AGENDA

DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026 AT 4:00 PM

1		Apologies
2		Confirmation of Minutes
3		Business Arising
4		Declarations of Interest
5		Items of Business
CL01	p7	Update from Sally Blair Griffith Bus Lines
CL02	p8	Work Experience Feedback
CL03	p10	Update International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPWD) on 3rd December
CL04	p11	Cook and Connect Workshops in September School Holidays
6	p12	Outstanding Action Report
7		General Business
8		Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Laurie Testoni, Geoff Tarr (Community Representative), Jaimee Damini (Community Representative), Jodie Ridge (Community Representative), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Ralph Twaddell (Community Representative), Soheil Derakhshan (Community Representative), Suzanne Biondo (Community Representative), Lindsay Wickey (Community Representative), Dene Beltrame (Community Representative), Debbie Honeychurch (Community Representative), Abbey Ieraci (Community Representive), Kylie Gatto Brown (Community Representive)

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson; Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst; Project Planner, Melanie Vella; Community Development Coordinator, Melissa Canzian and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo

Quorum = 3

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

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

Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

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

Quorum = 3

STAFF

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

Absent: Debbie Honeychurch (Community Representative)

1 APOLOGIES

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

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Lindsay Wickey and Ralph Twaddell that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 June 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

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

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

Suzanne Biondo
CL01 - Committee Member Agenda Item - Suzanne Biondo
Reason - The matter concerns a complaint I previously lodged with the Australian Human Rights Commission.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

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

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

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

CL01 COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEM - SUZANNE BIONDO

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

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

CL02 UPDATE: GRIFFITH PLAY GROUND STRATEGY

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

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

Ms Vella provided an update on the review of the Playground Strategy, noting that the current strategy was adopted in March 2014 and is now over ten years old. A

comprehensive review is planned over the next 12 to 18 months, with all aspects of the strategy to be reassessed. The review process will include the development of a draft strategy, public exhibition, and final consideration by Council.

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

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

Ms Vella left the meeting at 5:10 pm.

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

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

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

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

CL04 UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

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

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

CL05 SCHOOL HOLIDAY COOKING WORKSHOP

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



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

Mr Tarr left the meeting at 5:21 pm.

CL06 COMMITTEE MEMBER APPLICATION - ABBEY IERACI

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

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Committee noted the Action Report.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

8 NEXT MEETING

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

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

CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **Update from Sally Blair Griffith Bus Lines**

FROM **Melissa Canzian, Community Development Coordinator**

TRIM REF **26/133578**

SUMMARY

At the 16 September DIAC Meeting, the following recommendation was made:

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

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

Sally from Griffith Bus Lines to discuss with the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

For the Committee to discuss.

REPORT

Nil.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE **CL02**

TITLE **Work Experience Feedback**

FROM **Antoinette Galluzzo, Governance Officer**

TRIM REF **26/116330**

SUMMARY

Please find attached correspondence received on the 15 September 2026 regarding a positive work experience at Griffith City Council.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee note the information.

REPORT

Nil.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 4.2 Encourage an inclusive community that celebrates social and cultural diversity.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Email - Work Experience Feedback 9

Antoinette Galluzzo

Subject: FW: Work Experience - [redacted] and [redacted]

From: Christine Scremin [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 15 September 2026 5:59 PM
To: Luella Gatto [redacted]
Subject: Re: Work Experience - [redacted] and [redacted]

Dear Luella,

Thank you so much for giving our Kailnda students the wonderful opportunity to participate in work experience. The once-a-week structure over the term really allowed the students to develop a routine where they could plan and reflect on their experiences at school.

I found the online application process to be easy, and the letters of acceptance were very well organised, clear, and effective. Initially, we provided a support officer to help the students settle in, but as they gained confidence and became comfortable in their work environments, this support was gradually reduced.

Unfortunately, [redacted] was absent for a few weeks, but after discussions with her parents about the importance of work experience, she has become more consistent in attendance.

We have also written letters of thanks to Chris from the library and Anita from the basketball stadium, asking if they would be possible referees for the students' resumes that have been created at school.

Both students seemed to really enjoy their work experience and are disappointed that it is coming to an end.

Many thanks again for helping to make this experience possible for them.

Kind regards,

Christine Scremin

CLAUSE **CL03**

TITLE **Update on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPWD) on 3rd December**

FROM **Melissa Canzian, Community Development Coordinator**

TRIM REF **26/133579**

SUMMARY

Staff to provide an update.

RECOMMENDATION

For the Committee to discuss.

REPORT

Nil

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE **CL04**

TITLE **Cook and Connect Workshops in September School Holidays**

FROM **Melissa Canzian, Community Development Coordinator**

TRIM REF **26/133582**

SUMMARY

Staff to provide an update.

RECOMMENDATION

For the Committee to discuss.

REPORT

Nil.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Griffith City Council OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

TITLE **Outstanding Action Report**

TRIM REF **26/134108**

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Disability Inclusion and Access Committee - Action Report - 11 Nov 2026 ⇩ 13

ACTION REPORT

DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESS COMMITTEE – 11 November 2026

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
16 Sep 2026	**CL01 Committee Member Agenda Item - Suzanne Biondo**	**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Suzanne Biondo and Dene Beltrame that Council Staff write to the Minister for Disability to discuss the regional issues with employment for people with a disability and seek information on current programs, funding opportunities and initiatives available to support employment pathways, workforce participation and inclusion within regional communities.	Shireen / Viv/ Melissa	**26/10/2026:** Letter sent to Minister 23/10/2026.
16 Sep 2026	**5 - Item of Business**	**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Geoff Tarr and Dene Beltrame that Council: (a) Write to local taxi services to find out how many wheelchair accessible taxis there are in Griffith and when they are operating. (b) Enquire about the booking process, policies and priorities.	Shireen / Viv/ Melissa	**4/11/2026:** Sally from Griffith Bus Lines to discuss with Committee.
17 June 2026	**CL05 Request For Designated Disability Car Parks - Dog Park - Coolah Street Griffith**	**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Dene Beltrame and Jodie Ridge that Council staff respond to the authors of the letters and petition, in favour of the request.	Phil King	**9/09/2026:** Response has been sent in favour of the request. **16/09/2026:** In the process
17 June 2026	**CL02 Helen Dalton Mp Request - Accessibility And Safety Concern In Relation To Banna Avenue In Griffith**	**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Ralph Twaddell and Lindsay Wickey that: (a) Council promote disabled parking spots for wheelchair accessibility in Banna Avenue.	Shireen Donaldson / Phil King	**9/09/2026:** Centre Aisle of Banna Ave has been assessed and a budget bid will be prepared for the 2027/28 additional access ramps to be installed.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
		(b) Council consider the installation of additional ramps adjacent to all disabled parking zones in the centre aisle of Banna Avenue and other possible opportunities within Banna Avenue, subject to a successful budget bid in the 2027/28 budget.		**16/06/2026:** Committee request Mr King to present a report to the Committee with proposed options, before budget bid.
28 May 2025	**CL07 Items Raised by Committee Member**	Item 3 – Mrs Hams raised the issue of disabled parking at Service NSW. A disabled parking space has been removed and it is very difficult for disabled people to access the footpath. Ms Donaldson advised this would be raised with the Senior Management Team.	Shireen Donaldson SMT	**17/09/2025 Action:** A letter to be sent on behalf of the Committee to Service NSW and be recorded on a Correspondence Register. **1/12/2025:** Letter was **not** sent to Service NSW, as staff provided a response. Please see below. After receiving a complaint about a mobility aids rolling away, Council's assessment of the designated disabled parking spot at Service NSW, found that it was non-compliant with AS 2890. There are two parallel parking spots designated for disabled parking on both the eastern and western sides of Kooyoo Street between Canal Street and Yambil Street.
28 May 2025	**CL07 Items Raised by Committee Member**	Item 2 – Mrs Hams raised the issues of access at the Yenda Post Office and kerb and guttering at the Yenda shops. Mrs Donaldson advised the Committee she would raise the access to the Yenda Post Office issue with the Senior Management Team. The kerb and guttering issue will be referred to the Roads, Parks, Pathways Enhancement Committee.	Shireen Donaldson SMT	**17/09/2025:** Report to RPPEC 23 October 2025. **17/09/2025:** Cr Testoni thought Council did an inspection – Ms Donaldson to follow up. **17/09/2025 Action:** A letter to be sent on behalf of the Committee to Yenda Post Office and be recorded on a Correspondence Register.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
				1/12/2025: Letter was not sent, as RPPEC to review. **30/03/2026:** Access to the Yenda Post office is the responsibility of the owner. The kerb and gutter has been constructed as per the standards of the era it was installed. It remains functional and fit for purpose. It is higher than modern standards although there is a ramp and a layback to assist with access from the road pavement onto the footpath. Council currently has no intention to upgrade the kerb & gutter in Yenda.
28 May 2025	**CL06 Kooyoo Street Mall - Installation of Tactile Indicators**	**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Jodie Ridge and Ralph Twaddell that Council install yellow tactile indicator tiles (Option 2) in accordance with AS 1428.4 Means to assist the orientation of people with vision impairment – Tactile ground surface indicators (TGSI), as recommended by best industry practice for safety.	Phil King	**16/06/2025:** Approved by Council, fitting to take place. **9/09/2025:** Council will order materials and fit in accordance with plan by November 30 2025. **25/03/2026:** Status remains the same, anticipated to be completed this financial year. **08/09/2026:** Works programmed for completion prior to Dec 2026.
2 February 2023	**Adult Change Facilities**	Ms Owen to prepare a letter to Griffith City Council and Griffith Sports Council requesting that Adult Change Facilities be installed in at GRSC.	Peter Badenhorst	**3/5/2023:** Ms Owen sent a letter to the GRSC asking that adult change facilities be considered for their venue. Councillor Blumer advised that Councillor Testoni and the Sports Council will progress this matter. **6/06/2024: RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Pat Cox and Marilyn Hams that Council investigate the cost of installing

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
				adult change facilities at the Griffith Regional Sports Centre. **SMT Comment:** Should Council support the above recommendation, Council staff will be required to undertake an assessment of the GRSC as to its ability to accommodate the equipment required. As part of this assessment, Council staff will obtain a costing to purchase a mobile adult change table and mobile hoist. The Committee further discussed the lack of accessible adult change facilities outside of business hours and central to the community, with possible MLAK system facilities to be looked at. **RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Nickolette Owen and Soheil Derakhshan that Council investigate the creation of a 24-hour accessible adult change facility with a hoist in a central location in Griffith, an option being Memorial Park. **17/09/2025:** Referred to RPPEC **17/09/2025:** Council Investigate different options of the installation of a 24-hour accessible adult change facility with a hoist in a central location in Griffith with the options and costings presented to the next Committee meeting on the 19 November 2025. **12/11/2025:** Report to first meeting in 2026. **16/09/2026:** Mr Badenhorst stated Griffith Regional Sport Centre currently exploring

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
				options and it is not possible to do at the Community Centre.