



# MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 19 February 2025

at 4:00 PM

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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<b>1. Acknowledgement of Country .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Present .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Apologies .....</b>	<b>3</b>
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<b>5.1. Finalised Hassans Walls Reserve Reports.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.2. Structure and Focus of EAC .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6. General Business .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7. Meeting Close .....</b>	<b>7</b>

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:17 pm.

## **1. Acknowledgement of Country**

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.

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The Mayor 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**

Present: Mayor Cass Coleman, Clr Eric Mahony, Ross Gurney, Julie Favell, Trish Kidd, Susan Gregory

Officers: Shaun Elwood, Cassie Turner (Minutes)

## **3. Apologies**

Clr Ring and Sharon Riley

## **4. Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

## **Chairperson**

Mayor Cass Coleman elected Clr Mahony to chair the meeting.

**MOVED:** Eric Mahony

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory

**CARRIED**

## **5. Items for Discussion**

### **5.1. Finalised Hassans Walls Reserve Reports**

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An overview on the finalisation was given to the Committee for the Hassans Walls Reserve Reports which were circulated in May 2024.

- Council formalised the reports and revived final versions in December.
- Gondwana have been engaged to prepare the Plan of Management for the reserve.

It was noted that the Lithgow Mountain Bike Project will be tabled at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed DA Conditions not being complied with for the current Mountain Bike Track at Hassans..

Economic Management and Nature Base License Systems need to be addressed in relation to Council managed reserves.

**ACTION:** Administration to seek delivery date for Draft Plan of Management from Gondwana Consulting.

#### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee receives the verbal update on the finalisation of Hassans Walls Reports and an agenda item for the Lithgow Mountain Bike Project is tabled for the next meeting.

**MOVED:** Mayor Cass Coleman

**SECONDED:** Julie Favell

**CARRIED**

## 5.2. Structure and Focus of EAC

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Terms of Reference for the Committee was discussed and the following recommendations were made:

- Continue with every two months on a Wednesday.
- 1.5 Hours rather than 1 hour - 4.00pm to 5:30pm
- Provision for an additional committee meeting if there is a critical issue.
  
- Committee Membership is comprised of specific representation. The following changes were discussed:
  - Revisit/Confirm Membership of LLS - Reoffer position on Committee.
  - Contact Tidy Towns and discuss *Membership (Subsequently Tidy Towns have advised on and confirmed their representative)*

Invitation to Guests such as National Parks/Crown Lands etc for particular Agenda items was discussed and seen to be a good idea.

Nominations for new committee members will be reported to Ordinary Council Meeting of 24 March 2025.

Encouragement of Information prior to EAC meetings was noted.

**ACTION:** Cllr Mahony to contact Tidy Towns and Administration to contact LLS in relation to Committee memberships.

### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee receives outside of the meeting the discussion on the structure/focus and changes to Terms of Reference for EAC.

**MOVED:** Mayor Cass Coleman

**SECONDED:** Julie Favell

**CARRIED**

## **6. General Business**

### **The following items carried over to next meeting – 9 April 2025**

#### **ITEM 1**

#### **Vehicle Access Hyde Park Reserve Hartley**

##### **Summary**

The vehicle access road that leads to Hyde Park Reserve is crown land, with no active land manager. The access road is in very poor condition, and has restricted regular vehicle access for some time, particularly after rain events.

The reserve is effectively land-locked (except for 4WDs), via the Vacant Crown Road. This isolates the area from the public, creating an ideal space for anti-social activities and vandalism.

Please see Business Paper – Agenda – EAC 12 June 2024

Council's response was as per the below;

##### **Recommendation**

THAT Council investigate viable options for the active management of the vehicle access road to Hyde Park Reserve in order to make it more accessible.

##### **Administration Response**

The Council has no capacity to assume responsibility for the maintenance of roads that are currently outside its care and control. The road into Hyde Park is a Crown Road that leads into a crown reserve. This is not a Council maintained asset.

If Council was to receive funding from Crown Lands to perform maintenance, alongside Crown Lands written confirmation that this is 'one-off' works that do not constitute Council's willingness to maintain the asset in perpetuity, this would be a proposal Council may likely consider.

##### **Commentary**

It is now understood that Council has applied for funds through the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund, for drainage and surface improvement works on the access road to Hyde Park Reserve.

**Action:** The Natural Area Management Officer to confirm Access proposal is only on the Formal Crown Road (Not unaligned Road Section) and status of grant application.

**ITEM 2**

**Management of Native Vegetation at Lake Pillans Wetland**

**Summary**

Issues raised in June 2024 regarding invasive cutting and clearing of revegetation zones at Lakes Pillans Wetland; please see Business Paper – Agenda – EAC 12 June 2024.

**Commentary**

The Council recommendation was as per the below;

**Recommendation**

THAT Council undertake consultation and co-ordination with LOLA in regard to managing natural area rehabilitation and assets at Lake Pillans Wetlands.

The consultation has not occurred. Nobody has contacted LOLA to confirm process.

**Action:** Administration to arrange meeting with Director People & Places, Natural Area Management Officer, Parks and Gardens and LOLA to co-ordinate/ manage and map out natural area rehabilitation and assets at Lake Pillans Wetlands.

**ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Item 1 and Item 2 are carried over as reports to the next meeting.

**MOVED:** Julie Favell

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory

**CARRIED**

**7. Meeting Close**

Next Meeting: 9 April 2025 in the Committee Room at Lithgow City Council.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:15pm.