

# OUR PLACE, OUR FUTURE

Community Proposals for  
draft 2024/25 Operational Plan

April 2024



## Introduction

Lithgow City Council invited residents and community groups to put forward proposals to be considered for inclusion in the 2024/25 Draft Operational Plan. The community was encouraged to submit their proposals online via Council's Have Your Say portal [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com) between 22 December 2023 and 15 February 2024. During that time over 80 proposals from residents and community groups across the LGA were received with some respondents providing multiple proposals.

The Council acknowledges and appreciates the community's contribution to the draft 2024/25 Operational Plan. All proposals were considered in accordance with budget availability, staff capacity and value to the community.

The proposals have been categorised into topics/localities, summarised and an officer's response has been provided for the information and consideration of Council and the community.

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## General Items

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p><b>Community Fruit &amp; Vegetable Garden development</b>            The aim of this proposal is to outline a plan for the development of a community fruit and vegetable garden to be established under the auspices of the local council. The project seeks to promote community engagement, sustainable food practices, and environmental awareness.</p>	<p>The Community Heritage Garden Project at Eskbank House Museum was initially funded by a Resilience NSW Bushfire Resilience and Recovery Fund grant following the Black Summer bushfires. The project was designed and developed by Jessica Lawn a heritage garden consultant who made seasonal maintenance visits to work with volunteers. The design of the garden reimagines the layout and plantings of an 1800s kitchen garden. The EHM Heritage Garden continues to be developed by a small team of volunteers.</p> <p>Mary's Garden Team meet on Thursdays at EHM. Members of the community are encouraged to visit the Museum to discuss <a href="#">volunteering with Council</a>.</p> <p>Other Community Garden Programs operating in Lithgow include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lithgow Transformation Hub Permaculture Program</li> <li>• The PCYC Community Garden</li> <li>• The Lithgow Community Nursery</li> </ul>
One	<p><b>Village Community Information Points</b>            To have a shelter which holds the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community noticeboard</li> <li>• Street Library</li> <li>• Community defibrillator (AED) Emergency evacuation points Potentially some form of Wi-Fi</li> </ul>	<p>To be taken into consideration when consulting with the community as part of the development of Village Improvement Plans.</p> <p><b><u>Smart Places Roadmap</u></b>            Council has completed a Smart Places Roadmap (2023). which includes the installation of a ChillOUT Hub in Cook Street Plaza. This is included in the 2023/24 Operational Plan. The Hub will have a digitally enabled, multi-purpose seating area and free Wi-Fi.</p> <p>Other potential smart projects include a digital information board.</p> <p>The Smart Places Roadmap ensures that Council has a plan in place to apply for any Smart Places grant funding opportunities.</p> <p><b><u>RFS Neighbourhood Safer Places Program</u></b>            There is also the opportunity to blend this approach with the RFS' Neighbourhood Safer Places program, amplifying the benefits of both.</p> <p><a href="https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places">https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places</a></p>

One	<b>A boxing gym / sports training facility in Portland</b> where the local kids and adults can come and form a bond with each other through the home and safe space atmosphere.	This would involve the development of a multi-purpose sports facility at Portland. However, in essence it is a private entity seeking to move a business form a backyard operational to a commercial gym. The Council does not have any properties in Portland which are either suitable or available for Commercial lease.
Cr Ring	<b>Portland Artworks</b> (part of Portland Steamworks) art program assistance for youth	Council calls for applications for <a href="#">financial assistance</a> twice each year in April and October. This financial assistance is made available in July to December respectively to successful applicants.
One	<b>Youth Hub – Facility</b> This hub targeted towards the young people in Lithgow & Bowenfels, will be a collaborative effort among local stakeholders, providing a range of workshops whilst being a safe & inclusive space for all. Activities could include: Workshops, First Nations, Music, Food, Art, Gardening, Vocational etc.	The Planet Youth Lithgow Network is a consortium of local organisations led by Lithgow City Council which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lithgow Information &amp; Neighbourhood Centre (LINC)</li> <li>• Lives Lived Well (Dianella Cottage)</li> <li>• Lithgow Community Projects (LCP)</li> <li>• PCYC Lithgow</li> <li>• Headspace Lithgow</li> <li>• Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub _ Western Sydney University</li> <li>• Red Cross Australia</li> <li>• Mountains Outreach Community Services (MOCS)</li> <li>• Ted Noffs Foundation (NOOFS)</li> <li>• Australia Red Cross</li> <li>• Lithgow High School</li> <li>• La Salla Academy, Lithgow</li> </ul> There is currently a youth activities program operating in Emora Park. This group will work to develop a business case and feasibility study for a larger facility.

## Transport

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
Cr Ring	Resealing of <b>Scheidel Lane, Portland</b>	This was a project in a previous operational plan that was removed until such a time that Council had scheduled the replacement of the underlying services. Once complete, this project should be included within the Operational Plan.
	<b>Intersection of Vale Street and Wolgan Street</b> – resheeting to enhance pedestrian safety and problems with kerb in front of school	Repair of the kerb in front of the Portland Central School was raised at a recent TALC meeting for repair under existing maintenance programs.
	Prepare treatment plan for cutting on <b>Barton Avenue Wallerawang</b> between James Pde and Lyon Pde with costings for future treatment/programs	<p>The possibility of reducing the grade of the bank on the southern side of Barton Avenue between Lyon Parade and James Street was investigated approximately 10 years ago. At that time, it was considered to be not cost effective due to the high costs of relocating the underlying assets.</p> <p>In this area, there is a water main, Endeavour Energy poles, a gravity sewer main and a pressurised sewer main. Each would be impacted by a reduction of grade or modifications to the embankment. There are also adjacent driveways that will need to be modified.</p> <p>In terms of crash statistics, there is no accident history in this location. The two recorded accidents in Wallerawang (since 2018) were a crash in 2019 at Blackberry Lane, and a crash in 2021 adjacent to the Wallerawang Public School.</p> <p>While the intersection isn't compliant for sight distance it is a difficult area to install improvements as it is in the base of a cutting already. Not impossible by any means, but it would result in what I expect to be approximately \$300 - \$500,000 of investment to make a real difference.</p> <p>At this time, noting the lack of accident history and the variety of other priorities through the region, this project is not considered a high priority.</p>
	Resealing of junction of <b>Boulder Road and Back Cullen Road</b>	Suggested for inclusion in the 2025/26 Operational Plan
One	<b>State Mine Gully Road</b> has desperately needed a renewal upgrade for decades now as it is mostly patches on patches on patches etc. Also, in conjunction with a new road storm water drains need to be included as the runoff from rains currently drain all over the road flooding it and	This work has been scoped for inclusion as part of the broader Gardens of Stone development as the asset will require upgrade prior to the delivery of this project. The project has been costed at approximately \$4 million. Council continues to advocate for external State Government funding from the \$50M allocated to Gardens of Stone to deliver this project.

	helping to destabilise the existing surface helping it to deteriorate faster.	
One	Undertake Maintenance repairs to <b>Portland Sunny Corner Rd</b> . There are currently small sections of the road that do not need repairs; however, edges are beginning to break away which will cause issues in the near future. Drainage needs to be improved so water can get off the road and into drains rather than sitting on the road surface and penetrating the surface causing damage. There is being no preventative maintenance being undertaken!	Under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, \$420,000 has been applied for, to repair Portland Sunny Corner Road. As part of this work, roadside drainage repairs will occur over the full length. Council eagerly awaits feedback regarding the status of this application.
Cr Ring	Resealing <b>Sodwalls Road Tarana</b>	Under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, \$767,000 will be applied for, to repair Sodwalls Tarana Road. As part of this work, roadside drainage repairs will occur over the full length. Council is working to submit this application by the end of April 2024 for delivery in the next financial year.
One	Roadworks to properly replace, reseal and put suitable drainage and gutters on the whole of <b>Sodwalls Rd and Tarana Rd</b> , as these roads are full of huge potholes mostly caused by rain not draining away properly.	
Five community submissions plus Councillor O'Connor	Installation of a roundabout or traffic lights at the intersection of <b>Kirkland Link</b> (Hassans Walls Road) and Lithgow Street, Lithgow.	Council has previously investigated the feasibility of installing a roundabout at this location, however, due to site constraints for heavy vehicles (including public transport buses), a compliant roundabout isn't able to be installed at this location. Council can request Transport for NSW to investigate the possibility of installing traffic signals at this location (as Council is not the responsible authority for traffic signals)
One	Reopen <b>Browns Gap</b>	This submission was acknowledged, and the respondent has been provided with a link to the Browns Gap project on <a href="#">Council's website</a> and how to remain informed on progress with Browns Gap.

## Events

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p>Christmas fair with local makers and producers, free stalls for local shops to move goods into Cook St Plaza. Rides for kids, music, chocolate wheel, Christmas themed arts and craft activities. Held 2 weeks before Christmas.</p> <p>Monthly music in Cook St Plaza. Local bands and musicians – We need to get people to visit Main Street.</p>	<p>Councils 2024/25 Draft Operational Plan includes a limited budget allocation for selected events.</p> <p>Council is currently undertaking a review of Community Events undertaken by Council, Community Events supported by Council and Events attraction.</p> <p>The concepts identified for a Christmas Event to be held in December will be considered in accordance with funding.</p>
One	<p>Christmas event, held in December 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including several children's activities with Santa in the lead up to the event. (Gingerbread house making, craft activities, breakfast with Santa, kids write letters and post them to Santa) - Photo opportunity with Santa (Santa gives out small gifts to children)</li> <li>• Gingerbread Lane for the children (Including photo opportunity areas and lollies)</li> <li>• A Christmas ball/live entertainment and canapes for adults</li> <li>• Beer garden or picnic if outdoors with a choir singing Christmas carols on a stage.</li> <li>• Christmas themed market</li> </ul> <p>A Christmas in July Winter Wonderland held in August 2024 Polar express train rides - Zigzag railway Fake snow machines Outdoor ice-skating rink Christmas tunnel of Lights Snow globe photo booth</p>	
One	<p>A Christmas light display in Queen Elizabeth Park in the weeks leading up to Christmas. This could become a focal point for Christmas celebrations in the community with Christmas markets and carols in the park. If done properly this could draw visitors from both the LGA and out of town</p>	
Cr Statham	<p>Money for Christmas concert and decorations</p>	
One	<p>Lithgow light up the night, fun, activities, markets in QE Park/ Main Street</p> <p>Lithgow town festival in Main Street</p>	



## Parks & Recreation

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
Cr Statham	Seek funding for lighting in <b>Main Street &amp; QE Park</b> around trunks of trees.	This scope is not included within Stage 2 of the Main Street Renewal project and thereby cannot be delivered. However, a Stage 3 is required to complete the project. Prior to submitting applications for grant funding for this work, the scope of each of these proposals can be considered.
One	<b>Solar Festoon lighting</b> Installation of solar festoon lighting along our Main Street - let's start close to the GWH & light up trees the whole way along into the CBD. Festoon lighting in Queen Elizabeth Park to attract visitors to the area	
One	Playground fences - <b>QE Park &amp; New Saville Park Playground</b> fix the fence around that new playground, as well as the fence around the disability swing at Queen Elizabeth Park in Lithgow. Fence poles are missing from there and the new Portland playground.	Neither site is considered high risk and therefore do not require fencing. Instead, signage suggesting parents mind their children while using the facilities should be installed if this is an issue.
Cr Ring	Adult change table to be installed at <b>Queen Elizabeth Park toilets</b>	It is suggested that this be included within the scope of the new amenity's installation within Queen Elizabeth Park.
Cr Bryce	<b>Toilets in Queen Elizabeth Park</b> near the Children's Playground	Installation of a new Exeloo facility near the Children's playground has been included in the 2024/25 Draft Operational Plan.  The Council will also be developing a Strategy for Queen Elizabeth Park which will guide development of suitable infrastructure, use and opportunities to develop the Park into a space that meets the needs of our community. This will take into consideration lighting, events, wayfinding and usage.
One	<b>Queen Elizabeth Park – Toilets at Southern End</b> I am writing to you today, to formally request the installation of self-cleaning toilet facilities at the SOUTHERN end of Queen Elizabeth Park	
One	Insulation of toilets and drinking water outlets near play equipment BBQ area top end of <b>Queen Elizabeth Park</b>	
One	Toilet block near playground equipment in Queen Elizabeth Park	
One	Toilets near the Children's Playground – QE Park.	
Lithgow RSL Sub-Branch	<b>Queen Elizabeth Park – PA System for events.</b> design and installation of a wireless system (speakers, microphones, and with connectivity to computers, etc.). The PA system can cover the whole of Queen Elizabeth Park, and be set up in zones, so that each zone can be shut down if not required.	
One	<b>Lake Pillans/Blast Furnace Park Precinct</b> – Bins and Childrens Play area. I believe lake Pillans could use more bins especially at the top lake closer to the blast furnace. Also, a children's play area between the blast furnace and the lake would be a good investment	

		environmental aspects of the Precinct and include sensory and educational play.
One	<p><b>Learn to Ride Circuit for children</b> – Endeavour Park or Queen Elizabeth Park</p> <p>Our pump track is fantastic! BUT I would love to see something for the younger kids: There is a fantastic 'Learn to Ride' area adjacent to Boongaree playground in Berry, perfect for young riders. Bike paths imitating roads, with all different road signs, tunnels, bumps and dips, pretend shops and petrol station, etc. We don't have anything like it here or nearby- and I feel like it would draw people from the mountains and Bathurst too. (Bathurst has a lousy one). A fenced area, with picnic tables, even BBQ area, some shady trees, so parents and families can make a day of it and enjoy, knowing their kids are fenced in and safe. We have plenty of space for it- either near the adventure playground, Queen Elizabeth Park, or the beautiful big space on Inch Street near the current park or across from the current park.</p>	<p>These matters can be considered as part of expansion and longer-term planning for Endeavour Park and Lake Wallace.</p> <p>Council is looking into suitable locations for a children's "learn to ride" area.</p>
One	<p>Upgrade the <b>dog park at Endeavour Park</b></p> <p>The dog park needs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved higher fencing to ensure dogs cannot jump over or nudge their way underneath.</li> <li>2. Stainless steel water troughs with suitable drainage in both sides of the park.</li> <li>3. Shaded seating in both sides of the park</li> <li>4. Topsoil &amp; re-grassing the top section. The current gravel full is uncomfortable for humans &amp; dangerous for doggy paws.</li> <li>5. Updated signage with rules/etiquette for users.</li> <li>6. Replace/upgrade the poo-loos.</li> <li>7. And just maybe a sealed path from the bottom gate to Amiens St.</li> </ol>	<p>Council conducts regular safety inspections and addresses safety and compliance issues as required. However, the replacement of recreational infrastructure is currently focused on the replacement of non-compliant playground infrastructure which represents a direct hazard to the community.</p>
Cr Statham	Pump track for Wallerawang	Council doesn't have any plans to develop this type of facility at Wallerawang.

## Lithgow Sporting Precinct

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p><b>Upgrade of the Lithgow Showground</b>            help the showground with upgrades so we could compete with other towns and bid for major sporting events this would mean a real lot to our community and Business help to bring money into town in new needed ways but for this to happen changers is Badly needed to accommodate and hold more People almost like becoming Lithgow stadium I Believe this is what it would be the best the town moving Forward plus will make new jobs but to do this we need the right infrastructure in place with a plan .</p>	<p>In recent years, participation in sport has somewhat dwindled. Our local sporting teams are struggling to attract new members. The Council frequently hears that local facilities and amenities require an uplift if Lithgow is to put its best foot forward in attracting local youth toward the healthy lifestyle choices associated with sport, but also to host competitive matches from other regions.</p> <p>Lithgow is in the fortunate position that all of its facilities are centralised in one precinct. Not only does this bring about a 'walkability' aspect to local sport, it affords Lithgow the chance to consider the development of multi-use sporting facilities that cater to a broad range of needs, thereby instilling the objectives of inclusion and social cohesion broadly throughout the community.</p>
One	<p><b>Lithgow Outdoor Basketball Court</b>            1. Upgrade the outdoor basketball court next to the Skate Park.            2. Consider an option to put another court in another location in Lithgow i.e. Blast Furnace Park Precinct.</p> <p><b>Multi-purpose Sports Parking Area – Old Hermitage Flat Site</b>            A multi-purpose sports parking area at the old Hermitage Flat site on Coalbrook St/Sandford Ave, Lithgow. This could be a great asset for the town attracting a lot more parking for our sporting facilities which are in the area. It could also be used as parking for people using the recently installed walkways along Farmers Creek.</p>	<p>Upgrades continue to occur through the Lithgow Sporting Precinct, but there is no vision or end goal as to what the Council is trying to achieve. Similarly, there is no roadmap or action plan to get there, and the community has not had an opportunity to shape this vision.</p>
One	<p><b>Lithgow Skatepark – Upgrade</b>            Extension/Upgrades to existing Lithgow Skatepark that would include smaller obstacles for beginners to start and improve skills on before progressing to larger sections on current park. Would also include "street" type obstacles. Area of current park that was a "car park" but now has basketball hoop would be ideal to extend onto.</p> <p><b>Lithgow Outdoor Basketball Court.</b>            Also propose moving existing basketball hoop to a full sized outdoor concrete court on the area adjacent to cricket nets on Watford Oval, as would make for an ideal outdoor recreation area with Oval, pool, skatepark all very close together. Locals could then organise 3x3 basketball games with their friends or even start a local group of players without the need to hire. Stadium and the registration fees associated and could take advantage of nice weather of summer evenings.</p>	<p>To address this, Council has engaged a skilled consultant to conduct an objective analysis of the layout and available infrastructure, who will produce an action plan for improvement. Matters Council expects to be considered are (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive and directional signage</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Amenity and visual improvements</li> <li>• Traffic and pedestrian flow arrangements</li> <li>• Mobility and disability access considerations</li> <li>• Facility upgrades (with a focus on multi-use community assets)</li> <li>• Gaps in services (such as public toilets, footpaths, seatings etc.)</li> </ul>

		<p>The Council will be engaging with the community during May on the development of this Masterplan.</p> <p>All of the submissions received to date will be taken into consideration as part of this process and thereby form part of the overarching strategy.</p> <p>Respondents and key user groups will be contacted and provided an opportunity to provide further input into the Lithgow Sporting Precinct Masterplan when submissions open.</p>
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## Mountain Bike Trails

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
Five	Mountain Bike Park/ Activities Hassans Walls and State Mine/Gardens of Stone	<p>The Lithgow Mountain Bike Transformation Project is currently underway with funding auspice by the Central Tableland Mountain Bike Club. A Project Control Group is currently working on planning pathways for the multi-stakeholder development.</p> <p>The Hassans Walls Plan of Management includes reference to a series of Mountain Bike Tracks close to the Pony Xpress. These are yet to be given formal approval as environmental and cultural assessments are currently being undertaken. Investigation is underway to find sources or opportunities to fund the formal build and accreditation of these tracks.</p>
One	Hassan's walls: A scenic trail circumnavigating the whole reserve with multiple lookout options. Lake Lyle: A series of gravity flow trails overlooking the lake much like lake Jindabyne.	
One	Mountain Bike trails at State Mine Gully	
One	Lithgow town MTB hub, with a Mountain Bike Park and trials built in surrounding areas of Lithgow.	
One	Primarily Hassan's Walls Reserve, but could be around Clarence/ Dobbs drift/ Scotchman's Hill escarpments	
Two	Maintained Mountain Bike Trails – Hassans Walls	

## JM Robson Aquatic Centre

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	Open the <b>canteen at the pool</b> or lease it out cheaply. Having food facilities will only draw people to the pool, especially over the summer holidays. Get the coffee machine working and mother's groups could come and meet at the pool. You could offer babies lessons and coffee, and there is so much space for the babies/prams. There is so much opportunity to when food, drink and coffee is available. Such a wasted space!	A business case is already under development to seek Council's consideration of leasing the kiosk facility only. It is expected that this course of action would provide the best service to the community while also, at minimal risk, while also building a revenue stream for the organisation.

## Waste

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p><b>Waste – Circular Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of Tip Shop and introduction of FOGO.</li> <li>• Phase out the use of soft plastics.</li> <li>• In partnership with Greenspot attract future focused businesses to the area.</li> <li>• What if instead of backing a waste incinerator we could attract businesses that reduce plastic rather than encouraged its use? Greenspot would truly be Green.</li> </ul>	<p>Council has no control over the supply and use of soft plastics, however Council will continue to educate the community on waste minimisation and avoidance of waste in the first instance, as per the Waste Hierarchy in Council's Waste Strategy.</p> <p>Lithgow Council will continue to pursue opportunities that reduce waste generation and minimise the need for landfilling as per the Waste Hierarchy in Council's Waste Strategy.</p> <p>As part of Lithgow's Evolving Economy Plan, a wide variety of key stakeholders have been identified, including Greenspot. Council continues to work closely with Greenspot to bring their required planning proposal to the fore, the first step in unlocking these lands for future development.</p> <p>The site offers great potential for use by renewable componentry manufacturing for example, which will support the entire region and the nearby REZ, as the country moves toward its net zero objectives.</p>

## Oakey Park

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
Oakey Park Resident Group	<p><b>Main priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seating options across the park, benches, picnic table, located in the shade.</li> <li>• Fencing and tree planting to manage illegal vehicle access, anti-social behaviour, and damage to the grassed areas in the park. All fencing and built structures to reflect Oakey Park's 1920s themed heritage.</li> <li>• Gym and play equipment.</li> <li>• additional plantings to produce shade trees across the park. Perimeter trees - exotic or native. Establishment of linear gardens along the perimeter.</li> <li>• Access to the creek through walkways.</li> <li>• BBQ and a covered picnic shelter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain vehicle access to road reserve on the eastern side of the park.</li> <li>• A fenced community garden.</li> <li>• Heritage plaques.</li> <li>• Opportunities for community art.</li> <li>• Opportunities for creek care</li> <li>• Bush regeneration &amp; habitat management.</li> </ul> <p>Our group of residents understand the limitations of the council budget. But we are also willing to do volunteer work in the park under the auspices of council and/or Landcare</p>	<p>Council is looking at the liveability of our town centres and villages and the suggestions for parkland development are being considered for a range of parks across the LGA.</p> <p>Oakey Park forms part of the Farmers Creek Corridor with future park upgrades and connection to the Farmers Creek shared path network subject to funding.</p> <p>A new toilet block has been included in the Draft 2024/25 Operational Plan for Oakey Park.</p>

## Capertee Valley

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
Glen Davis Community Association	<p><b>Glen Davis Amenities Block – Replace or Upgrade</b> The existing amenities block is in an appalling state of repair, is not Disability Compliant, is the subject of adverse visitor comment, is hard to maintain to a health standard and does not reflect well on Council's efforts to support economic growth and diversity through tourism</p> <p><b>Glen Davis Community Hall – Kitchen Upgrade</b> The existing kitchen is a makeshift set of cupboards and shelves that have been there for over 15 years. The surfaces, food preparation areas, cupboards and sinks are NOT foodsafe. Cupboards can't be shut to keep out vermin. The existing stove is 15 years old and well past its useby date. This is an active community facility with the kitchen being used regularly and it should be a kitchen that complies with current standards.</p>	The Council will work with the Capertee Valley Community to develop a Village Plan, this will focus on those improvements that are required to facilitate village growth and future community needs, remaining conscious of the Council's broad remit and limited resources.
Cr Ring	Installation of new stainless-steel kitchen to <b>Glen Davis Community Hall</b>	
Capertee Valley Landcare	<p><b>Weed Management through Partnership with Capertee Valley Landcare</b> Volunteers through Capertee Valley Landcare are undertaking regeneration works on Council's Glen Davis Reserve (under Licence). The 18-hectare site has significant potential to showcase the world class natural environment of the Capertee Valley without huge investment by Council. Basic weed management by Council as the responsible landowner is required to reduce grass fire risks for local residents and properties and to enable more passive recreation by Lithgow LGA residents and tourists.</p>	

## Economic Development

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p><b>Promote Lithgow as a location for remote workers.</b>            I would like to propose two related but separate activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Lithgow as an ideal destination for virtual/remote workers on the council website.</li> <li>Explore a no/low admission cost council supported co-working space to further increase Lithgow's attractiveness for virtual/remote workers.</li> </ol> <p>I recently felt I would benefit from spending a day or two a week in a coworking space to replicate some of the benefits of being in an office – however I have discovered the options are very limited. I am aware that some co-working options exists via the Lithgow Transformation Hub, but this isn't well advertised, and it does not seem to be an ideal working environment. Also, the cost is prohibitive at \$25/day for a casual ad-hoc users. Is this fee something that council could subsidise for Lithgow City Council residents/rate payers?</p> <p>Given there are many vacant shops in Lithgow Main Street, I believe an opportunity also exists to explore what a council funded co-working space could look like. This in my mind would involve the Council having or gaining a vision of the long-term economic benefits of remote workers and then undertaking a forward-thinking feasibility study in how they could make this happen. For example, if this was simply funded and setup by the council, I would be very supportive and believe many in the community would be as well.</p>	<p>Lithgow Library is in the process of updating its internal spaces following the receipt of a Public Library Infrastructure Grant which includes the installation of Pod style study booths to allow for both individual and small group study or meeting spaces.</p> <p>The booths range from a small 1–2-person booth to two larger booths.</p> <p>The first large booth is set for 6-8 person use with long benches on either side of a long table.</p> <p>The second large booth has disability access with a wider door and a collapsible ramp to allow access. This booth also has a sit-stand desk and mobile task chair. Other chairs can be added if more people wish to use the space. In its current format it will comfortably hold 1-4 people.</p> <p>The library also has a meeting room which can be hired. This room holds 20 people comfortably in board room style or 30 people in lecture room style. It is fitted with a large screen display that has internet access and video conferencing equipment. There are two large whiteboards also.</p> <p>Hire fees for these spaces are included in the Draft 2025/26 Fees &amp; Charges.</p>
One	<p><b>Indoor Play Centre – For all ages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Franchise businesses such as Monkey Mania, Flip-out, Timezone, Mini/putt putt golf, Ten pin Bowling, Indoor Rock Climbing</li> </ul>	<p>These types of businesses are generally privately owned and operated, relying on commercial factors to determine the viability of future expansions of their business. Through the Lithgow Evolving Economy Plan, it is suggested that growth can be achieved, which in turn may result in an increased residential base and thereby improved conditions for such a facility to operate.</p>



		At this time however, Council has no capacity to influence decisions surrounding a commercial indoor play centre within the LGA.
One	<p><b>Business Workshops</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generating Income and Grant writing workshops for local community groups and not for profits - Participants will learn fundraising, sponsorship, and grant writing strategies to support their community group's financial goals.</li> <li>2. Grant Writing and pitching projects for small business - participants learn how to design projects for their business and how to successfully seek funding for their implementation Each of these workshops can also be complemented by accompanying 1:1 mentoring sessions of required</li> </ol>	While valuable, Council does not have the capacity to organise and run these types of events, nor is it best placed to do so. Instead, it is likely more beneficial for the Council to partner with the likes of the Chamber of Commerce, Western Sydney University, or the NSW Government to offer such programs.
One	<p><b>Mushroom Foraging Workshops</b></p> <p>To teach mushroom foraging skills to the local people. Extensive pine forests in the region mean there is an abundance of edible mushrooms that can be collected and sold to the market. This initiative can be structured as a social enterprise by prioritising youth and the unemployed. I have been teaching foraging skills for about 20 years, and now live in Lithgow. I am a registered mushroom forager with Forestry NSW. I have direct contact with distributors in Flemington Market.</p> <p>State Forest around Lithgow: Lidsdale, Sunny Corner, Hampton. The mushroom season goes from mid-March to late May.</p>	The Destination Action Plan 2024 – 2026 identifies new opportunities for creating unique, memorable and bookable experiences. The promotion of foraging season with registered foragers may arise from Destination Action Plan Experiences.
One	<p><b>Main St Facade Restoration Scheme</b></p> <p>I am suggesting changes to the Main St Facade Restoration scheme. I have had a look at the last "budget" and couldn't find how much money is put aside each year for this, but I think Council should do a real hard push on this for three years. Change the amount that landlords can ask for in kind - currently it is \$2500. I propose putting it up to \$5000. Allocate funding for up to 20 businesses per year, a total of \$100,000.</p> <p>First and foremost, there would need to be a change to the council policy 8.3. The extent of the scheme is listed in the policy, as far as location. A targeted campaign to inform landlords/owners of the changes to the scheme. A letter sent with rates notices. Also, a quarterly/half yearly push on social media. I can just imagine how much more attractive our CBD's might be if 60 businesses have a makeover in three years. The estimated cost below is yearly, and allows for costs of printing, mailing, and other parts of the advertising campaign.</p>	<p>There have been minimal applications for the Main Street Facade Program in recent years. Successful applications have been funded within recurrent Department budgets rather than having a specific budget allocation. Due to Council's budget position, there is no change proposed to this approach for the 2024/25 year.</p> <p>Policy 8.3 Main Street Facade Restoration Program will be reviewed early in the new Council term to determine the future of the program.</p> <p>The submission is appreciated and will be considered at the time of the policy review.</p>

One	<p><b>Promotion of Services/Facilities/Community Groups</b>  More advertising of the services &amp; community groups we offer - soccer, hockey &amp; football fields, tennis courts, croquet club, aquatic centre, go kart track, basketball courts, netball courts, adventure parks, pump track, skateboard parks...the list goes on. Let's attract more people by advertising these amazing amenities!</p>	<p>Council is currently reviewing its website and will be redeveloping the site to improve site navigation and promotion of the services and facilities that Council has to offer.</p> <p>The Lithgow Mercury and Lithgow Information &amp; Neighbourhood Centre (LINC) produce, an annual Community Guide. Copies are available from Council's customer service centre.</p> <p>The Council's Community Development Team previously facilitated the development of a website. This was taken over by LINC and has now been discontinued as it is resource intensive and reliant on community groups to ensure details are current.</p>
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## Lidsdale

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p><b>Planting native trees and habitat and trees to shade parking space at entry to Wolgan Road.</b>  we live in Lidsdale. And the Council very nicely made a new path up one side of Wolgan Road. So now that it is used regularly by walkers and dog walkers, many tourists drive up this road. We would love to see tree planting to make it both cooler and shadier along this road.</p> <p><b>Entryway to Lidsdale from the highway.</b>  People often park in a scruffy, dry, messy area just opposite the petrol station. This is begging for landscaping and maybe a NICE table and roof structure. Something in keeping with the area. Not those horrible metal things that NSW Roads put up. Something with a pitched roof maybe. But TREES and planting are the most important. We would be more than willing to help organise a community group to help or do this project.</p>	<p>Work with the Lidsdale Community to develop a Strategic Plan for Wallerawang/ Lidsdale.</p>
One	<p><b>Lidsdale tennis courts and club house</b>  To be brought up to a standard so that they could be accessed and used by the communities of Lidsdale and Wallerawang</p>	

## Environment

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p><b>Install community vehicle wash down bays in Portland, Wallerawang and Lithgow</b> in industrial areas possibly near council depots or waste depots., that can be used by council vehicles, contractors i.e. rail workers, energy providers, farmers to prevent the spread of pests, weeds and diseases across the LGA. These are predominately for under vehicle spraying to remove organic matter. Local car washes are not equipped to have under wash at the manual wash bays and many commercial vehicles are not suitable to go through the automatic bays. These could be automated to be activated when driving over a grate, and potentially operated with a Tap card facility for a fee. Council do very little to promote the management of biosecurity threats. Biosecurity has real financial impacts on local landholders</p>	<p>Relevant businesses are required to the have a biosecurity plan under the Biosecurity Act and are required to adhere to these requirements. This can include installation of washdown bays and other vehicle hygiene needs. The costs associated with this requirement should be borne by the business owner and not subsidised by the public.</p>
One	<p><b>Bowenfels Gun Emplacements</b> Major upgrade of gun emplacements in South Bowenfels now that Gunners Place subdivision has been constructed. Concrete footpaths, landscaping, signage, parking, lighting and then marketing of the historical significance of the guns to draw tourists to town.</p>	<p>Council is currently preparing a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Bowenfels gun emplacements. This CMP will provide direction for work to preserve and interpret the site and additional site planning will address connections to adjacent pathways and community. Council will need to source additional funds to develop this site.</p>

## Renewable Energy

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	Investigate Renewable Energy Projects that do not interfere with our local environment. Projects that may serve the community with more jobs for local people.	<p>Lithgow Council recently completed and endorsed its 'Lithgow Evolving Economy Plan' (LEEP), which is a long-term strategy and vision to fundamentally shift the local economy from jobs of the past, toward new industry in the fields of advanced manufacturing, green power generation, tourism, health and public administration.</p> <p>Importantly, the LEEP suggests those actions which the Council must take to unlock opportunities in these sectors. These are important projects involving updates to Council's land use planning and infrastructure provision, among other things.</p> <p>Overall, the objective of the LEEP is to firm up Lithgow's future as a hub for renewable energy projects. Work has already commenced in this space through a review of Council's Employment Lands Strategy</p>

## Tourism

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p>A promotional project between tourism and business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the Seven Valleys moniker, signage could be created around the LGA encouraging people to take photos and post on their socials using a hashtag e.g. #seethesevenvalleys</li> <li>A monthly/quarterly prize could be given out for the best photo. Prizes would be experiences across the LGA. With the goal being to bring people back to the LGA and have them continue to advertise our region on our behalf.</li> </ul>	<p>The new Destination Action Plan identifies a multi-channel approach to attracting publicity, increased visitation and return into the visitor economy. Photo assets are highly sought after, and these ideas will be factored into the development of a new social media strategy to follow the completion of the DAP.</p>
One	<p>I do not believe that <b>Lake Wallace</b> should have free camping since it is not adding money to the economy and in fact may be taking it away. It's not "free camping" it is "subsidised camping" paid for by the Lithgow area ratepayers with the Council bearing all operational risks because it's not a managed or regulated camp site. The current signage references LGA Section 632 to operate a recreational dog park not a campground. Council should be promoting Lake Lyell campground, the Lithgow Tourist and van park and Venice caravan park which are Compliant and Managed. What is the business case if its free for two days only?</p>	<p>As part of upcoming development, Council and the community will be reviewing the opportunities presented at Lake Wallace and how these will be managed into the future, including camping.</p>
One	<p><b>Café &amp; Culture Walk</b>  A café &amp; culture walk using the walkways along Farmers Creek - let's start attracting visitors to the Main St precinct. Involve cafes, the library, Eskbank House etc. Tourism should already be all over a project like this to keep visitors in the area. They can set off from the visitor information centre on foot or on bike to explore the fantastic Main St we have! It might even entice new business to open.</p>	<p>The new Destination Action Plan identifies a strategic direction with priority actions to create new activities and experiences, and to encourage and foster collaboration between council and the private sector, and between private sector businesses. A signage strategy will be developed in due course.</p>

## Tourism - signage

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p><b>New signage in the heart of Lithgow.</b> There are two types of signs I am proposing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First, a pair of signs, back-to-back on one piece of metal (or other suitable material) that could be entitled East Walk and West Walk. On it, there would be a blown-up map of the Main Street, Railway Parade, and Mort Street - both from the east of Cook Plaza and to the west. On these maps could be places on interest for people visiting.</li> <li>• The second type of signage would be an overhead map of the region, with two circles (reminiscent of a radar screen.) The idea would be to highlight what could be visited within 30 minutes from Lithgow, and 60 minutes from Lithgow (The circles used as a rough guide for times.) And these things would be all the villages, Gardens of Stone, Newnes State Forest, The Foundations, Zig Zag Railway, Hassans Walls etc.</li> </ul>	<p>A Destination Action Plan has been developed which identifies the need for a Marketing and Branding Strategy. Once the latter is completed the next step will be using the material that is developed for the Marketing and Branding Strategy to develop a signage strategy incorporating the look and feel of signage that is LCC or Tourism, wayfinding, directional, or locational.</p>
One	<p><b>New and enlarged welcome to Lithgow Signage</b> – entrances to Lithgow – east and west and Bells Line of Road entrance to Lithgow. Existing signage is fading and in poor state.</p>	
Cr Statham	<p>New signage for Portland – <b>Saville &amp; Kremer Parks</b> Information Glass Show Case for outside the <b>Union Theatre</b> for “What’s On”</p>	

## Tourism – Lake Lyell

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	I suggest that Lithgow Council negotiate with Energy Australia and gain ownership of more land around Lake Lyell and Mt Walker. Then develop this area into a major Tourist destination, encompassing the Seven Valleys and Lake Lyell Recreational area. Suggestions of a Trip Line and an artificial Ski Slope off Mt Walker. Bike tracks and walking tracks around Lake Lyell, starting point at Lithgow Hospital. A Nature Park where the Platypus colony is with other native animals and native Flora.	<p>The Council is continuing to look at future opportunities for the growth of tourism and future recreation assets.</p> <p>The Council will engage with the community as the opportunities mature and develop.</p>
One	Platypus and marine bird sanctuary Farmers Creek/Lake Lyell similar to that of Blackbutt Reserve Wildlife Exhibit in Newcastle. It is a community area where groups can gather, children play and enjoy the natural animals.	
One	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upgrade Lake Lyell access gate to allow credit card payment option rather than coins only.</li> <li>2. Allow an annual admissions day pass for Lithgow City Council residents to Lake Lyell. If this cannot be arranged allow bulk purchase of day pass admissions (i.e. Purchase 25 admissions in bulk with a card or PIN to access the lake)</li> </ol>	There is a lease arrangement in place as part of a commercial arrangement and the Council continues to work with the campground operator on future opportunities for improvement of the day-to-day management of the site.

## Hassans Walls Lookout

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<p>I use Hassans Walls (Lookout), almost daily for exercise and recreational activity. Generally speaking, it is quite well maintained. The improvements I would like to see are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signage to warn motorist that it is a multi-use facility with walkers, runners, cyclist etc on the road. There are a lot of drivers who think 60km/h is appropriate.</li> <li>2. Bigger bins at the top. Almost daily the otto bins at the lookout are full and rubbish piles up around them. More frequent emptying or larger, more bins is a must.</li> <li>3. Toilets. As a walker, the amount of tissue paper secreted amongst the shrubs and trees is really disgusting. Perhaps a long drop style loo similar to Glow Worm Tunnels and River Lett rest area would suffice to reduce the number of visitors that are availing themselves of the shrubbery.</li> </ol>	<p>The plan for Hassans Walls is for limited amenities due to its proximity to the centre of Lithgow.</p> <p>An audit will be undertaken for the signage requirements of Hassans Walls Reserve.</p>



## Community Safety

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<b>CCTV Cameras - Portland</b> CCTV cameras installed at the new Portland playground near the IGA, as well as at the Portland skatepark.	Council has a limited budget for new and renewed CCTV cameras. Council will consider the request for CCTV cameras in Portland should a grant opportunity arise. Once a funding source has been identified, Council will consult with the Portland community and Police to identify suitable locations for CCTV Cameras in Portland.
Cr Ring	<b>Street Lighting - Wallerawang</b> Install additional lights along Main St Wallerawang to shine on Federation Park – enhancing pedestrian safety	The Council is looking at priority sites for passive and active streetscape lighting, including Queen Elizabeth Park. Lighting arrangements will be implemented under this program and as fund become available.

## Stormwater

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	<b>Marrangaroo Fields – Stormwater Management</b> Provide proper stormwater management for the Marrangaroo Fields subdivision to prevent flooding of property particularly Bundarra Place.	The Lithgow and Marrangaroo Floodplain Risk Management Plan has identified flood mitigation priorities an implementation strategy for these priorities is currently being developed.
Cr Ring	Undertake drainage works between Blackett Drive and lake Wallace Park. Resident previously advised works would be done	Improvement works to reinstate earth bunds in this area will occur under general maintenance provisions in 2024/25.

## CBD Revitalisation

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	Rip up Main St Footpath pavers & replace with brush finish concrete.	All submissions regarding Main Street upgrade have been included as submissions to the Lithgow Main Street Restoration Project.  Respondents were advised accordingly and provided with a link to <a href="http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com">www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com</a> to review the plans and provide feedback.
One	Main St Pavers to be made safe between Bridge Street & Lithgow Street.	
One	<p>One of the ideas we would love to see go ahead in town, particularly along Main Street in the CBD is the addition of trees</p> <p>I genuinely think as a revenue stream and a way to pay for improvements to the CBD it is time to implement parking meters to the CBD area. Between Bridge Street and Lithgow Street. Some of the revenue stream from the paid parking could be put back into beautifying the street, with trees, planters, etc. I know space is limited but even if we lose a couple parking spaces to add trees and a wider footpath.</p>	

## Footpaths/Walking Tracks

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
One	Concrete foot path around Respect aged care in <b>Church St /Maple Cr, Lithgow</b>	This is a project already included within the 2023/24 Operational Plan and will be delivered this financial year.
Cr Ring	Upgrade footpath from <b>Wallerawang PS to James Pde</b> and install solar lights	Lithgow's endorsed Active Transport Plan does not suggest that this footpath requires upgrading. It is largely to a shared path width, in acceptable condition.
	<b>Federation Park – Wallerawang</b> – footpaths above ground level causing issues. Need to slope ground from paths back to avoid trip hazards	This can be considered within the 2024/25 maintenance and operational program.
Cr Statham	Footpath between Portland and Wallerawang	This would come at a significant cost with approximately 10km of footpath, significant embankments and several bridges required. This was not put forward as a priority and is thereby not referenced within the endorsed Active Transport strategy. Notwithstanding, should the Council consider this project a priority it is suggested that funds be allocated to the detailed design and costing of this pathway before inclusion of its construction in the operational plan.
One	Investigate the possibility of having a walkway between Lithgow & Wallerawang	This has not been included as a priority within Lithgow's Active Transport strategy, with several other key links missing that require greater attention. However, should the Marrangaroo precinct be subject to further development, there may be opportunity in this space.
One	<b>Walking track along Magpie Hollow Road</b> with tree coverage from GWH to Lake Lyell currently used on a regular basis by walkers a designated track with parking and viewing platform with view of Lake Lyell.	This has not been included within Lithgow's Active Transport strategy, with several other key links missing that require greater attention. However, should further development occur at the base of Magpie Hollow Road, there may be an opportunity to link the bottom section of the road to the Great Western Highway.
One	<b>Farmers Creek Walking/Cycling Track</b> extension from corner of Gas works lane and Clwydd St across to the Blast furnace carpark	This crossing would require crossing the major rail line and come with significant costs. Future extensions of the walking/cycling track are subject to funding.
One	A <b>pedestrian/cycle bridge</b> over Farmers Creek at <b>Burton Street</b> .	Council continues to work with the local community to develop an acceptable option that will not result in any unintended effects to the local floodplain. New designs are nearly complete, and budget remains available for a culvert structure to span the creek in this location this financial year.
One	<b>Farmers Creek – Lake Lyell</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bushwalking &amp; Bike Riding Tracks</li> </ul>	Lithgow City Council is in the process of recruiting for a Natural Area Management Officer. One of their first tasks upon commencing with

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage Landowners to clean up and maintain boundaries on Farmers Creek.</li> <li>• Encourage Landowners to develop native vegetation.</li> <li>• Create an Ecological Nature Park incorporating the Native Platypus where Farmers Creek Meets Lake Lyell _Include Native Flora &amp; Fauna.</li> <li>• Toilet amenities and Picnic Areas along the tracks</li> <li>• Wayfinding and ecotourism information regarding local environment/flora &amp; fauna.</li> </ul>	<p>Council is the delivery of a Management Plan for Farmers Creek. This strategy will comprise a holistic vision for the natural asset.</p>
<p>One</p>	<p><b>Mt Blaxland Heritage Track Proposal</b> comes at an ideal time when Lithgow needs more tourist appeal than ever. Such a track, from McKane's Falls Bridge to the Crown Reserve of Mt Blaxland, along the Cox's River, would provide a delightful walking track to add to the array of outdoor recreational activities suitable for Lithgow visitors. It could easily be then linked to the proposed Great Western walk across the Blue Mountains following in the footsteps of the Indigenous tracks and those of the early European explorers and settlers of this region.</p>	<p>While Council is supportive of this project it is not on Council manage lands (combination Crown Land and private land) and the Council will continue to work with the custodians of Mt Blaxland Reserve as required.</p>