



Our Place Our Future

Delivery Program
Operational Plan

2022/23 – 2025/26
2024/25

6-MONTH
REPORT SUMMARY

JULY – DECEMBER
2024 - 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

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.



Message from the General Manager

I commenced as General Manager on 1 July 2024 and I am delighted to present the 2024/25 July to December 6-month report. The report highlights the Council's progress towards completing our Delivery Program / Operational Plan priorities.

I spent my first week as General Manager in Canberra, attending the Local Government National General Assembly with the Mayor. The visit to Canberra provided the opportunity to meet with Federal Government Ministers and opposition leaders. This highlights the importance of the Council's advocacy efforts to improve resource allocation by other levels of government to the Lithgow Local Government Area.

Key projects commenced, progressing or completed include:

- Concept design and environmental assessment for Wolgan Valley access while we await the funding application outcome.
- Endorsement of a 12-month action plan for the economic transition (LEEP).

- The Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline project to ensure future water security.
- \$16.6m spent on the 2024/25 capital works program.
- The Halloween and Christmas events.
- Induction and training of the new Council from October to December.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our Mayor and Councillors for their commitment to our community, as well as our teams for their dedication to delivering outcomes that matter. The highlights, stories and challenges provided in the 6-month report are only a small representation of the many services and projects delivered over July to December 2024.



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The 6-monthly progress report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines (OLG, 2021) essential element 4.9 -

"The general manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to the council, with respect to the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program, at least every 6 months."

All financial figures included in this report are preliminary, unaudited and subject to review as part of the audited 2023/24 financial statements for Council.

Highlights

Relaunching history for a new Age

Unveiling of the 118-year-old Blast Furnace Park with Christmas carols



Lithgow Halloween 2024

Putting Lithgow on the map

Halloween celebrations and Lithgow Christmas Concert



A think tank of the future

Establishment of Lithgow Jobs and Investment Committee



Education for the hungry mind

1220 visitors to the Eskbank House Museum and 3759 e-book loans from Lithgow LGA libraries



Christmas Concert 2024 Featuring Chris Sebastian

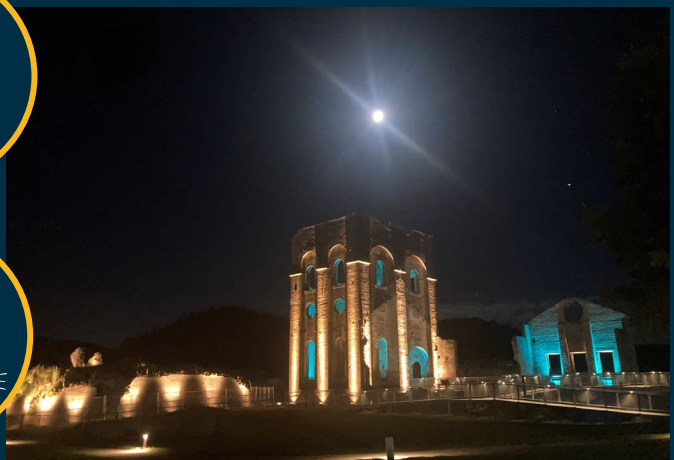
Sprouting roots

102 trees planted



Caring for all living things

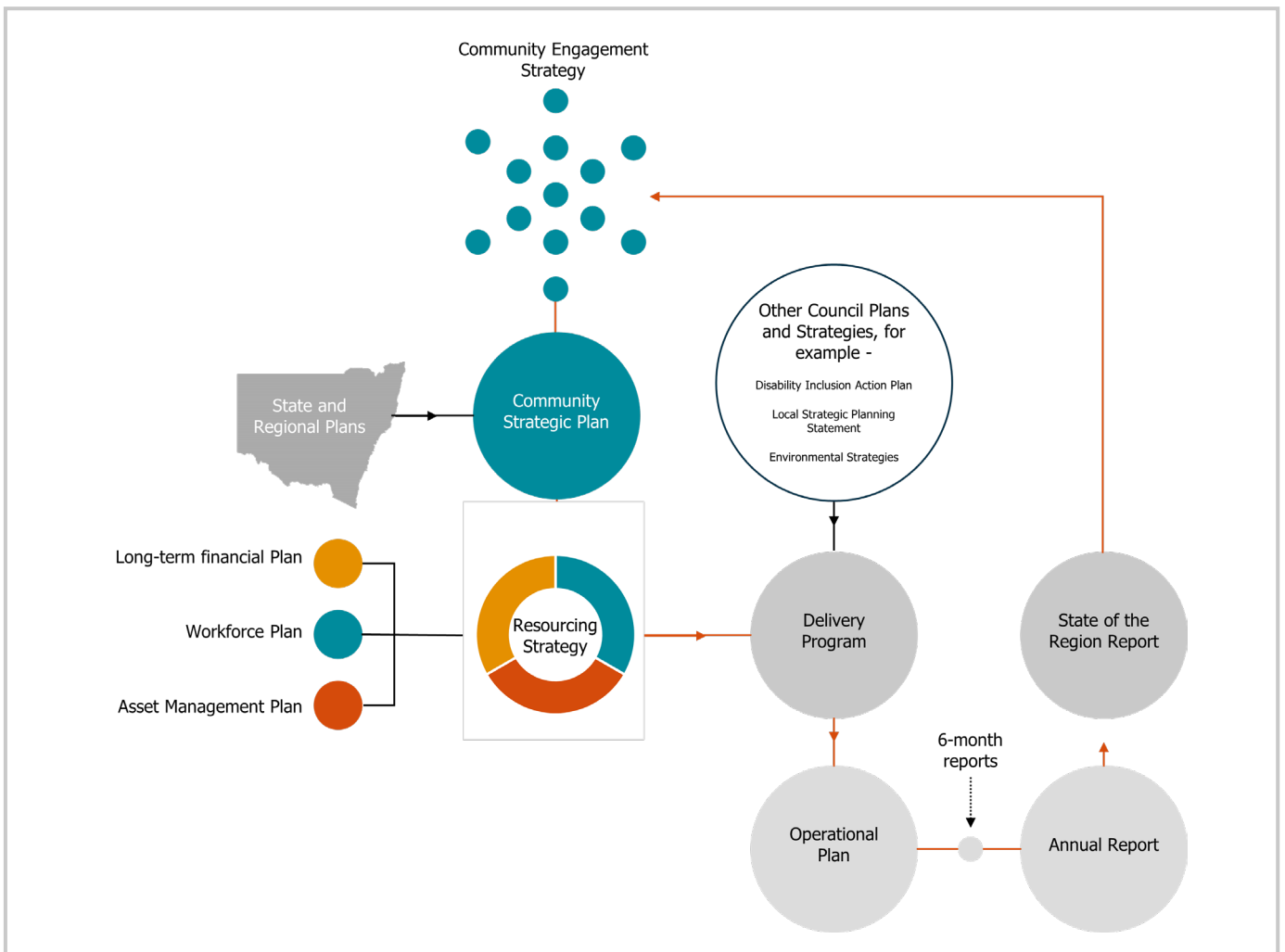
54 animals rescued and 44 returned to owners



Light Installations at Blast Furnace

Our Document Structure – Integrated Planning and reporting

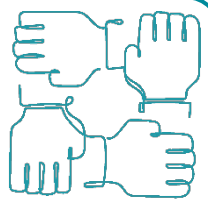




The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework brings together all Council’s plans. This ensures consistency between the aims outlined in different documents, improves planning and management of Council’s resources. How the documents are integrated and brought together is summarised in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework to the right.



Lithgow Council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Our Five Community Strategic Plan Themes

The Community Strategic Plan is at the top of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. It is written in collaboration with the community and identifies the key focus areas the community wishes to address in the upcoming fifteen years. These focus areas are referred to as “**themes**”. In 2020, Lithgow City Council prioritised the following five key themes. For more information on the Community Strategic Plan, visit the Lithgow City Council Website → Council → Strategic Plans and Reports

<p>Caring for Our Community (CC) Retaining, respecting and strengthening 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.</p>	
<p>Developing Our Built Environment (BE) 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.</p>	
<p>Enhancing Our Natural Environment (NE) Balancing, protecting and enhancing our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations.</p>	
<p>Strengthening Our Economy (SE) Providing 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 non-formal educational services.</p>	
<p>Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership (GL) Developing community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.</p>	



Our Priorities

What we seek to deliver – our Community Strategic Plan Advocacy Priorities

Advocacy is key to local council. By advocating for causes salient to the community, Lithgow Council ensures that sufficient funding is obtained for projects. These bring us a step closer to realising community's vision for Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA).

The Community Strategic Plan identifies three advocacy priorities for the upcoming years:

Sustainable Local government

- Substantially review and reform the funding arrangements for local government to provide the sector with the capacity to meet the many challenges of the 21st century.

A diverse, strong and resilient local economy

- Finalise and rapidly implement the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) – cross-government commitment, affirmative action, significant increase to the levels of funding provided for economic transformation (recognising that the task of transforming the Lithgow economy will require significant supporting funding over 7 – 10 years).
- Bring forward new employment precincts – utilise the capacity of the NSW Government to examine and then facilitate the re-purposing of the city's brownfield sites for employment purposes.
- Secure Lithgow's housing growth – resolve the issue of traffic access.

Sustainable transport options linking the Central West and Western Sydney to the Marrangaroo Urban Release Area.

- Work with Council to implement the Lithgow EV Strategy
- Improve road connections – Great Western Highway (GWH) upgrade – Advance the Great Western Highway upgrade (including addressing the matters raised in Council's submission)
- Recognise and act on the potential for Lithgow to act as a hub for improved rail services to the east and west.
- More frequent rail services between Lithgow and Western Sydney
- Consider the potential for faster and more frequent passenger rail services between Western Sydney and regional centers in the Central West



Our Advocacy Highlights

- In July the Mayor and General Manager met with senior politicians in Canberra and NSW Parliament House in November.
- Put 2025-2026 LEEP action Plan on exhibition
- Put LEEP Community Engagement Plan on exhibition
- Set a meeting between Mayor Coleman, Senator Deb O'Neill and Shane McLeod to discuss the progress of LEEP actions and highlight Lithgow's potential to the Net Zero Economic Authority.
- Commenced installation of charging units at the Eskbank Street carpark
- Provided input towards "Transport for NSW's Sydney to Central West Corridor Assessment and Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan".
- Held a meeting between the Mayor, General Manager and Director of Infrastructure and Economy; and the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, and representatives from the administration of Transport for NSW to advocate for improved rail services to the east and west.

A discussion of the LEEP Plan between the Mayor and Director of Infrastructure and Economy



What we seek to deliver – our **Operational Plan Priorities**

In line with Operational Plan Priorities, in 2024-25 we will be...

1. Implementing the 2024/25 Financial Sustainability Plan & Productivity Program actions.
2. Developing and improving technology and communications systems to meet organisation requirements.
3. Finalising and integrating Asset Management Plans with Strategic Asset Management plans which will be linked to improved Asset Management practice.
4. Meeting commitments and increasing capacity for project delivery.
5. Responding to natural disasters while working to improve resilience in our community.
6. Completing the Growth Strategy, Employment Lands Review and Housekeeping LEP
7. Implementing a community accessible online platform for Development Applications, approval information and automated Planning Certificates.
8. Establish a sustainable and focused Events Strategy.
9. Farmers Creek Integrated Catchment planning (Infrastructure/Engagement/ Restoration)
10. Progressing the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project.



Our progress in the last six months

1. Implementing the 2024/25 Financial Sustainability Plan & Productivity Program actions.

The Financial Sustainability Plan and Productivity Program split into five focus areas:

1. Responsible and sustainable income and spending
2. Investment in Infrastructure
3. Financial and Asset Management
4. Intergenerational Equity
5. Ongoing productivity improvements

Information on these will be published as part of Council's Audited Annual Financial Statements and summarised in the Annual Report.

2. Developing and improving technology and communications systems to meet organisation requirements.

Council committed to a variety of actions to meet the organisation's technological requirements. These included:

- Replacing computers and servers that cannot be updated to Windows 11
- Completing the transition to PABX Cloud-based telephone management system
- Introducing Enterprise Asset Management Mobility
- Commencement of the inventory module update to enhance efficiency
- Ensuring that all licensing is up-to-date
- Sending out requests to suppliers for the replacement and relocation of library's camera system
- Providing iPads to depot staff
- Supplying IT equipment to the elected Councillors
- Moving Council's Disaster Recovery Network to Cloud

3. Finalising and integrating Asset Management Plans with Strategic Asset Management plans which will be linked to improved Asset Management practice.

Assessments of road conditions have commenced and will inform the road works program for the next ten years. Consultant reports were received in December 2024 with recommendations on future actions for Open spaces, Transport, Buildings and Stormwater. These will be presented for adoption in 2024 and will inform the revision of the Asset Management Plan.

4. Meeting commitments and increasing capacity for project delivery.

1. The Council applied for funding under the Growing Regions program to deliver the second stage of this project and renew the footpath between Eskbank Street to Cook Street Plaza.
2. Establishing Project Director Oversight Group (PDOG)
In response to loss of funding for the Main Street Footpath Replacement (Stage 2), the Council established a Project Delivery Oversight Group (PDOG) to ensure comprehensive governance of all projects being delivered by council, including projects funded by both state and federal Governments. Already this group is leading changes to Council's project management processes. Continued monitoring and reporting will also ensure that Councillors are directly informed on the delivery programs and risks associated with key projects. The Council has also increased the capacity of the infrastructure project management team to meet grant project delivery timeframes and commitments.
3. The Council increased the capacity of the infrastructure project management team to meet grant project delivery timeframes and commitments. For more information, go to [page 9](#) - What we seek to deliver – our Community Strategic Plan Advocacy Priorities.

5. Responding to natural disasters while working to improve resilience in our community.

Council continues to work on road assets damaged in the 2022 natural disasters and the following years. The following works were completed in the last six months:

- Glen Davis Road repairs
- John Mackey Drive repairs
- Pipers Flat Road Repairs

Wolgan Valley Road disaster project is the largest Capital Works project the Council has undertaken. Request for Tender (RFT) process closed on December 18th, 2024. A consultation was also undertaken during the reporting period with Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation on preliminary issues related to the Wolgan Road replacement project. The second half of the 2024-25 financial year will see the award of concept design and environmental assessment technical advisor, Estimated Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation (EPAR) application approval and road alignment multi-criteria assessment completion. For more information visit *Key Projects* → *Wolgan Gap Disaster Response* on the Council's website.

Safety of Browns Gap Road was closely monitored in the last six months, with a single traffic lane opening made possible on days when the road was deemed safe for use. Slope instability due to rainfall is constantly reassessed via weekly monitoring. Future works on the Browns Gap Road will include a data collection period until March 2025, followed by complete stormwater pipe relining and the installation of catch netting to stabilise the slopes.

6. Completing the Growth Strategy, Employment Lands Review and Housekeeping LEP

An employment lands review was completed in Partnership with the Department of Regional NSW. It was presented by the Chamber of Commerce at the recent Lithgow Investor Forum. The review will inform the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan. A draft Employment Lands Strategy was delivered by Hill PDA to Council in October 2024. It will guide Council's Growth Management Strategy and will assist with funding applications for Round 3 of the Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund. For more information, see task Growth Management Strategy to include: 1) Employment Lands/Centres Review 2) Local Housing Strategy 3) Rural lands and Rural Residential Study.

7. Implementing a community accessible online platform for Development Applications, approval information and automated Planning Certificates.

The Council committed to a series of system improvements in the last six months. In July of 2024 Council staff attended a workshop to identify improvements to the usability of the State Planning Portal. In June 2025, the CIA Live project will commence, with one of the deliverables being a portal that will allow community users to access

property information including approvals and certificates, as well as rates information.

8. Establish a sustainable and focused Events Strategy.

An events strategy is being developed and will be presented in March. It will provide directions for future events across the Seven Valleys and reinforce commitment to return on investment to drive visitor economy.

9. Farmers Creek Integrated Catchment planning (Infrastructure/Engagement/ Restoration)

September 2024 saw the installation of a concrete flow meter upstream of Farmers Creek.

Farmers Creek Precinct Masterplan Request For Quote (RFQ) 2017 is being prepared for update and review. A meeting was held with WaterNSW to develop a program of projects specific to Farmers Creek.

A regular Farmers Creek Landcare Group was created, multiple community workshops and education events were hosted by the Landcare Coordinator to raise awareness around the environment, threats to biodiversity and local species.

10. Progressing the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project.

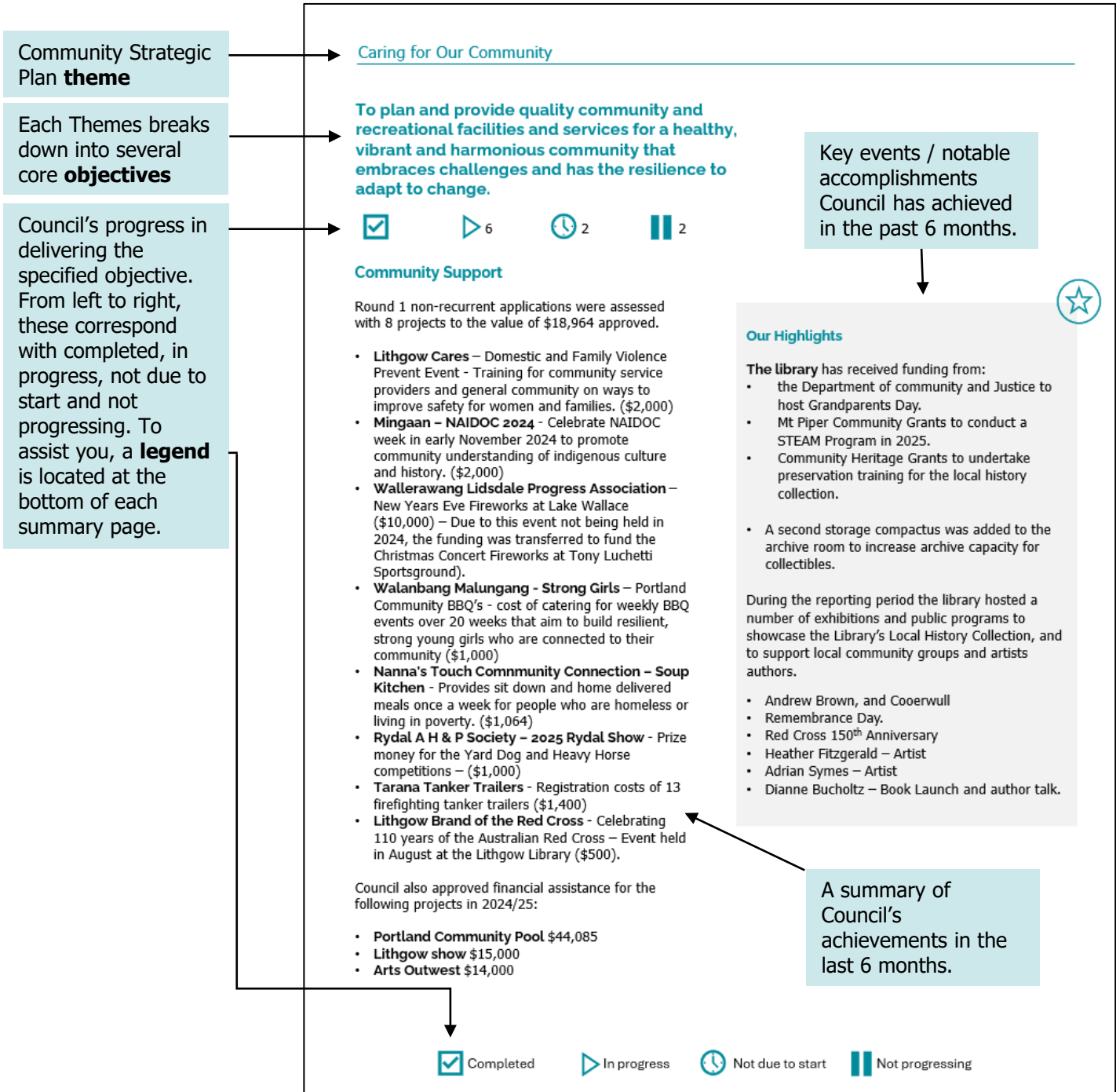
The Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline project is key to Lithgow's transition from coal to environmentally sustainable new industries. The project involves redirecting water from Clarence to protect and conserve the Wollangambe River and decrease reliance on the 110-year-old Farmers Creek Dam, thereby protecting our natural environment and ensuring future water security.

In the last six months,

- The Council drafted a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) that will ensure adequate protection of the local flora and fauna during project completion.
- A Detailed design tender is being prepared for market alongside funding applications for the design of the pipeline and a new water treatment plant (WTP) to service the LGA.
- A Drinking Water aQuaCity Impact Assessment (DWQIA) was finalised for a final council review after incorporating environmental advice from the ecological team. Proposals are to complete an aquatic ecology report for the Wollangambe River.

How to read this document

This six-month report is organized by themes outlined in the Community Strategic Plan (Developing Our Built Environment, Caring for Our Community, Responsible Governance and Civic Leadership, Enhancing Our Natural Environment and Strengthening Our Economy). The first couple of pages provide summary and highlights. Proceeding these are tables detailing specific actions and tasks the Council committed to in the last six months.





**Delivery Program
Operational Plan**

**2023/24 – 2025/26
2024/25**

**CARING FOR OUR
COMMUNITY**

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.

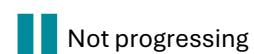
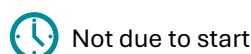
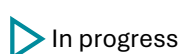
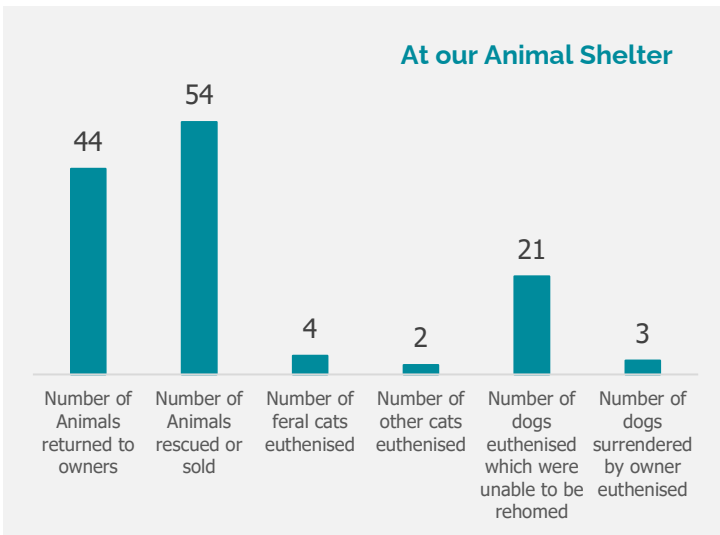


Our Highlights

- Thirty-one abandoned vehicles were impounded from public places.
- Thirteen parking patrols of the CBD and six of the school zones were conducted in the past six months

Animal Shelter

- A design has been received for a new Animal Shelter.
- A full-time animal shelter attendant has been recruited.
- Council has purchased a “puppy mobile” for the Animal Shelter.



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.



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Community Support

Round One non-recurrent applications were assessed with eight projects to the value of \$18,964 approved.

- **Lithgow Cares** – Domestic and Family Violence Prevent Event - Training for community service providers and general community on ways to improve safety for women and families. (\$2,000)
- **MingaaN – NAIDOC 2024** - Celebrate NAIDOC week in early November 2024 to promote community understanding of indigenous culture and history. (\$2,000)
- **Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association** – New Years Eve Fireworks at Lake Wallace (\$10,000) – Due to this event not being held in 2024, the funding was transferred to fund the Christmas Concert Fireworks at Tony Luchetti Sportsground).
- **Walanbang Malungang - Strong Girls** – Portland Community BBQ’s - cost of catering for weekly BBQ events over 20 weeks that aim to build resilient, strong young girls who are connected to their community (\$1,000)
- **Nanna’s Touch Community Connection – Soup Kitchen** - Provides sit down and home delivered meals once a week for people who are homeless or living in poverty. (\$1,064)
- **Rydal A H & P Society – 2025 Rydal Show** - Prize money for the Yard Dog and Heavy Horse competitions – (\$1,000)
- **Tarana Tanker Trailers** - Registration costs of 13 firefighting tanker trailers (\$1,400)
- **Lithgow Brand of the Red Cross** - Celebrating 110 years of the Australian Red Cross – Event held in August at the Lithgow Library (\$500).

Council also approved financial assistance for the following projects in 2024/25:

- **Portland Community Pool** \$44,085
- **Lithgow show** \$15,000
- **Arts Outwest** \$14,000



Our Highlights

The library has received funding from:

- the Department of community and Justice to host Grandparents Day.
- Mt Piper Community Grants to conduct a STEAM Program in 2025.
- Community Heritage Grants to undertake preservation training for the local history collection.
- A second storage compactus was added to the archive room to increase archive capacity for collectibles.

During the reporting period the library hosted a number of exhibitions and public programs to showcase the Library’s Local History Collection, and to support local community groups and artists authors.

- Andrew Brown, and Coerwull
- Remembrance Day.
- Red Cross 150th Anniversary
- Heather Fitzgerald – Artist
- Adrian Symes – Artist
- Dianne Bucholtz – Book Launch and author talk.



Completed



In progress



Not due to start



Not progressing



Our Libraries

360

New library
Members



**16,643
Loans**

At Lithgow Library

1660 Loans

At Wallerawang
Library

2669 Loans

At Portland Library

56 users

Of the Home
Library Service



**137 events
& programs**

Held at the libraries



**25,775
visitors**

to the Lithgow
Library

**5214
visitors**

to the Wallerawang
Library

**5384
visitors**

to the Portland
Library

3759 Loans

e-Book Loans



Under Lithgow – a collection of works by Adrian Symes





**Delivery Program
Operational Plan**

**2023/24 – 2025/26
2024/25**

**DEVELOPING OUR BUILT
ENVIRONMENT**

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.



Main Street footpath replacement (Stage 2)

In August 2024, the Council was informed that \$1,938,911 in Commonwealth Government Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream – Round 5 for the Main Street CBD Stage 2 was withdrawn due to Council’s inability to complete the project within the agreed timeframes. The expiration of this funding means that the project had to be re-scoped to reflect the available funds. Federal funding was but one component of this project.

How we responded – Our Advocacy

On the 26th of August meeting, the Council resolved to write to responsible ministers with the hopes of securing Commonwealth and State government Funding.

How we responded – Seeking funding opportunities

Additionally, the Council applied for funding under the Growing Regions program to deliver the second stage of this project and renew the footpath between Eskbank Street to Cook Street Plaza.

How we responded – Establishing Project Delivery Oversight Group (PDOG) and increasing team capacity

In response, a Project Delivery Oversight Group (PDOG) was established by Council to ensure comprehensive governance and monitoring of projects delivered by council.

Further supported by increases in staff capacity, the Mainstreet Footpath Replacement Project was given the green light.

What we achieved – Project Commencement

Contractors commenced surveying on 2nd December in preparation for the construction of a raised pedestrian crossing at the eastern end of the Main Street to improve safety. The project is expected to be completed in June 2025.

This exciting project will breathe new life into the “Top End” of Main Street, between Eskbank Street and Bridge Street, replacing the old, slippery and cracking

pavers with a new concrete footpath with tile and decorative features. Landscaping, signage and new street furnishings along with major improvements to drainage, access to utility points, accessible parking and loading zones are all part of the works planned to start in the new year.

The planned works schedule will ensure that the benefits of the project outweigh the short-term interruptions, giving this section of the CBD a fresh new look. Works have been planned with the trading requirements of businesses in mind and will commence with the construction of the raised pedestrian crossing first to reduce impacts on businesses.

The Council will then commence replacing the pavers from the eastern end of Main Street (Bridge Street end), and along the northern (railway line) side of Main Street to Eskbank Street in January 2025.



Our Highlights

- The Council resolved to progress the South Bowenfels Subdivision development via an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process in early 2025

Improvement to the top of Main Street are anticipated to be completed by June 2025



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



Blast Furnace Park

Lithgow's Blast Furnace is a unique heritage site that at the time of its construction in 1907 was the only producer of Australian iron and steel. The facility was the backbone of the Trans-Australian railway, Sydney's and Brisbane's water supply systems, and World War I Australian Arms production. In recent years, The Council embarked on a mission to restore Blast Furnace's character by installing light facilities to highlight its industrial facade and enhance accessibility to this landmark through a renewal of the paths and carpark. 2024 Christmas Carols marked the re-opening of the blast furnace with its refreshed look that takes visitors back to the past.

Lake Pillans Wetlands

Lake Pillans was constructed in 2011 as a source of water for cooling the blast furnace. After the closure of the facility, the lake became a popular swim spot, lovingly nicknamed "Little Coogee". In collaboration with Lithgow Oberon Landcare Organisation, The Council worked to rehabilitate Lake Pillans through landscaping, replanting, pathway widening and formalised carpark. In the years to come, these measures will protect Lake Pillan's unique ecosystem.



Our Highlights

- Christmas Carols at Blast Furnace Park

Transport program is 42% complete:

- Hill Street, Lithgow – Renewal – Complete
- Lithgow Street, Lithgow - Renewal - Complete
- Kremer Crescent, Wallerawang – Renewal Complete
- Glen Davis Road and adjoining infrastructure remediation – Complete
- John Mackey Drive, Portland and adjacent infrastructure remediation – Complete
- Pipers Flat Road, Portland and adjacent infrastructure rehabilitation – Complete

Active Transport Plan 43% complete with new pathways in Hartley Valley Road and Maple Crescent, Lithgow.

Water and Sewer Program is 45% complete:

- Lidsdale Street, Wallerawang renewal of 690m of water mains.
- Sealed the Oakey Park water FP - Complete
- Oakey Park Water FP Clear Water and Backwash Pumps – Complete
- Old Bathurst Road – Stage 2 Installation and civil works of new pumps and manhole receiver – Complete
- Replace Maddox Lane, Wallerawang Sewerage Pumping Station to enable future development in the Lidsdale area – Complete.
- Annual sewer manhole and assessment program to assess the collection data for inclusion in the Asset Register and system – Complete

Cemeteries Program is 50% complete:

- Lithgow Cemetery carpark renewal and new beams constructed to complete stage 1 of the lawn - Complete



JM Robson Aquatic Centre

385 patrons
engaged in exercise programs

1752 children
participated in the learn to swim

8 bookings
of the kid's party package

22166 visitors
to the JM Robson Aquatic Centre

- Hartley cemetery boundary fence replacement. – Complete
- Portland cemetery lawn beam – Complete

Community buildings program – 52% complete

- Refurbishment of first floor amenities at the Council Administration Centre – Complete

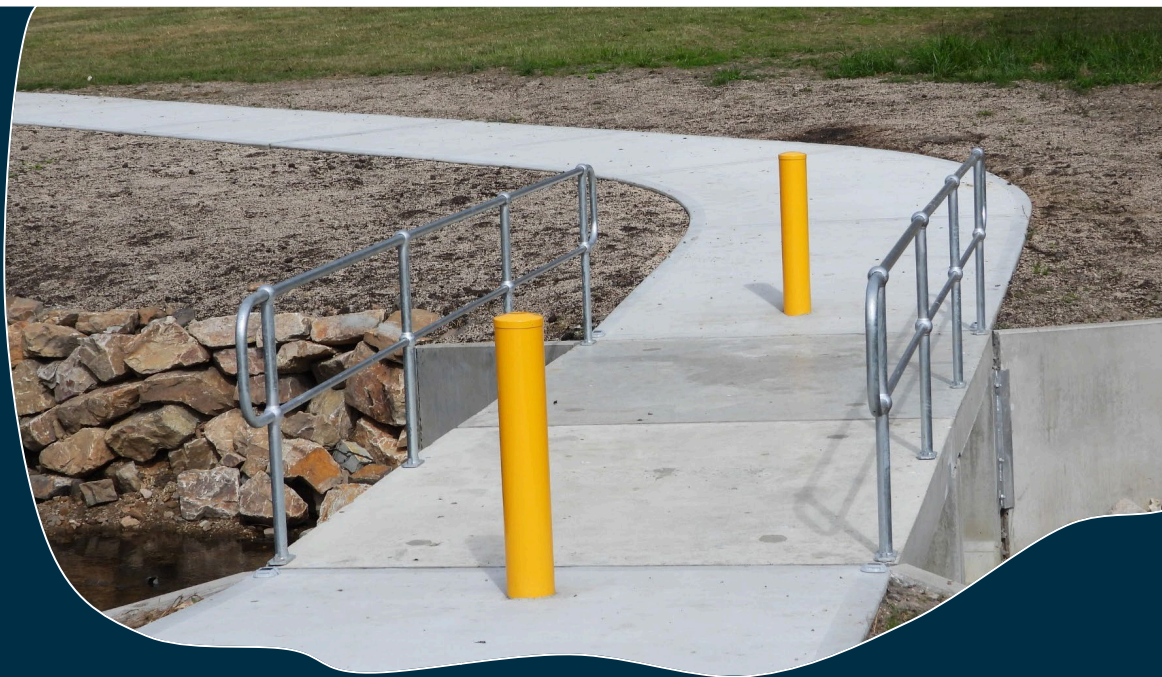
Recreation Facilities

- Drafted Lithgow Sporting Precinct Masterplan to guide future development of the Sporting Precinct.
- Developed Bowenfels Gun Emplacement Conservation Management Plan to guide future use of the site.
- 102 new trees planted
- 74 dangerous / old trees removed

Burton Street Causeway Crossing Installation and naming

Council installed a box culvert causeway crossing over Farmers Creek near Burton Street reinstating the missing link in the Farmers Creek shared pathway enabling runners, walkers and cyclists to safely cross from Lake Pillans and Blast Furnace to Chivers Close in the west.

The box culvert is designed to be inundated during heavy rain, but includes specialised handrails for community safety, which will not have a negative impact on flood levels for adjacent properties during periods



of heavy rainfall.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 28 October 2024, the Council resolved to advertise the proposed naming of the causeway crossing the "George Pearce Memorial Crossing" in honour of Mr. George Pearce and his contributions to the

community. Since June 2023, the Council has been working with the Pearce family to develop a naming proposal to recognise the contribution made by George Pearce to the local community. George Pearce passed on 28 February 2022 and was a prominent local businessman who made a

significant contribution to the local economy and supported a few community groups during his lifetime.

Feedback from the community on the naming proposal will be considered by Council in early 2025.

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



Part of ensuring affordable housing options for current and future residents involves extensive planning and advocating for improved surrounding infrastructure.

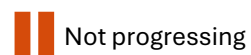
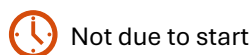
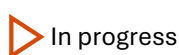
While the Council is awaiting financial support from the NSW Government to assist with Marrangaroo Urban Release Area (MURA) developments, a list of low-impact minor developments was proposed to improve traffic management in the short term. It will relieve challenges currently faced by the community before the complete implementation of the Marrangaroo Masterplan.

The Council has resolved to progress the South Bowenfels Subdivision development via an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process in early 2025.



Our Highlights

- 7 Section 68 Solid Fuel Heater applications registered
- 27 On-site Sewer Management Applications registered
- 5 Water Applications registered
- 6 Complying Development applications registered
- 47 Quotes for applications issued on request
- 7 Certificate Linen Releases requests registered
- 2301 Action Requests registered
- 888 certificates processed
- 96 Development Applications registered
- 35 Construction Certificates registered
- 2 Sewer Applications registered





**Delivery Program
Operational Plan**

**2023/24 – 2025/26
2024/25**

**STRENGTHENING OUR
ECONOMY**

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

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Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP)

In 2020/2021, Lithgow, in consultation with the NSW Government set to formulate an action plan to transition Lithgow from reliance on coal and energy industries to an invigorated and diverse economic portfolio. LEEP set out to open new work opportunities and develop manufacturing; Tourism; Health Care and Social Assistance, and; Public Administration and Safety industries. For more information on LEEP visit the [LEEP website](#).

In the period from July to December 2024, The Council endorsed a 12- month action plan for LEEP the focus areas of which will be:

- The development of governance arrangements for LEEP (complete)
- identification and investigation of potential employment lands (in progress)
- development of workforce transition strategies and skills audits (in progress)
- the rollout of an adaptive skills training program for Lithgow’s primary and secondary schools (in progress).

Council also engaged with the Central West Expert Panel, formed by the NSW Government’s Royalties for Rejuvenation legislation. This program has since been abolished to make way for the Future Jobs and Investment Authorities proposed by the NSW Government.

Economic Development

- A bespoke investment prospectus was completed for the Lithgow region which was used by the Chamber of Commerce as part of an Investor Forum held in Lithgow.
- Council met with developers seeking consideration of clean energy production projects for developments in concept stage.
- Business/investment enquiries were responded to and coordinated with other departments as required.
- Strategic Land Use Planning Team responded to

investor enquiries during the early due diligence phases of proposals or land purchases to determine the alignment with the existing planning framework and to advise if an amendment to the Local Environmental Plan or Development Control Plan is required.

- An outline of the draft Lithgow Housekeeping Local Environment Plan (LEP) planning proposal was endorsed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 22nd of July 2024. A final draft planning proposal was prepared in accordance with the endorsed outline and sent to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination in September 2024.
- Hill PDA delivered a Draft Employment Lands Strategy to Council in October 2024. This Draft Strategy will be used to inform the Growth Management Strategy.
- Council applied for Round three of the Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund to undertake the Growth Management Strategy work which, if successful will be completed by June 2026.

Smart City

- Smart Spaces Road Map is being internally reviewed, and consultation is underway.
- NRMA is progressing with the Installation of six EV Charging Stations in Eskbank Street Carpark.

Installation of NRMA charges at Eskbank Street Park



✔ Completed
▶ In progress
🕒 Not due to start
|| Not progressing

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.



"Libre de Faire", meaning 'free to be' and 'free to make', was the story of Lithgow Halloween 2024. The community, visitors and Council embraced the message and were treated to a spectacular night with performances from Wicked Envy and Wicked Things, fire dancers, 2 reptile shows, stilt walkers an appearance from Captain Finhead among many other spectacular sights.

Our Highlights

- A new brand for Halloween (Libre de Faire) was created to be used as a licensable entity in the future. The event was successfully executed, with 69 stalls, 21 Security staff, 18 Police, a GP dog and 4 Medics on the night. High tourist attendance generated revenue for the local shop owners.
- Lithgow Christmas Concert and Lamplona held at the Tony Luchetti Showground the Concert featured high profile artists, Paulini, Chris Sebastian and Hugh Sheridan.
- Community Christmas Carols
- Hosting summer school holiday coaching clinics in Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland through to Creative Community Concepts.
- Developed draft Events Strategy





On 13th of December, Christmas Carols launched the new look to the Blast furnace. The installed lighting system reinvigorated the 118-year-old. Works on Blast Furnace were supported by additional infrastructural developments, like the construction of wheelchair accessible pathways, a walking platform, installation of public toilets and tables at the historical site.

Christmas season was launched with astonishing performance from headline artists - **Paulini**, **Hugh Sheridan** and **Chris Sebastian**. WE are grateful for the support provided by the local talent.

Lithgow, also hosted its first "Lamb-lona" that pays ohmage to the Spanish "Running of the Bulls" retitled "Running of the Wools".

The night concluded with a bang and fireworks sponsored by Energy Australia.



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



Eskbank House Museum

Highlights from July to December 2024 period include:

- Two operating Audio-visual (AV) displays; one features the historic photograph collection gathered by the Lithgow and District Historical Society during its time as custodians of the Eskbank property. The other features targeted, specific exhibition related information and photographs.
- Completion of building conservation works on the underfloor ventilation and replacement of roofs, doors, downpipes, stormwater mitigation.
- Consultation with Museum Advisor, Tegan Anthes was regarding options for improved storage of EHM Collections in the internal clean room storage area and the recently reroofed Workman's Cottage.
- Two internally curated exhibitions.
- Participation in the annual Lithgow Edible Garden Trail.

Seven Valleys Tourism

Following industry engagement sessions, relocater sessions and industry focus groups, a draft branding leadership and brand strategy document was developed reflecting the findings of market and industry research.

Seven Valleys Brand logo and creative assets was developed.

The Draft Strategic Marketing plan will be completed for adoption in late January 2025.

Tourism staff have been visiting businesses to perform 'familiarisation' visits, as well as visiting attractions to stock them with brochures and promotional material.

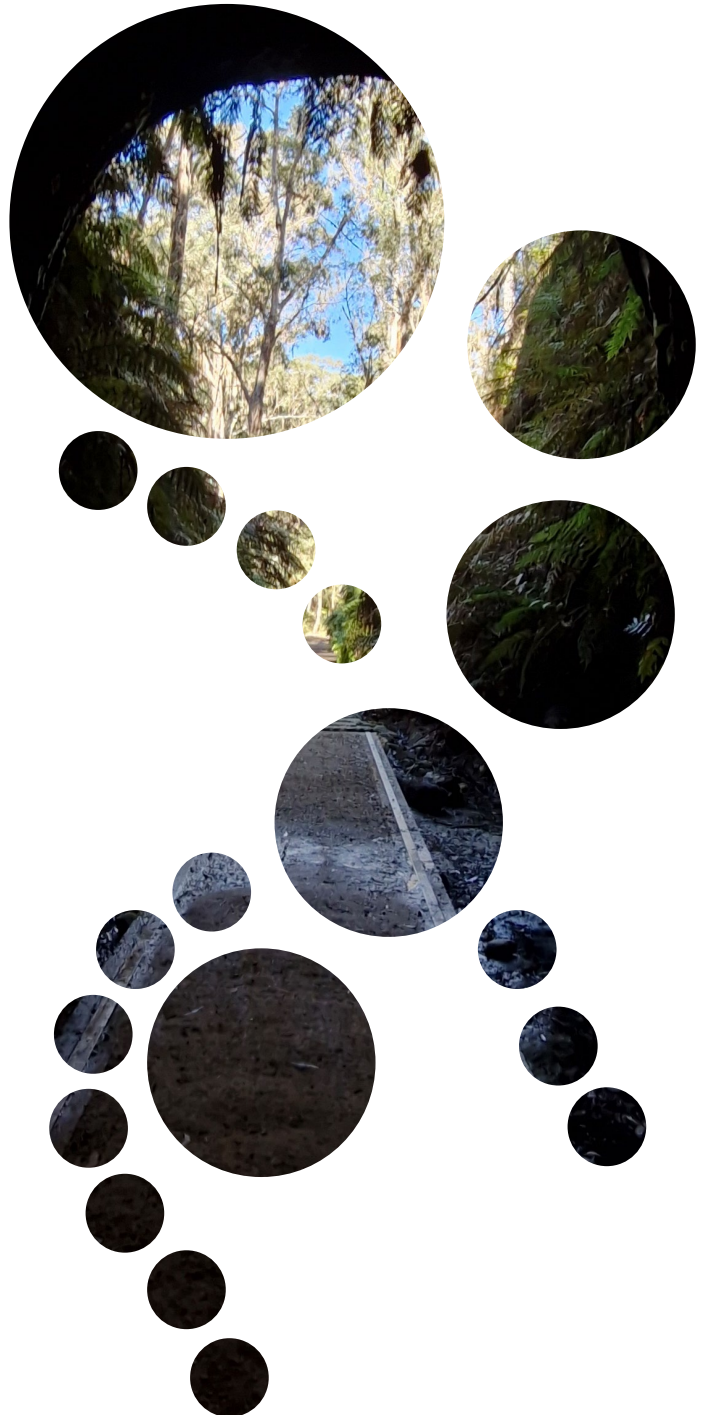
Union Theatre

Two funding applications were submitted for programming of the Union Theatre and Gallery.

Design was completed for the upgrade of the Kitchen and servery to create a kiosk for serving snacks and drinks to theatre audiences.

Event bookings included:

- Women by Bathurst Theatre Company
- Beatlesfest Art Exhibition – Hello Goodbye
- Hope Bathurst and Event Co. Lithgow Series
- Lithgow Musical Society production of the Little Mermaid
- Christmas Makers Market
- Arts Outwest exhibition of work from Kew-Y-Ahn Gallery (work of Aboriginal Artists of the Central West)
- Dragon making workshop for Halloween





**Delivery Program
Operational Plan**

**2023/24 – 2025/26
2024/25**

**ENHANCING OUR NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT**

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



Our Highlights

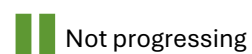
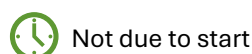
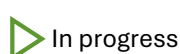
- Environmental, cultural and asset reports for Hassans Walls Reserve were received and are now being reviewed.
- The Council participated in the development of regional toolkits to embed Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change actions into the Integrated Planning & Reporting (IPR) Framework.
- A comprehensive audit was recently undertaken of the Hartley Building and the Lithgow Aquatic Centre
- New flow meters were installed at the water treatment plant to accurately record water leaving the facility.
- A grant was received from Sydney Water and tenders were requested to update and review the Farmers Creek Precinct Masterplan which will inform future program of projects for Farmers Creek including vegetation management.

Works on the weighbridge and gatehouse at the **Lithgow Solid Waste Facility** included:

- Concept design by Resource Hub
- Software package for the weighbridge and gatehouse
- Engineering and civil designs by Calare Civil
- Biodiversity assessment completed by Environmental Factor
- Pre-Development Application Meeting with Council’s planning team.

Lithgow Floodplain Risk Management Plan 2023
Implementation

- All relevant technical data including the adopted Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was uploaded to the NSW SES flood data portal.
- Concept design for George Coates Avenue Drainage Improvement works was completed and the contract has been awarded with works to commence in early 2025.
- Clause 5.22 *Special Flood Considerations* was included into the proposed Lithgow Local Environmental Plan - Housekeeping Planning Proposal. This Planning Proposal was referred to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for approval to publicly exhibit the proposal. We anticipate that it will be finalised Mid 2025.





Our Waste Strategy

10 entries were received in the annual Waste to Art competition



1041 tonnes from the target 1400 tones of waste was recycled.

16,716 tonnes of waste recorded at Lithgow Solid Waste Facility from July to December 2024.

1922 tonnes of waste recorded at Portland Garbage Depot from July to December 2024.

More than 1,000 tonnes of Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) was collected between March and October 2024 with less than 1% contamination.

365 tonnes of waste recorded at Capertee Garbage Depot from July to December 2024.

400 properties registered for Bulky Waste Collection held on 23 September.

34 tonnes of waste recorded at Glen Davis Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

67 tonnes of waste recorded at Tarana Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

103 tonnes of waste recorded at Angus Place Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

49 tonnes of waste recorded at Hampton Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

Per results of the kerbside bin audit approximately 34% of collected material in the kerbside bins was residual waste sent to landfill and **66% was diverted from landfill** in the green bin or yellow bin for recycling. This is an improvement from 15.9% diversion rate recorded in the 2023 audit.

47 tonnes of waste recorded at Meadow Flat Transfer Station from July to December 2024.


999kg of waste per capita was collected from July to December 2024.

School participation in 'Fixing Food Waste' Cookbook and art project.



117kg of recycling collected per capita from July to December 2024.

18 Properties registered for Green Waste Collection held on 11 November.



520 Tonnes of commingled recycling collected from July to December 2024.

Lower than average, **10.3% contamination rate** was recorded for the month of December in commingled recycling (relative to 11%).

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.



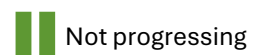
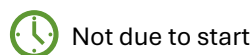
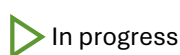
Consultation was undertaken during the reporting period with MINGAAN Aboriginal Corporation on preliminary issues related to the Wolgan Road replacement project.

A Natural Resource Management Officer was appointed, and funding was received to increase the Landcare Coordinators role from 2 days per week to full time for 5 years.

Landcare have received funding from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to undertake Private Land Conservation Matters workshops. Landcare have also received funding for Landcare Week events.



Tree planting days is one of the many initiatives organised by the Natural Resource Management Officer.





**Delivery Program
Operational Plan**

**2023/24 – 2025/26
2024/25**

**RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE
AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP**

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.



Service Reviews

Final report from CT Management following the first round of Service Plan Development was received. The report provides council with a priority program to be developed and implemented to progress the Service Reviews Program.

The library has completed all actions identified in the 2020 Library Service Review including recommendations for improvements to general library work processes, marketing recommendations and refurbishment.

Notably, the recent library refurbishment addressed noise issues and modernised the main library branch, turning it into a popular, community hub.

Wallerawang Library has undergone some minor upgrades during the previous six months and issues at Portland Library are being investigated with intent to make the current space more flexible. Portland Library requires a more fit-for-purpose building which is outside of Council’s current budgets in the foreseeable future. Grants will not assist with purchase of a building but may help to retrofit it.

Implementing the Workforce Plan

People at Work Survey was completed, further supplemented by focus groups. This informed the draft Psychosocial Strategy and Action Plan that will be presented to the Health and Safety Committee in early 2025. Standard Working Procedures were developed for Managing Psychosocial Hazards at Work and for Workplace Aggression and Violence. A Training Plan was also developed and is being delivered.

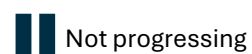
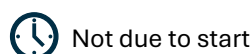
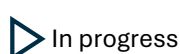
Immunisation Program is on track.

Council’s values are incorporated into training, policies and processes.



Our Highlights

- Final Asset Management Plans was received from Council's consultants in late December 2024 for the Open Spaces, Transport, Buildings and Stormwater asset categories.
- Drafted Lithgow Sporting Precinct Masterplan to guide future development of the Sporting Precinct.
- Developed Bowenfels Gun Emplacement Conservation Management Plan to guide future use of this State Heritage Listed site.
- Received design for a new Animal Shelter.
- Draft Annual Report was presented to Council
- Financial Statements for 2023/24 were lodged with the Office of Local Government.
- The Disability Inclusion Action Plan Annual Report was completed and reported to Communities & Justice NSW.
- Draft State of the Lithgow Local Government Area was presented to Council.
- Climate Change Risk Register was completed in October 2024
- Business Continuity Cusp Plans were reviewed and updated for the following areas:
 - Fleet
 - Customer Service
 - Administration Building
 - Water Supply
 - Sewerage Treatment
 - Stores



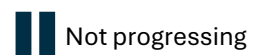
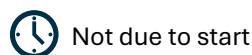
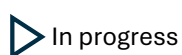
To be a Council that focuses on strong civic leadership, organisational development and effective governance with engaged community actively participating in decision making processes affecting their future.



Our Highlights

- Councillor induction, training and information sessions were held 1-3 times per week since October 2024. Councillor's training requirements are being identified in one-on-one meetings with the General Manager.
- Staff were provided with knowledge/information regarding Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Act, Fraud & Control and Conflict of Interest (COI).
- Compliance obligations are automatically tracked through the Pulse Software Application.

Remembrance Day.





DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Lithgow City Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) is informed by the social model of disability, where inclusion is defined as:

"All citizens having the same opportunities to access enjoyable experiences and to be part of their community in a way that is meaningful to them".

People with disabilities form a diverse population, with a range of requirements for support and through their multiple intersecting identities based on their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, culture, religion, migration status, and socioeconomic background.

Consequently, the purpose of the Lithgow City Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023 – 2027 is to set out strategies and actions to guarantee that people with disability can fully take part in day-to-day community activities without restrictions.

The following section summarises what actions the Council has taken to carry out DIAP recommendations in the last six months.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)

Through out the document we have marked with a symbol all actions that align with the Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Below is a summary of these actions.

The **first column** gives the name of the action as found in this six-month report.

The **second column** specifies how the action is delivered. it answers the question "What specific steps have we taken to achieve this?"

The **third column** indicates whether the action was completed or is in progress.

Action name	What specific steps have we taken to achieve this?	Status
Develop community plans and strategies to ensure our communities are engaged and we are meeting the needs of our community.	The Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) is implemented across Council's departments.	Progressing
Develop and maintain gardens, parks, reserves, street trees and other public spaces.	Facilities around playgrounds undergo regular works that maintain their accessibility and adherence to safety requirements.	Progressing
Maintain and upgrade community buildings and structures to meet the needs of the community and ensure commercial viability.	Council's administration building saw the replacement of bathroom facilities, making them more user friendly.	Progressing
Promote the Union Theatre with a programming strategy to attract and deliver an engaging performance, arts, cultural season that considers Councils community plans, diversity, and inclusion.	Principles of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan are included within programming strategy of the Union Theatre.	Progressing
Undertake Service Delivery reviews and implement recommendations to improve productivity throughout the council.	Library refurbishments addressed noise complaints by installing inclusive and quiet chill-out spaces.	Completed
Implement the Workforce Plan.	Developing and Implementing the Health and Wellbeing Program based on results from People At Work (PAW) survey.	Progressing

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