

STATE OF OUR CITY REPORT

2022-2024



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Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.





Introduction



Message from the Mayor

It is with great pleasure that I present the State of our City Report 2022-2024 for Griffith City Council.

Our community vision, outlined in the Community Strategic Plan, has served as a guiding light for Council's endeavours over the past three years. My fellow Councillors and Council staff have worked tirelessly, keeping this vision at the forefront of our collective efforts. I extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow Councillors for their unwavering dedication to our community and their shared commitment to the growth and enhancement of our City.

I also express appreciation to the dedicated Council staff, led by Mr Brett Stonestreet, our General Manager. Their steadfast commitment and continuous improvement initiatives have resulted in the provision of high-quality Council services and facilities that benefit our community.

Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge and thank the entire Griffith community, as well as our numerous Council volunteers, whose individual contributions collectively enrich the fabric of our City, making it a better place to live and work.

The findings of this report will contribute to ongoing community consultation, providing valuable insights for the newly elected Council as it considers how best to align its actions with the community's vision and priorities. It lays a solid foundation for future planning endeavours, ensuring that Council continues to serve the interests and aspirations of our community effectively.

I eagerly anticipate the continued benefits that will result from our ongoing collaboration and dedication to the betterment of Griffith City.

Councillor Doug Curran
Mayor, Griffith City Council



Message from the General Manager

The State of Our City Report highlights the commendable progress made in advancing the goals outlined in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2032. This report, produced in compliance with the NSW Local Government Act 1993 and Office of Local Government Guidelines, reflects our commitment to reporting on the progress and effectiveness of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2032.

Despite facing some challenges over the past three years, Council has demonstrated resilience and effectiveness in its governance. Key accomplishments during this period include:

- The completion of the Regional Sporting Precinct. This \$25 million project marks a significant enhancement to sports facilities in the city, including upgrades to the Griffith Regional Sports Centre, the addition of a 50m outdoor pool at the Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre and new amenities at Jubilee Oval.

- Significant progress has been made in enhancing road infrastructure, including stages of the Griffith Southern Industrial Link road project, upgrades to Boorga and Dickie Roads, and completion of various stages of the Yambil Street and Kooyoo Street redevelopment projects, improving connectivity and accessibility. Two new car parks were also completed in Railway Street during this term of Council.
- The Griffin Green Affordable Housing Project, undertaken in partnership with Argyle Housing addresses the crucial need for affordable housing in Griffith, with plans for further community development through the construction of a new recreation park.
- Constructed to promote community health and well-being, the bicycle pump track located at Olympic Street and new mountain bike track provide inclusive public play spaces and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.
- Upgrades to parks such as Borland Leckie Park and Wood Park have also enhanced recreational spaces for residents, fostering a sense of community and well-being.
- The Her Way 2680 project involved considerable community consultation and engagement. This pilot project as part of the Safer Cities Her Way Program funded by Transport for NSW saw the construction of two new footbridges, footpaths, installation of lighting, upgrade to Don Best Park, new wayfinding signage, two new smart bus shelters with wireless phone charging and solar capabilities and nine new public works of art in the CBD.

These achievements reflect the dedication and collaborative efforts of Council, its Councillors, senior management and staff in advancing the city's vision and improving the quality of life for our residents.

Council's ongoing commitment to community engagement, continuous improvement and governance best practices and set a strong foundation for continued progress and development in Griffith.

Brett Stonestreet PSM
General Manager, Griffith City Council

Purpose and context of this Report

The State of our City Report serves as a critical component within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework for Councils in New South Wales (NSW). This framework is mandated by the NSW Local Government Act 1993 and is designed to promote strategic planning, accountability, and transparency in local government decision-making processes.

The purpose of the State of our City Report within the IP&R framework is multifaceted. The report allows Council to assess and report on the progress made towards achieving the objectives outlined in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP). It provides an opportunity to review the implementation of strategic initiatives, identify successes and highlight areas requiring further attention or improvement.

This report enhances accountability and transparency in local governance and enables residents to understand how Council resources are being utilised to deliver services, infrastructure and programs in line with community priorities.

The findings and insights gathered from the State of our City Report will inform the strategic planning process for the Council. It will assist Councillors and staff in identifying emerging issues, setting priorities and refining strategies to address community needs effectively. This, in turn, facilitates informed decision-making and resource allocation.

In summary, the “State of Our City” report is a vital tool for assessing our local government area’s current status, ensuring transparency, and promoting accountability to residents. It informs decision-making, supports strategic planning, and engages the community by providing accessible information about progress and challenges. This report aids in monitoring the effectiveness of services and programs, ensuring compliance with legislation, and fostering a collaborative approach to strategic planning for our local government area.

Understanding Integrated Planning and Reporting

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework is a structured approach used by local government authorities to effectively plan, manage, and report on their activities and outcomes. The key elements of this framework include:

Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

- Identifies the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and plans strategies for achieving these goals.
- Outlines the long-term vision, goals, objectives, and strategies based on community input and consultation.
- Identifies Council's and other stakeholders' roles in facilitating delivery of strategies.

Delivery Program (DP)

- Represents Council's commitment to the community, outlining the activities to be undertaken to implement the strategies established by the CSP.
- Covers the Council term (four years).
- Aligns with the CSP's goals and strategies.

Operational Plan (OP)

- Prepared annually as a sub-plan of the Delivery Program, directly addressing the actions outlined in the DP and identifying specific projects, programs, or activities to be undertaken.
- Provides details on the day-to-day operations, including budget allocations, timelines, and responsibilities.

Resourcing Strategy

Long Term Financial Plan

- Assesses the financial sustainability of Council over a minimum period of 10 years.

Workforce Management Plan

- Addresses human resource requirements over a minimum period of four years.

Asset Plan Management

- Accounts for existing and proposed infrastructure assets over a minimum period of 10 years.

Annual Report

- Focuses on Council's implementation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, providing information prescribed by the Local Government Act 1993 and associated Regulations.
- Reviews Council's performance against its goals, financial status and key achievements during the reporting period.

State of our City Report

(This Document)

- Provides a comprehensive report on Council's achievements in implementing the Community Strategic Plan over the term of Council.
- Reflects on the progress made towards fulfilling the objectives set out in the CSP and may include insights into challenges faced and lessons learned.

Integration of these plans ensures that Council delivers the desired levels of service to the community while optimising the use of its resources. It also fosters transparency, accountability and effective governance within the local government authority.

Our Councillors – 2022–2024



Doug Curran
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Senior Management Team



Brett Stonestreet
General Manager

Director Economic & Organisational Development

The Economic and Organisational Development Directorate is responsible for the following functions:

- Tourism
- Economic Development
- Youth & Community Development
- Festivals & Events
- Marketing
- Media / Communications
- Human Resources Management
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Risk Management
- Insurances
- Payroll
- Government Information Public Access Act (GIPAA) requests
- Internal Audit
- Statutory Reporting
- Integrated Planning & Reporting
- Governance & Administration
- Information Technology
- Corporate Information

Director Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Directorate is responsible for the following functions:

- Development Application (DA) Assessment
- Property Management
- Strategic Planning
- Infrastructure Plans
- Land Use Planning
- Heritage
- Transport Plans
- Recreation Plans
- Environment
- Public Health
- Food Safety
- Planning & Environmental Compliance
- Social Planning
- Customer Services
- Compliance
- Airport

Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services

The Business, Cultural and Financial Services Directorate is responsible for the following functions:

- Financial Planning
- Purchasing/ Procurement
- Grants Coordination
- Investments
- Rates & Water Billing
- Asset Management
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre (GRALC)
- West End Stadium
- Regional Theatre
- Art Gallery
- Library – including Western Riverina Community Library
- Private Hospital
- Pioneer Park

Director Infrastructure & Operations

The Infrastructure and Operations Directorate is responsible for the following functions:

- Emergency Management
- Sports Grounds
- Parks & Landscapes
- Noxious Weeds
- Cemetery
- Fleet
- Depot Operations
- Workshop
- Store
- Roads Construction and Maintenance
- Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) Works
- Drainage Maintenance & Construction

Director Utilities

The Utilities Directorate is responsible for the following functions:

- Survey, Design & Drafting Services
- Solid Waste Management
- Recycle Collection
- Trade Waste
- Landfill Operations
- Weighbridge & Quarry
- Water & Wastewater
- Saleyards
- Flood Mitigation
- Road Safety



Shireen Donaldson



Joe Rizzo



Max Turner



Phil King



Graham Gordon

Highlights 2022 - 2024

Griffith Southern Industrial Link Road (GSIL)



A number of stages completed and link road opened to traffic.

Griffin Green Affordable Housing project



Griffith City Council partnered with Argyle Housing to deliver 20 new townhouses and 42 ready to build housing lots.

Redevelopment of Griffith Regional Sport Centre



Including new athletics track and facilities, 5 new indoor basketball courts, outdoor netball courts, synthetic hockey field and grandstand.

Griffith Aquatic Leisure Centre 50 m Outdoor Pool



50m outdoor pool completed at the current Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre site as part of the Sporting Precinct project.

Safer Cities: Her Way Program



The Her Way project included construction of Ulong Bridge, Kooyoo Bridge, upgrade of Don Best Park, bus shelters, installation of lighting, murals and signage.

Mountain Bike Track Abattoir Road



Mountain Bike Track Abattoir Road completed May 2024 comprises 4.5km of tracks, skills area, shelter, fences and car park.

Yenda Oval Kiosk Upgrade



Yenda Oval Kiosk upgrade completed.

New Bicycle Pump Track



New Bicycle Pump Track Olympic Street completed in 2022.

Hanwood Oval Upgrade



Hanwood Oval amenities upgrade.

Jubilee Oval Amenities and Car Park



New amenities and car park at Jubilee Oval.

Yoogali Shared Pathway Construction



Construction of a 2.1km shared path adjacent to Mackay Avenue including 42m bridge over Main Water Supply Canal.

Boorga Road and Dickie Road Sealing Project



Boorga Road and Dickie Road sealing project.

Kooyoo Street Upgrade



Stages 1 and 2 completed including installation of Café and Kiosk.

Railway Street Carparks



Railway Street car parks west and east completed.

Memorial Garden Upgrade



Memorial Garden upgrade - underway.

Barber Road Upgrade



Barber Road Reconstruction and Seal.

Lake Wyangan and Catchment Rehabilitation Strategy



Initiatives commenced, water pipeline and pump installed to reduce water levels following flood event.

Yambil Street Upgrade



Yambil Street Stages 3 and 4 completed.

Collina Infrastructure Works



Collina Infrastructure works at Citrus Road/ Rifle Range Road.

Wood Park/Borland Leckie Park



Wood Park and Borland Leckie Park upgrades and Enticknap Park amenities block.

Airport Upgrades



Airport Runway Resurfacing.

Griffith Reservoir Refurbishment



Griffith Water Reservoir (Scenic Hill) Refurbishment.

Other highlights include:

- Over 90 new CCTV Cameras installed – Banna Avenue, City Park and Yambil Street
- Benerembah Street lighting completed
- Water Treatment Plant upgrade completed
- Upgrades at Griffith Pound & Rehoming Centre
- Daily Telegraph Bush Summit held August 2022
- Cultural Precinct Masterplan – plan adopted following extensive community consultation and Review of Griffith's Local Environment Plan (LEP).

Community Opinion Group



Community Opinion Group meetings held quarterly in Griffith, Yenda, Yoogali and Hanwood.

Yoogali Upgrade



Yoogali Culvert Upgrade.

Hanwood Flood Pump and Levee Project



Hanwood Flood Pump and levee project - underway.



Measuring Our Progress

Measuring progress in the implementation and effectiveness of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) involves tracking various measures and indicators that reflect the achievement of goals and the fulfillment of priorities outlined in the Plan.

Measures are defined within the CSP to assess progress towards achieving its goals and objectives. The State of our City Report provides an overview of the progress made in implementing the strategies outlined in the CSP.

This Report serves as a critical tool for monitoring and evaluating progress towards the community's goals and aspirations, ultimately guiding decision-making and future planning to better serve the community's needs.

Population
(ERP)
27,132 in 2023

The population estimate for Griffith City as of the 30 June 2023 is 27,132. Since the previous year, the population has grown by 0.43%

[View Data](#)

Gross Regional Product
\$2,042M in 2021

\$2,238M

in 2023 (9.5% increase)

[View Data](#)

6% Increase in local businesses (GST Registered)
from Dec 2021 to Dec 2023 [View Data](#)

15% increase

In community members born overseas from 2016 to 2021

[View Data](#)

26% Increase in
median weekly rent from
2016 to 2021

[View Data](#)

**Non-English
Speaking**

5,366 in 2016, increased by 17%
to 6,275 in 2021 [View Data](#)

1.4% decrease in median
monthly mortgage since 2016

[View Data](#)

**“Median Weekly
Household Income
increased by
35%”** from 2016 to 2021

[View Data](#)

17% Increase in
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
islanders (ATSI) population
from 2016 to 2021

[View Data](#)

8.9%
**Increase In
Local Jobs**

**Median Sale
Price** (House)

\$330,000 in 2018 to \$533,750
in 2023.

[View Data](#)

“Local Jobs increased
from 15,389 in 2021 to
16,772 in 2023”

[View Data](#)

Workforce Participation

(Total labour force participation rate)

4% Increase

61% in 2016 to 65% in 2021

[View Data](#)

Socio-Economic Average Index Rating (1 = Poorest)

48 in 2016/17 - 48 in 2021/22

[View Data](#)

Adults Completed Year 12/ Equivalent

35.2% in 2016 to 42.1% in 2021

[View Data](#)

Average Number of People Per Household

2.7 in 2016 - 2.7 in 2021

[View Data](#)

9% increase with 8,483 in 2016 to 9,266 in 2021

Number of Households

[View Data](#)

Households Renting

14% increase with 2,685 in 2016 to 3,067 in 2021

[View Data](#)

Employment Status (Employed)

16% Increase from 2016 to 2021

[View Data](#)

Unemployment Rate

1.8% March 2024

[View Data](#)

University Attendance

384 in 2016 to 516 in 2021

[View Data](#)

TAFE/Vocational

472 in 2016 to 635 in 2021

[View Data](#)

Homeless Persons

749 receiving help in 2021/22
855 receiving help in 2022/23

[View Data](#)

Building Approvals

\$118M in 2020/21
\$130M in 2023/24

[View Data](#)

Residential Vacancy Rates SQM Research

0.8% Dec 2021
0.6% June 2024

[View Data](#)

Agriculture, Manufacturing and Construction have the Highest Value Add in our LGA

The three largest industries in 2021/22 were:

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

\$438M

Manufacturing

\$299M

Construction

\$214M

[View Data](#)

Domestic Visitor Nights In Griffith

513,759 (2020/21) to 477,383 (2022/2023) [View Data](#)

Total Tourism Sales

\$159M in 2017/18 to \$156M in 2022/23 [View Data](#)

Population with a Disability

16.7% in 2018 [View Data](#)

“Top 3 Industries by Employees

Manufacturing, Retail, Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing in 2021”

[View Data](#)

Top 3 Self-Reported Health Conditions (2021)

9.3% Asthma
8% Arthritis
7% Mental Health Condition

[View Data](#)

Life Expectancy at 65 Years

84.1 in 2001
87.4 in 2020

[View Data](#)

Thefts from Dwellings

5% Increase from 2020/21 to 2023/24

[View Data](#)

Life Expectancy at Birth

80 in 2018 then **84.3** in 2020

[View Data](#)

Domestic Violence Related Assaults

5% Increase from 2020/21 to 2023/2024 [View Data](#)

No. of Residents who Volunteer with an Organisation/Group

18% in 2016
13.3% in 2021

[View Data](#)

Migration Net Gains and Losses by LGA July 2021 to June 2023

2,201 in and **3,282** out
Net Loss of 1,081

[View Data](#)

Total Length of Roads

1,288.3 In 2016/17
1,207 in 2021/22

[View Data](#)

Number of Vehicle Crashes in LGA

42 In 2018
45 in 2022

[View Data](#)

Greenhouse Gas (CO²) Emissions for LGA

601,000 in 2017/18 to
570,000 in 2021/22

[View Data](#)

Waste Generated Per Capita

(Kgs per Week)

8.41 In 2017/18
8.78 in 2021/22

[View Data](#)

Recycling Rate

14.3% In 2018/19
19.5% in 2021/22

[View Data](#)

Amount of Public Space Managed by Council

435.9 ha

[View Data](#)



**Community Strategic Plan
(CSP) Themes**

Leadership

1. An engaged and informed community

- 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information
- 1.2 Actively engage with and seek direction from our community and stakeholders.

Measuring our progress

- Council Catch Up emailed weekly to over 2,200 subscribers and printed copies delivered to over 20 locations across the City and villages
- Newsletters issued by Council departments and facilities including Evolve (economic development), Griffith Now Hiring, Griffith City Library, Griffith Regional Theatre & Art Gallery and Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre
- Council Capers internal staff newsletter distributed monthly and Intranet updated regularly to inform staff
- Council's Social Media presence continues to grow. Information is proactively released on Council websites, Facebook, Instagram and Linked In platforms
- Websites include Griffith City Council, Griffith Regional Art Gallery, Griffith Regional Theatre, Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum, Western Riverina Libraries Griffith Library and Visit Griffith
- Websites are reviewed and updated, compliant with legislation and mobile responsive
- Council utilises a number of communication mediums to promote Council events, initiatives and provide information including emails, newsletters, social media, weekly radio phone in and advertising, television advertising, rates notice flyers
- Communication Engagement Strategy adopted and implemented, guiding Council's consultation and community engagement practices
- Community Participation Plan adopted and implemented, setting out how Council will engage with the public in their decision-making regarding planning and assessment
- Community Opinion Group (COG) meetings held 4 times per year in different locations across the LGA
- Council Cafes held monthly providing an opportunity for members of the public to engage with and provide feedback to Councillors and staff
- Local Government Week activities held annually showcasing Council's services and facilities
- Student Leaders reception held annually
- Community engagement undertaken includes consultation for the development of the Community Strategic Plan, Her Way project, Special Rate Variation, Pump Track, Mountain Bike Track project, Youth Advisory Group, Council Committees, Community Surveys, online feedback, Cultural Precinct Master Plan, Budget presentations, Griffin Green project, neighbourhood park redevelopments and regional sports precinct development
- Council Committees established for the new Council term. Committee members are consulted with on important issues affecting the community and local government area
- Council and Committee Agendas and Minutes are available on the Council website for public to access
- Access to information applications processed in accordance with Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Privacy legislation

10,682

Council Facebook Page Followers

37% increase in pageviews
on Council website total of
432,964

1,548

Council Instagram Page Followers

58 Council
Meetings

84 Council
Committee
Members

9

Community
Opinion Group
Meetings

853 Council Resolutions
(including Procedural Motions)

27

Council Cafes

111

Committee Meetings

191

General Feedback Forms
submitted to Council

157

SRV submission forms
submitted

275 Community
Strategic Plan Surveys
submitted (2024)

34,624

Customer Request
Managements (CRMs) lodged
(this figure includes both
externally reported issues and
internal CRMs)

445

Media Releases issued to local media
outlets over the term of Council

4.8 stars
(out of 5)

Customer service satisfaction
survey results

2. Work together to achieve our goals

- 2.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with community, government and non-government agencies to benefit our community
- 2.2 Maximise opportunities to secure external funding for partnerships, projects and programs
- 2.3 Mayor and Councillors represent the community, providing strong, proactive leadership.

Measuring our progress

- Council has actively engaged with and lobbied State, Federal and non-government representatives in a local advocacy role over the past term
- Council plays an active part in the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) of Councils
- Council has applied for and been successful in a number of grants and has established numerous external funding partnerships to deliver projects and programs to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors
- Grant funded projects include:
 - Griffin Green Housing Project
 - Griffith Southern Industrial Link Road Construction
 - Griffith Regional Sports Precinct including 50m pool, Griffith Sports Centre, Jubilee Oval upgrade
 - Her Way 2680 project
 - Griffith Mountain Bike Track
 - Hanwood Oval amenities
 - Yenda Wade Park Kiosk
 - New car parks Railway Street
 - Bicycle Pump Track
 - Kooyoo Street upgrade
 - Yambil Street upgrade
 - Wood Park, Borland Leckie Park, Enticknap Park amenities
- Council Committees and stakeholders are consulted regarding local issues
- Council meets regularly with a number of organisations including Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina, Griffith Business Chamber, Destination Riverina Murray, Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Western Riverina Country Universities Centre
- Mayor and Councillors attend conferences held by peak industry bodies including Local Government NSW, Australian Local Government Association, Country Mayor's Association, Local Government NSW Water Management Conference, Murray Darling Association Annual Conference, National Local Roads and Transport Congress
- Council is part of the Regional Cities NSW and Regional Capitals Australia initiatives
- Council Workshops are held monthly to provide information and updates to the Mayor and Councillors
- Councillor Hub is updated regularly and an Information Sheet issued weekly to Councillors and staff providing up to date information
- Councillors are provided with CRM lodgement process to track reported issues
- Training and conferences are offered to Councillors to assist with their ongoing professional development
- Induction provided to new Councillors and candidate information sessions provided for candidates prior to election

48

Community engagements lodged (CEL forms)

13% of Residents volunteer with an organisation or group in 2021

[View Data](#)

Community grants and sponsorships provided by Council

- In 2021/22 Council provided \$195,325 to financially assist others. The Community Grants program donated \$46,183 to successful applicants.
- In 2022/23 Council provided \$186,782 to financially assist others. The Community Grants program donated \$34,848 to successful applicants.
- In 2023/24 Council provided \$193,458 to financially assist others. The Community Grants program donated \$39,901 to successful applicants.

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

Measuring our progress

- Integrated planning and reporting activities are undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993
- Delivery Program / Operational Plan is reviewed annually, adopted and implemented
- Audit Risk and Improvement Committee and internal audit function of Council provides independent, objective assurance, overseeing the internal controls and risk management framework of Council
- Council policies are reviewed and adopted once within Council term
- Council Meetings are held in accordance with legislation and resolutions implemented
- Risk Management Plan adopted and implemented
- Delegations of Authority reviewed following Council election
- Compliance with statutory requirements including Local Government Act 1993, Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022, Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, Code of Conduct policy, State Records Act 1998
- Annual financial statements are independently audited by the NSW Audit Office
- In 2023, Council resolved that a Special Rate Variation was required to address the pressure on Council's General Fund. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approved Griffith City Council's Special Rate Variation (SRV) application to increase its general rate income above the rate peg for a two-year period. The initial application was for 10.5% over a three year period. Council was granted a 22.10% cumulative increase for 2024/25 and 2025/26
- Council is investigating operating efficiencies to address ongoing financial sustainability. This includes a program of service reviews to encourage continuous improvement across Council's operations and will assist in implementing cost saving measures in areas identified.

Who helped deliver our leadership goals?

- Griffith City Council
- Committees of Council and Council volunteers
- Local, State and Federal Government agencies
- Non-government organisations
- Residents and visitors
- Local businesses
- Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO)
- Griffith Business Chamber
- Media outlets
- Progress Associations
- Health providers
- Police & emergency services
- Education and training providers
- Cultural organisations
- Community organisations
- Griffith Local Aboriginal Lands Council (GLALC)
- Griffith Aboriginal Medical Centre (GAMS)
- Internal and external auditors
- Office of Local Government
- NSW Audit Office
- Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)
- Local Government NSW
- Local Government Professionals



Love the Lifestyle

4. Griffith is a great place to live

- 4.1 Make our community safer
- 4.2 Encourage an inclusive community that celebrates social and cultural diversity
- 4.3 Provide and promote accessibility to services
- 4.4 Provide a range of cultural facilities, programs and events
- 4.5 Improve access to local health services
- 4.6 Promote reconciliation and embrace our Wiradjuri heritage and culture
- 4.7 Provide a range of sporting and recreational facilities
- 4.8 Improve the aesthetic of the City and villages, by developing quality places and improved public realm.

Measuring our progress

A number of programs, services and activities were provided by Council facilities:

Griffith City Library

Provides a safe, inclusive public space with access to a wide range of services, events and activities including Book Clubs, Rhyme Time, Story Time, Knitters, Film Club, Tech Talks, Outreach visits, Community Info Helpdesk, author visits, community programs, displays and exhibitions. The mobile library continues to operate, providing an excellent service to the community of Griffith, surrounding villages and towns.

Griffith Regional Art Gallery

Continues to present exhibitions featuring both local artists and touring exhibitions. The Gallery has had strong community engagement including pre-schools, primary schools, youth, Aboriginal community, multicultural community and seniors. Programs include curator talks and workshops in various mediums as well as local exhibitions

Griffith Regional Theatre

Delivers diverse, high quality programs including children's programs, physical theatre/urban arts, comedy, musicals, drama classes, Theatre Troupe, workshops. Community musical production, The Wedding Singer, was staged in 2023.

Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre

Provides aquatic, gym and crèche facilities offering swim school lessons, hydrotherapy, aqua aerobics, school swimming programs, carnivals, recreational swimming, aerobics classes and kiosk facilities.

Griffith Regional Sports Centre

Provides athletics facilities, basketball courts, netball courts, badminton, lifeball, volleyball and hockey facilities.

Griffith Pioneer Park Museum

Is a popular attraction for both locals and visitors with Action Day continuing to be a popular annual event.

Public Health Functions

- NSW Arbovirus and Mosquito Monitoring Program delivered within the Griffith Local Government Area
- Surveillance includes mosquito trappings & arbovirus detection samples from Sentinel Chicken Flock
- Educational pack delivered to NSW Department of Education Primary Schools
- Arbovirus Awareness and Protection – distribution of Inspect Repellent to community events and vulnerable community groups
- Community Awareness/Education through independent research bodies
- Annual Food Safety Calendars sent to all food businesses with relevant educational food safety information
- Food business inspections conducted, inspections on cooling water systems, swimming pools, onsite sewerage management, hairdressers, beauty clinics and skin penetration premises, mortuaries and water quality sampling from Lake Wyangan

- Issues relating to road safety are addressed regularly in consultation with Council's Traffic Committee and stakeholders including Police and Department of Transport.
- A number of road safety initiatives relevant to Council's Road Safety Action Plan were implemented across the Griffith Local Government Area during the current Council term. Projects with respect to heavy/harvest vehicle safety, speeding and reducing road trauma on rural roads were all targeted
- The Griffith Local Government Area saw a downward trend in the number of casualty crashes and therefore a reduction in serious injury crashes on our road network was achieved. Griffith City Council is committed to reducing road trauma on an ongoing basis by way of education, behavioural change and engineering treatments
- Community Development programs and events including Australia Day and Citizenship Ceremonies
- Consultation with key indigenous stakeholders in the community including Local Aboriginal Lands Council and Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service. Council sponsored Survival Day events, NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremonies, Harmony Day events as well as a number of other indigenous events and activities
- Disability Inclusion and Access Committee meetings are held monthly
- Disability Inclusion and Access Plan actions implemented and reported on annually
- Youth Advisory Group established, delivering a number of events over the past two year period
- Supported Safe Haven crisis service by providing commercial space at 81 Kooyoo Street
- Council partnered with local organisations to recognise Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, International Women's Day, Senior's Morning Tea, Harmony Day, Multicultural events
- Council supported a number of events including Griffith Easter Party, Shaheedi Tournament, A Taste of Italy, Multicultural Festival, International Women's Day, Carols by Candlelight
- Community grant funding provided – two rounds per year as well as individual achievement grants provided
- Community Directory maintained on Council website
- Cultural Precinct Masterplan adopted in 2023 following extensive community consultation
- Meetings held with local health providers including updates on the new Griffith Base Hospital development and St Vincent's Private Community Hospital.
- New sporting and recreational facilities include:
 - Development of Griffith Regional Sport Centre – athletics track, stadium, outdoor netball courts, synthetic hockey field
 - Upgrades to Jubilee Oval – cricket nets and amenities
 - New 50m pool at GRALC facility
 - Wood Park and Borland Leckie Park upgrades, Enticknap Park amenities and car park
 - Griffith Mountain Bike Track and Griffith Pump Track Olympic Street
 - New amenities and kiosk at Hanwood Oval including 4 changing rooms, showers, referee rooms, canteen, covered awnings and spectator area, upgraded power supply
 - New kiosk at Yenda Wade Park
- Her Way project including installation of gender sensitive lighting, way finding signage, upgrades to pedestrian bridges, murals and public art, increasing amenity of bus shelters, new landscaping, street furniture, footpaths and a new gathering space at Don Best park
- CBD activation and placemaking included Street Scapes activations in Kooyoo Street and the car park behind Memorial Park

Over 90

CCTV cameras installed

50+ New street lights installed as well as new lighting in Yambil Street (21 lights) and Kooyoo Street (36 lights)

250+ Food inspections of fixed premises per year

Decrease in crime statistics NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research (BOCSAR):

- Break and enter dwelling – STABLE over the past 2 year period
- Break and enter non dwelling – STABLE over the past 2 year period
- Motor Vehicle theft – STABLE over the past 2 year period
- 299 Steal from dwelling in 2023/24 – STABLE over the past 2 year period

3

Mortuary inspections / year

3

Water carter inspections / year

Inspections of **17** approved registered food vending vehicles annually.

40+

Skin penetration/beauty inspections annually

Number of people attending Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre

- Average 670 learn to swim students per week
- Over 240,000 visits to GRALC during the Council term

Number of people attending the Stadium – 820 unique bookings 2023/24, 9,971 booked hours 2023/24

45 chemical and **35** microbiological water quality samples and inspections conducted annually

3 Crash fatalities in 2020, 1 crash fatality in 2022

[View Data](#)

16% decrease in number of vehicle crashes in LGA between 2020 and 2022

[View Data](#)

Who helped deliver our love the lifestyle goals?

- Griffith City Council
- Local, State and Federal Government and agencies
- Non-government organisations
- Health providers
- Police & emergency services
- Sporting organisations, groups and clubs
- Local businesses
- Griffith Business Chamber
- Creative industries and groups
- Education and training providers
- Cultural organisations
- Community organisations
- Council Committees and Council Volunteers
- Griffith Local Aboriginal Lands Council (GLALC)
- Griffith Aboriginal Medical Centre (GAMS)



Growing our City

5. Grow our economy

- 5.1 Be a location of choice for innovative agriculture and manufacturing
- 5.2 Be a location of choice for business investment, employment and learning
- 5.3 Promote opportunities for business to establish and grow
- 5.4 Strategic land use planning and management to encourage investment in the region
- 5.5 Support diversity in housing options
- 5.6 Promote Griffith as a desirable visitor destination
- 5.7 Support transport connectivity

Measuring our progress

- Housing Strategy recommendations implemented
- Griffith Worker and Housing Shortage Taskforce established in 2023
- Draft Housing Action Plan Report exhibited for public submissions
- Housing Forum held 12 June 2024 hosted by the Griffith Worker and Housing Shortage Taskforce
- Griffith Now Hiring initiative continuing with 27 partners
- Evolve business newsletter sent out monthly
- Investment Prospectus issued 2022 and 2024
- Partnered with Griffith Business Chamber on a number of local initiatives
- Drought Resilience Plan - consultation undertaken
- Griffith's Southern Industrial Link (GSIL) opened providing a direct link for transport operators to access key local freight networks of Kidman Way, Irrigation Way and Burley Griffin Way while bypassing the Griffith CBD
- Business Survey conducted 2023
- Glow2680 Christmas campaign promoted
- Grow our Own initiative supported
- Partnered with Riverina Regional Development Australia (RDA) to promote information and resources and supported RDA's Country Change initiative
- Easy to do Business Program available
- Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 – LEP Review gazetted on 20 October 2023
- Griffith Health Precinct Master Plan prepared and endorsed on 12 March 2023
- Griffith Employment Lands Strategy prepared and endorsed on 23 April 2024
- Griffith Residential Development Control Plan Review prepared and endorsed on 14 November 2023
- Lake Wyangan Section 7.11 Contribution Plan prepared and endorsed on 14 November 2023
- Griffith Large Lot Residential Strategy prepared and endorsed on 22 February 2024
- Griffin Green Affordable Housing project completed 2024
- Administrative support provided for Region 9 Murray Darling Association
- New Tourism Visitor Guides distributed 2022 and 2024, Visit Griffith website updated, seasonal What's On brochures distributed quarterly, Visit Griffith Ambassador program promoted, marketing and promotion through social media and other advertising mediums
- Griffith Spring Fest held 2022, 2023 and 2024 including the unique citrus sculptures, garden festival and launch party
- Promoted events including Griffith Easter Party, Shaheedi Games and A Taste of Italy

9%

Increase in number of local jobs from 15,389 in 2021 to 16,772 in 2023 [View Data](#)

41 Commercial development applications approved 1 Jan 2022 – 30 June 2024

86

Single Residential Dwellings Approved 1 Jan 2022 – 30 June 2024

6.3%

Increase in number of GST registered businesses from 2,896 in December 2021 to 3,080 in March 2024 [View Data](#)

9.5% increase in Gross Regional Product from \$2,042M in 2021 to \$2,238M in 2023 [View Data](#)

245

Alterations & Additions (residential) 1 Jan 2022 – 30 June 2024

Rex and Qantas flights between Griffith and Sydney

171,300 Arrivals and Departures January 2022- June 2024

Country Universities Centre Western Riverina (CUCWR)

253 Registered students semester one 2024

783 Registrations to date since opening (5 years)

14% Increase in number of visitors to Griffith

Domestic Visitor nights

432,964 in 2021/22 and

477,383 in 2022/23

[View Data](#)

Top areas of study are Education 20%, health 19% and Psychology, Social Work, Community Services 17% (2023 Annual Report)

6% of students identify as Indigenous (2023 CUC WR Annual Report)

Highest growth in enrolment of all CUC's in NSW

Export value grew from

\$1,790.9M in 2021 to

\$1,816.6M as at 30 June 2023
(1.4% increase) [View Data](#)

6. Provide and manage assets and services

- 6.1 Provide, renew and maintain a range of quality infrastructure, assets, services and facilities
- 6.2 Maintain and develop an effective transport network (airport, public roads, pathways, pedestrian access and transport corridors) for Griffith and villages
- 6.3 Mitigate the impact of natural disasters

Measuring our progress

- Council utilises its Asset Management Strategy and Plans to guide the planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of its assets. The objective of Council's Asset Management Strategy and Plans are to maximise asset service delivery, manage related risks and costs and provide guidance on how Council will meet the service delivery needs of its community into the future
- Council facilities have been maintained in accordance with the relevant Asset Management Plans and maintenance schedules
- New infrastructure includes Griffith Regional Sport Centre, 50 m pool, Railway Street car parks and amenities at Jubilee Oval, Hanwood Oval, Yenda Wade Park
- The Her Way project resulted in a number of new walkways, improved lighting and bridge replacements over the Main Canal
- Airport has been managed and maintained in accordance with CASA standards. Runway resurfacing completed
- Sealed and unsealed roads maintenance undertaken in accordance with asset management plan
- Roads sealed / constructed in accordance with Capital Works Program and funding secured – some of these include Citrus Road and Rifle Range Road intersection, sealing of Boorga Road, Dickie Road, Barber Road drainage and seal
- The GSIL was opened for public use on 24 July 2023 under speed restrictions at certain sections along the route. This GSIL provides a direct link to key inter-regional and interstate freight networks and last mile connectivity to local commodity producers and processors. GSIL construction includes Thorne Road West, Thorne Road (Walla Ave/Murrumbidgee Ave), Roundabout Thorne Road/Murrumbidgee Avenue, Bromley Road
- CBD upgrade including Yambil Street Stage 3, Kooyoo Street Stage 1 and 2
- Parks, gardens and open spaces inspected and maintained. New Parks and Gardens Shed constructed at Council depot
- Park upgrades to Wood Park, Borland Leckie Park, Enticknap Park amenities
- Council operates and maintains two water treatment facilities that produce our drinking water, the Griffith Water Treatment Plant and the Yenda Water Treatment Plant and three sewerage treatment plants, the Griffith Water Reclamation Plant (GWRP), the Yenda Sewer Plant and the Bilbul Sewer Treatment Plant. Maintenance provided on reservoirs, water mains, treatment plants, pump stations, rising mains.
- Water and Sewerage Services Review and gap analysis undertaken 2023/24 (ongoing)
- Griffith Livestock Marketing Centre provided and maintained for the sale of sheep and lambs
- Cemetery Management Plan implemented. Council manages and maintains Griffith, Yenda and Bagtown cemeteries within allocated budgets. Planning is continuing for the new cemetery to be located at Rifle Range Road. Partnership entered into to establish and operate a crematorium
- Waste Management operations including management of landfill, commercial waste collection and gravel extraction

- The Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy provides an important framework for addressing the needs of pedestrians and cyclists within the Griffith area and the management of resources and funding required to construct such infrastructure
- Merrigal Sidlow Path/(Willandra to Sidlow Road) and (Merrigal to Pioneer Lodge) and Merrigal/Goondooloo Street path (Gunbar Street to Yarrabee Street, including bridge over Main water supply canal)
- Resurfacing Lake Wyangan path with asphalt
- Completion of shared path extension to western side of Jones Road Causeway
- Completion of pedestrian links at the intersection of Willandra and Merrigal Streets
- Completion of paths and 2 new pedestrian bridges in Kooyoo and Ulong Street (HerWays Project)
- Reconstruction of path Banna Avenue (Govt Office Block to Tourist Information Centre)
- Reconstruction and extension Citrus/Calabria Road pathway
- Griffin Green path sections
- Yoogali Shared Pathway and Bridge – construction of new shared pathway along Mackay Avenue commenced, linking Blumer Avenue to Yoogali. Hanwood cycleway completed. Lake Wyangan cycleway resurfaced
- Flood Mitigation measures include:
 - Work is progressing on the Hanwood Stormwater pump and levee project including installation of stormwater pipeline and pits, kerb and gutter installation, construction of the pump station in Mallee Street and levee around Leonard Road and Mallee Street
 - Yoogali culvert upgrade completed
 - Lake Wyangan flood pipeline completed
- Council staff have led and guided representatives from the various Emergency Services and stakeholders through the regular Local Emergency Management obligations. Council has also participated in the development of support planning framework such as the Disaster Adaptation Plan and The Disaster

Who helped deliver growing our city goals?

- Griffith City Council
- Local, State and Federal Governments and agencies
- Non-government organisations
- Education and training providers
- Committees of Council
- Industry groups
- Griffith Business Chamber
- NSW Business Chamber
- Local businesses
- RDA Riverina
- Residents
- Police & emergency services
- Health providers
- Housing & accommodation providers
- RAMJO
- Emergency services

Valuing our Environment

7. Enhance the natural and built environment

- 7.1 Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and sustainable design
- 7.2 Deliver projects to protect and improve biodiversity, biosecurity and sustainability
- 7.3 Protect our heritage buildings and precincts
- 7.4 Improve sustainable land use

Measuring our progress

- Council has issued construction certificates, occupation certificates and complying development certificates as per legislation and in a timely manner.
- NSW Planning Portal launched requiring applicants to lodge Development Applications online
- Enforcement and compliance actions relating to planning, building and construction, environmental protection, parking and animal compliance undertaken as required
- Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 – LEP Review – gazetted on 20 October 2023
- Griffith Health Precinct Master Plan – endorsed on 12 March 2023
- Griffith Residential Development Control Plan Review – endorsed on 14 November 2023
- Griffith Large Lot Residential Strategy – endorsed on 22 February 2024
- Council’s Biosecurity Officers assist in the management of vegetation on council land, roadsides, public and private land. Manage and maintain Council’s obligations under Biosecurity legislation. Considerable eradication of African Boxthorn and Prickly Pear. Weed control grants have helped maintain a strong control program for weeds of national significance within the LGA

<p>Private Swimming Pool inspections program ongoing</p>	<p>8 Biocontrol programs being 2 African boxthorn, 4 Prickly pear, 1 Sagittaria, 1 Paterson’s Curse</p>	<p>420 Trees planted in urban zones (including new subdivisions)</p>
<p>247 Residential Dwellings Approved January 2022 - June 2024</p>	<p>Griffith Employment Lands Strategy - endorsed on 23 April 2024</p>	<p>30km of roadside reserves have Priority weed control done annually</p>



8. Use and manage our resources wisely

8.1 Manage Griffith’s water resources responsibly

8.2 Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions

8.3 Promote the use of alternative and renewable energy sources

8.4 Implement programs to improve sustainability

Measuring our progress

7%

Increase in water use per capita - 230kL/person in 2022/23 and 246 kL/person in 2023/24

[View Data](#)

6% decrease in amount of waste recycled from 2021 to 2023:

- 2021 – 1119 tns
- 2022 – 1145 tns
- 2023 – 1045 tns

Over 300 CRMs raised in relation to dumped rubbish during the Council term

Recycling rate was **14.3%** in 2018/19 and **19.5%** in 2021/22 [View Data](#)

A number of energy audits have been conducted on Council sites

5 %

decrease in greenhouse gas (CO2) emissions from 2018/19 to 2021/22 [View Data](#)

Lake Wyangan pump and pipeline constructed to remove excess flood water

Installation of energy efficient appliances including hot water systems, LED lighting in Council buildings and facilities

Council is investigating introduction of Food Organics and Garden organics (FOGO) service

- Council follows ‘best practice’ in operating, maintaining and managing its water systems. Water quality complies with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- Council uses Envirolube oil which is made from re-refined waste or sump oil
- Rebate program provided for water efficient devices
- Council continues to work with industry and other key groups to encourage the use of alternative and renewable energy sources
- Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management (LWCM) Strategy recommendations implemented in consultation with the LWCM Committee
- Treatment of Blue Green Algae undertaken in the North Lake with Chemiplas in 2022 however efforts were lost due to heavy rainfall and flooding
- 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 deliver both the recycling and general waste collection service for the local government area
- 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. Following a successful trial period, Dump for Free now operates twice a year for 2 one month periods
- Remote camera surveillance has been utilised to combat illegal dumping
- Council 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
- Engine idle times are monitored on selected plant and equipment through GPS monitoring tools to eliminate excessive idling where possible

Who helped deliver valuing our environment goals

- Griffith City Council
- Committees of Council
- Local, State and Federal Government and agencies
- Non-government agencies
- Community organisations
- Cultural organisations
- Education and training providers
- Research and environmental organisations
- Residents
- Progress Associations
- Local Land Services
- RAMJO
- Department of Planning Industry and Environment
- DPIE Water
- NSW Environment and Heritage



Financial Performance

Financial overview

Griffith City Council has continued to meet its statutory reporting obligations year-on-year with collation and presentation of Quarterly Review Reports and lodgement of Annual Financial Statements with the Office of Local Government completed as required. An extension of time for lodgement of the Annual Statements of Account 2022/2023 was approved by the Office of Local Government.

In each of the past 3 years, Council has recorded a consolidated operating surplus between \$1.8M and \$4.5M with a further consolidated surplus expected for the 2023/24 financial year with the financial accounts still under preparation at the time of preparing the State of our City Report.

Whilst Council has made all reasonable endeavours to maintain a positive financial position increasing financial pressure continues to be applied on Council particularly the General Fund. High inflation on expenditure items, net reduction in grant funding and ongoing cost shifting by other levels of government has placed Council's financial position at an unsustainable position into the future.

After extensive community consultation, in October 2023, Council resolved to apply for a permanent special rate variation increase to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) of 10.5 per cent each year for three years (2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27) – a cumulative permanent increase of 34.9 per cent.

On 14 May 2024, IPART released its decision regarding Griffith City Council's application for a special variation to increase its general income by more than the rate peg.

Council's application was approved for a 22.10% cumulative increase over 2 years - 10.5% in 2024/25 and 10.5% in 2025/26 (inclusive of the rate peg) with the first 10.5% increase implemented in July 2024.

As part of Council's budget preparation and submission to IPART, our organisation has also committed to finding and implementing cost savings of \$1.0M per annum.

Griffith City Council has completed a large number of capital projects over the past three years including:

- the Regional Sporting Precinct including upgrades to the Griffith Regional Sports Centre
- the addition of a 50m outdoor pool at the Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre
- new amenities at Jubilee Oval
- Griffith Southern Industrial Link road project
- two new car parks in Railway Street
- Griffin Green Affordable Housing Project including 20 new townhouses and 42 ready to build housing lots
- upgrades to Borland Leckie Park and Wood Park
- Her Way 2680 project saw the construction of two new footbridges, footpaths, installation of lighting, upgrade to Don Best Park, new wayfinding signage, two new smart bus shelters with wireless phone charging and solar capabilities and nine new public works of art in the CBD.
- Mountain Bike Track Abattoir Road comprising of 4.5 km of tracks, skills area, shelter, fences and car park
- New Bicycle Pump Track Olympic Street
- Hanwood Oval amenities upgrade
- Yoogali Shared Pathway construction commenced
- Boorga Road and Dickie Road sealing project
- Kooyoo Street upgrade Stages 1 and 2 completed including installation of Café and Kiosk
- Yambil Street Stage 3 completed
- Barber Road drainage
- Lake Wyangan and Catchment Rehabilitation Strategy – initiatives commenced
- Hanwood Flood Pump and levee project - underway

Council's cash position remains in a satisfactory position as at 30 June 2024 with sufficient cash backed reserves to cover all external and internal reserves as well as current working capital requirements.





Next Steps

Where we are headed

The community vision for Griffith, states that “Griffith is a thriving and innovative regional capital with a vibrant lifestyle and diverse economy. We embrace our community, heritage, culture.” Our vision is designed to encourage commitment to our future and a sense of common purpose and responsibility.

Collectively:

- We aim to govern with integrity, transparency and accountability and to engage with residents, businesses, community organisations and Indigenous stakeholders in collaborative decision-making processes that address community needs, aspirations and priorities.
- We celebrate our cultural diversity and promote social inclusion and respect for all residents, regardless of background, ethnicity or identity. We strive to create a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and empowered to participate fully in civic life.
- We are committed to promoting the health, safety and well-being of our residents by providing access to quality healthcare, education, recreation, and social services and fostering a strong sense of belonging and social connectedness.
- We aim to foster a dynamic and diversified economy that supports entrepreneurship, innovation and job creation, while ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities for all residents.
- We are committed to investing in essential infrastructure, including transportation, utilities, and digital connectivity, to support growth, enhance liveability and improve access to services and amenities for residents and visitors alike.
- We recognise the importance of protecting and enhancing our natural environment, conserving water resources, reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable land use practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.



We will achieve our community vision by working collaboratively to build a vibrant and resilient future for Griffith.

Council prioritises engaging with our community to ascertain its priorities for Griffith's future direction. The review of the Community Strategic Plan will serve as a roadmap for guiding decision-making, resource allocation and collaborative efforts to shape our city's future. We encourage participation from residents, businesses, community organisations, government agencies and other key stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process.

Council continues to identify opportunities for growth, innovation and improvement to shape our future trajectory. These include leveraging strengths such as our strong agricultural and manufacturing sector, food and wine culture, diverse community, strategic location, education and healthcare facilities, natural resources and recreational facilities, strong community spirit, cultural assets and innovation along with collaborative leadership to attract investment, foster entrepreneurship and enhance quality of life.

Future Challenges

In planning for our future, we also need to consider the challenges and risks that Griffith may face in the coming years. These include:

- The lack of affordable housing options leading to homelessness, housing stress, and social inequality as well as hindering skilled worker attraction.
- The impacts of the Murray-Darling Basin water buybacks including agricultural productivity, potential loss of jobs and economic downturn, economic stress and financial hardship.
- Aging infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and utilities require ongoing maintenance and sometimes costly upgrades. Balancing limited budgets with the need for essential infrastructure improvements can be challenging.
- Addressing climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and implementing sustainable practices in waste management, energy use, and water conservation.
- Cost of living, meeting the needs of our diverse communities, including affordable housing, healthcare, education, and recreational facilities, to promote social equity and community well-being.
- Attracting businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, and creating job opportunities while ensuring sustainable economic growth and resilience against economic downturns.
- Retaining young people.
- Keeping pace with advancements in technology to improve services, enhance communication with residents, and ensure cybersecurity in an increasingly digital world.
- Managing budgets effectively, identifying sources of revenue, and allocating resources efficiently to provide essential services while minimising the burden on ratepayers.
- Maintaining transparency, accountability, and trust in local government through open communication, ethical leadership, and public participation in decision-making processes.

Navigating these future challenges will require visionary leadership, proactive planning and collective action from the Griffith City Council, other partners and the community. By working together and leveraging the city's strengths and resources, Griffith can strive towards a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future for all residents.



Griffith City Council

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