

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL



Lithgow
CITY COUNCIL



LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL

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Supporting our Indigenous communities

RECOGNISING ABORIGINAL CUSTODIANS

Lithgow City Council recognises that the Indigenous people and communities have a special connection with the land in ways that are often not fully appreciated nor fully understood by the wider community. Lithgow City Council will use consultative and participatory processes that are appropriate and relevant to Indigenous people in order that the views of Indigenous people are heard in relation to matters that may have an impact on their culture and heritage.

Lithgow City Council recognises the contribution that Indigenous people may make and of the damage that may be caused to Indigenous culture and heritage from planning decisions and resultant actions. The objectives of Policy 4.8 - Consultation with Indigenous People aim to:

- Establish a policy for council's consultation process in relation to matters that affect the Indigenous communities and groups, Indigenous heritage values and places of Indigenous significance.
- Have documented policies and procedures for managing strategic planning and development assessment processes and other community engagement processes in relation to Indigenous cultural heritage values.
- Improve the protection and management of identified Indigenous sites and cultural values within Lithgow LGA so that the relationship between the Indigenous people and those values is maintained.
- Improve the recording of Indigenous cultural heritage values within Lithgow LGA.
- Engage Indigenous people in relation to council planning processes that have an impact on Indigenous cultural heritage values.
- Ensure communication and coordination between the Indigenous community, council and others involved in matters that affect the Indigenous community and Indigenous cultural values.
- Improve awareness within council of the Indigenous community and their cultural heritage and to improve awareness within the Indigenous community of council processes and the planning process in general.
- Ensure high standards of Indigenous cultural heritage assessment are established within council.



Supporting our Multicultural communities

LITHGOW DECLARED REFUGEE WELCOME ZONE

On 23 October 2017, council resolved to declare the Lithgow LGA a Refugee Welcome Zone. The Refugee Welcome Zone Declaration is a commitment to:

- Welcoming refugees into our community,
- Upholding the human rights of refugees,
- Demonstrating compassion for refugees and
- Enhancing cultural and religious diversity in our community.

As per council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) CC1 – "We feel connected and supported", council supports refugees and new arrivals in the following ways:

- Council hosts multiple citizenship ceremonies throughout the year, including on Australia Day.
- Council organises events and festivals to celebrate Harmony Day, Refugee Week and Social Inclusion each year.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



I am pleased to present the 2022/23 annual report showcasing all that council has achieved for our community over the past 12 months.

During the 2022/23-year Council made the difficult decision to apply for a Special Rate Variation. Council undertook extensive community consultation to identify the community's priorities for the future of the local government area.

IPART approved Council's Special Rate Variation (SRV) application in full. The approval of the SRV is a major step towards maintaining the city's roads and other infrastructure, transforming the local economy and improving services for the whole community. The funds will be directed to improved roads, footpaths, parks and sporting facilities. Additional attention will be able to be given to waterways and the natural environments management, as well as rural weeds management.

The draft Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) is in its final form. LEEP will pivot the city from its historical foundations as a centre of industry, energy and innovation and reposition it to be more ready for the future. The ambition of LEEP is to re-shape, diversify and grow the city's economy.

The Council has been working with a consortium of specialists to position Lithgow as a global example of a city that successfully transitions to a broad-based, modern economy with a diversity of job opportunities. This is recognition that the city's current supply of high paying jobs in mining and electricity generation will diminish over the next decade.

Through LEEP we will reinvent and invigorate Lithgow's economy. Providing a clear pathway for attracting investment, new businesses and diverse, skilled jobs, including for young people and workers currently in the coal and energy sectors.

Council received a Scoping Report from Greenspot as a first step toward a Rezoning Application for their 620-hectare site at Wallerawang. The proposal is for a mixture of uses comprising residential, tourism, environmental management and employment precincts. The proposed concept place could accommodate 1,500-4,500 jobs and between 600-800 dwellings.

Council has recently joined the Central NSW Joint Organisation which offers a greater opportunity to collaborate on regional issues such as Disaster Risk Reduction, Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure, Regional Water Security, transitioning to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future for the region and greater opportunity to promote Lithgow and Central NSW as "open" for tourism.

In response to the extensive rain events, Council completed \$19m in disaster recovery works, the most significant of which was the Donkey Steps, creating temporary access for isolated residents in the Wolgan Valley. Council continues to work with the Wolgan Valley community to ensure their wellbeing and safety until a permanent access is established to the Valley.

Throughout the year, numerous events and activities have been held at the Libraries and Eskbank House Museum to activate these community facilities, encouraging lifelong learning, a love of reading and our heritage.

We hosted world class interactive events such as Halloween and Lithglow where, our guests get to dress up and be part of the event. This year, Lithglow included the inaugural "Glow Worm Parade", celebrating the Lithgow Glow Worm Tunnel on the Newnes Plateau, which was originally constructed as part of the railway line to Newnes Kerosene Shale Works in the Wolgan Valley. Local events such as these bring the community closer together and provide a sense of belonging.

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



This report provides a summary of the achievements the Council has made towards delivering on the Community Strategic Plan.

72% of actions scheduled for the 2022/2023 year have been completed, 9% are ongoing, 10% have been deferred and 9% are not completed. Detailed explanations are provided where actions are ongoing, deferred or not completed. These will receive additional attention over the current financial year.

Key outcomes delivered over the 2022/23 Financial year include –

- Preparation and approval of a 45.7% Special Rate Variation application.
- Completion of a review of insurance providers with a \$336K saving for the 2023/24 year.
- Achievement of \$3.8M planned cost savings and extra revenue.
- Major projects included timber bridges being replaced in the Capertee Valley, improving the safety of school zones with enhanced signage and line marking, replacing the roofs on community halls, and developing best-practice asset management plans.
- Completion of a development application for the South Bowenfels Housing Development.
- The Donkey Steps track was completed with access re-instated to residences and businesses. Substantial studies were commenced to determine the alternate route for the new Wolgan Road.
- Portland Foundations Trunk Main was connected and installed for future development which will enable the continuation of works on the Portland Foundations site for development.
- The Waste Strategy for 2022-2026 was finalised and adopted. This Strategy will guide Council's commitment to achieving best practice standards for waste management and resource recovery. The Strategy ensures that the city's landfills and transfer stations are being well-managed and continuously improved.
- Consultation was also commenced with the community on the introduction of a FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) service in March 2024 well ahead of the 2030 deadline. The city's landfills and transfer stations are being well-managed and continuously improved.
- Council engaged with the local Indigenous community to develop the Lithgow Community Cultural Protocols. The document provides an understanding of the important protocols to be implemented when working with, consulting with and acknowledging local Aboriginal Communities.
- Major events included Halloween for the entire Main Street, "Made in Lithgow" installation in Cook Street Plaza, Weeklong Caravan Muster (injection of \$200k into the local economy), Union Theatre activation, Lithgow with over 5000 people attending, Lithgow Live and Local program, and Netwaste Waste to Art.
- The Lithgow Visitor Information Centre was rebranded as "The Seven Valleys" a brand designed to encompass the whole of the Lithgow LGA.
- Council undertook numerous projects, as part of a comprehensive disaster response program. Over the 2022/23-year, Council delivered \$19 million in disaster recovery works. Continued wet weather and cashflow management has resulted in some delays to the completion of this program. Council must also provide up-front most of the costs before recovering government disaster recovery funding. This has introduced a significant challenge i.e., balancing the planned with the unplanned and ensuring that projects are delivered while maintaining the financial sustainability of the organisation.
- Effective management of cashflow to fund major natural disaster works and grant funded projects. A \$3.5M working capital short-term loan facility was utilised to cover high cash outflows throughout the 2022/23 year. The pace of works was matched with available cash and the timing of natural disaster and grant milestone claims. The need to manage cashflow resulted in some projects being rephased to the 2023/24 year.
- The Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project (multi-year project) 2022/23 has progressed with a variety of studies being undertaken and an Expression of interest for a selective tender process for the design and construction of the pipeline. The project has been identified as the preferred approach for enabling water security in the Lithgow City Council area and sub options including other water sources are being developed into scenarios for development in the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy.
- The Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme is progressing with the construction of the IDEA tank, offsite programming and SCADA design to align the equipment programming with required operations and construction.
- Strategic planning projects of significance were advanced or the subject of priority action including the Marrangaroo Urban Release Area where the Council continues to work with Transport for NSW to determine the most cost effective and efficient road design. Local housing initiatives directed at ensuring diversity and supply of housing are adequate have also been advanced. Negotiations are occurring for the land-use planning of key sites such as the former Wallerawang Power Station Site and Portland Foundations. There was successful negotiation of Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPSs) for a renewable energy (SSD) project with the \$2m funds to be used for economic transition and local infrastructure.

YOUR COUNCIL

Lithgow City Council is represented by nine Councillors including a Mayor elected every two years from within.

Councillors are elected to a four year term, with the most recent elections occurring in December 2022. That election saw 32 candidates nominated to serve the Lithgow LGA, with Councillors Maree Statham, Cassandra Coleman, Almy Bryce, Cole O'Connor, Darryl Goodwin, Deanna Goodsell, Eric Mahony, Stephen Lesslie and Stuart Mcghie elected.

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the 2020 Local Council election being postponed to December 2021, which will see the current term of Council proceeding for a three year term.

The three year term of the outgoing Council will conclude with Local Government elections to be held in September 2024.



Cr Maree Statham
MAYOR



Cr Cass Coleman
DEPUTY MAYOR



Cr Almy Bryce



Cr Cole O'Connor



Cr Darryl Goodwin



Cr Eric Mahony



Cr Stephen Lesslie



Cr Stuart McGhie



Cr Deanna Goodsell



Cr Steve Ring

In May 2023 Councillor Deanna Goodsell resigned from her role as a Councillor.

The Council had previously made a decision that in the event of a vacancy occurring amongst the councillors that this be filled by a countback from the results of the 2021 election. There by avoiding the need for a by-election. The countback was conducted by the NSW Electoral Commission.

In June 2023 The NSW Electoral Commission completed the countback to determine the person who would fill the vacant councillor role on Lithgow City Council. The result saw Steve Ring elected to the Council.

LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL

Our Councillors

Our Councillors represent the community and put forward their views and interests. As the governing body, the role of our Councillors is to:

- Actively review and debate matters that come before them for decision.
- Participate in the allocation of council's resources to optimise benefits to the community. Assist in the creation and undertake reviews of council's policies, strategies, plans and programs,
- Review the management performance of council and our delivery of services.
- Facilitate communication between residents and the council.
- Provide leadership to the community.

In addition to the roles listed above our mayor is tasked with carrying out civic and ceremonial functions and presiding over the meetings of council.

Council meetings

All council decisions are made at council meetings or through them, council meetings are conducted on the fourth Monday of each month commencing at 7pm as per resolution 20-285 (23/11/20). The council commenced live streaming meetings making them more accessible to the public. All meetings are available for viewing on council's website.

<https://council.lithgow.com/council/council-meetings/>

In response to public health restrictions, council has adapted to ensure that it continues to conduct its meetings in an open and democratic manner. This includes, when required, video conferencing to comply with social distancing requirements.



Council's role

While the council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the Lithgow Local Government Area, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. Other partners, such as the state and federal governments, non-government organisations and community groups may also be engaged in delivering the long-term objectives of the plan. There are 8 critical roles that the council performs on behalf of the community.

Representation & Cooperation

Council engages with other councils and levels of government to represent and advocates the needs of our community, and where appropriate, cooperates and works in partnership to generate for the greatest benefit for the community.

Community engagement

Council engages with its community, sharing information about the community, council, and government business, where appropriate. It provides opportunities for constituents to influence and / or participate in decision making.

Economic Development

The Council facilitates the economic development of the community by working with the business community to attract and retain investment and support sustainable economic growth.

Strategic Leadership

Council provides strategic leadership through understanding current and future operating environments, identifying opportunities and risks and making decisions which align with long-term strategic plans.

Legislation & Policies

The Council enforces relevant state and national legislation and creates policies as required to support the efficient and effective function of council to support the community.

Sense of place

Council facilitates and works with the community to develop a sense of place through branding, promoting and enhancing local identity, and promoting social cohesion and health and wellbeing.

Service delivery and asset management

The Council is a responsible financial manager who delivers cost effective, equitable and efficient services and assets which reflect the community's needs and expectations and is guided by the long-term strategic plans and objectives identified in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Land-use planning

The Council works with the community to create an environment that guides the use of land to balance economic, environmental, and community/social values, and to support the health and wellbeing of the community.

COUNCILLOR KEY STATISTICS

Councillor Attendance at Meetings

11 Ordinary Council meetings and 2 Extraordinary meeting were held between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

Elected Member	Ordinary Meeting Attended		Extrardinary Meeting Attended	
	Number	%	Number	%
Cr Maree Statham - Mayor	11/11	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Cass Coleman - Deputy Mayor	11/11	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Almy Bryce	11/11	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Deanna Goodsell	8/8	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Darryl Goodwin	11/11	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Stephen Lesslie	11/11	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Eric Mahony	11/11	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Stuart McGhie	11/11	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Cole O'Connor	11/11	100%	2/2	100%
Cr Steve Ring	1/1	100%	NA	NA

Delegated Decision Making

As provided for in the Local Government Act, the Council can delegate some of its decision making authority to the General Manager, allowing a more efficient operation in several areas such as enforcement of council regulations and finalising or negotiating various matters within parameters set by council.

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



Craig Butler
GENERAL MANAGER



Ross Gurney
Chief Financial Officer

- Financial Services
- Customer Service
- Records Management
- Information Technology
- Governance
- Asset Management
- Property Management



Matthew Trapp
**Executive Manager
Water, Wastewater & Waste**

- Water & Wastewater
- Works & Projects
- Water Treatment Plants
- Sewer Treatment Plants
- Reticulation
- Trade Waste
- Waste & Recycling



Jonathon Edgecombe
**Director
Infrastructure & Economy**

- Roads
- Footpaths
- Plant
- Cemeteries
- Recreation & Open Space Management
- Parks & Gardens
- Lithgow Golf Course
- Sporting Fields
- Asset Management
- Aquatic Centre
- Economic Development



Michael McGrath
**Director
People & Services**

- Human Resources & Organisational Management
- Work Health & Safety
- Risk Management
- Corporate Strategy
- Business Improvement
- Communications
- Community Development
- Cultural Development
- Library Services
- Tourism
- Event Management
- Strategic Land Use Planning
- Urban Planning
- Development Assessment
- Landcare
- Environmental Health
- Ranger Services
- Animal Control
- Lithgow Animal Shelter
- Compliance

ABOUT OUR REGION

The Lithgow local government area is located on the western ramparts of the Blue Mountains, 140 kilometres from Sydney. The Lithgow Local Government area totals 4,567 square kilometres from the Capertee and Wolgan Valleys in the north, Little Hartley in the east, Tarana in the south and Meadow Flat in the west.

The major urban centre of Lithgow nestles in a valley of that name, overlooked by the sandstone escarpments of the Blue Mountains.

In addition to the major urban centre of Lithgow, the Lithgow local government area has 12 villages/hamlets with mining or farming backgrounds. These smaller centres have proven to be attractive rural residential areas, along with the broader rural areas.

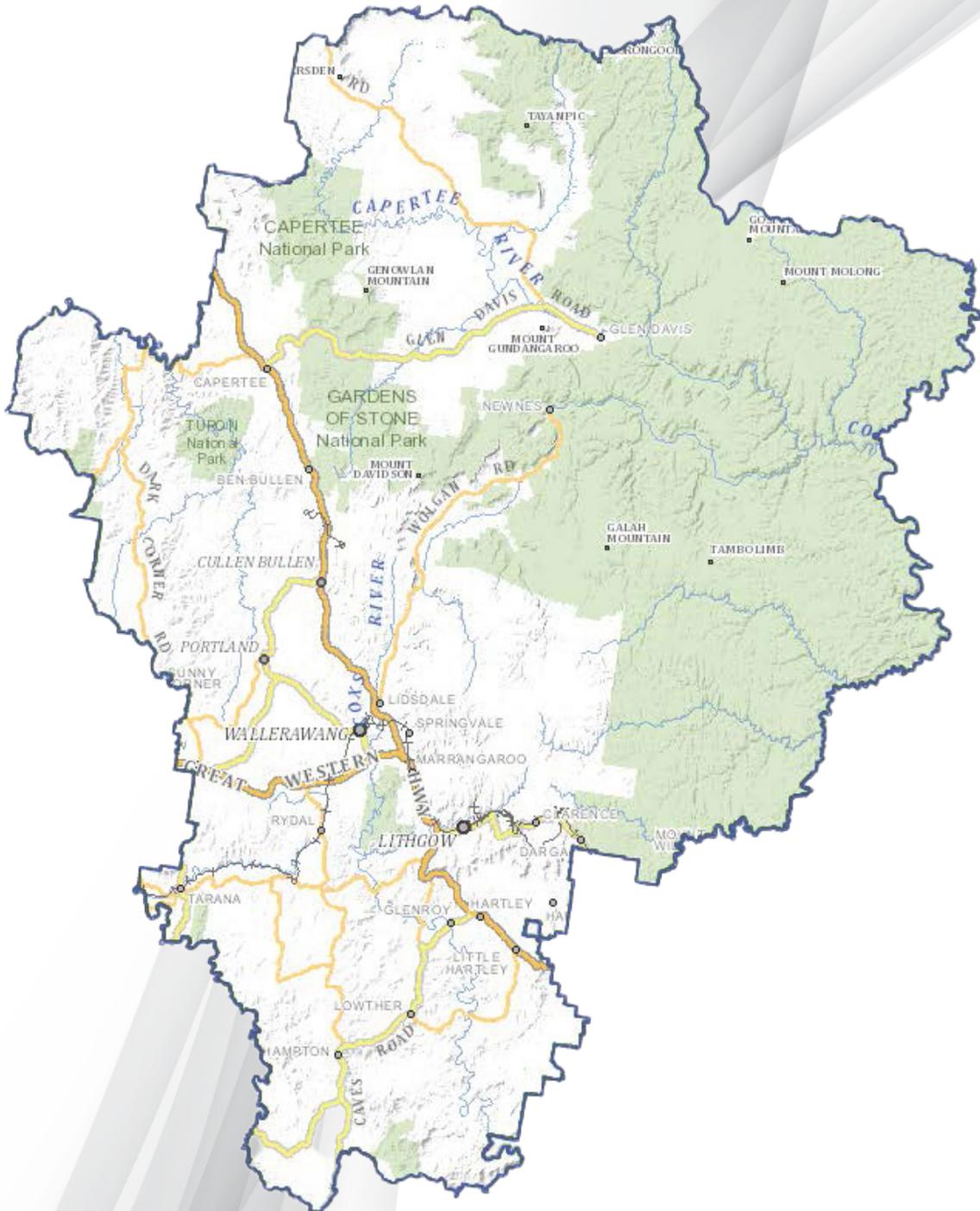
The Lithgow LGA lies almost wholly within the Wiradjuri Aboriginal nation, with the Gundungurra nation situated to the south and the Darug nation to the east.

Lithgow was previously perceived to be an inland mining and industrial centre, however, recent developments have seen Lithgow recognised as an important tourism destination, heritage centre and a desirable residential area as well.

The Lithgow local government area includes World Heritage listed National Parks and State Forests, making Lithgow an important leisure destination for Sydney residents.

Lithgow has unlimited opportunities for outdoor activities such as bush walking, mountaineering, camping, orienteering, hang gliding, horse riding, off road 4wd, fishing, sailing and water skiing.





Towns, Villages and Localities	Population	Dwellings
Lithgow	11,608	5,842
Wolgan, Newnes & Newnes Plateau	78	14
Wallerawang	2,019	866
Dark Corner, Sunny Corner, Upper Turon & Palmers Oakey	190	130
Capertee (including Running Stream & Round Swamp) Capertee Valley	588	507
Clarence & Dargan	283	147
Cullen Bullen & Ben Bullen	237	116
Good Forest, Hampton & Lowther	225	164
Hartley, Little Hartley & Hartley Village	1,191	531
Blackmans Flat & Lidsdale	493	182
Marrangaroo & Springvale	783	188
Meadow Flat & Mt Lambie	421	154
Portland	2,447	1,144
Rydal, Sodwalls & Tarana	444	245
Kanimbla & Megalong Valley	441	256

CUSTOMER SERVICE MISSION

To support this vision, Council is committed to the provision of timely, efficient and consistent quality customer service provided by knowledgeable and helpful officers that meet our customer's expectations.

Mission

Our customer service mission is to provide excellent service levels to our community that contribute towards the achievement of Council's vision. We expect that all staff are committed to pursuing excellence in their role and to be responsible and accountable representatives of the Council.

COMMUNITY VISION

A centre of regional excellence that:

- Encourages community growth and development.*
- Contributes to the efficient and effective management of the environment, community and economy for present and future generations.*

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan 2035 provides an opportunity to reflect on what has changed, what we are doing well, and highlights the areas that need greater attention in delivering the community's vision.

This plan will help to reset focus on our delivery of outcomes and significant projects that advocate for, and influence the quality of life of our residents in the medium to long term.

The key strategies and priorities identified are outlined here.

Caring for Our Community

We retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow Local Government Area.

Developing Our Built Environment

Providing a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities and lifestyle choices while enhancing the existing rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow Local Government Area.

Strengthening Our Economy

To provide for sustainable and planned growth through the diversification of the economy base, the development of diverse job opportunities and the provision of a broad range of formal and non-formal educational services.

Enhancing Our Natural Environment

To balance, protect and enhance our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations.

Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership

To develop community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.



Caring for Our Community

CC1: To plan and provide quality community and recreational facilities and services for a healthy, vibrant and harmonious community that embraces challenges and has the resilience to adopt to change.

CC2: To work together to support, celebrate and expand the social and cultural diversity of our community whilst promoting healthy, active lifestyles in a safe environment.



Strengthening our Economy

SE1: To provide sustainable and planned growth that supports a range of lifestyle choices and employment options.

SE2: To explore and discover the richness in our society through the pursuit of educational, creative and cultural opportunities to diversify our economy, skills base and employment opportunities.

SE3: The Lithgow region is seen as a desirable place to work, live, visit and invest.

SE4: Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland CBD's are vibrant, unique spaces which create a strong sense of place within the community.



Developing our Built Environment

BE1: To plan for suitable infrastructure to promote sustainable and planned growth, while enhancing the existing identity of the towns, villages and rural areas of the local government area.

BE2: To ensure sustainable and planned growth through the provision of effective public and private transport options, and suitable entertainment and to enhance the lifestyle choices of the community.

BE3: Diverse and affordable housing options are available for our residents throughout all life stages.



Enhancing our Natural Environment

NE1: To conserve and preserve the natural environment whilst balancing the impact of development to ensure a sustainable and healthy community.

NE2: To work together to enhance, manage and maintain the Lithgow region's distinct and exceptional natural environment for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

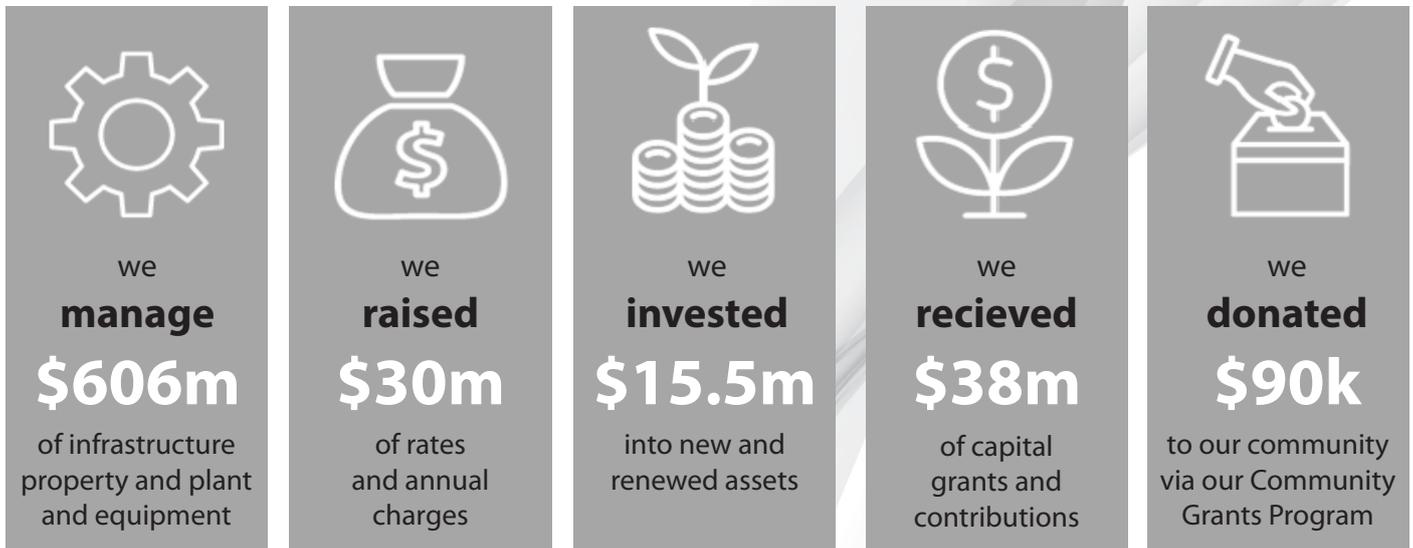


Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership

GL1: To be a proactive council that sets the long-term direction for the local government area and council to ensure a sustainable future for the Lithgow local government area.

GL2: To be a council that focuses on strong civic leadership, organisational development and effective governance with an engaged community actively participating in decision making process affecting their future.

PROGRESS ON THE OPERATIONAL PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM



Progress against delivery program targets

	No. of actions	100% complete	%
	54	44	81
	38	29	76
	109	66	61
	44	36	82
	31	24	77
TOTAL	276	199	72



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



“We retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow Local Government Area .”

CC1- To plan and provide quality community and recreational facilities and services for a healthy, vibrant and harmonious community that embraces challenges and has the resilience to adapt to change.



CC1.1: We will provide a range of needs-based, flexible and accessible services, buildings and facilities.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

- The library undertook a space planning project to create new floor plans that will assist with both regular planning and grant applications to refurbish the internal library space. A reorganisation and general tidy up of the public spaces in all libraries is ongoing and has provided noticeable improvements to the spaces.
- Funding was secured to investigate opportunities to upgrade / develop / relocate the animal pound to improve services to the community and to ensure animal control is maintained in accordance with legislation and policy.
- Bookings for community halls and theatres was managed through our online bookable system.
- Community Noticeboards installed at Dargan and Clarence
- Funding received under Resources for Regions for the ABCD Community Hall at Clarence
- Regent Honeyeater soundscape and mural installed at the in the toilet facility at the Capertee Rest Area.



CC1.2: We will ensure that our rural and urban villages retain and celebrate their unique character and heritage from iconic buildings to village streetscapes.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

- Replacement directional signage has been installed in Hassans Walls Reserve and a replacement points of interest sign at Hassans Walls lookout.
- Provided heritage advice to residents on development matters.
- 7 projects funded under the Local Heritage Grants Program. 5 have been acquitted.

CC1.3: We will work together to ensure the communities of the Lithgow region feel supported, connected and united.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

- Review/update of the Village Improvement Plans was deferred to 2023/24.
- Street furnishings, benches, table settings and shade covers were installed in parks across villages.
- Council has started to replace the current town and LGA signage. However, there is no current formal strategy or costed budget for this project.

CC1.4: We will manage and regulate public places to achieve safe and healthy lifestyles.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

- The CCTV System was upgraded to ensure the monitoring of the CBD
- 12 requests from the Police for CCTV footage were processed
- 230 Abandoned articles were impounded.
- Parking patrols were conducted throughout the year. Patrols met target.
- At the beginning of the 2023 school year Rangers suspended school zone enforcement to undertake an educational program in school zone safety for drop-off and pick up with all Lithgow LGA Schools.
- Changes in legislation during the 2022/23 financial year resulted in required updates to impounding processes which will result in a greater number of abandoned articles to be impounded.

12
POLICE
REQUESTS FOR
CCTV FOOTAGE
PROCESSED

230
ABANDONED
ARTICLES WERE
IMPOUNDED

223
CBD PARKING
PATROLS
78
SCHOOL ZONE
PARKING PATROLS



CC2: To work together to support, celebrate and expand the social and cultural diversity of our community whilst promoting healthy, active lifestyles in a safe environment.

CC2.1: We will improve access, participation and inclusion for everyone.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

- Planet Youth Project had its Community Engagement Action Plan and budget approved. Schools Site approvals completed and signed by principals of schools to proceed with the Planet Youth surveys in August 2023.
- Council will seek to attract Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to Council Committees.
- The Lithgow Community Cultural Protocol went to the January 2023 council meeting and was endorsed by Council. The document is available on councils website www.council.lithgow.com/community/aboriginal-community/

CC2.2: We will build resilient and inclusive communities.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

- Council worked with a range of local groups on issues concerning Aboriginal People and provided financial support for the annual NAIDOC event.
- There isn't currently a multicultural group in Lithgow. Although, through the attendance to interagency meetings held at LINC, LCC maintains relationships with services working with CALD members of our community and with TAFE NSW Lithgow - Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).
- 3 Naturalisation ceremonies were held
- Council acknowledged International Volunteer Week with a social media campaign.
- Through a weeklong Facebook campaign, during volunteer's week, Lithgow City Council acknowledged the diverse areas of expertise of volunteers and highlighted the powerful impact volunteers make supporting individuals, our community, and the nation. As part of this campaign, people were invited to join Lithgow City Council Volunteer programs through our website: <https://council.lithgow.com/.../employ.../volunteerprogram/>
- Council allocated \$101,328 Financial Assistance in 2022/3 including \$40,000 for Portland Community Pool, \$13,325 for Arts Outwest and \$11,500 for Lithgow show. A further \$32,881 was allocated to 15 local projects and \$600 to local schools for end of year academic prizes.



CC2.3: We facilitate social inclusion and neighbourhood programs to strengthen community connections.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

- Lithgow City Council Libraries Seniors Festival 2023 event - Explore Exceptional People and Organisations, was held from 6-10 February 2023.
- Grandparents Day was combined with Diwali.
- Youth Week 2023 was delivered by the Youth Council with the support of local services.
- Refugee Week from 18-24 June 2023 was acknowledged by Council with a media release and a Facebook media campaign.
- Council held a flag raising event outside the Hartley Building and morning tea in the upstairs foyer, to coincide with NAIDOC week 3 - 7 July 2023 with the participation of a number of Aboriginal community members.
- The Mayor presented Christmas gifts to around 90 residents of two Local Aged Care Facilities. One aged care facility requested Christmas trees and decorations instead of presents.
- Lithgow Library held a Harmony Day event with an Indian themed story time.



NAIDOC WEEK



MAYOR GIVING CHRISTMAS GIFTS



HARMONY DAY



YOUTH WEEK

CC2.4: We will work to ensure that health, education and community services will meet our identified needs

During 2022/23:

- The Community Development officer regularly attends meetings and supports community events by Lithgow Cares Partnership.
- Lithgow Cares, in conjunction with Lithgow City Council and Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre delivered a Free Family day at the Fatima Hall in Bowenfels. Around 30 services were present at the event, including Lithgow City Council Library and Lithgow Youth Council. Members of the Youth Council were in charge of acknowledgement of country and a very popular Youth, music and play space.
- Council's Community Development Officer attends and supports the Community Services Interagency monthly meetings. The meetings are an opportunity to network and for agencies to share information and best practice.
- Lithgow City Council is the lead organisation of the Local Drug Action Team, which has recently been renamed Planet Youth Lithgow. Planet Youth Lithgow is a consortium of organisations working for youth and Lithgow's community to strengthen protective factors, mitigate risk factors, and to build a healthy community environment, for positive youth development.



CC2.5: We will maintain a focus on lifelong learning and collaborating to deliver a range of innovative programs and services.

During 2022/23:

- 5,904 new books and reading resources have been added to the library collection.
- 109 early literacy sessions were held in Portland and Wallerawang libraries during the year.
- 243 early literacy sessions were held in the Lithgow library during the year.
- 211 babies were registered in 2022/23 for the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program.
- Youth Week 2023 was delivered, a day of music and activities organised with the support of Seven Valleys Live and local program and other local services.
- Lithgow Library received \$6193 from a Community Heritage Grant to undertake a Preservation Needs Assessment for the collection. This will assist with planning to further digitise and catalogue the collection.
- There were a total of 345 requests for local history research during 2022/23.
- In total for the year there were 728 people who have received a delivery from the home library service with a total of 5,591 items issued.
- The library provided early literacy resources to Blinky Bill, First Grammar and Pied Piper pre-school children through library reachOUT program. The program is accessing an average of 40 children per month
- The library service currently subscribes to 4 eresource platforms and is provided with 2 others via the State Library of NSW. Library subscribed platforms are Libby and borrow box which provide e-books, e-audio and emagazines. E-resource use has increased to 10.8% of the total library usage.
- Two community education activities undertaken during the 2022/23 financial year. Responsible companion animal's ownership activities and free microchipping were done at the Cullen Bullen Family Fun Day July 2022 and the Lithgow Readiness Rally October 2022.



Lithgow Readiness Rally

33
EXHIBITIONS/
DISPLAYS

100
PROGRAMS
AND
EVENTS



STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY



“Providing for sustainable and planned growth through the diversification of the economic base, the development of diverse job opportunities and the provision of a broad range of formal and non-formal educational services”



SE1: To provide sustainable and planned growth that supports a range of lifestyle choices and employment options.

SE1.1 We will attract new business and investment.

During 2022/23:

- The Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan was completed with a final draft presented to the Council. Collateral documentation is complete, and the public consultation process is ongoing. Formal endorsement of the project will be considered at the October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting. Council continues to meet with representatives of government to draw attention to the plan and gain the necessary commitment required to form an appropriate governance model and the frameworks required to bring the plan to life.

SE1.2 We will encourage economic growth.

During 2022/23 the Strategic Planning Team has:

- Responded to enquiries regarding the status of the Marrangaroo Urban Release Area
- Received and assessed a scoping proposal for the rezoning of the former Wallerawang Power Station Site and associated lands from Greenspot. Continued to keep under review the Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2024 and Development Control Plan 2021
- Collaborated with key stakeholders in relation to identifying potential areas for temporary and key worker housing.

SE1.4: We will develop into a “smart” city that embraces technology, innovation and entrepreneurship to support business success and improve liability.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

- Council continued the Smart Regional Spaces project with the Universities of Sydney and NSW. 8 staff members were provided with commercial drone training as part of this grant funded project.
- Lithgow Electric Vehicle Strategy was completed. Implementation has commenced through the signing of a non-binding MOU with NRMA to install an array of 4 chargers within the Eskbank Street car park. Investigation has also commenced on the feasibility of several other sites across the LGA.



Drone Training

A young girl with her back to the camera, wearing a black and white checkered dress and yellow shoes, stands in front of a large glass display case. The case is filled with various historical artifacts, including pottery, metal objects, and stone items. The background is a rustic stone wall with a window to the left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the center of the image.

SE2: To explore and discover the richness in our society through the pursuit of educational, creative and cultural opportunities to diversify our economy, skills base and employment opportunities.

SE2.1: We will celebrate the cultural diversity and rich heritage of the Lithgow LGA.

During the year, Eskbank House participated in a number of external national and state sponsored events to promote the history and heritage of the museum and the region:

- Delivered a History Week guest speaker event featuring Peter Baker titled 'Healing Hands Crying Hearts: Life journeys of James and Leo Bamber. The museum has a dentist chair in the collection that came from Dr Leo Bamber's surgery. Research for this talk generated a manuscript of significance to the local history record.
- Two Nature Journal events were held during the 2022/23 Christmas school holiday period.
- Hosted Council's Citizenship Awards Ceremony in September 2022 and May 2023.
- Hosted the Blue Mountains Association of Heritage Organisation Meeting in September 2022.
- National Trust Heritage Festival Exhibition 2023, Titled Shared Stories – Textiles of Lithgow: Handmade to Factory Industries 11 April - 4 June 2023.
- Participated in Waste2Art 2023.

Collections Care and Management

In consultation with the Museum Advisor, items were purchased for best practice care of the collection. A recording sheet is in development and regular museum standard cleaning sessions have been initiated. Investigation of best practice care and storage is regularly undertaken. Cataloguing is continuing with an emphasis on discovering the provenance and gathering of items related to each other by donor. Engagement strategies include development of permanent themed displays related to the history and heritage of the Lithgow greater region.

Promotion of the Museum

Eskbank House Museum relies on the following promotional material:

- Lithgow City Council Website
- Media releases
- Social media
- Flyers / posters / pamphlets
- Eventbrite
- Seven Valleys Visitors Centre website
- National Trust and History Council website
- Museums & Heritage Sites Lithgow & Surrounds and the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail



Nature Journaling

SE2.2: We will work with local creatives and tourism partners to develop a strong tourism industry that maximizes benefits from visitors to the LGA.

During 2022/23 the following activities were undertaken:

Tourism

- Visits to member tourism business have been undertaken where possible and all information is kept up to date.
- The new Tourism membership prospectus is a digital form that requires businesses to fill out relevant information on their business, therefore ensuring that bed-plans and other databases of tourism assets can be kept up to date.
- Promotional activities were undertaken to promote the Lithgow/Seven Valleys destination.
- A program involving a \$5000 grant from Central NSW Tourism for event promotion was completed in April and May 2023.
- The draft Visitor Guide has been developed with advertisements finalised and is now awaiting final edit and printing for distribution in July.
- The Accredited Visitors Centre App has been extremely successful, with Seven Valleys Visitors Information Centre taking out a 'most favoured' top 3 finish in Australia. (insert photo of vicki at Tourism Centre)



Eskbank House Museum

Networking

- Networking regularly undertaken with other heritage and cultural organisations including the Small Arms Factory Museum and Lithgow District Family History Society.
- Two volunteers from Eskbank House participated in a paper conservation workshop at Lithgow and District Family History Society.
- A meeting of the Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Organisations was also held at Eskbank House.
- Discussions have been held with the National Trust (Lithgow) and the Museum Advisor visits local museums monthly.
- The Hartley Historic Village workers & guides (NSW Parks and Wildlife) visited Eskbank to familiarise themselves with the museum and its facilities. An invitation was extended to EHM volunteers to reciprocate with a visit. This is planned for 2023- 2024.
- Council's Cultural Development Officer has been researching and having preliminary discussions with local creative and cultural organisations to look at how we can work together to create new opportunities and strategic partnerships, including live music, arts, theatre performances workshops, grants and membership and sponsorship programs for the Union Theatre and greater collaboration and cross promotion with other event organisers and venues like Eskbank House, The State Mines, Gang Gang Gallery, Western Sydney Transformation Hub, Portland Foundations, and the Seven Valleys Tourism and Events.

Museum Advisory Service

- The Museum Advisor visits monthly to advise on conservation and care of the museum collection. An in-house workshop was held with the Volunteer team to demonstrate cleaning techniques.
- The Museum Advisor assisted with a Museums and Galleries NSW development grant application to engage a Museum Consultant for a five-year strategic plan.
- Attended a local region Museums group meeting organised by Tegan Anthes Museum Advisor and took part in the judging of the Lithgow District Family History Society annual Yonne Jenkins Award essay competition.

SE2.4: Local job opportunities will be enhanced through employer and service provider partnership focused on the development of a local workforce with the skills required by local industry.

Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan

Through the completion of the Lithgow Evolving Economy Plan, a pathway for economic diversification has highlighted the need to equip local youth with skills of the future and thereby work to strengthen their future adaptive capacity. A particular focus of this initiative is STEAM skills, being science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Work has continued to occur with Western Sydney University to develop a business case for a program known as the 'Adaptive Skills Hub' which aims to introduce local students to opportunities in this space. Secondly, Council has engaged with local schools and the ACER (Australian Centre for Educational Research) to workshop opportunities for closer partnerships between schools and their community, which is demonstrated to achieve improved educational outcomes, local health and general behaviour.

In the past 12 months, Lithgow Council worked with Investment NSW and Regional Development Australia Central West to offer an Export Capability Workshop to the community to inform potential opportunities to expand business and export product.

Additionally, Council has worked with Transport for NSW as part of the Great Western Highway upgrade to offer opportunities for local businesses to improve their tendering skills in competitive markets. Council has also continued to consult with the community on the outcomes of the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan, ensuring that the voice of the community is heard before the plan is endorsed by Council and Government.





SE3: The Lithgow region is seen as a desirable place to work, live, visit and invest.

SE3.1: We will work in partnership to actively market the Lithgow region and our capabilities to existing and potential residents, businesses, visitors and investors.

During 2022/23:

- A range of promotional movies were developed which are now included on the Invest Lithgow site. Since the completion of the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP), an entirely new website has been developed www.leep.lithgow.com to promote the document and its strategic objectives. This is also used as a portal for the community to register and provide feedback on the document. In the coming 12 months, the site will be further expanded to include accountability measures for the application of the LEEP, and the objectives achieved over time.
- Deep engagement with the Department of Regional NSW continues, both in the development of the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan, but also a number of other initiatives including the creation of an Investment Prospectus for Lithgow, and the finalisation of the Lithgow Regional Economic Development Strategy. These documents will become the foundation of Lithgow's economic and tourism growth in coming years.
- Business and Tourism Matters newsletter were distributed monthly

SE3.2: We will grow our visitor economy through developing partnership and opportunities that enhance and strengthen iconic events distinct local attractions and the use of major venues.

During 2022/23:

- The Visitors Information Centre has been running smoothly with uninterrupted opening hours.
- The social media page and website have also been rebranded as Seven Valleys.
- A destination marketing campaign has been running monthly since April 2023.
- A collaborative Autumn events marketing program was conducted with Central NSW Tourism in conjunction with Destination NSW and resulted in considerable additional marketing funds for LithGlow.
- Google, Trip Advisor and Facebook reviews for the Seven Valleys Visitors Information Centre continue to be overwhelmingly positive, with Google Reviews currently sitting at 4.6 out of 5 stars.
- New seating and carpet have been ordered for the Union Theatre and are scheduled to be installed in October 2023.
- Audio-Visual system installed at the Union Theatre.
- The Union Theatre Kitchen design, including electrical and fire design work is largely completed.

104 Responses to the annual Visitors Centre Satisfaction Survey undertaken in April 2023 - June 2023

93

Very Satisfied

8

Satisfied

2

Neutral

1

Dissatisfied

SE3.3: We will host events, festivals, sporting and cultural activities that allow our communities to connect and celebrate.

During 2022/23 the following events were held or advised:

- The Lithgow Live and Local program has engaged local musicians over a number for events including Lithgow Arts Trail and Main Street Activation.
- Advice has been provided to Ironfest which will recommence in 2024, as well as Daffodils at Rydal, Beatlesfest and the 'Goodness Gravel' gravel bike riding event that is to be branded Seven Valleys.
- LithGlow was held at Blast Furnace in May 2023. The event was delivered on budget and with some changes to previous years. An events 'contractor' was engaged to help deliver the event and Aussie Night Markets were a popular addition after complaints about slow food service at LithGlow 2022. An MC was used for the first time, with a 'Glow Worm Parade' and photo competition also introduced. Visitation was again good with over 5000 people utilising the new bus route that didn't enter the event precinct, and attendees were from the Central West, Blue Mountains, Western Sydney and local.
- Delivered Lithgow Halloween under budget and the biggest event in Lithgow Halloween history, incorporating a dedicated rides zone, full street pedestrianisation, activation of Union Theatre and Lithgow Transformation Hub, and incorporating entertainment from the Seven Valleys Live and Local program.
- A number of events have been held at the Union Theatre including:
 1. The Netwaste Waste to Art Regional Exhibition
 2. Lithgow Musical Society Shrek performance in November - December 2022 and Jekyll and Hyde the Musical in May-June 2023.



LITHGLOW 2023



HALLOWEEN 2022

SE3.4: We will seek to host major sporting events and new events in both new and existing local facilities.

After 2 years in the planning, the Australian Caravan Club held their 'Seven Valleys' muster at Tony Luchetti showground in Lithgow in October 2022. Over 120 caravans have joined the muster from all over Australia with only Western Australia and the Northern Territory not being represented. Members of the Caravan Club were highly visible around the district in their distinctive green and yellow club colours, injecting over \$200,000 into the economy of the local government area during their stay. The ACC members were able to enjoy the shop local day in Main Street Lithgow on Saturday 22 October, supported by local musicians from the Lithgow Live and Local program.

Organising committee coordinator Neil Cochran said "The members who have come from all over Australia are so happy with their Lithgow experience thus far and have been made to feel very welcome. The team at Seven Valleys Tourism and Events and Lithgow City Council have performed admirably in ensuring the event has been able to go ahead". Mr Cochran continued "The ACC members have been busy exploring all aspects of Lithgow's Seven Valleys. As a club we see the value of marketing the region holistically. Many of our members will be planning follow-up trips to visit the places they were unable to get to in one week. All will go home to their friends and families and spread the word about the Seven Valleys."



AUSTRALIAN CARAVAN CLUB



Welcome to

PORTLAND



SE4: Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland CBD's are vibrant, unique spaces which create a strong sense of place within the community.



Lithgow
CITY COUNCIL

Traditional home of the
Wiradjuri People

SE4.2: We will continue to enhance the built form of our streetscapes in our town centres.

During 2022/23:

A new Project Officer was appointed for the CBD Revitalisation Action Plan Project. Project handover was completed, public consultation is progressing with final design components planned for Quarter two 2023/24.





DEVELOPING OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT



“Providing a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities and lifestyle choices while enhancing the existing rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow Local Government Area.”



BE1: To plan for suitable infrastructure to promote sustainable and planned growth, while enhancing the existing identity of the towns, villages and rural areas of the local government area.

BE1.1: We will work to ensure new residential development areas have all necessary infrastructure in place.

During 2022/23 the council:

- Received and placed on public exhibition the Draft Foundations Development Control Plan and continued to work collaboratively with the Foundations Group to address matters requiring revision in the draft plan to enable it to proceed to adoption
- Engaged and collaborated with NSW Government to inform the Lithgow Draft Housing Delivery Plan.
- Continued to engage with key agency stakeholders to resolve infrastructure and planning barriers holding back progress on Marrangaroo Urban Release Area.



Master Plan Map



Draft Foundations Development Control Plan

BE1.2: We will encourage and implement progressive urban design, sensitive to environmental and heritage issues and maintaining local character.

During 2022/23 the council:

- Progressed the Lithgow Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan involving public exhibition and consideration of submissions.
- Facilitated the implementation and commencement of the Agritourism and Employment Zones reforms led by the NSW State Government within the local planning framework.
- Continued with the review of the Lithgow Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan to inform future amendments.



BE2: To ensure suitable and planned growth through the provision of effective public and private transport options, and suitable entertainment and to enhance the lifestyle choices of the community.

BE2.2: Our roads and other associated infrastructure will ensure connected and efficient movement throughout the Lithgow region.

During 2022/23:

- Programs have been developed with a focus on making the road network more resilient to the changing weather patterns.
- Works program was developed to utilize the Special Rate Variation to provide a more sustainable road network from the 2023/24 financial year.
- Many roads were improved and repaired as a part of the storm disaster recovery using both Council and contractor resources.
- \$315,257.19 was spent from Pothole Repair Grantfunding was completed between February 2023 and June 2023.
- Mine subsidence works completed, assessment made of the unstable areas of the Browns Gap area, a work plan is in place to progressively reduce the risk to road users.
- The Donkey Steps track was completed with access to residences and businesses. Studies are underway to determine the alternate route for the new Wolgan Road. Funding was applied for through Transport NSW.
- As there was no response to tender documents the study has been referred to WSP/Golder to complete as a part of the Wolgan Gap works and the studies that will be involved in the Wolgan Road re-construction and associated surveys.
- Glen Davis Causeway Replacement Program - Funding received, planning works to commence in 2023/2024.

The following works were completed:

Hartley

- Baaners Lane - 400m bitumen sealed
- Cranebrook Park Road - 960m bitumen sealed

Lithgow

- Hassans Walls Road - 1.2km bitumen sealed
- Read Avenue Lane - 100m bitumen sealed
- Stewart Street - 460m bitumen sealed
- Musket Parade Lane - 370m bitumen sealed
- Clwydd Street - 135m bitumen sealed

Portland

- Ridge Street - 1800m bitumen sealed

Rydal

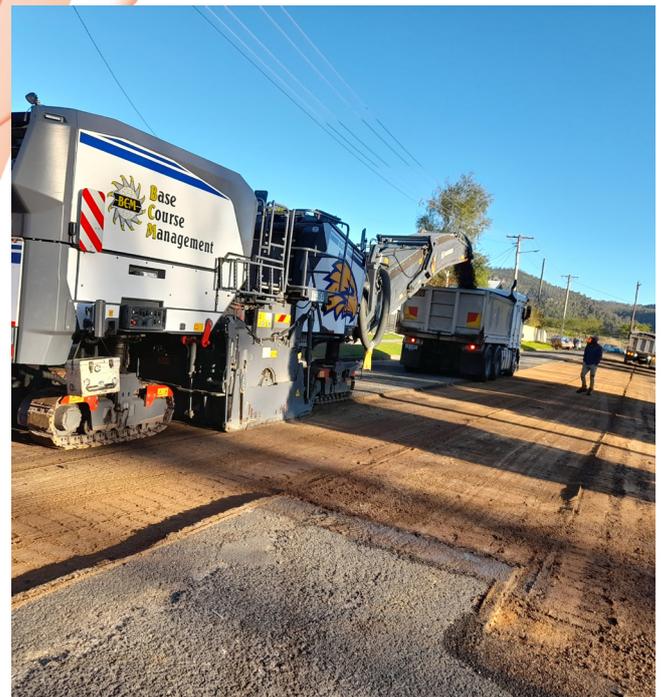
- Market Street East - 290m bitumen sealed

Wallerawang

- Barton Avenue - 690m bitumen sealed
- Bathurst Street Lane - 230m bitumen sealed

Timber Bridge Replacement Program

- Airly Creek, Coco Creek and Crown Creek Bridges were replaced on Glen Davis Road.



BE2.3: We will plan and build shared pathways and link activity centres.

During 2022/23 council received funding for the following footpaths:

- Maple Crescent, Lithgow Footpath
- Pindari Place, Wallerawang Footpath
- High Street, Portland Footpath
- Hartley Valley Road, Lithgow Footpath
- Castlereagh Highway, Cullen Bullen Footpath
- Barton Avenue, Wallerawang Footpath

Works will commence in 2023/24 Financial Year.

BE2.4: We will plan and deliver water, sewer and waste infrastructure that supports growth and sustainability.

During 2022/23:

- Water reticulation system testing was completed and came back within limits and to Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. NSW Health drinking water database shows no exceedances.
- Received a quote for the supply and installation of remote security cameras to be undertaken at Farmers Creek Dam No.2.
- Received quotes for the scour refurbishment at Farmers Creek Dam No.2, however this was deferred until the Dam stopped overflowing to allow inspection and divers to assess works required.
- Final report provided to council for the Tarana water system and various options that are available to council. Consultation will occur with the community and residents effected by any change to be done on the system.
- Potable Water Stopvalve Testing Program completed.
- Smoke Testing undertaken across the Lithgow area with 800 properties tested and approximately 100 defects found. CCTV of mains also undertaken with relining package to go out in the new financial year.
- 5 vents were replaced in the sewerage system in the Lithgow area.
- Old Bathurst Road Sewer Pumping Station renewal - Materials were ordered for the Old Bathurst Road Sewer Pumping Station and installation of new materials at the Sewerage Pumping Station will start in 2022/23.
- Sewer Manhole Inspection and Assessment Program completed.
- Sewerage Treatment Plant desludging process has improved with a new belt press implemented and the staff trained on how to operate it. The trucking of sludge has allowed us to have better sludge age and produce a better bio solid at less cost than in previous years.

Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline

This project will enable water security in the Lithgow City Council area.

- All required studies are progressing
- Expression of interest for a selective tender process for design and construction of the pipeline is underway
- Sub-options including other water sources are being developed into scenarios for inclusion in the intergrated Water Cycle Management Strategy

Portland Foundation Trunk Main

Installed and Connected, enabling future development and continuation of works on the Portland Foundations site.

Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme

- IDEA tank constructed
- Leak testing underway
- Project on track for completion prior to end of 2023.

BE2.5: We will develop quality and affordable mulit-purpose sporting and recreational facilities which encourage active, healthy lifestyles.

During 2022/23:

- The Grounds Technician and and Rural Team have been carrying out maintenance work to ensure our playing fields are being presented to a high standard. The sporting fields have proven to be challenging to maintain with extended wet weather events.
- New fencing around the Javelin Discuss throwing areas at Jim Monaghan Athletics Field.
- An irrigation system was installed at the Lithgow Golf Course.
- J M Robson Aquatic Centre operated at full capacity with birthday parties and all pools running accordingly. there was decreased patronage during Term 4 2022 due to the gas outage that effected the entire town.
- Solar panels have been installed at the J M Robson Aquatic Centre.

BE2.6: Our parks and public spaces will be inviting, accessible, creative spaces for the enjoyment of families and visitors to our area.

During 2022/23:

- Staff have undertaken some great work throughout the LGA working alongside the community. Particular jobs include:
 1. Assisting the Oakey Park community with enhancements at Oakey Park
 2. Watsford oval amenity
 3. Native garden bed
 4. Pioneer Park
 5. Mort street gardens beds
- Funding received for the Portland Central Park Project, works set to commence from 1 July 2023 as part of Resources 4 Regions 9 grant.
- Our Parks & Garden staff carried out some great work and improvement to the Lithgow Main Street.
- Council have worked closely with community groups to carry out beautification projects such as tree planting in Portland and Wallerawang main street gardens.
- Maintenance on Queen Elizabeth Park and Endeavor Park is carried out daily to ensure that the parks are open for locals and visitors to enjoy.
- Maintenance of the Lake Wallace precinct has continued to be carried out to a high standard. Many written compliments have been received over the past twelve months. This site has had many management challenges of late trying to manage vandalism and compliance with the existing lease agreements. Council will continue to work closely with the owners Greenspot in developing a new lease agreement into the future.
- Council has been monitoring the number of requests received every month for the cemeteries. Requests are dealt with in a timely and respectable manner, whilst also carrying out regular maintenance at each facility.
- Pathway section 4: Geordie St causeway to Footbridge near Chivers Close is now complete. A program of weed removal, bush regeneration and replanting works along Farmers Creek and some sections of State Mine and Vale of Clwydd creeks was completed. Furniture including seating, picnic shelters and bins installed at various locations Signage installed

BE2.7: We will maintain and upgrade our community buildings and structures to meet the needs of the community and ensure commercial viability.

During 2022/23 the following projects were completed:

- Staff have carried out maintenance on bus shelters throughout the year. Additional services are required from time to time due to vandalism.
- A new automated gate was installed at the Council Administration Building for the underground car park with a new security and access system.
- Automatic Doors were installed at the Council Administration Building.
- The Civic Ballroom had the external roof completely replaced, turrets stabilised and enclosed, toilet blocks under the turrets have had some renovations to them. Emergency lighting renewal is underway throughout the building.
- Vale Hall roof has been replaced.
- Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre renovations are now complete. A new roof, flooring, painted walls, a new kitchen, heating and IT system were installed.

An aerial photograph of a suburban town under a clear blue sky. The town features a mix of residential buildings, green spaces, and a network of roads. In the foreground, a road intersection is visible with a semi-transparent white text box overlaid on it. The background shows rolling hills and a clear horizon.

BE3: Diverse and affordable housing options are available for our residents throughout all life stages.

BE3.1: We will realise more new, affordable homes in Lithgow and other established urban centres.

During 2022/23:

An action of the LSPS (1.1) is to develop a growth framework informed by Local Housing Strategy, Rural and Rural Residential Strategy and Employment Lands Review. These were proposed as separate pieces of work. Upon review of the scope of required work and the timing of these now combining with the release of the Lithgow Emerging Economies Project – Transition Plan, Council now proposes to prepare a full Growth Management Strategy combining all three elements. Council will now be undertaking this body of work in the 2023-2024 FY.

Certificates / Applications	Total
Development Applications registered	184
Construction Certificates registered	127
Complying Development Applications registered	14
s68 Solid Fuel Heater Applications registered	21
Onsite Sewer Applications registered	46
s96 Modification of Consent Applications registered	0
Water Applications registered	37
Sewer Applications registered	34
Quotes for Application	121
Action Requests processed	3,878
Certificates processed	1,936

BE3.3: The diverse housing needs of our community will be met through active partnership with development.

During 2022/23:

Planning agreements were entered into as required. See pages 95 - 97.



ENHANCING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



“Balancing, protecting and enhancing our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations.”



NE1: To conserve and preserve the natural environment whilst balancing the impact of development to ensure a sustainable and healthy community.

NE1.1: We will minimise the environmental footprint of the Lithgow region, live more sustainably and use resources more wisely.

During 2022/23:

- Options were investigated with solar energy installation projects being reviewed and potential for beneficial reuse on all water and wastewater sites. The various sites are being reviewed for effluent utilization and reuse to reduce the impact on the environment. Lithgow Sewerage Treatment Plant being investigated for potential solar and battery resource to cater for shut down times and electricity usage. Future investigations being scoped for future funding opportunities.
- Council has recently achieved completion of a new solar project at the J.M Robson Aquatic Centre, with the installation of 71.6Kw of solar returning to the centre offsetting power consumption, if power consumption were to ever drop below the system capacity the energy is returned to the grid. Council is investigating funding opportunities to have E.V stations installed in our community carparks. Infrastructure Service have also signed up to the following funding opportunity:
 1. Conduct an analysis of baseline emissions which could then be overlaid by Council with REAPs and other documents already developed, and regional emissions reduction opportunities report
 2. Work with councils to help them understand their emissions data - i.e. what it all means, where the data comes from etc. This is an education piece.
 3. Provide a tool (spreadsheet) for councils to update their emissions annually so that they can be tracked over time.

**2 ALTERNATE
FUEL REBATE
APPLICATIONS
RECIEVED
DURING 2022/23**

**86 SEPTIC
INSPECTIONS
WERE
CONDUCTED
DURING 2022/23**

JM ROBSON AQUATIC CENTRE SOLAR PANELS



NE1.2: We will increase our resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

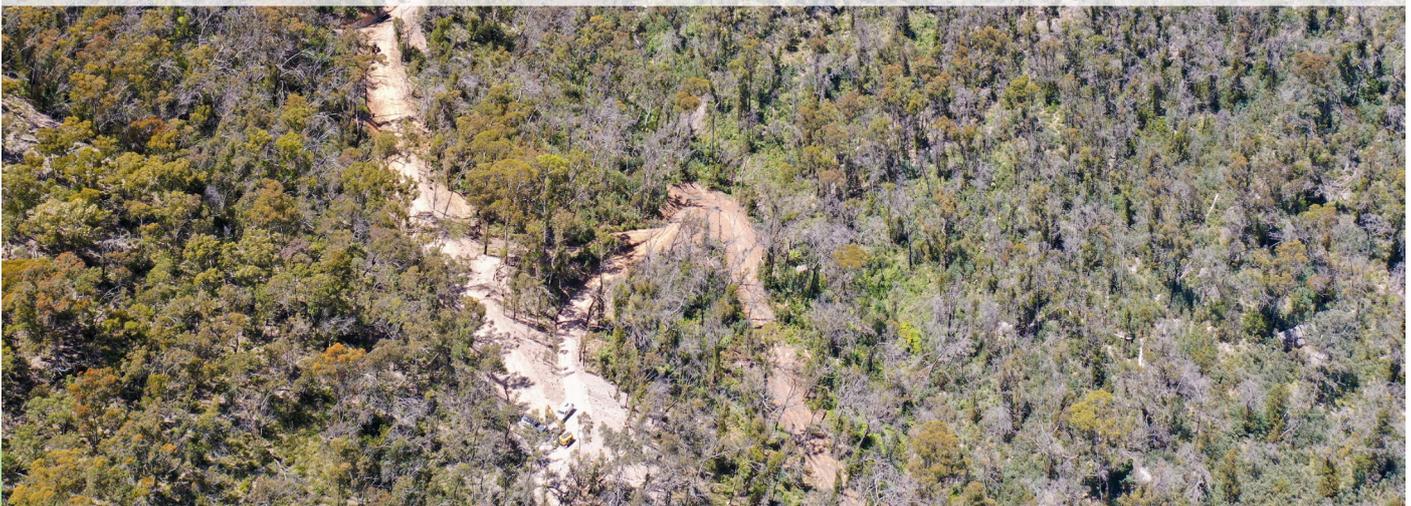
The existing access from Castlereagh Highway via Wolgan Road has been subject to many rockfalls and landslips. The road is closed due to slope instability within the approximately 2km section of Wolgan Road descending from the Wolgan Gap lookout. Council has completed the immediate construction of a detour route, however this is an iterative process where in safety improvements will be considered over time. Simultaneously, Council has engaged experts to undertake an alternate permanent alignment investigation to inform that which is required to construct alternate, permanent and resilient access to the Wolgan Valley. Over the coming 12 months, Council will undertake both a concept and detailed design of a new, permanent alignment.



WOLGAN ROAD ROCK FALL AND LANDSLIDES



WOLGAN VALLEY ALTERNATIVE ACCESS ROUTE



NE1.3: We will be innovative and embrace new technologies in the management of our community's waste.

During 2022/23 the following actions were completed:

- Council provided a kerbside collection service to rateable properties throughout the Local Government Area. A Waste Contractor is engaged by Council to provide these services.
- Lithgow Solid Waste Facility is open 7 days per week for kerbside waste trucks and self-haul residents.
- In January 2023 the Waste Strategy was adopted.
- The endorsement of the roll out of a kerbside organics (FOGO) service in February/March 2024.
- The completion of the rehabilitation of Wallerawang Garbage Depot.
- The completion of construction of the Resource Recovery Centre.
- Completion of upgrade works at Meadow Flat Transfer Station including new fenced compound.
- Progressive rehabilitation at Capertee & Portland Landfills.
- Final rehabilitation of Glen Davis Landfill.
- Completion of Voluntary Audits at Portland and Lithgow Landfills.
- Installation of an alternative daily cover system at Lithgow Solid Waste Facility funded under the NSW Environment Protection Authority Bushfire Recovery Program.

4 Services missed on average from collection per month

15% of waste diverted from landfill at kerbside collection

2 Green waste collections held

2 Bulk waste collections held

NE1.4: We will encourage and implement ecotourism and adventure tourism, sensitive to environmental and heritage issues and maintaining local character.

During 2022/23 consultants have been appointed to undertake the following at Hassans Walls Reserve:

- Flora and Fauna assessment study
- An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage study
- An audit of existing recreational trails

These actions will be carried out during the 2023/24 financial year.

NE1.5: We will ensure planning and development activities provide a balance between the built and natural environments.

During 2022/23 the following actions were completed:

- The channel clearing along Farmers Creek.
- Kerb and gutter replaced along the full length of Stewart Street, Lithgow, prior to the reseal of the asset.
- Works completed throughout Marrangaroo to reinstate and amplify stormwater drainage infrastructure to the west of the estate.
- Funding received for the Main Street / Cupro Street Stormwater Drainage Improvements, works to commence in 2023/24.
- Working with CentralNSWJO on a water loss management program.

NE1.6: We will protect the Lithgow region's water supply.

During 2022/23 the following activities were completed or are commenced:

- Smart Metering and policy changes to aid in the management of water loss.
- All testing was within limits and no issues in the drinking water from Farmers Creek reticulation supply system.
- NSW Health Drinking Water Database provides all information on samples and all requirements of the water system, health and Australian Drinking Water Guidelines were met in the year.
- Fish River supply still in operation and Council works with WaterNSW to maintain supply across the network.
- Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy is being completed by Public Works NSW with Council to provide a longterm water source to the Lithgow City Council area. The options have been selected for scenario building and to be provided back to Council for consideration on which water source or sources will provide Lithgow with its best water security.
- Infrastructure data is implemented across the operational teams and recording of information has been improving. More forms are being created and the recording of Realtime data has been made available for staff.



NE2: To work together to enhance, manage and maintain the Lithgow region's distinct and exceptional natural environment for the enjoyment of current and future generations

NE2.1: We will work with local partners and authorities to implement weed management strategies across our local government area.

During 2022/23 our program of vegetation management across the LGA has begun:

- A grant funded project through Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association (LOLA) throughout Hassans Walls is underway.
- Contractors have been engaged and Council is working closely with Upper Macquarie City Council, addressing any notification works marked for the LGA.

NE2.2: We will protect and improve our natural areas and ecosystems, including Hassans Walls Reserve, Farmers Creek and other water ways.

During 2022/23:

- Over the past twelve months Council, along with Land & Environment organisations have taken part in enhancing this asset and making improvements along the Farmers Creek Precinct. Cleaning of the concrete storm water cause way has taken place this year with 2000 tonnes of material removed from this area of farmers creek. This is a great result and will assist with high flow of Farmers creek.
- All issues relating to the Sewerage Treatment Plant's and Water Treatment Plant reported to EPA and DPE as required. Lithgow STP experienced a 90 percentile exceedance in September 2022 due to high flows and inability of the STP to treat these extreme flows, Oakey Park Water Treatment Plant had no exceedances in its testing for discharges to the environment, Portland STP had exceedances in its license volume limits due to extreme weather events Wallerawang STP had exceedances in its license volume limits for maximum flow due to extreme weather events.
- All pollution incidents responded to in the allocated timeframe.
- Nil non-compliances identified during the year under the environment protection licences for the Lithgow Solid Waste Facility and Portland Garbage Depot.

NE2.3: We will deliver sustainability and environmental education programs to local communities, groups and schools

During 2022/23 the following education activities were completed:

- The development of a FOGO education plan and planning for education for the next 12 months.
- Primary School Art Competition
- Engaging Lithgow community through media appearances on local radio, regular updates on Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association Facebook, newsletter mailouts and flyers posted around town at places like the library and community notice boards.
- Lithgow City Council along with Lithgow Oberon Landcare have coordinated the following activities:
 1. Tree planting days along Farmers Creek, Lake Pillans and Browns Swamp.
 2. Expand habitat for native fauna and endangered species such as the Purple Copper Butterfly.
 3. Frog monitoring evenings.
 4. A stormwater control workshop.



A man in a dark suit and white shirt is standing and speaking to an audience. The audience consists of several women seated in rows of black chairs, viewed from behind. The background is a plain wall with two posters for 'WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK' dated 5-11 September 2022. A large, semi-transparent white box with blue text is overlaid on the center of the image.

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP

A photograph of a community meeting. In the foreground, several people are seated in rows of blue chairs, viewed from behind. In the background, a table is covered with a red cloth and holds many small white bottles and some brown paper bags. A sign on the wall behind the table reads "WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK" with the dates "6-12 September 2023". A white rectangular box with a blue border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing a quote in blue text.

“Developing community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.”

Promoting Excellence in a Caring Educational Environment

GL1: To be a proactive Council that sets the long-term direction for the local government area and Council to ensure a sustainable future for the Lithgow local government area.



What we do

...a water pump to the top of...

...the future by...

...community by...

...management by...

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
2,350 sq km

LITHGOW LGA
4,567 sq km

10 km

LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL
Delivering services to an area larger than the ACT.

COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 975KM OF ROADS

Did you know?

- 45% of our roads are in poor condition
- 1 in 10 roads are in very poor condition
- 1 in 10 roads are in critical condition
- 1 in 10 roads are in very poor condition
- 1 in 10 roads are in critical condition

Lithgow LGA

Population: 20,854
Land area: 4,567 sq km
Population density: 4.57

Transport Maintenance & Renewal \$3.2m (51%) of the proposed SRV

KEY TAKE-OUT
Spended \$10k per km of road to avoid having to spend \$1.2m per km of road.

GL1.1: Our plans and strategies focus on financial, economic, social and environmental sustainability which informs council decision making.

During 2022/23 work commenced on

- Asset Management Plans for Roads, Kerb & Gutter, Foothpath and Open Spaces which will be completed during 2023/24.
- A review of the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework and the development of the State of the City Report.

Council progressed the Lithgow Emerging Economy Program which will inform a range of actions that should occur in relation to the development of Seven Valleys/Lithgow City Council Marketing Collateral and Signage Branding Strategy. Council worked with the Dept of Regional NSW to develop new marketing materials for the Lithgow LGA. The new Seven Valleys Destination Management Plan will also be designed to have an economic development component that will form the basis of the future Economic Development Strategy for tourism management in the local government area.

GL1.2: We manage our money and our assets to be sustainable now and into the future.

IPART approved Council's Special Rate Variation (SRV) application in full to commence on 1 July 2023.

The approved overall increase to land rates for the 2023/24 year is 45.78% (including 3.7% rate peg) which equates to \$6.2m in income. The Council will limit the increase in the residential, farming and business (general) rating categories to 27.7% (including the 3.7% rate peg) with the balance of the increase (approximately \$3M) to be levied against the business power generation sub-category, mining category and a new quarrying business sub-category or sub-categories.

The council sought the special variation to:

- improve its financial sustainability
- maintain its existing services
- reduce its infrastructure backlog and increase its infrastructure renewals.

The Special Rate Variation is a major step towards better maintaining the city's roads and infrastructure. It will also help to transform and grow the local economy and assist the Council to deliver quality services to the whole community.

Financial Sustainability Plan



1. **Financial Assistance Grants:** Increase the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to more than 1% of national taxes (presently at an historical low of 0.55%)
2. **Mining Royalties:** Increase NSW Govt funding for local economic transformation from royalties paid to the government from local mining.
3. **Developer Contributions:** Capture benefits of major development through monetary contributions for economic transformation and local infrastructure.
4. **Land Rating Strategy:** Increase own source revenue through a contemporary land rating strategy.
5. **Financial Sustainability Plan Implementation:** Implement the actions in the Plan including continuously identify and implementing productivity initiatives.

Before considering applying for a Special Rate Variation, the Council’s administration developed a Financial Sustainability Plan to identify the key actions Council will undertake to achieve its objective of delivering sustainable best value to the community. The broad suite of actions in the plan ensures that a cross-organisational commitment is made, and sustained, for continuous responsible financial management and improvement.

The Rating Review identified a target of \$1.3M in productivities and improvements to be implemented with a Special Rate Variation. The planned productivity improvements have been modeled in the Long-Term Financial Plan. \$3.6M of cost savings and additional revenue have been included in the 2023/24 budget to improve the Council’s financial position.

The table (over page) provides a summary of the key actions Council will undertake to achieve its objective of delivering sustainable best value to the community.

The strategies are designed around S8B of the NSW Local Government Act - principles of sound financial management.

Financial Sustainability Plan Summary

Responsible & sustainable income & spending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within our means • Increase income • Service Planning
Investment in infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate funding • Clear backlogs • Meet service levels • Life cycle costing • Focus on asset renewal
Financial & asset management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build staff capacity • Improved budgeting • Reduce the risk of shocks
Intergenerational equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider future generations in decision making • Planned borrowings • Rating review findings
Ongoing productivity improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.5m savings - extra revenue achieved in the 2021/22 year (4.6% of operating expenditure) • \$3.4m savings - extra revenue budgeted in the 2022/23 year (6.4% of operating expenditure) • Special Rate Variation will enable council to build its capacity. • Generate a greater proportion of revenues from user fees.

Financial Sustainability Plan & Productivity Improvements Progress

Strategy	Actions	Progress
Responsible & Sustainable Income and Spending		
Living within our means	Expenditure does not exceed income.	Commenced from 2023/24 budget.
	Balanced operating result (before capital)	Commenced from 2023/24 budget.
Increased income.	Responsibly generate increased own source revenue – maximise opportunities and fully recover costs.	Commenced from 2023/24 budget.
	Seek grant opportunities for planned works.	Commenced from 2023/24 budget.
Service Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the community on affordable service levels. Review service levels to focus on priorities 	Council will commence a review of its Service Catalogue in 2023/24. This process will assist in identifying gaps and a priority list of Service Reviews to be undertaken.
Investment in Infrastructure		
Adequate funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund infrastructure renewals as they are due. Fund required asset maintenance. 	The Special Rate Variation has enabled asset management planning to be fast tracked in 2023/24.
Clear backlogs	Clear infrastructure renewal backlogs	To commence from 2024/25.
Meet service levels	Bring assets to agreed service levels	To commence from 2024/25.
Life cycle costing	Whole of life cycle costing integrated in business case process	Whole of Life Cycle costing is built into the Business Case template and is considered when developing the annual budget.
Focus on asset renewal	Capital budgets focused on asset renewal rather than new works,	The 2022/23 capital budgets were focused on asset renewal rather than new works. There was a focus on natural disaster recovery works.
Financial & Asset Management		
Build staff capacity	Budget management training -leading to accountability.	Budget management training was completed in 2022.
	Finance resource working across Departments to help put in place budget management improvements	A Finance staff member with responsibility for improving Directorate budgets was appointed in 2023.
	Focus on organisational culture and look after the staff.	In the second half of 2023, a number of Human Resources strategies are being implemented with a focus on organisational culture and looking after the staff.
Improved budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to zero-based budgeting and review of cost drivers for the 2023/24 budget. Improved phasing of operational and capital Rolling cashflow model, payroll and HR, dashboards budgets 	Zero-based budgeting and review of cost drivers was utilised for the 2023/24 budget, as appropriate. The Directorate budgets Finance Officer will be focused on improved phasing of operational and capital budgets for the 2024/25 budget. A rolling cashflow model will be developed in 2024.
Improved Asset Management	Asset management plans for preparing long-term asset maintenance and renewal programs.	Asset Management Plans for Roads, Kerb & Gutter, Footpath and Open Spaces which will be completed during 2023/24.

Strategy	Actions	Progress
Financial & Asset Management		
Reduce the risk of shock	Improvements to finance systems to reduce the risk of “shocks” and earlier detection of issues.	\$250k Contingency funding to be reserved annual to ensure Council is able to absorb future financial shocks. Council will commence a review of its Service Catalogue in 2023/24. This process will link Service Plans to the Long-Term Financial Plan and Workforce Plan.
	Improved integrated systems – customer requests module, works online.	Implementation of the customer requests module is being finalised. Works online will be implemented in 2023/24.
	Rolling cashflow model, payroll and HR, dashboards budgets.	Human Resource Management & Payroll system upgrades completed.
Intergenerational Equity		
Consider future generations in decision making.	Meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs	Council will commence a review of its Service Catalogue in 2023/24. This process will take into consideration trends which will impact services now and into the future so that Council can adjust service needs and levels, adapting to service demand in a changing environment.
Plan borrowings	Responsible planned borrowings for long-life infrastructure	There were no new loan borrowings in the 2022/23 year.
Rating review findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement actions to address the findings of the Rating Review report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Rate Variation application for 2023/24 Productivity, savings and user fees Rating structure improvements Additional levels of service 	<p>IPART approved Council’s Special Rate Variation (SRV) application in full.</p> <p>The approved overall increase to land rates for the 2023/24 year is 45.78% (including 3.7% rate peg). Council will limit the increase in the residential, farming and business (general) rating categories to 27.7% (including the 3.7% rate peg) with the balance of the increase to be levied against the business power generation sub-category, mining category and a new quarrying business sub-category or sub-categories.</p>
Ongoing Productivity Improvements		
Implement annual budget strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2.5M savings – extra revenue achieved in the 2021/22 year (4.6% of operating expenditure) \$3.4M savings – extra revenue budgeted in the 2022/23 year (6.4% of operating expenditure) 	\$3.8M of savings / extra revenue was achieved in the 2022/23 year.
Improve productivity	Special Rate Variation will enable Council to build its capacity.	<p>Council was successful in obtaining a 45% (plus 3.7% rate peg) Special Rate Variation which increased revenue in 2023/24 by \$6.2m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.67m Transport Maintenance Program. \$1.37M Roads Renewal Program \$2.79k Stormwater Maintenance Program \$180K Stormwater Drainage Renewal Program \$250k to increase strategic capacity in the areas of governance, risk and internal audit. \$250 to support productivity projects \$250k Contingency funding to be reserve annual to ensure Council is able to absorb future financial shocks. \$1.092M Transitions Management Program.
	Generate a greater proportion of revenues from user fees	
	Dividends from waste business	

GL1.3: We will continually review our service provision to ensure the best possible value and outcomes for the community.

During 2022/23 Council completed Service Reviews for Libraries and Customer Service. The actions from these plans will be implemented in the 2023/24 Operational Plan. In 2023/24 Council will also commence a program to review of its Service Catalogue and develop Service (Unit) Plans.

Councils' Service Management Framework will consist of four elements as detailed below.

Service Management Framework

Service Planning	<p>STRATEGIC - Multiple Services Determining the most appropriate mix of services to achieve the best valued outcomes for the community within Council's resource capacity.</p>
Service Reviews	<p>TACTICAL - Single Service The process to review a service. This may result in changes to levels of service, quantum of service or charges for the service.</p>
Service Delivery	<p>OPERATIONAL The efficient management of the Service to agreed levels of service & service quantum.</p>
Monitoring & Review	<p>Monitoring and reviewing performance (internal monitoring) and feedback (customer/community feedback).</p>

Service Plans

GL1.4: Our workforce, systems and processes will support high performance and optimal service delivery for our community.

Council's Workforce Plan was updated and adopted at the September 2022 Council Meeting. The relevant areas identified within the Community Strategic Plan and the four-year Delivery Plan have been integrated within the Workforce Plan.

Lithgow City Council faces similar challenges to those faced by councils across NSW and Australia-wide. In addition, Lithgow as a community and Lithgow Council as a workforce face significant challenges over the coming years due to high unemployment and high youth unemployment. The downturn in mining and past and potential future power station closures have hit the region particularly hard, and the local economy has suffered a series of economic shocks. Lithgow Council has responded to these issues throughout the 2022/23 year by developing a number of strategic recruitment actions to enhance Council's workforce.

Council's training budget was distributed as per the approved Training Plan for the 2022-23 year. Completed training covered areas including employee development, legislative/compliance, WHS and attendance/participation in industry specific conferences and networking events.

GL1.5: We work with our partners and neighbouring councils to share skills, knowledge and resources and find ways to deliver services more efficiently.

During 2022/23:

- Council attended the Local Governance NSW Conference in October 2022.
- Council attended Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) meetings that were held in August and November 2022.
- In January 2023 council resolved to Join Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO). Council attended both meetings that were held in February and May 2023. Discussions canvassed regional water security, tourism marketing, energy savings initiatives, the region's priorities and skills shortages faced by all councils. The Mayor assists the lead mayor Phyllis Miller of Forbes with the JO's priority theme of Health and Ageing.
- Council attended meetings of the Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association and was in regular communication with local Landcare groups in Lithgow, Kanimbla Valley and the Capertee Valley.
- All work undertaken by Landcare groups and volunteers in Lithgow work under the scope of the Farmers Creek Management Plan, which lays out long term direction for the local government area environmental sustainability.
- Landcare attracted funding for weed control to protect and enhance Purple Copper Butterfly habitat, undertake post fire planting, to work with contractors to improve storm water erosion and local, endangered swamp protection, deliver several community-based planting days and to revegetate Farmers Creek.
- Landcare successfully applied for funding for further revegetation work along Farmers Creek. Planting will commence in FY 2023/24.



GL2: To be a Council that focuses on strong civic leadership, organisational development and effective governance with engaged community actively participating in decision making processes affecting their future

GL2.1: We will ensure Council's decision making transparent, accessible accountable.

GL2.4: We will be proactive and innovative in our engagement with the community ensuring our engagement programs are equitable, accessible, inclusive and participatory.

Keeping our community informed.

Council utilises a variety of methods to ensure that information is accessible to the community.

eNewsletters:

- The Council Connections eNewsletter was produced weekly.
- The Lithgow Tourism & Business Matters eNewsletter is delivered monthly to a business audience of over 1,400 subscribers. The newsletter provides information on workshops and business support programs.
- School eNewsletter is produced during School term to inform schools of community programs and upcoming school holiday activities.

Media Activities

- The Council Column was published fortnightly in the Village Voice & Lithgow Mercury.
- Media releases were produced weekly with the exception of the Council shutdown period of two weeks over Christmas/new year.
- All media releases are published on Council's website and social media platforms and distributed electronically via Council Connections to subscribers.
- A monthly full page Community Update is produced following the Council meeting to inform the community of matters that were considered at Council.

Social Media

Council manages and monitors Facebook pages for the following service areas:

- Lithgow City Council
- Lithgow Council Libraries
- Lithgow Tourism & Events
- Eskbank House Museum
- Lithgow Animal Shelter
- JM Robson Aquatic Centre
- Lithgow Youth Council.
- Lithgow Union Theatre
- In addition, Lithgow City Council has a Twitter and Instagram presence.

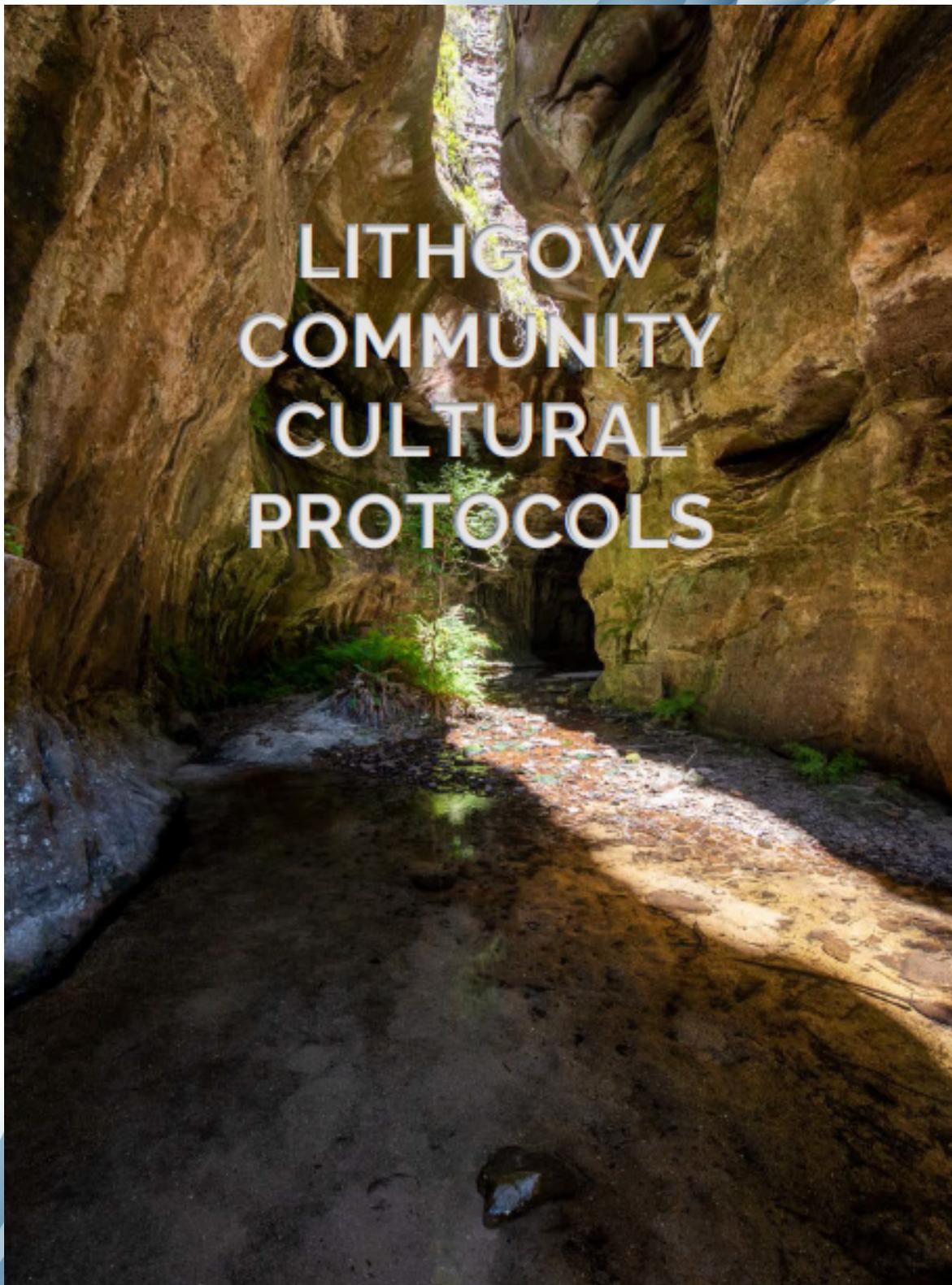
Websites

Council manages and monitors websites for the following service areas:

- Lithgow City Council – www.council.lithgow.com
- Lithgow Council Libraries – www.library.lithgow.com
- Lithgow Emerging Economy Project – www.leep.lithgow.com
- JM Robson Aquatic Centre – www.aquatic-centre.lithgow.com
- Eskbank House Museum – www.eskbank.lithgow.com
- Our Place Our Future – www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com

Lithgow Community Cultural Protocols

Council engaged with the local Indigenous community to develop the Lithgow Community Cultural Protocols. The document provides an understanding of the important protocols to be implemented when working with, consulting with and acknowledging local Aboriginal Communities. The Protocol is available on Council's website www.council.lithgow.com/community/aboriginal-community/



Special Rate Variation

Council values the communities' views and opinions and conducted a comprehensive engagement program with Lithgow LGA Ratepayers between 1 August and 10 October 2022 to ascertain the level of support for a Special Rate Variation. Two options were proposed:

Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained

Option 2 – Service Levels Reduced.

Throughout this process Council encouraged a two-way conversation with the community. We listened to what the community had to say and took on board their thoughts and opinions. A large portion of our community joined the conversation on the two options for a sustainable Lithgow, with over 11,000 interactions across the engagement period including:

- Three pop-up café appointments held (6 bookings)
- Six Community Information Sessions held (Lithgow, Wallerawang, Portland, Capertee, Hartley & Rydal) with 172 attendees.
- 405 telephone surveys conducted by Micromex Consulting
- 35 business representatives attended a meeting with the Lithgow District Chamber of Commerce.
- Industry meetings were held with Centennial Coal, Energy Australia and local Quarries.
- 2688 community members visited the our place, our future website – 9,985 page views.
- 8 full page advertorials in the Village Voice and Lithgow Mercury.
- A mailout out to all Lithgow LGA Rate Payers (11,555 rateable properties) included a poll for the community. 762 submissions were received.

A full report on Council's community engagement program is available on www.ourplaceourfuture.com along with all of the supporting documents relating to the Special Rate Variation Program.



STATUTORY INFORMATION

Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

References to 'section' refer to the Local Government Act 1993, while references to 'clause' refer to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Council's general reporting requirements are set out in Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Part 9, Division 7). To access copies of the Acts and Regulations visit legislation.nsw.gov.au

Audited Financial Reports

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Clause 132

Council has received an extension to finalise and submit its Year End financial statements for the 2022/23 year to the OLG by 22 December 2023.

Once the Year End financial statements have been audited and lodged. A full set of its audited financial statements as required under the Local Government Act, will be available on councils website.

Councillor Training and Professional Development

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428(4)(b), Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 186

The table below shows Councillor training and professional development from July 2022 - June 2023.

Councillor	Training Course/Module Completed/Conference	Cost
Cr Statham, Cr Coleman, Cr Bryce, Cr Goodsell, Cr Goodwin, Cr Mahony, Cr O'Connor, Cr McGhie	Working Together Training with Norm Turkington - Final presentation	\$10,490
Cr Statham, Cr Coleman, Cr Bryce, Cr Goodsell, Cr Goodwin, Cr Mahony, Cr O'Connor, Cr McGhie, Cr Lesslie	Councillor Code of Conduct Training	\$5,230
Cr Statham and Cr Coleman	LGNSW Annual Conference 2022	\$3,300
Cr Statham, Cr Coleman, Cr Bryce, Cr Goodwin, Cr Mahony, Cr O'Connor, Cr McGhie	Planning for Non-Planners	\$6,450
Cr Statham and Cr Coleman	ALGA National General Assembly	\$3,920

NOTE: Includes service award, board membership, parking and meals

Rates and Charges Written Off

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Clause 132

During the year Council abandoned \$1,097,362 in rates and charges.

Pensioner rebate	Postponed rates	Other rates and charges
\$853,260	\$0	\$244,102

Overseas Visits

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428(4)(b), Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(a)

Council is required to disclose details of any overseas visits undertaken by any Council officers including Councillors and staff. No overseas visits were undertaken by any Council officers including Councillors and staff in 2022/23.

Councillor Expenses and Provision of Facilities

Local Government Act 1993 – Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a1) (i-viii)

(A\$)	General Operations Total	Cr Statham	Cr Coleman	Cr Bryce	Cr Goodsell	Cr Goodwin	Cr Lesslie	Cr Mahony	Cr McGhie	Cr O'Connor
Councillor fees	\$113,522.42	\$12,781.58	\$12,781.58	\$12,781.58	\$11,269.78	\$12,781.58	\$12,781.58	\$12,781.58	\$12,781.58	\$12,781.58
Mayoral fees	\$27,066.98	\$27,066.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Councillor meeting expenses ¹	\$353.21	\$353.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seminar Expenses ²	\$4,287.75	\$1,891.60	\$1,880.31	\$515.84	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provision of Vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership/subscription	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Misc expenses ³	\$1,265.01	\$715.59	\$458.74	-	-	\$90.68	-	-	-	-
Office equipment ⁴	\$3,177.84	\$779.76	\$299.76	\$299.76	\$299.76	\$299.76	\$299.76	\$299.76	\$299.76	\$299.76
Training	\$11,745.02	\$1,362.78	\$1,297.78	\$1,297.78	\$1,297.78	\$1,297.78	\$1,297.78	\$1,297.78	\$1,297.78	\$1,297.78
TOTAL	\$161,418.23	\$44,951.50	\$16,718.17	\$14,894.96	\$12,867.32	\$14,469.80	\$14,379.12	\$14,379.12	\$14,379.12	\$14,379.12

¹ Council meeting expenses (accommodation, travel and meals) ³ Miscellaneous expenses (meals, sundries, stationery etc)

² Conferences, seminars and representational/lobbying expenses ⁴ Provision of office equipment, such as laptop computer and telephones

NOTE: Councillor Ring didn't have any councillor expenses or provision of facilities due to starting as a Councillor in June 2023.

No expenses were incurred for the provision of care for a child, or an immediate family member of a Councillor to allow the Councillor to undertake his or her civic functions. No overseas or interstate visits were undertaken by elected members in 2022/23.

Anti-slavery

Local Government Act 1993 – Section 428(4)(c)

There were nil issues raised by the Anti-slavery Commissioner during the year concerning the operations of the council and identified by the Commissioner as being a significant issue.

Modern Slavery Act 2018

Local Government Act 1993 – Section 428(4)(d)

Organisational Structure and Supply Chain

Council's compliance with Modern Slavery Act requirements is being supported regionally through the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO). All supplier records have been provided to the Joint Organisation for risk assessment to be embedded into an ongoing program. CNSWJO has a dedicated resource to support procurement including compliance with Modern Slavery Legislation.

Council recognises the importance of taking steps to ensure that goods and services procured by and for our Council are not the product of modern slavery.

Our supply chain includes a variety of suppliers, contractors, partners. Council's highest categories of spend include fuel, electricity, bitumen, construction materials and insurances.

Steps Taken

- There were nil issues raised by the Anti-slavery Commissioner during the year concerning the operations of the council and identified by the Commissioner as being a significant issue.
- Council has taken the following steps taken to ensure that goods and services procured by and for the council during the year were not the product of modern slavery within the meaning of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW):
 - included a position statement in Council's Statement of Business Ethics which is published on Council's website.
 - inserted modern slavery clauses into Council's Request for Tender & EOI conditions documents and Purchase Order terms & conditions.
 - inserted a Modern Slavery Tender Schedule to the Tender Commercial Response Schedules.

Environmental Upgrade Agreement

Local Government Act – Section 54P (1)

Council did not enter into any Environmental Upgrade Agreements during 2022/23.

Activities Funded via Special Rate Variation

Special Rate Guidelines 7.1

Report on activities funded via a special rate variation general income including:

- Reporting requirements set out in the instrument of Approval. Nil
- Projects or activities funded from the variation Nil
- Outcomes achieved as a result of the project or activities Nil

Resolutions Made Concerning Work Carried Out on Private Land

Local Government Act 1993 – Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a4)

There were nil resolutions made concerning work carried out on private land.

Contracts Awarded

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(a2)

Council resolved to award the following contacts in 2022/23 which were over \$150,000:

Contractor	Goods/Services Provided	Amount Payable
Active Tree Services	EPA - Grant Funded Green Waste Clean-up Program	178,009.84
Agile Arbor Pty Ltd	EPA - Grant Funded Green Waste Clean-up Program	1,343,509.42
Aquatec Pty Ltd	Low Pressure Sewerage System supply	647,625.18
Asphalt Laying Services P/L	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	190,712.50
Avante Linemarking	Linemarking Services (Lithgow LGA School Zones)	171,752.27
Bathurst Portables Pty Ltd	Portable shower block hire: Portable Showers arranged for community use during Gas Outage	168,520.00
Bernipave Road Solutions	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	285,219.89
Bernipave Road Solutions	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	393,307.21
Bernipave Road Solutions	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	185,749.89
Bernipave Road Solutions	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	310,508.25
Bernipave Road Solutions	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	464,604.74
Bernipave Road Solutions	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	152,954.32
Bernipave Road Solutions	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	419,623.83
Bernipave Road Solutions	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	492,834.52
CR & OL Schofield	Palmer Oakey Soft spot repair/Storm Damage	164,308.54
Downer Edi Works	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	259,474.60
Downer Edi Works	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	529,663.75
Dukes Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Civil Engineering / Road Works (Pipers Flat Road / Range Road Intersection)	197,750.85
Future Together Group	Strategic Projects 2022/23: including a Rating Policy, transitions management, and business unit reviews.	165,000.00
Golder Associates Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	420,259.75
Golder Associates Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster. (Wolgan Road)	419,441.49

Gracey & Son Earthmoving	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	169,421.34
Gracey's Earthmoving & Excavations Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	374,336.27
Gracey's Earthmoving & Excavations Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	169,968.70
Gracey's Earthmoving & Excavations Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	793,326.60
Gracey's Earthmoving & Excavations Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	610,113.41
Gracey's Earthmoving & Excavations Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	2,423,872.28
Gracey's Earthmoving & Excavations Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	386,312.30
H2H Plumbing Pty Ltd	Low Pressure Scheme construction at Cullen Bullen	1,668,758.30
J R Richards & Sons	Waste Services Contract	2,021,119.35
Keane Civil and Construction	Design and Construction of West Bowenfels Sewerage Pumping Station	4,242,385.40
Maxwood Technology Australia Limited	Supply and install new seats at the Union Theatre	181,558.30
Oberon Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	249,598.41
Peters Earthmoving	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	231,595.29
Public Works Advisory	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster. (Wolgan Road / Donkey Steps)	3,231,336.09
Public Works NSW	Project Management of Clarence to Wallerawang pipeline	168,444.10
Public Works NSW	Dam Safety Compliance review and safety reports as per Ten 08/22	220,770.00
Public Works NSW	Creation of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy	334,156.90
QMAX Pumping Stations Pty Ltd	Stage 1 Old Bathurst Road Sewerage Pumping Station Construction	152,196.00
Royal Haskoning via Clarence Colliery	Feasibility Study, concept design and tender specifications for the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline	739,197.25
Select Civil	Hire and maintenance of landfill plant at Lithgow Solid Waste Facility	460,639.61
SNG Engineering Pty Ltd	Cullen Bullen STP Design and Construct	4,386,702.00
Statewide Mutual	General Insurances Renewal 2022-23	1,193,816.01
T & L Excavations & Asphaltting	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	538,758.00
T & L Excavations & Asphaltting	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	222,178.00

T & L Excavations & Asphaltting	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	515,050.00
T & L Excavations & Asphaltting	Road reconstruction and rehabilitation post-natural disaster.	414,444.25
Technology One Limited	Tech 1 annual maintenance/license renewal 2022/23.	519,941.42
Technology One Limited	Annual support and maintenance Technology One Suite 2023/24. (paid in advance)	586,199.19
The Treadstone Company Pty Ltd	South Bowenfels Housing Initiative Project – Three Tree Hill: management services to prepare a Development Application and a Draft DCP for the Three Tree Hill project.	262,141.00
Utilstra	Portland Watermain renewal and Trunk construction	1,846,189.61
Water NSW	22/23 Fish River Water Purchases	2,054,340.36
Water NSW	23/24 Fish River Water Purchases	2,050,000.00

Legal Expenses

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(a3)

The following table provides a summary of legal proceedings in which council was a party to:

Matter	Amount	Progress or Outcome
LCC v Denis Richard Cooke	\$8,026.08	The court found in favour Council. Mr Cooke was fined \$5000 plus \$750 court cost.
Litigation matters regarding lease to ECEC Management Services Pty Ltd	\$35,135.69	Council was successful in winding up proceedings against ECEC Management Services Pty Ltd and a liquidator was appointed by the court.
Lithgow City Council at Flynn 83 Hillcrest Avenue, Bowenfels Land and Environment Court Proceedings No. 20/121999	\$6,767.75	Finalised. Council was successful in defending the appeal.
Lithgow City Council ats Bell Quarry Rehabilitation Project Pty Ltd Lot 23 in DP751631 - Sandham Road, Newnes Junction Land and Environment Court Proceedings No. 2021/91361	\$57,785.25	the applicant discontinued their appeal in the Land and Environment Court.
LCC v Romanous, Maroun	\$3,384.00	the matter was settled by Council's insurers in favour of Mr Romanous.

Contributions and Donations

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 356, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(a5)

Council allocates Financial Assistance each year to assist not-for-profit groups that offer a significant contribution to the social, economic and/or environmental wellbeing of the community. In doing this, Council recognises that the community has a good understanding of community need and many good ideas on worthwhile projects that Council can support financially.

Most Financial Assistance is distributed in two funding rounds, with applications called for in April and October each year.

Applications are then reviewed by Council's Community Development Committee which makes recommendations to Council on the projects and amounts to be funded:

• \$99,733.00 Financial Assistance was allocated in 2022/23 under section 356 of the Local Government Act:

Recipient	Amount
Portland Pool	\$41,200
Arts Outwest	\$13,325
Lithgow Show	\$11,500
Daffodils at Rydal 2022	\$1,500
Tarana Tanker Trailer Registration	\$1,350
Lithgow City Band Insurance	\$2,000
Association of Bell, Dargan and Clarence	\$3,000
Lithgow Environment Group	\$1,500
Lithgow Community Projects Trauma Informed Conference	\$1,500
Lithgow District Car Club Rates Reimbursement	\$1,000
Mingaan NAIDOC Day Celebrations	\$3,000
Rydal Show Heavy Horse and Yard Dog Section Sponsorship	\$1,000
Oakey Park Residents Association	\$2,500
Rate Reimbursements Muzzle Loading Gun, Rifle and Pistol Club and Lithgow Valley Archers	\$1,058
Portland Tidy Towns	\$2,000
Lithgow District Family History Society – overhead scanner	\$1,200
Allegri Singers c/o Mitchell Conservatorium – Vivaldi Gloria Orchestral and Choral Concert	\$2,400
Wolgan Valley Community Association – purchase 2 AED devices	\$7,000
All Schools in LGA	\$600 (\$50 per School)
Alexis Reid – Taekwondo	\$500
Alexander Evans – Swimming	\$300
Lyndall Peychers – Swimming	\$300

Delegates to external committees and other Bodies

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(a6)

There were no functions delegated by Council to external bodies during 2022/23.

Statement of Participation - corporations, Partnerships, Co-operatives, Joint Ventures, Syndicates or Other Bodies

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(a8)

Council was a party to the following partnerships, Cooperatives, Joint Ventures and other bodies throughout 2022/23:

- Western Sydney Region of Council's (WSROC)
- Central West NSWJO
- Lithgow Community Health and Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Netwaste
- State Library of NSW
- Communities and Kids (LINC)
- Service Australia
- Sydney Catchment Authority

Senior Staff

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217 (1)(b-c)(i-v)

Council's organisation structure included four Senior Staff positions for 2022/23. Those positions were:

- General Manager
- Chief Financial & Information Officer
- Director Infrastructure Services
- Director People & Services

The remuneration package for the General Manager 2022/23 included:

Salary component	\$243,702.70
Bonuses	NIL
Superannuation component	\$25,102.59
Non-cash benefits	NIL
Fringe Benefits Tax on non-cash benefits	NIL

Statement of controlling interest

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(a7)

Council does not hold a controlling interest in any company, partnership, trust, joint venture or syndicate.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(a9)

The following activities were undertaken during the reporting period to implement Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan:

- Interview and appointment processes are checked by competent staff to ensure compliance with EEO procedures.
- The integration of equal employment opportunity principles in recruitment and selection, annual performance reviews, the development of position descriptions, and the development of the annual training plan.
- New employees received Work Health and Safety Inductions and training on equal employment opportunity, harassment and bullying prevention.

The combined remuneration package for all the Directors for 2022/23 included:

Salary component	\$948,514.56
Bonuses	NIL
Superannuation component	\$98,514.56
Non-cash benefits	NIL
Fringe Benefits Tax on non-cash benefits	NIL

Labour Statistics

Local Government Regulation 2021 - cl 217 (1)(d) (i),(ii),(iii),(iv)

Statement of total number of persons who performed paid work on **Wednesday 23 November 2022**, including, in separate statements, total number of:

Persons employed by the council on a permanent fulltime, permanent part-time or casual basis or under a fixed-term contract	264
Persons employed by the council as senior staff members	4
Persons engaged by the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, wholly or principally for the labour of the person	2
Persons supplied to the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee	0

Stormwater Management

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(e)

All urban properties except vacant land that are in the residential and business categories for rating purposes, for which Council provides a stormwater management service will be charged an annual stormwater levy under Local Government Amendment (Stormwater) Act 2005 and the Local Government (General) Amendment (Stormwater) Regulation 2006.

The stormwater levy for 2022/2023 which will remain at \$25 per residential assessment, \$12.50 per strata unit and \$25 per 350 square metres or part thereof for businesses with a cap on business properties of \$1,500.

Income raised from the stormwater charge is allocated to both capital and recurrent projects relating to new or additional stormwater management services such as the:

- o Construction & maintenance of drainage systems, pipes basins & waterways
- o Stormwater treatment
- o Stormwater reuse projects
- o Stormwater pollution education campaigns
- o Inspection of commercial & industrial premises for stormwater pollution prevention
- o Stormwater pollution incidents
- o Water quality
- o Flood management
- o Stormwater Management

Type	Stormwater Charges Charge (\$)	Estimated Yield (\$)
Residential	25.00	157,175
Strata Unit (Residential)	12.50	1,963
Business	25.00 per 350sq meters (\$1,500 Cap)	86,876
Total Estimated Yield		246,013

Coastal Protection Services

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(e1)

Council has not levied an annual charge for coastal protection services during the year.

Capital Works Projects

OLG Capital Expenditure Guidelines

Council has completed a capital expenditure review in accordance with the NSW OLG Capital Expenditure Guidelines for the below projects.

Project	Grant Funding
Crown Creek Bridge	1,131,239.34
Airly Creek Bridge	1,121,286.02
Coco Creek Bridge	1,233,789.47
Charles Street Bridge	30,037.50
Red Hill Road Bridge Replacement	313,608.61
Lithgow Library Parapet and Awning Replacement	224,84.24
LINC Building	226,747.00
Union Theatre Kitchen and Seating Upgrade	95,803.20
Main Street Footpath	750,000.00
Aquatic Centre Solar Panels	86,595.20
Blast Furnace Lighting and Performance Stage	525,521.60
Lake Pillans Upgrades	332,000.00
Lithgow Golf Course - Irrigation	85,785.73
Range Road Pipers Flat Intersection, Portland	521,425.00
Mutton Falls Road	567,337.00
Petra Avenue & Ray Crescent	103,461.00
Barton Avenue	261,489.00
Hampton Road Reseal	471,036.00
South Bowenfels Link Road	481,075.00
Cullen Bullen Sewer Upgrade	3,087,590.94
Hillcrest No2 Sewer Pump Station	918,925.00
Cullen Bullen Tip Remediation	19,780.00
EPA Bushfire Recovery Program - Lithgow Solid Waste Facility	42,897.00
Community Recycling Centre	102,921.72
Portland Foundations Trunk	750,000.00
Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline	417,400.00
Total	13,901,835.57

Reporting Requirements – Inspection of private swimming pools

Swimming Pools Act 1992 (SP Act), s224F(2) Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 (SP Reg) cl23



Public Information Disclosures

Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 – Section 31 Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011, Clause 4

There were nil public interest disclosures received by Council.

Reporting Requirements under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 – Section 125(1), Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 - Clause 8, Schedule 2

During the 2022/23 reporting period, Council received a total of 11 formal access applications.

Companion Animals

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217(1)(f), Companion Animals Act 1988 (CA Act), Companion Animals Regulation 2018, and Companion Animals Guidelines (CA Guidelines)

Activity	Achievement
Lodgment of pound data collection returns with the Office of Local Government.	This has not been lodged yet due to staff resourcing.
Lodgment of data relating to dog attacks with the Office of Local Government.	This has not been lodged yet due to staff resourcing.
Amount of funding spent on companion animal management and activities.	\$272,946.40
Community education programs carried out and strategies the council has in place to promote and assist the desexing of dogs and cats.	Program currently being developed with a local pet shop to promote responsible companion animals ownership and adoptions.
Strategies to see alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals	Council has a strong working relationship with many rescue groups to prevent the euthanasia of its animals. Council also maintains a webpage promoting all animals available for adoption. Council is compliant with section 64 of the Companion Animals Act 1998.
Off leash areas provided	We have 4 off leash areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endeavor park, Lithgow • Montague Street, Lithgow • Williwa Street, Portland • Lake Wallace Recreation Area, Wallerawang
Detailed information on how fund money was used for managing and controlling companion animal in their area.	Ranger salaries, vehicles, equipment, food, maintenance, vet costs, electricity, impounding, sale, surrender and fines.

Summary of pound data	Cats	Dogs	Total
Seized and transferred to Councils facility	0	3	3
Abandoned/stray	58	159	217
Surrendered by owners	17	69	86
Returned to owners	9	80	89
Euthanased	3	32	35
Sold	20	57	77
Released to organisations for re-homing	26	58	84
Died at council facility	1	2	3
Stolen or escaped from council facility	1	2	3
Holding pending court action	0	0	0
Transfer from another facility	5	0	5
Born in facility	3	0	3

Projects for which Contribution or Levies have been used

EPA Reg 218A (2) (a-g)

Project Description	Amenity	Amount	% of Project Funded	Complete	Funding Type
Strategic Planning - Document	Strategic Planning	14,461.64	57%	Yes	7.11 Contribution/Levy
CCTV Security Cameras - Annual Allocation	Safety	34,627.75	80%	Ongoing	7.11 Contribution/Levy
Sodwalls Tarana Road	Roads / Transport	57,425.00	12%	Yes	7.11 Contribution/Levy
Mutton Falls Road	Roads / Transport	101,333.00	12%	Yes	7.11 Contribution/Levy
Market Street East, Rydal	Roads / Transport	116,931.10	100%	No	7.11 Contribution/Levy
Lithgow Hockey - Facility Upgrades	Sporting Facilities	21,675.24	100%	Yes	7.11 Contribution/Levy
Conran / Watsford Oval Upgrades	Sporting Facilities	24,772.28	100%	No	7.11 Contribution/Levy
Resurface Outdoor Courts - Wallerawang Stadium	Sporting Facilities	31,310.55	100%	No	7.11 Contribution/Levy
Youth Scholarship	Youth Services	39,568.00	100%	Ongoing	VPA - Centennial Coal
Public Toilet Block - Watsford	Sporting Facilities	26,437.00	100%	Yes	VPA
Online Resources	Library	6,113.65	100%	Ongoing	VPA - Centennial Coal
Adventure Playground - Internal Reserve Loan Repayment	Parks	79,514.65	41%	Yes	VPA - Centennial Coal

Contributions and Levies Received and Expended

EPA Reg 218A (3) (a),(b)

Total value of all contributions and levies received during the year - \$485,687.61

Total value of all contributions and levies expended during the year - \$574,655.21

Planning Agreements

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 – Section 7.5(5)

DA No	Description	Names of Parties	Amount	Land	Effective Date	Due Date	Activity in current financial year	Outstanding Obligations
335/05DA Approved: 159 Lots Dated: 14/02/2007 MOD 025/19 3 Lot Englobo Subdivision	For community facilities	Lithgow City Council & Regional Project Management P/L - land has since been sold to Council	\$2500 per lot created = 159 = \$397500, Staged Development	Lot 1 DP 1082148, Col Drewe Drive, South Bowenfels	6/11/2006	Prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate for each Stage	No Payment in 2022/2023	\$2500 per lot created = 159 = \$397500, Staged Development
429/05DA Approved: 12 Lots, Dated: 25/07/2006, Related File: DA042/07 Strata Subdivision	For open space and community facilities in a residential subdivision	Lithgow City Council & PK & CA Van der Velden	\$2200 per unit/lot created = 12 = \$26400, 3 stages	Lots 119, 120 & 122 in the subdivision of Lot 406 DP 26070, Sidey Place, Wallerawang.	18/12/2006	Prior to the issue of the occupation certificate for each unit	No Payment in 2022/2023	\$2200 per unit/lot created = 8 = \$17,600, 2 stages remaining
DA238/14 Approved: 12 Lots, Dated: 22/03/2016 (Covid 2year extension on consent lapse date)	For the provision of the upgrade of Glen Alice Road.	Lithgow Council & Don Saville (Director) Glen Alice Pty Ltd-Land sold 2021	\$40,000	Lot 1 DP 651340, Lot 1 and Lot 21 DP 753780 "Glen Alice" Glen Alice – Old Road Glen Davis	3/08/2016	Prior to the issue of the subdivision certificate for each Stage	No Payment in 2022/2023	\$40,000
SSD_5594 Approved 21/9/2015 - Springvale, Airly and Angus Place Mines	Community Contribution	Lithgow Council and Centennial Coal	\$0.03 per saleable tonne of coal each financial year to be used for long-term community activities and projects		21/09/2015	Pays Annually	Springvale \$64,365.84 Airly \$35,148.81 Angus Place-\$0 (Care and Maintenance)	Ongoing
SSD-6084 Hy-Tec Approved: Quarry	For Public Facilities and Infrastructure	Lithgow Council & Hy-Tec Industries Pty Ltd	\$0.025 Per tonne of quarry product sold from the quarry on a quarter basis	Lot 1 and 2 DP1005511, Lot 31 DP 1009967 and Lot 4 DP876394, 391 Jenolan Caves Road Hartley	2/09/2016	Paid Quarterly and distributed to the community upon applications each year	\$34,112.08 - 2022 Calendar Year	\$0.025 per tonne -Ongoing
SSD 07_0127 MOD 5 Invincible Colliery, Approved: Coal Mine, Dated: 2/02/2018	For community facilities and infrastructure for Cullen Bullen and surrounds	Lithgow Council & Castlereagh Coal (Shoalhaven Coal)	\$0.05 per tonne of product coal each financial year to Cullen Bullen Township & surrounds	Lot 1 DP180294, Lot 11 DP614429, Lots 112 & 113 DP877190 and Ben Bullen State Forest, Castlereagh Highway Cullen Bullen	5/07/2017	Paid annually, Mine is currently under Care and Maintenance	No Payment in 2022/2023	\$0.05 per tonne of product coal each financial year

DA022/18 Approved: 79 Lots, Dated: 29/10/2018	For community facilities and public open space Works in kind for a concrete cycle path	Lithgow Council & Rosaton Pty Ltd-Land sold 2021	\$6,200 per lot - 6 stages - Stage 1 - 7 Lots, Stage 2- 12 Lots, Stage 3 - 13 Lots, Stage 4- 14 lots, Stage 5- 4 lots, Stage 6- 29 lots	Lot 2 & 3 DP1229039, 33 Magpie Hollow Road, South Bowenfels NSW 2790	28/02/2019	Prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate for each Stage	No payment in 2022/2023	\$6,200 per lot - 6 stages - Stage 1 - 7 Lots, Stage 2- 12 Lots, Stage 3 - 13 Lots, Stage 4- 14 lots, Stage 5- 4 lots, Stage 6- 29 lots
DA228/14 Approved: 26 Lots, Dated 22/11/2016 (Covid 2year extension on consent lapse date)	Upgrade of Upper Nile Road and Glen Alice Road	Lithgow Council & Lyn and Bruce Richardson	\$85,800 (\$3,300 per lot), Stage 1- Lots 1-6, Stage 2 - Lots 13-26, Stage 3 - Lots 7-12	Lot 5 DP136719, Lot 4,3,12,11 DP755796 620 Upper Nile Road, Glen Alice NSW 2849	30/04/2019	Prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate for each Stage	\$19,800-stage 1 paid	\$85,800 (\$3,300 per lot), Stage 1- Lots 1-6, Stage 2 - Lots 13-26, Stage 3 - Lots 7-12
62/06DA Modification Mod001/20 Approved: 146 Dwellings, Dated 22/06/2020 4 stages	Wetland rehab bus circle landscaping & community facilities. Mod-reduced number of dwellings from 148 to 146	Lithgow City Council & Treeview Estates Pty Ltd	\$127100 map wetlands and ongoing maintenance \$151000 for bus turning circle and \$660 per dwelling = \$299,610 Prior to the issue of the Occupation Certificate for each stage	Lot 50 DP 1044978 9 Col Drewe Drive South Bowenfels	24/03/2020	Prior to the issue of the occupation certificate for each unit	No Payment in 2022/2023	\$660 x 146 = \$96,360- Stage 4 Outstanding
DA021/18, MOD039/19 Approved: 86 Lots, Dated: 1/06/2021	Road Link and construction of intersection (VPA #2)	Lithgow Council & Noel Flynn	\$3,200 per lot (Total \$275,200),	Lot 1 DP1230208, 43 Hillcrest Avenue, Bowenfels	08/09/21	Prior to the release of the subdivision certificate for the 21st lot, intersection to be completed prior to the issue of the subdivision certificate for the 30 th lot	No Payment in 2022/2023	\$3,200 per lot (Total \$275,200),
DA182/19 Approved: 19 Lots, dated: 27/05/2020	Community facility and public open space	Lithgow Council & Kevin Thompson (Above and Below Holdings)	Stage 1: \$16,500.00 Yes; Stage 1 Paid 12/10/20, Stage 2: \$46,200.00 (\$3,300 per lot)	Lot 20 DP1176, 1043 Pipers Flat Road, Pipers Flat NSW 2790	7/08/2020	Prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate for each Stage	No Payment in 2022/2023	Stage 2: \$46,200.00 (\$3,300 per lot) Outstanding

DA196/18 Approved: 34 Lots, Dated: 22/2/21	Community facilities and public open space Stage 2- Road Works on Maddox Lane	Lithgow City Council & Charles and Joan Applin	\$3,000 per lot = \$87,000 plus \$5,000 per lot for stage 2 (lots 2-6) = \$25,000	Lot 2 DP 574754, 111 Ian Holt Drive Lidsdale, NSW	22/09/2021	Prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate for each Stage	No payment in 2022/2023	\$3,000 per lot = \$87,000 plus \$5,000 per lot for stage 2 (lots 2-6) = \$25,000
DA142/18 & MOD005/19 Mod Approved: 134 Lots, Dated: 27/5/19	Community facility and public open space	Lithgow City Council and Sweetbriar	\$830,800 (\$6,200 per lot)	Lot 5 DP 1230208 & Lot 1 DP 1082148 (Sweetbriar) – 994, 998 and Sweetbriar Great Western Highway BOWENFELS NSW 2790	27/05/2019	Prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate for each Stage	No payment in 2022/2023	\$830,800 (\$6,200 per lot)
DA088/21 Approved: 6/04/2022	Community Facilities & Cycleway	Lithgow City Council & Trinity Heights (Peter Basha/Peter Rogers)-Land Sold 6/06/2022	\$6,400.00 per lot for community facilities and \$27,500 for continuation of a cycleway.	Lot 3 DP 1268778 - 50 Kirkley Street SOUTH BOWENFELS NSW 2790	28/03/2022	Prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate	No payment in 2022/2023	\$6,400.00 per lot for community facilities and \$27,500 for continuation of a cycleway.
DA292/14, Approved: 06/10/2015 MODDA041/22 Approved: 28/09/2022	Community Projects/ Activities	Lithgow Council & Nu-Rock Technology Pty Ltd	\$30,000.00 at the end of the first year and every year after calculated with the following: \$30,000.00 x CPI time of payment /CPA date of the VPA agreement	Lot 2 DP702619, Mount Piper Power Station, Boulder Road, Portland NSW 2847	16/05/23	\$30,000.00 at the end of the first year and every year after calculated with the following: \$30,000.00 x CPI time of payment /CPA date of the VPA agreement	No payment in 2022/2023	\$30,000.00 at the end of the first year and every year after calculated with the following: \$30,000.00 x CPI time of payment /CPA date of the VPA agreement

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Lithgow
CITY COUNCIL