



MINUTES

Infrastructure Committee Meeting

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Tuesday 1 April 2025

at 5:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5:00 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.

2. Present

Present: Councillor C Coleman (Mayor), Cr S Ring (Deputy Mayor), Cr E Fredericks (Councillor), Cr R Smith (Councillor), Councillor T Evangelidis (Councillor) and Cr E Mahony (Councillor) arrived at 5:05pm.

Officers: Ross Gurney (General Manager) Jonathon Edgecombe (Director Infrastructure and Economy) Peter Fisher (Team Leader - Projects), Shaun Elwood (Director People & Planning), David Anderson (Building & Recreation Facilities Manager), Paul Creelman (Transport Manager), Leanne Kearney (Asset and Infrastructure Planning Manager) and Penny Way (Minute taker).

3. Apologies

Councillor Darryl Goodwin

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting (formerly Strategic Review Committee) held on 18th February were presented to the Council on 24th February 2024.

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of 24th February 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Cr C Coleman

SECONDED: Cr R Smith

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

Matters raised and discussed were:

- * Kremer Park – an update was given on the project
 - * Mayor Coleman congratulated the team responsible for the Traffic Management Plan put in place on the weekend of the Lithgow Show, basketball and School celebration. It was successful in mitigating traffic concerns.
 - * Mayor Coleman congratulated the outdoors team on their efforts in preparing for the Lithgow Show.
 - * Croquet Club - Further conversations are to take place to ensure available options will be effective.
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6. Declaration of Interest

NIL

7. Staff Reports

7.1. Treatment options - Main Street between Eskbank and Lithgow Streets'

The report was presented to the Committee by the Asset and Infrastructure Planning Manager, followed by a discussion that compared the various treatment options, considering factors such as cost, benefits, and potential impacts. It was concluded that none of the options presented was a perfect solution. However, it was determined that any issues associated with the asphalt option could be effectively minimised or mitigated. Consequently, Option 3 was deemed the most appropriate solution. Furthermore, the Committee has requested additional information on alternative treatment options, including coloured asphalt and a rubber soft-fall compound, for further consideration. A memorandum containing this information will be distributed to Councillors by the 10th of April, 2025.

ACTION

THAT the Committee determine Option 3 to be the most appropriate solution for providing slip treatment for Stage 3-6 of the Main Street footpath in Lithgow CBD. A report containing detailed information on the costing of coloured asphalt treatment and rubber soft-fall material will be distributed via memorandum for Councillors' consideration.

MOVED: CR C Coleman

SECONDED: Cr E Mahony

CARRIED

7.2. Wolgan Road Update

The Director of Infrastructure and Economy provided the Committee with an update on the status of the Wolgan Road Reconstruction project. The Independent Technical Review has been completed and endorsed the Council's request. The review also suggested an adjustment to increase the proposed amount. Following this, the revised submission, totalling \$354 million, has now been made.

It was advised that a community information session will be held at the Transformation Hub on the 9th of April. A good turnout is anticipated. The session will be interactive, utilising the Menti application, and will be followed by an informal meet-and-greet, providing attendees with the opportunity for one-on-one conversations.

Environmental assessments and Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage consultation is continuing. Subject matter experts, along with specialists in risk, cost, and scheduling, have been engaged for the project.

A total of eight options were considered using an extensive system based on 10 different criteria to identify the most suitable option. Additionally, a video demonstrating a virtual drive along the proposed road construction was shown to the Committee.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the update provided regarding the Wolgan Road Reconstruction project.

MOVED: Cr E Mahony

SECONDED: Cr C Coleman

CARRIED

7.3. Geordie Street Causeway - Options report

The Team Leader of Projects presented the report, which included an estimate of costs for various treatment options to address the proposed new crossing of Farmers Creek at Geordie Street, Lithgow. This new crossing will replace the existing culvert and improve safety for users of Geordie Street between Barton Street and Coalbrook Street. Additionally, the project is expected to have a positive impact on upstream flooding concerns. Option 2 was identified as the most suitable option.

Concerns were raised regarding the prioritisation of this project, particularly in comparison to other roads with more pressing flooding implications, such as Bayonet Street, Coerwull Road, and other assets within the LGA.

It was noted that the project's preparedness and readiness to proceed is advantageous, as it positions the project to take advantage of potential funding or grants should they become available.

It was suggested that this be presented at the Finance Committee to be discussed further.

ACTION

THAT the Committee endorse the selection of option 2 from the SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd report dated 31 January 2025 for the proposed new crossing of Farmers Creek at Geordie Street Lithgow

MOVED: Cr C Coleman

SECONDED: Cr R Smith

CARRIED

7.4. Town Entry Signage - Temporary options

The Director of Infrastructure and Economy presented several options for town signage that would incorporate the existing town signage while allowing for updates to create a more welcoming and positive appearance for the city and town. The proposed solution involves using a stainless steel sleeve with a wrap component to display the updated signage that would go over existing signage.

Designs were displayed for the Committee, and a discussion was held regarding the different options. It was determined that the solid colour with text and a stencil would be the most suitable option. Consultation with Councillor E. Mahony will take place to ensure that the stencil component aligns with Council's branding, as well as the Flower and Animal representative elements.

The possibility of incorporating the 7V (Seven Valleys) branding on the signage was also discussed.

Cr E Fredericks left at 6:09pm

ACTION

THAT the Committee endorse the interim design option relating to the aluminium sleeves proposed to be placed over existing town entry signage, pending completion of Lithgow's branding strategy and the subsequent delivery of an aligned tiered town entry signage strategy.

MOVED: Cr C Coleman

SECONDED: Cr R Smith

CARRIED

7.5. Cemetery Requests - Maintenance (enquiry from 6-month review of Operational Plan)

An explanation of why the Cemetery Request- Maintenance report was not present was given and it was noted that the report will be presented at the next meeting.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the update and that a detailed report on cemetery maintenance requests will be tabled for the next available Infrastructure and Economy Committee meeting.

MOVED: Cr E Mahony

SECONDED: Cr C Coleman

CARRIED

7.6. I&E - Project Update Report

The Director of Infrastructure and Economy provided an overview of the adaptations made to the I&E report to improve its clarity and accessibility, ensuring that relevant information is easier to find. These changes included the use of colour coding, the addition of columns and headings to identify specific details such as grant funding and project status, as well as the inclusion of graphs and snapshots to track completed or pending actions and monitor project progress over time.

It was requested that a method for displaying grant deadlines within the next three-month period be added to the report.

Projects with upcoming funding deadlines were identified, and their progress was discussed. Additionally, it was noted that collaboration with Water NSW is crucial, and it was acknowledged as a positive development that projects such as the SQID asset audits and the Stormwater Quality Improvement Inspection Program have been initiated.

ACTION

THAT the Committee notes the update provided relating to capital infrastructure projects in the Infrastructure and Economy directorate that are valued at \$500,000 or more or are otherwise grant funded.

MOVED: Cr C Coleman

SECONDED: Cr E Mahony

CARRIED

7.7. EPAR and EW Claims Update

The Director of Infrastructure and Economy presented the key points of the report, emphasising the challenges associated with the Council's claims related to natural disaster recovery. The report highlighted two categories of claims: Essential Public Asset Reconstruction (EPAR) claims and Emergency Works (EW) claims.

It was noted that communication with the assessor has been problematic, with limited timely responses. Additionally, approval rates have significantly decreased in the latest round of applications. As a result, the approved funding for the 25/26 period will require additional support from the capital works fund.

It was recommended that discussions be held with the Minister during their upcoming visit, as well as through the contacts within the Central NSW Joint Organisation, to address these concerns.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the report with respect to Council's EPAR and EW claims made of Transport for NSW.

MOVED: Cr R Smith

SECONDED: Cr C Coleman

CARRIED

8. General Business

RG Left at 6:42pm SE left at 6:43pm

Council has received an email requesting the transfer of 2.55km of the Great Western Highway into our assets. The estimated cost for maintaining this section would be approximately \$350,000 per year. It will be proposed that the Council decline the transfer unless a reimbursement of \$350,000 per year is agreed upon.

The ongoing issue concerning the traffic plans for the upkeep of the median strip on the Great Western Highway has also been addressed. The previously accepted Traffic Plans, which were deemed unsafe, have been forwarded to Transport for NSW along with new, significantly more expensive plans to undertake the necessary works. The goal is to find a solution that is both economically viable for Council and meets the safety requirements set by Transport for NSW. It has been noted that Transport for NSW is implementing similar safety measures for works that they are undertaking that is similar to the original Traffic Management Plan.

Holly Davies from Transport for NSW has been informed of the situation, and it was suggested that continued communication with her be maintained. This matter will also be discussed at the upcoming April Council meeting.

9. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: 3rd June 2025 in the Committee Room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6:48pm
