENDATION

As determined by the General Facilities Committee.

REPORT

Council received 33 submissions to the New Cemetery Masterplan and Crematorium. These submissions are presented in Attachment (f) with names and personal details redacted in order to comply with Council's privacy policy.

In summary the submissions focused on four key issues:

1. The need for a crematorium (onsite or elsewhere in the Municipality),
2. Preference for an enclosed Chapel with air-conditioning,
3. Concerns about traffic, speed and noise, which has led to suggestions to move the main buildings away from the road,
4. Concerns about the water features,
5. The provision of public mausoleum.

The consultants have provided the following feedback relating to the submissions received, and these are support by Council Staff.

1. The need for a crematorium (onsite or elsewhere in the Municipality)

The pros and cons were previously discussed with Russell Alison, Changing Places, and it is pleasing to see that a joint venture may have some potential support (subject to costs).

2. Preference for an enclosed Chapel with air-conditioning

This is not an issue, but is obviously a more costly alternative.

3. Concerns about traffic, speed and noise, which has led to suggestions to move the main buildings away from the road

The speed limit could be reviewed in light of a new entrance, a slip lane is likely to be required to enter the cemetery site and sightlines issues should be investigated by Traffic Engineers as suggested in our report.

When it comes to noise, it is important measure the decibels generated by the traffic and understand how far a building would need to be from the noise source before it became acceptable for a funeral. An Acoustic engineer would need to assess the situation.

Noise impact can also be reduced with clever design (roof angled to the ground towards the road to form a noise barrier/ double glazing if Chapel is to be enclosed/ earth bunt... etc to name a few)

Moving Stage 1 in the centre of the site has the obvious disadvantage of costly additional infrastructure (hundreds of metres of roads and services required from Day 1). Stage 1 is always expensive as it tends to cover all of the necessary facilities to make the cemetery functional. This will add to an already large \$ outlay.

4. Concerns about the water features

The report from Stormy Water Solution is very comprehensive and inclusive of modelling calculations. Comments from Council's engineering section have been positive to date and further endorsements (if appropriate) would be welcome to alleviate fears about the viability of the scheme. The key principle in WSUD is sustainability and sizing the ponds based on rain events and catchments. Detailed design in due course will respond to any issues raised.

One key aspect to ensuring the detail design of the proposed ponds relates to having an up to date survey of the site with better understanding of the existing contours.

Cemetery Working Group

The Cemetery Working Group has been very engaged throughout the entire development of the Draft Masterplan. On three occasions the Cemetery Working Group were able to meet with the Landscape consultants and provide comments on their expectations and a review on the proposed masterplan during development. At the meeting Working Group meeting held 14 September 2020, the following recommendations were made:

- a) Investigate alternative sites, including Chequers Road and Browns Road site.
- b) The first stage be located closer to the centre of the site.
- c) An enclosed chapel be considered.
- d) Remove current location of the proposed exit.
- e) Revisit proposed stormwater solutions.
- f) Council investigate, as a priority, the installation of a Crematorium in Griffith.

Council Staff comments provided to the General Facilities Committee regarding these recommendations are as follows:

- a) Investigate alternative sites, including Chequers Road and Browns Road site.

CL06 New Cemetery and Crematoria Masterplan

A report was presented to the General Facilities Committee on 5 June 2018 with the following information.

At Council's meeting of 24 April 2018 it was resolved to firstly endorse Rifle Range Road site Lot 2 DP1141418 as the preferred site for the new cemetery incorporating a crematorium and secondly to provide budget funding for the development of a detailed master plan for the new cemetery site inclusive of a crematorium facility.

Council purchased 62 hectares of land Lot 2 DP 1141418 Rifle Range Road, Lake Wyangan for a new cemetery for Griffith, by way of compulsory acquisition under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

The benefits of this site are that it is close to both raw water and potable water supplies. The land is sloping, which lends to itself to improved drainage design and this is also an advantage to allow for better landscaping design.

Council has previously had a survey of the site completed in 2010 and a geotechnical report completed in 2005.

Council considered a design option on 25 May 2010 prepared by Council Staff, which was never funded nor progressed. It is proposed now to engage a contractor to prepare a Master Plan for the consideration of the General Facilities Committee, prior to public exhibition.

Suggesting an alternative site for the new cemetery at this stage of the process is not supported by Council staff, as this would seem to dismiss the work completed to date and financial investment made by Council on the Rifle Range Road site. The alternative site suggested by the Working Group on Chequers Road / Brown Road is currently owned by Council, although not suitable due to previous use associated with discharge water from Council's sewerage treatment plant.

With consideration to the construction of a crematorium, an alternative site is worth consideration given the submissions received regarding the communities expectations of a crematorium.

b) The first stage be located closer to the centre of the site.

The Cemetery Working Group through both submissions and discussions during the meeting on 14 September have suggested that the proposed location of the chapel in the masterplan is too close to Rifle Range Road. Proposing to locate the first stage of the site development nearer to the centre of the site is one way of addressing concerns about road noise emanating from Rifle Range Road. Additionally, a possible benefit of commencing the site development from the centre will allow the support of the proposed natural burial area in equal measure to the establishment of lawn burials

c) An enclosed chapel be considered.

The submissions made to the masterplan, some in great detail, proposed an enclosed chapel to accommodate the range of climate experience in Griffith from the heat in summer to the very cold days in winter. The proposed chapel space is expected to cater for gatherings associated with funeral services all year round. In order to progress the Chapel to construction, Council will need to engage an architect to design something appropriate. The design brief that is developed will need to reflect the expectations of the community as well as be affordable. The chapel space must reflect the multicultural diversity of Griffith, as

well as being a practical space. A noise study will ultimately determine what sort of measures could be made to address concerns about traffic noise as recommended by the consultants.

d) Remove current location of the proposed exit.

The Cemetery Working Group have grave concerns regarding the proposed location of the vehicular exit from the site onto Rifle Range Road. The entry and exit to the proposed cemetery could be placed anywhere on the 'straight' boundary in order to provide maximum sight distance for vehicles on Rifle Range Road to the vehicular access point. A traffic assessment will be required to

e) Revisit proposed stormwater solutions.

The detail design of the Stormwater Management Plan will allow for consideration of the existing site conditions and possibly a more efficient use of the existing low spots in order to reduce the volume of earthworks required to implement the proposed ponds and drainage lines. Generally the proposed stormwater management plan meets the expectations of the submissions, although without the specific detail in the design or the knowledge and understanding of WSUD systems it is difficult to convey exactly how the proposed ponds will be implemented.

f) Council investigate, as a priority, the installation of a Crematorium in Griffith.

Based on the submissions containing petitions with a significant number of signatures, it is clear that there is a considerable community support for the installation of a crematorium in Griffith. It is recommended that a feasibility study be undertaken in order to determine the most suitable location for a crematorium in Griffith. Both the submissions received and the Industry Insights report mention the possibility of a joint venture to operate a crematorium. The joint venture may or may not include Council.

Options

The General Facility Committee have a number of options when it comes to making a recommendation to Council regarding the draft Masterplan.

Option 1

The following changes be incorporated into the Masterplan:

1. Locate the first stage of the new cemetery in the centre of the site,
2. Undertake a noise assessment of the proposed site in order to understand and mitigate traffic noise and aerodrome noise from the proposed chapel,
3. Implement the ten recommendations as suggested in the report, consistent with the comments made by Council's Senior Team with funding to be made available in 2021/20 financial year.

Option 2

Generally endorse the proposed masterplan layout and endorse implementation of the ten recommendations as set out in the masterplan with the funding to be made available in 2021/22 financial year.

Option 3

Any other option the General Facilities Committee might like to make to Council.

The following ten recommendations come directly from the draft cemetery masterplan and the senior team comments were provided for the report to Council originally on the agenda for the consideration of Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 24 March 2020. This report was "laid on the table" and not considered Council until 9 June. By this time Council had completed the preparation of the 2020/21 draft budget.

Senior Team Comments

In order to progress with the development of the Rifle Range site many of the proposed actions below will require some funding

1. Carry out the recommendations of the Storm Water Management Plan by SWS (2019).

A submission will be made to the 2020/21 financial year budget for the Design and costing of the Storm Water Management Plan infrastructure.

2. Undertake Aboriginal Cultural and European Heritage Assessments to define any potential areas of significance.

A submission will be made to the 2020/21 financial year budget to engage a Consultant to complete the assessments in the 2020/21 financial year.

3. Carry out a detailed Feature Survey and Arboricultural Assessment of existing vegetation on site to determine the exact location and health of the trees, as part of the development stages, to further inform the design.

A submission will be made to the 2020/21 financial year budget to engage a Consultant to complete the assessments in the 2020/21 financial year.

4. Define the "preferred route" (and any prohibited routes) in collaboration with funeral directors and traffic engineers.

Discussions with funeral directors and traffic engineers during 2020/21

5. Carry out traffic assessments for any proposed cemetery entry/exit points along Rifle Range Road.

Undertake traffic assessments during 2020/21

6. Consider providing a cremation facility on site or in the Municipality, without the full expense of a Crematorium Building.

The Masterplan identifies a site for the location of a crematorium. SMT interprets that Council will provide the site with the private sector constructing and operating the crematorium facility.

7. Consider a non-denominational cemetery, where cultural groups may have their own section provided it is non-exclusive.

SMT interprets that the Cemetery Masterplan site will be non-denominational, which is consistent with current cemetery practice, as advised by Councils consultant.

8. Engage further with Indigenous community and acknowledge Country at the site.

Signage used at the new cemetery site will be sympathetic to Aboriginal preferences.

9. Provide large open-air/outdoor shelter to be used for services, including ancillary facilities (toilets, clergy room, storage space for funeral professionals).

Concept Plan for open air/outdoor shelter to be developed in consultation with the community. Design and costings to be considered in future budgets.

10. Provide Public Mausoleum on site.

A proposal is being developed by members of the community to include a public mausoleum at the current cemetery site in Griffith.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 8.1 Provide, renew and maintain a range of quality infrastructure, assets, services and facilities delivered in a cost effective and sustainable manner.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) New Griffith Cemetery Masterplan - Florence Jaquet Landscape Architects - 200305 REPORT - 6 Mar 2020 (under separate cover)
- (b) New Griffith Cemetery Masterplan - Florence Jaquet Landscape Architects - 200305_ masterplan A3 - 6 Mar 2020 (under separate cover)
- (c) New Griffith Cemetery Masterplan - Stormy Water Solutions - 1951_Griffith New Cemetery_SWMP_ SWS_4 Dec 2019 (under separate cover)
- (d) New Griffith Cemetery Masterplan - Stormy Water Solutions - 00_1951_PROPOSED SWMP_ SWS_4 Dec 2019 (under separate cover)
- (e) New Griffith Cemetery Masterplan - Florence Jaquet Landscape Architects - 200305 Consultation and Industry Insights Report - 6 Mar 2020 (under separate cover)
- (f) Cemetery and Crematorium Masterplan - Consolidated Redacted Submissions (under separate cover)
- (g) Submissions Received - Attachment A - Additional Documents - 18 Aug 2020 (under separate cover)
- (h) Submissions Received - Attachment B - A Guide to Muslim Funerals (under separate cover)
- (i) Submissions Received - Attachment C - Cheltenham Cemetery - 18 Aug 2020 (under separate cover)
- (j) Submissions Received - Attachment C - Frenchs Forest Advertisement with Translation - 18 Aug 2020 (under separate cover)
- (k) Submissions Received - Attachment D - Report + Prices + ABS + CemCremSurvey - 18 Aug 2020 (under separate cover)

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 26/114587

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Action Report - New Cemetery Masterplan Committee - 23 Sep 2026   58

ACTION REPORT
NEW CEMETERY MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE
15 April 2026

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
15 April 2026	CL01 Griffith Cemetery Reservations	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Virginia Tropeano and Wendy Collis that the Committee note the report and the Masterplan be presented at the next meeting.	Phil King	15/09/2026: Report to Committee 23 September 2026.
15 April 2026	Proposed Garden Design	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Wendy Collis and Virginia Tropeano that a report on interment options for cremations be presented to the Committee.	Phil King	