



DRAFT MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Tuesday 6 February 2024

at 5:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Acknowledgement of Country	3
2. Present.....	3
3. Apologies	3
4. Confirmation of Minutes	3
5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.....	4
6. Declaration of Interest.....	4
7. Staff Reports	4
7.1. Burton Street Causeway	4
7.2. Water and Wastewater - Projects Update.....	5
7.3. Project Update Report.....	6
7.4. Disaster Recovery Projects - Application and approval status	7
8. General Business	7
9. Meeting Close	8

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5:03pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

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

2. Present

Councillor Stuart McGhie	Chair
Councillor Stephen Lesslie	
Councillor Col O'Connor	
Councillor Almundena Bryce	
Councillor Cassandra Coleman	(entered at 5:05pm)
Councillor Eric Mahony	(entered at 5:09pm)
Councillor Darryl Goodwin	(entered at 5:29pm)

Officers:

Craig Butler	General Manager
Jonathon Edgecombe	Director Infrastructure & Economy
Matthew Trapp	Executive Manager Water, Wastewater & Waste
Kaitlin Cibulka	Minutes

3. Apologies

Councillor Maree Statham
Councillor Steven Ring

4. Confirmation of Minutes

Councillor Cassandra Coleman entered at this point in the meeting (5:05pm).

The minutes are proposed to be presented to the Council on Monday 26th February 2024.

It was explained to the committee that the minutes were not presented at the January meeting due to a misunderstanding by the administration that the January meeting was an extra ordinary meeting. It was confirmed that all minutes to future meetings will be presented to the next available Council meeting. Reports have been created for all future Council meetings to ensure that this occurs.

ACTION

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

MOVED: Councillor C O'Connor

SECONDED: Councillor S McGhie

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

No matters were raised by the committee.

6. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

** Councillor Cassandra Coleman declared an interest during a matter of General Business**

7. Staff Reports

7.1. Burton Street Causeway

Cr E Mahony entered at this point of the meeting (5:09pm)

The Director of Infrastructure & Economy provided an overview of the report to the committee going into detail of the changes with the new designing being implemented at the causeway.

The committee noted that the cost of the previous construction will be absorbed by the contractors in full.

Designs have been drawn up and are currently with consultants for detailed CAD drawings. This is expected to be completed by the end of February and provided to contractor to commence works. Council will continue to communicate with nearby residents.

Cr S McGhie asked if the design was made up of precast concrete or installed / cured on site. It was confirmed that the design was precast but some components will be cured on site.

It was also advised that modifications to the creek bank will occur for better disability access across the causeway, however these modifications will also have a positive impact for future flooding events. The committee were advised that there is an increase to costs with the new design. A report will be presented to the next committee meeting with further information on the project, including the proposed funding source.

Cr E Mahony asked about the height above the creek floor to the bridge (footpath level). This question was taken on notice.

Cr C O'Connor asked the timeframe for the works to occur. This question was also taken on notice.

ACTION

THAT The Operations Committee note the report on the Burton Street causeway works.

MOVED: Councillor C O'Connor

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

7.2. Water and Wastewater - Projects Update

The committee reviewed the report.

Cr C O'Connor asked if the manholes along Coalbrook Street that are below the road level be replaced. It was confirmed that the works are scheduled and this will be carry out when roadworks are carried out in the area.

Cr A Bryce asked for an update on the Cullen Bullen STP. The Executive Manager of Water, Wastewater and Waste advised that the plant is at the commissioning phase. All residents are now connected to the sewer that is being pumped to the STP however is being collected and transported to Portland until the final phase of site commissioning. STP is running clear water to test the system is working, with the STP being fully operational by the end of February. It was noted that there has be 1 complaint from a resident where a pump has stopped working, this was a minor issue with more education to be provided to the residents. A program will be rolled out in the coming months.

Cr C O'Connor raised the project of the demolition of the digestors. The advice provided is that the digestors have now passed their useful life and with the demolition, Council will be able to reuse this space for new inlet works.

Cr E Mahony asked about the recent program of smoke testing for illegal stormwater connections and the number of notices issued. It was confirmed that 800 properties were tested with only 115 being defective along with a few mains also. Residents are given 6 months to repair before retesting occurs.

Cr D Goodwin entered at this point of the meeting at 5:29pm

It was noted that Extension Estate and Littleton areas were tested and approximately 14% are required to be rectified.

Cr S Lesslie queried the area of Extension Estate being from Hassans Walls Road to Musket Parade. The Executive Manager Water, Wastewater and Waste agreed also noting the bounds would also be from Main Street through to Bayonet Street.

Cr E Mahony asked about voluntary compliance. It was advised that residents do come forward for testing as a preventative measure to ensure they are complying. Cr E Mahony also asked whether there are old septic systems (and declared an interest) on the outskirts where the sewerage system doesn't currently pass, is there a plan to get them off septic and connected to sewer? It was advised that whilst this is not currently a priority this will be something to look at in the future with a low pressure system.

Cr S Lesslie asked about old septic tank registers, ones that would have been approved by Blaxland Shire and the procedure for updating the records.

It was advised that this question would best be referred to the Environment Team to answer, however the Executive Manager Water Waste Water and Waste explained that whilst overseeing this department previously there was a process for reviewing and mapping to record these and update Council's records. This is a large body of work with the staff learning the process creating records and inspecting at the same time.

The General Manager presses on the challenges the department is facing with recruitment of 2 key staff and costs of chemicals.

ACTION

THAT the Operations Committee receive the report on the Water and Wastewater Projects.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor C O'Connor

CARRIED

7.3. Project Update Report

This report was reviewed by the committee and matters were raised by exception.

The Director Infrastructure & Economy touched on the Portland Central Park advising that negotiations between Council, the Department of Education and the funding body are ongoing. It was advised that the Department of Education is an ineligible grantee and the works need to be delivered by Council via contractor. Council is continuing to work through the issues to install and inclusive / valuable space for the community.

Cr C O'Connor raised the causeway repair and construction. It was confirmed that this project is located along the Kanimbla Road. Whilst the causeway was constructed, traffic was funnelled through private property. Council is now rectifying the damaged caused on private property due to the changed traffic conditions.

Cr S Lesslie noted that the Library project has stalled. It was advised that engineering assessments were carried out as part of the project only to find that the roof is not suitable to withstand the additional weight of solar panels and trusses would need to be replaced. The project will still proceed with the re sheeting of the roof only as it has reached its useful life and to rectify the ongoing leakage issues into the newly renovated library to protect the internal assets. It was asked if Council could lobby the funding body to gain additional funds to carry out these works to include the trusses being replaced. Council will continue to source funding to upgrade the trusses to cater for solar panel installation, however this project will continue as reported.

Cr S Lesslie raised that his matter was not being addressed and would like an additional recommendation added for an additional report. The General Manager asked if Cr S Lesslie would like the works to water proofing the facility to halt for a report. Cr S Lesslie withdrew his motion for an additional report.

ACTION

THAT the progress update be noted.

MOVED: Councillor C O'Connor

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

7.4. Disaster Recovery Projects - Application and approval status

The Director Infrastructure & Economy brought this report to the committee in response to the NOM raised by Cr Ring at the recent Council meeting. The committee were advised of the what is required for an approval and the challenges that Council is facing with the growing list and expense of repair and not being able to support the cash outlay to contractors. Council continues to works with Reconstruction authority and other Council's with an agreement which essentially to identify scope and provides payments in advanced to continue works.

Cr E Mahony left the meeting at this point (6:01pm)

Cr S McGhie noted that lines are visible where an inspection has taken place but there are many more damaged areas nearby that are opening up. It was advised that Council has until June to make modification before its locked in and an no more applications can be applied for.

Cr C O'Connor asked if a driver has been recruited. It was confirm that recruitment has occurred and Council now has an operational hotmix asphalt truck to carry out works.

ACTION

THAT the Operations Committee note the report relating to the disaster recovery effort.

MOVED: Councillor C O'Connor

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

8. General Business

Cr C Coleman raised the matter of pool cars and the maintenance in terms of cleaning. It was advised that Council has approached local businesses for quotes, and Cr. Coleman wanted to declare a potential conflict of interest as her partner works at one of the businesses. It was advised that Council are looking to improve services provided to Councillors and staff and that the quotes are being sought as part of an entirely objective, competitive process.

Cr S McGhie requested at Wallerawang, particularly near the school where pick ups/drop offs are occurring, along the sides of the road now require repair. The Director Infrastructure and Economy advised that a memo will be provided in relation to materials obtained for these works.

It was advised that a new program for additional weed spraying being conducted by UMCC has commenced across the LGA to increase the levels of service and to meet our biosecurity requirements.

Cr S Lesslie also raised that he has received an email from a resident about noxious weeds along state mine gully. This is not a matter for UMCC but for the owner of the land (Council / Forestry). Administration have not received the email. Cr S Lesslie forwarded the email to the Director Infrastructure and Economy for investigation / action.

9. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 5:00pm in the Committee Room

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