



LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF

COUNCIL

TO BE HELD AT

THE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, LITHGOW

ON

28 JUNE 2007

AT 6.00 PM

AGENDA

PRESENT

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY - NIL

PRESENTATIONS -NIL

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - NIL

NOTICES OF MOTION - NIL

NOTICE OF RESCISSION - NIL

MAYORAL MINUTE - NIL

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Community and Corporate Services Reports

CLOSED REPORTS - NIL

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - NIL

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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ITEM: 1 COMM - 28/06/07 - DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN - 2007/08 - 2009/10

**REPORT FROM: POLICY & PLANNING MANAGER – A MUIR, COMMUNITY & CULTURE
MANAGER – P HALL & INTERNAL SERVICES MANAGER – C FARNSWORTH**

REFERENCE

06-150: Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 5 June 2006
 06-180: Council Meeting 19 June 2006
 07-51: Council Meeting 19 February 2007
 07-72: Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 5 March 2007
 07-76: Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 5 March 2007
 07-80: Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 5 March 2007
 07-102: Council Meeting 19 March 2007
 07-114: Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 2 April 2007
 07-137: Council Meeting 16 April 2007
 07-141: Council Meeting 16 April 2007
 07-155: Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 7 May 2007
 07-195: Council Meeting 21 May 2007
 07-205: Council Meeting 21 May 2007

SUMMARY

This report presents the Draft Management Plan, the 4 rating model options of the Revised Revenue Policy, submissions, requests for donations and the outcome of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for Council's consideration and determination.

COMMENTARY

The Draft Management Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10 details Council's activities for the next 3 years and the Revenue Policy for the next year. At its meeting of 16 April 2007, Council resolved to exhibit the Draft Management Plan from 19 April to 16 May 2007. In addition, Council resolved at its meeting of 21 May 2007 to exhibit updated rating models which included the Minister for Local Government's rate peg limit of 3.4% and a redistribution of yields for the rating categories. Subsequently, 4 rating model options were exhibited in the Revised Revenue Policy from 24 May to 20 June 2007.

During the exhibition periods the following activities were undertaken to inform the community of the Draft Management Plan and its proposed activities, rates, charges, fees and the Public Information Sessions:

- Advertisements in Council's Column of the Lithgow Mercury and on 2LT Radio.
- Correspondence to all persons who had registered an interest in either the Draft Strategic Plan and/or Draft Management Plan advising them of the exhibition of both Draft Plans and the Public Information Sessions.
- Correspondence to community groups such as Tidy Towns Committees and Community/Progress Associations.
- Press releases were provided to the media on the following subjects:
 - Draft Management Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10 and Draft Strategic Plan
 - Indoor Swimming Pool could be a reality in 2007/08
 - \$30.4 Million Proposed Capital Works Program for 2007/08

- The General Manager provided a number of interviews to the media.
- Correspondence was forwarded to all persons who had registered at the Public Information Sessions and/or made a submission advising them of the exhibition of the 4 rating model options as part of the Revised Revenue Policy.

This report presents the Draft Management Plan, the 4 rating model options of the Revised Revenue Policy, submissions, requests for donations and the outcome of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for Council's consideration and determination.

Public Information Sessions

During the exhibition period, Council conducted information sessions on the Draft Management Plan and Draft Strategic Plan at Lithgow, Wallerawang, Portland, Hartley, Cullen Bullen, Glen Davis, Rydal and for the Lithgow Business Association. A total of 108 persons attended these sessions. The following issues were raised relating to the Draft Management Plan and recorded:

Lithgow – 23 April 2007

- The application of the special rate on owners of multiple properties owned by a person(s) which have not been amalgamated for the purposes of rating.
- Rating models, in particular, the reaction of the mining sector was unknown, lower rates compared with Blue Mountains and an increasing farming rate in Option 2 was noted.

Wallerawang – 30 April 2007

- The community will be involved in the preparation of guidelines for financial assistance.
- The number of rating options was noted.
- Council does not maintain Blackman's Flat Cemetery as it is a private cemetery and therefore is not listed in the Draft Management Plan.
- The Draft Management Plan is biased towards a pool and maybe it should have suggested a range of things for the community to prioritise before finalising.
- Proposed upgrading works or lack of works on Wolgan Road (works proposed), Glen Davis Road (works were proposed) and Thompson Creek Road (no works are proposed) were noted.
- Proposed water saving and effluent reuse schemes were noted.

Portland – 30 April 2007

- Crystal Theatre work is subject of a grant.
- Impact of the rating models on farmers was noted.
- The proposed indoor swimming pool, in particular, the management of the facility by PCYC; the need to maintain the children's pools; suggestion to build the facility at Wallerawang with the increased cost being noted; Council operating learn to swim activities for adults, noting that such an activity is not undertaken by Council but by the Department of Sport and Recreation.
- Consider highlighting any new fees in the Draft Management Plan for 2007/08.
- The need to provide seats around Portland and need to request such in a submission.

Hartley – 1 May 2007

- The value of contributing towards the Upper Macquarie County Council was discussed.
- The need to change the current pensioner rebate scheme on Council rates and charges.
- The drought may bring the value of farmland back.
- Waste disposal options for Hartley residents such as a transfer station when Blackman's Flat Waste Management Facility opens.
- The condition of Browns Gap and Cox's River Roads was identified as requiring attention.

Lithgow Business Association – 2 May 2007

- Don't join with Bathurst for an Economic Development Officer.
- State owned corporations are only responsible for user charges.
- The special parking rate is applicable even if the business has its own carpark.
- The occurrence of parking patrols.
- The increase in fees was advised.
- Strategies to encourage development such as an Economic Development Officer and working with local businesses etc were highlighted.
- Proposed improvements to the Civic Ballroom toilet facilities if grant funding is received was noted.
- The indoor swimming pool facility, in particular, the design, management and timing of construction was discussed.
- The provision of additional car parking for Wallerawang Stadium has not been included in the Draft Management Plan.

Cullen Bullen – 5 May 2007

- Blackman's Flat Waste Management Facility, in particular, the proposed works in 2007/08; the closure of small landfills and the consideration of facilities at Capertee and Newnes were discussed.
- Condition of Portland/Cullen Road and Old Cottage Road.
- The proposed public toilet facilities.
- The need for footpaths.
- Impact on Lithgow from the Bells M2 Expressway, in particular the experiences of other places which have been by-passed were discussed.
- The indoor swimming pool does not provide a service for Cullen Bullen.
- Not many activities proposed to be undertaken in Cullen Bullen.
- Rates yield from mining were noted.

Glen Davis – 5 May 2007

- The method of rating i.e. the rate in the dollar on the unimproved capital value of the land and how the proposed redistribution of the rates has affected properties close to and further away from Lithgow. A fairer way would be for those closer to Lithgow to pay more.
- Building the pool on the basis of land value.
- It was suggested to purchase a roller and was advised that 2 rollers have been purchased this financial year.
- Glen Davis Road needs upgrading and funds should be diverted from the Lithgow area to Glen Davis.

Council's upgrading program was advised as agreed with the Glen Alice and Glen Davis Progress Associations Executives i.e. construct and seal approximately 4km over 2006/07 and 2007/08. However, it was also highlighted that Council is trying to complete the 2 years work this financial year. Options for future funding of upgrade works were also discussed including Auslink, Roads to Recovery, the general unavailability of a special rate for a road works, loans and classification of Glen Davis Road as a regional road.

- Wolgan Road is over funded.
- Proposed works are to occur on Dark Corner Road which is contracted work with State Forests.
- Spend \$9.5M on an indoor swimming pool but can not provide \$2.8M for the Glen Davis Road.
- The provision of a toll free telephone number for Council is being investigated.

Rydal – 5 May 2007

- The need for works on the Hampton end of the Rydal/Hampton Road were identified.
- The method of rating based on the unimproved capital value of the land and the subsequent diversity in the final proposed rate/charges for properties was noted.
- Farming people are hurting and the inability to amalgamate farms for rating purposes which are in different names is an issue.
- Rural people get the biggest increase. However, it was highlighted that the mining category receives the biggest increase.
- Residential people have a bigger income than farmers and it is unfair. However, it was noted that the farmland rate in the dollar is the lowest.
- Rural increases when residential decreases, but rural areas don't get the services.
- Proposed indoor swimming pool facility including the previous survey and believed the charge would be \$40-50 per property.

The majority of issues raised were dealt with at the Public Information Sessions and/or in a response to a written submission. However, for those issues which are not addressed the following brief comment is provided:

- The decision to investigate in the Draft Management Plan an indoor, heated swimming pool is derived from recent consultations Council has undertaken with the community such as the Social Plan 2006 – 2011, the Community Attitude Survey on the Aquatic Centre and the Strategic Plan where this issue was raised as one of the priorities from many community sections.
- Upgrade works to Browns Gap Road are proposed in 2008/09, Coxs River Road and Rydal/Hampton Road will be assessed for future management plans.
- Old Cottage Road at Cullen Bullen is a Right of Way and therefore, is not the responsibility of Council.
- The construction of the public toilet facilities in Cullen Bullen is the main activity proposed in this area in 2007/08. It is part of a multi year program to replace public toilets across the region.

Written Submissions and Responses – Exhibition Period 19 April to 16 May 2007

All written submissions which have been received during the exhibition period are considered in this report. The following table identifies each submission, sets out the issues raised in relation to the Draft Management Plan and responds to each issue.

Submission	Issue	Comment/Response															
1. Private Submission	<p>In relation to the levy for the Lithgow indoor heated swimming pool facility, it is extremely unfair that as an owner of more than 1 property (including vacant land), I should have to pay the levy on all my properties, especially when I will not use the facility due to having a pool myself.</p> <p>Not against the project, but urge Council to put some thought into the funding of the project and the financial burden it will be placing on ratepayers in the community, whom many are already stretched financially.</p> <p>The levy may appear to be only minimum but if you multiply it over the number of years you will be surprised how much we will be actually paying.</p>	<p>The special rate variation for the design and construction of an indoor swimming pool facility is presented as Option 1 and 3 in the rating models of the Revised Revenue Policy for the Draft Management Plan. It is proposed to be levied on all rateable properties in the Local Government Area and is incorporated into the ad valorem amount which produces a rate amount based on the unimproved capital value of the land.</p> <p>The proposed redistribution of rate yields under Options 1 and 3 compared to the yield in 2006/07 is illustrated in the following table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Option 1</th> <th>Option 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Residential</td> <td>-11.35%</td> <td>-2.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland</td> <td>6.18%</td> <td>2.15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business</td> <td>-0.06%</td> <td>4.65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mining</td> <td>172.51%</td> <td>108.70%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The special rate will be applicable for 7 years in accordance with legislative requirements. It will be necessary for Council to reapply for this special rate at the end of 7 years to complete the funding of the project.</p>	Category	Option 1	Option 3	Residential	-11.35%	-2.00%	Farmland	6.18%	2.15%	Business	-0.06%	4.65%	Mining	172.51%	108.70%
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2. Ironfest	<p>Requests that Ironfest be considered for financial support in 2007/08. It highlights the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ironfest is a registered not for profit association • In 2006, there were over 600 participants; 7,000 visitors; and an estimated \$450,000 (TNSW estimate) contribution to the local economy. 	<p>Council's Donations Policy under Section 356 of the Local Government Act provides for the recurrent funding of Ironfest. The funding for Ironfest is noted in the donations list of the Arts and Culture Section of the Draft Management Plan. The proposed donation is \$10,000.</p>															
3.	While any reduction in	Section 509 of the Local Government															

Private Submission	rates is of assistance to struggling families, there is a concern that such a reduction might lead to Council falling behind with infrastructure and services. Would prefer to pay the current rates and see much-needed improvements made.	Act states that Council must not make rates and charges to produce an amount of general income in 2007/08 that exceeds the notional general income of Council in 2006/07 plus the rate peg limit and/or variations approved by the Minister for Local Government. Therefore, when redistributing the yield of rates between categories, if there is an increase in yield from one category there must be a corresponding decrease in one or more other categories. Thus, no change overall to the dollars collected.
	The unsealed section of Wallerawang Rydal Road quickly becomes a bog when it rains.	The Draft Management Plan proposes an allocation of \$50,000 from the Roads to Recovery Program in 2007/08 to undertake restoration of the sealed section at the Wallerawang end of the Road. However, it is considered far more beneficial to undertake works to seal the balance of the current unsealed section of the Road. As a result of works completed in 2006/07, approximately 1.1 kilometres of the Road remains unsealed. Therefore, the proposed Roads to Recovery Program for 2007/08 is suggested to be amended to seal the balance of the Wallerawang Rydal Road to the value of \$110,000.
	Back Cullen Road is compromised of a heavily patched sealed section and an unsealed section.	Works to Back Cullen Road are not proposed in the Draft Management Plan. However, an assessment of the condition of this Road will be made, along with other rural roads for consideration of future funding.
	The Railway Bridge at Wallerawang becomes increasingly outdated and a danger spot as the traffic increases.	The Black Bridge is not part of Council's road infrastructure and therefore, no works are proposed on the Bridge as part of the Draft Management Plan. However, Council has made and will continue to make representations seeking the upgrade of this Bridge.
4. Private Submission	If the Lithgow Local Government is to encourage growth and development and to	Noted.

	contribute to the efficient and effective management of the environment, community and economy for the present and future generations as stated in the vision statement, Council should adopt the Draft Management Plan 2007/08 - 2009/10.	
	Also, option 2 which involves the design and construction of an indoor swimming pool and associated facilities in conjunction with the Lithgow PCYC should be adopted.	Noted.
	In order to keep pace with our near neighbours such as Bathurst and Mudgee we would like to see the Draft Management Plan implemented.	Noted.
5. Glen Davis Community Association Incorporated	Thanks the General Manager and Councillors for the meeting held at Glen Davis.	Noted.
	The valley is an important part of the Lithgow Shire for tourism, industry and employment without this resource like the road we can not move forward to develop those opportunities.	Upgrading works have been completed on the Glen Davis Road in 2006/07 involving the reconstruction and sealing of approximately 4 kilometres of road in accordance with Council's resolution of its meeting of 21 May 2007. Subsequently, works on the Glen Davis Road in the Roads to Recovery Program for 2007/08 will be deleted.
6. Private Submission	Concerned about the Glen Davis Road, in particular the section of road from where the tar finishes to the Capertee River. It is the roughest part of the Road, where most accidents occur.	Refer to the response provided to Submission No. 5. In addition, the recent works resulted in a sealed section of road within the vicinity of Crown Station Road, but did not reach the Capertee River.
7. Private Submission	The River Lett Improvement Grant Program can't come too soon.	Noted.
	With the closure of the Lithgow Garbage Depot	There is no transfer station east of Lithgow proposed in the Draft

	<p>and construction of Blackmans Flat Waste Management Facility, I hope that there will a waste transfer station established to the east of Lithgow.</p>	<p>Management Plan. However, an amendment is recommended to Council for review of the provision of waste management and recycling services in the Local Government Area in conjunction with the preparation of closure plans for the existing garbage depots and the detailed design of the Blackmans Flat Waste Management Facility.</p>
	<p>I hope you will establish a recycling centre at the new tip.</p>	<p>In accordance with the development consent for the Blackmans Flat Waste Management Facility, a dedicated recycling and transfer station area will be designed and constructed.</p> <p>The Draft Management Plan proposes to undertake the detailed design of the recycling and transfer station in 2007/08 with construction of the Facility occurring in late 2007/08 and 2008/09.</p>
	<p>Improvements to the Lithgow Sewerage Treatment Plant, including the use of worms as an alternative treatment method.</p>	<p>The Draft Management Plan proposes the construction of the stage 2 augmentation of the Lithgow Sewerage Treatment Plant. This augmentation will be undertaken in accordance with the development consent which does not involve worms as a method of treatment.</p>
	<p>Refers Council to Biolytix for consideration when developing and implementing a water saving and reuse program.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
	<p>Drinking water quality, in particular the use of UV light as a disinfection product and expresses an opposition to fluoridation of the supply.</p>	<p>The Draft Management Plan proposes as an activity to "provide drinking water to residents within the reticulated supply system" which complies with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. This activity does involve the use of chlorine and not UV as the disinfection agent. Also the Draft Management Plan proposes to "conduct routine monitoring of Council's reticulated drinking water supplies" which includes the analysis of disinfection by products to assess compliance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.</p> <p>The fluoridation of the water supply is not proposed in the Draft Management</p>

		Plan. However, Council is aware that NSW Health has recently conducted through a research company, a survey in the Local Government Area on this subject and a further report may be presented to Council in the future.
	Arts and cultural facilities such as a cinema and ice skating rink are suggested.	Noted.
	The following comments were made on the swimming pool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A covered all season pool would be a great asset to the whole community. • The existing facility has a lack of shade in hot days, cold showers and the dressing rooms need upgrading. • Suggests UV and oxygen purification as a disinfection product if the pool is going to be enclosed and heated. 	These comments are noted. Also, options 1 and 3 which involves the design and construction of an indoor swimming pool facility includes the provision of new amenities.
8. Cullen Bullen Progress Association and Community Petition	Concerned that the closure of the Cullen Bullen Garbage Depot will be detrimental to the village. Suggests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate advertising and signage indicating the closure be put in place to inform residents and visitors of the impending closure. • A transfer station be located at Cullen Bullen once the facility is closed. 	The Draft Management Plan proposes the closure of the Cullen Bullen Garbage Depot in 2007/08 as it will reach full capacity sometime next year. Appropriate advertising and signage will be undertaken/installed when an approximate date of closure is determined. In addition, refer to the response provided to Private Submission No. 7 in relation to transfer stations.
	It is understood that a future public meeting will be held in Cullen Bullen to discuss a suitable location for the public toilet block.	The Draft Management Plan proposes the construction of public toilet facilities in Cullen Bullen during 2007/08. Consultation with the community will be undertaken in relation to the location of the facility.
	The skate park is unfinished and unsafe. It is considered that this site could be landscaped,	Development of this area is not included in the Draft Management Plan and will be provided for assessment in future management plans.

	house the childrens playground and may be suitable for the public toilet facilities.	The suitability of the site for the proposed public toilet facilities will also be assessed.
	Potholes in the Portland/Cullen Bullen Road require attention.	The Recurrent Budget for the Transport Section of the Draft Management Plan contains the annual block grant for Regional Roads, of which the Portland/Cullen Road is part of Main Road 531. This Road is being assessed for works in its entirety and also consideration is being given as to its eligibility under the RTA's Regional Road Repair Program. If eligible it would be intended to lodge an application in late 2007.
	Can Council include as a priority a plan for the installation of kerb and guttering and footpaths as part of its annual budgetary process for Cullen Bullen?	The Draft Management Plan does not propose any kerb and guttering or footpath construction in Cullen Bullen. However, this issue can be investigated to determine current conditions and priority for future management plans.
	It is considered appropriate that Council investigate the feasibility of providing a low pressure system from the Portland Sewerage Plant to Cullen Bullen.	The Draft Management Plan does not provide for this activity. However, a feasibility study can be assessed for future management plans.
9. Private Submission	<p>Submits the following in favour of the indoor swimming pool facility and highlights positive aspects for the whole community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elderly people being active in water activities. • People learning to swim which could be life saving. • Children and babies learning how to save themselves from drowning in early learn to swim lessons. • Local people just swimming to get fit, the indoor complex's seem to attract more people. • Lithgow having a large winter sporting program, it would be a huge boost to all, as in 	Noted.

	<p>recovery and fitness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local competing swimmers would improve and winter development and carnivals would be a boost to the complex. 	
10. Private Submission	<p>Provide a permanent footpath and public access through the public reserve adjacent to Barton Avenue in Wallerawang, by establishing a stile or gate at each end of the existing public access path from the intersection of Lyon Parade and Commens Street down through the public reserve to Barton Avenue opposite the entrance to Charles Darwin Park.</p> <p>This path has been maintained by local residents for at least 14 years and is the only safeway down to the Lake for children from the area of Wallerawang bounded by Lyon Parade.</p>	<p>This land is not a public reserve noted on a Deposited Plan, but is owned by Council and has future development potential. The Draft Management Plan does not propose any footpath construction in this area.</p> <p>Furthermore, inspections of the site have highlighted the need for the use of this site as a thoroughfare to be reviewed. An assessment is currently being undertaken and the issue will be reported to Council upon completion.</p>
	<p>Provide at some stage in a future management plan a footpath from the bottom end of this natural footpath along Barton Avenue to Wallerawang School to provide a safe walking access to school.</p>	<p>The Draft Management Plan does not propose any footpath construction in this area.</p>
11. Centennial Coal	<p>Formally lodge an objection to the proposed rate increases.</p> <p>Centennial's total rates paid during 2006/07 totalled in excess of \$440,000.</p> <p>Option 1 would result in an increase in excess of \$500,000 or a 114% increase which is equivalent to 6.6% of</p>	<p>Refer to the comments provided in the section on Mining Rates.</p>

	<p>Council's rates and charges income.</p> <p>Option 2 would result in an increase in excess of \$668,000 or a 152% increase which is equivalent to 7.8% of Council's rates and charges income.</p> <p>The proposed increase is from the current 4.683 cents in the dollar (currently the highest compared to other councils as shown below) to either 10.719629 cents in the dollar under Option 1 or 12.659288 cents in the dollar under Option 2. The following illustrates comparison of ad valorem rate charged by councils with coal mining activities in their areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singleton Council - 4.1308c • Musellbrook - 4.516278c • Cessnock – 3.093187c • Mid West – 4.635c • Lake Macquarie – 1.417819c. <p>The majority of coal produced by mines in the Local Government Area is sold through long-term fixed price contracts with Delta Electricity. Hence Centennial is unable to pass on this rate increase and as a result the profitability of these operations will be reduced. This is at a time where our margins are squeezed due to skill shortages, significant inflation levels on steel, fuel and other mining inputs and a 20 cent</p>	
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	<p>per tonne levy on coal sales from 1 July 2007 for research and development on clean coal technology. Centennial also faces significant capital expenditure commitments for continued operation of these mines. It is also important to note that Centennial's major operations in the Council area are underground mines, which by their nature, are higher cost operations.</p> <p>Centennial would like an opportunity to discuss the contents of this submission.</p>	
12. Private Submission	The signatories are in favour of option 2 for the Lithgow Swimming Pool.	Noted.
13. Private Submission	<p>Contributions to the list of needs of Portland residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting and power to Saville Park. • Shade in parks please. • Play equipment in the triangular park opposite Tabulam Cottages. 	These items are not contained in the Draft Management Plan and will be provided for assessment in future management plans.
14. Lithgow Business Association	<p>The LBA supports the Plan.</p> <p>Principal Activity 1 - Community:</p> <p>The LBA encourages and supports the goal of engaging the community and disseminating information to the community about Council's programs, policies and activities.</p> <p>The current method of providing information via a newsletter and the Council website is supported,</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The suggestions made will be further developed and integrated into Council's activities.</p>

	<p>however, it is suggested that the Council disseminate information relating to business through the LBA website and newsletter in regular columns.</p> <p>In relation to redesigning the website and information at the customer service desk, it is suggested to provide advice about completing a development application.</p>	
	<p>Support is provided to option 2, the design and construction of the indoor swimming pool including the proposed changes to rates.</p> <p>The pool will mean year round swimming classes and training as well as for general fitness for the community. There are many people travelling to Katoomba, Bathurst and even mother's groups organising trips to Springwood.</p>	Noted.
	<p>Principal Activity 2 – Transport:</p> <p>Supports and encourages Council to participate and lobby for the proposed Bells Line Expressway.</p> <p>This will encourage further economic progress and encourage people to move to the Greater Lithgow area.</p> <p>However, if the expressway is built, Council needs to show vision in the future and provide the necessary infrastructure to sustain the</p>	Noted.

	<p>population increase. Option 2 in regards to the Lithgow Swimming Pool certainly is an example of the vision needed.</p>	
	<p>Principal Activity 3 - Employment:</p> <p>The LBA is thankful for the sponsorship that the Council has donated and looks forward to the continuation in the future. It supports and gives and undertaking to have regular quarterly meetings with the Council's Executive.</p>	Noted.
	<p>Principal Activities 4 - Heritage, 5 - Education and 6 - Health are supported.</p>	Noted.
	<p>Principal Activity 7 – Environment:</p> <p>It is suggested that Council enter into negotiations with the LBA to develop criteria and that Council consider enhancing the current Lithgow Business Awards night with a greater Environmental Section.</p>	The suggestion to integrate the Council's Environment Awards with the Lithgow Business Awards night can be investigated as part of the activity to determine criteria for the environment awards.
	<p>Notes the proposed closure of the Lithgow Solid Waste Facility in 2008/09 and enquiries as to what services/facilities will replace the facility? Will Council consider the expansion of the current MRF to facilitate dirty waste streams and greater volumes?</p>	Refer to the response provided to Private Submission No. 7 in relation to waste management.
	<p>Principal Activities 8 – Arts and Culture, 9 – Youth, 10 – Growth and 11 - Governance and Administration Services are supported.</p>	Noted.

17. Neville Castle (summary of a conversation following a meeting which the Mayor attended)	Portland Pool Committee have agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new pool cleaner and new pump to be funded from the loan funds for the pool improvements as well as the relining of the pool • to increase fees as a result of the new works • an interest-free loan of \$10,000 each year to possibly meet shortfalls between wages and revenue. 	An interest free loan can not be accommodated through Council's current Policy on Financial Assistance to Community Groups and Organisations – Interest Free Loans. Council is already providing the funding for works to resurface the pool for a total of \$200,000.
	Council has also suggested that it buys the water that is currently in the pool for the approximate value of the current outstanding water bill.	Investigation of re-use options, such as on sporting fields or putting back through trade waste and thence back into the water system are being investigated.
	The Committee also requests an additional \$10,000 per year to meet the costs of chemicals, water bills and other minor repairs eg. painting etc in lieu of the previous \$30,000 per year the Council was giving to the pool.	If supported, this would need to be added to the budget from the Donations Program as no allocation was included in the Draft Management Plan for 2007/08 except for the \$200,000 loan and its repayments.

Submissions which were received after the exhibition period but prior to the finalisation of this report are identified in the following table:

Submission	Issue	Comment/Response
15. Private Submission	Wish to add my support to the proposal to build an indoor pool for Lithgow as an adjunct to our current facilities. The lack of year round swimming facilities has been a major gap. Swimming has many advantages for the public in general:	Noted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to junior pools provides learn to swim opportunities and a meeting place for mothers. • Exercise provided by swimming is very helpful for those who find walking or more strenuous land activities both more tiring and less safe. • Special programs for general fitness such as aquarobics and for more specific problems such as arthritis and recovery from injury are more effective because more enjoyable and less stressful. • It can be a useful developmental process in such problems as asthma and in developing confidence and co-ordination in people who lack these assets. • Many of these advantages are augmented if the water is warmer than in an outdoor pool. The hospital pool is great but the numbers who can use it are limited. <p>Has found the long slope of the land at the current facility difficult and has experienced a painful fall getting out of the current pool as the ladder runs are not deep enough.</p> <p>It might even be</p>	
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	possible if the demand is sufficient in practice to extend the indoor pools hours so that workers could attend after office hours.	
16. Private Submission	<p>First overall impression is that much of the plan is directed to the benefit of urban ratepayers and residents. Unless rural landholders are given separate consideration many of the policies and activities proposed could have an adverse effect on the operation of their business.</p>	<p>The Draft Management Plan proposes a significant amount of on-the-ground activities in the rural areas of the Local Government Area, particularly in relation to roads i.e. it proposes road maintenance works to the value of \$1,035,936 and \$5,065,383 for improvement works.</p> <p>Some examples of other activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of cultural landscapes in the review of the heritage studies. • Works to Crown Reserves which adjoin farming properties and which will target pest and weed species. • Provision of waste management facilities/services, including the upgrading of the Tarana Transfer Station. • Contribution to the Upper Macquarie County Council. <p>These proposed activities target issues which have been identified by the rural community over a number years and more recently in association with the Strategic Plan consultations.</p>
	The most important issue is rates. The annual rate rise is based on CPI increases and whilst this might be acceptable for the majority of ratepayers receiving regular wages and higher incomes such a system is not sustainable in the case	<p>The ad valorem rates for the Farmland category in 2006/07 and proposed 2007/08 rating models are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006/07 – 0.338050c • 2007/08 Option 1 – 0.360939c • 2007/08 Option 2 – 0.342000c • 2007/08 Option 3 –

<p>of farmers whose incomes are often severely affected by influences beyond their control, such as drought and low commodity prices.</p> <p>The rate burden on farmers, which always falls more heavily on those in local government areas, such as Lithgow, with a policy promoting urban expansion, is something which this Council should urge the Local Government and Shires Association to take up with the State Government.</p> <p>Concern with rates is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 – percentage yield for residential decreases 12.94% and farming increases by 0.30%. • Option 2 – percentage yield for residential decreases 11.56% and farming increases 5.81%. <p>How it is that farmland is being burdened with an increase in its share of rates collected when it is the sector of the community least likely to be able to pay?</p> <p>Also the farming community is unlikely to benefit from the services and amenities provided to the same extent as residential ratepayers.</p>	<p>0.343006c</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007/08 Option 4 – 0.315500c <p>The Farmland category has the lowest ad valorem rate.</p> <p>The base rate in 2006/07 was \$275 and in 2007/08 it is proposed to increase to \$285 under all options.</p> <p>Examples of proposed farmland rates for 2007/08 from other Group 4 councils are listed in the following table:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="933 801 1406 1339"> <thead> <tr> <th>Council</th> <th>Base/Minimum Amount (\$)</th> <th>Ad Valorem Amount (c)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bathurst</td> <td>269.00</td> <td>0.445860</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dubbo</td> <td>265.00 (min)</td> <td>0.5475 to 1.26855</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eurobodalla</td> <td>332.00</td> <td>0.1625</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid-Western (3% increase)</td> <td>492.59 (min)</td> <td>0.828970</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid-Western (4% increase)</td> <td>497.37 (min)</td> <td>0.837007</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Singleton</td> <td>160.60</td> <td>0.2772</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wagga Wagga</td> <td>199.00 (min)</td> <td>0.2780</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Council	Base/Minimum Amount (\$)	Ad Valorem Amount (c)	Bathurst	269.00	0.445860	Dubbo	265.00 (min)	0.5475 to 1.26855	Eurobodalla	332.00	0.1625	Mid-Western (3% increase)	492.59 (min)	0.828970	Mid-Western (4% increase)	497.37 (min)	0.837007	Singleton	160.60	0.2772	Wagga Wagga	199.00 (min)	0.2780	<p>The method of levying the waste disposal</p>
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	charge on family farms requires amendment. At present a charge is levied for each valuation notice applying to the farm. Depending on how land titles are held within a family some farms are covered by 2 or more valuation notices even though there may only be 1 dwelling.	accordance with the Local Government Act. There are cases where properties can be amalgamated for rating purposes through the Valuer General, however, there are requirements in relation to ownership.
18. Private Submission	Any proposal for improved radio broadcasting in the district is welcome, but why SBS station, which is useless for at least 90% of the population. If there is to be improved access to a station may I suggest ABC News Radio. This broadcasts entirely in English so everyone can benefit.	The proposed action in the Draft Management Plan, "provision of SBS FM radio service to the LGA" has been included to action a resolution of Council from its meeting of 5 March 2007, to prepare an application "to SBS for 100% subsidy to enable the installation of FM SBS Radio Service for the Lithgow Local Government Area". In addition, it also fulfils the action listed in the Social Plan 2006 – 2011 to "investigate the feasibility of installing and maintaining SBS radio transmitter under grants scheme currently available".

A copy of each submission is provided to Councillors within their Business Paper Packages.

Proposed Rating Model Options in the Revised Revenue Policy

The Revised Revenue Policy which was exhibited between 24 May to 20 June 2007, proposed 4 rating model options. A copy of these rating model options are attached to this report.

Written Submission and Response – Exhibition Period 24 May to 20 June 2007

Only 1 written submission was received after the exhibition period had closed but is reported and commented upon in the following table.

Submission	Issue	Comment/Response								
19. Centennial Coal	Centennial's understanding of the revised proposed rate structure is as follows:	Refer to the comments provided in the section on Mining Rates.								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>c per \$ value</th> <th>2006/07</th> <th>Initial DMP</th> <th>Revised DMP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Option 1</td> <td>4.683</td> <td>10.65</td> <td>9.0916</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		c per \$ value	2006/07	Initial DMP	Revised DMP	Option 1	4.683	10.65	9.0916
	c per \$ value		2006/07	Initial DMP	Revised DMP					
Option 1	4.683	10.65	9.0916							

Option 2	4.683	12.617	9.5
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Wishes to highlight that these revised rates are still in the order of over 100% greater than the equivalent rates charged by councils with significant coal mines within their areas, as illustrated below:

- Singleton – 4.1308c
- Muswellbrook– 4.516278c
- Cessnock – 3.093187c
- Mid-West – 4.635c
- Lake Macquarie – 1.417819c

Wishes to formally lodge an objection to the proposed increases.

Has reviewed the increases in the ad valorem rate for mining as illustrated in the following table.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08
c in \$	4.05737	4.28428	4.253313	4.683	9.5
Equivalent % increase		5.6	(0.7)	10.1	102.8
CPI to be applied		2.5	2.5	4.0	2.6

From the above table it should be noted that the increases in the ad valorem rate have been well in excess of CPI. These increases have had a compounded effect when coupled with the increases in land values as determined by the Valuer General.

The Minister for the Department of Local Government has announced a rate increase cap of 3.4%. Whilst Centennial understands that the cap is across the entire rate revenue pool for the Council, the proposed rate increase to be applied to mining activities of 94% or 103% is totally unreasonable and not in line with any other cost increase that Centennial has encountered in its operations.

Centennial wishes to re-enforce the significant contribution it makes to the local economy. Annual wages paid are in excess of \$65M per annum. Centennial also provide significant employment and associated economic benefit through the utilisation of local businesses with direct purchases exceeding \$35M per annum.

Given the issues raised above as well as in our

	<p>previous submission, Centennial strongly objects to the Council's proposed rate increases.</p> <p>Would like an opportunity to discuss the contents of this submission with both the Councillors and Council management.</p>	
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Mining Rates

The Draft Management Plan was originally exhibited with the following options for the mining rate:

Draft Management Plan – Proposed Mining Rate Options in 2007/08				
Rating Model Option	Base Amount (\$)	Ad Valorem Amount (c in the \$)	% Yield	% Change in Yield from 2006/07
1	8,035.00	10.719629	20.4%	133.67%
2	8,035.00	12.659288	22.6%	173.37%

The percentages of Council rates and charges income as reported in Centennial's first submission are disputed. However, these figures are superseded by the 4 rating model options provided in the Revised Revenue Policy.

The Revised Revenue Policy of the Draft Management Plan provides 4 rating model options, of which the mining rates are reproduced in the following table:

Revised Revenue Policy - Proposed Mining Rate Options in 2007/08				
Rating Model Option	Base Amount (\$)	Ad Valorem Amount (c in the \$)	% Yield	% Change in Yield from 2006/07
1	8,035.00	12.617095	22.5	172.51
2	8,035.00	10.650006	20.1	132.24
3	8,035.00	9.500000	17.2	108.7
4	8,035.00	9.091653	17.4	100.34

The average effect of the 4 rating model options for mining on the 2006/07 rate is illustrated in the following table:

Average Effect of Proposed Mining Rate Options in 2007/08			
Rating Model Option	Characteristic	Yield \$	Average Per Mine \$
2006/07 (13 mines)		789,448.37	60,726.80
Option 1 – 2007/08 (14 mines)		2,151,287.64	153,663.40
	Increase over 2006/07	1,361,839.27	97,274.23
Option 2 – 2007/08 (14 mines)		1,833,425.53	130,958.97
	Increase over 2006/07	1,043,977.16	74,569.80
Option 3 – 2007/08 (14 mines)		1,647,595.95	117,685.43
	Increase over	858,147.58	61,296.26

	2006/07		
Option 4 - 2007/08 (14 mines)		1,581,611.12	112,972.22
	Increase over 2006/07	792,162.75	56,583.05

Examples of proposed mining rates for 2007/08 from local government areas are listed in the following table:

Local Government Area	Rating Option	Base/Minimum Amount (\$)	Ad Valorem Amount (c in the \$)
Singleton		51.65	4.1308
Cessnock (2006/2009 MP)	3.6 Increase	82,894.81	3.358537
	Special Variation of 6%	87,696.18	3.553068
Mid-Western Regional	3% Increase	492.59 (min)	4.635000
	4% Increase	497.37 (min)	4.680000
Lake Macquarie	A	558.57	1.417819
	B	515.00	1.336897
Muswellbrook	Special Variation of 6%	15,000	4.516278
	No Special Variation	15,000	4.021512
Blayney (Gold/Copper)	Includes Special Rate		5.593718
Gunnedah		310 (min)	10.0000
Cobar (2006/2009 MP)		400 (min)	3.2068
Upper Hunter		40 (min)	15.37
Maitland			7.9504
Liverpool Plains			4.476
Wollondilly		622.42 (min)	3.1415512
Wollongong		617.25 (min)	2.528321

The proposed mining rates in the local government areas of Singleton, Cessnock, Mid-Western Regional, Gunnedah, Upper Hunter, Maitland and Liverpool Plains are of particular interest.

In addition to the above mining rates, other councils are receiving non-rating contributions from coal mines. Some examples of the types of contributions are provided in the following:

- Mid-Western Regional Council has negotiated the following contributions from coal mines:
 - Ulan - a sliding scale of \$311,224 (rates plus contribution) for 2006/07 to \$55,748 in 2020/21. The rates in 2006/07 were \$176,850, therefore, the community contribution, above and beyond their rates is \$134,374. As rates increase (estimated at 3.5% per annum), the agreed sliding scale amount

deceases, with the expectation that the last year of the community contribution will be 2011/12. The community contributions expected for the following years are: \$105,000, \$102,000, \$75,000, \$49,000 and \$23,000.

- Xstrata - make other contributions through their corporate social involvement program being up to \$2M in 2006 which was given to the communities they operate in. This year, they gave money to the Mudgee hospital and the previous year they gave Mid-Western Regional Council \$90,000 for the purchase of a mobile Library.
- Wilpinjong - apart from the 'one off' Voluntary Planning Agreement amount of \$450,000, they are required to make a \$40,000 contribution per annum for 20 years for "community infrastructure". The \$40,000 is CPI indexed each year. Also, there is a \$30,000 contribution per annum for the life of the mine for road infrastructure which is also CPI indexed.
- Moolarben - apart from the two 'one off' Voluntary Planning Agreement amounts of \$600,000 (open cut mine) and \$250,000 (underground mine), they are required to make a \$50,000 contribution per annum for the life of the mine for "community infrastructure". Also, there is a \$40,000 contribution per annum for the life of the mine for road infrastructure.
- Gunnedah Shire Council with 10c in the dollar rate levy for coal mining also have received contributions from its coal mines, including the BHP Billiton Caroon Coal Project Community Fund which is an annual investment of \$1M for up to 5 years. The \$5M consists of both cash and in-kind contributions to the community of both Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains Shires.
- The Minister for Planning has approved a development application for the Anvil Hill Coal Project in the Muswellbrook Shire. As a condition of consent, the Proponent shall enter into a planning agreement with Council which includes the projects outlined and minimum contributions in the following:
 - Wybong Uplands Land Management Strategy - \$500,000
 - Educations and Training - \$600,000
 - Recreation Assets Renewal Fund - \$1,200,000
 - Denman Recreation Area enhancements - \$2,200,000.
- Singleton Council have received a \$500,000 contribution from Xstrata for the provision of a youth venue.
- Muswellbrook Shire Council have received a \$2M contribution for the construction of a pool and \$50,000 per year for 10 years for maintenance of the facility from a coal company through Section 94 contributions.

This list is not exhaustive but illustrates that Lithgow rates accommodate comparability of contributions made through all avenues.

Requests for Donations

Council may recall at its meeting of 19 March 2007, it resolved to "consider the current requests in the 2007/08 donations program" as the Donations Program in 2006/07 was overspent. Also, at its meeting of 16 April 2007 it was resolved that "any requests received before the closing date of exhibition for the Draft 2007/08 Management Plan be treated as submissions for funding in 2007/08". Therefore, the following table details all requests for financial assistance which have been received after the preparation of the report presented on 19 March 2007.

Organisation	Donation Request	Comment/Response
Cullen Bullen Progress Association	An allocation to cover the rates of the Cullen Bullen Progress Hall for 2007/08.	The greatest value of the general rate being requested under the 4 rating options is \$325.79. It is suggested that Council fund this request to the value of the general rate.
Lithgow Highland Pipe Band Inc.	Any financial contributions are used for outfitting band members with uniforms and instruments.	It is suggested that Council fund this request to the value of \$1,000.
St Patricks School	A small donation towards the end of year prizegiving expenses.	Council's Donations – Section 356 of the Local Government Act Policy provides for recurrent funding of schools within the Local Government Area to the value of \$50 per school per annum as a contribution towards the end of year academic prizes. The funding for schools in the Local Government Area including St Patricks is noted in the donations list of the Education Section of the Draft Management Plan.
First Australian Muzzleloading Gun Rifle and Pistol Club Incorporated	Request donation of the 2006/07 rates.	Similar to other requests for the donation of rates, it is suggested that Council consider the rates for 2007/08. Therefore, the greatest value of the general rate being requested under the 4 rating options is \$618.51.

		It is suggested that Council fund this request to the value of the general rate.
State Mine Heritage Park & Railway	Request donation of the 2007/08 rates for the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum.	The greatest value of the general rate being requested under the 4 rating options is \$1,742.92. It is suggested that Council fund this request to the value of the general rate.
Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre	Request donation of hire fees for discos run by LINC Disability Services at the Union Theatre and Civic Ballroom.	These costs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 June 2007 at the Union Theatre - \$220 • 28 September 2007 at the Union Theatre - \$231 • 14 December 2007 at the Civic Ballroom - \$462 <p>The total requested is \$913.</p> <p>It is suggested that Council fund this request to the value of \$462.</p>
NAIDOC Week	Request continued support for 2007 NAIDOC Week school initiative competitions.	The donations list in the Community Section of the Draft Management Plan proposes funding for NAIDOC Week activities to the value of \$500.
Lithgow Family and Community Mental Health Support Group	Request for \$3,000 for OHS training costs to obtain greencards.	Discussions have been undertaken with the Group which indicates that the training has already been completed and a reimbursement is requested. However, as this training has already been funded, it is suggested that no funding be provided.
Portland Tidy Towns	Request a donation of \$3,000 being for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire of Crystal Theatre • Electricity • Post Box • Insurance • Advertising • Materials • Bus and food for Assessors visit 	The donations list in the Community Section of the Draft Management Plan proposes funding for Portland Tidy Towns Committee to the value of \$1,000. In addition, it should be noted that \$1,000 is also proposed to be provided to each Lithgow and Wallerawang

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone • Plants and shrubs • Sign replacement. 	Tidy Towns Committees. This does leave Cullen Bullen Tidy Town Committee unfunded and as such it is suggested to provide \$1,000.
Lithgow Valley Movie Club	Request payment of the insurance premium being \$1,165.43 with the Movie Club repaying Council in quarterly instalments.	This request is not supported as it is retrospective.
Macquarie Philharmonia	Request sponsorship to the value of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold - \$10,000 • Silver - \$2,500 • Bronze - \$1,000 	It is suggested not to fund this group as it will not provide an activity within the Local Government Area during 2007/08.
Wallerawang Warriors Senior League Club	Request a donation of fees and charges for the use of the Wallerawang Oval.	The approximate costs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground Rental - \$765 • Training - \$865 • Lighting - \$2,299 <p>The total cost is \$3,929.</p> <p>It is suggested not to fund this request.</p>
First Portland Scout Group	Request donation of the 2007/08 rates for the First Portland Scout Group.	The Scout Hall at Portland is not rated for the purpose of general rates and therefore no funding is required.
		It should also be noted that the Girl Guide Hall in Lithgow is also not rated for the purpose of general rates.
Andrew Wilson Photography	Request for hire of the Union Theatre between 14 April and 28 April 2008 for an exhibition of Wallerawang photographs.	The hire fees total \$1,400 and it is suggested to fund this request to the value of \$1,400.
Lithgow Poultry Club	Request for \$300 towards their Annual All Breed Show.	It is suggested that this request be funded to the value of \$300.
Cullen Bullen Parents & Citizens Association	Request funding for a "changeable sign" at the front of the Cullen Bullen Public School.	It is suggested that this request be funded to the value of \$200.
Peter Bourke	Requesting sponsorship for playing for the Bathurst 75 Western Demons FC in the Super Youth League.	This request does not fulfil the normal representative criteria for the Reg Cowden Sports Awards. It is suggested not to fund this request, however, to congratulate and wish Peter

		success in his soccer career.
Country Womens Association of NSW	Requests rates for the Branch Rooms in Tweedie Street, Wallerawang.	The greatest value of the general rate being requested under the 4 rating options is \$420.02. It is suggested that Council fund this request to the value of the general rate.
Lithgow & District Community Nursery	Payment of an account to Council being for the removal of rubbish to the value of \$251.49.	It is suggested that this request be funded to the value of \$251.49.
Lithgow Community Orchestra	Requesting \$1,200 to enable the Orchestra to continue to rehearse and perform as a light classical ensemble, providing performance opportunities for local musicians and providing live performances to the local community.	It is suggested that this request be funded to the value of \$1,000.
Portland Development Association	Waiving of development application fees for a rotunda at Saville Park, Portland.	Council can not waive development application and construction certificate fees but it can consider donating the fees which total \$409. It is suggested that Council donate the fees for the lodgement of the development application and construction certificate.

Copies of the above requests are provided to Councillors within their Business Paper Packages.

In addition, the donations listed in the following table have been resolved by Council to consider as part of the Donations Program for 2007/08.

Meeting Date	Resolution	Request	Comment/Response
5 June 2007	"provide the annual contribution to the SES as recurrent expenditure and link contribution to the rate pegging limit as identified by the Department of Local Government".	N/A	As illustrated in the table below, there is currently \$3,000 each proposed for the Lithgow and Portland SES which is equivalent to the amount provided in 2006/07. Therefore in accordance with the resolution of 5

			June 2007, the amount should be \$3,102 each.
19 February 2007	"The Capertee Progress Association request be given a high priority in the 2007/08 budget and assistance with ACC Regional Partnership Program".	The Capertee Progress Association requested \$2,000 for the beautification of the garden area at the Memorial Hall. The beautification of the garden area includes the proposed roofing of the tiled slab, install a barbeque and improve the children's play area, including the erection of fencing.	It is suggested that Council provide \$500 towards this project. In addition, assistance will be provided to identify and prepare a grant application for the works.
	"Council consider becoming a Gold Sponsor of the Blue Light Unit at Capertee in the 2007/08 and beyond budget".	\$2,000 is the amount for a Gold Sponsor.	It is suggested that Council provide \$1,000 and assistance to identify and prepare a grant application for the activities of the Blue Light Unit.
5 March 2007	"Council consider a donation of \$4,000 in subsequent budgets" for Lifeline.	N/A	It is suggested to fund this organisation to the value of \$2,000.
2 April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Support the Mathew Sharp Scholarship Fund • Council staff investigates monetary value of funds and its expenditure with distribution and provide Council with a recommendation of the figures". 	Discussions have been undertaken with the Lithgow Neighbourhood Information Centre which has indicated that they would like \$5,000 to \$10,000 from Council.	It is suggested that Council fund this request to the value of \$2,500.

In addition, at its meeting of 16 April 2007, when resolving to exhibit the Draft Management Plan, Council proposed to fund the following organisations/activities from the Donations Program in 2007/08.

Organisation/Activities	Amount
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brochure	500.00
Air League celebrations	600.00

Contribution to the Lithgow Show	1,000.00
Dads and Kids Day activities	250.00
Domestic Violence Liaison Committee support	200.00
Family Friendly Community Initiative	500.00
Family Fun Days	2,000.00
Lifeline contribution	4,000.00
NAIDOC Week activities	500.00
Personal development courses at Bowenfels Cottage	1,000.00
Production of the multicultural newsletter	350.00
Senior citizens week activities	1,000.00
Support to the Josephite Foundation	5,000.00
Rental Assistance to the Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre	15,000.00
Annual training camp for the Western Region Academy of Sport	1,500.00
White Ribbon Day activities	500.00
Lithgow SES	3,000.00
Portland SES	3,000.00
Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang Tidy Towns Committees	3,000.00
Business Awards and Celebrate Lithgow Sponsorship to the Lithgow Business Association	10,000.00
Donations to schools for award presentations	750.00
Radiologist/physiotherapist Scholarship in conjunction with Sydney West Area Health Service	2,000.00
Ironfest sponsorship	10,000.00
New music for the Lithgow City Band	1,000.00
Portland Art Show	2,000.00
Scholarship to the Mitchell Conservatorium	800.00
TOTAL	69,450.00

In addition, Council's attention is drawn to the Reg Cowden Sports Awards. In the past, Delta Electricity has provided sponsorship for the Reg Cowden Sports Awards of approximately \$10,000. However, Council has not received any indication if this money will be provided in 2007/08 at the time of writing this report. Therefore, if Delta is not willing to provide funding and Council wishes to continue with the Reg Cowden Sports Awards, it will be necessary to fund this activity from the Donations Program and include the activity in the Management Plan.

Furthermore, the Portland Pool Committee has requested an additional \$10,000 per year to meet the costs of chemicals, water bills and other minor repairs. As no further allocation, other than the \$200,000 loan and its repayments have been proposed in the Draft Management Plan for the Portland Pool, this would also need to be funded from the Donations Program.

The financial implications of the above suggestions are provided in the Financial Implications Section of this report.

Annual Fees for the Mayor and Councillors

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has made determinations under section 242 of the Local Government Act 1993 as to the annual fees to be paid to the Mayor and Councillors on and from 1 July 2007. The minimum and maximum annual fees are provided in the following table for a Group 4 council.

Councillor/Member Annual Fee		Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee*	
Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
6,610	8,715	7,020	19,035

*NOTE: This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member.

In 2006/07, the annual fee for the Mayor was \$17,000 and \$7,500 for a Councillor.

The financial implications of the annual fees for the Mayor and Councillors are provided in the Financial Implications Section of this report.

Proposed Indoor Swimming Pool

In addition to the submissions reported above, the following results are provided for Council's information regarding the proposed indoor swimming pool.

The Community Attitude Survey indicated:

- 510 household respondents were from localities throughout the LGA with 54% of respondents residing in the Lithgow township. Other localities surveyed included Bowenfels, Cullen Bullen, Capertee, Glen Alice, Hampton, Hartley, Hartley Vale, Lidsdale, Little Hartley, Marrangaroo, Meadow Flat, Mt Lambie, Portland, Rydal, Sodwalls, South Bowenfels and Wallerawang.
- 40% of surveyed households used the existing facility during the current financial year and 18% of these people use the facility every week.
- 60% of those surveyed would use an upgraded facility more often than the current facility is used.
- Of those using the current facility, the loss of the children's or wading pools would be a deterrent to usage of the facility and the majority (62%) of current users have children.
- Conversely however, the loss of the wading and/or children's pool was not seen as a major deterrent when all survey respondents' answers on this issue are considered. 79% of all respondents indicated the loss of the wading pool would not alter their usage and 75% of respondents would not alter the usage if the children's pool was lost.
- Current users indicated their usage would increase in 81% of these users with the upgrade.
- 57% of the households surveyed indicated they would support Council obtaining a loan of up to \$8M to finance the facility.
- Of those currently using the facility, a large 73% indicated they supported Council seeking the loans to develop the facility while 15% were not supportive of seeking loan funding.

- Of those not currently using the facility, the margins were closer when considering support or not for loan funding with 47% of respondents agreeing that Council should borrow the proposed \$8M while 39% disagreed with this proposal.
- Looking at ratepayers who were surveyed, 52% were in favour of paying an additional \$50 per annum while 40% of ratepayers were not in favour of the increase.
- While 66% of all respondents were in favour of the PCYC involvement in management of the facility, current users were not in favour of this arrangement.

Overall, the survey indicated a high level of acceptance of the idea to construct a new complex.

During the production of the Social Plan, consultation with the community indicated the need for such a facility by the focus groups of men, people with disabilities, older people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children aged between 6 and 11 years.

The issue of the pool such as 'indoor swimming pool', 'pool', 'swimming pool', 'heated pool', 'heated indoor pool' and 'need an indoor swimming pool' were some of the comments received during the visioning and identification of issues processes in the consultations for the Strategic Plan.

At the time of writing this report, Council had not received advice from the Department of Local Government regarding the determination of Council's application for a special rate to fund the proposed indoor swimming pool facility.

Proposed Changes to the Draft Management Plan

The following changes are suggested to be made to the Draft Management Plan, unless it is indicated that Council has already resolved to make the changes and in this instance they are reported only for information:

- Roads to Recovery Program for 2007/08 is suggested to be amended by:
 - sealing the balance of the Wallerawang Rydal Road to the value of \$110,000.
 - deleting the proposed works on Glen Davis Road as these were completed in 2006/07 in accordance with Council's resolution of 21 May 2007.
 - \$40,000 be allocated to the Mills Street Footbridge in accordance with Council's resolution of 21 May 2007 and the activity inserted in the Capital Works or Initiatives Table in the Transport Section.
 - \$80,000 unallocated to specific projects, but a further report be provided to Council for its consideration.

There is no net change to the bottom line of the budget of the Roads to Recovery Program.

- An amount of \$20,000 for the Mills Street Footbridge from 2006/07 be reallocated in 2007/08 with corresponding expenditure in accordance with Council's resolution of 21 May 2007 and the activity inserted in the Capital Works or Initiatives Table in the Transport Section. There is no net change to the bottom line of the budget.

- An income amount of \$139,196 being funded from the Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Program be moved forward to 2007/08 with corresponding expenditure in accordance with Council's resolution of 21 May 2007 and the activity inserted in the Capital Works or Initiatives Table in the Transport Section. There is no net change to the bottom line of the budget.
- Insert the activity to "review waste management facilities and recycling services within the LGA" into the Program of Works for the Environment Section.
- An income amount of \$95,000 being funded from the Auslink Blackspot Program be allocated in the budget within corresponding expenditure. There is no net change to the bottom line of the budget.
- An income amount of \$33,334 in 2007/08 and \$66,666 in 2008/09 being funded from the NSW Government's Planning Reform Fund be allocated in the budgets with corresponding expenditure for the preparation of the comprehensive local environmental plan. There is no net change to the bottom line of the budget.
- An income amount of \$117,500 being funded from the River Lett Improvement Grant be allocated in the budget within corresponding expenditure. There is no net change to the bottom line of the budget.
- An amount of \$1.5M be reallocated from the 2006/07 Budget for the South Bowenfels Reservoir and Pipeline into 2007/08 and an additional amount of \$600,000 be allocated from the Water Fund Reserve to complete the pipeline between reservoirs. This activity should also be included in the Capital Works and Initiatives Table in the Health Section. As income is coming from the Water Fund Reserve which will match expenditure, there is no net change to the bottom line of the budget.
- An income amount of \$700,000 excluding GST has been received from the Department of Communication, Information Technology and Arts for the proposed indoor swimming pool with corresponding expenditure. There is no net change to the bottom line of the budget.
- All words relating to the exhibition of the Draft Management Plan be removed.
- The Draft Management Plan is amended to include the design and construction of an indoor swimming pool and associated infrastructure including loan repayments if Council is successful with its application for a special rate. If the application is not successful, the provision of disabled access and concourse replacement be noted.
- The Donations Program be altered to include all the donations resolved by Council at this meeting.
- The amount of income, expenditure and surplus be revised in accordance with Council's resolution of 21 May 2007 and this meeting.

The Revised Revenue Policy of the Draft Management Plan provided 4 rating model options for the consideration of Council. However, in light of the submissions received and that at the time of writing this report, Council has not received any notification from the Department of Local Government regarding a determination of Council's application for a special rate, it is suggested that consideration be given to Option 3 or 4 as a preferred rating model for 2007/08.

A copy of the Draft Management Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10 is provided within Councillors Business Paper Packages.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The policy implications are detailed throughout this report in response to a submission where it is relevant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2007/08 Budget

The Revised Revenue Policy provided rating model options which included the 3.4% rate peg limit determined by the Minister for Local Government. Council in its Draft Management Plan had estimated a rate peg limit of 3.2%. Therefore, under the rating model options of the Revised Revenue Policy, an additional \$7,937 will be attained which will increase net income to \$66,500,922. It is suggested to use \$6,000 of the additional income to fund a donation to the 2008 Great Escapade as resolved by Council at its meeting of 7 May 2007. The remaining \$1,937 is suggested to be added to the surplus which would create a new surplus of \$15,409.

In addition, the above proposed changes will alter the income and expenditure figures for 2007/08 and as such, it is proposed to recalculate these figures following Council's resolution on these items and provide a report to Council with the updated figures.

Annual Fees for the Mayor and Councillors

The Draft Management Plan provides a budget for the Mayor of \$17,000 and \$60,000 for the Councillors which equates to \$7,500 per Councillor. Council will need to consider the level of payment as per the Tribunals findings. If Council was to adopt the maximum fees set by the Tribunal, it will be equivalent to \$27,750 for the Mayor and \$69,720 for Councillors. Any changes will be made to the surplus amount.

Donations

The financial implications of the requests for donations are detailed in the following table:

	Donations - General	Donations – Hire of Facilities
Proposed 2007/08 Budget	\$17,000.00	\$3,000.00
Already Allocated in the Draft Management Plan	\$0.00	\$600.00
Requests suggested to be Funded (from the tables above)	\$11,471.73*	\$1,862.00
Remaining Unallocated	\$5,528.27	\$538.00

*NOTE: This value contains several suggestions to fund the general rate component for a number of properties. As there are currently 4 rating options, the greatest general rate from the 4 rating options has been used.

This excludes any provision for the Reg Cowden Sports Awards and the Portland Pool Committee above the \$200,000 loan and its repayments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 406 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to adopt a Management Plan for the following year after it has prepared and exhibited the Draft Management Plan. Also, Council in deciding on a final plan must take into consideration any submissions that have been made on the Draft Management Plan.

This report confirms that the Draft Management Plan and Revised Revenue Policy consisting of the 4 rating model options have been exhibited in accordance with the Local Government Act. It also provides details of all submissions made on the Draft Management Plan or Revised Revenue Policy for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Copies of submissions on the Draft Management Plan and the 4 rating model options of the Revised Revenue Policy are provided to Councillors within their Business Paper Packages.
2. Copies of the proposed 4 rating model options.
3. Copies of all donation requests are provided to Councillors within their Business Paper Packages.
4. A copy of the Draft Management Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10 is provided to Councillors within their Business Paper Packages.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

1. The Draft Management Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10 be adopted with the following amendments:
 - a. Roads to Recovery Program for 2007/08 is suggested to be amended by:
 - i. sealing the balance of the Wallerawang Rydal Road to the value of \$110,000.
 - ii. deleting the proposed works on Glen Davis Road as these were completed in 2006/07 in accordance with Council's resolution (07-195) of 21 May 2007.
 - iii. \$40,000 be allocated to the Mills Street Footbridge in accordance with Council's resolution (07-195) of 21 May 2007 and the activity inserted in the Capital Works or Initiatives Table in the Transport Section.
 - iv. \$80,000 unallocated to specific projects, but a further report be provided to Council for its consideration.

- b. An amount of \$20,000 for the Mills Street Footbridge from 2006/07 be reallocated in 2007/08 in accordance with Council's resolution (07-195) of 21 May 2007 and the activity inserted in the Capital Works or Initiatives Table in the Transport Section.
- c. An amount of \$139,196 being funded from the Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Program be moved forward to 2007/08 in accordance with Council's resolution (07-195) of 21 May 2007 and the activity inserted in the Capital Works or Initiatives Table in the Transport Section.
- d. Insert the activity to "review waste management facilities and recycling services within the LGA" into the Program of Works for the Environment Section.
- e. An amount of \$95,000 being funded from the Auslink Blackspot Program be allocated in the budget.
- f. An amount of \$33,334 in 2007/08 and \$66,666 in 2008/09 being funded from the NSW Government's Planning Reform Fund be allocated in the budgets for the preparation of the comprehensive local environmental plan.
- g. An amount of \$117,500 being funded from the River Lett Improvement Grant be allocated in the budget.
- h. An amount of \$1.5M be reallocated from the 2006/07 Budget for the South Bowenfels Reservoir and Pipeline into 2007/08 and an additional amount of \$600,000 be allocated from the Water Fund Reserve to complete the pipeline between reservoirs. This activity should also be included in the Capital Works and Initiatives Table in the Health Section.
- i. An amount of \$700,000 excluding GST has been received from the Department of Communication, Information Technology and Arts for the proposed indoor swimming pool and Council authorise the execution of all related documents under the Council seal.
- j. An amount of \$6,000 being funded from the additional rating income be included to fund the 2008 Great Escapade as per Council's resolution (07-155) of 7 May 2007.
- k. The additional \$1,937 of rating income be added to the surplus.
- l. All words relating to the exhibition of the Draft Management Plan be removed.
- m. The Draft Management Plan is amended to include the design and construction of an indoor swimming pool and associated infrastructure including loan repayments if Council is successful with its application

for a special rate. If the application is not successful, the provision of disabled access and concourse replacement be noted in the Management Plan.

- n. The Donations Program be altered to include all the donations resolved by Council.
 - o. The amount of income, expenditure and surplus be revised in accordance with Council's resolution of 21 May 2007 and this meeting.
 - p. The ordinary rate be revised in accordance with Council's resolution of this meeting.
2. The ordinary rate as illustrated in Option 3 be adopted if the application for the special rate is approved. If the application for a special rate is not approved, Option 4 be adopted.

Option 3 - \$10 increase to 2006/07 base rate, 3.4% increase, special rate and redistribution of yields			
Residential			
	Base Amount \$	Ad Valorem Amount (c in the \$)	Estimated Yield
Lithgow	215.00	0.00779550	2,812,793.23
Wallerawang	215.00	0.00779550	370,069.78
Portland	215.00	0.00779550	304,425.14
Strathlone /Littleton	215.00	0.00779550	308,447.01
Lidsdale	215.00	0.00779550	83,479.53
Marrangaroo	215.00	0.00779550	95,026.06
General	145.00	0.00421103	1,221,083.54
Farmland			
Intense Use	285.00	0.00343006	187,023.73
Farmland	285.00	0.00343006	1,161,252.67
Business			
Lithgow	310.00	0.02925250	1,113,140.52
Wallerawang	310.00	0.02925250	88,021.45
Portland	310.00	0.02925250	34,908.31
Lidsdale	205.00	0.02925250	6,503.53
General	205.00	0.00528874	123,149.61
Mining			
Coal Mines	8,035.00	0.09500000	1,647,595.95
Total Estimated Yield			9,556,920.07

Option 4 - \$10 increase to 2006/07 base rate, 3.4% increase and redistribution of yields			
Residential			
	Base Amount \$	Ad Valorem Amount (c in the \$)	Estimated Yield

Lithgow	215.00	0.00738935	2,719,617.47
Wallerawang	215.00	0.00738935	359,819.01
Portland	215.00	0.00738935	298,756.88
Strathlone /Littleton	215.00	0.00738935	296,879.80
Lidsdale	215.00	0.00738935	80,541.60
Marrangaroo	215.00	0.00738935	91,049.69
General	145.00	0.00399164	1,172,908.04
Farmland			
Intense Use	285.00	0.00315500	174,677.22
Farmland	285.00	0.00315500	1,091,990.67
Business			
Lithgow	310.00	0.02606500	1,001,484.31
Wallerawang	310.00	0.02606500	79,641.51
Portland	310.00	0.02606500	32,222.28
Lidsdale	205.00	0.02606500	5,861.88
General	205.00	0.00475000	112,858.76
Mining			
Coal Mines	8,035.00	0.09091653	1,581,611.12
Total Estimated Yield			9,099,920.25

3. The special rate for parking be adopted:

Special Parking Rate	
	Ad Valorem Amount \$
Designated area of Lithgow	0.00818

4. The sewerage charges be adopted:

Sewerage Access Charge	
Type	Charge \$
Residential	270.00
Business (main size):	
100mm	772.50
200mm	1,545.00
20mm	510.00
50mm	680.00

Sewerage Usage Charges	
Type	Charge \$
Residential	113.50
Business (95% of water usage)	0.98 per kilolitre

5. The stormwater charges be adopted:

Stormwater Charges	
Type	Charge \$
Residential	25.00 per property
Strata Unit (Residential)	12.50 per unit
Business (per 350 sqm)	25.00 per 350sqm (capped at maximum 350.00)

6. The waste charges be adopted:

Waste Charges	
Type of Service	Charge \$
Residential	263.00
Second Bin Medical Waste/Large Family	263.00
Business	277.00
Non Rateable	263.00
Base – Unoccupied Urban	92.50
Base - Rural	56.50

7. The water charges be adopted:

Water Charges	
Type	Charge \$
Residential	206.00
Business (main size):	
100mm	772.50
200mm	1545.00
20mm	510.00
50mm	680.00

Water Usage Charges	
Kilolitres Used	Charge \$
0 – 500	0.85
500+	1.60

8. The fees are adopted as presented in the Draft Management Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10.

9. The following donations be funded from the Donations Program for 2007/08:

Organisation/Activities	Amount
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brochure	500.00
Air League celebrations	600.00
Contribution to the Lithgow Show	1,000.00
Dads and Kids Day activities	250.00
Domestic Violence Liaison Committee support	200.00
Family Friendly Community Initiative	500.00
Family Fun Days	2,000.00
Lifeline contribution	2,000.00
NAIDOC Week activities	500.00
Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre for personal development courses at Bowenfels Cottage	1,000.00
Production of the multicultural newsletter	350.00
Senior citizens week activities	1,000.00
Support to the Josephite Foundation	5,000.00
Rental Assistance to the Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre	15,000.00
Annual training camp for the Western Region Academy of Sport	1,500.00
White Ribbon Day activities	500.00
Lithgow SES	3,102.00
Portland SES	3,102.00
Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang Tidy Towns Committees	3,000.00
Business Awards and Celebrate Lithgow Sponsorship to the Lithgow Business Association	10,000.00
Donations to schools for award presentations	750.00
Radiologist/physiotherapist Scholarship in conjunction with Sydney West Area Health Service	2,000.00
Ironfest sponsorship	10,000.00
New music for the Lithgow City Band	1,000.00
Portland Art Show	2,000.00
Scholarship to the Mitchell Conservatorium for student(s)	800.00
Cullen Bullen Progress Hall rates	General Rate Value
Uniforms and instruments for the Lithgow Highland Pipe Band	1,000.00
Rates for the First Australian Muzzleloading Gun Rifle and Pistol property	General Rate Value
State Mine Heritage Park and Railway	General Rate Value
LINC Disability Services discos	462.00
Cullen Bullen Tidy Towns Committee	1,000.00
Hire of Union Theatre for the exhibition of Wallerawang Photographs	1,400.00
Lithgow Poultry Club's Annual All Breed Show	300.00
Contribution towards a sign at Cullen Bullen Public School	200.00
Rates for the Country Womens Association of NSW	General Rate Value
Payment of account for the removal of rubbish from the Lithgow	251.49

and District Community Nursery	
Lithgow Community Orchestra	1,000.00
Garden improvements to the Capertee Memorial Hall	500.00
Capertee's Blue Light Unit	1,000.00
Mathew Sharp Scholarship Fund	2,500.00
Development application and construction certificate fees for a proposed rotunda at Saville Park.	409.00

10. The General Manager negotiate agreements with all donation recipients receiving over \$1,000 to ensure that Council is prominently acknowledged as a sponsor of the group/activity.

11. The annual fees for the Mayor and Councillor be set.