

MINUTES OF MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 22 January 2025 | Griffith Leagues Club | 5.30pm

Meeting Opened 5.37 pm

ATTENDANCE: John Nikolic; Manjit Lally, Michael Rowley, Dean Owen, Thomas Ford, Jason Dossetor, Amanda Quarisa, Daniel Roller, Carmel La Rocca, William Phillips

APOLOGIES: None

1: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: Michael Rowley

Seconded: Daniel Roller

2: FINANCIALS

Held over to next meeting.

3: AGENDA

3.1: New Committee Members

- a) Confirmation of election of Jason Dossetor of J&J Dossetor Farming as Executive Committee Member via casual vacancy.

Moved: John Nikolic

Seconded: Daniel Roller

- b) Consider attendance by Council staff / councillors at Executive Committee meetings.

Motion: A representative from Griffith City Council to become an Executive Member of Chamber. The representative can either be the Mayor, a Councillor or Senior Staff member.

Move: Dean Owen

Seconder: Thomas Ford

Was put to a show of hands, all agreed. Motion Carried.

3.2: Policy priorities for 2025

- a) Worker and Housing Shortage

- i. Griffith Worker and Housing Shortage Taskforce – John provided update on housing submission.
- ii. Griffith Housing Strategy Review Workshop – 18 February 2025, 4 pm to 6 pm, Burley Griffin Room: <https://tinyurl.com/2v6jsp7>

- iii. Designated Area Migration Agreement – Expires in April. Limited take up so far. Need to promote more.

b) Water

- i. Lake Coolah project – update. Application for Narrandera Shire Council to conduct a Feasibility study was rejected.
- ii. Murray-Darling Association meeting and membership – Annual Meeting, September 2025, Griffith.

Motion: Chamber to join the committee.

Move: Jason Dossetor

Seconder: Manjit Lally

Notes: John to enquire and follow up

- iii. Advocacy in relation to water buybacks and federal election 2025.

c) Retail and hospitality

Retail & Hospitality need focus and to show our support through events, education and advocacy.

Move: Carmel La Rocca

Seconder: William Phillips

Motion Carried

3.3: Events and Member Engagement

a) DRAFT Monthly calendar of events

- i. **February** – Chamber and Grow Our Own / Regional Development Australia – ‘Behind School Gates Tour’
- ii. **March** – Veritech – ‘Stop Invoice Interception by Hackers – 3 Easy Steps for Local Businesses’ Meet the Candidates (Date to be confirmed) Executive Meeting. Newsletter.
- iii. **April** – Drop in Drinks at the GEM Meet the Candidates (Date to be confirmed)
- iv. **May** – Online Sales Marketing Workshop. Executive Meeting. Newsletter.
- v. **June** – Managing Change
- vi. **July** – Business Awards. Executive Meeting. Newsletter.
- vii. **August** – Industry Tour and/or Drop in Drinks
- viii. **September** – Council Economic Update SpendMap Data presentation. ‘Is It Worth Staying Open?’
- ix. **October** – Executive Meeting. Newsletter.
- x. **November** – AGM & Christmas Party / Buy Local Campaign Initiative
- xi. **December** – Buy Local Campaign Initiative

Other ideas: Designated Area Migration Agreement presentation, Drop-In Drinks, Social Media Workshops, Industry Tours.

Notes: Chamber to write to Grow our Own to suggest to include WRC College as part of the Behind the School Gates.

b) Business Awards 2025 – timing and formation of subcommittee to recommend format.

Motion: To host a Business Awards for 2025 and form a sub committee to organise.

Mover: Thomas Ford

Seconder: Manjit Singh

Sub Committee: John Nikolic, Thomas Ford, Daniel Roller, Amanda Quarisa

Sub Committee Meeting : 5.30pm Wednesday 29th January 2025 at Harvest HQ

c) Employment Expo 2025 – update

Amanda and John need to set up a meeting with Katie Friedlieb who runs the Leeton event to work out a way so both events can co-exist and have high schools on board to attend both events.

Notes: Amanda to arrange a meeting with Katie

d) Members Welcome / Introduction Pack

A draft document was circulated to Executive Committee to review. Need to edit the calendar of events. Want to have a document to send to new members to welcome them to the Chamber that outlines our goals, what we're all about, expected events coming up etc. Committee were happy with document.

Notes: Amanda to complete and update document.

e) Newsletters / EDMs

There's issues with the security of Mailchimp and our emails being intercepted by hackers. Cost to date of \$1000 from Veritech to fix the problem.

Website

PHP 7.4 is no longer supported by Veritech from 28th February.

Veritech offered an alternative but temporary solution - place our website on a temporary server. This means keeping the same website, until we are ready to upgrade at a later date.

This approach has these **advantages:**

1. subscription is month to month, you can stop anytime
2. this will be your own server, no one else will use it
3. you can subscribe to it month to month, and cancel any time (no lock-in)
4. we can deploy this within a few days.

Downsides:

1. there will be a one-of setup fee required
2. it will be running on PHP 7.4 - this is unsupported and has security vulnerabilities. This is no different to where the site is at now
3. not as easy to manage if changes need to be made

Costs

One-off cost \$550 ex-GST

Monthly server subscription (Ubuntu 20.04+PHP7.4) = \$50 ex-GST per month

Motion: To proceed with Veritech to continue hosting on a separate server and resolve MailChimp issues.

Move: Amanda Quarisa

Secunder: John Nikolic

Notes: Manjit to look into alternative solutions for new website and hosting.

4. NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members

Westpac Banking Corporation

DCNetworkx

AMC Electrical & Automation Pty Ltd

Virtual IT Group

BB Building Services

4. NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Refer to Calendar of Events.