
**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT

The Mayor, Doug Curran in the Chair; Councillors, Glen Andreazza, Shari Blumer, Simon Croce, Jenny Ellis, Manjit Singh Lally, Melissa Marin, Anne Napoli, Christine Stead, Chris Sutton, Laurie Testoni and Dino Zappacosta

STAFF

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Steve Saffioti, Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs and Minute Taker, Hannah Hall

MEDIA

Cai Holroyd, Area News.

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Laurie Testoni 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

No apologies or requests for leave of absence were received.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

23/250

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreazza and Christine Stead that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 10 October 2023, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Glen Andreazza	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Simon Croce	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	

Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Chris Sutton
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared **PASSED** by 12 votes to 0.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) - DECISION TO APPLY TO THE INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL (IPART)

23/251

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Glen Andrezza that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Mr Robert Milton MacFarlane to speak.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Glen Andrezza	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Simon Croce	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Anne Napoli	

Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Chris Sutton
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 12 votes to 0.

23/252

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreatza and Laurie Testoni that the meeting resume standing orders.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Glen Andreatza	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Simon Croce	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Anne Napoli	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Chris Sutton	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 12 votes to 0.

Councillors Curran and Ellis moved the following **MOTION** that:

- (a) Council receive and note the SRV Community Engagement Summary attached to the report including submissions, feedback received and key findings.
- (b) Council apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under Section 508(A) of the Local Government Act 1993, for a permanent SRV of 10.5% inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg each year for three consecutive years from 2024/25 to 2026/27. This is a cumulative increase of 34.9%. Applications are to be submitted by 5 February 2024 as determined by IPART.
- (c) Council to notify IPART that it intends to apply for a Special Rate Variation as referred to in (b) above, by 25 November 2023 (date as determined by IPART).
- (d) Council approves additional Service Reviews to those already listed in the 2022/23-2025/26 Delivery Program, as identified in this report. These are functions within the General Fund and will explore productivity improvements and cost containment strategies. The Delivery Program is to be updated accordingly.
- (e) Management to report to Council on a quarterly basis with details of cost savings and additional revenue initiatives.
- (f) Council to review the Financial Hardship Policy (FS-CP-506) to ensure adequate assistance is provided to ratepayers experiencing genuine financial hardship.
- (g) Council cap increases to Water and Sewer charges by the assumed 3% annual rate peg (per the SRV) for the period of the 3 year implementation of the SRV.
- (h) Council increase the pensioner rebates on Ordinary Rates by the following amounts for

the period of the 3 year implementation of the SRV.

	Additional Rate per Assess	Additional Annual Cost
Year 1	\$100	\$123,700
Year 2	\$75	\$92,775
Year 3	\$50	\$61,850
	Total	\$278,325

- (i) Council staff prepare the next draft Operational Plan (Budget) 2024/2025, draft Delivery Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26 and the draft 10 year 2024/25 – 2033/34 Financial Plan on the basis of removing the Art Gallery project.
- (j) Council staff prepare reports with respect to the following cost savings projects and alternative revenue opportunities:
 - i) Paid parking at the Airport
 - ii) Review of recent energy audit and further installation of solar panels on high energy consumption facilities.
 - iii) Audit of buildings owned by Council which are leased to other entities (to include purpose of the original purchase and current lease arrangements relative to commercial terms).
 - iv) Initiate a Road Service review as a matter of priority (as referred to in this report) including improvements to the gravel and sealed road networks and the resheeting programs.

Councillor Zappacosta **FORESHADOWED** the following **MOTION**:

- (a) Council not make application to IPART for a SRV.
- (b) Council acknowledges that to achieve a financially sustainable position, Council needs to generate savings or additional revenue of \$4M per annum in the general fund.
- (c) In preparation for the FY24/25 draft budget a “RAZOR GANG” be set up consisting of Councillors and the General Manager to address the pressures on Councils general fund.
- (d) The “RAZOR GANG” to report to Council for the preparation of the FY24/25 draft budget.
- (e) That the Community in general be thanked for their input into the SRV discussions over the public consultation period.

Councillor Stead tabled a Petition in relation to the Special Rate Variation.

23/253

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Jenny Ellis that:

- (a) Council receive and note the SRV Community Engagement Summary attached to the

report including submissions, feedback received and key findings.

- (b) Council apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under Section 508(A) of the Local Government Act 1993, for a permanent SRV of 10.5% inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg each year for three consecutive years from 2024/25 to 2026/27. This is a cumulative increase of 34.9%. Applications are to be submitted by 5 February 2024 as determined by IPART.
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- (d) Council approves additional Service Reviews to those already listed in the 2022/23-2025/26 Delivery Program, as identified in this report. These are functions within the General Fund and will explore productivity improvements and cost containment strategies. The Delivery Program is to be updated accordingly.
- (e) Management to report to Council on a quarterly basis with details of cost savings and additional revenue initiatives.
- (f) Council to review the Financial Hardship Policy (FS-CP-506) to ensure adequate assistance is provided to ratepayers experiencing genuine financial hardship.
- (g) Council cap increases Water and Sewer charges by the assumed 3% annual rate peg (per the SRV) for the period of the 3 year implementation of the SRV.
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 - i) Paid parking at the Airport
 - ii) Review of recent energy audit and further installation of solar panels on high energy consumption facilities.
 - iii) Audit of buildings owned by Council which are leased to other entities (to include purpose of the original purchase and current lease arrangements relative to commercial terms).
 - iv) Initiate a Road Service review as a matter of priority (as referred to in this report) including improvements to the gravel and sealed road networks and the resheeting

programs.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Glen Andreazza	Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Shari Blumer	Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Jenny Ellis	Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	Councillor Dino Zappacosta
Councillor Chris Sutton	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 5.

CL02 DA 85/2023 - SINGLE STOREY SECONDARY DWELLING

23/254

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Simon Croce and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council, as the consent authority pursuant to Section 4.16(1)(a) of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, grant consent to Development Application DA 85/2023(1) for a Secondary Dwelling at Lot 1589 DP 751709, No. 1 Wilga Street Hanwood subject to conditions including those set out in Attachment 'A' of this report; and;
- (b) Development Application 85/2023(1) be delegated to the Director of Sustainable Development for the preparation and issue of the notice of determination.

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

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Glen Andreazza	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Simon Croce	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Anne Napoli	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Chris Sutton	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 12 votes to 0.

CL03 CLOSURE OF KOOYOO STREET STAGE 1 - BANNA AVENUE TO BANNA LANE

Councillor Marin asked for the initial cost of each bollard in Kooyoo St, and how much it would cost if they were to be removed. This was taken on notice by Mr Gordon.

23/255

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreazza and Chris Sutton that Council authorise the General Manager to apply to Transport for NSW to permanently close Kooyoo Street, Griffith from Banna Avenue to Banna Lane for the purpose of motor vehicle access.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreatza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Chris Sutton
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 5.

The General Manager read out a Public Address received from Mr and Mrs Tropea regarding CL02 - DA 85/2023 - Single Storey Secondary Dwelling. The Mayor offered to recommit the vote should Councillors wish.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

Nil

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

23/256

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreatza and Melissa Marin that the report be noted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreatza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Chris Sutton
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 12 votes to 0.

14 MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY CLOSED COUNCIL

Nil

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:12pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON