
**SCENIC HILL USER GROUP
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2026 COMMENCING AT 4:30 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Jenny Ellis (Chair), Councillor Tony O'Grady, Bruno Guidolin (Community Representative), Denis Couch (Community Representative), Desma Newman (Community Representative - Zoom), Helen Vowles (Community Representative), Ronald Anson (Community Representative), Sally Bamblett (Community Representative), Timothy Ellis (Community Representative - Zoom), Brett Nangle (Nangle Landscape Architecture – Zoom)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, Tourism Manager, Mirella Guidolin, Curator Pioneer Park, Fox Darcy and Minute Secretary, Leanne Austin

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and Councillor Laurie Testoni.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Helen Vowles that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 March 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Clean Up Event

Councillor Jenny Ellis requested the Clean Up Event item be presented to the next meeting. Two clean-up dates are to be confirmed.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Members making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

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

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 PRESENTATION - WASTE AND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS (WASM) LITTER PREVENTION GRANT APPLICATION

Mr Badenhorst provided an update on Council's successful **Waste and Sustainable Materials (WASM) Grant**, valued at **\$60,000**, noting that EPA approval was required before the project could commence. Following a meeting with the EPA on 23 September, approval was received to proceed with site inspections and project implementation.

The project will focus on three identified litter hotspots at Scenic Hill:

- Rotary Lookout;
- Middle Lookout (above the former tip site); and
- Hermit's Cave Lookout.

The grant will be delivered through five key components:

- Installation of infrastructure, including large litter bins in specific locations. Bins will be wrapped in EPA signage.
- Improved signage and environmental messaging approved by the EPA;
- A public education and communication campaign;
- Community clean-up events; and
- Increased monitoring and surveillance of the area.

Mr Badenhorst advised that EPA recommendations include the installation of general waste bins rather than recycling bins to minimise contamination. Council has also prepared a communications plan incorporating media releases, social media promotion and engagement with local fast-food businesses to help address littering associated with takeaway packaging.

As part of the grant requirements, Council will coordinate three community clean-up events. An Expression of Interest process will be undertaken to encourage community involvement. Feedback from the Committee was sought on suitable timing for the first clean-up event.

In relation to monitoring and enforcement, Mr Badenhorst advised that the EPA does not support the installation of surveillance cameras due to cost, maintenance and effectiveness

concerns. Instead, the project will focus on increased ranger patrols and monitoring, with additional hours allocated within the grant budget.

Committee members acknowledged the project as a positive step towards improving the management and presentation of Scenic Hill. Following discussion, the Committee supported Council's proposed focus on ranger patrols rather than surveillance cameras at this stage, while noting that the effectiveness of the monitoring program should be reviewed as part of the project evaluation. The Committee also supported consulting with local fast-food businesses in future discussions regarding litter reduction initiatives.

Mrs Donaldson advised the communications plan and proposed clean-up event dates will be emailed to Committee members.

BRETT NANGLE PRESENTATION – SCENIC HILL MASTERPLAN

Mr Nangle presented the draft Scenic Hill Masterplan, advising that it had been informed by previous site analysis, community feedback, Council input and consultation with the Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC). The Masterplan aims to enhance visitor experiences while protecting the natural, cultural and environmental values of Scenic Hill.

Key principles of the draft Masterplan include:

- Protection and restoration of bushland areas;
- Improved safety, accessibility and wayfinding;
- Concentration of investment at key destination sites;
- Better management of tracks and movement networks;
- Recognition of Aboriginal culture, heritage and environmental values; and
- Encouraging community stewardship and appreciation of Scenic Hill.

Mr Nangle outlined a proposed hierarchy of destinations, access routes and management zones, including:

- Pioneer Park and the Mural as the primary gateway to Scenic Hill;
- Rotary Lookout as an orientation and viewing point;
- The former tip site as a new recreation and lookout destination;
- Hermit's Cave as the principal heritage and tourism destination;
- Berry's Brickworks as a geology, heritage and education precinct; and
- The former Rodeo Grounds as a potential longer-term opportunity site.

The proposed movement structure seeks to rationalise the existing network of informal tracks by establishing clearly defined walking, cycling and vehicle routes. The plan also identifies opportunities to rehabilitate redundant tracks and improve accessibility, including upgraded paths, viewing platforms, boardwalks, stairs and handrails in key locations.

Concepts were presented for the former tip site, including a formalised car park, accessible pathways, picnic facilities, open lawn areas, nature-based play opportunities, cultural interpretation and enhanced lookout facilities.

At Hermit's Cave, proposed improvements include upgraded access, an accessible viewing platform, improved visitor facilities and enhanced heritage interpretation.

Berry's Brickworks was identified as a future education and environmental learning precinct incorporating interpretation, rehabilitation works and opportunities for school and community engagement.

Committee members expressed support for the draft Masterplan. Discussion highlighted the importance of meaningful engagement with the Aboriginal community to ensure First Nations

culture, language, stories and connections to Country are appropriately represented throughout the project. Ms Newman advised she would provide feedback on appropriate language to be used in the document and suggested further consultation in regards to the proposed recommendations.

Councillor Ellis enquired if provision had been made for a Wiradjuri Centre in the draft Masterplan. Mr Nangle advised this was outside the scope of the current works.

Mr Nangle advised that the draft Masterplan remains under development, with further work to be undertaken on implementation priorities, staging and cost estimates. An updated draft will be provided to the Committee for further review and comment prior to finalisation.

Mr Nangle left the meeting at 5:57 pm.

CL02 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Tony O'Grady and Denis Couch that the Committee note the letter attached to the report regarding request for a bus turning area. This will be addressed in the Masterplan.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Committee noted the report. Council staff to schedule annual clean ups twice a year, possibly in conjunction with Dump For Free Month.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Scenic Hill User Group is to be held on Tuesday, 15 December 2026 at 4:30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:03 pm.