



# MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 21 June 2023

at 5:00 PM

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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<b>1. Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Present</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Apologies</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>6. Declaration of Interest</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>7. Staff Reports</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>7.1. Mt Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Network Project Proposed Route Option</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>7.2. Asset Management Improvement Project - Progress update</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>7.3. EV Strategy Implementation Update</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>7.4. Queen Elizabeth Park Trees</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>7.5. Emissions Reduction Plan</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>7.6. Projects Update</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>7.7. Significant Projects Update</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>8. General Business</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>9. Meeting Close</b> .....	<b>8</b>

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5:05 pm.

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country

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The Chair acknowledged Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside and extended respect to our neighbouring nations.

## 2. Present

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Cr Stuart McGhie - Chair  
Cr Maree Statham  
Cr Eric Mahony  
Cr Col O'Connor  
Cr Stephen Lesslie (entered meeting at 5:18pm)

Officers:

Craig Butler	General Manager
Jonathon Edgecombe	Director Infrastructure Services
Matthew Trapp	Executive Manager Water & Waste Water
David Anderson	Buildings and Recreation Facilities Manager
Kaitlin Cibulka	Minutes

## 3. Apologies

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Nil

## 4. Confirmation of Minutes

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The minutes of the Operations Committee held on 4th April 2023 were presented to the Council on 24th April 2023.

### ACTION

**THAT** the Minutes of the meeting of be taken as read and confirmed.

**MOVED:** Cr C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Cr M Statham

## 5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

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The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

Cr McGhie asked about the feasibility of placing a bus shelter on the Portland/Sunny Corner Road as an interim arrangement until further development works can occur to the site. It was confirmed that the administration will investigate this matter and will report back to the next committee meeting.

It was also raised about the reinstallation of the bus shelter at the Range Road/ Pipers Flat intersection. However, a new bus shelter has been ordered and will be installed within 4 weeks.

## **6. Declaration of Interest**

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There were no declarations of interest made.

## **7. Staff Reports**

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### **7.1. Mt Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Network Project Proposed Route Option**

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This item requires noting the information only.

The Director Infrastructure Services provided an overview of the report of Transgrid's plans for plans to firm up local power supply infrastructure in the area.

As part of their plans, they will be undergoing a route selection process to for their proposed transmission line. The map within the route shows two proposed routes however further investigation is being occurring to see if they are feasible and the impacts it could have on surrounding properties including Environmental, Social and Economic factors.

The Committee were advised that the administration has requested further information in relation to the environmental impact statement for this project.

#### **ACTION**

**THAT** the Committee receive the report on Transgrid's proposal for a new 330kV transmission line between Mt Piper power station and existing substations within Wallerawang, but the Council not take a position on this yet.

**MOVED:** Cr C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Cr M Statham

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

### **7.2. Asset Management Improvement Project - Progress update**

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The Director Infrastructure Services advised that this is a very detailed report but an overview was provided to the committee, noting that more frequent reports will be presented to the Operations Committee moving forward.

The committee noted the table in the report noting the progress that has occurred since 2017. It was advised that Water/ Waste Water assets will be reported on at the next scheduled Operations Committee meeting, noting that asset information is being included as a requirement of the IWCM project.

Cr Lesslie entered at this point of the meeting (5:18pm)

Cr E Mahony asked if a non-member of the committee can ask questions. It was confirmed by the General Manager that questions can be made by an observer as long as it is relevant to the matter being discussed.

**ACTION**

**THAT:**

1. The Committee note the update regarding the work to implement improvements to Council's asset management process.
2. A report be presented to the next Operations Committee on the comparable work being undertaken in the Water, Waste and Wastewater Directorate.

**MOVED:** Cr C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Cr M Statham

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

**7.3. EV Strategy Implementation Update**

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The Director Infrastructure Services advised that the EV Strategy applies to the whole of the LGA and has been a collaborative effort between Council, Lithgow Community Power Project and the University of Technology, Sydney. This strategy identifies several actions to support the transition to electric vehicles.

Council is also working with NRMA to find suitable sites to have a fast charge stations to charge cars in approx. 2.5 hours. It was noted that 4 chargers have been committed to the Eskbank Car Park Area, which will take up 6 current parking spaces. Ongoing engagement with NRMA is occurring to ensure there is good community awareness of the project, and opportunities for media with the Mayor.

**ACTION**

**THAT** the Operations Committee notes the update with respect to the implementation of Council's endorsed Electric Vehicle Strategy.

**MOVED:** Cr C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Cr M Statham

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

**7.4. Queen Elizabeth Park Trees**

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The committee were given an overview of the matter noting a complaint has been received from local residents in relation to the falling pine needle mess and damage being cause by the large trees in Queen Elizabeth Park to their property.

Based on the information presented to the Committee, the administration have provided 3 options for review and provide a recommendation to Council.  
The options being:

1. Removal of the Trees; this would impact the area and would be at a high cost however the value of the trees would be irreplaceable
2. Preventative Measure within the Property - installation of gutter guards and replace existing gutters.
3. No Action.

Further discussion was had on the matter by the committee. Cr S Lesslie requested the recommendation be amended to:

*That the Operations Committee receive the report and return to a future committee meeting after further assessment of options 2 and 3 noting that option 1 of tree removal is rejected.*

This is to re affirm that the removal of trees is not acceptable.

## **ACTION**

**THAT** the Operations Committee receive the report and return to a future committee meeting after further assessment of options 2 and 3 noting that option 1 of tree removal is rejected.

**MOVED:** Cr S Lesslie

**SECONDED:** Cr C O'Connor

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

## **7.5. Emissions Reduction Plan**

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An overview of the report noting that there has been a lot of work carried out on Council buildings and the aquatic centre to reach the net zero targets set by the federal government. This project will see the development of a broad, strategic roadmap in the form of a reduction plan across all areas of Council, including identification of necessary training for staff and continue to report to meet objective and track progress.

Data collection is being carried out by a contractor and have conducted a workshop to review this data. A draft action plan is expected to be completed this month and will be reported to this committee with its findings.

## **ACTION**

**THAT** the report dealing with the Central NSWJO's Emissions Reduction Plan initiative be received and discussed. Also, that progress reports on this project be regularly provided to this Committee.

**MOVED:** Cr C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Cr M Statham

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

## **7.6. Projects Update**

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The committee reviewed the project update and raised the following:

- Browns Gap Road - Works commenced on Monday 19th June by Mine Subsidence to remediate sink hole by pumping concrete in the area. It was noted that tenders for these works went out in November 2022 but it has taken until June 2023 for works to be awarded and commenced. The committee were advised that works are expected to be finalised next week by the contractors however WSP (formerly Golder) will carry out a risk assessment of the area shortly after to provide recommendations to confirm that road can be safely reopened to traffic.

- Sauna at Aquatic Centre - Works on the construction and plumbing for the Sauna have taken place with a contractor expected to go over the area on Friday.
- Sewer Vent Replacement - The Executive Manager Water and Wastewater advised that this is an annual project and approximately 5 sewer vents are replaced each year by contractors.
- Resource Recovery Centre - the committee noted that this is expected to be opened shortly. Currently awaiting in final EPA approval after an inspection of the site which is scheduled for next week. New staff , approximately 6 staff that will be dedicated for the facility with training to occur with staff on running the facility. Councillors will be able to tour the facility and media program to go out to public about the official opening.
- Transfer Stations - Capertee is schedule to commence works. Meadow Flat and Glen Davis facilities were recently completed.

## **ACTION**

**THAT** the committee notes the project update from the Infrastructure and Water/Waste Water Departments.

**MOVED:** Cr S Lesslie

**SECONDED:** Cr C O'Connor

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

## **7.7. Significant Projects Update**

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The Executive Manager of Water & Wastewater provided an overview of the report.

- Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme

The main reactor has been constructed with the internal walls to undergo a leak test. Bad weather has delayed this project slightly.

The pumps were installed in October 2022 and drainage replaced to meet the code for full time sewer. Future developments could be connected in the future as the plant has been built to a large capacity to cater for if required.

- Integrated Water Cycle Management System

It was advised that a large piece of strategic works are occurring, aligning issues with greater regional problems with local concerns ie water security.

Works on a solution for this, looking into many water sources that could be useful such as the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline project. An EOI process will assist Council and Public Works identify what is on the market in terms of contractors that would be able to carry out these works for approximately 23km pipeline through rough terrain. Environmental studies will also be carried out for biodiversity reasons.

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**ACTION**

**THAT** the report on the key projects being completed in the Water and Wastewater areas be received.

**MOVED:** Cr S Lesslie

**SECONDED:** Cr C O'Connor

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

**8. General Business**

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Cr C O'Connor raised concern of the narrowness of the creek near the Tank Street bridge. It was confirmed that the administration will reach out to the contractor about this.

Cr M Statham raised that business owners recently received notification in relation to footpath trading and have expressed their concern about the licencing fee. The administration will refer this matter to the responsible officer within the infrastructure services department to address concerns directly with the businesses.

**9. Meeting Close**

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Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st August 2023 at 5:00pm in the Committee Room.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6:13 pm.