



# MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Tuesday 16 April 2024

at 5:00 PM

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5:00 pm.

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country

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Lithgow City Council acknowledges Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside. The Council also extends our respects to our neighbouring nations.

## 2. Present

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Councillor S McGhie	Chair
Councillor M Statham	Mayor
Councillor S Ring	
Councillor S Lesslie	
Councillor C O'Connor	
Councillor C Coleman	
Councillor E Mahony	
Councillor D Goodwin	

Officers:

Craig Butler	General Manager
Jonathon Edgecombe	Director Infrastructure
Matthew Trapp	Executive Manager Water and Waste Water
Kaitlin Cibulka	Minutes

## 3. Apologies

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Councillor Almudena Bryce

## 4. Confirmation of Minutes

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The minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2024 were presented to the Council on Monday 26th February 2024.

### ACTION

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

**MOVED:** Cr C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Cr M Statham

## 5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

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The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

No matters were raised by the committee.

## **6. Declaration of Interest**

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There were no declarations of interest made.

## **7. Staff Reports**

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### **7.1. WWW - Projects report**

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The Executive Manager Water and Waste Water gave an overview of the report.

It was noted that the contractor for the directional drilling as part of the Water Mains renewal project had pulled out and were not able to carry out the works until August. The committee noted that they are expected to return in the new financial year to carry out these works.

C Coleman entered at this point of the meeting being 5:04pm.

Cr S Ring asked why Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme was reported as an off track item. It was advised that it has been reported this way as it has fallen behind the initial date that was provided for project completion being March 2024. Minor delays have occurred.

It was also noted that the IWCM is off track as this long ongoing project has also gone outside the dates originally advised. This project is not on any hard time frame to be completed. It was discussed this project includes water security and the Clarence Transfer Scheme. The committee noted that this matter is being brought to a Councillor Information session where more detail will be provided.

Cr S Lesslie raised the Tweed Mills Project, noting the project has been deferred however there are the concerns of a local resident who believes that there are discharges through his property. The Executive Manager of Water and Wastewater was not aware of this issue and undertook to investigate the matter. The committee noted that the pump station has been renewed and is operating however there is an electrical matter that needs to be resolved. This was being handled by an electrical project officer who is no longer with Council, with this project being placed on hold until the position is filled.

### **ACTION**

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

**MOVED:** Cr S Ring

**SECONDED:** Cr O'Connor

**CARRIED**

## **7.2. Wolgan Road - Update**

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The Director Infrastructure and Economy provided an overview of the report to the committee advising the progress of this project.

### **ACTION**

THAT The Operations Committee note the status and progress update relating to the Wolgan Road disaster recovery project.

**MOVED:** Cr S Ring

**SECONDED:** Cr M Statham

**CARRIED**

## **7.3. Update - Causeway Crossing - Farmers Creek (Burton Street)**

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The Director Infrastructure and Economy provided an overview of the report to the committee advising the progress of this project.

### **ACTION**

THAT the Operations Committee note the update provided with respect to the Burton Street Causeway.

**MOVED:** Cr M Statham

**SECONDED:** Cr S Ring

**CARRIED**

## **7.4. Disaster recovery projects and application process - Report 2**

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The committee discussed the matter noting that 3 applications have been lodged and reports on progress will be presented to future meetings of this committee.

### **ACTION**

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

**MOVED:** Cr S Ring

**SECONDED:** Cr C O'Connor

**CARRIED**

## 7.5. Project Update Report

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The report was reviewed with the following matters raised:

- Sunny Corner Road Portland - loose road base
- Pipers Flat / Range Road Intersection - extensive drainage works need to occur to resolve water issue.
- Coalbrook Street / Geordie Street - it was advised that works are expected to occur in late April / early May and will extend from the Community Nursery to Mills Street.
- Peach Tree Road - concerns raised if this was impacted due to Megalong incident. Road works were completed prior to the recent major rainfall event and early indications are that the road was unaffected.
- Portland Central Park - a meeting has been set with DRNSW to occur shortly and work through issues stalling this project.
- Megalong Valley - Supporting Blue Mountains through this event. Lithgow LGA residents that have been affected are being communicated with via Blue Mountains Council's communications.

### **ACTION**

THAT the committee note the progress of the listed projects.

**MOVED:** Cr C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Cr S Ring

**CARRIED**

## **7.6. Lithgow Cemetery - Monument Matters**

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The committee discussed the report suggesting that a letter be written to the relevant minister in relation to the matter with regards to the failure in procedure to repair historic monuments.

It was also discussed that a hedge be planted along the front of the cemetery to hide the dilapidated monument. It was suggested that pittosporum - James Stirling be considered.

### **ORIGINAL MOTION:**

THAT the committee:

1. Notes the report, and
2. Provides a recommended course of action for consideration at the upcoming Ordinary Meeting of Council.

### **ACTION:**

THAT:

1. The General Manager write to the relevant Minister and government department to point out the failures in procedures available for maintaining historic monuments; and
2. A suitable hedge be planted along the front of the cemetery.

**MOVED:** Cr S Lesslie

**SECONDED:** Cr S McGhie

**CARRIED**

## **7.7. WWW - Sewer Reflux Valve Rebate Scheme**

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The committee were briefed on the matter by the Executive Manager Water and Waste Water and discussions on the matter were had.

Cr C Coleman left at this point in the meeting being 6:22pm

### **ORIGINAL MOTION**

THAT the Operations Committee discuss the proposed process for installation of sewer reflux valves in affected areas.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council endorse the process outlined in the report for the application and rebate scheme of reflux valves in the LGA

**MOVED:** Cr M Statham

**SECONDED:** Cr C O'Connor

A Division was called:

**For:** Cr M Statham, Cr C O'Connor , Cr S McGhie

**Against:** Cr S Ring , Cr E Mahony , Cr S Lesslie

**7.8. Queen Elizabeth Park – (Cedrus Deodora / Himalayan Cedar Trees), Pine Trees**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT :

1. Council decline the request; and
2. Council advise that any property maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner

**MOVED:** Cr C O'Connor

**SECONDED:** Cr S Ring

**CARRIED**

**7.9. Review of Policy 10.13 and 10.15 (Street tree maintenance and verge gardens)**

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The committee agreed to assist with providing guidance but require more time to review and provide advice.

**ACTION**

THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Operations Committee for further discussion and clarification of the scope of the review.

**MOVED:** Cr S Ring

**SECONDED:** Cr S Lesslie

**CARRIED**

### **7.10. Hampton Tree Removals**

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The committee discussed the item and suggested requesting emergency services personnel to remove the trees as part of their training.

It was noted that traffic control will be required, particular on Jenolan Caves road when removal is being carried out.

#### **ACTION**

THAT

1. the Operations Committee consider the request from the owner of 1994 Jenolan Caves Road, Hampton, for the removal of 9 pines from the Wicketty War Road reserve; and
2. Local Emergency Services be approached to carry out tree removal if possible.
3. Councillors be kept informed about the progress with this matter.

**MOVED:** Cr M Statham

**SECONDED:** Cr C O'Connor

**CARRIED**

### **7.11. Lithgow Store Construction Project - Contract Variation**

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The Director Infrastructure and Economy advised the committee that this report is a mirror of the report that is being presented to the April Council meeting. It was brought to the committee to discuss in more detail. The committee were advised that the budget for this project has increased due to rising cost of materials but also the additional unknown works required.

The administration has sourced additional funding, through an unexpended loans reserve from the aquatic centre. It was noted that Council is not paying interest on the loan as it was taken out under an interest free loan scheme (LURS).

#### **ACTION**

THAT the committee note the information provided in the report that is being formally presented to Council at the April meeting.

**MOVED:** Cr S Ring

**SECONDED:** C O'Connor

**CARRIED**

### **7.12. Town Entry Signage**

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The committee discussed this item at length.

It was suggested that Council wait until the destination management plan and re-branding has occurred. It was also suggested that the Tourism Committee may be involved in the process.

There was a view that there has not been enough notification of this matter and that the community needs to be further consulted on this.

The following Councillors left at this point during the meeting at 7:11pm

Cr S Lesslie  
Cr E Mahony  
Cr S Ring

Discussions continued on this matter, noting that the administration has investigated an interim measure to have protective aluminium sleeves procured to be placed over the existing signage while a more permanent solution is going through the process. The committee disagreed with this action.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:**

THAT the Council consider the proposal for town entry signage in line with the above report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT:

1. In recognition of the need to improve the appearance and the sense of arrival to Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang that Council resolve to immediately commence a process of design of new entrance signage.
2. The administration ensure that appropriate public consultation is undertaken for signage concepts.
3. The design concepts be returned to Council for approval.
4. This initial work to design signage concepts be funded from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program.

**MOVED:** Cr M Statham

**SECONDED:** Cr S McGhie

**CARRIED**

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## **8. General Business**

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Cr D Goodwin asked about the replacement of the amenities at Saville Park, Portland. It was confirmed that the existing amenities will be demolished and an exceloo system has been order to be placed by the end of the financial year.

Cr C O'Connor advised that he has received an email from a resident who has been attending the pool and raised concerns in relation to the drop in temperature at the Aquatic Centre. The committee noted that the temperature sits around 28 to 30 degrees and is monitored on a regular basis by staff to ensure that it remains at this temperature range. It was noted that the resident was using the centre for Hydrotherapy, whilst it was noted that the centre is not a rehab facility. It was also discussed if the hydrotherapy pool at the hospital was still operation. The committee also were advised that the resident has been responded to.

Cr D Goodwin asked for signage in the area to welcome to country, recognising the local aboriginal community. This was suggested for consideration of inclusion in the new town signage and that the local aboriginal groups be consulted in the process.

## **9. Meeting Close**

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Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 5:00pm in the Committee Room.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7:22pm.