

1. Mayoral Minutes

1.1. Mayoral Minute 28/04/2025 - Mayor C Coleman - State Significant Projects (Lithgow Engine Room)

Report by Mayor – Councillor Cassandra Coleman

Commentary

Within the Lithgow Government Area, we currently have four projects designated State Significant Developments (SSD) and 2 Designated Critical State Significant Infrastructure.

- 2 X BESS Battery Energy Storage System.
- 2 X Wind Farms (Sunny Corner and Ben Bullen) + 1 when Mt Lambie is designated SSD.
- Mt Piper BESS and Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro are Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI).

These projects are dividing the community to point of exhaustion.

I have heard commentary expressing concern that Lithgow Local Government Area is viewed as the dumping ground for NSW energy related projects.

I have also heard commentary that the Lithgow local government area will continue being the engine room for NSW, opportunity and jobs a plenty with these new SSD and CSSI projects.

The wider community is entitled to their viewpoint, and we should listen to all respectfully.

To be fair, if the NSW State Government deems the projects to be state significant or critical state infrastructure then the NSW State Government should take carriage of the full process from initiation of the project which includes consultation with the community and carriage of any DAs related to the project. This should also include an option of defaulting the proposal direct to the NSW Independent Planning Commission where it could be utilised to hear from residents who oppose or support the proponent, to make a case regarding the merits of the proposal.

Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

That Lithgow City Council writes to the NSW Minister for Planning, the Hon. Paul Scully, advocating for reforms to the regulatory framework governing State Significant Projects.

This would include:

1. Management and oversight of community consultation where all stakeholders are treated equitably, including the Council, community and proponents.
2. The determination of all related development applications.
3. A provision for proposals to default to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC), enabling transparent hearings so that all stakeholders can present arguments both in support of and against a project.