



Ordinary Meeting

BUSINESS PAPER

Tuesday, 27 October 2026 at 7:00 PM

Griffith City Council Chambers

Phone: 1300 176 077

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



COUNCILLORS

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

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ADDRESS COUNCIL IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

Addressing the Council at a Public Forum

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

Notice of Motion via Councillor

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

Petition

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

Customer Request Management system

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

Direct correspondence to the General Manager

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

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

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

Oath

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

Affirmation

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

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

[What is a pecuniary interest?](#)

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

[Disclosure of pecuniary interests at meetings](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Opening Affirmations

Option 1

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

To be honest and objective in all our deliberations.

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

Option 2

Almighty God

We ask that you guide us in our decision making.

Protect us and the community we serve.

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

Option 3

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

Acknowledgment of Country

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

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

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
TO BE HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2026 AT 7:00 PM**

MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Griffith City Council Chambers on **Tuesday, 27 October 2026**.

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

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

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

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

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

No other recording by a video camera, still camera or any other electronic device capable of webcasting or recording is permitted without the prior approval of Council.

The agenda for the meeting is:

- 1 Council Acknowledgments
 - 2 Apologies and Applications for a Leave of Absence or Attendance by Audio-visual Link by Councillors
 - 3 Confirmation of Minutes
 - 4 Business Arising
 - 5 Declarations of Interest
 - 6 Presentations
 - 7 Mayoral Minutes
 - 8 General Manager's Report
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- | | | |
|------|-----|---|
| CL01 | p18 | Election of Deputy Mayor - October 2026 |
| CL02 | p31 | Griffith BESS - Proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement and Community Benefit Package |

CL03	p60	Griffith Jockey Club - Request for Council Support
CL04	p68	Proposed Council Meeting Schedule for 2027
CL05	p72	Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2025-26
CL06	p78	Small Business Financial Assistance Grant 2026
CL07	p81	Annual Financial Statements - Statements Under Section 413(2)(C) of the Local Government Act, 1993
CL08	p88	Financial Assistance Grants Methodology Review - Outcome
CL09	p105	Update - Active Grant Programs
9	Information Reports	
CL10	p114	Major Projects Update
10	Adoption of Committee Minutes	
	p120	Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee Meeting held on 8 October 2026
	p124	Minutes of the Local Traffic Forum Meeting held on 13 October 2026
11	Business with Notice – Rescission Motions	
12	Business with Notice – Other Motions	
	p128	Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer
	p135	Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer
13	Outstanding Action Report	
	p145	Outstanding Action Report
14	Matters to be dealt with by Closed Council	
CC01	Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates - Outcomes	
	- the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer 10A(2) (b)	
CC02	TfNSW Resurfacing Banna Avenue	
	- SMT Operational Meeting 10A(2) SMT Operational Meeting	

Scott Grant

GENERAL MANAGER

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT

The Mayor, Doug Curran in the Chair; Councillors, Laurie Testoni, Christine Stead, Mark Dal Bon, Shari Blumer(via zoom), Scott Groat, Jenny Ellis, Anne Napoli and Tony O'Grady

STAFF

General Manager, Scott Grant, Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Matthew Hansen, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and Minute Taker, Antoinette Galluzzo

MEDIA

Nil.

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Jenny Ellis reading the Opening Affirmation and the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

26/282

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis that Councillor Shari Blumer be approved to attend the meeting by Audio-Visual.

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

26/283

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Christine Stead that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 22 September 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

For

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

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

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors 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

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

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

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil.

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 DA 149/2026 - MULTI DWELLING DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOLITION

26/284

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

- (a) Council as the consent authority pursuant to Section 4.16 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, grant development consent to Development Application 149/2026(1) for the construction of two new dwellings to create a Multi dwelling and demolition of detached garage at Lot 12 Sec 51 DP 758476, 5 Hillston Street, Griffith.
- (b) The application be delegated to the Director Sustainable Development for the issue of the Notice of Determination

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

For

Against

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

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL02 PROPOSED NEW FEE CATEGORY - CONTRACTOR WASTE DELIVERIES FOR MIXED WASTE

MOVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that Council adopt a new category under s.610E of the Local Government Act 1993 within the 2026/27 Revenue Policy, titled 'contractor waste deliveries for mixed waste', that is applicable to commercial waste management operators with an ABN who deliver mixed waste to the Council's Tharbogang and Yenda landfill facilities. For contractors falling within the new category, the Council would reduce the gate fee charge for prospective mixed waste deliveries from \$276.00 to \$229.90 per tonne.

Councillors Napoli and Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that the new fee category for Contractor Waste Deliveries for Mixed Waste to be set at the CPI rate of 4% increase above the 25/26 rate.

For

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

Against

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

The division was declared LOST by 5 votes to 4.

The amendment was PUT and LOST.

26/285

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that Council adopt a new category under s.610E of the Local Government Act 1993 within the 2026/27 Revenue Policy, titled 'contractor waste deliveries for mixed waste', that is applicable to commercial waste management operators with an ABN who deliver mixed waste to the Council's Tharbogang and Yenda landfill facilities. For contractors falling within the new category, the Council would reduce the gate fee charge for prospective mixed waste deliveries from \$276.00 to \$229.90 per tonne.

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

Against
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Anne Napoli

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 3.

**CL03 ENDORSEMENT OF COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES TO MURRAY
DARLING ASSOCIATION REGION 9**

26/286

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Mark Dal Bon and Christine Stead that Council appoint Councillor Scott Groat and Councillor Shari Blumer as Griffith City Council's representatives on the Murray Darling Association Region 9 for a two-year term commencing from the date of appointment.

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

**CL04 ANNUAL CLOSURE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND COUNCIL
FACILITIES 2026-2027**

26/287

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council's Administrative Office at 1 Benerembah Street and the Council Depot/Workshop be closed from 1pm Thursday, 24 December 2026 to Friday, 1 January 2027 inclusive and will re-open for business on Monday, 4 January 2027.
- (b) Each of the nominated Council facilities operate in accordance with the times detailed as follows:

Griffith Regional Art Gallery

Closed from 2pm Sunday, 20 December 2026 and will re-open 11am Saturday, 16 January 2027.

Griffith Regional Theatre

Closed from 3pm Wednesday, 23 December 2026 and will reopen 10am Monday, 18 January 2027.

Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre

Thursday 24 December	6am – 6pm
Friday 25 December – Christmas Day	CLOSED
Saturday 26 December – Boxing Day	12pm – 5pm (Pool Only) *subject to staff availability
Sunday 27 December	10am – 5pm
Monday 28 December	6am – 8pm
Tuesday 29 December	6am – 8pm
Wednesday 30 December	6am – 8pm
Thursday 31 December	6am – 6pm
Friday 1 January – New Year's Day	12pm – 5pm

Creche will be closed Thursday, 24 December 2026 until Monday, 4 January 2027. From Saturday, 2 January 2027 normal summer trading hours resume.

Pioneer Park Museum

Closed from Monday, 21 December 2026 and re-open Monday, 4 January 2027.

Griffith Regional Sports Centre

Last day of opening is Wednesday, 23 December 2026, closing at 8pm and will re-open at 9am Monday, 4 January 2027.

Griffith Tourism Hub

Thursday 24 December	9am – 2pm
Friday 25 December – Christmas Day	CLOSED
Saturday 26 December – Boxing Day	CLOSED
Sunday 27 December	10am – 2pm
Monday 28 December	CLOSED
Tuesday 29 December	10am – 3pm
Wednesday 30 December	10am – 3pm
Thursday 31 December	10am – 3pm
Friday 1 January – New Year's Day	CLOSED

Griffith City Library

Closed from 1pm Thursday, 24 December 2026 to Friday, 1 January 2027 inclusive and will re-open for business on Monday, 4 January 2027.

Griffith City Pound and Rehoming Centre

Closed from 1pm Thursday, 24 December 2026 to Friday, 1 January 2027 inclusive and will re-open for business on Monday, 4 January 2027.

After hours emergencies for serious dog attacks and straying stock only contact our

afterhours service on 0408 210 196. If the matter is urgent, you will be directed to contact the Griffith Police Station.

Griffith Livestock Marketing Centre

Closed from Saturday, 12 December 2026 and will re-open Thursday, 7 January 2027.

Tharbogang Waste Management Centre

Friday 25 December – Christmas Day	CLOSED
Saturday 26 December – Boxing Day	CLOSED
Friday 1 January 2027 – New Year's Day	CLOSED

Yenda Waste Management Centre

Yenda Landfill will be opened as per usual.

All domestic recycling and commercial garbage collections will be as per normal over the Christmas/New Year period, i.e. garbage will still be collected on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day holidays. Garbage bins need to be put out the night before as usual.

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

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

CL05 ANNUAL DISCLOSURES BY COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS RETURNS - 30 JUNE 2025 TO 30 JUNE 2026

26/288

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the report be noted by Council.

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

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

26/289

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee meeting held on 16 September 2026 be adopted.

For

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

MOVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 17 September 2026 be adopted.

Councillors Tony O'Grady and Christine Stead moved the following **AMENDMENT** that within 7.2 The Pilot project – Aquatic Project, if grant funding is not available, the project be considered for progression through a Quarterly Review.

26/290

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 17 September 2026 be adopted with the inclusion of the amendment that within 7.2 The Pilot project – Aquatic Project, if grant funding is not available, the project be considered for progression through a Quarterly Review.

For

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

Against

Councillor Shari Blumer

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.

The amendment was PUT and CARRIED.

MINUTES OF THE GRIFFITH HEALTH FACILITIES LIMITED (GHFL) MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2026

26/291

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Anne Napoli that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Griffith Health Facilities Limited (GHFL) meeting held on 22 September 2026 be adopted.

For

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE NEW CEMETERY MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

26/292

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Scott Groat that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the New Cemetery Masterplan Committee meeting held on 23 September 2026 be adopted.

For

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE SCENIC HILL USER GROUP MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

26/293

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Scenic Hill User Group meeting held on 29 September 2026 be adopted.

For

Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran

Against

Abstained

Councillor Shari Blumer

Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Tony O'Grady

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 1.

Councillor Shari Blumer left the meeting the time being 7:40 pm.

MINUTES OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

26/294

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Airport Committee meeting held on 30 September 2026 be adopted.

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

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

Nil

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

26/295

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Christine Stead that that the report be noted.

For
Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Scott Groat
Councillor Jenny Ellis

Against

Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Tony O'Grady

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

14 MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY CLOSED COUNCIL

Nil

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7:46pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON

CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **Election of Deputy Mayor - October 2026**

FROM **Scott Grant, General Manager**

TRIM REF **26/100474**

SUMMARY

Section 231 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that Councillors have the discretion to elect a Deputy Mayor from among their number for a term to be determined by Council.

Under Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Regulation 394 - the election is to be carried out in accordance with Schedule 7 of the General Regulation, with the Returning Officer to be the General Manager.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Council resolve to elect the Deputy Mayor for a period of

RECOMMENDATION 2

(Following recommendation only required if more than one Councillor is nominated)

In the event that more than one nomination is received, Council determine the format of the election for the office of Deputy Mayor, either by:

- **Open Voting (by show of hands),**
- **Ordinary Ballot (secret ballot) or**
- **Preferential Ballot.**

REPORT

Under Section 231 of the Local Government Act 1993, Councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the Deputy Mayor for a term determined by the Council. The Deputy Mayor may exercise the functions of the Mayor if the Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function.

Councillor Scott Groat was previously elected Deputy Mayor for a period of 12 months at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 October 2025.

Under Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Regulation Clause 394), an election is to be carried out in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Regulations, with the Returning Officer to be the General Manager. Nominations for election of Deputy Mayor are to be made in writing by two or more Councillors and the nominee must indicate consent to the nomination in writing.

Nomination forms have been distributed to Councillors and a blank nomination form has also been enclosed separately with this business paper (Attachment a). Nominations must be submitted to the General Manager (Returning Officer) prior to the commencement of the Ordinary Meeting of Council, **27 October 2026** at 7.00 pm.

Council is to determine the term for the Deputy Mayor.

If more than one candidate has been nominated, Council must determine by resolution, the method of voting for the position of Deputy Mayor, by way of one of the following methods:

- Open voting (by show of hands)
- Ordinary ballot – (a secret ballot - place an “X” against the candidate of their choice)
- Preferential ballot – (place 1, 2, 3 etc. against each candidate).

Due to the provision for Councillors to be able to participate in Council Meetings by audio visual link, Open voting is the preferred method of voting if any Councillors are attending via audio-visual link as it would not be possible to facilitate Ordinary ballot or Preferential ballot voting methods without Councillors being physically present in the Council Chamber.

The OLG Factsheet – Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor by Councillors Elections (Attachment b) provides guidance for the conduct of the Deputy Mayoral elections in accordance with Clause 394 and Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

Council determine the term of the Deputy Mayor and format of the election as per the above recommendations.

OPTION 2

Council may resolve not to appoint a Deputy Mayor.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

There are no financial implications. There is no legal or statutory requirement to appoint a Deputy Mayor.

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Local Government Act 1993 Section 231 Deputy Mayor

- (1) The councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the deputy mayor.*
- (2) The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.*
- (3) The deputy mayor may exercise any function of the mayor at the request of the mayor or if the mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of mayor.*
- (4) The councillors may elect a person from among their number to act as deputy mayor if the deputy mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising a function under this section, or if no deputy mayor has been elected.*

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 394 Election of mayors by councillors

If a mayor or deputy mayor is to be elected by the councillors of an area, the election is to be in accordance with Schedule 7 (Election of mayor by councillors).

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 2.3 Mayor and Councillors represent the community, providing strong, proactive leadership.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Memo & Nomination Form - Election of Deputy Mayor - Oct 2026   | 21 |
| (b) | Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor by Councillors Fact Sheet   | 23 |
| (c) | Circular No 26-15 Elections for Mayors and Elections for Chairpersons of Joint Organisations and County Councils   | 29 |

M E M O R A N D U M



DATE: 1 October 2026
TO: Councillors
FROM: Leanne Austin, Governance Manager
RE: **Election of Deputy Mayor 2026**

A report regarding the election for the position of Deputy Mayor will be presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on **Tuesday, 27 October 2026**.

Please find attached nomination form in relation to any Councillor wishing to nominate for that role.

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, two or more Councillors may nominate a Councillor (one of whom may be the nominee) for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Nominations must be in writing and the nominee must consent to their nomination in writing.

Nominations are to be submitted to the Returning Officer, Mr Scott Grant before the commencement of the Council meeting at **7:00 pm** on **Tuesday, 27 October 2026**.

Leanne Austin
GOVERNANCE MANAGER



NOMINATION FOR POSITION OF DEPUTY MAYOR OCTOBER 2026

We hereby nominate Councillor _____ for the
position of Deputy Mayor of Griffith City Council commencing **27 October 2026**.

Councillor

Councillor

I hereby consent to my nomination for the position of Deputy Mayor of Griffith
City Council for the period commencing **27 October 2026**.

Councillor

Local Government Regulation 2021 Schedule 7 - 2 Nomination

- (1) A councillor may be nominated without notice for election as mayor or deputy mayor.
- (2) The nomination is to be made in writing by 2 or more councillors (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.
- (3) The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the returning officer.
- (4) The returning officer is to announce the names of the nominees at the council meeting at which the election is to be held.

Fact Sheet

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY
MAYOR BY COUNCILLORS

Summary

Councillors must elect a mayor from among their number every two years unless they have a popularly elected mayor.

Councillors may also elect a deputy mayor. The deputy mayor may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.

The election of the mayor and the deputy mayor must be conducted in accordance with section 394 and Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation).

The purpose of this document is to assist councils to conduct mayoral and deputy mayoral elections in accordance with these requirements. It includes scripts for key activities to help returning officers exercise their functions. These scripts are provided in the text boxes inserted in the relevant parts of this document.

How can councils use this document?

Electing a mayor is an important activity. It is vital that the process is smooth, open and easy to follow and not rushed or confusing. Where necessary, it may be appropriate to stop and provide clarification for the benefit of councillors, staff or the gallery.

Returning officers can circulate this document prior to the meeting to help councillors understand the election process.

Election of a mayor after an ordinary election of councillors

An election for mayor must be held within three weeks of the declaration of the ordinary election at a meeting of the council.

The returning officer is to be the general manager or a person appointed by the general manager.

As no mayor or deputy mayor will be present at the start of the meeting, the first business of the meeting should be the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting. Alternatively, the returning officer may assume the chair for the purpose of conducting the election.

Mid-term election of a mayor

A mayor elected by councillors holds office for two years. A mid-term mayoral election must be held in the September two years after the ordinary election of councillors or the first election of a new council following its establishment.

Procedures

Prior to the meeting

Before the council meeting at which the election is to be conducted, the returning officer will give notice of the election to the councillors.

The notice is to set out how a person may be nominated as a candidate for election as chairperson.

As returning officer, I now invite nominations for the position of mayor/deputy mayor for [name of council] for a two year period.

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, two or more councillors may nominate a councillor (one of whom may be the nominee) for the position of mayor/deputy mayor. Nominations must be in writing and the nominee must consent to their nomination in writing.

A councillor may be nominated without notice for election as mayor or deputy mayor. The nomination is to be made in writing by two or more councillors (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.

The returning officer checks the nomination forms and writes the nominees' names on a candidates' sheet.

At the meeting

At the start of the first meeting after an ordinary election, in the absence of a chairperson, the returning officer assumes the chair and announces that the first item of business is to be the election of a mayor.

If a chairperson is present, they announce that the first item of business is the election of the mayor then vacates the chair for the returning officer who will then conduct the election.

The returning officer reads out the names of the nominees and seeks confirmation that the nominee has accepted the nomination.

If only one councillor has been nominated for the position of mayor/deputy mayor, the nominee is elected.

As there is only one nominee for the role of mayor/deputy mayor, I declare that [name of successful candidate] is elected as mayor/deputy mayor for the ensuing two years.

If more than one candidate has been nominated, the council must determine by resolution, the method of voting for the position of mayor/deputy mayor, by way of one of the following methods:

- Open voting – i.e. by show of hands
- Ordinary ballot – i.e. a secret ballot (place an "X" against the candidate of their choice)
- Preferential ballot – i.e. place 1, 2, 3 etc. against each candidate.

The returning officer must ask for a motion to be put to the meeting by one of the councillors on the preferred method of voting for the election of a chairperson. This must then be seconded and voted on by the councillors.

Note: In the event of a tie, if there is a chairperson, they may use their casting vote. If there is a tie and no chairperson, an election for the role of chairperson should be conducted. Then the election for mayor resumes.

Open voting (show of hands)

Open voting is the most transparent method of voting. It is also the least bureaucratic method and reflects normal council voting methods.

The returning officer will advise the meeting of the method of voting and explains the process.

It has been resolved that the method of voting for the position of mayor/deputy mayor will be by show of hands.

Each councillor is entitled to vote for only one candidate in each round of voting.

I will now write each candidate's name on a slip of paper and deposit it in a barrel. The first name out of the barrel will be written first on the tally sheet, with second name out being written second on the tally sheet, etc.

When all candidates' names have been written on the tally sheet, the returning officer announces the names of the candidates and, commencing with the first candidate, states the following:

Would those councillors voting for [name of candidate] please raise your hand.

The returning officer records the number of votes for each successive candidate on the tally sheet and announces the number of votes received for each candidate.

The minute taker records the vote of each councillor.

The returning officer should check with the minute taker that each councillor has voted. If a councillor has not voted it should be confirmed that they are abstaining (an informal vote).

Two candidates

If there are only two candidates for the position of mayor/deputy mayor and the voting is higher for one candidate than another (number of formal votes recorded on the tally sheet), the returning officer then announces the result.

[Name of candidate] has the higher number of formal votes and as a result I declare that [name of candidate] is elected as mayor/deputy mayor for the ensuing two years.

In the event of a **tied vote**, the returning officer will advise the meeting of the following process.

In accordance with section 12 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I will now write the

names of the candidates on similar slips of paper, fold them and place them in the barrel. Please note that the candidate whose name is drawn out will be declared as mayor/deputy mayor.

It is appropriate to show the meeting the names and the barrel. Councillors may inspect but not touch the items.

The returning officer places the names of the candidates into the barrel and requests a staff member to shake the barrel.

The returning officer then draws a name out of the barrel and shows the meeting.

I declare that [name of candidate] is elected as mayor/deputy mayor for the ensuing two years.

The returning officer then draws out the remaining name and reads it for completeness. The second name should be shown to the meeting.

Three or more candidates

If there are three or more candidates, the candidate with the lowest number of votes for the position of mayor/deputy mayor is excluded.

[Name of candidate], having the lowest number of votes, is excluded.

The voting continues as above until there are only two candidates remaining (see voting for **two candidates** above).

In the event that the **lowest number of votes are tied**, the returning officer advises the meeting of the following process:

In accordance with section 12 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I will now write the names of the candidates on similar slips of paper, fold them and place them in the barrel. Please note that the candidate whose name is drawn out will be excluded.

It is appropriate to show the meeting the names and the barrel. Councillors may inspect but not touch the items.

The returning officer places the names of the candidates into the barrel and requests a staff member to shake the barrel.

The returning officer then draws a name out of the barrel and shows it to the meeting.

I declare that [name of candidate] is excluded.

The returning officer then draws out the remaining name and reads it for completeness. The second name should be shown to the meeting.

Ordinary ballot – (secret ballot)

The returning officer advises the meeting of the method of voting and explains the process.

It has been resolved that the method for voting for the position of mayor/deputy mayor will be by ordinary ballot, in other words by placing an "X" against the candidate of the councillor's choice.

The returning officer announces the names of the candidates for mayor/deputy mayor and writes each name on a slip of paper and deposits it in a barrel.

The returning officer requests that a staff member shakes the barrel and advises that the order in which the names will appear on the ballot paper will be determined by a draw out of the barrel, i.e. first name out of the barrel is written first on the ballot papers and so on.

It will be necessary to have a number of blank papers as this process may require more than one round of voting.

The returning officer writes the names on one set of the ballot papers and initials the front of each ballot paper.

A staff member distributes the ballot papers and collects them into the ballot box when completed and gives it to the returning officer who counts the votes and records them on the tally sheet.

The returning officer announces the results.

[Name of candidate], having the lowest number of votes, is excluded.

In the event that the **lowest number of votes are tied**, the returning officer advises the meeting of the following process:

In accordance with section 12 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I will now write the names of the candidates on similar slips of paper, fold them and place them in the barrel. Please note that the candidate whose name is drawn out will be excluded.

It is appropriate to show the meeting the names and the barrel. Councillors may inspect but not touch the items.

The returning officer places the names of the candidates into the barrel and requests a staff member to shake the barrel.

The returning officer then draws a name out of the barrel and shows it to the meeting.

I declare that [name of candidate] is excluded.

The returning officer then draws out the remaining name and reads it for completeness. The second name should be shown to the meeting.

The returning officer writes the names of the remaining candidates on a further set of the ballot papers and initials the front of each ballot paper.

The staff member distributes ballot papers listing the remaining candidates and collects them into the ballot box when completed and gives it to the returning officer who again counts the votes and records them on the tally sheet and announces the results.

The process continues until two candidates remain, where a final vote takes place.

[Name of candidate] has the higher number of votes and I declare that [name of candidate] is elected as mayor/deputy mayor for the ensuing two years.

In the event of a **tied vote** between the two remaining candidates, the returning officer makes the following statement and announces the process.

The votes are tied between [name of candidate 1] and [name of candidate 2] having received [number] votes each, and, in accordance with section 12 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I will now write the names of the candidates on similar slips of paper, fold them and place them in the barrel.

Please note that the candidate whose name is drawn out will be declared as mayor/deputy mayor.

It is appropriate to show the meeting the names and the barrel. Councillors may inspect but not touch the items.

The returning officer places the names of the candidates into the barrel and requests that a staff member shakes the barrel.

The returning officer then draws a name out of the barrel and shows the meeting.

I declare that [name of candidate] is elected as mayor/deputy mayor for the ensuing two years.

The returning officer then draws out the remaining name and reads it for completeness. The second name should be shown to the meeting.

Preferential ballot

The returning officer explains the process.

It has been resolved that the method for voting for the position of mayor/deputy mayor will be by preferential ballot, i.e. placing 1, 2 and so on against the candidate of the councillor's choice in order of preference for all candidates.

The returning officer announces the names of the candidates for mayor/deputy mayor and writes each candidate's name on a slip of paper and deposits it in a barrel.

The returning officer requests that a staff member shakes the barrel and advises that the order in which the names will appear on the ballot paper will be determined by a draw out of the barrel, i.e. first name out of the barrel is written first on the ballot papers and so on.

The returning officer writes the names on the ballot papers and initials the front of each ballot paper. This method of voting requires only one set of ballot papers.

A staff member distributes the ballot papers and collects them when completed and gives them to the returning officer who counts the first preference votes and records them on the tally sheet.

If a candidate has an absolute majority of first preference votes (more than half), the returning officer declares the outcome.

[Name of candidate], having an absolute majority of first preference votes, is elected as mayor/deputy mayor for the ensuing two years.

If no candidate has the absolute majority of first preference votes, the returning officer excludes the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes.

[Name of candidate], having the lowest number of first preference votes, is excluded.

The preferences from the excluded candidate are distributed. This process continues until one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes, at which time the returning officer announces the result.

[Name of candidate], having an absolute majority of votes, is elected as mayor/deputy mayor for the ensuing two years.

In the event of a **tied vote** where there are only two candidates remaining in the election, the returning officer explains the process.

The votes are tied between [name of candidate 1] and [name of candidate 2] having received [number] votes each, and, in accordance with section 12 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I will now write the names of the candidates on similar slips of paper, fold them and place them in the barrel. Please note that the candidate whose name is drawn out will be declared as mayor/deputy mayor.

It is appropriate to show the meeting the names and the barrel. Councillors may inspect but not touch the items.

The returning officer places the names of the candidates into the barrel and requests a staff member to shake the barrel. The returning officer then draws a name out of the barrel and shows the meeting.

I declare that [name of candidate] is elected as mayor/deputy mayor for the ensuing two years.

The returning officer then draws out the remaining name and reads it for completeness. The second name should be shown to the meeting.

In the event that the **lowest number of votes are tied** and where there are three or more candidates remaining in the election, the returning officer advises the meeting of the process.

In accordance with section 12 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I will now write the names of the candidates on similar slips of paper, fold them and place them in the barrel. Please note that the candidate whose name is drawn out will be excluded and their preferences distributed.

It is appropriate to show the meeting the names and the barrel. Councillors may inspect but not touch the items.

The returning officer places the names of the candidates into the barrel and requests that a staff member shakes the barrel.

The returning officer then draws a name out of the barrel and shows the meeting.

I declare that [name of candidate] is excluded and any votes cast for them will be distributed by preference.

The returning officer then draws out the remaining name and reads it for completeness. The second name should be shown to the meeting.

Schedule 7 - Election of Mayor by Councillors

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Returning officer

The general manager (or a person appointed by the general manager) is the returning officer.

2 Nomination

- (1) A councillor may be nominated without notice for election as mayor or deputy mayor
- (2) The nomination is to be made in writing by 2 or more councillors (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.
- (3) The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the returning officer.
- (4) The returning officer is to announce the names of the nominees at the council meeting at which the election is to be held.

3 Election

- (1) If only one councillor is nominated, that councillor is elected.
- (2) If more than one councillor is nominated, the council is to resolve whether the election is to proceed by preferential ballot, by ordinary ballot or by open voting.
- (3) The election is to be held at the council meeting at which the council resolves on the method of voting.
- (4) In this section:
ballot has its normal meaning of secret ballot.
open voting means voting by a show of hands or similar means.

Part 2 Ordinary ballot or open voting

4 Application of Part

This Part applies if the election proceeds by ordinary ballot or by open voting.

5 Marking of ballot-papers

- (1) If the election proceeds by ordinary ballot, the returning officer is to decide the manner in which votes are to be marked on the ballot-papers.
- (2) The formality of a ballot-paper under this Part must be determined in accordance with section 345 of this Regulation as if it were a ballot-paper referred to in that section.
- (3) An informal ballot-paper must be rejected at the count.

6 Count—2 candidates

- (1) If there are only 2 candidates, the candidate with the higher number of votes is elected.
- (2) If there are only 2 candidates and they are tied, the one elected is to be chosen by lot.

7 Count—3 or more candidates

- (1) If there are 3 or more candidates, the one with the lowest number of votes is to be excluded.
- (2) If 3 or more candidates then remain, a further vote is to be taken of those candidates and the one with the lowest number of votes from that further vote is to be excluded.
- (3) If, after that, 3 or more candidates still remain, the procedure set out in subsection (2) is to be repeated until only 2 candidates remain.
- (4) A further vote is to be taken of the 2 remaining candidates.
- (5) Section 6 of this Schedule then applies to the determination of the election as if the 2 remaining candidates had been the only candidates.
- (6) If at any stage during a count under subsection (1) or (2), 2 or more candidates are tied on the lowest number of votes, the one excluded is to be chosen by lot.

Part 3 Preferential ballot

8 Application of Part

This Part applies if the election proceeds by preferential ballot.

9 Ballot-papers and voting

- (1) The ballot-papers are to contain the names of all the candidates. The Councillors are to mark their votes by placing the numbers “1”, “2” and so on against the various names so as to indicate the order of their preference for all the candidates.
- (2) The formality of a ballot-paper under this Part is to be determined in accordance with section 345 of this Regulation as if it were a ballot-paper referred to in that section.
- (3) An informal ballot-paper must be rejected at the count.

10 Count

- (1) If a candidate has an absolute majority of first preference votes, that candidate is elected.
- (2) If not, the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes is excluded and the votes on the unexhausted ballot-papers counted to him or her are transferred to the candidates with second preferences on those ballot-papers.
- (3) A candidate who then has an absolute majority of votes is elected, but, if no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes, the process of excluding the candidate who has the lowest number of votes and counting each of his or her unexhausted ballot-papers to the candidates remaining in the election next in order of the voter’s preference is repeated until one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes. The latter is elected.
- (4) In this section, “**absolute majority**”, in relation to votes, means a number that is more than one-half of the number of unexhausted formal ballot-papers.

11 Tied candidates

- (1) If, on any count of votes, there are 2 candidates in, or remaining in, the election and the numbers of votes cast for the 2 candidates are equal—the candidate whose name is first chosen by lot is taken to have received an absolute majority of votes and is therefore taken to be elected.
- (2) If, on any count of votes, there are 3 or more candidates in, or remaining in, the election and the numbers of votes cast for 2 or more candidates are equal and those candidates are the ones with the lowest number of votes on the count of the votes—the candidate whose name is first chosen by lot is taken to have the lowest number of votes and is therefore excluded.

Part 4 General

12 Choosing by lot

To choose a candidate by lot, the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes are written on similar slips of paper by the returning officer, the slips are folded by the returning officer so as to prevent the names being seen, the slips are mixed and one is drawn at random by the returning officer and the candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is chosen.

13 Result

The result of the election (including the name of the candidate elected as mayor or deputy mayor) is:

- a) to be declared to the councillors at the council meeting at which the election is held by the returning officer, and
- b) to be delivered or sent to the Secretary and to the Chief Executive of Local Government NSW.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Elections for mayors and elections for chairpersons of joint organisations and county councils
Circular Details	Circular No 26-15/ 19 August 2026/ A1013723
Previous Circular	23-09 September 2023 Mayoral Elections
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Executive Officers / Governance staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council / Joint Organisation / County Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), mayors elected by councillors and chairpersons of joint organisations and county councils hold office for 2 years.
- Under section 290(1)(b) of the Act, councils that elect their mayors must hold a mid-term mayoral election in September 2026.
- The deputy mayor, (if the council has one), holds their office for the mayoral term or a shorter term specified by resolution. An election for deputy mayor must be held after the deputy mayor's term expires (usually at the same meeting as the mayoral election).
- Joint organisations and county councils must also hold an election for the chairperson at the first meeting after the chairperson's term has ended (see clause 1 of Schedule 7A and clause 1 of Schedule 8 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation)).

What will this mean for council?

- Elections for the mayor and deputy mayor must be conducted in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Regulation.

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au



- Elections of chairpersons of joint organisations must be conducted in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Regulation.
- Elections for chairpersons of county councils must be conducted in accordance with Schedule 8 of the Regulation.
- Each of the Schedules prescribe three methods of election:
 - open ballot (eg a show of hands)
 - ordinary ballot, or
 - preferential ballot.
- The Office of Local Government has issued a fact sheet on conducting mayoral elections, which is available [here](#). The guidance in the fact sheet is equally applicable to elections for chairpersons of joint organisations and county councils.

Key points

- Councillors and members of joint organisations and county councils can participate in elections using an open ballot by audio visual link but not where the other two methods of election are used.
- Ordinary and preferential ballots are secret ballots and councillors and members of joint organisations and county councils will need to attend the meeting in person to vote if the election is held using either of these methods.
- The disallowed 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (Model Meeting Code) did not permit councillors and members of joint organisations and county councils to attend meetings by audio visual link at which there was to be an election for the mayor or chairperson. This restriction does not apply under the currently applicable 2021 Model Meeting Code.

Where to go for further information

- The Office of Local Government has issued a fact sheet on conducting mayoral elections, which is available [here](#).
- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

A blue ink signature of Brett Whitworth.

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

CLAUSE CL02**TITLE Griffith BESS - Proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement and Community Benefit Package****FROM Scott Grant, General Manager****TRIM REF 26/125455**

SUMMARY

This report presents the outcome of negotiations with Eku Energy concerning a proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) for the Griffith Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a State Significant Development (SSD) proposal at 15 Bob Irvin Road, Yoogali. The development application is determined through the NSW Government SSD process, not by Griffith City Council. Council's engagement has therefore focused principally on maximising community benefit and ensuring that proposed contributions can be administered transparently for public purposes within the Griffith local government area. Negotiations have increased the proposed overall community benefits package from the \$1.175 million originally presented in August 2025 to \$3.75 million in base-dollar commitments: \$1.175 million in direct initiatives delivered through Eku Energy's Long-Term Energy Service Agreement (LTESA) commitments and \$2.575 million in Council-administered VPA contributions, subject to the agreement taking effect and the relevant project milestones occurring. CPI indexation applies to the VPA instalments. Council is now requested to consider and decide whether to endorse the Letter of Offer and draft VPA and for it to be placed on public exhibition for a 28-day statutory public exhibition period. Following exhibition, and subject to satisfactory legal review and resolution of any submissions or issues, the agreement may be finalised and executed under delegation. Any material submissions or substantive amendments requiring Council consideration will be referred back to Council before execution.

RECOMMENDATION**Council:**

- (a) note the status of the Griffith BESS proposal as State Significant Development, with development assessment and determination resting with the NSW Government;**
- (b) note the outcome of negotiations with Eku Energy and the proposed \$3.75 million base-value community benefit package, including \$2.575 million proposed to be administered by Council under a VPA;**
- (c) endorse the Letter of Offer dated 4 September 2026 and the draft Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) between Griffith City Council and Griffith BESS Project Co Pty Ltd, and direct the general manager to proceed to place the VPA on public exhibition in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and associated regulations;**
- (d) authorise the General Manager to undertake the statutory public exhibition of the draft VPA and associated explanatory material for a period of 28 days;**
- (e) authorise the General Manager, following completion of the public exhibition period, to finalise and execute the VPA under delegation, subject to completion of all statutory requirements, satisfactory legal review, and there being no material submissions or substantive amendments requiring further consideration by Council as determined by the General Manager;**

- (f) **require that any material submissions received during the public exhibition period, or any proposed substantive changes to the VPA arising from that process, be referred back to Council for consideration prior to execution; and**
- (g) **note that consideration and endorsement of the VPA does not constitute development consent or a determination by Council on the merits of the SSD application.**

REPORT

Background and planning responsibilities

Ekus Energy proposes a 100 MW / 1,000 MWh lithium-ion battery energy storage facility on land at 15 Bob Irvin Road, Yoogali, approximately 8 km southeast of Griffith. The project site is approximately 10 hectares, with an indicative development area of 5 hectares and battery footprint of 3 hectares. The proposal is subject to SSD application SSD-85372970. Council received a briefing in August 2025; the environmental impact assessment was exhibited in late 2025 and the project material describes the determination as pending.

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure is responsible for the SSD assessment and determination process. Council's consideration of a VPA is a separate statutory and contractual matter. Council may advocate for local community outcomes and participate in consultation without being the development consent authority.

Bushfire and operational risk considerations

Battery safety, bushfire and emergency management are legitimate community concerns. Eku Energy has provided supplementary commentary outlining the SSD assessment process, including copies of the Preliminary Hazard Analysis, Bushfire Assessment Report and consultation with Fire and Rescue NSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service which support the projects SSD application and are publicly accessible through the NSW SSD Planning Portal. These assessments are reviewed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, FRNSW and the NSW RFS.

The technical assessments prepared for the SSD application identified acceptable site-boundary risk subject to mitigation, and Eku Energy reports that the agencies had not sought additional measures at the EIS review stage. While these are not independent Council determinations, the supporting technical assessments were prepared by specialist consultants in accordance with the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and the relevant legislation, standards and guidelines. The supplied commentary states that further fire safety and emergency management documentation may be required by conditions of any eventual development consent. Those requirements, and compliance oversight, belong within the SSD and applicable regulatory frameworks. The proposed VPA is not a substitute for that assessment or for any required mitigation measures.

Evolution of the community benefit offer

The project's Long-Term Energy Service Agreement (LTESA) commitments were presented to Council in August 2025, and comprised approximately \$1.175 million of direct community commitments, with no Council-administered VPA component. Following Councillor feedback and continued Council officer negotiations, Eku Energy progressively revised the offer, noting the larger 100MW / 1,000 MWh proposal, the intended project life and the value of more substantial early payments to Council.

Offer component	Proposed base value	Delivery / control
LTESA direct community initiatives	\$1,175,000	Eku Energy delivery; Council Economic and Community Development functions to be involved as stakeholders
Council VPA contributions	\$2,575,000	Payments to Council for public purposes within Griffith LGA
Total proposed package	\$3,750,000	Subject to applicable agreements, milestones and conditions

Eku Energy has indicated that the combined commitments are intended to align with NSW benefit-sharing guidance at \$150 per MWh per annum. It is estimated that CPI adjustments may lift total VPA receipts to approximately \$3.3 million over the payment period, based on an assumed inflation rate; actual receipts will depend on CPI and the timing of milestones. Inclusive of CPI estimates the total value of support for the Griffith community could reach circa \$4.4million.

Proposed VPA payment arrangements

Trigger / period	Base contribution	Relevant draft terms
Construction commencement	\$200,000	Draft clause 5(b) provides for notification and payment three months after contractor instruction
Commercial operations commencement	\$475,000	Invoiced following COD; payable within 30 days of invoice
First to nineteenth COD anniversaries	\$100,000 each year (\$1,900,000 total)	Nineteen annual instalments, subject to CPI indexation
Total	\$2,575,000	Base amount before CPI adjustments

The front-loading of \$675,000 around construction and commencement of operations improves Council's ability to consider meaningful community initiatives earlier in the project lifecycle. Contributions would need to be applied to public purposes, potentially including community facilities, infrastructure, programs, services and other initiatives benefiting the Griffith community. Individual projects and expenditure allocations would remain subject to Council's usual governance and budget processes.

Community benefit administration and accountability

The proposed VPA is intended to secure contributions to Council for public purposes within the LGA. Council should establish an appropriate mechanism to account for receipts, assess eligible initiatives, approve expenditure, report outcomes and avoid commitments in advance of funds being received. Eku Energy's separate LTESA commitments are not Council-controlled funds, although the proponent has offered Council a stakeholder role in their delivery.

Draft VPA and matters requiring finalisation

The draft deed provides for CPI adjustments, registration against the land title, dispute resolution, enforcement, legal-cost reimbursement and a no-fetter clause protecting Council's statutory functions. It proposes exclusion of the operation of sections 7.11, 7.12 and 7.24 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to the extent set out in the agreement. These provisions require confirmation through Council's legal advisers and the applicable statutory process.

The draft deed also contemplates termination in specified circumstances, including non-approval of the development application. It is noted that Council will rely on the final executed deed rather than illustrative project-life descriptions when identifying enforceable entitlements. The deed's commencement provisions, contribution payment triggers, CPI indexation arrangements and treatment of future project modifications are to be confirmed through the final legal review.

Subject to Council's endorsement, the draft VPA and associated explanatory material will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days. Following exhibition, Council officers will review any submissions and determine whether amendments or further consideration are required. Where no material issues arise, the agreement may be finalised and executed by the General Manager under delegation. Any material submissions or substantive changes will be reported back to Council for consideration and endorsement before execution

Overall assessment

The negotiations have materially improved the community return associated with the proposal, both in quantum and in the timing and Council administration of benefits. A Council-administered VPA provides a clearer mechanism for aligning funds with local priorities, while retaining the distinction between Council's community benefit role and the NSW Government's planning approval role. Subject to legal and statutory finalisation, progression of the negotiated agreement is supported.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Progress the negotiated VPA (recommended)

Council endorses the Letter of Offer and draft VPA for the purpose of proceeding to a 28-day statutory public exhibition period. Following exhibition, and subject to satisfactory legal review and there being no material submissions or substantive amendments requiring further Council consideration, the General Manager is authorised to finalise and execute the agreement under delegation. Any material matters arising from the exhibition process will be referred back to Council prior to execution.

Option 2 – Seek further changes to the offer

Council requests additional changes to contribution amounts, timing or permitted uses. This may provide further negotiating scope, however, is unlikely to alter lawful uses under the Act and risks delaying finalisation and does not guarantee improved terms.

Option 3 – Do not progress the VPA

Council declines to progress the proposed VPA. This would forgo the present mechanism for securing Council-administered contributions, while not determining the SSD application.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The VPA should be administered consistently with Council's adopted strategic plans, community engagement, financial management and relevant planning agreement policies and procedures. A transparent framework for selecting and reporting community benefit expenditure is recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The proposed base VPA contribution is \$2.575 million, with CPI indexation applying to instalments. These receipts are contingent on the VPA taking effect and on project milestones and ongoing operations. Eku Energy has offered to meet Council's reasonable legal fees and disbursements in relation to the agreement; the draft deed includes a broader costs provision.

Funds should not be committed before receipt and appropriate Council budget approval. The \$1.175 million LTESA component is a separate proponent-delivered benefit and should not be recorded as Council income.

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The proposed VPA is prepared pursuant to section 7.4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and is subject to the applicable requirements of that Act and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

Subject to Council endorsement, the draft VPA and associated explanatory material will be publicly exhibited for a period of 28 days in accordance with the statutory requirements, including publication on Council's website.

Following the exhibition period, Council officers will consider any submissions received and determine whether any changes to the agreement are required. Where material submissions are received, or substantive amendments are proposed that require Council consideration, those matters will be reported back to Council before the agreement is executed.

Where no such matters arise, the General Manager will be authorised to finalise and execute the agreement under delegation, subject to satisfactory legal review, completion of statutory requirements and compliance with Council's applicable delegation and execution arrangements.

The final legal review will address the contribution payment triggers, indexation arrangements, registration on title, exclusions of other development contributions, assignment, enforcement, termination and other relevant contractual provisions.

Council's endorsement of the draft VPA for exhibition does not constitute development consent or approval of the Griffith BESS project, which remains subject to determination through the NSW Government's State Significant Development process.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Environmental, hazard and bushfire impacts are considered through the SSD process administered by the NSW Government. This report concerns community benefit arrangements and does not independently assess or endorse environmental acceptability of the project.

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The negotiated package would provide a substantial source of support for local community purposes, with early milestone funding and subsequent annual contributions. Transparent community-facing reporting and an equitable approach to project selection will be important to demonstrating tangible local benefit.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.2 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through effective financial management that is transparent and accountable.

CONSULTATION

Eku Energy have engaged with Council on the Griffith BESS project since late 2024. Specific to a community benefit sharing approach, Council received in-person briefings in February 2025 and August 2025, with Council officers subsequently undertaking negotiations with Eku Energy and its representatives regarding the proposed community benefits package and draft VPA.

The SSD application and supporting environmental assessment material were publicly exhibited through the NSW Government's planning assessment process in late 2025. No objections were received during the EIS's public exhibition that related to community benefit sharing.

Subject to Council's endorsement of the Letter of Offer and draft VPA, a separate statutory public exhibition process will now be undertaken for a period of 28 days. The draft agreement and associated explanatory material will be made available for public inspection, including through Council's website.

Any submissions received will be reviewed by Council officers. Material submissions or substantive amendments requiring Council consideration will be reported back to Council before execution. In the absence of such matters, the agreement may be finalised and executed under delegation following completion of the required statutory and legal processes.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement - Griffith BESS (Council review DRAFT) | 37 |
| |   | |
| (b) | VPA Explanatory Agreement   | 56 |
| (c) | Griffith BESS - Letter of Offer   | 58 |

Ashurst

Draft : 08.09 2026

Planning Agreement

Griffith City Council
ABN 81 274 100 792

Griffith BESS Project Co Pty Ltd (**ACN 682 452 973**) as trustee for the
Griffith BESS Project Trust
ABN 34 831 865 398

Partner Initials\FE Initials\99999999.DMS314839
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THIS PLANNING AGREEMENT is made on

2026

BETWEEN:

- (1) **Griffith City Council ABN 81 274 100 792** of 1 Benerembah St, GRIFFITH NSW 2680 (the **Council**); and
- (2) **Griffith BESS Project Co Pty Ltd (ACN 682 452 973) as trustee for the Griffith BESS Project Trust (ABN 34 831 865 398)** of Suite 1, Level 34, 360 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 (the **Developer**).

BACKGROUND:

- (A) The Developer wishes to carry out the Development on the Land which is situated in the local Government area of the Council.
- (B) The Developer has made the Development Application to the Department in respect of the Development and Development Consent is pending.
- (C) Under this Deed, the Developer has agreed to make the Development Contributions in connection with the Development for the benefit of the local community in which the Development is to be carried out in.
- (D) The Development Contributions form part of a broader package of commitments and benefit sharing programs by the Developer, including commitments made under the Long-Term Energy Service Agreement (**LTESA**). Taken together, the Development Contributions and the commitments under the LTESA are consistent with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Benefit-Sharing Guidelines.

THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Definitions and Interpretation**

1.1 **Definitions**

The following definitions apply in this document.

Act means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*.

Authority means the Commonwealth or New South Wales government, a Minister of the Crown, a government department, a public authority established by or under any Act, a council or county council constituted under the Local Government Act 1993, a person or body exercising functions under any Act including a commission, panel, court, tribunal and the like.

Business Day means a day (other than a Saturday, Sunday or day including and between 25 December and 1 January, or public holiday) on which banks are open for general banking business in Sydney, Australia.

Claim includes a claim, demand, remedy, suit, injury, damage, loss, Cost, liability, action, proceeding or right of action.

Commencement Date means the date on which this Planning Agreement comes into operation.

Commercial Operations means the point at which the BESS has successfully completed commissioning and testing, and all approvals, registrations and other requirements necessary for the operation of the BESS have been obtained or satisfied.

Commercial Operations Date means the date on which Commercial Operations commence.

Cost means a cost, charge, expense, outgoing, payment, fee and other expenditure of any nature.

Decommissioned means the point at which the Development has permanently ceased operation and decommissioning works have been completed.

Deed means this planning agreement and includes any schedules, annexures and appendices to this Deed.

Department means the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure NSW.

Development means the construction and operation of the Griffith Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), as described in Item 2 of Schedule 1 of this Deed and the subject of the Development Application.

Development Application has the same meaning as in the Act, and refers to the development application for the Griffith BESS State Significant Development Application SSD-85372970.

Development Consent has the same meaning as in the Act and where relevant for the purposes of this Deed, refers to the development consent granted to the Development Application for the Development, including any modifications of that Development Consent in accordance with the Act.

Development Contribution means the Development Contributions specified in Schedule 3.

Dispute means a dispute or difference between the Parties under or in relation to this Deed.

End Date means the earlier of the: (i) the Development is Decommissioned; or (ii) the date that this Agreement is otherwise terminated in accordance with its terms.

Explanatory Note means the note exhibited with this deed when the deed is made available for inspection by the public pursuant to the Act, as required by the Regulation.

GST has the same meaning as in the GST Law.

GST Law has the same meaning as in *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cth) and any other Act or regulation relating to the imposition or administration of the GST.

Item means an item specified in Schedule 1, Schedule 2 and Schedule 3.

Land means land which the Development will be carried out as described in Item 1 of Schedule 1.

Party means a party to this Deed.

Regulation means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.

Term means the term of this agreement pursuant to clause 4.

1.2 **Interpretation**

In this deed unless a contrary intention is expressed:

- (a) headings are for convenience only, and do not affect interpretation;
- (b) a reference to a legislative provision or legislation (including subordinate legislation) is to that provision or legislation as amended, re enacted or replaced, and includes any subordinate legislation issued under it;
- (c) a reference to a document (including this document) or agreement, or a provision of a document (including this document) or agreement, is to that document, agreement or provision as amended, supplemented, replaced or novated;
- (d) a reference to a party to this document or to any other document or agreement includes a permitted substitute or a permitted assign of that party;
- (e) a reference to a person includes any type of entity or body of persons, whether or not it is incorporated or has a separate legal identity, and any executor, administrator or successor in law of the person;
- (f) a reference to anything (including a right, obligation or concept) includes each part of it;
- (g) a singular word includes the plural, and vice versa;
- (h) a word which suggests one gender includes the other genders;
- (i) if a word or phrase is defined, any other grammatical form of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning;
- (j) if an example is given of anything (including a right, obligation or concept), such as by saying it includes something else, the example does not limit the scope of that thing;
- (k) a reference to including means "including, without limitation";
- (l) a reference to dollars or \$ is to an amount in Australian currency;
- (m) a reference to this document includes the agreement recorded by this document;
- (n) words defined in the GST Act have the same meaning in clauses about GST; and
- (o) This document is not to be interpreted against the interests of a party merely because that party proposed this document or some provision in it or because that party relies on a provision of this document to protect itself.

2. **Planning Agreement**

The parties agree that this Deed is a planning agreement governed by Subdivision 2 of Division 7.1 of Part 7 of the Act.

3. **Application of this Deed**

The parties agree that this planning agreement applies to:

- (a) the Land; and

- (b) the Development.

4. **Term**

This Deed commences and has force and effect on and from the date when the parties have:

- (a) executed the same copy of this Deed; or
- (b) each executed separate counterparts of this Deed and exchanged the counterparts.

and continues in force until the End Date.

5. **Development Contributions**

- (a) The Developer must, at its cost and risk, provide the Development Contributions to the Council in accordance with this Deed and Schedule 3.
- (b) Within two (2) Business Days after giving instructions to its contractor under the Balance of Plant Contract for construction of the Development, the Developer must notify the Council in writing. The Council may then issue a tax invoice for the First Payment Instalment. The First Payment Instalment is due three (3) months after the date the Developer gives that notice to the Council,
- (c) Within two (2) Business Days after the Commercial Operations Date, the Developer must notify the Council in writing. The Council may then issue a tax invoice for the Second Payment Instalment and the Second Payment Instalment is due within thirty (30) days after the date of the tax invoice.
- (d) Commencing on the first anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date and continuing on each anniversary thereafter until the nineteenth anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Council may issue a tax invoice for the applicable Annual Instalment. The Developer must pay each Annual Instalment within thirty (30) days after the date of the relevant tax invoice.
- (e) The Council must use the Development Contributions for the public purpose specified in Schedule 3.
- (f) Where this Deed provides that an amount is to be increased by CPI, then the amount will be adjusted on each anniversary of the date of this Deed by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (All Groups) for the weighted average of the eight Australian capital cities published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 6401.0), measured over the 12 months immediately preceding the adjustment date.
- (g) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties in writing, all monetary Development Contributions payable under this Deed must be paid by electronic funds transfer to the Council's nominated bank account. The Council must notify the Developer in writing of its bank account details and any subsequent changes to those details.
- (h) If the Developer fails to pay any amount payable under this Deed when due, interest accrues on the unpaid amount from (and including) the due date until (but excluding) the date of payment at a rate equal to the Reserve Bank of Australia cash rate plus 2% per annum, calculated daily.

6. **Public Recognition**

- (a) At the Developer's request, the Council may publicly acknowledge the application of the Development Contributions to a particular public purpose. The Council must not unreasonably withhold or delay its consent to such acknowledgement.
- (b) The form of any public acknowledgment required by clause 6(a) is to be agreed by the Council and the Developer (acting reasonably).

7. **Application of sections 7.11, 7.12 and 7.24 of the Act**

- (a) The application of sections 7.11, 7.12 and 7.24 of the Act is excluded in relation to the Development, to the extent stated in Schedule 2.
- (b) Contributions are to be taken into account by the consent authority in determining a development contribution under Part 7 of the Act.

8. **Registration**

- (a) The parties acknowledge and agree that this Deed is to be registered on the title to the Land (the BESS Site), in order to secure the performance of the Developer's obligations under this Deed.
- (b) The Developer warrants that it is either the owner of the Land or that it has the unconditional and irrevocable consent of the owner of the Land and of each person who has an estate or interest in the Land to register this Deed on the title for that Land.
- (c) The Developer must do all things required to enable registration of this Deed on the title for the Land to occur as soon as possible after the Commencement Date, and no later than 3 months after the Commencement Date, including by obtaining the consent of each person who has an estate or interest in the Land to its registration.
- (d) The Deed is to be removed from the title of the Land within 28 days of the End Date. The Council agrees to do all things reasonably necessary and requested of it to accommodate that.

9. **Warranties**

The Parties warrant to each other that they:

- (a) have full capacity to enter into this Deed; and
- (b) are able to fully comply with their obligations under this Deed.

10. **No Fetter**

Nothing in this Deed shall be construed as requiring the Council to do anything that would cause Council to be in breach of any of its obligations at law, and without limitation, nothing in this Deed shall be construed as limiting or fettering in any way the discretion of Council in exercising any of Council's statutory functions, powers, authorities or duties.

11. **Dispute Resolution**

11.1 **Application**

Any Dispute must be determined in accordance with the procedure in this clause 11.

11.2 **Negotiation**

- (a) If any Dispute arises, a party to the Dispute (**Referring Party**) may by giving notice to the other party or parties to the Dispute (**Claim Notice**) refer the Dispute to the Developer's Representative and the Council's Representative for resolution. The Dispute Notice must:
 - (i) be in writing;
 - (ii) state that it is given pursuant to this clause 11; and
 - (iii) include or be accompanied by reasonable particulars of the Dispute including:
 - (A) a brief description of the circumstances in which the Dispute arose;
 - (B) references to any:
 - (aa) provisions of this document; and
 - (bb) acts or omissions of any person, relevant to the Dispute; and
 - (C) where applicable, the amount in dispute (whether monetary or any other commodity) and if not precisely known, the best estimate available.
- (b) Within 10 Business Days of the Referring Party issuing the Claim Notice (**Resolution Period**), the Developer's Representative and the Council's Representative must meet at least once to attempt to resolve the Dispute.
- (c) The Developer's Representative and the Council's Representative may meet more than once to resolve a Dispute. The Developer's Representative and the Council's Representative may meet in person, via telephone, videoconference, internet-based instant messaging or any other agreed means of instantaneous communication to effect the meeting.

11.3 **Mediation**

If the Dispute is not resolved under clause 11.2, either party may give the other a written notice calling for determination of the dispute by mediation (Dispute Notice), in which case:

- (a) the parties must agree the terms of reference of the mediation within 5 Business Days of the receipt of the Dispute Notice (the terms shall include a requirement that the mediation rules of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia (NSW Chapter) apply);
- (b) the appointment of a Mediator will be agreed between the parties, or failing agreement within 5 Business Days of receipt of the Dispute Notice, either party may request the President of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia (NSW Chapter) apply to appoint a mediator;
- (c) the Mediator appointed pursuant to this clause 11.3 must:

- (i) have reasonable qualifications and practical experience in the area of the dispute; and
 - (ii) have no interest or duty which conflicts or may conflict with their function as mediator, they being required to fully disclose any such interest or duty before their appointment;
- (d) the Mediator shall be required to undertake to keep confidential all matters coming to their knowledge by reason of their appointment and performance of their duties;
- (e) the parties must within 5 Business Days of receipt of the Dispute Notice notify each other of their representatives who will be involved in the mediation;
- (f) the parties agree to be bound by any mediation settlement and if settlement is achieved, may only initiate judicial proceedings in respect of a dispute which is the subject of a mediation settlement for the purpose of enforcing that mediation settlement;
- (g) in relation to costs and expenses:
 - (i) each party will bear their own professional and expert costs incurred in connection with the mediation;
 - (ii) the costs of the Mediator will be shared equally by the parties unless the Mediator determines a party has engaged in vexatious or unconscionable behaviour in which case the Mediator may require the full costs of the mediation to be borne by that party.

11.4 Not use information

The purpose of any exchange of information or documents or the making of any offer of settlement under this clause 11 is to attempt to settle the Dispute. Neither party may use any information or documents obtained through any dispute resolution process undertaken under this clause 11 for any purpose other than in an attempt to settle the Dispute.

11.5 Condition precedent to litigation

Subject to clause 11.6 a party must not commence legal proceedings in respect of a Dispute unless:

- (a) a Dispute Notice has been given; and
- (b) the Resolution Period has expired.

11.6 Summary or urgent relief

Nothing in this clause 11 will prevent a party from instituting proceedings to seek urgent injunctive, interlocutory or declaratory relief in respect of a Dispute.

12. Assignment

- (a) The Developer may assign or novate its rights or obligations under this Agreement to a third party, provided that:
 - (i) it gives reasonable prior notice of no less than 14 days to the Council;
 - (ii) the Council is satisfied (acting reasonably and without delay) that the incoming third party is solvent and capable of performing the Developer's

obligations under this deed insofar as those obligations are to be assigned or novated to the third party; and

- (iii) procure the execution of an agreement by the third party with the Council (acting reasonably and without delay) under which the third party agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of this Deed as though the third party were the Developer.

13. **Trustee warranties**

- (a) Where this Deed is entered into or is to be assigned or novated to a person or entity who proposes to enter into this Deed as the trustee of a trust (Trustee), the Trustee warrants that:
 - (i) it is the sole trustee of the trust;
 - (ii) it has full and valid power and authority to enter into this Deed and perform the obligations under it on behalf of the trust;
 - (iii) it has entered into this Deed for the proper administration of the trust; and
 - (iv) all necessary resolutions, consents, approvals and procedures have been obtained or duly satisfied to enter into this Deed and perform the obligations under it; and
 - (v) it is entitled to be indemnified out of the property of the trust pursuant to the Trust Deed for all liabilities incurred by it under this Deed.
- (b) Any liability of the Trustee arising under or in connection with this Deed is not limited by the extent to which the Trustee can be, and is in fact, satisfied out of property of the trust.

14. **Enforcement**

- (a) Without limiting any other remedies available to the Parties, this Deed may be enforced by any Party in any Court of competent jurisdiction, subject to clause 11.
- (b) Nothing in this Deed prevents:
 - (i) a Party from bringing proceedings in the Land and Environment Court to enforce any aspect of this Deed or any matter to which this Deed relates; and
 - (ii) the Council from exercising any function under the Act or any other Act or Law relating to the enforcement of any aspect of this Deed to any matter to which this Deed relates.

15. **Taxes and GST**

15.1 **Responsibility for Taxes**

- (a) The Developer is responsible for any and all Taxes and other like liabilities which may arise under any Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation (as amended from time to time) as a result of or in connection with this document or the Development Contributions.

- (b) The Developer must indemnify the Council in relation to any claims, liabilities and costs (including penalties and interest) arising as a result of any Tax or other like liability for which the Developer is responsible under clause 15.1(a).

15.2 **GST free supply**

To the extent that Divisions 81 and 82 of the GST Law apply to a supply made under this document no additional amount will be payable by a party on account of GST.

15.3 **Supply subject to GST**

To the extent that clause 15.2 does not apply to a supply made under this document, this clause 15.3 will apply:

- (a) If one party (**Supplying Party**) makes a taxable supply and the consideration for that supply does not expressly include GST, the party that is liable to provide the consideration (**Receiving Party**) must also pay an amount (**GST Amount**) equal to the GST payable in respect of that supply.
- (b) Subject to first receiving a tax invoice or adjustment note as appropriate, the receiving party must pay the GST amount when it is liable to provide the consideration.
- (c) If one party must indemnify or reimburse another party (**Payee**) for any loss or expense incurred by the Payee, the required payment does not include any amount which the Payee (or an entity that is in the same GST group as the Payee) is entitled to claim as an input tax credit, but will be increased under clause 15.3(a) if the payment is consideration for a taxable supply.
- (d) If an adjustment event arises in respect of a taxable supply made by a Supplying Party, the GST Amount payable by the Receiving Party under clause 15.3(a) will be recalculated to reflect the adjustment event and a payment will be made by the Receiving Party to the Supplying Party, or by the Supplying Party to the Receiving Party, as the case requires.
- (e) The Developer will assume the Council is not entitled to any input tax credit when calculating any amounts payable under this clause 15.3.
- (f) In this document:
 - (i) consideration includes non-monetary consideration, in respect of which the parties must agree on a market value, acting reasonably; and
 - (ii) in addition to the meaning given in the GST Act, the term "GST" includes a notional liability for GST.

16. **Termination**

- (a) This Deed will terminate:
 - (i) if the Development Application is not approved;
 - (ii) the Development Consent is surrendered;
 - (iii) on the declaration by a Court of competent jurisdiction that the Development Consent for the Development on the Land is invalid; or
 - (iv) at the end of the Term.

- (b) In the event of termination of the Planning Agreement, any funds that have been paid by the Developer as Contributions prior to termination:
 - (i) can continue to be expended by Council in accordance with this Deed; and
 - (ii) are not refundable by Council to the Developer.

17. **General**

17.1 **Variation**

- (a) This Deed can only be varied by a later written document executed by or on behalf of all Parties in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
- (b) Without limiting clause 17.1(a), if the Development Consent is modified, such that the scale, capacity, period of operation or footprint of the Development is increased, including as a result of an increase in the approved battery storage capacity (MWh), or the area of the Development Site, the Parties acknowledge that the Contribution Amount may require adjustment.
- (c) If clause applies, the Parties must meet and negotiate in good faith with a view to agreeing any appropriate amendment to this Deed, including any amendment to the Contribution Amount having regard to the nature and effect of the modification.
- (d) If any clause or part of any clause is in any way unenforceable, invalid or illegal, it is to be read down so as to be enforceable, valid and legal. If this is not possible, the clause (or where possible, the offending part) is to be severed from this Agreement without affecting the enforceability, validity or legality of the remaining clauses (or parts of those clauses) which will continue in full force and effect.

17.2 **Notice**

- (a) Any notice, consent, information, application or request that is to or may be given or made to a Party under this Deed is only given or made if it is in writing and sent in one of the following ways:
 - (i) delivered or posted to that Party at its address set out in Schedule 1, or
 - (ii) emailed to that Party at its email address set out in Schedule 1.
- (b) If a Party gives the other Party 3 business days' notice of a change of its address or email, any notice, consent, information, application or request is only given or made by that other Party if it is delivered, posted or emailed to the latest address.
- (c) Any notice, consent, information, application or request is to be treated as given or made if it is:
 - (i) delivered, when it is left at the relevant address,
 - (ii) sent by post, 2 business days after it is posted, or
 - (iii) sent by email and the sender does not receive a delivery failure message from the sender's internet service provider within a period of 24 hours of the email being sent.
- (d) If any notice, consent, information, application or request is delivered, or an error free transmission report in relation to it is received, on a day that is not a

business day, or if on a business day, after 5pm on that day in the place of the Party to whom it is sent, it is to be treated as having been given or made at the beginning of the next business day.

17.3 Entire Deed

- (a) This Deed contains everything to which the Parties have agreed in relation to the matters it deals with.
- (b) No Party can rely on an earlier document, or anything said or done by another Party, or by a director, officer, agent or employee of that Party, before this Deed was executed, except as permitted by law.

17.4 Waiver

- (a) The fact that a Party fails to do, or delays in doing, something the Party is entitled to do under this Deed, does not amount to a waiver of any obligation of, or breach of obligation by, another Party.
- (b) A waiver by a Party is only effective if it:
 - (i) is in writing,
 - (ii) is addressed to the Party whose obligation or breach of obligation is the subject of the waiver,
 - (iii) specifies the obligation or breach of obligation the subject of the waiver and the conditions, if any, of the waiver,
 - (iv) is signed and dated by the Party giving the waiver.
- (c) Without limitation, a waiver may be expressed to be conditional on the happening of an event, including the doing of a thing by the Party to whom the waiver is given.
- (d) A waiver by a Party is only effective in relation to the particular obligation or breach in respect of which it is given, and is not to be taken as an implied waiver of any other obligation or breach or as an implied waiver of that obligation or breach in relation to any other occasion.
- (e) For the purposes of this Deed, an obligation or breach of obligation the subject of a waiver is taken not to have been imposed on, or required to be complied with by, the Party to whom the waiver is given.

17.5 Further Acts

Each Party must promptly execute all documents and do all things that another Party from time to time reasonably requests to effect, perfect or complete this Deed and all transactions incidental to it.

17.6 Governing Law and Jurisdiction

- (a) This Deed is governed by the law of New South Wales.
- (b) The Parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of its courts and courts of appeal from them.
- (c) The Parties are not to object to the exercise of jurisdiction by those courts on any basis.

17.7 Relationship of Parties

Unless otherwise stated:

- (a) nothing in this Deed creates a joint venture, partnership, or the relationship of principal and agent, or employee and employer between the Parties; and
- (b) no Party has the authority to bind any other party by any representation, declaration or admission, or to make any contract or commitment on behalf of any other party or to pledge any other party's credit.

17.8 Explanatory Note

The Explanatory Note must not be used to assist in construing this Agreement.

17.9 Counterparts

- (a) This Deed may be executed in any number of counterparts, each signed by one or more Parties. Each counterpart when so executed is deemed to be an original and all such counterparts taken together constitute one document.
- (b) A Party that has executed a counterpart of this Deed may exchange that counterpart with another party by faxing or emailing it, by way of PDF, to the other Party or the other Party's legal representative and it is intended that such exchange is to take effect as delivery of this deed.

17.10 Costs

- (a) The Developer is to pay the Council's legal costs and disbursements in connection with the negotiation, execution, registration and amendment of this agreement.

Schedule 1

Agreement Details

ITEM	TERM	DESCRIPTION
1.	Land	Lot 11 in 1330848 known as 15 Bob Irvin Road Yoogali NSW 2680 (BESS Site), and the land required for the BESS connection infrastructure, as captured within the Development Application.
2.	Development	The proposed Griffith Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure. The BESS is to have a delivery and storage capacity of 100 MW / 1000 MWh and will connect to the National Electricity Market (NEM) via the existing Griffith Substation. When connected, the project will store energy during periods of low demand and release it during peak demand, providing network stability and grid forming capabilities.
3.	Council's Representative	Name: Scott Grant Address: 1 Benerembah Street, Griffith NSW 2680 Email address: scott.grant@griffith.nsw.gov.au Or such alternative representative nominated by the Council from time to time and notified in writing to the Developer's Representative.
4.	Developer's Representative	Name: Address: Email address:
5.	Development Application	SSD – 85372970

Schedule 2

Requirements under the Act and Regulations

The below table summarises how this document complies with the Act and Regulations.

ITEM	SECTION OF ACT OR REGULATION	PROVISION/CLAUSE OF THIS DOCUMENT
1.	Planning instrument and/or development application (section 7.4(1) of the Act) The Developer has: (a) sought a change to an environmental planning instrument; (b) made, or proposes to make, a Development Application; or (c) entered into an agreement with, or is otherwise associated with, a person, to whom paragraph (a) or (b) applies.	(a) No (b) Yes (SSD – 85372970) (c) No
2.	Description of land to which this document applies (section 7.4(3)(a) of the Act)	Item 1 of Schedule 1.
3.	Description of the development to which this document applies (section 7.4(3)(b) of the Act)	Item 2 of Schedule 1.
4.	The scope, timing and manner of delivery of contributions required by the Planning Agreement – Section 7.4(3)(c) of the Act	Schedule 3
5.	Applicability of section 7.11 of the Act – Section 7.4(3)(d) of the Act	Excluded
6.	Applicability of section 7.12 of the Act – Section 7.4(3)(d) of the Act	Excluded
7.	Applicability of section 7.24 of the Act – Section 7.4(3)(d) of the Act	Excluded
8.	Whether the benefits are or are not to be taken into consideration in determining a development	Yes, see clause 10.

ITEM	SECTION OF ACT OR REGULATION	PROVISION/CLAUSE OF THIS DOCUMENT
	contribution under section 7.11 – Section 7.4(3)(e) of the Act	
9.	Mechanism for dispute resolution – Section 7.4(3)(f) of the Act	Yes, see clause 11.
10.	Enforcement of the Planning Agreement by a suitable means – Section 7.4(3)(g) of the Act	Yes, see clause 14.
11.	Registration of the Planning Agreement – Section 7.6 of the Act	Yes, see clause 8.
12.	No obligation to grant consent or exercise functions – Section 7.4(9) of the Act	Yes, see clause 10.

Schedule 3

Development Contributions

	Development Contribution	Value	Due date	Purpose of Contribution
1.	Monetary Contribution	\$ 2,575,000	Payable as follows: 1) \$200,000 payable upon commencement of construction in accordance with clause 5(b) (First Payment Instalment) ; 2) \$475,000 payable upon commencement of commercial operations in accordance with clause 5(c) (Second Payment Instalment) 3) The remaining \$1.9 million delivered in \$100,000 annual instalments beginning one year after COD until year 20 of operations (Annual Instalment) Each payment is to be adjusted by CPI from the date of this Deed to the due date for that instalment.	Funds to support Council managed programs for public purposes within the Griffith LGA.

EXECUTED as a Deed .

EXECUTED BY GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL (ABN 81 274 100 792) by its authorised delegate in accordance with Council resolution 26/XX

Signature of delegate

Signature of witness

Name of delegate

Name

Position of delegate

EXECUTED by GRIFFITH BESS PROJECT CO PTY LTD (ACN 682 452 973) **as trustee for the GRIFFITH BESS PROJECT TRUST)** (ABN 34 831 865 398) in accordance with s127(1) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth):

Signature of director

Signature of director/secretary

Name

Name

Planning Agreement – SSD 85372970 - Explanatory Note

1. Introduction

This Explanatory Note has been prepared in accordance with section 205 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (NSW) (Regulations).

In preparing this Note, the Council has considered the practice note issued by the Planning Secretary under section 203(6) of the Regulations.

In this Explanatory Note capitalised terms are to be defined in accordance with the Planning Agreement.

The purpose of this Explanatory Note is to provide a plain English summary to support the notification of the Planning Agreement (**Planning Agreement**), which is proposed to be made pursuant to section 7.4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (**Act**) in connection with the proposed development of the Griffith BESS Project (**Development**) in the local government area of Griffith City Council.

2. The parties to the Planning Agreement are:

Griffith City Council (Council) and Griffith BESS Project Co Pty Ltd (ACN 682 452 973) as trustee for the Griffith BESS Project Trust (ABN 34 831 865 398) (Developer).

3. Description of the Land to which the Planning Agreement will apply

The land subject to the planning agreement is the land known as 15 Bob Irvin Road, Yoogali NSW 2680, being the land comprised in certificate of title Folio Identifier 11/1330848.

The Planning Agreement will be registered on the subject land title.

4. Summary of the objectives, nature and effect of the Planning Agreement

The objective of the Planning Agreement is to provide a contractual mechanism by which the Developer will provide monetary contributions in connection with the Development to the Council to support Council managed programs for public purposes within the Griffith Local Government Area.

The Developer's contributions under the Planning Agreement form part of a broader package of commitments and benefit sharing programs by the Developer, including commitments made under the Developer's Long-Term Energy Service Agreement.

The Planning Agreement:

- relates to the carrying out of the Development by the Developer,
- makes provision for the Developer to make financial contributions to the Council over a 20 year period to be put towards Council managed programs for public purposes within the Griffith Local Government Area.
- excludes the application of section 7.11, 7.12 and 7.24 of the EP&A Act, and

- provides dispute resolution methods and enforcement mechanisms in the event of a dispute under, or breach of, the agreement.

5. Assessment of the Merits of the Planning Agreement

The Council has more flexibility regarding the expenditure of funds provided to it under a Planning Agreement compared to development contributions which the Council collects under s.7.12 of the Act.

The merit of the Planning Agreement is therefore that it provides Council with funds which can be spent for a broad range of public purposes.

The Planning Agreement is not anticipated to have any negative impacts on the public or a section of the public.

6. Identify how the Planning Agreement promotes the public interest

The Planning Agreement promotes the public interest as it will benefit the public and local communities through enabling the delivery of Council programs for a public purpose(s) and public benefit(s).

7. Whether the Planning Agreement conforms with Council's Capital Works Program/ Charter?

The Agreement does not require any particular works to be carried out, and does not therefore overlap with the Council's capital works program.

8. Whether the Planning Agreement specifies that certain requirements must be complied with before a construction certificate, occupation certificate or subdivision certificate is issued.

No, the Planning Agreement does not specify that certain requirements must be complied with before a construction certificate, occupation certificate or subdivision certificate is issued.

9. Construction of the Agreement

This Explanatory Note is not to be used to interpret the Planning Agreement.



Eku Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Suite 1, Level 34
360 Collins St
Melbourne VIC 3000

contact@ekuenergy.com
ekuenergy.com



FAO Mr Scott Grant

Griffith City Council
1 Benerembah Street
Griffith NSW 2680

4 September 2026

Griffith BESS Project – Proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement – Final Offer

Dear Mr Grant,

Thank you for Griffith City Council's continued engagement and support for Eku Energy's Griffith Battery Energy Storage System (**BESS**), (the **Project**).

The Project is seeking development approval of its State Significant Development (**SSD**) application for the proposed 100MW/1000MWh lithium-ion battery energy storage system, located at 15 Bob Irvin Road, described as Lot 11 in 1330848 following a recent subdivision. The site is approximately 8km southeast of Griffith in Yoogali and is wholly within the Griffith City Council local government area.

This letter (**Letter of Offer**) seeks to outline and confirm the shared community benefit commitments that Eku Energy proposes to make to the Griffith community under a community benefit sharing framework.

Pursuant to Section 7.4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the **EP&A Act**), Eku Energy proposes to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (**VPA**) with Griffith City Council for the Project. A draft VPA has been shared with Griffith City Council for its review prior to the date of this Letter of Offer.

Contributions made under the VPA will form part of a broader package of commitments and benefit sharing programs by the Griffith BESS Project to the community, including commitments made under the Project's Long-Term Energy Service Agreement with the Scheme Financial Vehicle (**LTESA**). Taken together, these annual contributions and the commitments under the LTESA are consistent with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Benefit-Sharing Guidelines, totalling to the value of \$150 per MWh per annum of the BESS' operational life.

The draft VPA includes the following general terms:

1. **Developer contribution:** a contribution of AUD\$200,000 upon commencement of construction, AUD\$475,000 upon commencement of commercial operations (COD), and AUD\$100,000 annually from 1 year after COD until year 20 of operations.
2. **Indexation:** adjustments to be made annually on 1 July, by reference to the Consumer Price Index.
3. **Registration on Title:** The VPA will be registered on the title to the Land.

Eku Energy Limited ("Eku") is registered in England with company number 14324758. Eku's registered office is Ropemaker Place, 28 Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9HD.

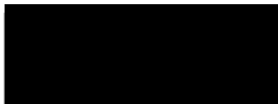


The Developer Contribution is proposed to be paid to Griffith City Council and applied for public purposes within the Griffith local government area, consistent with section 7.4(1) and (2) of the EP&A Act. The public purposes are expected to include community benefit initiatives, public facilities, local infrastructure, programs, services, events or other community outcomes that provide a public benefit to the local community in which the Griffith BESS Project is to be carried out. Griffith City Council is proposed to administer and apply the VPA contributions through its community benefit sharing framework, with records of the application of funds to be made available on request.

Eku Energy proposes that the application of sections 7.11 and 7.12 of the EP&A Act be excluded to the extent provided for in the VPA. For completeness, Eku Energy also proposes that the application of section 7.24 of the EP&A Act, being the provision relating to State infrastructure contributions, including housing and productivity contributions, be excluded to the extent provided for in the VPA. The contributions offered under the VPA are to be taken into account by the consent authority in determining any development contribution under Part 7 of the Act.

Eku Energy will continue to work with Griffith City Council to finalise the drafted VPA in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act and any relevant conditions of the Projects development consent. Eku Energy proposes to pay Griffith City Council's costs to the extent of any reasonable legal fees and disbursements in connection with preparation of the VPA.

Yours sincerely,



Kait Goudge
Planning and Approvals Manager,
Eku Energy

CLAUSE **CL03**

TITLE **Griffith Jockey Club - Request for Council Support**

FROM **Scott Grant, General Manager**

TRIM REF **26/125643**

SUMMARY

Griffith Jockey Club (GJC) has requested financial assistance from Council to offset operating and maintenance costs associated with the turf track at Dalton Park, particularly the cost of raw water supplied by Council. Council officers have reviewed the request and arrangements for comparable community and sporting facilities. Any variation to the adopted water charges requires a specific Council decision. GJC is seeking immediate financial assistance of \$11,214, together with ongoing annual support through revised licence arrangements. Council is therefore asked to consider the current funding request, noting that any permanent changes to water charges or licence conditions would require separate consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

- (a) note the request received from Griffith Jockey Club regarding financial support and the cost of water associated with maintaining the turf track at Dalton Park;**
- (b) approve (retrospectively) sponsorship of \$2,500 to Griffith Jockey Club in support of its race day/event activities;**
- (c) approve financial support for the following fees currently payable by Griffith Jockey Club:**
 - Dalton Park Booking Fee – Invoice 8537 – \$1,206.00; and**
 - Annual Lease Fee – Invoice 62685 – \$742.00;**
 - being a total waiver of \$1,948.00;**
- (d) provide financial relief of approximately \$6,766 in respect of water charges incurred by Griffith Jockey Club over the preceding 12-month period, with the final amount to be confirmed by Council officers against actual consumption and applicable charges;**
- (e) note that the financial assistance approved is a one-off arrangement and does not establish an ongoing entitlement, subsidy or precedent in relation to water charges, lease fees, booking fees, sponsorship or other Council charges; and**
- (f) note that any proposed longer-term amendment to the water charging arrangements or the existing licence agreement between Council and Griffith Jockey Club will be the subject of separate consideration by Council.**

REPORT

Background

Griffith Jockey Club occupies and operates facilities at Dalton Park under a licence agreement with Council, as trustee for the Dalton Park Reserve. The current licence agreement is dated 9 August 2021 and expires on 30 June 2030.

Under the existing agreement, Griffith Jockey Club is responsible for the cost of water used, as metered on the pump allocated to the Club, in addition to the applicable access fee.

The Club has raised concerns with Council regarding the cost of water required to maintain the turf track and has sought recognition of what it considers to be the particular circumstances associated with its operations at Dalton Park.

Following a meeting at Dalton Park on 6 March 2026, the Club formally proposed amendments to its licence agreement.

The Club proposed that the licence recognise two specific obligations:

1. maintaining the turf track in an adequately watered condition to meet Racing NSW work health and safety requirements for horses and track riders; and
2. providing the turf track as a safety area for horses at Dalton Park during the bushfire season, including maintaining the track in a condition intended to minimise the risk of fire spreading.

In conjunction with those proposed obligations, the Club requested that the water provisions within its licence be amended.

Review of Water Charging Arrangements

Council officers subsequently reviewed the request and considered arrangements applying to other sporting and community facilities.

The review identified that arrangements across Council facilities vary according to factors including historical agreements, facility usage, multi-use arrangements, existing licences and leases and, in some cases, direct access to Murrumbidgee Irrigation infrastructure.

The water charge applying to Griffith Jockey Club is levied in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges.

Accordingly, an ongoing reduction or subsidy specifically applying to Griffith Jockey Club would require consideration and endorsement by Council. This could potentially occur through direct financial support, sponsorship, a grant or fee waiver, or through a separately considered amendment to the Club's existing licence arrangements.

The Club was advised of this position in May 2026 and subsequently pursued options for sponsorship and other forms of Council support.

Griffith Jockey Club Request

In correspondence dated 8 July 2026, the Club advised that its water consumption for the preceding 12 months was 14,397 kilolitres.

The Club calculated the difference between the water rate charged by Council and the amount it considers to represent Council's underlying cost of obtaining the water as follows:

14,397 kl × \$0.47 per kl = \$6,766.59

The Club has requested that this amount, approximately \$6,766, be provided as financial relief.

The Club's position is that the current water charging arrangement does not adequately recognise the obligations associated with maintaining the Dalton Park turf track, including its racing and training requirements and the Club's stated role in providing a safety area for horses during bushfire periods.

Separately, the Club made enquiries regarding sponsorship of its race day through Council's tourism/events function and was advised that the maximum sponsorship available through the relevant sponsorship arrangement is \$2,500. The Club is seeking approval of this sponsorship as part of its current request.

The Club has also requested financial support covering two current Council invoices:

Invoice	Description	Amount
8537	Dalton Park Booking Fee	\$1,206.00
62685	Annual Lease	\$742.00
	Total	\$1,948.00

The overall request now before Council is therefore:

Assistance Requested	Amount
Water charge financial relief	~\$6,766
Race day/event sponsorship	\$2,500
Dalton Park Booking Fee support	\$1,206
Annual Lease Fee support	\$742
Total Council Support Requested	~\$11,214

Water Charge Component

The most significant component of the Club's request relates to water charges.

The Club's calculation of approximately \$6,766 does not represent the entirety of the water charges levied by Council. Rather, it represents the difference calculated by the Club between the rate charged by Council and the amount the Club considers reflects Council's underlying cost of obtaining the water.

Accordingly, Council's consideration of the request should distinguish between:

- the validity of the water charges already levied in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges;
- the Club's request for financial relief equivalent to approximately \$6,766; and
- whether a different charging methodology should apply to the Club in future.

Approval of financial relief for the current period would not, of itself, alter Council's adopted Fees and Charges or the provisions of the existing licence agreement.

Consideration of the Overall Request

The total assistance sought by Griffith Jockey Club is approximately \$11,214. The request comprises three distinct forms of Council support: sponsorship, financial assistance covering existing facility-related fees and financial relief associated with water charges.

Council may determine each component separately or consider the request as an overall package of assistance.

In considering the request, Council may have regard to the Club's contribution to racing, recreation and events within the Griffith Local Government Area, its responsibilities for maintaining the Dalton Park turf track, and its stated role in providing an area for horses during bushfire periods.

The Jockey Club has no members as such, only management committee members.

For reference, there is one racing event per year held at Dalton Park. A snapshot of the event is as follows: -

- Participation - 1,200 ~1,400 people attending the track on the annual race day.
- The racing program includes a 6-race program of quality country racing for the community.
- It is a day of family fun for those interested in horse racing without having to travel away from the town to enjoy it.
- Other activities on the day include; Fashions on the field and Tiny-tots activities.

It is possible that without a considerable adjustment to the cost of operations, the future of the Jockey Club (and the use / management of Dalton Park) is uncertain.

Council should also have regard to consistency and equity in its treatment of sporting and community organisations, the financial implications of the assistance requested and the potential for decisions of this nature to create expectations among other users of Council facilities.

For this reason, it is important that any support approved through this report is clearly identified as a one-off decision and is separated from the determination of any permanent water charging arrangement.

Longer-Term Water Arrangements

The Club has made clear that it does not consider annual applications for sponsorship or financial assistance to be an appropriate permanent solution to its concerns regarding water costs.

The Club has previously proposed an amendment to its licence agreement under which the water charges payable by the Club would be reduced. A permanent change of this nature requires broader consideration.

Relevant matters include:

- the Club's obligations under its existing licence;
- the purpose and extent of water usage at Dalton Park;
- Council's actual cost of acquiring, supplying and administering the water;
- the community and economic benefits associated with the Club and racing activities;
- the Club's stated role in providing a safety area for horses during bushfire periods;
- comparative arrangements applying to other sporting and community facilities;
- consistency and equity between Council facility users;
- precedent implications; and

- the ongoing financial impact on Council.

It is therefore proposed that any permanent change to the water charging methodology or licence arrangements be considered separately from the immediate financial assistance request.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1 – Approve the Request

Council may approve the full package of assistance comprising:

approximately \$6,766 in water charge relief;
\$2,500 sponsorship;
\$1,206 Dalton Park Booking Fee support; and
\$742 Annual Lease Fee support.

The total value of support would be approximately \$11,214. This option forms the basis of the recommendation.

Note: In receipt of financial support, the Jockey Club would be obliged to provide a business plan including a financial path forward beyond the current year.

OPTION 2 – Approve Part of the Request

Council may approve some components of the request and decline or modify others. For example, Council may determine the level of water charge relief separately from the sponsorship and facility fee support.

OPTION 3 – Decline the Request

Council may decline some or all of the requested financial assistance.

Under this option, the relevant fees and charges would remain payable in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges and existing licence arrangements.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's adopted Fees and Charges provide the basis for fees and water charges levied in relation to the Club's occupation and use of Dalton Park.

The proposed sponsorship, fee support and water charge relief represent specific financial assistance to Griffith Jockey Club and do not amend the underlying Fees and Charges.

Any assistance approved should therefore be clearly identified as a one-off arrangement and should not be interpreted as establishing an automatic entitlement to equivalent assistance in future years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The total value of the financial assistance sought is approximately \$11,214.

The final amount of any water charge relief should be verified by Council officers against actual metered consumption, invoices and the applicable Fees and Charges prior to implementation of any Council resolution.

The appropriate budget allocation and accounting treatment for any sponsorship, fee support or financial assistance approved by Council will be applied in accordance with Council's normal financial procedures.

If it is determined by Council to provide financial support, the terms and method of delivering such support would require consideration in order to comply with Section 356 of the Act.

Any permanent change to the Club's water charging arrangements would have an ongoing financial implication and should be separately quantified before being presented to Council for consideration.

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Griffith Jockey Club operates at Dalton Park under an existing licence agreement dated 9 August 2021, expiring on 30 June 2030.

The recommendation contained in this report does not amend the existing licence agreement.

Any proposed variation to the licence, including a permanent change to the provisions relating to water charges or additional obligations to be assumed by the Club, would require separate consideration and appropriate approval by Council.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the provision of the proposed financial assistance.

The Club has advised that continued watering and maintenance of the turf track is necessary for racing and training activities and that the maintained turf area may also provide a safety area for horses during bushfire periods. Water consumption and water efficiency should be considered as part of any future review of the Club's permanent water charging and licence arrangements.

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Griffith Jockey Club provides racing and associated activities at Dalton Park and contributes to the sporting, recreational and event offering within the Griffith Local Government Area.

The Club has also identified a broader role for the maintained turf track in providing an area for horses during bushfire periods.

Council's consideration should balance these community benefits with equitable treatment of other sporting / community organisations and the responsible management of Council resources. There is a risk that other sporting groups or community groups will seek support based on the precedent of this proposal.

Major High Risk: Extreme adverse public/staff reaction and/or major widespread negative publicity. GM or Council intervention required up to a month. Low staff morale.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The request is relevant to Council's objectives relating to:

- supporting community, sporting and recreational organisations;
- facilitating events and activities that contribute to the social and economic vitality of Griffith;
- equitable and financially sustainable management of Council resources and facilities.

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.2 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through effective financial management that is transparent and accountable.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

Consultation and correspondence regarding the matter has occurred between:

- Griffith Jockey Club President and Committee representatives;
- General Manager;
- Individual Councillors; and
- Relevant Council officers, including Council's tourism/events function.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Letter to Council 2025  

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PO Box 2217
GRIFFITH
NSW 2680

President: Bernie Connolly
Secretary: Carolyn Kidd
griffithjockeyclub@gmail.com
www.griffithjockeyclub.com.au

The Mayor
Griffith City Council,
Griffith NSW 2680
dcurran@griffith.com.au
06/02/2025

Dear Mayor Curran,

Water Consumption Charge

We request that Council reduce the Water Consumption Charge for the Griffith Jockey Club (GJC). This water is used to maintain the race track and is not used in the public enclosure. We are not seeking a reduction in the Water Access Charges, currently \$2,190 per annum, as we consider this more than adequately covers the cost of providing raw water to Dalton Park.

Council currently charges GJC 48c/kilolitre (kl) or \$480/megalitre (mgl) for all water consumed by GJC. (1 mgl = 1,000 kl) Council accesses the water from Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI), who charges all Councils within its area \$20.61/mgl or 2c/kl as its Usage Charge. This includes the Government Bulk Water Recovery Charge of \$7.44/mgl. MI charges are published on their website and a copy of their Schedule of Charges 2024-25, is attached to this letter with relevant areas highlighted.

The council is charging GJC significantly more than the price it pays MI for the water. We remind the council that GJC is a small not-for-profit organisation that puts on a public event each year for the community. An essential requirement of GJC putting on a Race Day is to provide a turf track that meets all Racing NSW standards of consistency and safety for jockeys and horses alike. To help us achieve this, our average annual water consumption over the past five years has been 3,331kl or 3.33mgl. A small committee of volunteer members undertake the maintenance of the track throughout the year. The race track is also the designated safety area for all horses at Dalton Park in the event of bushfires. We are obligated to keep the track green during the bush fire season.

The GJC appreciate Council's ongoing support and we request that Council's Water Consumption Charge to GJC be the same as MI's Usage Charge of \$20.61/mgl or 2c/kl. The reduced price to apply from the current billing period and in the future.

We look forward to your continuing support.

Yours sincerely


Bernie Connolly
President - GJC

CLAUSE	CL04
TITLE	Proposed Council Meeting Schedule for 2027
FROM	Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development
TRIM REF	26/100724

SUMMARY

The proposed Council Meeting Schedule for 2027 is attached to this report for adoption by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopt the proposed Council Meeting Schedule for 2027 as attached to the report (Attachment (a)).

REPORT

Section 365 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that Council meet at least 10 times each year, with each meeting held in a different month.

Ordinary Meetings of Griffith City Council are currently scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings commence at 7.00 pm in the Council Chambers. Public Forums, if required, will commence at 6:30 pm prior to the Council Meeting.

The proposed Council Meeting Schedule for the 2027 calendar year is presented for adoption by Council.

It is proposed that:

- No Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on **Tuesday, 12 January 2027** due to the Christmas/New Year holiday period, consistent with previous practice.
- The Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for **Tuesday, 26 January 2027** be rescheduled to **Thursday, 28 January 2027** due to the Australia Day public holiday.
- Only one Ordinary Meeting of Council be held in **April 2027**, being **Tuesday, 13 April 2027**.
- Only one Ordinary Meeting of Council be held in **July 2027**, being **Tuesday, 27 July 2027** (mid-year recess).
- Only one Ordinary Meeting of Council be held in **December 2027**, being **Tuesday, 7 December 2027**, due to its proximity to the Christmas holiday period.

OPTIONS

Any other resolution of Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's Code of Meeting Practice policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Local Government Act 1993

9 Public notice of meetings

- (1) A council must give notice to the public of the times and places of its meetings and meetings of those of its committees of which all the members are councillors.*
- (5) A notice given under this section or a copy of an agenda or of a business paper made available under this section may in addition be given or made available in electronic form.*

365 How often does the council meet?

The Council is required to meet at least 10 times each year, each time in a different month.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Council Meeting Dates 2027   | 70 |
| (b) | Council Meeting Calendar 2027   | 71 |

Council Meetings 2027		
Meeting	Date	Time
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Thursday, 28 January 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 9 February 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 23 February 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 9 March 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 23 March 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 13 April 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 11 May 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 25 May 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 8 June 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 22 June 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 27 July 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 10 August 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 24 August 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 14 September 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 28 September 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 12 October 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 26 October 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 9 November 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 23 November 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)
Ordinary Meeting of Council	Tuesday, 7 December 2027	7:00pm (or at the conclusion of Public Forum if required)

Council Meetings 2027													
Council Meeting							Public Holiday						
JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
MARCH							APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
MAY							JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
31													
JULY							AUGUST						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					
SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

CLAUSE **CL05**

TITLE **Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2025-26**

FROM **Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development**

TRIM REF **26/122207**

SUMMARY

Under the Model Code of Conduct framework, the Complaints Coordinator must report on a range of Code of Conduct complaints statistics to Council and to the Office of Local Government (OLG) each year.

The OLG supplies the requisite Data Collection Form which is due within 3 months of the end of September each year. The reporting period is from **1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026**.

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted by Council.

REPORT

As required by the Code of Conduct and Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct, Council maintains a register of Code of Conduct Complaints. The register is used to provide statistical data to the OLG regarding the number of Code of Conduct Complaints received about Councillors and the General Manager and how these were resolved. Any other types of Code of Conduct complaints received in the period are not reportable to the OLG.

The Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct provide instruction on the methods of resolution for Code of Conduct Complaints. These instructions are specific for the Mayor, General Manager and Council appointed Conduct Reviewers who are responsible for dealing with complaints.

Under the Model Code of Conduct, Council is not required to provide specific details on each Code of Conduct complaint nor present reports to Council on individual matters unless the matter has progressed to an investigation stage and a final investigation report is presented to Council pursuant to Part 11 of the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Procedures).

At the conclusion of reporting period 1 September 2025 – 31 August 2026:

- 3 Code of Conduct complaints were received about Councillors.
- 3 Code of Conduct complaints were finalised.

In addition to statistical data relating to the status of Complaints, the OLG has instructed that Councils also report on the expenditure on staff time, Conduct Reviewers and Panels to administer Code of Conduct Complaints.

OLG will publish this data in the Time Series Data publication and will include the data in the next iteration of the Your Council website.

OPTIONS

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Code Of Conduct Returns Form 2026 [!\[\]\(01abc80614a19b02dc1b31dd0ad94601_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(2e108d176eef2c5e88920a3500c3a96a_img.jpg\)](#)

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Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2025-26 Griffith City Council

Number of Complaints

1	The total number of complaints received in the reporting period about councillors and/or the General Manager (GM) under the Model Code of Conduct from the following sources:	
i	Community	3
ii	Other Councillors	0
iii	General Manager	0
iv	Other Council Staff	0
2	The total number of complaints finalised about councillors and the GM under the code of conduct in the following periods:	
i	3 Months	3
ii	6 Months	0
iii	9 Months	0
iv	12 Months	0
v	Over 12 months	0

Overview of Complaints and Cost

3 a	The number of complaints finalised at the outset by alternative means by the GM or Mayor	0
b	The number of complaints referred to the Office of Local Government (OLG) under a special complaints management arrangement approved under clause 5.48 of the Procedures	0
c	The number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer	2
d	The number of code of conduct complaints finalised at preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	1
e	The number of code of conduct complaints referred back to GM or Mayor for resolution after preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	1
f	The number of finalised code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer	0
g	Cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints via preliminary assessment	8,233
h	Progressed to full investigation by a conduct reviewer	0
i	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be no breach	0
j	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be a breach	0
k	The number of complaints referred by the GM or Mayor to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police	
i	ICAC	0
ii	NSW Ombudsman	0

iii	OLG	1
iv	Police	0
v	Other Agency (please specify below)	0
l	The number of complaints being investigated that are not yet finalised	0
m	The total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints within the period made about councillors and the GM including staff costs	10,033

Preliminary Assessment Statistics

4 The number of complaints determined by the conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage by each of the following actions:

a	To take no action (clause 6.13(a) of the 2020 Procedures)	1
b	To resolve the complaint by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(b) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
c	To refer the matter back to the GM or the Mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(c) of the 2020 Procedures)	1
d	To refer the matter to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police (clause 6.13(d) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
e	To investigate the matter (clause 6.13(e) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
f	Other action (please specify below)	0

0

Investigation Statistics

5 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was **no breach**, in which the following recommendations were made:

a	That the council revise its policies or procedures	0
b	That a person or persons undertake training or other education (clause 7.40 of the 2020 Procedures)	0

6 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there **was a breach** in which the following recommendations were made:

a	That the council revise any of its policies or procedures (clause 7.39 of the 2020 Procedures)	0
b	In the case of a breach by the GM, that action be taken under the GM's contract for the breach (clause 7.37(a) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
c	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 (clause 7.37(b) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
d	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the matter be referred to OLG for further action (clause 7.37(c) of the 2020 Procedures)	0

7	Matter referred or resolved after commencement of an investigation (clause 7.20 of the 2020 Procedures)	0
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Categories of misconduct	
8	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach with respect to each of the following categories of conduct:
a	General conduct (Part 3) 0
b	Non-pecuniary conflict of interest (Part 5) 0
c	Personal benefit (Part 6) 0
d	Relationship between council officials (Part 7) 0
e	Access to information and resources (Part 8) 0
Outcome of determinations	
9	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council:
a	Adopted the independent conduct reviewers recommendation 0
b	Failed to adopt the independent conduct reviewers recommendation 0
10	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination where:
a	The external conduct reviewers decision was overturned by OLG 0
b	Council's response to the external conduct reviewers recommendation was overturned by OLG 0
11	Date Code of Conduct data was presented to council

CLAUSE **CL06****TITLE** **Small Business Financial Assistance Grant 2026****FROM** **Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic & Organisational Development****TRIM REF** **26/128999**

SUMMARY

Council received 28 applications under the Small Business Financial Assistance Program, which were assessed by a joint Council and Griffith Business Chamber panel.

Applications were assessed against the Program's eligibility criteria and Evaluation Matrix.

Following the assessment process, 15 local businesses are recommended to receive financial assistance.

RECOMMENDATION

Council approve the Small Business Financial Assistance grants submitted by 15 local businesses listed in this report.

REPORT

A comprehensive review of each application was undertaken by a joint Griffith City Council and Griffith Business Chamber assessment panel, using the Program's Evaluation Matrix. 28 applications for assistance were received in total.

The grants are administered in accordance with the Griffith Community Investment Policy (CC-CP-600) and the Small Business Financial Assistance Program Guidelines, previously the Small Business Financial Assistance Policy (CC-CP-704). Applications are capped at \$2,500. Eligible applications are considered against the Eligibility Criteria and available Council grant funding, and endorsed via a report to Council.

Griffith City Council and Griffith Business Chamber agree to jointly fund the following successful applications:

Number	Business Name	Amount
1	J Gale Constructions Pty Ltd	\$2,040
2	Solena Skin Spa	\$2,500
3	Emily Pixley TAS Wonderdust Play	\$2,500
4	Coffee Grounds Drive Thru	\$2,500
5	EM Photography	\$1,550
6	BB Building Services	\$2,500
7	Straight Lines Design & Marketing	\$2,499

8	Kylie the Doula	\$2,500
9	Beauty by Amanda Bordignon	\$780
10	The Perfect Pfit	\$1,300
11	VJS Farms	\$1,250
12	Pure Laser	\$2,000
13	Individual Hair Care	\$2,000
14	Custom Crete Australia	\$1,200
15	Retrolytics	\$2,000

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Council supports an amended amount of funding for the grant.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Approximately half applications funded \$14,620 from Council's 92217 Small Business Program Financial Assistance Grant. The remainder will be funded by Griffith Business Chamber.

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 5.3 Promote opportunities for business to establish and grow.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE CL07

**TITLE Annual Financial Statements - Statements Under Section 413(2)(C) of the
Local Government Act, 1993**

FROM Matthew Hansen, Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services

TRIM REF 26/124143

SUMMARY

Certain documentation is required to be signed by nominated Councillors and Management in completing the Annual Financial Statements for Council. Section 413 of the Local Government Act, 1993, requires two Councillors, the General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer to sign statements declaring that the Financial Statements were prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act, Local Government Regulations, Accounting Standards, Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting for the period between 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. This requirement is a procedural one to enable the completion of the final set of audited accounts and no adverse issues have been raised in regards to the manner in which the Financial Statements have been prepared.

Council staff prepare the accounts in the prescribed manner and will need to submit them for finalisation of the auditing process prior to lodgement with the Office of Local Government. A Council report will be prepared at the completion of the audit process on the results of the 2025-26 financial year.

The statements are expected to be signed off by the NSW Audit Office by no later than 30 October 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) In accordance with Section 413 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council forward to the Auditor the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2026.**
- (b) Council delegate authority to the following people to sign the Statement by Councillors and Management for the General Purpose Financial Statements and the Special Purpose Financial Statements:**
 - (i) Councillor Doug Curran in his capacity as Mayor or nominee;**
 - (ii) Councillor in their capacity as the Deputy Mayor or nominee;**
 - (iii) The General Manager, Scott Grant; and**
 - (iv) Council's Responsible Accounting Officer, Matthew Hansen.**

REPORT

In accordance with Section 413 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must prepare financial statements for each year and must refer them for audit as soon as practicable after the end of that year.

A Council Financial Statements must include:

- (a) A general purpose financial statement; and**
- (b) Any special schedules prescribed by the regulations; and**
- (c) A statement in approved form by council as to its opinion on the general purpose financial statements and any such special schedules.**

The financial statements must be prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993, the regulation and the requirements of:

- (a) The publications issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, as in force for the time being, subject to the regulations; and
- (b) such other standards as may be prescribed by the regulations.

The provisions of Section 413(1) of the Local Government Act, 1993, requires Council, and not the General Manager, to refer the statements to Council's auditor.

A formal resolution of Council is required to sign the appropriate statements, as tabled.

OPTIONS

As per the Recommendation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The provisions of Section 413(1) of the Local Government Act, 1993, requires Council, and not the General Manager, to refer the statements to Council's Auditor.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.2 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through effective financial management that is transparent and accountable.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) DRAFT Financial Statements 2026 (under separate cover) 
- (b) 2025/26 Financial Statements - Summary [↓](#) 

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO AUDIT**2025/26 Financial Statements – Summary**

Griffith City Council | Year ended 30 June 2026 | Based on the draft General Purpose Financial Statements

Key messages

- **Strong reported result.** Consolidated operating surplus of \$30.2m (2024/25: \$17.6m) and \$16.0m before capital grants (2024/25: \$3.8m).
- **General Fund back in surplus.** General Fund result before capital grants of \$9.5m, a turnaround of \$12.5m from a \$3.0m deficit in 2024/25.
- **Revenue-driven improvement.** Year 2 of the Special Rate Variation (10.5%) lifted ordinary rates by \$2.4m and Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) revenue rose \$5.6m, largely through a larger advance payment.
- **Costs held well below inflation.** Salaries and wages fell 2.7% and total employee costs fell 2.9%, against CPI of 3.8% and a 3% Award increase.
- **Unrestricted cash up to \$23.8m** (2024/25: \$9.2m), although \$15.3m of this is internally allocated, including \$6.8m of FAG received in advance.
- **Improvement is overstated.** Timing and one-off items account for around \$5.5m of the General Fund result. The underlying position is better, but work on the fundamentals is still required.

Headline results

\$'000	2024/25	2025/26	Change
Consolidated operating result	17,630	30,171	+12,541
Consolidated result before capital grants	3,791	16,020	+12,229
General Fund operating result	8,546	22,011	+13,465
General Fund result before capital grants	(2,997)	9,534	+12,531
Unrestricted cash and investments	9,190	23,835	+14,645
Net cash from operating activities	40,625	48,269	+7,644

General Fund 2024/25 figures derived from the 2025/26 Special Purpose Financial Statements comparatives (water and sewer results plus tax equivalents).

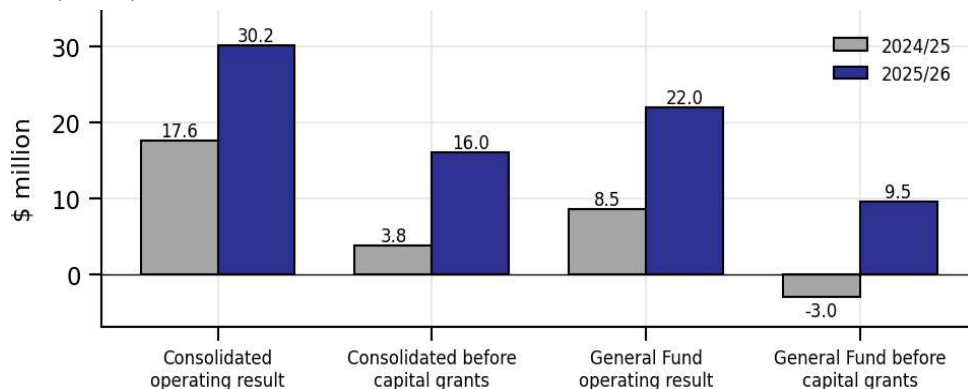


Figure 1: Operating results, \$ million

What drove the improved result

The consolidated result before capital grants improved by \$12.2m. Income (excluding capital grants) rose \$14.2m while expenses rose only \$2.0m. Almost all of the improvement is in the General Fund; Water and Sewer results were broadly stable.

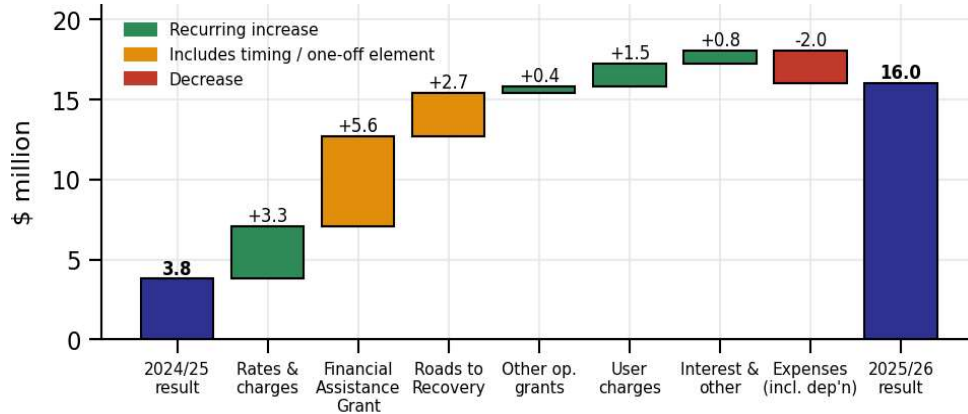


Figure 2: Movement in consolidated result before capital grants, 2024/25 to 2025/26, \$ million

\$'000	2024/25	2025/26	Change	%
Ordinary rates (SRV year 2)	21,136	23,520	+2,384	+11.3%
Total rates and annual charges	40,658	43,932	+3,274	+8.1%
Financial Assistance Grant	5,183	10,798	+5,615	+108%
Roads to Recovery (operating)	80	2,788	+2,708	n/m
Other operating grants	1,916	2,316	+400	+21%
User charges and fees	21,904	23,362	+1,458	+6.7%
Interest and investment income	4,454	4,624	+170	+3.8%

Rates – SRV year 2. Permissible general income rose 10.5% in 2025/26, the second and final approved step of the Special Rate Variation. Ordinary rates rose \$2.4m (11.3%, including supplementary valuations). This is a permanent, recurrent improvement to the General Fund revenue base.

Financial Assistance Grant. FAG revenue doubled to \$10.8m. The 2025/26 entitlement was about \$8.0m (\$4.0m received in year plus \$4.0m paid in advance in 2024/25). The remaining \$2.8m reflects the larger advance for 2026/27 (\$6.8m compared with \$4.0m the year before). This is a timing benefit, not a recurrent increase.

Other revenue. Roads to Recovery recognised as operating revenue rose from \$0.1m to \$2.8m. User charges grew \$1.5m, mainly water usage and statutory fees. Interest held up because cash balances were higher.

DRAFT – Griffith City Council – 2025/26 Financial Statements Summary

Employee costs – well below inflation

Employee costs were contained despite a 3% Award increase from 1 July 2025 and annual CPI of 3.8% to June 2026. Gross salaries and wages fell \$0.6m, and employee costs expensed were \$3.2m (10%) below the original budget.

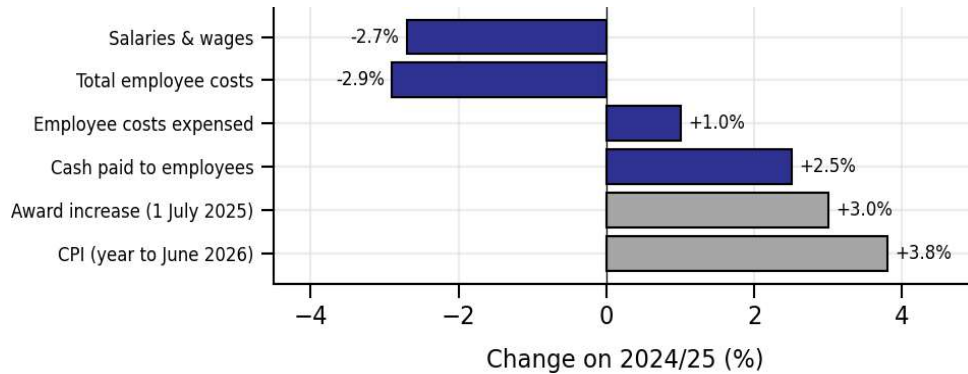


Figure 3: Employee cost growth compared with the Award increase and CPI

\$'000	2024/25	2025/26	Change	%
Salaries and wages	22,728	22,116	(612)	-2.7%
Total employee costs (gross)	31,896	30,962	(934)	-2.9%
Less: capitalised costs	(2,501)	(1,285)	+1,216	-48.6%
Employee costs expensed	29,395	29,677	+282	+1.0%
Payments to employees (cash)	29,033	29,758	+725	+2.5%

Expensed costs rose slightly because less labour was capitalised to projects (\$1.3m compared with \$2.5m).

Cash and unrestricted cash

Total cash and investments rose \$25.5m to \$119.5m. Unrestricted cash increased to \$23.8m, and the unrestricted cash expense cover is 23.9 months against the TCorp covenant of 2 months. Most of the increase is committed or timing-related.

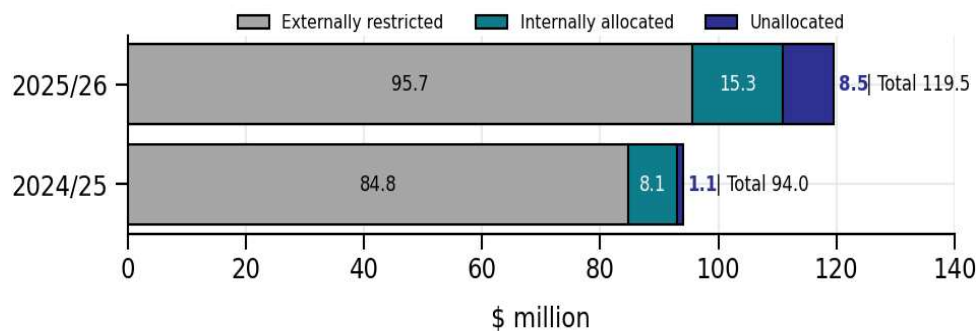


Figure 4: Composition of cash and investments, \$ million

\$'000	2024/25	2025/26	Change
Total cash and investments	94,031	119,522	+25,491
Less: externally restricted	(84,841)	(95,687)	+10,846
Unrestricted cash and investments	9,190	23,835	+14,645
Less: internal allocations	(8,095)	(15,318)	+7,223
incl. FAG received in advance	–	(6,777)	
Unallocated cash	1,095	8,517	+7,422

External restrictions include \$6.75m of unspent Lake Wyangan loan proceeds. The unallocated figure is a management calculation.

One-off matters overstate the improvement

Several items in 2025/26 are timing-related or unlikely to recur at the same level. Adjusting for the two largest gives an indicative underlying General Fund result before capital grants of about \$4.0m. That is still a real improvement on the \$3.0m deficit in 2024/25, but it is less than half the reported figure.

General Fund result before capital grants (\$'000)	Amount	Running total
Reported 2025/26 result		9,534
Less: FAG advance above the prior-year advance (timing)	(2,793)	6,741
Less: Roads to Recovery above the prior-year level (lumpy; tied to road works)	(2,708)	4,033
Indicative underlying result		4,033
Comparison: 2024/25 reported result		(2,997)

Indicative management adjustment, not audited. The 2024/25 comparative may also include grant timing effects.

Other items to treat with caution:

- **Temporary water allocation sales** of \$0.6m (2024/25: \$0.1m) depend on seasonal conditions and market prices.
- **Employee cost savings** should be checked to confirm how much is structural and how much comes from vacancies or delays in recruitment.
- **Interest income** is supported by temporary balances, including the FAG advance and unspent loan funds, which will be drawn down.
- **Capital grants of \$14.2m**, including \$9.9m for Lake Wyangan, lift the headline result but fund specific assets rather than services.

Fundamentals still requiring attention

- **Depreciation pressure.** Depreciation rose \$1.5m (7.7%) to \$20.7m, \$1.5m over budget. The \$71.7m asset revaluation this year will push the charge higher again in 2026/27.
- **No further SRV uplift.** With the SRV fully in place, future rate growth returns to the rate peg. Revenue growth must now come from fees, grants and the rating structure.
- **Cost discipline must hold.** Ongoing Award increases and capitalisation levels need to be absorbed without losing the gains made in 2025/26.
- **Asset renewal.** A sustainable surplus is needed to fund renewal of a \$1.09bn asset base, not only to report a positive result.

Bottom line: The 2025/26 result confirms that the SRV and cost restraint are working and the General Fund has moved into surplus. However, the reported \$9.5m General Fund surplus is flattered by around \$5.5m of timing and one-off items. Council should plan on an underlying position nearer \$4m and keep working on the fundamentals.

CLAUSE	CL08
TITLE	Financial Assistance Grants Methodology Review - Outcome
FROM	Scott Grant, General Manager Matthew Hansen, Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services
TRIM REF	26/127529

SUMMARY

This report informs Council of the outcome of the Grants Commission's methodology review, as required by Council's resolution of 22 September 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Note the outcome of the NSW Local Government Grants Commission's review of the methodology used to allocate Financial Assistance Grants, being that the draft revised methodology will not be implemented, and the existing methodology will continue to apply.**
- (b) Note that Council's submission was lodged on 7 October 2026 under the delegation granted by Council on 22 September 2026, and that this report completes the reporting requirement of that resolution.**
- (c) Authorise the General Manager to write to the Commission confirming Council's support for the data governance and integrity work the Commission has asked the Office of Local Government to undertake and offering Council's assistance with that work.**
- (d) Authorise the Mayor to write to the Chair of the NSW Local Government Grants Commission requesting, in relation to Griffith City Council:**
 - 1. Council's assessed General Purpose entitlement under the existing methodology for 2026-27, before the application of the cap and collar;**
 - 2. The value of the adjustment made by the cap and collar in arriving at the allocation actually paid; and**
 - 3. That this information be provided to Council annually with its allocation advice.**

REPORT

Background

Financial Assistance Grants are untied funding provided by the Commonwealth to local government and distributed to councils through the State. The Commission's role is to recommend to the Minister for Local Government how the New South Wales share is divided among councils. The Commission does not determine the size of the pool. That is set by the Commonwealth, and the pool is fixed.

In 2026 the Commission consulted on a draft revised methodology. Council participated in the consultation session held in Griffith on 14 September 2026.

At its meeting of 22 September 2026, Council considered Mayoral Minute 02 and resolved:

1. *Note the NSW Local Government Grants Commission's review of the methodology for allocating Financial Assistance Grants, and that submissions close on 7 October 2026.*
2. *Endorse the draft submission at Attachment 1 as the basis of Council's response to the Commission.*
3. *Delegate authority to the Mayor and the General Manager to finalise and lodge the submission, including any amendments arising from information subsequently provided by the Commission.*
4. *Request that a copy of the final submission as lodged be provided to Councillors, and that the outcome of the Commission's review be reported to Council when the final methodology is determined.*

Council's submission was finalised under that delegation and lodged on 7 October 2026. A copy is at Attachment 2.

The Commission's decision

By letter dated 16 October 2026 (Attachment 1), the Chair of the Commission advised that, in response to feedback from councils and peak bodies, the Commission has decided not to implement the draft revised methodology. The existing methodology will continue to apply.

The Commission reported that of the 102 councils that made submissions, 10 clearly supported the draft model, 54 raised significant concerns or proposed modifications, and 38 opposed the changes. No peak body, Joint Organisation or union clearly supported the draft.

The Commission noted in particular the submission of NSW Country Mayors, which stated that the draft methodology "cannot be supported" and that any new methodology "should aim to not leave any CMA Member Council worse off than the application of the existing distribution methodology." The Commission observed that, absent knowledge of future Federal Budget allocations, this could only be achieved by not revising the formula in any way.

It is worth Councillors understanding what that means in practice. The grant pool is fixed. Within a fixed pool, any change to how the pool is divided necessarily leaves some councils with less. A requirement that no council be worse off is therefore a requirement that nothing change, unless the pool grows. The Commission has effectively accepted that position and has indicated it may revisit a revised model for the 2029-30 council term if additional funding becomes available.

Council's position in the consultation

Council's submission recorded an overall position of support with minor modifications. Council supported the proposed balanced-budget model, the introduction of remoteness as a driver of expenditure need, the removal of cost drivers the Commission itself had identified as no longer credible, and the move to audited data sources. None of Council's four recommendations asked the Commission to change the model.

Councillors should note that the Commission's letter reports its results in three categories, while its own submission form offered five response options — including "support with minor modifications," which is the option Council selected. The Commission has not published how the five options were mapped to the three reported categories. Council's position was one of support for the model, and this report records that for clarity.

What this means for Council

Council's 2027-28 Financial Assistance Grant will be calculated under the existing methodology. Indicative modelling provided to councils during the consultation reflected the draft model and no longer applies. Consistent with the approach reported to Council in September, those indicative figures were not incorporated into the Long Term Financial Plan or the 2027/28 budget. There is accordingly no budget or Long Term Financial Plan adjustment arising from this decision.

Matters arising that remain relevant to Council

Three elements of the Commission's letter remain live and bear on the recommendations Council made.

Data governance and integrity

The Commission has asked the Office of Local Government to examine how the inputs to the existing model can be strengthened, including the governance and integrity of data and the definitions used so that comparisons across councils are meaningful. The Chair has stated that councils' support for this work will be essential.

Two of Council's four recommendations concern precisely this. Council recommended the use of Special Schedule 7 — the audited Report on Infrastructure Assets lodged annually by every council — as a source for road condition, and recommended use of the sealed and unsealed road split councils already report in the Annual Roads and General Return. Both are recommendations about data Council already lodges, and both apply to the existing model. Recommendation 3 of this report proposes Council offer its assistance.

Caps and collars

The Commission has advised it will continue to review the application of caps and collars through its usual process of making recommendations to the Minister. The "cap and collar" limits how far a council's grant may move in any year, measured against the previous year's payment rather than the assessment produced by the model. Council's submission recommended that each council's assessed entitlement be published before any cap or collar is applied, so that councils can understand how their allocation is determined. That recommendation was never dependent on the draft model and, with the existing methodology continuing, it now applies to the model Council will actually be funded under.

The practical effect for Council is not presently knowable. Council receives a single allocation figure each year. It is not told what the model assessed its entitlement to be, whether a cap or collar was applied, or how large any adjustment was. In 2026-27 Council's General Purpose allocation was equal to the maximum permitted increase of 6 per cent on the previous year, plus the Relative Disadvantage Allowance which sits outside the band. That is consistent with the band having determined the outcome, but Council cannot confirm it, and cannot quantify it, from the information it holds.

Council wrote to the Commission on 21 September 2026 seeking this information. No response had been received at the time Council's submission was lodged on 7 October 2026, and the submission recorded that fact. Council made no criticism of the Commission in doing so and makes none now; the request was made during a short consultation period in which the Commission was managing a high volume of enquiries from across the sector.

With the existing methodology now confirmed as continuing, the question is no longer hypothetical. It bears directly on Council's ability to forecast a revenue item worth approximately 18 per cent of general fund operating revenue. Recommendation 4 proposes Council pursue the request through correspondence from the Mayor to the Chair, seeking

the 2026-27 figures and asking that the information be provided routinely with each year's allocation advice.

Future review

Should the Commission revisit a revised model for the 2029-30 term, Council's submission and the analysis supporting it will remain available and relevant.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Any other Resolution of Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The outcome requires no change to Council policy. Council's participation in the review was consistent with the position put to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport on 7 May 2026 and with Council's ongoing advocacy on the financial sustainability of regional councils. The existing allocation methodology continues to apply, and no Council policy is affected.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

There is no direct financial impact arising from this report. Financial Assistance Grants represent approximately 18 per cent of Council's general fund operating revenue excluding capital grants.

Council's 2027-28 grant will be determined under the existing methodology, and the indicative modelling released during consultation does not apply. As those indicative figures were not incorporated into the Long Term Financial Plan or the 2027/28 budget, no adjustment is required.

The continuing financial risk is unchanged from that previously reported: the quantum of the grant remains subject to the Commonwealth pool and to the application of caps and collars, neither of which Council controls.

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Council's submission was principle-based, focused on methodology rather than on Council's own allocation, and consistent with a position Council has held publicly since May 2026.

That consistency supports Council's standing with the Commission and within the sector, including with neighbouring councils.

There is a low risk of the outcome being reported as a loss to Council. This is mitigated by the fact that no indicative figure was publicly attributed to Council at any stage, and by the fact that Council's submission supported the model on its merits rather than on the basis of any outcome.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

There are no immediate service delivery implications. Financial Assistance Grants are untied and support general fund services including the local road network, libraries, cultural facilities, and aquatic and leisure services. The decision maintains the status quo.

The matters raised in Council's submission regarding the transparency of the allocation and the recognition of road condition and unsealed networks continue to bear on Council's longer-term capacity to plan for those services, and are the subject of Recommendations 3 and 4.

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 2.3 Mayor and Councillors represent the community, providing strong, proactive leadership.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Letter from Local Government Grants Commission - 16 October 2026 | 93 |
| (b) | Griffith City Council - Submission - FAG Proposed Methodology - Local Government Grants Commission - 7 October 2026   | 95 |

Local Government Grants Commission



Reference: A1025647

16 October 2026

Dear Mayor,

Financial Assistance Grants methodology review

I am writing to advise you of the outcome of NSW Local Government Grants Commission's (the Commission) review of the methodology used to allocate Financial Assistance Grants to NSW councils.

In response to the clear feedback from councils and peak bodies, the Commission has decided not to implement the draft revised methodology. The existing methodology will continue to apply.

The Commission acknowledges the quality of the submissions and would like to thank the sector for the constructive input received. It also recognises the support provided by the Office of Local Government and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure throughout the review.

After considering a range of options, the Commission published a draft revised methodology designed to be consistent with the National Principles and to support simplicity, reliability and the equalisation of financial capacity.

As you are aware, the Commission undertook extensive consultation with councils and local government peak bodies. Councils were invited to engagement sessions, and provided with information about the principles and approach underpinning the draft methodology. In addition, all councils were provided with predicted allocations comparing the current and draft model outcomes, and wherever possible, data was shared with councils to support their deliberations. Councils with questions about their predicted allocation were also offered an opportunity to meet with Office of Local Government staff.

The consultation period closed on 9 October 2026, and the Commission considered the feedback at its meeting on 13 October 2026.

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Local Government Grants Commission



Consultation attracted a high level of engagement, but the draft model did not receive broad sector support. Of the 102 councils that made submissions, 10 clearly supported the draft model, 54 raised significant concerns or proposed modifications, and 38 opposed the changes.

No peak body, Joint Organisation or union clearly supported the new draft model and, significantly, the NSW Country Mayors submission noted the draft methodology "cannot be supported", and that "Feedback from our Members is that the new methodology should aim to not leave any CMA Member Council worse off than the application of the existing distribution methodology." In the absence of knowledge about future Federal Budget allocations, this can only be achieved by not revising the formula in any way.

If additional Financial Assistance Grants funding becomes available, the Commission may revisit a revised model for the 2029–30 council term, following further consultation with the sector and appropriate transition planning.

The Commission has also asked OLG to examine where it is possible to strengthen the inputs to the existing model by recommending methodologies to uplift the governance and integrity of data, and to review definitions of data to support more assurance that comparisons across councils are meaningful. Your support for this uplift in the data will be essential to improve the quality of the current model.

As in previous years, the Commission will also continue to review the application of caps and collars through its usual process of making recommendations to the NSW Local Government Minister.

Thank you for Council's participation in the review. The Commission values the time and expertise contributed by councils and will keep the sector informed of any further work arising from this process.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Scott
Chair
Local Government Grants Commission

Cc: General Manager

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Submission — Proposed Methodology Consultation 2026

NSW Local Government Grants Commission

Council Name: Griffith City Council

Contact Person: Matt Hansen, Director Business, Cultural and Financial Services

Email: matt.hansen@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Date: 7 October 2026

Summary

Griffith City Council **supports** the proposed methodology. The balanced-budget approach, the introduction of remoteness as an expenditure driver, the removal of discredited cost drivers, and the move to audited data sources are all material improvements on the current model.

Council's submission makes four recommendations. None seeks to reopen the model.

1. **Implement the methodology in 2027-28 with no phase-in, or a strictly limited one.**
2. **Publish each council's assessed entitlement before any cap or collar is applied.**
3. **Use audited asset condition data in the local roads component.**
4. **Recognise unsealed roads, which the draft treats identically to sealed roads.**

Council raised the same concerns with the current model **before** the Commission published any indicative figures. In evidence to the House Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport on 7 May 2026, Council submitted that the formula was "not appropriate" and "not equitable," and that the sector needed the model rebuilt rather than "tinkered with on the margin."

Council's position on the methodology is unchanged by the indicative outcome.

1. Overall Position

Support with minor modifications.

Council supports the model itself. We are not asking for it to be changed. What we are asking for is about how it is introduced, what gets published alongside it, and one data source in the roads component.

2. Alignment with Principles

Simplicity — strong support. The current model's six expenditure functions, five cost drivers, separate relative disability allowance and post-model adjustments cannot be explained to a council, an audit committee or a community. Reducing the model to inputs with material effect is the right objective. Council's evidence to the Federal inquiry was that "the more complex we make the model, the less impact each item has on the bottom line."

Consistency — support. Common statewide coefficients applied uniformly are a clear improvement on per-council allowances and special submissions.

Equity and fairness — support the model; the fairness constraint lies in the capping. A methodology that assesses relative need accurately and then pays something different does not achieve horizontal fiscal equalisation, however sound the assessment. This is addressed at sections 3 and 4.

Transparency and accountability — the methodology improves; the outputs do not. The draft model is more explicable than its predecessor, but councils will still be unable to reproduce or interrogate their own results. This is addressed at section 4.

3. Practicality and Implementation

The cap and collar is the binding constraint on the reform

The proposed methodology will not deliver equalisation if the banding arrangement is carried into it. In 2026-27 the band permits a maximum increase of 6% and a maximum decrease of 4%, measured against **the prior year's payment rather than the prior year's assessment**. An error in one year therefore becomes the starting point for the next and compounds indefinitely.

The band binds across a large part of the sector

Analysis of the Commission's 2026-27 Schedule of Payments:

Table 1 — Councils at or above the +6% ceiling in 2026-27, by OLG group. Source: NSW Local Government Grants Commission, 2026-27 Schedule of Payments.

Cohort (OLG group)	Councils	At or above the +6% ceiling	
URS — small regional urban	10	9	90%
RAL — large rural agricultural	21	14	67%
RAV — very large rural agricultural	18	12	67%
URM — medium regional urban	17	6	35%
RAM — small rural agricultural	14	4	29%
Metropolitan	34	7	21%

Griffith City Council — Submission to the NSW Local Government Grants Commission

Cohort (OLG group)	Councils	At or above the +6% ceiling	
Remote	6	1	17%
URL / URV — large regional urban	11	0	0%
All NSW	131	53	40%

- Two in five NSW councils received a movement determined by the band rather than by their assessment in a single year.
- Griffith's cohort is the most constrained in the State, at 90%.
- All six councils held at the –4% floor are metropolitan. None are regional.

The band's effects do not track relative need

Twenty of the thirty-four metropolitan councils sit on the \$27.22 per capita minimum, where the band has no practical effect. Of the fourteen metropolitan councils that receive a needs-based grant, the 2026-27 outcome divides evenly:

- **At the +6% ceiling:** Hunters Hill, Mosman, Burwood, Lane Cove, Strathfield, Bayside.
- **At the –4% floor:** Blacktown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Wollondilly, Campbelltown, Penrith.

Council offers no view on the merits of any individual council's assessment.

The point is structural: **a mechanism that simultaneously constrains the Riverina, moves against several Western Sydney councils and moves in favour of several of the State's wealthiest local government areas cannot be evaluated by the sector, because the underlying assessments are not published.**

Convergence under the current band is measured in decades

A council at the ceiling gains 6% while the pool grows — 3.9% in 2026-27 — so it closes approximately **2% of its relative gap per year**. For a council whose assessment sits substantially above its payment, convergence takes decades. On Council's own figures the horizon is approximately thirty years.

The effect is illustrated below for a council initially paid 60% of its assessed entitlement. The chart is generic and does not depend on any particular council's figures.

Table 2 — Years for a council to reach its assessed entitlement under a transition cap, by starting position. Assumes pool growth of 3.9% per annum, the 2026-27 rate.

Currently paid	+6% cap	+8% cap	+10% cap	+15% cap	+20% cap
50% of assessment	35 years	18	12	7	5
60% of assessment	26 years	13	9	5	4
70% of assessment	18 years	9	6	4	2
80% of assessment	11 years	6	4	2	2
90% of assessment	5 years	3	2	1	1

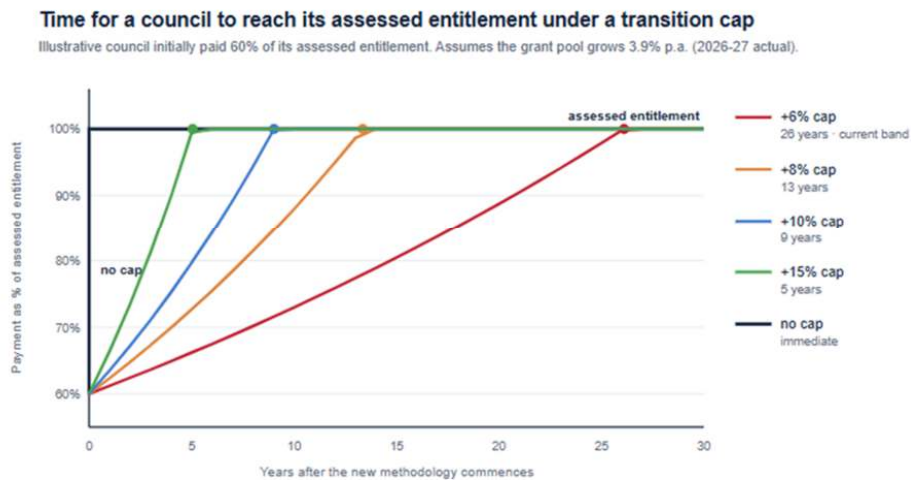


Figure 1 — Convergence under alternative transition caps.

The table makes the practical point. **A band at or near current settings would not transition councils onto the new methodology within any meaningful planning horizon.** For councils furthest from their assessment — which, on the Commission's own analysis, are disproportionately regional and rural — the methodology would not take full effect within the working life of the model, let alone within a council's ten-year Long Term Financial Plan.

Council notes that the choice is not binary. A cap in the order of +15% to +20% would deliver convergence within three to seven years for most councils while still limiting single-year movement. **If the Commission determines that some transition is necessary, the rate matters far more than the principle.**

Two further features compound this:

- The Relative Disadvantage Allowance is the only element currently sitting outside the band, and the draft methodology abolishes it. **If a band is applied in 2027-28 there will be no element outside it.**
- Advance payments already distort the relationship between entitlement and recognised income. The Commission itself has advised councils that the practice creates "unpredictability" and that "annual financial reporting can often be skewed."

The Commission has already demonstrated that a large adjustment is manageable

In August 2025 the Commission's Chair advised councils that it was **"no longer sustainable to protect those councils with greatest relative advantage,"** and resumed the negative floor. The effect was immediate and substantial — Council's own General Purpose Component rose 29.9% in 2025-26, from \$4,524,574 to \$5,875,507, without transitional arrangements and without apparent disruption to the sector.

A large single-year adjustment is therefore neither unprecedented nor destabilising, on the Commission's own recent practice. Council supports completing what that decision began.

Recommendation 1. Implement the methodology in 2027-28 without a cap, collar or phase-in. Implement the methodology in 2027-28 without a cap, collar or phase-in.

If a transition is considered unavoidable, Council recommends it be set at a rate delivering convergence within a council's ten-year Long Term Financial Plan horizon - in the order of **+15% or higher** - and published with an explicit end date. On the analysis above, a band at or near current settings would not constitute a transition to the new methodology; it would defer it.

4. Transparency and Clarity

The draft methodology is more explicable than the current one. Its **outputs**, however, will remain as opaque as they are today, and this materially limits the sector's ability to give the Commission useful feedback.

At present a council receives a single allocation figure. It cannot determine:

- what the model assessed its entitlement to be;
- whether a cap or collar was applied, or in which direction;
- how large the difference was; or
- whether a movement in its grant reflects a change in assessed need, a change in the pool, or the band.

Council does not know, as at the date of this submission, what proportion of its own indicative movement is attributable to the new methodology and what proportion is attributable to the removal of the band. Those are entirely different propositions and Council would comment on them differently. Without that separation, every council in the State is being asked to comment on a combined figure. Council sought this information from the Commission and it was not available to it in preparing this submission.

This is a disclosure problem, not a modelling problem, and it is inexpensive to fix.

The band preserves differences between councils that have nothing to do with need

There is a second consequence, and it matters more than the delay.

Because the band applies to **last year's payment**, two councils with identical assessed need but different starting points do not converge. Each moves within its own band, from its own base. The gap between them is preserved indefinitely, and it is preserved whatever the model says about their relative need.

Griffith City Council — Submission to the NSW Local Government Grants Commission

The Commission's own 2026-27 figures show how wide the spread is. The General Purpose grant ranges from **\$27.22 per resident to \$4,197 per resident** — a factor of 154. Much of that variation is real and justified: need genuinely differs enormously across New South Wales, and a model that produced a flat per capita outcome would be the wrong model.

The difficulty is that no council can tell which part of its own position reflects assessed need and which reflects where it happened to sit when the band was first applied.

Griffith illustrates the point. Council received **\$228.38 per resident** in 2026-27, against \$239.98 for the average of its own OLG cohort and **\$90.72** across the State. Council does not assert that figure is wrong. **Council asserts that it cannot tell** — and neither can any of the 130 other councils looking at their own.

That is a fairness problem as much as a transparency one. A council cannot plan against an allocation it cannot explain, cannot test whether it is being treated consistently with comparable councils, and cannot hold the Commission to account for a model whose outputs it never sees. Publishing the pre-band assessment resolves all three at once.

Recommendation 2. Publish, for every council and alongside each annual allocation:

- a) the assessed entitlement produced by the model before any cap, collar or adjustment;
- b) the allocation actually payable; and
- c) the difference, identified as a cap or collar effect.

Council further recommends the Commission publish, with the final methodology: the model specification and coefficients; each council's modelled expenditure need and revenue capacity per capita; and the weighted State average financial need against which councils are assessed.

This does not favour any council over another. It applies the same way to councils gaining and councils losing. It is simply the minimum a council needs in order to tell whether the model is working.

5. Data Sources and Indicators

Support for the use of ABS population and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data, ARIA+, the Financial Data Return and Annual Permissible Income workpapers. These are nationally consistent, documented and auditable.

Road condition and usage — a gap with an available remedy. The draft excludes road type, condition and usage because "comprehensive, consistent and audited data are not available." Council accepts the constraint but respectfully disputes the premise.

Special Schedule 7 — Report on Infrastructure Assets is audited, lodged annually with the Office of Local Government by every NSW council, and reports asset condition and the

estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard by asset class, including roads and bridges. It meets each test the Commission has set.

The issue this addresses is general. Pavement deterioration under heavy vehicles rises with approximately the fourth power of axle load, so road length alone cannot distinguish a lightly trafficked rural road from an industrial freight route. **Every council with a significant processing, mining, forestry or freight function is affected.** Griffith illustrates the point: Council maintains 0.83% of the State's local road network with 0.32% of its population, and manufacturing accounts for 19.4% of employment in the local government area against 5.5% across New South Wales, of which 84% is food and beverage processing.

Recommendation 3. Adopt Special Schedule 7 as an audited source for road condition in the local roads component, alongside network length and the regional cost index. Council offers its own asset data to assist the Commission in testing this.

Unsealed roads

This is the change Council is most concerned about, and it does not principally affect Griffith.

The current model recognised unsealed roads through the Relative Disadvantage Allowance. The draft removes that allowance and puts nothing in its place. Under the proposed approach, road need is length multiplied by a regional construction cost index — which means **a sealed street and an unsealed road of the same length generate exactly the same assessed need.**

They do not cost the same to maintain, and they are not maintained the same way:

- A sealed road is resealed periodically. An unsealed road needs recurrent grading and gravel resheeting, and the cost is driven by how often, not by how long.
- Unsealed networks are far more exposed to rainfall. A single wet season can consume a year's maintenance budget, and the damage recurs.
- Gravel has to be carted. Cost rises with haul distance from the pit, which is greatest for exactly the councils with the largest unsealed networks.
- The Rawlinsons index does not address any of this. It is a **building construction** cost index. It captures where a road is built, not what it is made of.

The councils carrying the largest unsealed networks are small rural councils, many of them in our own region. **They are the councils this reform is intended to help, and on this one measure the draft would leave them worse recognised than the model it replaces.** Griffith's own unsealed proportion is well below theirs. We raise it because it is wrong, not because it is ours.

The data already exists. Councils report sealed and unsealed length separately in the Annual Roads and General Return — the same return the Commission has nominated as its source for total road length. No new collection is required, and no council is asked to do anything it is not already doing.

Recommendation 4. Use the sealed and unsealed split already reported in the Annual Roads and General Return, and weight unsealed length to reflect its different maintenance cost. At minimum, the Commission should publish its analysis of why sealed and unsealed length have been treated identically.

Other data matters

ARIA+ application. Council seeks clarification as to whether ARIA+ is applied at local government area level or population-weighted within the area. For large areas with a single population centre the two produce materially different results, and the choice is not disclosed.

Operating grants and circularity. Council seeks confirmation whether the Financial Assistance Grant is itself included in the four-year operating grants average used in the revenue capacity assessment. If it is, a council's grant reduces its assessed need in subsequent cycles, and the assumption should be disclosed.

A data integrity example from the current model. Comparing Appendix A for 2025-26 and 2026-27, Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander measure is 6.6% against a State standard of 3.4% in both years, but the weighted disadvantage factor applied moves from 87.9% to 8.1%. On Council's reading this contributes to a fall of approximately 32% in total assessed expenditure allowance between consecutive years. Council may have misread the disclosure and has sought clarification. **Whatever the explanation, Council could not have detected or challenged it from the information provided** — which is the case for Recommendation 2 stated in concrete terms.

6. Potential Impacts

Regional impacts. The draft redistributes toward regional, rural and remote New South Wales. This is consistent with the National Principles and with the Commission's own finding that metropolitan councils hold 66% of the State's population and receive 24% of the grant. Council supports that direction.

Equity impacts. Council does not oppose the grant floor proposed for the fourteen councils with an ARIA+ score above 6. Council notes, however, that it is funded by redistribution from councils receiving above the minimum grant — that is, **predominantly from other regional councils, not from metropolitan councils sitting on the minimum**. The Commission should state this explicitly, together with the quantum involved, so the trade-off is visible.

Financial impacts. Council notes only that the Financial Assistance Grant represents approximately 18% of its general fund operating revenue excluding capital grants, against under 1% for most metropolitan councils. In 2024-25 Council's general fund — the fund the draft model measures, water and sewer being excluded from both expenditure need and revenue capacity — ran a deficit before capital grants. We raise it for one reason. The Commission has set itself the objective of "equalising the financial sustainability of councils

across the State." The general fund is where that disparity actually sits, and it is the fund this model measures.

7. Risks and Unintended Consequences

1. **Transition risk.** Addressed at section 3. This is the principal risk to the reform.
 2. **Grant floor scope.** The options long list includes variants extending the floor to Remote, Very Remote and Outer Regional councils. Each extension increases the redistribution burden on remaining above-minimum councils. Council recommends the final scope be published with the quantum of redistribution it requires.
 3. **Single-year road length data.** Network length becomes close to the sole driver of the local roads component. Council recommends a multi-year average or an explicit validation step.
 4. **Change of basis for residential rating capacity.** Moving from land values to household income is a significant change. It will materially alter assessed capacity for councils whose land values and household incomes diverge, in both directions. Council recommends the Commission publish the sensitivity of the model to this change.
 5. **Circularity in operating grants.** Addressed at section 5.
-

8. Suggested Improvements

1. **Implement in 2027-28 with no cap, collar or phase-in.** If a transition is unavoidable, set it to converge within a long-term financial planning horizon and publish an end date.
 2. **Publish the assessed entitlement before any cap or collar, for every council, every year,** together with the model specification, coefficients, and each council's expenditure need and revenue capacity.
 3. **Adopt Special Schedule 7 as an audited data source** for road condition in the local roads component.
 4. **Recognise unsealed roads.** Use the sealed and unsealed split councils already report in the Annual Roads and General Return, weighted to reflect the different maintenance cost of an unsealed network.
-

9. Additional Comments

Information request. Council wrote to the Commission on 21 September 2026 seeking its uncapped assessed entitlement under the current methodology, together with the council-level model outputs underpinning the draft, so that the effect of the proposed methodology could be separated from the effect of the cap and collar. **That information had not been provided as at the date of this submission.** Council understands the Commission has been responding to enquiries from across the sector within a short consultation period, and makes no criticism of it. Council records the matter because it bears directly on the submission: the separation Council sought to make is the separation no council can currently make, which is the basis of Recommendation 2. Council would welcome the opportunity to supplement this submission should the information become available before the methodology is finalised.

Minimum per capita grant. Council has previously expressed a view on the 30% per capita minimum. Council acknowledges this is mandated by the National Principles under the Commonwealth Act and is not within the Commission's discretion, and does not press it here.

Council thanks the Commission for bringing the consultation to Griffith and for the willingness of Commission staff to discuss the model in detail.

CLAUSE CL09**TITLE Update - Active Grant Programs****FROM Matthew Hansen, Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services****TRIM REF 26/125420****SUMMARY**

This report provides Council with an update on its grants portfolio as at September 2026, including successful grants currently being delivered, pending applications and applications that have been unsuccessful since the last report in May 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Council note this report.

REPORT

Council continues to secure significant external investment for infrastructure, housing supply, transport, environmental sustainability and community outcomes. Since the May 2026 report, the Boorga Road Widening and Griffith Saleyards Roof and Amenities Upgrade applications have been approved, adding \$9.52 million in grant funding.

Council is currently delivering 22 grant-funded projects supported by \$33.22 million in confirmed external funding, of which \$17.22 million has been received to date. These projects are supported by Council co-contributions of \$23.12 million, primarily from water and sewer reserves, external borrowing and developer contributions.

A further 15 applications are awaiting determination, seeking \$6.65 million with proposed Council co-contributions of \$3.51 million.

Summary of Grants Position

Category	No.	Grant funding	Council co-contribution
Successful – active	22	\$33,217,974	\$23,122,000
Pending applications	15	\$6,647,615	\$3,514,188
Unsuccessful since May 2026	10	\$6,047,000	\$2,585,852

Financial and Infrastructure Implications

Grant funding continues to play a key role in Council's financial and infrastructure planning by:

- Accelerating delivery of priority infrastructure without disproportionate reliance on rates or borrowings.
- Reducing Council's direct capital outlay through significant external contributions.
- Improving asset resilience, service continuity and community safety.
- Leveraging Council co-contributions to attract substantially higher levels of State and Commonwealth investment.

Approval of a grant does not of itself authorise Council expenditure. Each co-contribution must be supported by an adopted budget allocation.

Successful Grant Programs

Note: The “Works completion date” is the date specified in the funding agreement by which works must be completed. Actual completion may occur earlier. “Received to date” reflects grant payments received as at 10 September 2026.

Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Works

Program: [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$1,000,000 (\$912,225 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$1,000,000

Works completion date: 30 June 2027

Project precis: Restoration and repair of Council infrastructure damaged by natural disaster events.

Emergency Road Repairs

Program: [Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$3,700,000 (\$3,462,399 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$3,700,000

Works completion date: 31 October 2027

Project precis: Urgent repair works to restore road assets damaged by extreme weather.

Lake Wyangan Master Plan – Enabling Infrastructure

Program: [Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure](#) (Commonwealth Government)

Grant amount: \$10,000,000 (\$10,000,000 received to date)

Council co-contribution: \$7,500,000 (funded by an external loan in the General Fund)

Total project cost: \$17,500,000

Works completion date: 30 September 2026 (variation approved)

Project precis: Delivery of essential infrastructure to unlock approximately 1,600 residential lots and support long-term housing supply. The full grant has been received and a variation to the funding agreement has been approved.

Banna Avenue Upgrade and Lake Wyangan Foreshore Works

Program: [Sustainable Communities Program](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$3,000,000 (\$1,050,000 received to date)

Council co-contribution: \$950,000 (funded from s7.12 developer contributions reserve)

Total project cost: \$3,950,000

Works completion date: December 2027

Project precis: Streetscape and public domain improvements in Banna Avenue to enhance amenity, accessibility and economic activity, together with foreshore upgrades at Lake Wyangan to improve recreational use and place-based outcomes.

Griffith Airport Lighting Upgrade

Program: [Regional Airports Program](#) (Commonwealth Government)

Grant amount: \$454,000 (\$136,494 received to date)

Council co-contribution: \$454,000 (funded from General Fund capital budget)

Total project cost: \$908,000

Works completion date: 30 April 2027

Project precis: Aviation safety upgrades to improve approach lighting and regulatory compliance at Griffith Airport.

Griffith Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Program: [Community Energy Upgrades Fund](#) (Commonwealth Government)

Grant amount: \$2,500,000 (\$750,000 received to date)

Council co-contribution: \$11,700,000 (funded from water and sewer reserves)

Total project cost: \$14,200,000

Works completion date: June 2028

Project precis: Installation of a new electric heating system at GRALC and upgrades at GWTP, along with solar and battery systems at GRALC, GWTP and GWRP. All projects renew ageing infrastructure and/or reduce operating costs.

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Processing Infrastructure

Program: [FOGO Infrastructure Grant](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$449,600 (\$269,760 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$449,600

Works completion date: To be determined

Project precis: Planning, procurement and education works to support introduction of a FOGO collection service, as mandated by the NSW Government.

Roundabout – Noorilla and Boonah Streets

Program: [Black Spot Program](#) (Commonwealth Government)

Grant amount: \$1,015,902 (\$0 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$1,015,902

Works completion date: 30 June 2028

Project precis: Construction of a roundabout to address a high-risk intersection and improve road safety.

Her Way 2680: Inclusive Places Pinkprint (CBD Safety Strategy)

Program: Her Way 2 – Safer Public Spaces (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$150,000 (\$68,500 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$150,000

Works completion date: To be determined

Project precis: Development of a CBD safety strategy and associated improvements to make public spaces safer and more inclusive for women and girls.

Trainee and Apprentice Employment Program

Program: [Fresh Start Program \(Round 1\)](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$687,078 (\$142,638 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Variable – difference in on-costs and any overtime

Total project cost: To be confirmed

Works completion date: Two apprentices – 2029; two trainees – 2027

Project precis: Employment, apprenticeship and training initiatives to strengthen Council's workforce capability.

Griffith – Youth Opportunities

Program: [Youth Opportunities Program – Round 15](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$50,000

Council co-contribution: Nil (in-kind support from Youth Officer)

Total project cost: To be confirmed

Works completion date: 30 June 2026

Project precis: Program to increase opportunities for vulnerable young people in Griffith.

Hanwood Residential Development – Masterplan Engineering and Developer Contributions Plan

Program: [Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund – Round 4](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$250,000 (\$250,000 received to date)

Council co-contribution: \$60,000 (funded from General Fund operational budget)

Total project cost: \$310,000

Works completion date: 30 June 2027

Project precis: Engineering design and a contributions plan for infrastructure supporting the Hanwood residential development precinct.

Bus Shelters – Riverdale Parade and Yenda Place

Program: Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme 2025/26 (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$40,000 (\$40,000 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$40,000

Works completion date: To be determined

Project precis: Construction of two new bus shelters to improve passenger comfort and accessibility.

Boorga Road Widening

Program: [Sustainable Communities Program – Round 2](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$5,560,000 (\$0 received to date)

Council co-contribution: \$1,390,000 (forward funded from s7.11 developer contributions)

Total project cost: \$6,950,000

Works completion date: 31 May 2029

Project precis: The next stage of the Lake Wyangan housing-enabling infrastructure program, widening 1.2 km of Boorga Road between Mallinson Road and Lake Wyangan village. Approved since the May 2026 report.

Griffith Saleyards Roof and Amenities Upgrade

Program: [Sustainable Communities Program – Round 2](#) (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$3,960,000 (\$0 received to date)

Council co-contribution: \$990,000 (funding source to be confirmed)

Total project cost: \$4,950,000

Works completion date: 31 May 2029

Project precis: Upgrade of roofing and amenities to address animal welfare and public amenity. Approved since the May 2026 report.

Level Crossing Upgrade Program

Program: Level Crossing Improvement Program – Regional Council Minor Works, Round 1 (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$140,311 (\$70,155 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$140,311

Works completion date: To be determined

Project precis: Minor safety improvement works at level crossings across the local government area.

Twigg Road, Yenda

Program: Towards Zero Safer Roads Program – Fatal Crash Response Sub-Program, Round 2B (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$178,000 (\$70,064 received to date)

Council co-contribution: \$78,000 (funded from General Fund capital budget)

Total project cost: \$256,000

Works completion date: To be determined

Project precis: Road safety works on Twigg Road near the Yenda rail crossing.

Scenic Hill Litter Action Project

Program: Waste and Sustainable Materials Litter Prevention Grants – Hotspot Intake 5 (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$60,000 (\$0 received to date)

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$60,000

Works completion date: To be determined

Project precis: Targeted litter prevention activities at the Scenic Hill hotspot.

Cook and Connect

Program: Holiday Break Program – Spring/Summer (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$2,700

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$2,700

Works completion date: September 2026

Project precis: Cooking workshops for young people aged 12 to 20 during the school holidays.

Art Your Way

Program: Audience Development Fund (NSW Government)

Grant amount: \$8,000

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$8,000

Works completion date: To be determined

Project precis: Griffith Regional Art Gallery program designed to welcome and engage neurodivergent visitors.

Regional Road Block Grant

Program: Regional Road Block Grant (NSW Government)

Grant amount: To be confirmed

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: To be confirmed

Works completion date: Annual allocation

Project precis: Annual block grant supporting maintenance and renewal of Council's regional road network.

An additional grant of \$12,383 has been approved and Council has been notified of its success. A formal announcement has not yet been made. Council will be informed when the matter is made public.

Completed Since Last Report

The Urban Crown Land Affordable Housing Masterplan (\$190,000 grant; \$25,000 Council co-contribution) has been completed and the grant fully received.

Griffith Airport Operational Support (\$153,000), pending at the time of the May 2026 report, was approved and received in full.

Pending Grant Applications**Yoogali Levee – Stage 3**

Program: [Floodplain Management Program 2026–27](#) (NSW Government)

Grant sought: \$1,200,000

Council co-contribution: \$600,000 (funded from stormwater funds)

Total project cost: \$1,800,000

Expected announcement: November 2026

Project precis: Construction of flood mitigation infrastructure to improve protection for residential areas in Yoogali.

Yenda Flood Resilience Drainage and Pumping Project

Program: Disaster Ready Fund (Commonwealth Government)

Grant sought: \$1,972,890

Council co-contribution: \$1,972,890 (funded from stormwater funds)

Total project cost: \$3,945,780

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Stormwater drainage and pumping upgrades to improve flood resilience in Yenda.

Activation of Community Gardens Events Space

Program: [Sustainable Communities Program – Round 3](#) (NSW Government)

Grant sought: \$1,578,860

Council co-contribution: \$551,000 (funded from s7.12 developer contributions reserve)

Total project cost: \$2,129,860

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Development of the City Park Community Gardens as a major event space, consistent with the adopted master plan. This is a revised application following the unsuccessful Active Regional Communities bid.

Banna Avenue – Innovation Hub

Program: [Sustainable Communities Program – Round 3](#) (NSW Government)

Grant sought: \$270,300

Council co-contribution: \$92,030 (funded from General Fund operating budget)

Total project cost: \$362,360

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Program to help local businesses become tender-ready.

Low Cost Loans Initiative – three projects

Program: Low Cost Loans Initiative – Round 5 (NSW Government)

Grant sought: \$921,185

Council co-contribution: Not applicable

Total project cost: To be confirmed

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Applications for support on borrowings for Boorga Road widening (\$222,863), Tharbogang landfill development (\$532,055) and the Collina and Lake Wyangan sewer pump stations (\$166,267).

Shaheedi Tournament – Griffith Sikh Games

Program: Stronger Together – Local Councils Major Festivals (NSW Government)

Grant sought: \$150,000

Council co-contribution: \$10,000 (funded from General Fund operating budget) Balance funded by the community.

Total project cost: \$300,000

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Support for the 2027 Shaheedi Festival.

Jubilee Park Upgrade

Program: NSW Rugby League Infrastructure Program (NSW Rugby League)

Grant sought: \$150,000

Council co-contribution: \$150,000 (funded from General Fund capital budget)

Total project cost: \$300,000

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Facility improvements at Jubilee Oval.

Griffith Airport Improvements

Program: [Regional Airports Program – Round 5](#) (Commonwealth Government)

Grant sought: \$131,061

Council co-contribution: \$131,061

Total project cost: \$262,122

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Further improvements at Griffith Airport.

Upgrade and Improve Level Crossings

Program: Level Crossing Improvement Program – Round 2 (NSW Government)

Grant sought: \$117,819

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: \$117,819

Expected announcement: September 2026

Project precis: Safety improvement works at 23 level crossings.

Bus Shelters – Various

Program: Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants (NSW Government)

Grant sought: \$83,000

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: To be confirmed

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: New bus shelter at Verity School.

Priority Weeds Control

Program: [Crown Reserves Improvement Fund 2026/27](#) (NSW Government)

Grant sought: \$60,000

Council co-contribution: Nil

Total project cost: To be confirmed

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Control of priority weeds on Crown reserves.

Australia Day in Griffith

Program: Australia Day Community Events Program (Commonwealth Government)

Grant sought: \$12,500

Council co-contribution: \$7,207 (funded from General Fund operating budget)

Total project cost: \$19,707

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Delivery of Australia Day community events.

Pathways 2680

Program: [Fresh Start Program – Round 4](#) (NSW Government)

Grant sought: To be confirmed

Council co-contribution: Variable – difference in on-costs and any overtime

Total project cost: To be confirmed

Expected announcement: To be advised

Project precis: Three 24-month traineeships.

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

The following applications have been unsuccessful since the May 2026 report. Where appropriate, projects will be considered for future funding rounds.

Project	Program	Grant sought	Council co-contribution
Lake Wyangan Water Recreation Improvements	Sustainable Communities Program – Round 2	\$3,320,000	\$830,000
City Park Community Gardens and Major Event Masterplan	Active Regional Communities – Community Participation	\$980,000	\$471,852
Yoogali Levee – Stage 3	Disaster Ready Fund	\$900,000	\$900,000
Griffith Pioneer Park Museum – Machinery Shelter Replacement	Crown Reserves Improvement Fund 2025/26	\$247,000	\$68,000
Rumble Park Inclusive Playspace	Accessible Australia – Tranche 2	\$150,000	\$186,000
Rumble Park Inclusive Playspace	Office of Responsible Gambling Infrastructure Grants	\$130,000	\$130,000
Noorla Street Shared Path	Get Active NSW	\$124,000	Nil
Scenic Hill Litter Action Project	WASM Litter Prevention Grants – Intake 5	\$86,000	Nil
Lake Wyangan Environmental Education and Conservation	Connecting Community, Water Quality and Conservation	\$60,000	Nil
Mental Wellbeing Workshops	FRRR Community Impact Program	\$50,000	Nil
Total		\$6,047,000	\$2,585,852

OPTIONS

Council note this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The strategic use of grant programs is a key factor in ensuring Council's long-term financial sustainability while continuing to improve amenity and services for residents.

Active grants commit Council to \$23.12 million in co-contributions, the largest being \$11.70 million for the energy efficiency upgrades (water and sewer reserves) and \$7.50 million for Lake Wyangan enabling infrastructure (external loan).

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

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

All grant programs carry compliance obligations, including milestone delivery, progress reporting and acquittal. Council's Grants Register is used to monitor deeds, claims, completion dates and acquittals.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Minimal environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Minor Low Risk: Nil impact to service delivery.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE **CL10**

TITLE **Major Projects Update**

FROM **Scott Grant, General Manager**

TRIM REF **26/127150**

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an update on major projects currently being progressed by Griffith City Council.

The report enables Councillors to maintain visibility of the status of key initiatives across the organisation.

This report includes covers three key projects:

The Lake Wyangan Infrastructure Enabling Project (Stage 1) is a \$17.5 million project delivering critical drainage, flood mitigation and road infrastructure to unlock future residential development within the Lake Wyangan growth area. Construction is now complete, and Council is working to finalise small remaining tasks and administrative matters, as we begin the reporting and acquittal process to the funding body.

The Griffith Net Zero Facilities Upgrade Program is a \$14.2 million Council-led initiative, supported by \$2.5 million in Commonwealth funding, delivering electrification, renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades across Council's major operational facilities. The project is fully funded and is progressing through planning and mobilisation.

The Aquatic centre component has begun, and project management responsibilities allocated to the NSW Government Public Works office.

The Griffith CBD Enhancement Project is a \$4 million place-based initiative, supported by \$3 million in NSW Government funding, to enhance the amenity, functionality and visual appeal of the CBD and key approach corridors. Works include upgrades to pedestrian infrastructure, landscaping, lighting and public domain features, and the project is currently in the planning phase.

Together these projects demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment to delivering strategic infrastructure that supports community growth, improves operational efficiency and strengthens environmental sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the contents of this report regarding the status of the following major projects:

- **Lake Wyangan Residential Housing Infrastructure Enabling Project – Stage 1**
- **Community Energy Upgrades – Griffith Net Zero Facilities Upgrade Program**
- **Griffith CBD Enhancement Project**

REPORT

Major Projects Status Overview

Project	Status	Budget	Schedule	Current Focus
Lake Wyangan Infrastructure Enabling Project – Stage 1	Complete	\$17.5M	Complete	Finalisation of minor works, administration and acquittal documentation.
Griffith Net Zero Facilities Upgrade Program (CEUF)	● Planning Phase	\$14.2M	Project mobilisation	Procurement planning and project establishment
Griffith CBD Enhancement Project	● Planning Phase	\$4M \$3M*	Confirmation of design	Concept finalisation and project staging

*Total budget is \$4m, and the final budget includes \$1m of Council funds invested in Lake Wyangan (irrigation) subject to detailed design.

Lake Wyangan irrigation impacted areas opening 1 November.

Status Key:

- On Track – progressing as planned
- Watch – minor issues being managed
- Attention – significant issue requiring intervention

1. Lake Wyangan Residential Housing Infrastructure Enabling Project – Stage 1

Project Snapshot

Item	Status
Project Value	\$17.5 million Project delivered under budget ¹
Funding	\$10M State/Federal + \$7.5M Council
Current Phase	Final tidy up Administration and acquittal
Forecast Completion	N/A
Overall Status	Complete

Project Overview

The Lake Wyangan Infrastructure Enabling Project is a major strategic infrastructure project designed to unlock future residential development within the Lake Wyangan growth area.

¹ Note the final financial position include interest earned and spent as per funding deed

Stage 1 of the project includes the delivery of drainage infrastructure; flood mitigation works, and associated road upgrades required to support future subdivision and residential development in the locality.

Project Status

The project is complete.

Minor administration issues are ongoing, and acquittal documentation is being prepared for the funding body.

The project was delivered **under** budget.

2. Community Energy Upgrades Fund – Griffith Net Zero Facilities Upgrade Program

Project Snapshot

Item	Status
Total Program Value	\$14.2 million
Commonwealth Grant	\$2.5 million
Council Investment	~\$11.7 million
Current Phase	Project establishment
Overall Status	 Planning Phase

Project Overview

Griffith City Council has secured \$2.5 million through the Australian Government's Community Energy Upgrades Fund (CEUF) to support delivery of the Griffith Net Zero Facilities Upgrade Program.

The CEUF funding contributes toward a broader Council-led infrastructure program designed to improve the energy performance and sustainability of Council facilities.

The program will deliver upgrades across three key Council sites:

- Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre
- Griffith Water Treatment Plant
- Griffith Water Reclamation Plant.

Key Program Components

The program will deliver:

- electrification of the indoor aquatic complex at GRALC through installation of high-efficiency heat pump systems
- installation of solar photovoltaic systems across multiple Council facilities
- battery energy storage systems
- efficiency upgrades to pumping infrastructure at the Griffith Water Treatment Plant.

Once delivered, the program is expected to reduce Council's operational emissions by approximately 829 tonnes of CO₂-e annually while also reducing energy costs and improving energy resilience across Council facilities.

Current Status

The project is fully funded. Project planning through the NSW Public Works office has begun, including:

- finalisation of grant agreement requirements
- procurement planning
- coordination with operational teams.

Further updates will be provided to Council as implementation progresses.

3. Griffith CBD Enhancement Project**Project Snapshot**

Item	Status
Project Value	\$4M
Funding	NSW Government – Sustainable Communities Program (\$3m) + Council (additional \$1m)
Current Phase	Planning / Concept / Cost confirmation
Overall Status	 Planning Phase

Project Overview

The Griffith CBD Enhancement Project forms part of Council's broader vision to enhance the amenity, functionality and attractiveness of the Griffith CBD.

The project has been submitted under the NSW Government's Sustainable Communities Program – Early Investment Round and is focused on improving key public domain areas to support economic activity, tourism and community use.

The project includes a series of targeted upgrades across the CBD and key approach corridors, particularly along Mackay Avenue, Banna Avenue and surrounding areas.

Key components of the project broadly include (subject to final design):

- completion of a 2.5m wide shared pedestrian and cycle path to improve connectivity
- irrigation system upgrades within central medians
- tree maintenance and renewal of tree surrounds
- roundabout beautification works including landscaping and paving treatments
- upgrades to tree lighting along Banna Avenue
- replacement of banner infrastructure to enhance visual presentation
- construction of a new Memorial Gardens entrance feature
- power and data upgrades to support lighting and public domain activation
- median strip landscaping improvements along key corridors

Strategic Context

The project supports Council's broader objectives of:

- enhancing the visual appeal and identity of the Griffith CBD
- supporting local business activity and tourism
- improving pedestrian connectivity and accessibility
- strengthening the attractiveness of key entry points to the city

The project is also intended to complement future stages of CBD enhancement works and aligns with longer-term urban design and place-making initiatives.

Current Status

The project is currently finalising design elements after a protracted period of consultation. In most areas of the project, tender documentation is being prepared. Final design elements and project status to be presented to RPPEC as cost validation and prioritisation of works continues.

Key Risks / Considerations

- dependency on external community support, feedback, approval and timing
- potential need to ensure design is deliverable within available funding
- coordination with existing infrastructure and traffic management requirements.

Outlook

Subject to conceptual confirmation, the project is expected to progress to detailed design and staged implementation without further delay.

The project represents an important opportunity to enhance the presentation and functionality of Griffith's CBD and strengthen its role as a regional destination.

Major Projects – Forward Look

Over the next three months Council officers will focus on progressing the following key milestones:

Lake Wyangan Infrastructure Project

- complete

Net Zero Facilities Upgrade Program

- detailed design and procurement planning
- finalisation of project delivery timelines

Griffith CBD Enhancement Project

- refinement of project scope and staging
- consultation continues, and tender documentation is being prepared

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

These projects support Council's strategic priorities relating to infrastructure development, sustainable growth and responsible environmental management.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The projects represent significant capital infrastructure investments supported by external funding.

- Lake Wyangan Infrastructure Project – complete, under budget
- Griffith Net Zero Facilities Upgrade Program – approximately \$14.2 million
- CBD enhancement program - \$4m

Appropriate financial oversight and governance arrangements are in place to ensure expenditure is managed in accordance with approved budgets.

Serious Moderate Risk: High financial loss of \$1 million to \$15 million.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The projects are subject to grant funding agreements and statutory compliance requirements.

Serious Moderate Risk: Significant policy or regulatory breach/s, resolved through negotiation or remedial action. Exposure to possible litigation risks. Most exposures covered by Insurance.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The projects deliver positive environmental outcomes through improved stormwater management, reduced emissions, improved energy efficiency and enhancement to public amenity and liveability.

Moderate Low Risk: Minor environmental impact handled internally.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Delivery of these projects demonstrates Council's commitment to coordinated, large-scale investment in growth-enabling infrastructure, CBD revitalisation and sustainable operations, supporting the long-term development, liveability and economic vitality of the Griffith community.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Works are being managed to minimise disruption to Council services and community facilities.

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

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Comprehensive WHS systems and contractor controls are in place across all work packages.

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Supports Council's strategic objectives relating to infrastructure development, regional growth and sustainable asset management

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 5.4 Strategic land use planning and management to encourage investment in the region.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team

Project Control Group (PCG)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2026 COMMENCING AT 2:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Scott Groat (Chair), Joseph Dal Broi (Community Representative), John Kerrigan (Community Representative), Steve Manwaring (DCCEEW), Ian Parisotto (Community Representative), Paul Rossetto (Community Representative), Daniel Williams (Torrent Consulting) and Gillian Webber (SES via Zoom)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

General Manager, Scott Grant, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Water and Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary and Graduate Stormwater & Flood Engineer, Anthony Portolesi and Minute Taker, Leanne Austin

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Michael Borg (NSW SES) and Ema Munro (Community Representative). The following members were absent: Councillor Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate), Steve Mortlock (Community Representative), Craig Ronan (NSW SES), Josh Stanbury (NSW SES).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Joseph Dal Broi and John Kerrigan that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 June 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

Mr Rossetto raised a concern that the seconder recorded for the confirmation of the 5 March 2026 minutes, Mr Michael Borg, was not present at that meeting and therefore could not second the confirmation.

Note: The recording of the 11 June 2026 meeting was reviewed and confirmed that, during consideration of the confirmation of the 5 March 2026 minutes, the Mayor advised that a seconder was not required to have attended the previous meeting for the purpose of confirming the minutes. Accordingly, Mr Borg remained the seconder to the motion.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Mr Parisotto drew the Committee's attention to his correspondence on page 29 of the Agenda requesting that his proposed amendments be noted.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

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

Ian Parisotto

No clause number provided

Unprepared Emergency Breaching Protocol Exit Apron

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.

Paul Rossetto

No clause number provided

Reason - As a Community Representative for Yenda, my primary objective is ensuring the protection of 450 Yenda families who lost everything in the March 5, 2012, Yenda flood event. Their homes, schools, churches and shops were damaged and unusable for six months or more, furniture, personal possessions, photo albums, wedding dresses, school projects, computers and laptops, and sadly pets were lost. I hold an active, public stance regarding the inadequacy of the East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) Main Canal North bank crossflow transference flood mitigation design. Because I believe the current 110year old under canal siphon is inadequate, and at risk of complete failure and that Council and Murrumbidgee Irrigation must work collaboratively to lobby Governments to 100% fund the re-installation of the 2nd set of Flood gates in the north bank back to their original 1:78 ARI flood design before decommissioning by DL & WC, a government agency pre-Murrumbidgee Irrigation. Furthermore, I believe the unprepared Emergency Breaching Protocol is an engineering "Red Herring" designed to cleverly and cheaply achieve the NSW Flood Manual standard 1% AEP flood mitigation design. There has been no planning for soil removal and storage when excavating, no stockpiling of 100mm aggregate fill and clay soils for efficient Main Canal repatriation and continuation of irrigation supply and no planned dry access for trucks to deliver materials to the breach site on the south bank. The EBP contains another engineering paradox, it contains a trigger at 1.8 metres gauge height to commence excavating and another 2.3 metre trigger to cease excavating because the flood levels are deemed too high for safe or uncontrollable breaching may take place. In essence the EBP is only a bureaucratic band aid for minor floods less than 100m³ per sec or 8600 megalitres per day or 1:50 ARI leaving the north bank 30% short of transference design risking another Yenda Flood. Back in 2018 the re-installed set of 8 flood gates cost a total of \$1.2M dollars. Today even if that cost doubled to \$2.5M dollars it still be economical relative to the \$90M dollars damage to the Yenda Community and potential disastrous hundreds of Millions to dollars interruption to Irrigation supplies for the greater Griffith LGA economy if a serious uncontrollable breach occurred to the Main Canal due to Council's Emergency Breaching Protocol Initiative. Personally, In 2012 March Yenda flood I did not lose any houses or buildings due to flooding. Some corners of the orchard were inundated temporarily, for a few days. Similarly, my extended family did not lose any houses to flooding, only one brother's house suffered flooding in a low-lying laundry and approximately 100 tonnes of late

Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were not harvestable not having any direct financial consequences to myself.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 REVIEW OF LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY

Mr Williams provided a presentation to the Committee regarding the draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study review advising that the submissions received were taken into consideration when drafting the final document. The draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study will be presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Kerrigan and Paul Rossetto that the Committee endorse the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and recommend to Council for adoption.

CL02 CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Parisotto left the room 2:51 pm having declared a pecuniary conflict of interest while discussion took place regarding the EMR, breaching protocols and downstream impacts.

Mr Rossetto tabled a document for consideration by the General Manager.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Joe Dal Broi that the Committee note the correspondence attached to the report.

Mr Parisotto returned to the meeting at 3:04 pm.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Committee requested Council ask Murrumbidgee Irrigation for a report on infrastructure condition at the EMR.

Mr Manwaring advised that DCCEEW are progressing the Murrumbidgee River/Mirror Creek flood modelling project using internal resources, with LiDAR data already collected and modelling underway. Future updates will be provided to the Committee when available.

Gillian Webber left the meeting at 3:09 pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Kerrigan and Paul Rossetto that the report be noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Yenda Progress Association regarding ongoing concerns about excessive flood insurance premiums in Yenda. Council confirmed it has provided endorsed flood mapping and mitigation information to the Insurance Council of Australia demonstrating that the village area is protected against a 1-in-100-year flood event.

The Committee also discussed advocacy opportunities for Council and Murrumbidgee Irrigation to jointly seek NSW Government funding for the reinstatement of flood mitigation infrastructure. In addition, concerns were raised regarding the capacity of drainage

infrastructure to accommodate future development in Hanwood, with suggestions for additional drainage connections to improve flood management outcomes.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 3 December 2026 at 2:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 3:23 pm.

**LOCAL TRAFFIC FORUM
HELD IN THE MURRAY ROOM ON
TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:32 AM**

PRESENT

Councillor Anne Napoli (Chair), Tony O'Grady (Councillor - Alternate), Ben Hall (Transport for NSW Representative, via Zoom), John Wadsworth (Police Representative), Kerry Lippold (Member for Murray Representative, via Zoom)

STAFF

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Engineering Design Coordinator, Jason Carrozza, Development & Traffic Coordinator, Greg Balind and Minute Secretary, Melanie Hebrok

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Kaitlyn McLean and Tony Leadbitter.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 August 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, were confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Traffic Management - 2026 Biggest Lap Car Event

Mr Balind noted the absence of a road occupancy licence for Griffin Avenue and Benerembah Street for the event. Information from the Road Occupancy Unit of Transport NSW confirmed their records did not show such approvals. Mr Hall to follow up.

Councillor O'Grady advised that the organisers would hold a post-event review to identify successes and areas for improvement and that he will encourage them to prepare their management plans and supporting documentation earlier if the event proceeds in 2027.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

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

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

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

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - 2026 CHRISTMAS CAROLS - COOLAH STREET

The Forum noted the proposed traffic management for the 2026 Christmas Carols event. No issues were identified.

CL02 TREATMENT OPTIONS - PROBERT AVENUE/MACARTHUR STREET INTERSECTION

The Committee discussed options to improve safety and reduce congestion at the intersection of Probert Avenue and Macarthur Street. Four design options were considered, including roundabout configurations and a channelised T-intersection.

Option 1, involving a single-lane approach on each leg of the roundabout, was identified as the safest option, although it would require some land resumption from Marian Catholic College and the removal of some trees. Option 2, which included a two-lane approach, was not recommended due to safety concerns associated with vehicles bypassing the roundabout without sufficient slowing or deflection. Option 3, a channelised T-intersection, could improve traffic flow but would provide limited safety benefits. A larger roundabout was also discussed as a potential option to address both safety and congestion, subject to land requirements and cost.

The Committee discussed the need to balance safety improvements, congestion, construction costs and the impact on Marian Catholic College.

Action: It was agreed that updated traffic counts and time-based traffic data would be obtained to better understand traffic volumes and patterns throughout the day and inform further consideration of the options.

CL03 OPTIONS FOR NEW CARPARK - ALTIN STREET RESERVE - LOT 3 DP 706417

The Committee considered four options for formalising parking arrangements within Altin Street Reserve to address parking shortages, traffic congestion and pedestrian safety concerns associated with Blackline Swim School and the Australia Post depot. Concerns were raised regarding vehicles parking along the bend, obstructing visibility and increasing the risk to children and pedestrians, particularly during peak swim school periods. The movement of heavy vehicles and farm machinery through the area was also noted. . Mr Balind commented on previous assessments of the dog leg corner and advised congestion reduces the speed of vehicles. Any parking restrictions on that corner would reduce

congestion and allow vehicles to sling shot at a greater speed.

The options included formalising a car park with approximately 50 spaces, separating entry and exit points, and providing perimeter parking with improved traffic circulation. A staged approach was discussed, commencing with improved line marking, a one-way traffic arrangement and the installation of a concrete traffic island (blister) to improve vehicle alignment and safety. Formalised parking bays could then be constructed progressively as funding becomes available. The larger blister option was supported for further consideration, noting that it could improve traffic movements while providing a more cost-effective initial measure.

The estimated costs, available funding and competing priorities within the Traffic Facilities Program would need to be assessed before determining the timing of the works.

Action: It was agreed that the matter would be referred to a Councillor workshop for further discussion, including consideration of the preferred option, a staged implementation approach and funding priorities.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

6.1 Business Arising - Boorga Road and Jones Road Intersection

The Committee noted that the rumble strips are not sufficiently effective in alerting drivers to the intersection.

Options discussed included extending the rumble strips across the full traffic lane and investigating electronic warning signage with flashing LED lights to improve driver awareness. The potential impact of extending the rumble strips on vehicle traction was noted, along with the need to consider the movement of heavy vehicles along the designated route and avoid unnecessary stopping.

It was agreed that further investigation would be undertaken into alternative safety treatments, including vehicle-activated flashing signage, to improve driver awareness and reduce the risk of crashes.

6.2 General Business - Lenehan Road / Banna Avenue

Mr Hall advised that funding was available for delivery, but the design had not yet been confirmed. A left-in, left-out arrangement was understood to be the preferred option, with further investigation of design options to continue. Mr Hall undertook to keep the Committee informed of progress.

6.3 Request for Safe Access - Kurrajong Banna Avenue

Mr King advised both linemarking and minor works have been completed. To be removed from the Outstanding Action Report.

6.3 Intersection Hillside Drive / Slopes Road

Designs have been prepared and will be tabled at the next meeting for discussion.

Mr Hall advised that the proposed speed zone changes for Slopes Road were almost approved. Implementation remains subject to the release of the current financial year's budget.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Illegal use of E-scooters

The Committee discussed community concerns regarding the use of illegal e-bikes and e-scooters in public areas, particularly around Ted Scobie Oval. Concerns included unsafe riding on roads, footpaths and other public spaces, and the need for clearer information on enforcement and the seizure and disposal of illegal devices.

The Committee discussed the potential for additional signage around Ted Scobie Oval, community education programs and referral of the signage issue to the Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee for consideration.

Action: Mr Balind to liaise with the Police's Media Unit regarding relevant educational materials for publication in the Council Catch-Up and on social media, to raise awareness of legal requirements and help inform parents and young riders.

7.2 Double Lines on Boorga Road

Councillor O'Grady asked to revisit the proposal to extend the double centre lines on Boorga Road northbound, from the Jones Road intersection towards Nericon, due to safety concerns regarding vehicles overtaking and the risk of head-on collisions.

Mr King noted that the matter had previously been referred to the Works Department for assessment. Council officers undertook to follow up on the request, which is currently in the works program.

7.3 Safety Concerns - Griffith Show

Councillor Napoli raised traffic and pedestrian safety concerns at the Griffith Showground during the annual show, particularly the interaction between vehicles and pedestrians and the ineffectiveness of temporary handwritten signage.

It was noted that the Showground Trust and event organisers are responsible for managing safety within the showground, with Council having limited authority over activities within the site. The importance of having personnel on the ground to direct traffic and manage parking was highlighted, as demonstrated at other events.

Action: The Chair requested that a letter be sent to the Showground Trust and event organisers outlining the concerns and seeking improved traffic management and pedestrian safety measures for future events.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Local Traffic Forum is to be held on Tuesday, 10 November 2026 at 10:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 11:30 am.

TITLE Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer

FROM Shari Blumer, Councillor

TRIM REF 26/128286

SUMMARY

A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Shari Blumer on 20 August 2026. Please find attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

- (a) Undertake a desktop review of previous reports, budget bids, grant applications, options, initiatives and data collected about Lake Wyangan and its catchment to date.
- (b) Develop a project (or projects) to improve the water quality and environment health of Lake Wyangan, and ensure the survival of the water body as a place of natural habitat and community amenity, including consideration of a filtration project/s within the Lake surrounds, as well as an extraction project/s.
- (c) Undertake a high-level costing of the resources needed to implement the proposed project/s for the purpose of a budget bid, including consideration of the organisational structure and human resources required.
- (d) Establish potential partners that could be part of a project advisory group to deliver the project/s, for example. Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council and Local Land Services.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENT

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Notice of Motion - Cr Shari Blumer - 20 Oct 2026   | 129 |
| (b) | Attachment to Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer   | 131 |



Notice of Motion

[Notice of Motion](#)

Councillor's Name * Cr Shari Blumer

Date * 20-Oct-26

Time * 11:31:13 AM

Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Dear Mr Grant, I Water Quality and Environmental Health of Lake Wyangan
hereby give notice of
the following Notice
of Motion for the
Council Meeting to be
held as indicated
below: *

Additional Information

Attachments Lake Wyangan Notice of Motion SB.docx 40.79KB

Council Meeting 20-Oct-26

Date: *

Signature *

Shari Blumer

Extract from Griffith City Council's Code of Meeting Practice:

Giving notice of business to be considered at Council Meetings

3.10 A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 12 pm, five business days before the meeting is to be held.

3.11 A councillor may, in writing to the general manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

3.12 If the General Manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the general manager may prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the Council.

3.13 A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identify a funding source, the general manager must either:

(a) prepare a report on the availability of funds for implementing the motion if adopted for inclusion in the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the council, or

(b) by written notice sent to all councillors with the business papers for the meeting for which the notice of motion has been submitted, defer consideration of the matter by the council to such a date specified in the notice, pending the preparation of such a report.

Questions with notice

3.14 A councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.10, ask a question for response by the general manager about the performance or operations of the council.

3.15 A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.14 that comprises a complaint against the general manager or a member of staff of the council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the general manager or a member of staff of the council.

3.16 The general manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.14 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the council or orally at the meeting.

In relation to Section N/a

**3.13 - Please identify
the source of funding
for expenditure if
applicable: ***

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- Your information may comprise part of a public register related to this purpose.
- This form will be retained in Council's Records Management System and disposed of in accordance with the Local Government Disposal Authority.
- You can access and correct your personal information at any time by contacting Council.
- For further details on how the Griffith City Council manages personal information, please refer to our Privacy Management Plan.

SUMMARY

This Notice of Motion (NoM) seeks Council endorsement to conduct a review of previous proposals, reports and data regarding Lake Wyangan, in order to provide a suite of potential projects and ultimately identify a project / projects to be implemented to improve the water quality and environment health of Lake Wyangan, and ensure the survival of the water body as a place of natural habitat and community amenity.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Undertake a desktop review of previous reports, budget bids, grant applications, options, initiatives and data collected about Lake Wyangan and its catchment to date.
2. Develop a project (or projects) to improve the water quality and environment health of Lake Wyangan, and ensure the survival of the water body as a place of natural habitat and community amenity, including consideration of a filtration project/s within the Lake surrounds, as well as an extraction project/s.
3. Undertake a high-level costing of the resources needed to implement the proposed project/s for the purpose of a budget bid, including consideration of the organisational structure and human resources required.
4. Establish potential partners that could be part of a project advisory group to deliver the project/s, for example. Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council and Local Land Services.

REPORT

Lake Wyangan is a highly valued community asset. There have been diverse options proposed to 'fix the Lake' over the years. However, most have not proceeded due to expense and uncertainty of the outcome if funds were expended.

During the previous term, on 12 September 2023, Council resolved to expend funds on foreshore rejuvenation rather than on water quality improvement projects, given the uncertainty and cost of those proposals.

The foreshore rejuvenation activities were endorsed by Council, and the last of the funded part of the foreshore rejuvenation is due to be completed next month, with the installation of irrigation infrastructure.

This Notice of Motion seeks to refocus future projects and expenditure to the improvement of the water quality and surrounding environment in Lake Wyangan and wetlands.

Issues for management in the Lake include but are not limited to:

1. Salinity

1

2. Blue Green Algae
3. Carp
4. Aquatic plant degradation
5. Silt capture and removal

Options to better manage the Lake include but are not limited to:

1. Appropriate plantings for water filtration
2. Negotiations with local landholders regarding inputs from farm to the water body
3. Reed ponds
4. Natural filtration through plantings and earthworks
5. Surrounding wetlands
6. Channel filtration
7. Silt mitigation
8. Carp containment
9. Native fish regeneration
10. Pumping of water
11. Use of reclaimed water
12. Use of Council water to push water through to barren box swamp

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Council endorses some, but not all, of the proposed Recommendation.

OPTION 3

Any other resolution of Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil identified.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item supports Council advocacy, partnerships, sustainable water management, environmental stewardship, community resilience and regional development.

CONSULTATION

As per recommendation 4 of the Notice of Motion, and Councils regular consultation process

ATTACHMENTS

1. The Lake Wyangan Masterplan adopted at the 12 September 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council

TITLE Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer

FROM Shari Blumer, Councillor

TRIM REF 26/128304

SUMMARY

A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Shari Blumer on 20 October 2026. Please find attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

- (a) Sign up to become a Carp Action Alliance Partner**
- (b) Work with the Carp Action Alliance and the Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee to organise a community carp day sometime in the next 12 months, depending on the most appropriate time of year.**

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENT

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Notice of Motion - Councillor Shari Blumer - 20 Oct 2026 ↓  | 136 |
| (b) | Attachment - Carp Alliance Motion ↓  | 138 |
| (c) | MDA Letter - Carp Action Alliance ↓  | 141 |



Notice of Motion

[Notice of Motion](#)

Councillor's Name * Cr Shari Blumer

Date * 20-Oct-26

Time * 11:33:11 AM

Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Dear Mr Grant, I Griffith City Council to join the Carp Alliance
hereby give notice of
the following Notice
of Motion for the
Council Meeting to be
held as indicated
below: *

Additional Information

Attachments	MDA letter - Carp Action Alliance.pdf	273.54KB
	Carp Alliance of Motion.docx	40.16KB

Council Meeting 20-Oct-26
Date: *

Signature *

Shari Blumer

Extract from Griffith City Council's Code of Meeting Practice:

Giving notice of business to be considered at Council Meetings

3.10 A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 12 pm, five business days before the meeting is to be held.

3.11 A councillor may, in writing to the general manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

3.12 If the General Manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the general manager may prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the Council.

3.13 A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identify a funding source, the general manager must either:

(a) prepare a report on the availability of funds for implementing the motion if adopted for inclusion in the business papers

for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the council, or

(b) by written notice sent to all councillors with the business papers for the meeting for which the notice of motion has been submitted, defer consideration of the matter by the council to such a date specified in the notice, pending the preparation of such a report.

Questions with notice

3.14 A councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.10, ask a question for response by the general manager about the performance or operations of the council.

3.15 A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.14 that comprises a complaint against the general manager or a member of staff of the council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the general manager or a member of staff of the council.

3.16 The general manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.14 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the council or orally at the meeting.

In relation to Section N/A

**3.13 - Please identify
the source of funding
for expenditure if
applicable: ***

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- Your information may comprise part of a public register related to this purpose.
- This form will be retained in Council's Records Management System and disposed of in accordance with the Local Government Disposal Authority.
- You can access and correct your personal information at any time by contacting Council.
- For further details on how the Griffith City Council manages personal information, please refer to our Privacy Management Plan.

SUMMARY

This Notice of Motion (NoM) seeks Council endorsement to join the Carp Action Alliance. www.carpactionalliance.au

Carp are one of the biggest threats facing Australia's rivers, wetlands and native fish populations.

The Carp Action Alliance exists to turn that shared urgency into coordinated national action: connecting on-ground action, demonstration sites, knowledge sharing and governance under one platform.

The Carp Action Alliance Toolbox brings together knowledge, research, practical resources and case studies that support carp management planning and local action. The tools below build on both, connecting local efforts with national, state and territory work.

The Carp Action Alliance is open to organisations that want to contribute to practical, evidence-based carp management. Becoming an Alliance Partner means taking part in a national platform for action, collaboration and shared learning.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) Sign up to become a Carp Action Alliance Partner
- (b) Work with the Carp Action Alliance and the Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee to organise a community carp day sometime in the next 12 months, depending on the most appropriate time of year.

REPORT

During the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee 17th September 2026, a community committee member requested that Council and the Committee consider a Carp control activity to happen at Lake Wyangan and involve the community.

Griffith City Council is a member of the Murray Darling Association (MDA), who have been recently contacted by the newly formed Carp Action Alliance to encourage local government to participate and become partners of the Carp Action Alliance.

At a Council meeting on the 22 September 2026 Council endorsed a Motion for the Local Government New South Wales Conference (LGNSW) Basin-Wide Investment in Water Quality and Invasive Species Management calling on the NSW Government to advocate for and secure increased Commonwealth investment in carp control and invasive species management

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programs across the Murray-Darling Basin as a matter of priority, including accelerated implementation of complementary control measures ahead of any future consideration of carp biocontrol options by Australian Agriculture Ministers.

OPTIONS

OPTION 1

As per the Recommendation.

OPTION 2

Council endorse some, but not all, of the proposed Recommendation.

OPTION 3

Any other resolution of Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil identified.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

There could be some cost arising from the Community Carp day

COMPLIANCE / LEGAL / STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The motions advocate for invasive species management at Lake Wyangan, by consultation with Council Staff and the Carp Alliance a plan will be developed that can mitigate the risks of any environment harm.

REPUTATION / COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

WHS / HR IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

Nil identified.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item supports Council advocacy, partnerships, sustainable water management, environmental stewardship, community resilience and regional development.

CONSULTATION

Councillors; General Manager; Carp Control Alliance, Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee

ATTACHMENTS

MDA Letter – Carp Action Alliance



Briefing paper: Murray Darling Association and the Carp Action Alliance

For the Murray Darling Association Board, regions and member councils

Purpose

This briefing outlines why the Murray Darling Association (MDA) is well placed to join the Carp Action Alliance and help shape a practical, coordinated response to carp impacts across the Murray–Darling Basin. It focuses on the priorities most visible to councils and their communities: water quality, river and wetland amenity, recreation, local economies, public confidence and credible progress under the Basin Plan.

Key message

Joining the Carp Action Alliance would give the MDA and its member councils a stronger, Basin-wide platform to press for visible progress on carp—linking local concerns about water quality and amenity with practical river recovery, clearer accountability and the environmental and community outcomes expected from the Basin Plan.

Why this matters to local government now

Carp are among the most visible and persistent pressures on waterways across the Basin. Their impacts are experienced locally: turbid water, damaged aquatic vegetation and riverbanks, declining habitat, reduced native fish recovery and waterways that are less attractive for fishing, boating, swimming, tourism and everyday community use.

These impacts matter directly to councils. Local government helps manage public reserves, riverfronts, wetlands, stormwater interfaces, tourism assets, community facilities and local development. Councils also hear first-hand from residents when waterways look unhealthy or when long-standing concerns appear to receive little practical response.

For many communities, the condition of a local river, lake or wetland is one of the clearest tests of whether Basin reform is delivering. Carp therefore sit within a wider question of public confidence: are governments and Basin institutions translating

planning, water recovery and environmental commitments into healthier places that people can see, use and value?

The MDA's Basin-wide local government network gives it a distinctive role in this discussion. It can connect local evidence and community priorities across regions, strengthen the collective voice of councils and help ensure that the ongoing implementation and review of the Basin Plan reflects impacts experienced at the local level.

What the Carp Action Alliance offers

The Carp Action Alliance has been established to shift the national conversation from talk to action. It is not designed to duplicate existing technical work or promote one intervention in isolation. Its role is to connect organisations already working to reduce carp impacts, improve waterway health, restore habitat, support native fish recovery, test practical approaches and build community backing for sustained action.

The Alliance brings together science, policy, industry, community knowledge and on-ground delivery. It can showcase and support a portfolio of responses, including harvesting and processing, wetland management, exclusion screens, trapping, targeted removal, fish passage improvements, habitat restoration, community carp events, monitoring, reporting tools, environmental watering and policy reform. The Australian Government's Carp Biological Control Program is progressing research and assessment of the carp virus, but any future biological control would need to sit within a broader, integrated and sustained management response. The Alliance helps keep that wider picture visible so practical action does not wait on a future decision about the virus.

For the MDA, this provides a practical vehicle for turning member concerns into a connected program of advocacy, knowledge sharing and demonstration. It also creates a channel through which councils can share local projects and evidence, identify priority waterways, learn from approaches being tested elsewhere and help shape a clearer national agenda. Through plain-English information and partner-led case studies, the Alliance can also help councils and communities understand what is happening with carp management, what the biological control research and assessment process means, and what practical options are already available.

Alignment with MDA priorities and the Basin Plan

The MDA's vision of a healthy Murray–Darling Basin supporting thriving communities, economic development and sustainable productivity is closely aligned with the Alliance's focus on healthier rivers and practical recovery. Carp action is not simply a pest fish issue; it is connected to the condition, use and value of the Basin's waterways.

Within the Basin Plan context, coordinated carp management can support stronger environmental outcomes, native fish recovery, adaptive management and more effective use of water for the environment. It can also help communities see how environmental water, habitat restoration, fish passage, wetland management and pest control work together rather than being treated as separate programs.

MDA involvement would help place local government experience at the centre of this work. Councils can contribute knowledge about community expectations, priority sites, water quality concerns, amenity impacts, local tourism and recreation, operational constraints and opportunities for partnerships. The Alliance, in turn, can aggregate this evidence into clearer Basin-wide advocacy and practical proposals for governments, the MDBA and other agencies.

From national coordination to visible local action

The Alliance is building a national network of partners, a public platform for practical methods and case studies, and a stronger pathway from local experience to investment and implementation. Its focus is on growing participation, sharing credible evidence and accelerating action in priority waterways.

The next stage is to connect this national coordination with demonstration projects, shared monitoring, practical tools and investment that link carp control with water quality, native fish recovery, wetland health, habitat restoration, environmental watering, public amenity and community confidence.

MDA participation now would ensure that local government helps shape this work as it moves into practical delivery. The MDA would not be expected to deliver or fund every activity. Its value would be in representing member priorities, identifying opportunities, contributing to advocacy and connecting the Alliance with councils and regions ready to participate.

Why MDA involvement would be valuable

The MDA represents local government and communities across the Basin and provides a recognised pathway for councils to inform water policy. Joining the Alliance would strengthen both organisations: the Alliance would gain a credible Basin-wide local government partner, while the MDA would gain a focused platform for advancing a persistent issue affecting member communities.

MDA involvement could help:

- elevate water quality and amenity as core outcomes of carp management;
- bring local evidence and priority sites into Basin-wide policy discussions;
- connect councils with practical tools, case studies, expertise and potential partners;
- identify demonstration projects that produce visible local benefits;
- strengthen advocacy for coordinated investment, implementation timelines and accountability;
- show how carp action complements environmental watering and broader Basin Plan outcomes;
- support informed community understanding of conventional controls and the national biological control research and assessment process; and
- give communities a clearer line of sight from local concern to collective action.

Suggested areas for MDA participation

Opportunity	Potential MDA contribution
Represent local priorities	Bring forward member concerns about water quality, amenity, recreation, tourism, local assets and community confidence.
Shape Basin Plan advocacy	Help position carp management as a practical component of river health, native fish recovery and visible environmental outcomes.
Identify priority places	Use regional networks to identify waterways, wetlands and communities where coordinated action or demonstration projects could make a measurable difference.
Share knowledge across councils	Promote case studies, practical tools, local data and lessons through MDA regions, forums, communications and conferences.
Strengthen investment proposals	Support collaborative proposals that connect carp control with council priorities, catchment programs, environmental water and river restoration.
Build public confidence	Help communicate what is being done, what is working and where further government action is required.

Proposed next step

The Carp Action Alliance invites the Murray Darling Association to become a Partner and help connect the Alliance with its member councils across the Basin. The MDA could identify shared priorities and encourage councils to join and contribute practical projects, local evidence and case studies on carp, water quality and amenity. We ask the MDA to confirm its commitment to join, so we can work together to identify practical carp responses that it and its member councils can progress.

Less talk. More action.

Get in touch:

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TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 25/150142

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Outstanding Action Report [!\[\]\(0c786ebcc476adc8e87a8b72037b1322_img.jpg\)](#)  146

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

Council Meeting Date	MEETING ITEM	Action Officer	CRM No.	Minute No.	Council Resolution	Additional Information
22 Sep 2026	<u>CL02 ENDORSEMENT OF AMENDED FROST CONTROL FAN (CS-CP-309) - LOCAL POLICY</u>	GO	178525	26/265	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Christine Stead that: (a) Council endorse the amended Frost Control Fan Policy (CS-CP-309) as attached to the report, for public exhibition for a period of 42 days. (b) If submissions are received during the exhibition period, a further report to be prepared for Council. If no submissions are received, the amended Frost Control Fan Policy (CSCP-309) Policy be considered as adopted by Council as at the date of conclusion of the advertised exhibition period.	12/10/2026: On exhibition until 5 November 2026.
22 Sep 2026	<u>CL03 ENDORSEMENT OF FS-CP-102 RELATED PARTIES DISCLOSURE FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION</u>	GO	178526	26/266	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that Council: (a) Endorse the draft Related Parties Disclosures Policy (FS-CP-102) for public exhibition for a period of 28 days; (b) Note that where no submissions are received during the exhibition period, the policy will be adopted without further report to Council; and (c) Note that where submissions are received, a further report will be brought to Council for consideration of those submissions prior to adoption.	12/10/2026: On exhibition until 22 October 2026.

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

22 Sep 2026	<u>CL04 ENDORSEMENT OF FL-CP-201 PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION</u>	GO	178527	26/267	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Scott Groat that Council: (a) Endorse the draft Procurement Policy (FL-CP-201, Revision 6) at Attachment (a) for public exhibition for a period of 28 Days. (b) Note that where no Submissions are received during the exhibition period, the draft Policy will be adopted at the close of that period without further report to Council; and (c) Note that where submissions are received, they will be reported to Council with any recommended amendments prior to adoption.	12/10/2026: On exhibition until 22 October 2026.
8 Sep 2026	CL04 ENDORSEMENT OF TREASURY POLICY - RESERVES AND RESTRICTIONS FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION	SGO	177992	26/248	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Anne Napoli that Council: (a) Endorse the draft Treasury Policy on Reserves and Restrictions at Attachment (a) as a draft policy. (b) Endorse the 24 draft Reserve Operating Charters listed at Table 1 of this report, at Attachment (c), as draft charters. (c) Endorse the draft Master Reserve Register at Attachment (b). (d) Place the draft Policy, Reserve Operating Charters and Master Reserve Register on public exhibition	14/09/2026: On exhibition until 8 October 2026. 19/10/2026: No submissions received, this Policy was adopted.

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

					for a period of not less than 28 days. (e) Note that, should no submissions be received during the exhibition period, the Policy, the Reserve Operating Charters and the Master Reserve Register be adopted at the conclusion of that period without further report to Council. (f) Note that, should submissions be received during the exhibition period, a further report be presented to Council addressing those submissions prior to adoption.	
25 Aug 2026	CL01 VENDING VEHICLE POLICY (CS-CP-306) TRADING FEES AND CHARGES	DSD	177491	26/230	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Doug Curran that: (a) Council adopt the Trading Fees & Charges as detailed in Table 1, 2 & 3 of the report with a 50% reduction for a 12 month trial period. (b) The Trading Fees & Charges as detailed in Table 1, 2 & 3 of this report with a 50% reduction for a 12 month trial period to be included in Council's Revenue Policy for the 2027/28 financial year. (c) Council endorse the revised Vending Vehicles Local Policy, as attached to the report, for public exhibition for 42 days. If submissions are received, a	08/09/2026: On public exhibition until 4pm, 9 October 2026. 19/10/2026: Submissions received. Report back to Council November 2026.

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

					further report be prepared for Council. If no submissions are received, the Vending Vehicles Local Policy be considered as adopted by Council as at the date of the conclusion of the advertised exhibition period.	
8 April 2025	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JENNY ELLIS	DBCF FM MA	158565	25/095	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Tony O'Grady that Council allocate sufficient funds from the cash reserves set aside for the Regional Art Gallery project (currently at \$109K) based on quotes received for the following items and report back to Council: (a) Signage for the front of the Gallery - to be designed, manufactured, and installed. (Approximately \$5K) (b) New hanging track system - to enhance the display and functionality of exhibition spaces. (Approximately \$10K) (c) Repainting of the walls and ceiling of the whole gallery - To refreshen and cover water damaged ceilings (National average: \$60-\$100/ sqm; Gallery is 422sqm therefore up to \$42K).	2/03/2026: Gyprock repairs and painting complete – October 2025. New hanging system installed – February 2026. New sign is being designed and costed. Will require development consent. Scheduled for installation in mid-2026. 20/07/2026: Refer to Question on Notice Report. 7/10/2026: Development Application is under preparation. Procurement plan has been prepared. Installation not likely until early to mid 2027.

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT
COMPLETION BY OTHER AGENCIES PENDING

Council Meeting Date	MEETING ITEM	Action Officer	CRM No.	Minute No.	Council Resolution	Additional Information
12 Aug 2025	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE STEAD	GM	163429	25/236	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer that: (a) Council request the General Manager prepare a report detailing outstanding debts owed to local contractors for the Hanwood Amenities Block. The report is to include options on how Council can assist resolving these debts after the Greenwich Voluntary Administration process. (b) Council staff review procurement processes and policies to prevent a recurrence of situations where local contractors remain unpaid for work undertaken due to a contractor's insolvency.	1/09/2025: Report to Council 9 September 2025. 12/09/2025: GM to report to Council after the finalisation of the ASIC proceedings. 7/04/2026: Other creditors are pursuing recovery however unlikely due to limited assets. 19/10/2026: There are no further funding options available, the matter is closed and will be removed from this list.
24 February 2026	CL01 GRIFFITH URBAN CROWN LAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTIVATION - MASTERPLAN AND BUSINESS CASE	DBCf/ GM	170792	26/040	RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Shari Blumer that: (a) Council endorse the Griffith Urban Crown Land Affordable Housing Activation - Masterplan and Business Case. (b) The General Manager and Mayor be authorised to approach State and Federal bodies and other relevant stakeholders and government agencies to progress this process further.	11/03/2026: The General Manager has reached out to the Minister for Housing The Hon Rose Jackson MP. The Minister's office advises that we should contact the Aboriginal Housing Authority (AHO) in the first instance. Contact has been made, as yet no commitment to meet. 14/09/2026: Meeting planned for 15 September 2026 with Executive Director of Crown

OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT
COMPLETION BY OTHER AGENCIES PENDING

					(c) A report be brought back to Council providing updates in due course.	Lands and additional meeting with Minister Jackson scheduled on 16 September 2026. 19/10/2026: Crown Lands investigating options to open up funding to enable the project to move forward.
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