



# MINUTES

Operations Committee

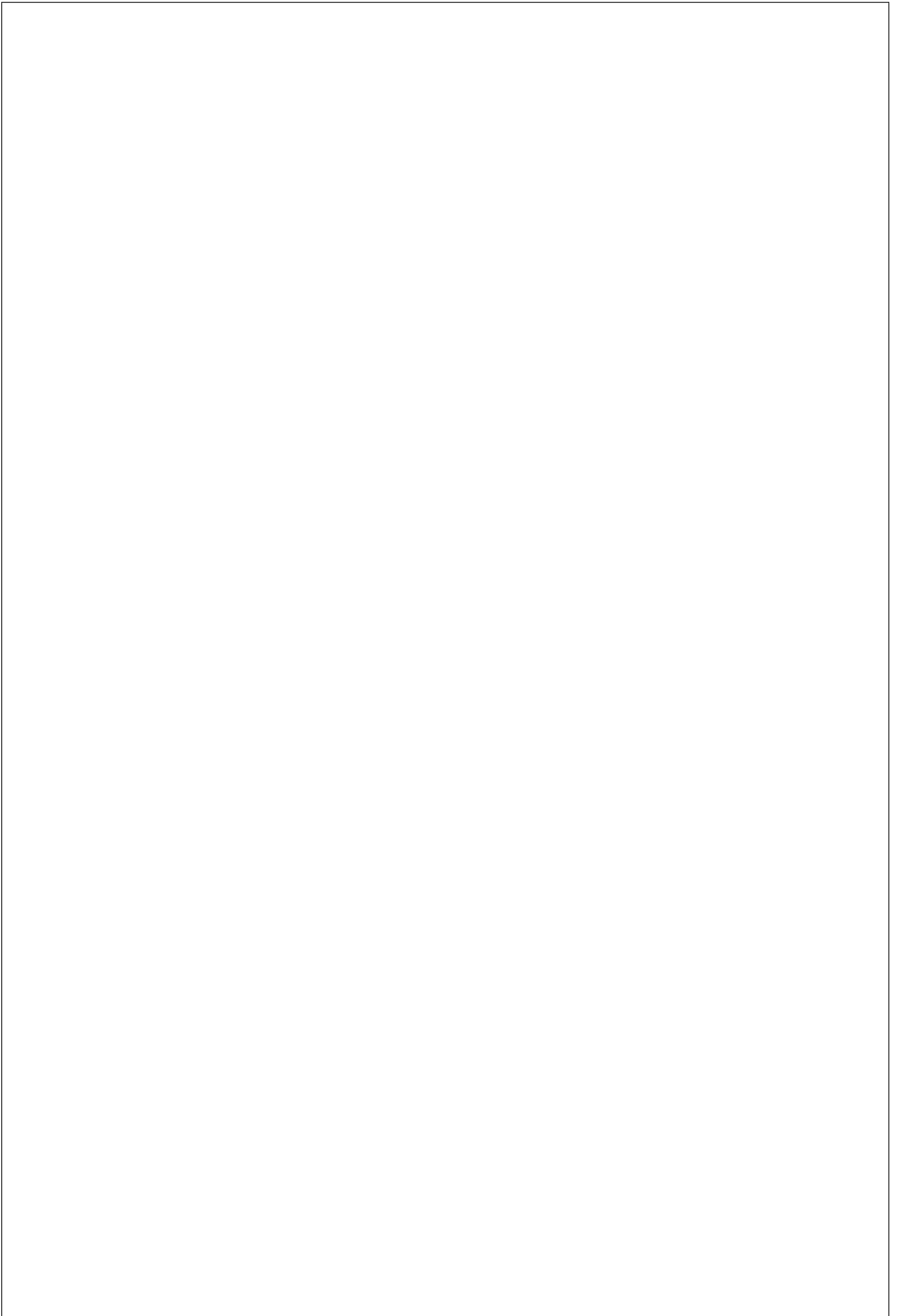
held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Tuesday 3 October 2023

at 5:00 PM



# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5:00 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 Maree Statham - Mayor / Chair  
Cr Darryl Goodwin  
Cr Col O'Connor  
Cr Stephen Lesslie  
Cr Steven Ring  
Cr E Mahony - entered at 5:12pm

Officers:

Craig Butler	General Manager
Matthew Trapp.	Executive Manager Water & Wastewater
David Anderson	Acting Director Infrastructure & Economy
Paul Creelman	Transport Manager
Kaitlin Cibulka	Minutes

## 3. Apologies

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Councillor S McGhie

## 4. Confirmation of Minutes

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The minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 7th August 2023, were presented to the Council on 25th September 2023.

### ACTION

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

**MOVED:** Councillor C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Councillor S Lesslie

## 5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

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The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

No matters were raised.

## 6. Declaration of Interest

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There were no declarations of interest made.

## **7. Staff Reports**

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### **7.1. Assets & Projects - Project Progress Report September 2023**

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Cr S Ring requested further clarification on the Portland Central School Park - Stage 4 - in terms of the transfer of the project management and how Council applied for a grant not on Council owned property. This matter was taken on notice, however the General Manager advised that he has briefed, and Council is working with the funding body to have the document change to reflect the change of project managers. Further advice on this matter to be provided.

Cr S Lesslie asked if there was any saving on bills in relation to solar installations. The administration advised that there has been savings however no figure could be provided. It was noted that a report be brought back on the cost savings.

#### **ACTION**

**THAT** the Assets and Projects Department Project Progress Report for September 2023 be noted.

**MOVED:** Councillor C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Councillor S Lesslie

#### **CARRIED**

### **7.2. Tarana Water Supply**

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The Executive Manager Water and Wastewater gave the committee an overview of the report. The committee were advised that there are approximately 20 connections to raw water, however Council does not own the infrastructure. There is ongoing concern of having a supply from a raw water system. Whilst there is not a huge amount of usage in the area and residents are aware the water source is raw there are risks.

Council has worked with GHD have carried out an analysis and have produced 4 options going forward. These options were presented to the committee.

The committee noted that approximately every 4 days, Council plumbers are attending the site to ensure the reservoir is full and the pumps are in working order.

Cr Mahony entered the meeting at 5:12pm

The committee reviewed the options, noting Option 4 still holds a risk to the community. With a new tank installation then treatment would be required, and upkeep / maintenance will be required with more monitoring being required.

Cr C O'Connor asked if a pipeline could be connected into the Duckmaloi to Rydal line. The Executive Manager Water & Wastewater advised that 10km of pipeline would be required and this could cost upward of \$3 Million. It was discussed that the Council can still charge for the service regardless of if the water being treated or untreated. Whilst there is an ongoing historic agreement and annual arrangement is in place. There is a risk with supplying the service even though residents are notified on an annual basis of the raw water supply, however there is a need to tidy up historic agreements.

Cr S Lesslie asked if Council were to start providing portable water would fluoride be put in the water. The Executive Manager of Water and Wastewater advised that this needs to be checked with NSW Health if it is a requirement, however it was noted that once there is fluoride in the water then you can't opt out. It was also asked if residents have been surveyed on the options presented.

The committee noted that whilst a survey has not been carried out to date, it is Council's intention to do so.

Cr S Ring requested a report on what infrastructure is available there and what isn't there and what Council would be committed to moving forward. Where does this project sit as a priority. It was also suggested to remove the system completely or with fire seasons maintain this for a firefighting reserve. The Executive Manager of Water and Wastewater advised that this is certainly a possibility to have this firefighting reserve as an additional option however Council would still have to wear the operations and maintenance of the system.

## **ACTION**

**THAT** the report relating to the future approach to the issue of a raw water supply to the village of Tarana be received and discussed, and Council administration provide a timetable for consultation with the community.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Lesslie

**SECONDED:** Councillor S Ring

## **CARRIED**

### **7.3. Project Update Report**

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The committee reviewed the project process report.

There were a few errors raised within the report.

The data collated in the table was incorrect, the General Manager advised that the report will be reissued to the committee after this meeting.

## **8. General Business**

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Cr C O'Connor asked if the vacant block on the corner of Coalbrook Street and Sandford Avenue could be considered for funding for an overflow carpark for the sporting precinct.

The Acting Director Infrastructure & Economy advised that there is a project in place to create a masterplan for the sporting precinct and that this could be collated within this report as a suggestion for consideration as it does have merit. The master plan is scheduled for completion by the end of this calendar year, and with this plan it will assist Council with grant funding applications to carry out works.

Cr C O'Connor requested an update on Genowlan Road. Council's Transport Manager provided an update to the committee advising that the road has completely been re-graded and additional material placed on the road. The road is in a good condition and is regularly inspected. Council is not looking to seal the road due to the remoteness of the road and the low population; the sealing would not be warranted.

Cr S Ring asked if Port Macquarie Road would be considered for sealing. The Transport Manager advised that it is an option and would be guided by Council with regards to sealing however investigation would need to be carried out on the effects to Flora and Fauna in the by an ecologist. It was asked if indigenous surveys would also be carried out. As works would occur in the road reserve gutter to gutter then no but if works were to go outside this then advice would be sought.

The speed zone on Huntingdale Road was raised and it was advised that the application has been made with Transport for NSW and has been with the for 18 months and is still waiting on an assessment.

Cr D Goodwin left the meeting at this point 5:54pm

Cr S Ring asked if inspections with Councillors and staff could be taken place on spray seal finishes to see if they are a long-term viable option and see how roads treated this way have lasted over time in an approximate 5-year period. A time and date are to be arranged.

Cr M Statham noted complaints being received in relation to the condition of John Mackay Drive. It was advised that major patching works are occurring in the area. Range Road is also be rejuvenated with funding from the government.

Cr S Ring raised vandalism over the weekend at the local ATM machines in Main Street and cleaning of Main Street / Amenities. There are regular services over the weekend periods with additional services during holiday periods.

The condition of Falnash Street Portland was noted with an investigation to take place.

Cr C O'Connor noted a cold seal that was placed in Silcock Street Lithgow that was no use at all. The Transport Manager was made aware of the issues earlier and this matter is under investigation.

Cr S Lesslie declared an interest as the matter raised was close to his place of residence. It was advised that the fencing around the entrance to the gun emplacement has been removed whilst road works were being carried out however has not been replaced and asked if there were any plans to replace / further develop the site. This matter was taken on notice.

Cr E Mahony raised a possible dysfunctional drain at Queen Elizabeth Park and would like an investigation to occur that this drain isn't playing a part in the flooding of Gang Gang Gallery. It was advised that the Plumber will be carrying out an investigation to send a camera through the drain. Advise will be provided of the outcome when available.

The General Manager advised that a report will be brought to the meeting in relation to update contract between Council and UMCC in relation to Biosecurity in the LGA. Cr E Mahony requested information on what Council spends ourselves on biosecurity outside of this agreement. The General Manager also provided information in relation to Brown Gap Road Closure and the works that are going to be taking place when funding is received and EPAR approval is granted.

## **9. Meeting Close**

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Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 5:00pm in the Committee Room.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 06:29pm.