

**GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER INCORPORATED**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 | 5.30pm | Griffith Leagues Club**

**Incorporation # Y1358815**

## **MINUTES OF AGM**

Meeting declared opened at 5.47pm

**Attendance:** Amanda Quarisa, Thomas Ford, John Nikolic, John Wadsworth, Daniel Roller, Sian Cutter, , Tegan Summers, Karly Sivewright, Amanda Burgess, David Valensisi, Nathan Merchant, Sophie Sun, John Collins, Sian Cutter, Michael Rowley, Glen Smith, Lisa Salafia, Doug Curran, Allan Wilson, Shari Blumer, Dean Owen, Darren Debortoli, Blue Menzies, Carmel LaRocca, Nathan Childs, Katrina Childs, Manjit Lally Singh

### **1: APOLOGIES**

Marg Couch

### **2: PRESIDENT WELCOME & REPORT– John Nikolic**

2025 been another successful year for the Chamber.

Throughout 2025, we maintained our policy priorities including opposing further environmental water recovery through buybacks, and addressing the housing and worker shortage. Some highlights of our advocacy in that regard include:

- a) The publication of the Griffith Housing and Worker Shortage Taskforce draft Report on Strategies to Increase Housing Supply (August 2024), which was cited in Griffith City Council’s recently published Griffith Housing Strategy 2025, and led to the updating of the Residential Development Control Policy to enable up to 50% of all lots in growth areas to be designated as multi-dwelling housing;
- b) Making a submission to and appearing at the Inquiry by the NSW Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into the impacts of legislation reintroducing water buybacks, and the Griffith Business Chamber joining the Murray Darling Association to continue to lobby against water buybacks in the lead-up to the 2026 Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review.

Additionally, in 2025, we also focussed on ways to assist our local retail and hospitality businesses, particularly in the CBD. That included:

- a) Hosting events and seminars, including an ‘Invigorate Griffith’ forum with local businesses on 3 April 2025, in conjunction with Griffith City Council, to consider various initiatives to reinvigorate our CBD, including CBD infrastructure investments (which led to a successful Griffith City Council grant application) and other proposals which were adopted into Griffith City Council’s Economic Development Strategy 2025-2030 (including a buy-local gift card and further dedicated seminars) which may be the subject of further grants;

- b) The 2025 Excellence in Business Awards, which included a range of new local and taste awards, aimed at local, family owned and operated businesses, to better celebrate the diversity of our local businesses which provide so much of the amenity which makes Griffith such a great place to live; and
- c) The 2025 Careers & Employment Expo, which continues to build in strength year-by-year.

The Griffith Business Chamber has also continued to build on its close working relationship with Council, which itself has been reinvigorated over the past five years. The Council and Chamber have repeatedly demonstrated that they can effectively collaborate to promote economic development through advocacy, events and sharing of resources. Most recently, we collaborated on a NSW Government Night-Time Economy Program grant, which if successful would enable the Chamber and Council to enhance existing evening events in 2026. I would also like to thank Council for its support of Chamber's signature events, including by being the official sponsor the 2025 Excellence in Business Awards, and providing free venue hire for the 2025 Careers & Employment Expo.

Moving forward, the fundamentals for the Griffith local government area remain extremely strong, with an annual gross regional product north of \$2 billion and rising steadily since 2020, by about 10 percent to June 2024. Encouragingly, more recent spending data to June 2025, shows an increase in local spending by about 4 percent (compared to the prior financial year) with dining and entertainment increasing by a whopping 11 percent – equating to an additional \$9.5 million dollars in our local hospitality sector alone.

In 2026, we would like to build on the work of the previous years, and continue to actively advocate on the critical issues, while also promoting our local businesses through relevant events, grant applications, regular meetings and general promotion. As a city, there are also larger opportunities, including:

- a) The potential relocation of the shunting yards in the CBD to Wambulgal, and scope for large-scale urban renewal; and
- b) The development of a large-capacity, exhibition / convention centre to enable us to properly project the City and its economic strength, attract regional and national conventions and build Griffith's brand.

I would like to thank and welcome the new committee members who have joined our executive, and thank all of the committee members who have volunteered their time over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank Dean Owen from Owen Toyota, who is resigning from the committee after volunteering his time and expertise over many years.

### **3: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM MEETING – held on 31st October 2024**

**Moved:** Daniel Roller

**Seconded:** Dean Owen

Motion carried

### **4: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Manjit Lally Singh presented a summary of the Financial Report.

**Moved:** Manjit Singh Lally

**Seconded:** Doug Curran

Motion carried

## **5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

John Wadsworth was invited to be Returning Officer to declare all positions vacant.

### **Nominations for President:**

**Nominated:** John Nikolic

**Nominated by:** Thomas Ford

**Seconded:** Amanda Quarisa

Elected, congratulations!

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

**Nominated:** Daniel Roller

**Nominated by:** John Nikolic

**Seconded:** Amanda Quarisa

Elected, congratulations!

### **Nominations for Secretary:**

**Nominated:** Amanda Quarisa

**Nominated by:** Thomas Ford

**Seconded:** John Nikolic

Elected, congratulations!

Called for Nominations from the floor for Treasurer

### **Nominations for Treasurer:**

**Nominated:** Manjit Lally Singh

**Nominated by:** Amanda Quarisa

**Seconded:** Doug Curran

Elected, congratulations!

**Public Officer:** Remains unchanged - Michael Rowley. No vote required

### **Nominations for General Committee Members.**

**Nominated:** Thomas Ford

**Nominated by:** John Nikolic

**Seconded:** Amanda Quarisa

No Vote required. Elected. Congratulations.

**Nominated:** Lindsay Golsby Smith

**Nominated by:** John Nikolic

**Seconded:** Amanda Quarisa

No Vote required. Elected. Congratulations.

Called for Nominations from the floor for General Committee Members

**Nominated:** Sian Cutter

**Nominated by:** Amanda Quarisa

**Seconded:** John Nikolic

Elected. Congratulations.

**Nominated:** Doug Curran  
**Nominated by:** Amanda Quarisa  
**Seconded:** Manjit Lally Singh  
Elected. Congratulations.

**Nominated:** Darren DeBortoli  
**Nominated by:** John Nikolic  
**Seconded:** Manjit Lally Singh  
Elected. Congratulations.

**Nominated:** Carmel LaRocca  
**Nominated by:** John Nikolic  
**Seconded:** Manjit Lally Singh  
Elected. Congratulations.

## **6. CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 6.08pm

All are welcome to join us for networking drinks and nibbles.

Minute Secretary | Amanda Quarisa