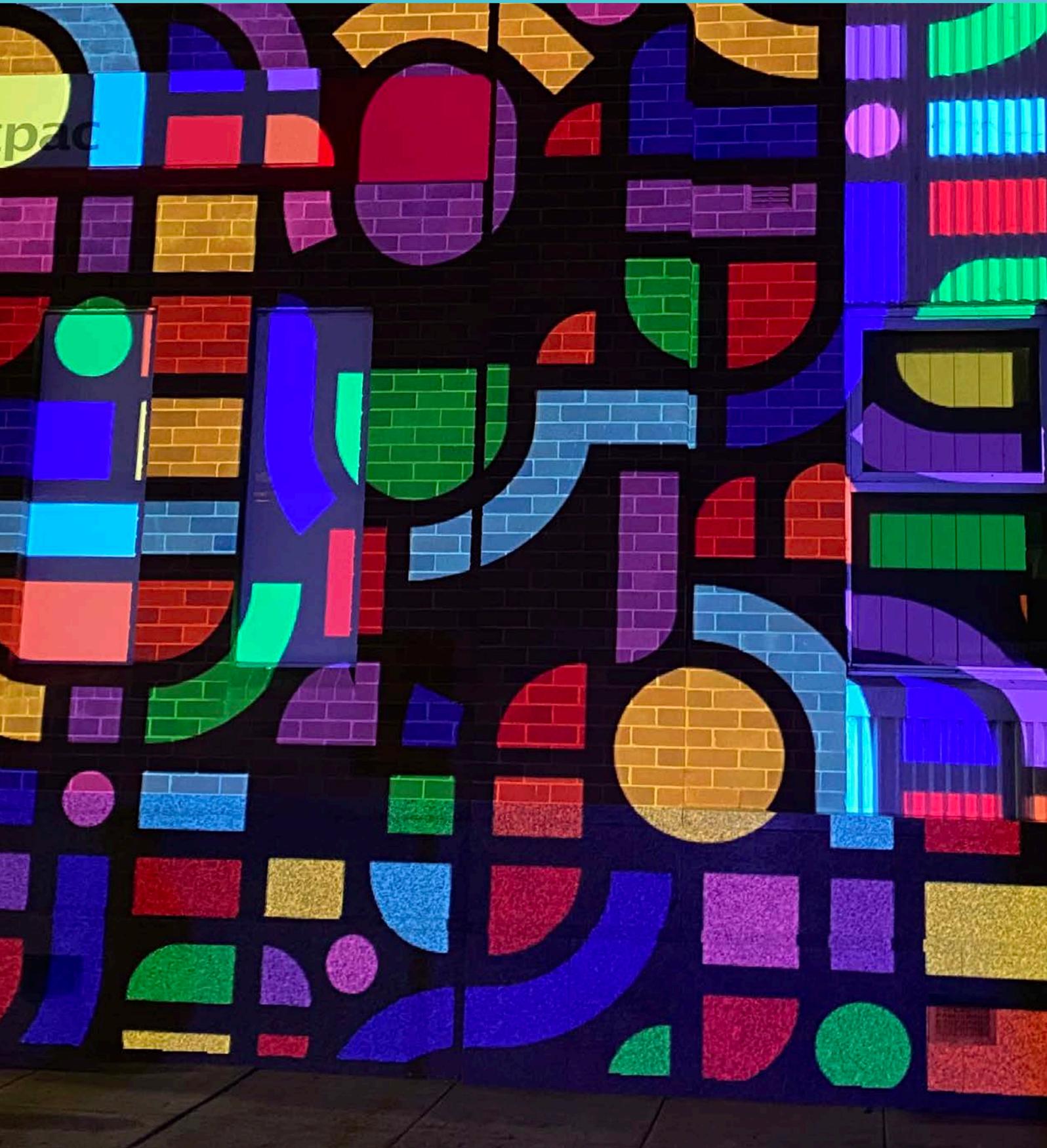




# END OF TERM REPORT

Griffith City Council 2016-2021





## **OUR COMMUNITY VISION:**

**“Griffith is a thriving and innovative regional capital with a vibrant lifestyle and diverse economy. We embrace our community, heritage, culture and environment.”**

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MESSAGE

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# FROM THE MAYOR

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It is with great pleasure that I present to you the End of Term Report 2016 – 2021 for Griffith City Council.

This report is produced in accordance with the NSW Local Government Act 1993 which requires Council to present an End of Term Report at its final Council meeting prior to an election.

The End of Term Report provides an overview of Griffith City Council's progression towards the vision articulated in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) – Guiding Griffith 2040.

Our community vision has been a positive inspiration for Council over the past five years and my fellow Councillors and Council staff have worked diligently together with this vision firmly in mind.

Demographer, Bernard Salt, described Griffith as one of the most desirable places in Australia to live and I can attest to this. Over the past five years we have achieved a great deal that we can be proud of.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow Councillors for their dedication to our community and their shared vision for the growth and enhancement of our City.

I also thank the dedicated Council staff, under the leadership of the General Manager, Mr Brett Stonestreet, whose ongoing commitment and continuous improvements to our City are reflected in the Council services and facilities enjoyed by the community today.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Council, to thank the entire Griffith community and our many Council volunteers for their respective efforts that collectively make our City a better place in which to live and work.

This report and findings will form part of the ongoing community consultation for the next Council to consider how it can deliver on the community's vision and priorities and will lay a sound foundation for future planning.

It has been a privilege serving as Mayor and, on behalf of my fellow Councillors, I present the End of Term Report to you and I look forward to the continuation of the benefits of Council working collaboratively towards achieving our community's aspirations.

**John Dal Broi**  
Mayor

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**MESSAGE**

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# **FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**



This End of Term Report highlights Council's successful continued implementation of the priorities contained within the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) – Guiding Griffith 2040.

The CSP outlines Council's commitment to best practice in governance and sets out how we can achieve our vision through goals listed under leadership, lifestyle, economy and environment.

The CSP was prepared in collaboration with the community and is underpinned by a suite of strategies and plans.

Despite facing many challenges over this term, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has gone from strength to strength under the leadership and guidance of Councillors and due to the hard work and dedication of our staff.

A number of major capital works projects have been undertaken during this period with funding secured and work well underway on the \$25M Griffith Regional Sporting Precinct. This includes the 50m outdoor pool at the Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre, which was completed in February 2021.

Work continues on the construction of the Griffith City Industrial Link Road Strategy to improve the efficiency of heavy vehicle freight movements and reduce truck presence in the urban area.

A new Community Centre has been constructed providing valuable space for not-for-profit community service providers. The Western Riverina Country Universities Centre, established in 2019, will relocate into the new Community Centre as an anchor tenant.

Council has been successful in obtaining grant funding for much needed work to be undertaken on Boorga and Dickie Roads. This work is progressing well.

Together with Argyle Community Housing, Council is helping to create 20 new affordable dwellings and 42 new affordable housing lots in South Griffith. The completed dwellings will be one step towards addressing the housing shortage in Griffith and will be in line with the Griffith Housing Strategy developed in 2019. A host of other community facilities have been delivered during this term of Council including community stages in Memorial Park and Community Gardens, new amenities block at Jubilee Oval, 75% completion of the CBD upgrade (Yambil Street) and new truck wash facilities at the Griffith Livestock Marketing Centre. These are just a few of the exciting major projects either achieved or underway during this term of Council.

Due to COVID-19 this End of Term Report marks the fifth and final year of the current elected Council. The achievements of this Council over the past five years are significant and are testament to the dedication of our Councillors and staff. I would like to thank the staff for their professionalism and commitment, I am proud to lead such a capable team.

**Brett Stonestreet**  
**Griffith City Council**

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# WHAT IS THE AIM OF THIS REPORT?

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Under the NSW Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Legislation for Local Government, Council is required to produce an End of Term Report detailing its progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) during its term (the last 5 years).

The aim of this report is to provide the community with a status of how Council is progressing toward achieving its CSP – Guiding Griffith 2040.

Council adopted its Community Strategic Plan from 1 July 2017. The CSP is a long term plan that identifies where the Griffith community wants to be in the future. It outlines the community's priorities and aspirations and how these will be achieved. This Plan assists in shaping the future of the Griffith Local Government Area (LGA). It provides the direction for the provision of key projects and services which enable Council to meet the needs of the community and deliver good quality services and facilities.

**This End of Term Report will focus on the 5 year period 2016 to 2021.**



MEMORIAL TO  
MIA PIONEERS

EX SERVICEMENS  
CLUB GRIFFITH

# UNDERSTANDING INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING

The key elements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework are:

## **Community Strategic Plan**

The purpose of the Community Strategic Plan is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals.

## **Delivery Program**

The Delivery Program is a statement of commitment to the community from each newly elected council. The Delivery Program outlines the principal activities to be undertaken by Council to implement the strategies established by the Community Strategic Plan within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy over the term of Council.

## **Operational Plan**

The Operational Plan is prepared annually as a sub plan of the Delivery Program. It directly addresses the actions outlined in the Delivery Program and identifies projects, programs or activities that Council will undertake towards addressing these actions.

## **Resourcing Strategy**

The Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plans combine to form Council's Resourcing Strategy.

## **The Long Term Financial Plan**

Provides information about the affordability and the financial sustainability of Council to address

its current and future needs. The Long Term Financial Plan is used to inform the Delivery Program and must be for a minimum of 10 years.

## **The Workforce Management Plan**

Must be developed to address the human resourcing requirements of Council's Delivery Program and must be for a minimum of four years.

## **The Asset Management Plans**

Inform on the infrastructure that delivers services to the community. Council must account for and plan for all the existing assets under its ownership and any new asset solutions proposed in its Delivery Program. The Asset Management Plans must be for a minimum timeframe of 10 years.

When integrated, all these plans ensure that Council delivers the expressed levels of service to its community through optimal utilisation of its resources.

## **Annual Report**

The Annual Report focuses on Council's implementation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The report also includes information prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

## **End of Term Report**

The End of Term Report (this document) is a report on Council's achievements in implementing the Community Strategic Plan over the term of a Council.

# COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

## LEADERSHIP

Aim 1: Develop an engaged and connected community

Aim 2: Work together to achieve our goals

Aim 3: Plan and lead with good governance

## LOVE THE LIFESTYLE

Aim 4: Ensure Griffith is a great place to live

Aim 5: Promote a healthy and active lifestyle

## GROWING OUR CITY

Aim 6: Encourage our local economy to grow

Aim 7: Encourage a skilled workforce with employment opportunities

Aim 8: Provide and manage assets, services and facilities

## VALUING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Aim 9: Enhance the natural and built environment

Aim 10: Use and manage our resources wisely

# | OUR COUNCILLORS



Cr John Dal Broi  
Mayor



Cr Glen Andrezza  
Elected Feb. 2019



Cr Simon Croce  
Deputy Mayor (Sept 2020 - Sept 2021)



Cr Doug Curran  
Deputy Mayor (Sept 2018 - Sept 2020)



Cr Deb Longhurst



Cr Eddy Mardon



Cr Rina Mercuri



Cr Anne Napoli



Cr Mike Neville



Cr Brian Simpson



Cr Christine Stead  
Deputy Mayor (Sept 2021 - Dec 2021)



Cr Dino Zappacosta  
Deputy Mayor (Sept 2016 - Sept 2018)

\* Paul Snaidero, elected 2016, disqualified from Office 1 November 2018

# OUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Brett Stonestreet**  
General Manager



**Shireen Donaldson**  
Director  
Economic and  
Organisational  
Development



**Phil Harding**  
Director  
Sustainable  
Development



**Max Turner**  
Director  
Business, Cultural  
and Financial  
Services



**Phil King**  
Director  
Infrastructure and  
Operations



**Graham Gordon**  
Director  
Utilities

## COUNCIL TERM

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Our Councillors served for five (5) years due to COVID-19 restrictions. The 2020 Local Government Elections were postponed to December 2021.

# END OF TERM ACHIEVEMENTS



## HEALTH

St Vincent's Community Private Hospital Griffith and Murrumbidgee Clinical Teaching and Learning Centre constructed and opened 23 September 2016.

Medical student accommodation (4x2 bedroom units) completed.

Ambulance Station constructed in Wakaden Street was officially opened February 2019.



## COMMUNITY & SAFETY

Griffith Community Centre funding secured and construction completed.

CCTV cameras installed, 22 in City Park and a further 81 to be installed throughout the CBD. 400+ New Australian citizens.



## WATER & SEWER

Village sewer reticulation project connecting properties in Lake Wyangan, Tharbogang and Nericon 2018.

Water mains renewals.

Water meter replacement.

Collina infrastructure works – detention basin, storm water drainage, road improvements, sewer pump station and rising main.

Sand filters upgraded Griffith Water Filtration plant.

Continual upgrades to the Griffith Water Treatment Plant.



## SPORT & RECREATION

\$15.5M in grant funding secured towards full \$33M Griffith Regional Sporting Precinct project. 50m outdoor pool completed and Westend Oval commenced.

New Skate Park opened July 2018.

BMX and Scooter Pump Track designs prepared.

Enticknap Park upgrade August 2019.

Henderson Oval Yoogali upgrade to play equipment.

Jubilee Oval cricket nets October 2019.



## AIRPORT

Air services commenced to Melbourne July 2019.

Qantas flights commenced March 2021.

Runway Funding 2021.

Runway, apron, taxiway resurfacing completed 2016.

Lighting airport installation 2016.



## URBAN RENEWAL

Bright Lights on Banna – funding secured and lights installed.

Funding obtained for the Street Scapes Kooyoo Street activation events held May 2021.

Kooyoo Street Masterplan funding secured May 2021.

New City Entrance signs.



## EDUCATION

Western Riverina Country Universities Centre opened July 2019.

Participated in the Grow Our Own Program which aims to encourage local youth to stay, study and work locally.



## PUBLIC AMENITIES

Upgrades to Wade Park Yenda and Memorial Park Griffith.

New amenities Yenda Cemetery, City Park and Jubilee Oval.



## YAMBIL STREET UPGRADE

Design and consultation of Yambil Street Stages 1, 2 & 3.

Completed upgrade of road, kerb, guttering, drainage and water main trunk renewal Stages 1 and 2.



## LANDFILL

Planning and preparation for the Tharbogang Landfill cell.

Waste Transfer Station - Tharbogang 2016 and Yenda 2018.



## FLOOD MITIGATION

East Mirrool Regulator, Yenda - Installation of Flood Gates, Early Warning System and Breaching Protocols - 2019.

Yoogali and Hanwood storm water upgrades.

Yoogali Flood Mitigation.



## FOOTPATHS

10,335 metres of footpaths constructed across 24 projects throughout LGA.

Merrigal Street Pedestrian Bridge commenced 2021.

Hanwood Cycleway including unique pedestrian bridge.

Village Pathways Project in Yoogali, Hanwood and Yenda.



## ROADS

\$30M Griffith Southern Industrial Link Road.

Boorga & Dickie Roads upgrade – funding successful, work commenced.

Yoogali intersection upgrade completed by TfNSW.

Railway Street Carpark (West) – complete.



## TOURISM & EVENTS

Griffith Destination Tourism Plan 2021-2024 adopted in 2021

Interpretive Display area to be launched in 2021

Visit Griffith social media 11,401 followers on Facebook and Instagram

217 customised group tour itineraries designed and coordinated.



## COUNCIL FACILITIES

New Mechanical Workshop Jensen Road 2016/17.

New Animal Handling Facility (Pound) constructed 2016/17 and upgrades in 2019.

Library Multipurpose Room 2019, Youth Space Study Room 2016.

Refurbishment of Griffith Regional Theatre 2020.

New storeroom Senior Citizens Centre 2017.

Upgrade State Bank House 2017.

Griffith Livestock Marketing Centre Truck Wash completed September 2020.

Parks & Gardens Depot Relocation to Jensen Road with new shed and offices constructed 2021.

New Todd Building constructed and sewer connection added to Pioneer Park Museum.

Griffith Community Stage (2019) and the Community Gardens Community Stage (2021) constructed.

Upgrades to the toilet, disabled facilities, and boilers at Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre.

Resolution to develop a Cultural Precinct Masterplan.

Solar panels installed at the Council Administration Building.



## LAKE WYANGAN

Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Strategy adopted 2017.

Lake Wyangan and Catchment Rehabilitation program commenced.

Project Officer appointed and recommendations being implemented.

Sustainable water quality concept plan developed.

\$3.5M grant secured to connect Lake Wyangan South to the Griffith Water Reclamation Plant.

Campbell's Swamp, Nericon Swamp and Tharbogang Swamp renamed to Wetlands and Plans of Management adopted (2021).

Over 200 trees planted at Campbell's Swamp.



## DEVELOPMENT

Griffith Now Hiring campaign commenced 2017.

Affordable Housing Strategy adopted 2019.

\$6M grant secured for overall \$12M Griffin Green Affordable Housing project.

Review of development application assessment process undertaken.

e-Planning Portal launched.

# AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

Some of the awards received over this term of Council include:

- Griffith City Council's Village Pathways project won the Asset and Infrastructure Projects Award for projects under \$1.5 million at the 2021 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards.
- 50m Pool Complex was nominated under the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) NSW Crown Group Awards for Excellence 2021 in the Social and Community Infrastructure category.
- Council's Griffith Pioneer Park Museum received a Highly Commended Award in the Innovation & Resilience category for the From the Collection video project and won the prestigious Imagination Award for its Vintage Voices project in the NSW Museums and Galleries annual IMAGInE Awards in November 2020.
- Division A and Overall Category Winner of the Roadside Environmental Management Award for the Roadside Reserves Project – An innovative solution to measuring and revaluing Griffith's roadside reserves at the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Excellence in the Environment Awards in December 2019.
- National Economic Development Awards for Excellence October 2019.
- Council's Economic Development Coordinator Karly Sivewright won the Outstanding Young Employee 18-30yrs at the Griffith Business Chamber awards in July 2019.
- Griffith Regional Theatre, in partnership with Griffith's Community Drug Action Team (CDAT), won the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) award for MYFEST (Murrumbidgee Youth Extreme Arts Festival) project in March 2018.
- Splash Swim School was named winner of the Swim Australia SwimSAFER award for School Swimming and Water Safety Program in May 2018.
- Council's Accountant/Grants Coordinator Alana Villata was named the winner of the prestigious Dick Cahill Memorial Award December 2018 and the Col Mills Memorial Award at the NSW Local Government Professionals Excellence Awards Dinner in June 2018.
- Floodplain Management Australia Commendation Award for Flood Risk Management Project of the Year, 2018.
- The Centenary of Spears project won the Leo Kelly OAM Arts and Culture Award at the Local Government Week Awards August 2017.
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) Highly Commended – Bagtown Roundabout, 2017.



# LEADERSHIP

Griffith City Council  
...love the lifestyle...  
**Council Cafe**  
bringing Council to you



# AIM 1: DEVELOP AN ENGAGED AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY

- 1.1 Provide clear and transparent communication to the community.
- 1.2 Be well informed, proactive and responsive to current issues that impact our community.



## COMMUNICATIONS

1.1

Weekly Council Catch Up now emailed and printed copies distributed locally.

Launched Council's Instagram 2020.

Social Media use increasing.

Communication and Engagement Strategy reviewed and implemented 2020.

Community Participation Plan adopted 2019.

Annual Community Report redeveloped and distributed through print and online.

Community Opinion Group (COG) increased distribution.

Website reviewed on regular basis, compliant with legislation and mobile responsive.

864 Media Releases issued.

Feedback forms made available on the website for general feedback, specific topics and items on exhibition.



## ENGAGEMENT

1.2

Council Cafe implemented in 2019 to increase community engagement.

Workshops and forums held online or in person to discuss important matters including:

- Yambil Street Redevelopment
- Village Pathways Project
- 50m Outdoor Pool Development
- Regional Sports Development
- Skate Park
- Land and Housing Forum
- Housing Strategy
- Christmas Lights Project (Bright Lights on Banna)
- Rose Garden
- New Cemetery
- Cemetery Management Plan
- Village Sewer Project
- Disability & Inclusion Action Plan
- Park Redevelopments
- Council Policies, Management Plans and Operational Plans (Budget).



## COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

1.1/1.2

Committees and Working Groups consulted, liaised and advised for management and development of facilities and provision of services. These were an important means for Councillors to consult community members with particular fields of expertise.

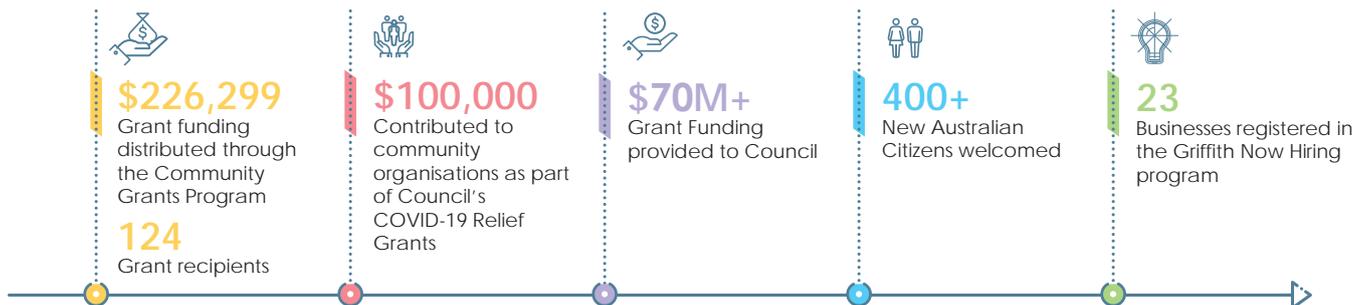
A review of Council Committees was undertaken with a new structure implemented from February 2017.

**15** Council Committees

**10** Working Groups

## AIM 2: WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

- 2.1 Actively engage with State, Federal and non-government agencies in a local advocacy role.
- 2.2 Partner with and provide support to organisations who deliver services and programs locally.
- 2.3 Maximise opportunities to secure external funding for partnerships, projects and programs to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.
- 2.4 Develop partnerships with industry and agriculture leaders.
- 2.5 Develop partnerships to provide leadership in irrigation, water efficiency and availability.



### PARTNERSHIPS

2.1, 2.2, 2.4 & 2.5

Agreement with Country Universities Centre to establish the Western Riverina Country Universities Centre in Griffith and Leeton.

Worked with and lobbied both the Federal and State Government on current issues.

Partnered with St Vincent's to develop the Private Community Hospital Griffith.

Partnered with Argyle Housing to deliver the Griffin Green Affordable Housing Project and four residential units in Wakaden Street Griffith.

Partnering with all levels of Government and private enterprise to obtain funding for the benefit of the community.

Member of external committees and organisations including the Riverina Murray Joint Organisations of Council (RAMJO).

Council funded the Community Grants Program and the COVID-19 Relief Scheme.

Advocated for the new Griffith Base Hospital.

Partnered with business, industry, tourism, and community organisations to deliver programs, events and address relevant issues.

Worked with Griffith Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

Secured 2021 Bush Summit.

Held successful Water Forum July 2021.



### GRANT APPLICATIONS

2.3

Council secured over \$70M in grants for community projects including:

- Griffith Regional Sporting Precinct
- Griffith Housing Strategy
- Griffin Green Affordable Housing Development
- New Griffith Community Centre
- Griffith Southern Industrial Link Road
- Yambil Street upgrade
- Griffith Regional Theatre upgrade
- Griffith City Library Multipurpose Room and Youth Space
- Memorial Park Stage and amenities upgrade
- Village shared pathways project
- Cricket nets and amenities block at Jubilee Oval
- Community Stage at Community Gardens
- Amenities block at City Park
- Skate Park and Pump Track, Olympic Street
- Hanwood Cycleway
- Festive lighting Banna Avenue
- Car Park Railway Street
- Upgrade of City entrance signs
- Griffith Airport upgrade
- Flood mitigation measures
- Boorga and Dickie Roads construction
- Jones Road causeway
- Kooyoo Street redevelopment
- Street Scapes and other festivals
- Lake Wyangan pipeline.



*Griffin Green*

## AIM 3: PLAN AND LEAD WITH GOOD GOVERNANCE

3.1 Undertake Council activities within a clear framework of strategic planning, policies, procedures and service standards.

3.2 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through effective financial management that is transparent and accountable.



Council is required to undertake its planning and reporting activities in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 as well as complying with a number of other Acts and legislation. Council has met all of its statutory governance reporting obligations in a timely manner including Integrated Planning & Reporting, Companion Animals, Code of Conduct, Public Interest Disclosures, Government Information Public Access Act and Disclosures of Interest requirements.

Council conducts a review of its policies within each 4 year term. Internal policies and procedures are also reviewed on a regular basis.

Independent reviews of Council's internal procedures and policies are conducted by an internal auditor as directed by the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee. Council's Risk Register has been reviewed and Risk Management Plans developed.

Council has achieved strong financial operating results from 2016/17 to 2020/21 financial years. Council will need to continue with its disciplined approach to short, medium and long term budgets in order to achieve ongoing operating surpluses and generate cash that can be placed under reserve whilst striving to

maintain an acceptable level of service to the community.

Council has an ambitious capital works program and this will be a challenge to manage; however, with continued commitment and diligence in actively managing the organisation's performance, Council is in a strong position to achieve this program in the years ahead. Council remains in a sound financial position having recorded strong surplus results every year for at least the last 10 years, with an average result of \$4.5M surplus per annum.

Council's financial statements are independently audited by the NSW Auditor Office on an annual basis to ensure Council has complied with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

Council responded positively to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by providing rates and charges relief through the capping of any rate increases as well as waiving interest charges and allowing extensive payment plans for any affected rate payers.

Businesses were also provided relief from operating fees and charges in certain areas that were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# | LOVE THE LIFESTYLE



## Aim 4: Ensure Griffith is a great place to live

- 4.1 Enable accessible diversity in housing choice.
- 4.2 A shared responsibility for the safety of individuals and the community.
- 4.3 Promote and celebrate our social and cultural diversity.
- 4.4 Provide and promote accessibility to services and facilities.
- 4.5 Plan for, develop and provide a suitable range of cultural and art facilities, engaging programs and diverse events.
- 4.6 Encourage a socially inclusive community that cares for all age groups and genders, people of different abilities, disadvantaged or minority groups.
- 4.7 Promote reconciliation and embrace our Wiradjuri heritage and culture.



### HOUSING

4.1

Funding obtained from Building Better Regions Fund to prepare the Affordable Housing Strategy which was adopted in 2019.

The Strategy will assist Council understand the current housing market and issues which may influence the delivery of the future housing market.

Council has amended the Local Environmental Plan to encourage residential flat buildings.

Council has amended the Development Control Plans to facilitate the development of diverse, affordable and lower cost housing by:

- Amending floor space ratios
- Reducing parking requirements for flat buildings and multi dwelling housing
- Removing height restrictions
- Reduction of private open space.

Other affordable housing initiatives include:

- Encouraging New Generation Boarding Houses
- Incentivising the construction of Granny Flats
- Potential contribution concessions for affordable housing
- Council provided a portion of land in Wakaden Street to Argyle Housing Ltd to build 4 x 2 bedroom units
- Partnership with NSW Government and Argyle Housing for the \$12M Griffith Green Project.



### HEALTH & SAFETY 4.2

Council's Environment & Health unit:

- Provided food business inspections across the LGA as well as the Naranderra, Leeton, Hay and Murrumbidgee LGAs
- Participated in the NSW Food Authority Scores on Doors Program
- Carried out inspections on cooling water systems, swimming pools, onsite sewerage management, local hairdressers, beauty clinics, skin penetration premises and mortuaries
- Regular water quality sampling from Lake Wyangan undertaken
- Conducted monthly early childhood immunisation clinics (pre-COVID).



## CULTURAL FACILITIES

4.4 & 4.5

**The Griffith City Library** provided a safe, inclusive public space with access to a wide range of services, events and activities including Book Clubs, Rhyme Time, Storytime, Knitters, Film Club, Tech Talks, outreach visits, Community Info Helpdesk, author visits, community programs, displays and exhibitions. The Library targeted a broad demographic within the community including children, families, seniors, people with disabilities, new Australians, job seekers and the culturally and linguistically diverse community. The mobile library continued to operate, providing an excellent service to the community of Griffith, surrounding villages and towns. The new Multipurpose Room with interactive smart board, 50 seat theatre and hearing loop along with the new Youth Space Study Room have been well utilised by the community.

**The Griffith Regional Theatre** delivered diverse, high quality programs including circus, physical theatre/urban arts, comedy, musicals, drama classes, dance workshops and parkour workshops. The community musicals *Wicked: the Untold Story of the Witches of Oz* (2017) and *Legally Blonde: the Musical* (2019) were successfully delivered and provided opportunities for local artists to work together to produce two professional shows. Successful grant applications contributed to substantial upgrading and extensions including dressing rooms, public toilets, new lighting desk, acoustic panelling and extension and upgrade of courtyard to allow for outdoor performances and activities.

**The Griffith Regional Art Gallery** continued to present exhibitions featuring both local artists and touring exhibitions. The Gallery had strong community engagement including pre-schools, primary schools, youth, Aboriginal community, multicultural community and seniors. New programs included curator talks and workshops in various mediums while local exhibitions re-engaged local artists. The Centenary of Spears project was a joint initiative of Council's Community Development team, Griffith Regional Art Gallery and Griffith's Youth Off the Streets program. The artwork celebrated the importance of art and cultural learning for Aboriginal youth involved in the project. The striking artwork is a prominent feature in Council's foyer entrance.

**Griffith Pioneer Park Museum** worked in collaboration with the Theatre and Art Gallery to investigate new opportunities for promotion. Guided train tours of the Museum commenced proving a popular attraction for both locals and visitors. Action Day and school holiday activities continued to be popular. Staff identified a number of potential ways to deepen engagement with the local Wiradjuri community and reflect their history and connection to country as part of the Museum's story.





## SAFETY

4.2

During October 2017 Council secured funding to install 22 CCTV cameras in City Park.

Funding received from the Federal Government's Safer Communities Fund will see an additional 81 CCTV cameras installed throughout the CBD.

Council partnered with a number of local services including Murrumbidgee Local Area Command - Griffith, Community Drug Action Team, and the Griffith Liquor Accord to deliver projects to improve the safety of residents.

Increased and improved street lighting in the CBD.

Crime Prevention Strategy adopted 2019.

Worked with the Community Safety Precinct Committee.

Participated in the Local Emergency Management Committee, the Regional Emergency Operation Centre, and the Regional Emergency Management Committee (activated when required such as COVID-19 response).

Partnered with the Rural Fire Service - Murrumbidgee.

Partnered with the State Emergency Service - Murrumbidgee.



## CELEBRATING OUR CULTURES

4.3

Council worked with a range of organisations to help deliver culturally significant events and programs.

Griffith's key multicultural events include:

- Griffith Easter Party
- Shaheedi Tournament
- A Taste of Italy
- Multicultural Festival
- Australia Day

Citizenship Ceremonies were regularly conducted to welcome new Australian citizens.

Council hosted a New Residents Welcome in 2018.

The 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey for feeling part of the community - 73% high satisfaction.



## PEDESTRIAN AND ROAD SAFETY

4.2

Road safety issues were addressed in consultation with Council's Transport Committee, Traffic Committee and stakeholders including NSW Police and Department of Transport.

The 2018-2021 Road Safety Action Plan was approved by Department of Transport with action plan and projects implemented.

A downward trend in fatalities on local roads has been recorded.

The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan and Bicycle Plan was reviewed in 2018 and 2021. The Plan is a step toward Griffith becoming a fully accessible community with high quality pathways and facilities.



## YOUTH SUPPORT

4.6

Partnered with organisations including headspace Griffith, Griffith PCYC, and Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service.

Facilitated the Griffith Youth Interagency Group.

Council has supported a number of events and programs for local youth including:

- Grow our Own
- Fitness Beyond Barriers
- Strong Girls
- Midnight Basketball
- Justice for Youth partnering with CDAT and St Vincent's Private Community Hospital
- Youth Week events such as BMX workshop, movie night, Zumba Party, MySKATE, MyPlace exhibition, 3x3 Basketball, MyFEST, Youth Activate 2021.



## ACCESS AND INCLUSION

4.4

Council operated a Disability Inclusion and Access Committee, comprising of people living with a disability, community organisations, stakeholders and Council staff.

Council held a number of NDIS workshops to assist the community and promoted programs including an inaugural film festival to de-stigmatise people living with a disability and break down barriers to participation.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan, following extensive consultation, was adopted in 2017 and 2021.



## INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

4.7

Council provided a position of Community Development Officer – Aboriginal Liaison whose role is to implement the social and cultural elements of Council’s Reconciliation Action Plan and assist community organisations and groups build their capacity to develop events, programs, projects and activities.

The Reconciliation Action Plan was endorsed by the Aboriginal Community and adopted in 2020.

Aboriginal Community Engagement protocols were endorsed and implemented.

Council partnered with Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Lands Services to restore and protect native flora and fauna on culturally significant land at Mallinson Road, Lake Wyangan.

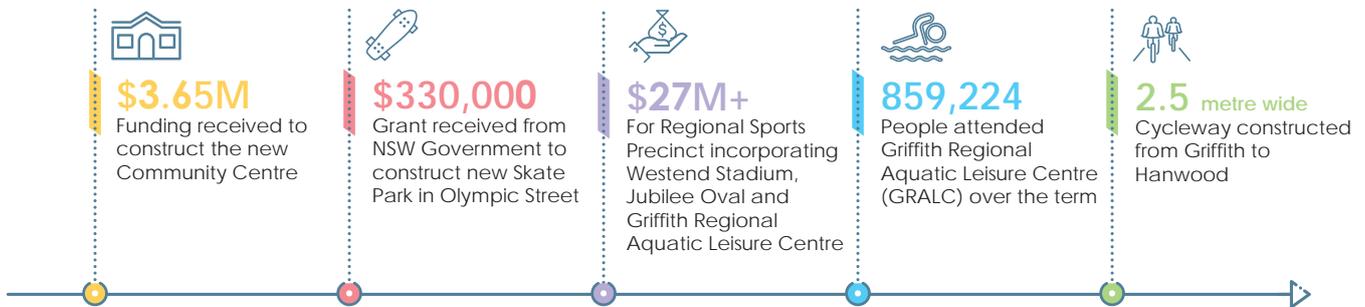
Council actively worked with a variety of organisations including Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council, Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service and the Aboriginal Community Working Party.

Council encouraged a socially inclusive community by promoting events and supporting programs including Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.



## Aim 5: Promote a healthy and active lifestyle

- 5.1 Develop partnerships to improve local access to health, mental health and allied health services.
- 5.2 Build a community which promotes, facilitates and supports an active and healthy lifestyle for all.
- 5.3 Plan for and provide sporting and recreational facilities to encourage an active lifestyle and wellbeing.



### HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

5.1

Representatives from Council attended various meetings and community forums convened by Murrumbidgee Local Health District.

Council lobbied the NSW Government for a new Griffith Base Hospital.

Council provided Wellways with an information sharing platform for meetings and participated in Sock it to Suicide.

Council is a member of headspace Consortium including a Councillor representative.

Provided support to Griffith Community Drug Action Team.

Partnered with and provided a venue for the Murrumbidgee Local Health District's Suicide Prevention Outreach Team (SPOT) 'Safe Haven' program for those experiencing thoughts of suicide and emotional distress.

Participated in the Suicide Prevention Support Group including a Councillor representative.

Partnered with St Vincent's to develop the new Community Private Hospital Griffith.



### FUNDING

5.2

Council worked with Griffith Community Centre Inc. through the Griffith Community Centre Committee to deliver a new community centre in Olympic Street. The project was funded through the Regional Communities Development Fund.

Funding was received through the NSW Government and Federal Government for the Griffith Regional Sports Precinct, including Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre, Westend Stadium and Jubilee Oval.



### HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

5.3

Council promoted healthy lifestyle options to the community through social media programs and organised events and activities.

The Make Healthy Normal campaign was launched in conjunction with Murrumbidgee Local Health District in 2018. Health and wellbeing initiatives were also delivered on a regular basis to Council staff.

The 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey standard of living question resulted in 73% high satisfaction.



## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

5.2 & 5.3

Improvements to sport and recreation facilities included:

- New cricket nets at Jubilee Oval
- New floating jetty and amenities at Lake Wyangan
- The new skate park facility in Olympic Street completed 2018.

**Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre** provided aquatic, gym and crèche facilities to all members of the community offering swim school lessons, hydrotherapy, aqua aerobics, school swimming programs, carnivals, recreational swimming, crèche, gymnasium, aerobics classes and kiosk facilities.

The Centre received funding to:

- Upgrade the existing toilet and change room facilities
- Construct a 50m outdoor pool and associated facilities
- Construct new change rooms and refurbish Club House.

**Westend Stadium** hosted a range of events and competitions including basketball, school sport, volleyball, badminton, lifeball, karate, wheelchair basketball, aerobics and wet weather training for team sports, and culturally inclusive events including Philippino basketball, Indian Sikh games volleyball, indigenous workshops and health care workshops.

# GROWING OUR CITY



## HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

6.3

In response to concerns from the business community regarding the availability of housing and difficulty in attracting skilled workers to our area, Council commissioned a study to assess housing needs, land supply, efficient use of land, housing diversity, key development sites, future growth areas and affordable housing options. As a result the Affordable Housing Strategy was adopted in 2019.

To further facilitate development, Council's Development Application systems were reviewed to reduce assessment time and simplify the process.

E-planning commenced 1 July 2021.

Council adopted the Griffith Local Strategic Planning Statement in 2020. This document was developed in close cooperation with the Griffith community, business groups within Griffith and a range of State agencies. The document will function as a flexible guideline to inform future decisions on spatial planning.

## Aim 6: Encourage our local economy to grow

- 6.1 Encourage and support the establishment of new and diversified industries and businesses.
- 6.2 Promote opportunities to assist existing businesses to grow.
- 6.3 Plan strategically and consider land use management to encourage investment in the region.
- 6.4 Promote and support diverse agricultural industries and encourage 'best practice'.
- 6.5 Promote Griffith as a desirable visitor and tourism destination.



## SUPPORTING BUSINESS

6.1, 6.2 & 6.4

Council supported local businesses through a variety of mediums including:

- Launching Griffith Now Hiring in 2017 through funding from the Regional Growth Marketing and Promotion Fund, and ongoing support from local businesses and Council
- Participating in the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina's Country Change program
- Meeting regularly with organisations including NSW Business Chamber, NSW Trade & Investment, Office Regional Development, Ausindustry, Export NSW, Business Enterprise Centre, RDA Riverina and Griffith Business Chamber
- Working with Carrathool Shire, Leeton Shire, Narrandera Shire and Murrumbidgee Council to develop the Western Riverina Regional Economic Development Strategy
- Adopting the Economic Development Strategy 2021
- Facilitating and supporting a number of workshops aimed at assisting businesses and promoting Small Business Month and NSW Women's Week events as well as sponsoring the Griffith Business Chamber Awards 2018 and 2019
- Conducting a Business Survey in 2019 to examine the needs of local businesses
- Conducting business audits
- Launching a new Invest in Griffith Prospectus in April 2019
- Joining the Easy to do Business program in 2018
- Promoting Glow2680 Christmas event
- Facilitating the Easter Sidewalk Sale 2021
- Establishing the Evolve Newsletter
- Supporting the Grow our Own initiative.



## PROMOTION & PUBLICATIONS

6.5

Council worked together with local businesses to bring the Today Show to Griffith in September 2017 reaching 1.2 million viewers.

National media coverage included: Better Homes and Gardens, Sydney Weekender, Good Chef Bad Chef, Weekend Sunrise, The Daily Telegraph, The Sydney Morning herald, Postcards Australia, REX Traveller, Qantas Travel Insider, Australian Traveller top 100 places to visit, Everyday Gourmet, Country Style Magazine, Gourmet Traveller and more.



## GRIFFITH TOURISM TEAM

6.5

Council played a significant role in tourism across the region by facilitating events and experiences and growing visitor economy. Highlights included:

- With Visitor Servicing, Events and Marketing under the one roof at the Griffith Tourism Hub, the Visit Griffith brand awareness has developed and grown
- Promotional video clips displayed in REX, Qantas and East West Airlines check-in areas at Sydney and Melbourne airports
- Over 90,000 Visit Griffith Visitor Guides developed and distributed nationwide
- Griffith Spring Fest re-branded in 2017 to incorporate the many events held over the two-week period including the Citrus

Sculptures, Griffith Garden Festival and Launch Party

- Griffith Spring Fest has grown to be one of the region's biggest festivals, with an economic impact of around \$3.4M (2019) for Griffith over the two-week period
- A Taste of Italy Griffith was a new initiative introduced by the Tourism Team in August 2019. This has now become one of three major event weekends on the Griffith calendar. The extra offering over this weekend has seen it grow from a one day event to three days which in turn tripled visitor nights and overall expenditure into our local economy. In 2019 this weekend alone injected in excess of \$800K into our local economy.

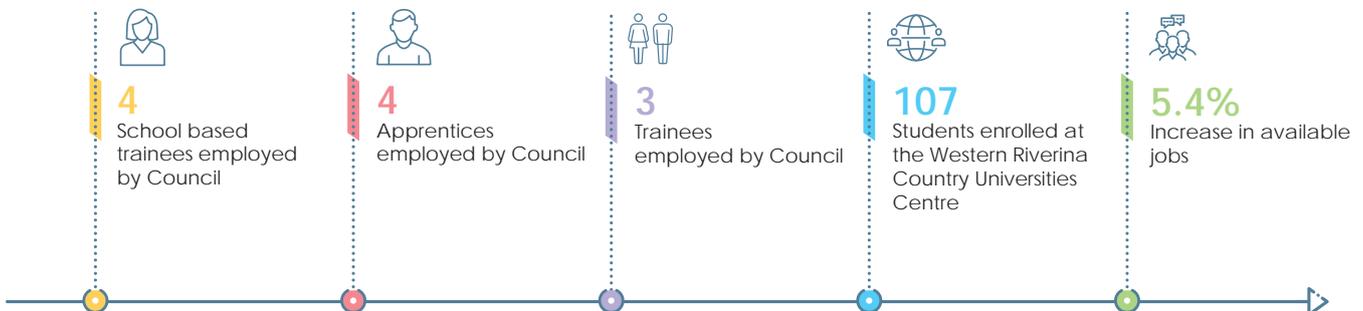


## Aim 7: Encourage a skilled workforce with employment opportunities

7.1 Increase the range of opportunities to work locally.

7.2 Develop partnerships to build on quality education and training opportunities.

7.3 Advocate for safe work practices and employment standards.



### JOBS ATTRACTION

7.1

Griffith Now Hiring was launched in 2017 with funding from the Regional Growth Marketing and Promotion Fund. Supported by local businesses and Council, the program aims to attract skilled workers to Griffith.

Council met regularly with industry groups and organisations to develop resources and facilitate programs to assist businesses and increase career and training opportunities. Council attended the Western Riverina Careers Expo, assisted with industry school tours for high school students and sponsored the Compact Careers Exchange Forum.

Council also offered a number of trainee positions and provided workplace training placements. Council's Workforce Plan enabled Council to plan its future workforce needs and included strategies to attract and retain staff, provide training and development opportunities, improve performance and ensure a safe workplace is maintained.

Council employs 4 school based trainees, 4 apprentices and 3 trainees in the positions of Building Surveyor, Development Engineer and Design Engineer.



### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

7.2

Council partnered with the Country Universities Centre (CUC) to open the Western Riverina Country Universities Centre in July 2019. The CUC serves as the primary point of contact for the delivery of university education in the Western Riverina region, facilitates and promotes education and career pathways between school, vocational education and training providers, universities and industry. The CUC provides a space that is conducive to productive study, dedicated to university students.

The Grow Our Own program is supported by Regional Development Australia Riverina partnering with local leaders from industry including TAFE, Deakin University, local businesses, education stakeholders and Council.



### EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

7.3

Council provided information to local businesses through the Evolve Newsletter.

Council upholds Safe Work Practices across the organisation and has a comprehensive Work Health and Safety (WHS) Framework and regularly reviews WHS Policies and Procedures.

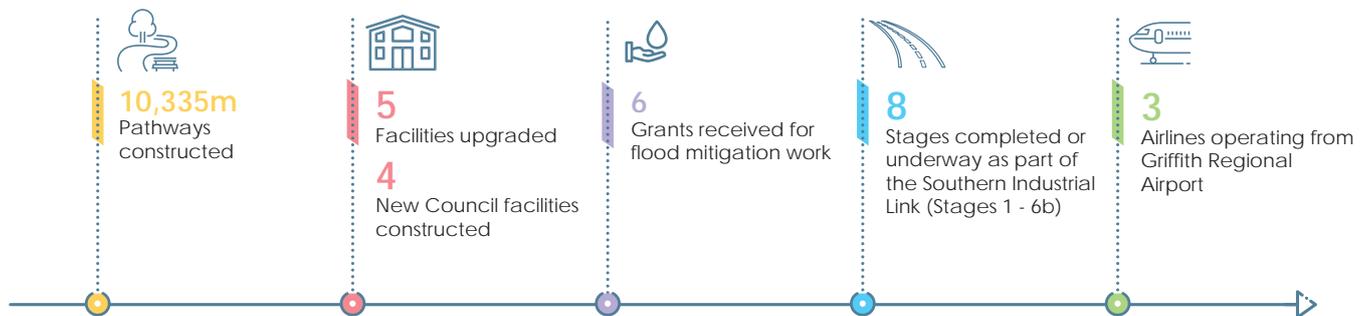
## Aim 8: Provide and manage assets, services and facilities

8.1 Provide, renew and maintain a range of quality infrastructure, assets, services and facilities delivered in a cost effective and sustainable manner.

8.2 Maintain and develop an effective transport network (public roads, pathways and pedestrian access and transport corridors) for Griffith and villages.

8.3 Improve the aesthetic of the City and villages, by developing quality places and improved public realm.

8.4 Mitigate the impact of natural disasters.



### ASSET MANAGEMENT

8.1

Council utilised its Asset Management Strategy and Plans to guide the planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of its assets.

New Council facilities constructed include:

- Mechanical Workshop in Jensen Road
- Griffith Pound and Rehoming Centre at Duchatel Road
- Todd Collection Shed constructed Pioneer Park Museum
- Waste Transfer Station
- Parks and Gardens relocated while the new depot is under construction.

Upgrades completed for Council facilities include:

- Griffith Regional Theatre – dressing rooms, toilets, outdoor amphitheatre
- Griffith Library – multipurpose room and youth space
- Refurbishment of Council Chambers, Finance and Engineering departments
- Storeroom Senior Citizens Centre
- Upgrade to State Bank House
- Masterplan completed for the Council Depot.



### PARKS & GARDENS

8.1, 8.3,  
5.2 & 5.3

Parks, gardens and open spaces are regularly maintained and inspected to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

Jubilee Oval upgrades - cricket nets, parking and amenities block.

Skate Park designed and constructed in Olympic Street.

New Playground equipment installed at:

- McKirdy Park
- Mallee Park
- Enticknap Park
- City Park
- Henderson Oval.



### LANDFILL

8.1

Improvements to the Tharbogang landfill included the planning and preparation of a new cell, construction of Waste Transfer Station and Community Recycling Centre.



## WATER & SEWER

8.1

Council follows 'best practice' in operating, maintaining and managing its water and sewer systems and ensures that the licensing conditions set out by the Environment Protection Authority are complied with.

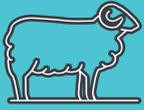
Council's water treatment plants, reservoirs and reticulation and sewerage infrastructure have been well maintained with the following major works being completed:

- Water mains renewal - Jondaryan Avenue, Oakes Road, Wakaden Street, Benerembah Lane, Rossetto Road
- New water mains - Sidlow Road and Merrigal Street, Willandra Avenue, Ballingal Road to Slopes Road, Kidman Way/Thorne Road
- Raw water mains - South Avenue Yenda and Bowditch Place
- Water meter pre-placement and new installations as well as backflow prevention devices
- Odour control inlet works - Griffith Water Reclamation Plant
- Collina infrastructure works – detention basin, storm water drainage, road improvements, sewer pump station and rising main
- Sand filters upgraded - Griffith Water Filtration Plant
- Reservoirs refurbished.

Council adopted its On-site Stormwater Detention (OSD) Policy to make sure that additional flows resulting from development activities are controlled. It also ensures that adequate sediment and erosion controls are put in place at all development sites.

The backlog sewerage project for the villages of Lake Wyangan, Nericon and Tharbogang was completed on time and under budget in 2019, providing sewerage services to these villages.





## SALEYARDS

8.1

The Griffith Livestock Marketing Centre provided facilities for the sale of sheep and lambs.

New shade structures were installed and concreting of worn out areas were completed.

A dual truck wash was constructed in 2020 which provides livestock carriers with a faster, more efficient truck washing facility.



## CEMETERIES

8.1

The Cemetery Management Plan was reviewed and adopted in 2020.

Planning is continuing for the new cemetery to be located at Rifle Range Road with community forums held and the development of a masterplan underway.

Other capital works at the Cemetery included lawn beams and vault construction.



## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

8.3

Council designed several new spaces and facility upgrades across the LGA including Griffith Rehoming Centre, two Community Stages, Henderson Oval, Enticknap Park, Griffith Skate Park, Griffith Community Centre, City Park Amenities Block, Pump Track, City Entrance Signs, and Yambil Street Upgrade.

Installation of Tesla Charging Stations at Visitors Centre Carpark.

Consultation and designs commenced for Wood Park.

Obtained funding to hold Street Scapes Griffith in 2021.

Designed and obtained funding for the Kooyoo Street Redevelopment Project.

Assisted with several events and initiatives including Glow2680 and Bright Lights on Banna.

Developed masterplans for several Council facilities including Youth Precinct, Memorial Park, Lake Wyangan and Jubilee Oval.



## GRIFFITH AIRPORT

8.1

Griffith Airport is maintained and managed in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) standards.

Runway, apron and taxiway resurfacing was completed and Precision Approach Path Indicators lighting installed. REX introduced new Community Fare and additional flights incorporating Broken Hill.

EastWest Airlines Sharp flights commenced for the Griffith-Melbourne Service in July 2019.

Qantas flights Sydney - Griffith commenced March 2021.

Runway Funding received 2021.



## FLOOD MITIGATION

8.4

Council implemented a number of flood mitigation measures including:

- Reinstatement of floodgates at the East Mirrool Regulator, Yenda
- Mirrool Creek Flood Warning System and Flood Forecasting System linked to Bureau of Meteorology
- Emergency Breaching Protocols established
- Design and funding for the McCormack Road levee, culvert upgrade completed
- Hanwood Stormwater pump and levee design and funding.



## SHARED PATHWAYS

8.2, 5.2 & 5.3

Shared pathways provided greater access for the community to participate in activities such as walking, running and cycling.

Over 10km of pathways constructed including Noorebar Avenue, Boonah Street, Animoo Avenue, Ulong Street as well as a number of pathways in the

villages of Yoogali, Hanwood and Yenda. The 2.5 metre-wide Griffith to Hanwood cycle way includes two pedestrian bridge crossings over irrigation channels.

Council received funding from the NSW Active Transport Priority Cycleways Program to construct the Hanwood Cycleway running from Bunnings to Murphy Road (Baiada). Council and Baiada have contributed to the project.



## ROADS NETWORK

8.2

Reseal program for urban, rural and regional roads and gravel resheeting program completed in accordance with annual works programs.

Following design and successful funding application, work on the Southern Industrial Link Road is progressing as follows:

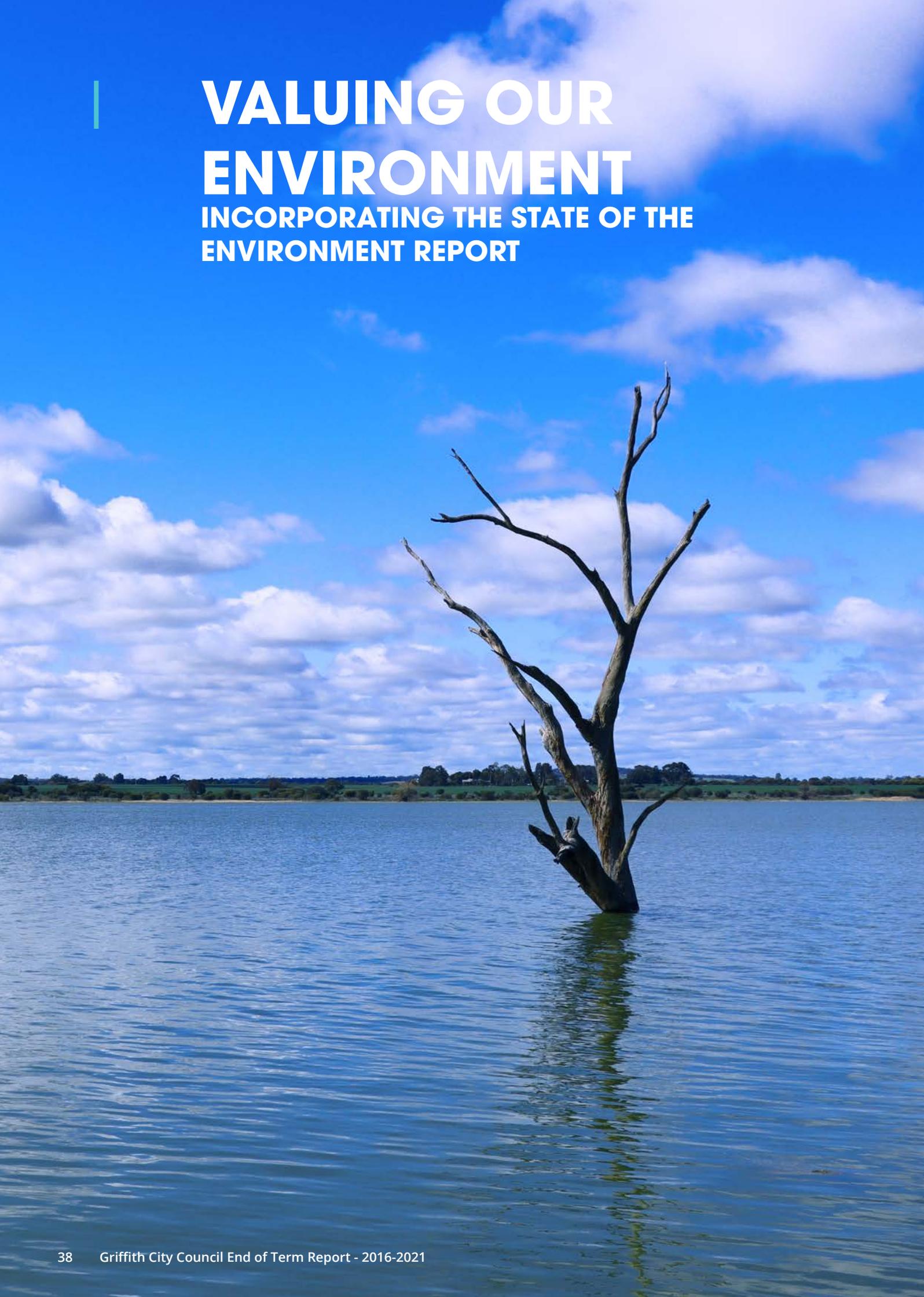
- Stage 1 - 5 way roundabout Old Willbriggie Road - completed
- Stage 2A - Construct Thorne Road (east)
- Stage 2 B - Construct Thorne Road Kidman Way/ Old Willbriggie Road
- Stage 4 - Thorne Road Murrumbidgee Avenue intersection upgrade and widening funding received
- Stage 5A - Thorne Road between Walla Avenue and Bromley Road construction
- Stage 6A - Bromley Road upgrade
- Stage 6 B - MR80 Kidman Way/Brown Road intersection upgrade.

Yambil Street Stage 1 has been completed (November 2019) and Stage 2 (August 2020) and Stage 3 currently underway. This project required design, funding application, community consultation, construction of road, kerb, guttering, drainage and water main trunk renewal.

Transport for NSW has completed the Yoogali intersection upgrade to traffic lights.

Road upgrades have been completed on Oakes Road, Lakes Road, Cooper Road, Halse Road, Jones Road, Crossing Street and flood restoration on local and regional roads.



A photograph of a dead tree standing in a body of water under a blue sky with white clouds. The tree is the central focus, with its bare branches reaching upwards. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the tree. In the background, there is a distant shoreline with some greenery and buildings.

# VALUING OUR ENVIRONMENT

## INCORPORATING THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

## Aim 9: Enhance the natural and built environment

9.1 Encourage considered planning, balanced growth and sustainable design.

9.2 Develop partnerships with the community and government agencies to care for the environment.

9.3 Deliver projects to protect and improve biodiversity and biosecurity.

9.4 Value and protect our heritage buildings and precincts.

9.5 Improve sustainable land use.



**9.1** The Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 (GLEP 2014) guides planning decisions for the Griffith Local Government Area through zoning and development controls, which provide a framework for the way land can be used. The Griffith Land Use Strategy Beyond 2030 also helps to inform decisions on planning and land use. A comprehensive review of development application processes and associated documentation has been completed. Strategic planning documents have been reviewed as well as Council's Development Control Plans.

A housing and land forum was held July 2018 in response to the community's concerns about future land availability. The Affordable Housing Strategy, adopted in 2019, examined the current housing market in Griffith and will guide the future growth of our city. In line with the recommendations of the Strategy, Council amended some of its Development Control Plans (DCP) and is encouraging development of residential flat buildings through amendments to the Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

Council completed Stages 1 and 2 of the Yambil Street masterplan. The masterplan seeks to calm traffic, support pedestrians and promote a more pleasant public realm. Yambil Street will become significantly more attractive through the incorporation of street trees, new pavement and additional public seating and lighting.

**9.2** Council partnered with local community groups, schools, local businesses, universities and government agencies to assist in getting expert advice, on-ground works completed, water quality information and biosecurity issues in regards to pest plants and animals.

Council partners include:

- Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists
- Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Narrandera Landcare/ Murrumbidgee Landcare
- Planet Ark

- Owen Toyota
- Riverina Local Land Services
- Crown Lands
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust
- Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation/Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMJO/REROC)
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- NSW Fisheries Department
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation.

## **BIODIVERSITY & BIOSECURITY**

**9.3**

Council delivered various environmental programs to improve biodiversity and protect the environment.

Griffith City Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan and Policy were adopted in 2019. The objectives of the policy are to promote the environmental, social and economic values provided by roadside environments, to recognise roadside environments as an important asset that require active management and to promote consistency to the environmental assessment of roadside environments when planning and undertaking works in these locations. Council won the Local Government NSW Roadside Environmental Management Award for its Roadside Reserves project in 2019.

Remote camera surveillance was utilised to combat illegal dumping. Annual Clean Up Australia Day, Business Clean Up Day and Schools Clean Up days have been promoted. Council partnered with the Green Army program to provide maintenance to parks and local natural areas and Council has participated in tree planting events and encouraged the greater use of local native species in our parks and gardens.

Council's Biosecurity Officers assisted in the management of vegetation on Council land, roadsides, public and private land by managing biosecurity in accordance with relevant legislation. Council's Biosecurity Officers inspected and monitored weed incursions targeting African Boxthorn, St Barnaby's Thistle, Sweet Briar Rose, Coolatai Grass, Century Plant and Prickly Pear.



## **HERITAGE**

**9.4**

The heritage of Griffith is identified through the provision of the Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 (heritage items and heritage conservation areas).

Council worked to protect the heritage of Griffith by:

- Ensuring that decisions made by Council are consistent with the policies as expressed in Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 and the Development Control Plan 2020
- Acknowledging the importance of Aboriginal occupation and protecting sites that are important to Aboriginal culture and history
- Acknowledging and protecting any archaeological remnants
- Committing to responsible management of Griffith City Council's own heritage resources and heritage in the public domain
- Not supporting development that removes or significantly reduces the heritage significance of any heritage item
- Striving to achieve an appropriate balance between contemporary expectations, environmental sustainability and protecting the elements that make an item significant or important to a conservation area's character
- Acknowledging and protecting the setting of heritage items
- Permitting flexible yet sensitive adaptation of heritage affected sites where appropriate
- Responding to guidance from and the planning principles of the NSW Land and Environment Court.





## SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

9.5

A Contaminated Land Management (CLM) Policy and Register was developed and adopted in 2017. The CLM policy identifies how the management of contaminated land is integrated into Council's Planning and Development Control process and outlines requirements relating to the use and/or development of land that is or may be contaminated.

On September 1, 2019 the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) appointed NSW Councils responsible for regulating most Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) in their local areas.

Griffith City Council agreed to host a workshop run by Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation/Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMJO/REROC) where staff from neighbouring councils attended to experience first-hand UPSS inspection of a service station.

The Griffith LGA currently has 16 service stations that have UPSSs that require regular inspections by Council staff, with four sites remaining with the EPA.



## 10 Use and manage our resources wisely

10.1 Manage Griffith's water resources and water quality responsibly.

10.2 Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

10.3 Provide environmentally sustainable waste management services.

10.4 Encourage and promote the use of alternative and renewable energy sources.

10.5 Plan and implement programs to improve sustainability.



## WATER

10.1

Council owns and operates the Griffith Water Treatment Plant and the Yenda Water Treatment Plant. An appropriate water monitoring system is in place to ensure the safety and well-being of the community is met, while at the same time ensuring appropriate and sustainable ecological management. A hydraulic model of the reticulated drinking water system that can analyse flows and pressure throughout the network was developed. This provided better information to enable future planning of the reticulation network and cater for the growth of the City.

The Strategic Business Plan for Water and Wastewater was adopted in June 2018. The main objective of the plan is to provide Council with a clear framework for the ongoing operation and management of its water supply and sewerage services. The plan provides a 30 year planning horizon in relation to capital works and asset management.

The Risk Based Drinking Water Quality Management document and the supporting systems demonstrate Griffith Council's compliance with the requirement in the Public Health Act 2010 to develop a Quality Assurance Plan in line with the Framework for Drinking Water Quality Management in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. This document acts as a roadmap for the activities that Council undertakes to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to its customers. Council is committed to encouraging water

saving practices and conducted a Waterwise education program to encourage customers to minimise water use in the home. Council offers a water rebate scheme to replace existing single flush toilets and for older model shower roses.

Currently, recycled water produced at the Reclamation Plant is used for on-site irrigation at the Plant, cleaning of fine screens, environmental water for the on-site lagoons, or it is discharged into Barren Box Wetlands and Storage (BBWS) where it is used for environmental purposes and downstream irrigation supply.

Council's Lake Wyangan Water Sustainability Project received \$3.5M in grant funding through the Australian Government's National Water Grid's Connections Funding Pathway to construct a pipeline from the Water Reclamation Plant to the South Lake.

This project aims to improve the quality and reliability of water for Lake Wyangan.





## WASTE MANAGEMENT

10.3

Council operates two landfills (Yenda and Tharbogang) in compliance with EPA license requirements. The technologies used to protect the environment at Council's modern landfill are a considerable improvement on the open dump of the past. Council opened the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) facility at Tharbogang in July 2016. The WTS has been designed to reduce the volume of waste being landfilled and enhance the recycling of materials. This will also result in the extension of the life of the current active landfill. Major upgrades to the Tharbogang Waste Management Facility include construction of a

new Landfill Cell and Green Waste site.

Council's domestic collection has been contracted out to JR Richards and Sons for a 10 year period from 3 November 2018. JR Richards and Sons held the contract for domestic recycling services and now delivers both the recycling and general waste collection service as a result of a competitive tendering process.

Council holds Dump for Free weekends twice a year to help residents dispose of bulky waste and to combat illegal dumping throughout the Local Government Area.

10.2



## ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Council recognises the importance of undertaking energy audits to evaluate overall facility energy consumption, illustrate current energy use and identify potential opportunities for operational energy and cost savings. Council has undertaken Level 2 Energy Audits on several of its major energy consumption facilities including Council's Water Treatment Plant (GWTP), Griffith Water Reclamation Plant (GWRP), Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre (GRALC), Council Administration building and Depot. The energy audits were vital in determining energy consumption and implementation of the audit recommendations has achieved notable cost savings.

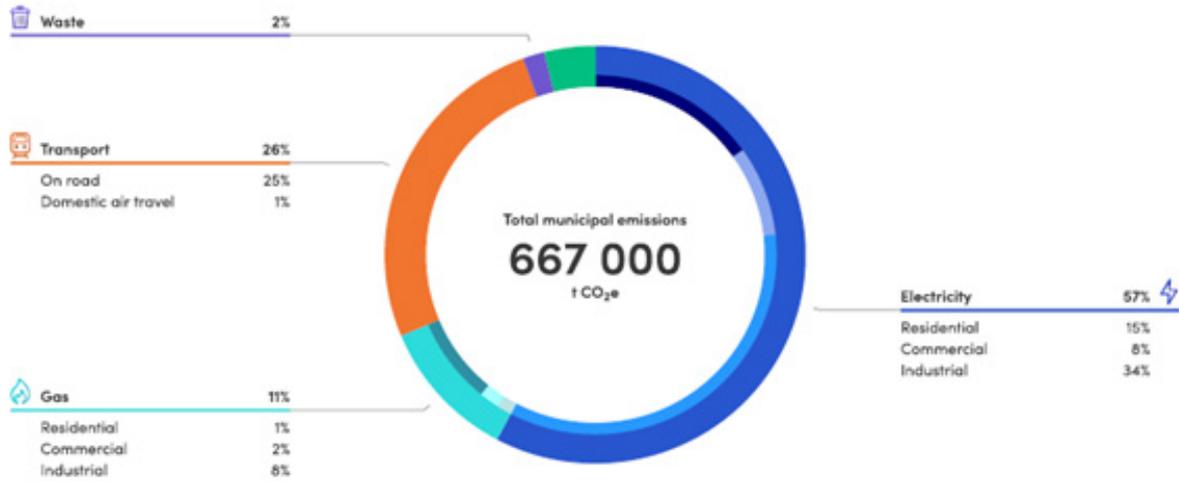
Council is acting to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions primarily by reducing energy usage throughout its buildings and facilities. This has included the installation of LED lighting throughout many Council buildings. Council's new Mechanical Workshop has a number of energy saving appliances, such as LED high bay work lights, sensor lights and inverter air conditioners. To reduce emissions from passenger fleet vehicles on lease back, Council only purchases vehicles where the combined tail pipe emissions do not exceed 240g/Km or the combined fuel consumption is less than or equal to 10.4 litres per 100Km as per the Green Vehicle Guide. In addition, Council continues to use Envirolube oil which is made from re-refined waste or sump oil. Council monitors engine idle times on selected plant and equipment through GPS monitoring tools to eliminate excessive idling where possible.

Source	Sector	Emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Electricity	Residential	101 000
	Commercial	54 000
	Industrial	230 000
Gas	Residential	9 000
	Commercial	12 000
	Industrial	52 000
Transport	On road	163 000
	Domestic air travel	9 000
Waste	Landfill	6 000
	Water	5 000
Agriculture		26 000
Land Use		-2 000

Land Use data is not used in the chart nor the displayed total municipal emissions.

*As of July 2020, every single Australian state and territory has a formal target to reach net zero by 2050.*

## 2019 municipal emissions snapshot



## RENEWABLE ENERGY

10.4

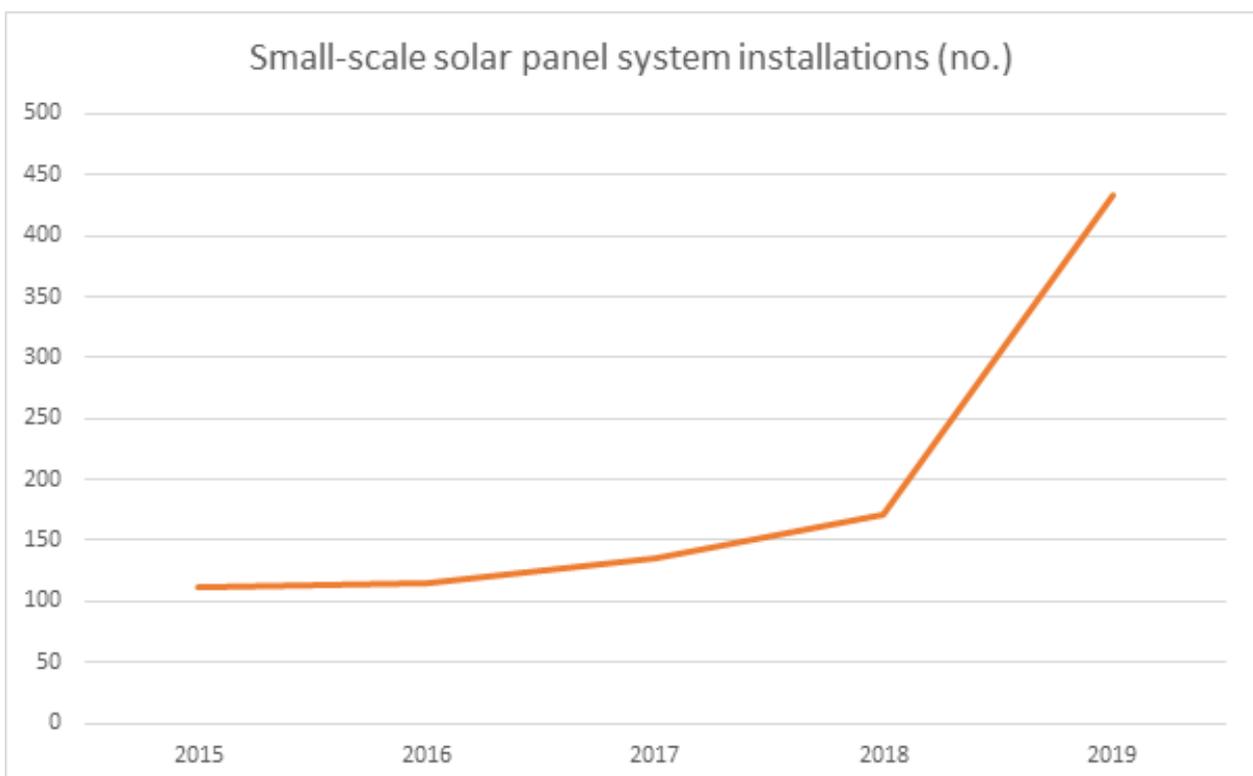
A key objective of renewable energy policies in Australia is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Griffith LGA has seen a dramatic increase in the number of solar panel systems being installed over the past five years and Council leads by example having installed solar panels on most buildings and supports and promotes the use of alternative energy sources.

Below:  
Data from Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Solar installations - year ended 31 December

Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Small-scale solar panel system installations (no.)	111	115	135	171	434
Solar water heater installations (no.)	8	3	3	----	----





Council continued to promote the aims of the Get SepticSmart project to educate householders and businesses within the Council Local Government Area, who are not currently connected to a reticulated sewerage facility, about correctly operating and maintaining their On-site Sewage Management System in a safe, sustainable and responsible manner.

### Lake Wyangan

The Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Strategy (LW&CMS), was developed to respond to ongoing poor water quality issues, in particular, repeat occurrences of Blue-Green Algae (B-GA) in Lake Wyangan (North & South). The LW&CMS sought to understand the current drivers for Blue-Green Algae at Lake Wyangan and identify future management actions and options for Lake Wyangan and the wider surrounding catchment. The Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee was established and a Project Officer appointed. Council continues to implement recommendations as determined by the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Strategy. These include:

- Developing a hydrodynamic circulation model of North Lake Wyangan
- Six-month study by a Chemical Engineering student from University of Sydney to help interpret the influence of water and water discharges on the lake circulation and water quality
- Monitoring the volume, sediment and nutrient concentration of storm water runoff into the Lake
- Measuring key water quality parameters in real-time to help manage the health and ecological condition of the Lake
- Continuing to work with Murrumbidgee Irrigation to develop a plan to maintain North Lake Wyangan water levels suitable for recreational purposes while also providing sufficient water for additional irrigation demand in the catchment
- Tenders sought to redevelop the main drain entering North Lake Wyangan to include a large sediment retention and nutrient filtration, and to provide guidelines for management of waste and stormwater for large scale developments in the vicinity of wetlands and lake.

In May 2020 a fish kill occurred in North Lake Wyangan resulting in native fish dying with mainly Carp surviving. Fish surveys were

conducted and Carp removal began in the first half of 2021 with just under 4,000kgs being removed from the Lake at the time of this report. The Carp removed from the Lake have been turned into fertiliser. Council is now working with the Department of Primary Industries to restock the Lake with native fish.

### Wetlands

Campbell's Swamp, Nericon Swamp, Tharbogang Swamp, Jack Carson Wildlife Reserve and Lake Wyangan are wetlands that provide an important area for biodiversity and linkages to nearby natural bushland that supports a number of waterbirds, bushland and grassland bird species as well as other reptile, mammal, amphibians and invertebrate species.

In late 2020, Plans of Management (PoM) were drafted for Campbell's, Nericon and Tharbogang Wetlands with Lake Wyangan North and Jack Carson Wildlife Reserve to be completed later in 2021.

These PoMs support improved adaptive management of the area and their linkages within the broader Lake Wyangan Basin, and to:

- Improve and protect biodiversity and ecological values with regard to their hydrological environment, flora and fauna habitat
- Potentially maintain and conserve the location's biodiversity and its ecosystem function
- Potentially provide for continued restoration and regeneration of the land
- Provide for improved community use of and access to the land
- Increase awareness through community education and improved eco-tourism opportunities for both Griffith City Council and the broader community
- Increase partnership involvement of key stakeholders.

In more recent years the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has made allocations of environmental water (e-Water) available to both Campbell's and Nericon Wetlands.

Improvements to water delivery and associated infrastructure with enhanced monitoring may further improve water delivery and as a result the wetlands biodiversity overall, particularly for threatened and endangered species.

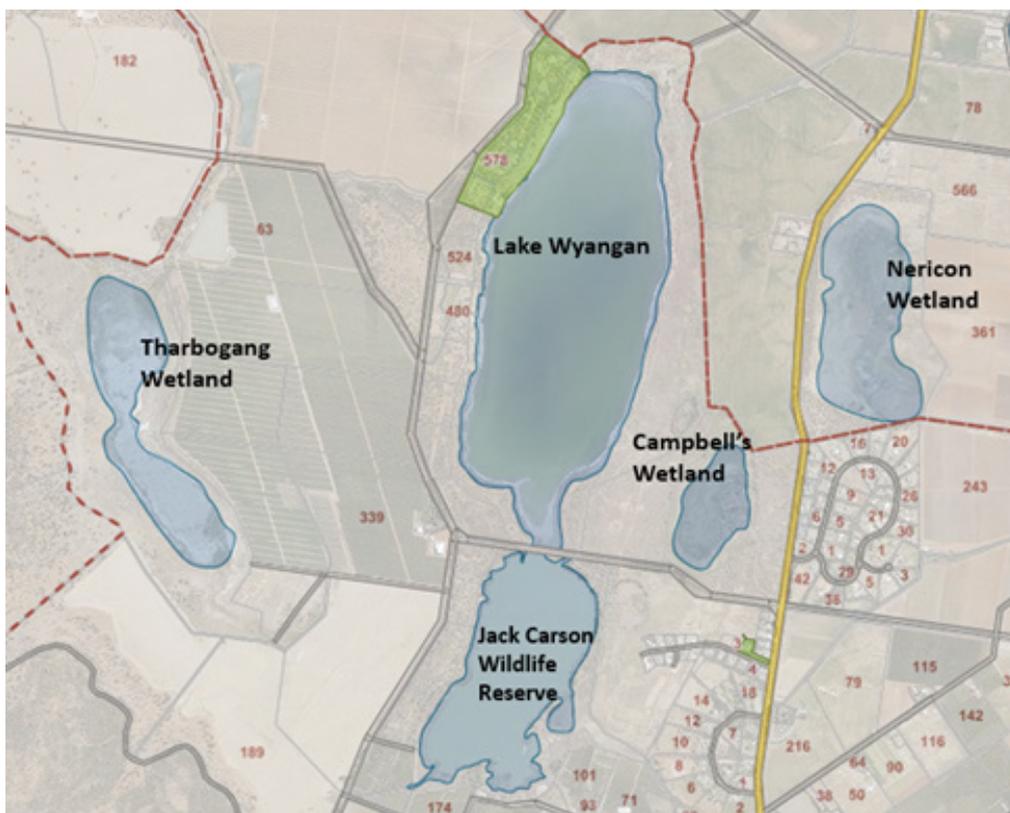
## MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LICENCE (EPL) 4651

Reporting Year	e-Water - Nericon	e-Water – Campbell's	Date	Total e-Water delivered in MIA
2015/2016	138ML 102ML	206ML	November 2015 December 2015	1857ML
2016/2017	126ML 108ML	292ML 77ML	April 2017 May 2017	986ML
2017/2018				600ML
2018/2019		263ML 136ML	October 2018 November 2018	2996ML
2019/2020		200ML	October 2020	
2020/2021		200ML	January 2021	

Tharbogang Wetlands currently does not have the infrastructure to enable e-Water to be delivered, therefore only receives water from rain events greater than 60mm.

In NSW, the average temperatures have been steadily rising since the 1960s. The decade from 2008 to 2017 was the hottest on record. Accordingly, climate change will increasingly affect the environment and society across the State. Accordingly, a more permanent wet area has been preferred at Campbell's Wetlands to support Australasian Bittern and the Southern Bell Frog both currently on the Endangered Species list.

While not recognised under the Ramsar convention as wetlands of international significance, Campbell's Wetlands and Nericon Wetlands have been recognised as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and support the mosaic of wetlands of inland NSW, particularly within the broader Riverina Region and locally within the MIA, as being sites offering refuge during drought years for migratory and other bird species.



# NEXT STEPS

This End of Term Report will inform the review and development of the next suite of documents required under the IP&R framework, including the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), four year Delivery Program, one year Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy. This report will also be incorporated into Council's 2020/21 Annual Report.

During the development of this report, Council recognised the need to review current community indicators to better monitor and report on progress towards community goals. These indicators will be reviewed in the next version of the CSP to be adopted following the December 2021 elections.

You can download Griffith's CSP - Guiding Griffith 2040, along with Council's Annual Reports on Council's website at [www.griffith.nsw.gov.au](http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au).

## CONTACT US

Your comments and suggestions are valuable to Council, particularly in highlighting opportunities for improving Council services, planning and reporting.

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Instagram: @griffithcitycouncil  
Community Opinion Group (COG): [newsletters@griffith.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newsletters@griffith.nsw.gov.au)

# DATA SOURCE

A number of measures were linked to each of the strategies in the CSP, information sources in this document include:

- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- Griffith community and economic profile (<https://profile.id.com.au/griffith> and <https://economy.id.com.au/griffith>)
- 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey
- Reporting on the Council Delivery Program and Annual Reports
- Griffith City Council internal research and reports
- Australian Bureau of Statistics.





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