

GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUBMISSION

RE: Public Exhibition Endorsement of the Draft Delivery Program 2017/18 - 2020/21 Incorporating the Draft Operational Plan (Budget) for the 2018/19 Financial Year

SUBMISSION DATE – 11TH MAY 2018



PRELUDE

GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER ARE A VOICE FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The Griffith Business Chamber (GBC) is a not for profit association that has been promoting, supporting & protecting the interests & sustainability of businesses in Griffith since 1953.

We build and strengthen relationships with local businesses, local council, state and federal government for the benefit of the business community.

Our Executives are involved in various local committees to ensure the voice of the business community are constantly being heard by the appropriate decision makers.

WE ARE COMMITTED & PASSIONATE ABOUT BUSINESS

GBC on the business communities' behalf provide support and represent our members by lobbying at a local, state and federal government level. We provide an avenue to inform, advocate and promote our members through publications, events and activities.

OUR GOALS & VISION

GBC continue to work towards the Executive developed 10 Point Plan that aims for Griffith to thrive and prosper. The plan helps align our focus towards the important matters of the Griffith community:

- WATER
- EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT
- TRUST MARK
- DECENTRALISATION
- HEALTH
- DEVELOPMENT
- REJUVENATION
- REPRESENTATION
- TRANSPORT
- TOURISM & REJUVENATION

Our aim through the 10 Point Plan is to support, generate & facilitate the growth of a strong business sector through creation and retention of employment, regenerating pride with a positive profile within the community.

DELIVERING ON OUR GOALS & VISION

Implementation of the 10 Point Plan for a sustainable future for the entire business community is far from simple however provides key enablers to allow our highly regarded entrepreneurs to maximise their market opportunities.

Our method focuses solely on promoting and providing **transparent** an **honest** information and feedback which is completely reasonable for a region of this size. GBC constantly lobby, meet and liaise with government officials and key stakeholders at all levels about each item of the 10 Point Plan.

SUBMISSION

On behalf of Griffith's peak Business Representative Group – Griffith Business Chamber (GBC) – we make this formal submission on the *Draft Delivery Program 2017/18 - 2020/21 Incorporating the Draft Operational Plan (Budget) for the 2018/19 Financial Year and draft Ten Year Long Term Financial plan 2018/19 to 2027/28.*

We understand that our leaders/planners need to be positive and create confidence for the community. The current efforts of withholding crucial information with an unwillingness to adapt and be proactive (a "head in the sand" attitude) and no reference to challenges, simply creates distrust and permanently damages confidence.

We have determined that Griffith City Council (GCC) have multiple breaches of the Legislated Office of Local Government requirements regarding the *Integrated Reporting and Framework*: *Community Strategic Plan*, Essential Elements, Accountability in Annual reports, requirements of section 402 of the Act and more (in reference to: <u>https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/integrated-planning-and-reporting/framework</u>).

The entire process of the GCC is fundamentally flawed and lacking due diligence, community consultation, accountability and robust perpetual monitoring and review. This submission will be reported to the NSW Government Office of Premier and Cabinet - Local Government and The Minister for Local Government Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP and Member for Murray Austin Evans.

GCC has actively campaigned to stifle community input and victimise anyone who attempts to put their view forward.

Going forward GBC will also be lodging Codes of Conduct complaints against General Manager Brett Stonestreet and Mayor John DalBroi for these alleged breaches;

- councillor misconduct
- systemic and serious deficiencies in council functions and operations
- serious non-compliance with the Act and regulations

We find the Guiding Griffith 2040 vague, loose and unmeasurable and an inappropriate substitute for a compliant and meaningful 10 Year Community Strategic Plan. This poor plan has resulted in the Draft Delivery Program 2017/18 – 2020/21 incorporating Draft Operational Plan 2018/19 and worse of all the Draft Ten Year Long Term Financial plan 2018/19 to 2027/28 to be lacking at multiple levels.

The GCC 2016 – 2017 Annual Report lacks accountability between a council and its community. The annual report does not focus on the council's implementation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan which are the plans that are wholly the council's responsibility. The report also lacks information that is prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The report does not honestly help the community understanding of how the council has been performing both as a business entity and a community leader.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN – 10+ YEARS

GCC have submitted the <u>Guiding Griffith 2040</u> document as the <u>10 Year Community Strategic Plan</u> (refer to the following: <u>https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-OIW-</u> <u>24-18-70</u>)



Figure 1. Extract from Integrated Report and Framework document (pg 9)

This alleged "Strategic Plan" depicts an aspirational marketing document rather than the necessary requirements in an adequate 10 Year Community Strategic Plan. The specific guidelines and Local Government Acts have clearly not been adhered to in reference to the *Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines* manual (<u>https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Intergrated-Planning-and-Reporting-Guidelines-March-2013.pdf)</u>.

Please see link to example of what GBC believes a 10 Year Strategic Plan with proper community consultation and engagement <u>file:///C:/Users/paul/Downloads/Imagine_Lismore_10_Year_Plan.pdf</u>

Quote from Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell;

"Our previous strategic plans were developed in-house with a facilitator and placed on exhibition for community feedback.

That was how we did things back then. Lismore City Council has come a long way in the intervening years.

We understand and embrace community engagement and the Imagine Lismore process has given us all a new appreciation for the wealth of talent, expertise and energy that exists in our community. This cutting-edge engagement has drawn the attention of councils and other organisations around the nation. I have had phone calls and emails from councils throughout NSW, Victoria and Queensland that want to know how we reached out to our community. In addition, the leaders of The new Democracy Foundation, ex Premiers Nick Greiner and Geoff Gallop, wrote to praise Imagine Lismore as an excellent example of community-driven future planning. Now begins the exciting task of turning our plans into reality."

KEY ISSUES WITH INTEGRITY OF 10 YEAR COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan as defined by the NSW Government *Integrated Reporting and Framework* manual address comprehensively the four key areas with test and considered application:

Objective	Social issues	Environmental issues	Economic issues	Civic leadership issues
Developing tourism opportunities	 Employment opportunities Promoting a 'sense of place' and pride in the community Opportunities for cultural exchange, entertainment and events Equity - sharing facilities and balancing the needs of residents and visitors Public amenity and community safety impacts Development design and scale 	 Protecting environmentally sensitive areas from development and human activity Reducing environmental impacts of tourist operations eg water consumption, waste, energy Encouraging eco-tourism developments Impact of climate change on key tourist areas 	 Build a diverse economic base for the community Regional opportunities in co- operation with neighbouring LGAs Attracting outside investment Local business development strategies, links with existing businesses Sustainable income - seasonal trends and over-supply issues Opportunities for public/ private partnerships 	 Opportunities to engage other agencies Governance structures for the city's tourist operations Managing volunteer programs for residents to welcome and assist tourists Level of council support for local tourist industry - what will be provided, what are the priorities?

There is a clear avoidance to significant issues by the GCC in all four key areas, but most relevant to the GBC are the lack of addressing and implementation to measure the **Economic Issues**.

As the *Integrated Reporting and Framework* manual depicts, GCC in consultation with the community needs to address:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be in 10 years' time?
- How will we get there?
- How will we know we've arrived?

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT (GRP)

In reference to the *Guiding Griffith 2040* document, <u>Section 3. Growing our City</u>, there is NO Delivery Plan (DP), Operational Plan (OP) Plan or Performance Measure addressing the Gross Regional Product (GRP) decline concerns, or assignment of responsibility to role.

It is clear too from GCC *Draft Delivery Program 2017/18* on exhibit that Griffith's significant economic decline from 2010 measured by the Gross Regional Product (GRP) is not of Councils concern, and have failed to be acknowledged or mention any strategic correction.

There has been not real attempt or mention to Griffiths' declining GRP – in 2010 \$1571 million; year on year decline has occurred to the current low in 2016 – \$1391 million. This is a <u>cumulative GRP</u> <u>decline of \$180+ million</u>.

Year ending June	Headline GRP \$m	% change from previous year	Local industry GRP \$m	Local residents GRP \$m	Local industry to residents ratio
2016	1,391	-1.3	1,002	1,041	0.9
2015	1,409	-2.1	1,008	1,029	0.9
2014	1,439	+0.9	1,015	1,025	0.9
2013	1,426	-1.0	1,013	1,018	1.0
2012	1,440	-7.0	1,032	1,027	1.0
2011	1,549	-1.4	1,031	1,025	1.0
2010	1,571	+0.9	1,008	1,003	1.0
2009	1,556	-2.2	1,016	1,013	1.0
2008	1,591	+3.0	1,055	1,053	1.0
2007	1,545	-2.3	1,019	1,018	1.(
2006	1,581	+2.5	1,038	1,039	1.0
2005	1,542	+2.4	1,020	1,024	1.(
2004	1,506	-1.2	939	943	1.0
2003	1,524	-1.4	945	946	1.(
2002	1,545	+0.9	959	956	1.0
2001	1,532		967	966	1.0

Table 2. Extracted from EconomyID data - https://economy.id.com.au/griffith/gross-regional-product

Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2016. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id , the population experts. Data is based on 2014-15 constant prices for all years. NIEIR data are inflation adjusted each year to allow direct comparison, and new data releases normally adjust previous years' figures to a new base year.

Cumulative change in Gross Regional Product

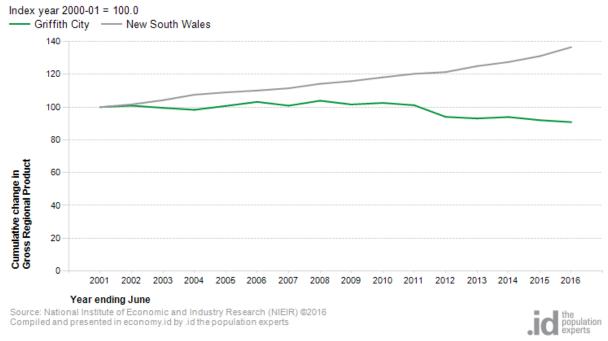


Figure 2. Extracted from EconomyID data - https://economy.id.com.au/griffith/gross-regional-product

HOUSING

GBC has for many years made it clear to GCC that Griffith is struggling with a housing land shortage in desirable suburbs, and a significant shortage in housing hindering population growth (between 2006 and 2016 - 7.5% (average) pop growth down to 2017 - 0.9%). This is directly attributed to shortage of housing.

The 'knock-on' effect has resulted in a rental housing shortage which has caused significant increases in rental prices (See related local news stories from The Area News).

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/3046817/rental-crisis-worsens/,

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/3513548/growing-housing-crisis/

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/4564275/rent-crisislooms/,

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/5148940/homeless-crisis-faced-by-stateless-women-and-children-in-griffith/,

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/4759352/griffith-rental-market-worse-than-crisis/,

This problem is further exacerbated by a significant skills shortage needed to fill jobs for businesses in our city. Relocation campaigns such as Griffith Now Hiring (<u>http://www.griffithnowhiring.com.au/</u>) supported by GCC are largely ineffective due to the actual lack of Housing available.

"A range of job opportunities and a rewarding career are waiting for you right now, so perhaps it's time to consider relocating to our thriving regional city. With affordable housing, a laid-back lifestyle and the essential services you need, the only thing missing is a long daily commute. Sounds appealing? Then keep reading because Griffith is Now Hiring."

Quote from <u>Griffith Now Hiring</u> landing page: <u>www.griffithnowhiring.com.au</u>

In reference back to the *Guiding Griffith 2040* document, Section: Love the Lifestyle, AIM 4.1 Measuring our Progress; (1) Number of residential building approvals, and (2) Number of Residential Lots available from approved subdivision (pg.25-26):

Councils Role: Specific activities Council will undertake to achieve these objectives and goals are listed in the Delivery Program and Operational Program.

In reference to the newly exhibited *Draft Delivery Program 2017/18, there are three loosely worded Performance Measures:*

Delivery Plan - Performance Measure	What isn't addressed
4.1.1.2 Affordable Housing incentives investigated. Affordable Housing strategy.	What housing incentives and strategies are being delivered for the community/developers?
4.1.2.1 Land availability monitor is current	What action is there to open up new land, not monitor current/available lots?
4.1.3.1 Number of new residents	How many new residents?

Strategic Plan - Performance Measure	What isn't addressed
Number of residential building approvals	How many? Is there an improvement in the ownership/rentals? Is there an impact to the rental crisis (affordability or vacancy rates)?
Number of residential lots available from approved subdivisions	How many new lots? What is in the pipeline? How many lots have been released that are desirable?

There is NO mention of the current Housing Crisis /Land availability shortage/Rental Crisis by GCC in either document, and there is a clear failure to address and continue working towards the solution.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ISSUES

The following sub-sections are in reference to the GCC *Draft Delivery Program 2017/18* on exhibit among other documents;

Retail

The exhibit document neglects to entertain any suitable measures to the retail sector. In reference to section <u>Growing our City: AIM 6.2 Promote opportunities for existing businesses to grow</u>, GCC measures the retail performance by "Satisfaction with the variety of retail options".

GBC is aware that the local retail economic conditions are not 'booming' and positive, which is supported by local retailer sentiment. The Retail sector has been affected significantly from the Housing and population growth issues; refer to previous Section.

GCC has clearly neglected to provide any significant contribution through the *Draft Delivery Program* 2017/18 on exhibit.

Irrigation Water

Griffith is the Regional Capital of Western Riverina and is situated in the heart of The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. It is known by all that our economy is completely and intrinsically connected to irrigation water availability.

The Griffith region is the largest winemaking region in NSW and second in Australia only to The Barossa Valley. We are also the major growing district to nearly all Australia's rice, a hugely expanding Cotton industry, Citrus, Almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts, chicken, prunes and much more. We are a resilient community with outstanding entrepreneurs investing heavily in job creating industries like the Casella family and Steggles Baiada group.

Despite the significant expansion in these industries and others, our Gross Regional Product for Griffith LGA has been on a consistent decline since The Basin Plan began. This is even devastatingly worse in our neighbouring areas and towns in The Western Riverina.

The only reference in the referred exhibit to Irrigation water is <u>2.5.3 Build more dams action group –</u> <u>Draft Delivery Program</u> – this group has NOT met in this term of GCC.

Guiding Griffith 2040 document includes Irrigation water under the section Leadership <u>AIM 2.5</u> <u>Develop partnership to provide leadership in irrigation, water efficiency and availability</u> – NO steps in following Plans are taken and no accountability through Performance Measures.

The *MDBA interim Socio-Economic report* (refer to <u>https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications/mdba-reports/2017-basin-plan-evaluation-reports</u>) on the Southern Basin shows that:

"HAY LOST 28.6 per cent of its irrigation water to the basin plan and TOTAL workforce declined from 1,624 to 1,221 (24.8 per cent) AGRICULTURAL workforce decreased 41.9 per cent. EMPLOYMENT in irrigated production decreased 41.4 per cent (over half between 2001 and 2006).

Benerembah LOST 8.2% of available water 305.1GL. TOTAL workforce declined 375 to 336(10.4%) AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE Decreased 21.5% POPULATION Decreased from 516 to 493 persons (4.5%) between 2001 and 2016 Coleambally community LOST 7.9% of available water TOTAL WORKFORCE DECREASED 21% Decreased from 514 to 406 FTE (21%) between 2001 and 2016 We know factors like commodity prices, mechanisation, \$AUD & other influences are involved BUT NONE MORE than the stripping of Productive Water under The Basin Plan."

GCC did not make a submission at the recent Basin Plan Productivity Commission Griffith Hearing on 13th April 2018. It is important to note that neighbouring Councils & GBC did make submissions to that Hearing.

GCC made no comment to this weeks 605 Gigalitres disallowance motion in the Senate last Tuesday.

Griffith as a Regional capital relies on the abovementioned communities for part of its income, yet GCC have not divulged this information in any of the plans and has made no attempt to address this serious issue.

Investigation of Griffith City Council as a certifying authority

The Building Professionals Board investigates accredited certifiers working in councils and the private sector, as well as local councils in their capacity as certifying authorities to ensure they meet their statutory obligations.

On 21 Sep 2017 Building Professionals Board completed an investigation of Griffith City Council in its capacity as a certifying authority (<u>http://bpb.nsw.gov.au/news/investigation-griffith-city-council-certifying-authority</u> and also refer to <u>https://www.areanews.com.au/story/4950538/investigation-council-breached-the-law-on-building-certifications/</u>)

In accordance with section 45(8) of the Building Professionals Act 2005, the Board's final investigation report has been published on this website.

The final report was issued to Council on 25 July 2017 and made recommendations as to how the council manages, operates and delivers certification services. <u>http://bpb.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/public/Archive/investigation%20report%20GriffithCouncil %2025Jul2017.pdf</u>

The council is required to implement the recommendations and report to the Board within 12 months demonstrating the recommendations have been implemented. A copy of the final report was also provided to the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government in accordance with the requirements of the Building Professionals Act.

No mention of this exists in any of the prior and currently exhibited reports & the Community is currently unsure if GCC can fulfil its obligations to meet the requirements of this investigation by 25/07/18 and are very concerned by the potential \$33,000 per breach penalty that could result in Millions of Ratepayer dollars being wasted on fines for GCC non-compliance.

PERPETUAL MONITORING AND REVIEW

"The purpose of developing and implementing a Community Strategic Plan is to bring about some form of positive change or desired outcome within the community" (quoted from pg. 53 *Integrated Reporting and Framework* manual, <u>Essential Element 1.8</u>).

Essential Element 1.8 The Community Strategic Plan must identify assessment methods for determining whether the objectives are being achieved.

Following is a list of some of the methods that councils currently use to test the effectiveness of their long term strategic plans:

• Economic indicators such as commercial rental rates, gross regional product, tourism spend, labour market trends, development figures, property market details, retail spending (none of which are addressed)

- Community satisfaction ratings with various activities (determined by regular community surveys)
- Community perceptions (determined by regular community surveys)
- Housing affordability ratings eg the percentage of residents considered to be in mortgage or rental stress
- Local employment trends
- Public health indicators
- Crime statistics
- Public transport usage and commuting distances
- Usage figures for key facilities eg sports fields and aquatic centres
- Participation in cultural activities
- Progress towards waste reduction targets
- Progress towards water quality targets
- Water and energy consumption figures
- Educational enrolments
- Access to childcare
- Infrastructure condition assessments and improvement targets
- Sustainability indicators

(reference above extract from pg. 54 Integrated Reporting and Framework manual <u>https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Intergrated-Planning-and-Reporting-Manual-March-2013.pdf</u>)

It is clear from the GCC *Draft Delivery Program 2017/18* on exhibit that the assessment process focuses on outputs rather than outcomes (as identified in the Integrated Reporting and Framework manual as a consistent weakness is submissions).

LACK OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND TRANSPARENCY

SPORTS PRECINCT

The Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund is a key element of the NSW Government's \$1.3 billion investment program to build economies and develop communities across the state. Up to \$100 million has been made available to the regions, through the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund to support regional sport hubs and regionally significant sport facilities.

(https://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/oos-regional-sports-infrastructure-guidelines-2018.pdf)

	Earlies/	Skinge to Delivery	01991.72		Year'l Panding														
Puterity	Department	Program Community Storingle Plan	Pagest	Comments	Graenal Peopose Broomar	Gaasts' Contributions	-	Loans	PaperTobl	32809	anao	3003	308-32	ACRESS .	830391	XNUS	2000	an 20027 an	8878
10	Public Crassitules	86.14	Laws Bears - Burner Ave ste	Sinauroidable, as exponditure required to enable continued service provision, fund from fees and intergets periented.	7,630	8			REIO	7,630	7,000	7,898	8,236	8,626	8.825	9,133	0,453	8.794	10,1
	Pakis Crarksles	88.54	Nault Construction - Blumer Ave site	Drawoidable, as sepanditure required to enable continued service provision, fund from fees and charges generated	96.130				006120	96,130	2	102,974		115,308		118.185		126.541	
1	Public Crawboles	88.53	New Cametory - Stage 1 Allie Range Road	Funded from penetral purpose revenue. Expenditure unavoidable to provide Lapacity for this essential service to the community					1.70000	1		250,000		790.000	760.000				
	First	M8.12	Plant Replacement Program - General (Net)	Needed to maintain service level, fund from general purpose revenue	1,322.500				Lonnen.	1.322.500	1.157.750	1,312,500	1.511.750	892,800	1,712,250	1.147,500	1.329,250	1.390.000	1,182.6
28	Fleet	ML10	Depot Buildings Asset Maintenance (Capital)	Needed to maintain service level. fund from general purpose revenue	95.000	2			1.01008	95.000	98.000	10.000	810.000	391.000	345.128	29.984	29.964	29.564	\$0.0
	Aque fir Yor Biles	44	GRALC Radevalopment	Needed to improve service level, fund from external loan 50% & Grant 50%					omm	2 2010	3,000.000	3,000.000	10000					1.1.1	
	Apertic Focilities	442	Aquatic Facility Asset Maintenance (Capitel)	Needed to maintain service level, ford from Facilities Reserve		2	73.000		10040	73.000	42,000	70.500	27.500	23.500	27.000	22.000	38,000	54,500	52,5
3	Agentic Tocilla	44.2	Aquatic Facility Equipment Maintenance (Capital)	Needed to maintain service level, fund from general purpose revenue	84,500				CORRECT OF CORRECTOR O	84,500	105.000	\$2:000	71.800	36.000	17,500	88.000	35.500	77.000	30.5
*	Patha A.Cardinas	538	Weel End Sports Precinct	Needed to maintain service level, fund from grant, lean, contributions & Section (34A		() ()			1980000		10,000,000	8.800.000							-
	Parks &Gardens	688	Paypound Epidpment Replacement - General	Needed to maintain service level, fund from Section 34A		5	175.000		CATLAND	575.000	75.000		154.000	86.000	82.400	85,294	88,269	81.308	94.0
8	Paths &Castres	588	Playpround Egypment Replacement - City Park	Readed to maintain service aveal, Sund Yorn Section S4A	4				1.0.00	. 1.		121.681							

Figure 3. Extract from the draft delivery program financials

The CBD strategy is progressing slowly & Showgrounds redevelopment opportunities are being explored. GBC are involved with committees and are key stakeholders across these issues. A brilliant opportunity exists for the creation of a new single location Griffith sports precinct with the incorporation of a new 4 court Stadium, track & field, sporting ovals & even the consideration of a new complex with 50mtr outdoor pool & water park with indoor heated facilities as well. We are a strong sporting community with exceptional talent that should be given the best sporting opportunity, plus to attract national competitions.

Potential relocation of PCYC, Rotary markets & more.

The announcement of funding will be part of the \$1.3 billion allocated in the June state budget for regional growth in August 2017 from the State Government is potentially great news for Griffith:

"Regional communities across NSW will be asked to compete for \$100 million in state government funds when Deputy Premier John Barilaro opens the bidding on local proposals to build stadiums and other sports centres. Projects with a \$1m price tag will be considered"

However, the approval criteria favours much bigger infrastructure, as Mr Barilaro signals "strong proposals" will include stadiums capable of hosting regional, state and even national events for up to 20,000 people.

A brilliant opportunity exists for the creation of a new single location Griffith sports precinct with the incorporation of a new four court stadium, track & field, sporting ovals & even the consideration of a new complex with 50mtr outdoor pool & water park with indoor heated facilities as well. We are a strong sporting community with exceptional talent that should be given the best sporting opportunity with the potential to attract national competitions.

The GCC *Draft Delivery Program 2017/18* on exhibit clearly continues the withholding of information examples through the Sporting Precinct and Grant submission.

How does this affect the Business Community? Growth, redevelopment, investment in infrastructure is necessary to match the needs of a growing community. This is vital for tourism, investment of large industries and to keep locals from relocating to other areas.

Council has purposely <u>excluded GBC and community stakeholders</u>, except for a few community sports groups interested. Still to date no information regarding the submission or the details of the proposal have been revealed except hidden in the GCC *Draft Delivery Program 2017/18* on exhibit

From: Paul Pierotti [mailto:paul@caesars.net.au]
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2017 3:39 PM
To: Christopher McGregor; mruggeri@planningmatters.net.au; Brett Somerville
Cc: Brett Somerville; Dominic Teakle
Subject: RE: Thank you - Next Meeting

Hi Christopher,

Martin & I had productive meetings with NSW Premier & Cabinet last Thursday 17th August. We have had brief discussions with Griffith City Council & believe it timely we co-ordinate between yourself, Council & Showground Trust Chair.

Significant grant funding is being made & we believe that a whole of community Multi sports facility concept strategy needs to be explored.

https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/regional-growth-fund/ Are you available to meet Tuesday 29th August 4:30 pm at Knockonwood upstairs board room Gateway centre (next door to Harvey Norman Griffith)?

Regards,

Paul Pierotti | President Ph: 6964 2777 | Fax: 69647982 PO Box 93 | Griffith NSW 2680 www.griffithbusinesschamber.com.au



It was at this meeting Tuesday 29th August 2017 when I chased acting Economic Development Manager Phil Harding for his response with be attending this meeting "He responded The powers that be at Griffith City Council won't let me attend.

Hanwood Cycleway Project

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/4967373/state-government-kicks-in-funds-for-new-hanwoodcycleway/

Was never planned or budgeted.

rooquans & Cycleways	2.3.2	Cycleways (neseals a livew natils)	purpose revenue (50%) & RMS (50%)	00,000	00,000	1 1	1,331,780	130,000	117,000	121,800
Footpaths & Cycleways	8.2.3	CBD Paving Replacement	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	53,561			628,348	53,561	55,436	57,376
Footpaths & Cycleways	2.3.2	Hanwood Cycleway	Funded from RMS in 2018/19 & general purpose revenue, RMS & contribution from Baiada in 2019/20	0	625,000		1,200,000	625,000	575,000	
Footpaths & Cycleways	2.3.2	Villages Footpaths	Funded from SCCF Grant & general purpose revenue	22,570	196,000		437,140	218,570	218,570	
The Commenter	0117	Vegetilene	Needed to maintain service level, fund from OEH Grant (66.6%) & internal loan				9 400 000		1 500 000	000 000

Rose Garden, Clock Restaurant, Lake Board walk, Pathway to Hanwood, Skate Park, GRALC – Pool.

GCC have continually launched into unplanned projects without community consultation and budgeted ratepayer funds ahead of long awaited projects.

Rose Garden - This Proposed Rose Garden is budgeted at \$122,500 plus never-ending maintenance, upkeep, water & more ratepayer expenses on top of already stressed community assets requiring maintenance & upgrades.

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/5384185/business-chamber-council-out-of-touch-with-residents/?cs=670

Clock Restaurant Purchase – \$900,000 plus with no consultation or plans & now leased at peppercorn rent deal with maintenance rumoured to be greater than rental income

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/2835962/purchase-angers-griffith-businessman/

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/2850858/councillor-opposed-clock-purchase/

https://www.areanews.com.au/story/2822356/council-buys-clock-building-for-900000/

All of the above and more whilst the community goes without significant projects/infrastructure which is clearly outlined in the the GCC *Draft Delivery Program 2017/18* on exhibit.

						Charges
		Current Year Capital Item	Requests Not Consider	red Further Due To Lack Of Funding		Fees
74	3	Parks & Gardens		Parks & Gardens Lunch Room Extension	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	21,90
75	3	Parks & Gardens	1	Upgrade Irrigation System & Garden-Noorebar Avenue	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	15,00
76	5	Parks & Gardens	1	Dog Off-Leash Area (Collina)	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	50,00
77	5	City Strategy		Banna Lane Street Art	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue/NSW Dept of Industry grant & contribution from business houses	35,0(
78	5	Governance		Livestreaming of Council Meetings	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	17,00
79	5	Fleet		Brake Roller Tester-New Workshop	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	75,00
80	5	Fleet	1	Suspension Shaker-New Workshop	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	25,00
81	5	Fleet		Solar Power System-New Workshop	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	20,00
82	5	Fleet	1	Walk Behind Scrubber Sweeper-New Workshop	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	5,00
83	5	Fleet	:	2 x New Boom Gates-New Workshop	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	8,00
84	5	Fleet		Guilotine-Welders Workshop	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	2,40
85	5	Fleet		Internal Pallet Racking-Store	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	28,50
86	5	Public Cemeteries		New Amenities Building-Yenda Cemetery	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	60,00
					Total	362,80

Total Capital Items Not

Charges

						Rates/
						Charges/
		Longer Term Capital Item	s Not Considered Furth	er Due To Lack Of Funding		Fees
87	6	Pioneer Park Museum		New Signage	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	6,00
88	2	Parks & Gardens		Upgrade Filtration & Chlorination System at "Splash Pad" (City Park)	Needed to maintain service level, fund from general purpose revenue	15,00
89	3	Parks & Gardens	:	2 x New BBQ"s-Willow Park	Needed to maintain service level, fund from general purpose revenue	7,5
90	3	Parks & Gardens		2 x New BBQ"s-Lake Wyangan Picnic Area	Needed to maintain service level, fund from general purpose revenue	7,5
91	6	Parks & Gardens	I	New Artificial Christmas Tree-Griffith Memorial Park	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	
92	3	Parks & Gardens		Installation of Potable Water Supply including Bubbler, Tap & Concrete Pad-Dog Off Leash Area	Needed to maintain service level, fund from general purpose revenue	15,00
93	3	Parks & Gardens	1	New Toilet Block - Dalton Park (Inc demolition of existing one	Needed to maintain service level, fund from general purpose revenue	250,00
94	3	Parks & Gardens	1	Dalton Park Drainage Upgrade	Needed to maintain service level, fund from general purpose revenue	363,50
95	3	Pioneer Park Museum	1	Sewer Connection-Extension	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from fees and charges (50%) & PRMF Grant (50%)	25,00
96	6	Economic Development	I	Installation of WiFi in the CBD	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	33,00
97	3	Urban Stormwater		Crook Rd Drainage Upgrade	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	30,00
98	3	Urban Stormwater	1	Rae Rd Drainage Upgrade	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general purpose revenue	120,00
99	5	Roads & Bridges		50/50 Sealing of Roads	Lower priority but necessary in medium / longer term, fund from general	50,00

Figure 4. Extract from the draft Exibited document

IN SUMMARY

GBC Executive Chamber team started this process of making a submission on the latest documents on exhibition with regarding to planning and found that the problems with lack of transparency and community consultation linked with extremely poor short and long term planning strategies. This has led to poor outcomes overall.

However, it should be carefully noted that this is FAR MORE than a critique of the 10 Year Financial, Delivery and Operational programs.

We believe the issues are well beyond simply adding commentary to a submission on these documents and require full and complete review of all of Councils practices. We will be following this up through the Office of Local Government, Minister of Local Government, Member for Murray and Code of Conducts complaint department as we can see no way of allowing this incompetence to the community to continue.