



GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER INCORPORATED  
Annual General Meeting Minutes (69<sup>th</sup> AGM)  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 | 6.00pm | Griffith Leagues Club – Southside

**Incorporation #** Y1358815

## **MINUTES OF AGM**

Meeting declared opened at 6.08pm

### **Attendance:**

Amanda Quarisa, Paul Pierotti, Dean Owen, John Nikolic, Darryn Savage, Ross Davidson, Michael Rowley, Alycia McLean, Michael Crump, John Wadsworth, Peter Schrippa, Franco Pistillo, Daniel Meadows, Sean O'Reily, Oumi Karenga-Hewitt, Sophie & Yannick Sun

### **1: APOLOGIES**

Doug Curran – Mayor Griffith City Council

John Collins – Agriculture Tours Riverina

Frank Galluzzo – NSW Farmers

### **2: OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S WELCOME – Paul Pierotti**

"I am very proud of the Chamber's achievements to this point. I am also very excited about what positive outcomes will be achieved in the future.

I have been involved with the chamber for 30 Years in multiple Executive positions. I feel we have made significant progress for our members, business community and the community at large.

GBC has initiated the collaboration and cooperation between many stakeholder organisations including the recent initiatives with Griffith City Council, RDA Riverina and the DAMA project.

Many of the tasks that we have been intrinsically involved with, are not common business chamber activities. But we have had no choice but to step up and confront these issues.

Our economy is crippled by worker shortages,

Our children are still in desperate need of educators

And our health services and outcomes are at critical levels.

These extremely serious issues have been exacerbated by the lack of available and affordable housing. Our community and economy is suffering for it.

Council's inability to address issues in an ambitious and timely manner has crippled our ability to grow.

Council has under performed in lobbying for a fair water deal for our region, and council selling water and catastrophically killing Lake Wyangan is simply culpable.

Council's illegal water tax on developers has further hindered growth and may end up with over 50 million dollar litigation and ACCC investigations.

Critical transport needs like not moving the dangerous intermodal out of our CBD and not lobbying for inland rail through the Narrandera - Tocumwal food bowl route are further signs of neglect by GCC.

We shouldn't have to make Council act in a timely, transparent and accountable manner – but we have been forced to as Council's management is inadequate and there must be immediate change.

Our organisation has almost 70 years of history. We are a non- gender specific group of volunteers and should be proud of what we have achieved.

Although progress has been made, change in management at GCC is imperative for this community to advance and prosper.

I would urge everyone in the room to consider the best interests of the community while participating in the ballot for the next GBC executive."

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

**Moved:** Michael Rowley

**Seconded:** Alycia McLean

Motion carried

### **4: AGM FINANCIALS**

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

Representative from Roy Spagnolo & Associates- Peter Schirripa presented a summary of Financial Report.

**Moved:** Darryn Savage

**Seconded:** John Nikolic

Motion carried

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

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

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

**Nominated:** John Nikolic

**Seconded:** Alycia McLean

No vote required. Elected, congratulations!

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

**Nominated:** Alycia McLean

**Seconded:** Amanda Quarisa

No vote required. Elected, congratulations!

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

**Nominated:** Amanda Quarisa

**Seconded:** Alycia McLean

No vote required. Elected, congratulations!

It is to be noted that Griffith Business Chamber passed a motion in 2021 that they will outsource any financial preparation such as BAS and EOFY Reports to Roy Spagnolo & Associates. Day to day operations to be prepared by Treasurer.

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

**Nominated:** Amanda Quarisa

**Seconded:** Alycia McLean

No vote required. Elected, congratulations!

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

**Additional General Committee Members.**

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

**Nominated:** Darryn Savage

**Seconded:** John Nikolic

Accepted. Motion carried.

**Nominated:** Ross Davidson

**Seconded:** Darryn Savage

Accepted. Motion carried.

**Nominated:** Daniel Meadows

**Seconded:** Paul Pierotti

Accepted. Motion carried.

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

Heiko Meins has expressed interest and Chamber will contact him to fill a casual vacancy if still interested.

**7. NEWLEY ELECTED PRESIDENTS WELCOME – John Nikolic**

“Hello, my name is John Nikolic, I’m a solicitor and director of Cater & Blumer, and the new President for the Chamber.

I moved to Griffith about a year ago, and one of the first things I did was to apply to become a member of the Chamber’s Executive Committee.

I was immediately struck by the unflinching forthrightness of its President, the outgoing Paul Pierotti and its Vice President, the late Pat Pittavino. I was particularly struck by the breadth of Paul’s policy expertise – as many of you would now, Paul has the ability to deliver 45-minute presentations on the stump across a very wide range of political and economic issues, which is no mean feat.

It’s a privilege to be taking over the Presidency from Paul, and I thank him for his service to the Chamber over the past three decades. I would also like to acknowledge Pat’s service and note his passing, which has saddened all of us.

I’m looking forward to building on Paul and Pat’s legacy.

In what is now (hopefully) a post-Covid world, I’m keen for the Chamber to reinstate some social events, including an annual awards night and professional networking social events.

We will also continue to host information sessions and, moving forward, maintain the Employment Expo, which Amanda did a fantastic job organising this year.

A priority policy area will remain addressing the labour shortage, which was so graphically depicted on the Four Corners episode on Monday. Griffith has a huge capacity for growth, if we can access labour.

Another priority policy area will remain addressing the housing shortage, which we will need to keep an eye on, including DA approval timelines, noting that Council now have a capacity to shake things up with a new Director of Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs.

I’m very optimistic about Griffith’s future and that of the Chamber, which I look forward to serving over the next twelve months. Please feel free to contact me via the Chamber if you have any policy issues that you would like to raise.”

**8. CLOSE**

There being no further business, meeting closed 7.15pm

Minute Secretary | Amanda Quarisa

Signed: John Nikolic John Nikolic President Griffith Business Chamber

Date: 26 October 2022