



GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER INCORPORATED  
Annual General Meeting Minutes (68<sup>th</sup> AGM)  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 | 6.00pm | Griffith Leagues Club – Southside

**Incorporation #** Y1358815

## **MINUTES OF AGM**

Meeting declared opened at 6.12pm

Attendance:

Amanda Quarisa, Pat Pittavino, Paul Pierotti, John Wadsworth, Dean Owen, John Nikolic, Darryn Savage, Dean Owen, Denis Salvestrin, Annette Salvestrin, Ross Davidson, Michael Rowley, Alycia McLean, Catherin Stevenson, Danny Roller, Carmel LaRocca, Michael Crump.

### **1: APOLOGIES**

Sophie Sun – Quest Apartments

### **2: PRESIDENT'S WELCOME**

Paul Pierotti extended his thanks to everyone, the current committee for their efforts and everyone who attended. Paul highlighted key areas the Chamber are focused on.

It's been an interesting and disruptive year yet again. Chamber have been limited to face to face meetings. One meeting which we were fortunate to hold was the Lake Coolah Project back in March. Since then this had gained positive progress politically.

The Workforce Crisis is one big project Chamber are focused on. It's a hot topic for many business owners with the struggle to recruit employees. There are significant issues but the biggest problem Griffith face is our lack of housing and homelessness. The decline of building in Griffith is a problem and we need Council to step up. However all these issues presents opportunity.

Up til now only the Executive were privy to this information due to a non disclosure agreement and are pleased to reveal that Chamber have tried to apply for a 3.5 million Intermodal Freight Hub. The purpose to transport high value produce to Asia on a daily basis. Unfortunately the grant was unsuccessful, along with many others. The isolation of funds needs to be dispensed. Chamber are unsure why this has occurred. Our commercial partners and Chamber are keen to gain public support for this project and will keep pushing. Chamber also made a huge leap forward in internal operation by introducing XERO. This has made this easy for members to pay via credit now, which has been an issue for us in the past. It also streamlines our process and allows for better reporting.

Unfortunately Business Awards were once again stifled by COVID, let's hope 2022 will allow an awards program. In good news Flavourtech took out the prestigious State Award for Business of the Year with Business NSW along with winning Exporter of the Year plus Highly Commended for Excellence in Business and Employer of Choice. Fantastic effort and congratulations. Debortoli Wines were also Finalists in Excellence in Sustainability. Well done.

### **3: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM MEETING**

**Moved:** Pat Pittavino

**Seconded:** Darryn Savage

Motion carried

### **4: AGM FINANCIALS**

Financials were made available to download on Griffith Business Chamber website prior to AGM.

Treasurer- Peter Schirripa presented a summary of report and reasoning's behind the figures via phone.

**Moved:** Peter Schirripa

**Seconded:** Dean Owen

Motion carried

### **5. ELECTION OFFICER BEARERS**

John Wadsworth was invited to be returning officer & declare all positions vacant.

#### **Nominations for President:**

**Nominated:** Paul Pierotti

**Seconded:** Pat Pittavino

No vote required. Elected, congratulations!

#### **Nominations for Vice-President:**

**Nominated:** Pat Pittavino

**Seconded:** Paul Pierotti

No vote required. Elected, congratulations!

#### **Nominations for Treasurer:**

No nominations were received. Called any nominations from the floor. None received, remains open.

It is to be noted that in the previous meeting, Chamber ratified that they will outsource any financial preparation to Roy Spagnolo & Associates.

#### **Nominations for Secretary:**

No nominations were received. Called any nominations from the floor. None received, remains open.

**Nominated:** Amanda Quarisa

**Seconded:** Michael Rowley

Accepted. Motion carried.

**Public Officer:** Remains unchanged. Michael Rowley.

#### **Additional General Committee Members.**

No nominations were received by the deadline. Called for Nominations from the floor

**Nominated:** John Nickolic

**Seconded:** Amanda Quarisa

Accepted. Motion carried.

**Nominated:** Darryn Savage

**Seconded:** Pat Pittavino

Accepted. Motion carried.

**Nominated:** Ross Davidson  
**Seconded:** Darryn Savage  
Accepted. Motion carried.

**Nominated:** Alycia McLean  
**Seconded:** Michael Rowley  
Accepted. Motion carried.

**Nominated:** Michael Rowly  
**Seconded:** Amanda Quarisa  
Accepted. Motion carried.

Casual Vacancies remain open for general committee and welcome anyone to join.

## **7. PRESIDENTS WELCOME**

Returning officer handed the chair to Paul Pierotti to give Presidents Welcome.

4<sup>th</sup> December is Council Elections and is extremely critical. There is a surge of candidates and is growing which is fantastic to see. Chamber are profiling potential candidates and promoting to the community what they stand for online. Our tradition method of an Q&A face to face was proving difficult with COVID, so online profiling will be starting soon. Every candidate have equal footing. Chamber would like to see a big change and have very clear expectations of what we'd like to see from Council and they include addressing the housing crisis and workforce crisis which almost go hand in hand. State and Federal Government have recognised this and it's time Council do as well. Our Gross Regional Product must improve and be part of the GM's KPI, restructure of community consultation to include Chamber. Together we must address and harness these opportunities.

Welcome to the new committee. There's a lot of hard work to do and keen for everyone's input.

## **8. CLOSE**

There being no further business, meeting closed 7.07pm

Minute Secretary | Amanda Quarisa