

# Community Strategic Plan 2040

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Council Response
1	<p><b>Energy from Waste</b> Regarding 'Greenspot' and the old Wallerawang Power Station. So far, the company has presented itself as described in the Draft Community Strategic Plan, however, the on-again, off-again awful proposal of 'Energy to Waste' is far from a green option. And flies in the face of 'community' and eco-friendly businesses.</p>	<p>Council is awaiting the NSW Governments decision on the Energy from Waste precincts as outlined in the Environmental Protection Agency March 2025 options paper. The Greenspot Planning Proposal lodged with Council in September 2024 does not include an Energy from Waste proposal.</p>
<p>Joint submission: Glen Alice Community Association, Glen Davis Community Association &amp; Capertee Valley Landcare</p>	<p><b>Glen Davis &amp; The Great Wollemi Walk:</b> As visitor numbers are set to increase with the completion of the Pipeline Track, Glen Davis remains unprepared due to poor amenities, no mobile coverage, minimal emergency services, and a lack of strategic planning.</p>	<p>Council facilitated a workshop in conjunction with Destination Store in 2024, to assist stakeholders in the Capertee Valley to maximise tourism opportunities. The issues of the preparedness of tourism businesses in Capertee and the Capertee Valley to accept more visitation will be advocated for by Tourism.</p>

# Delivery Program 2026-2030

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Council Response
1	<p><b>Youth Centre</b>            Right now, there's no dedicated space in Lithgow where teenagers can safely hang out, express themselves, and feel supported. I strongly believe we need a youth centre that reflects what our young people need and enjoy. This space could include creative programs like art, music, and rapping; holistic therapies such as sound healing, energy work, and nervous system support; regular peer support and mentorship programs; drug and alcohol education; and access to a nutritious meal. The youth of Lithgow are our future. Let's care for them now in meaningful ways — doing so will strengthen our whole community and reduce antisocial behaviour over time. Thank you for listening and for making space for our voices</p>	<p><b>Planet Youth</b>            Council is an active member of the <a href="#">Planet Youth</a> Coalition which supports local community organisations to work together in providing a range of programs for young people within the Lithgow LGA.</p> <p>Council will raise this suggestion for a dedicated youth space with the Planet Youth Coalition and explore opportunities to create a viable model for this type of service.</p> <p><b>Youth Council</b>            In 2026 Council will review its Youth Council in consultation with local young people, schools and community services. This platform, along with the Planet Youth initiative may be positive pathways for local young people to participate in designing future services and programs.</p> <p>Council's 2025-2026 Operational Plan includes programs through the Community and Culture division focused on youth week activities, peer support engagement, cultural expression, and mental health awareness events.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP)</a></b>            While a youth centre is not currently a core initiative within the LEEP, Lithgow City Council are contributing to outcomes for young people through several key strategies and programs that align with many of the priorities raised.</p> <p>The LEEP supports young people as part of Lithgow's long-term economic transition, particularly through:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Central West Adaptive Skills Hub (launched February 2025) brings skills development, STEAM education, and maker-space opportunities to young people across the region.</li> <li>• Place-based planning, such as Main Street revitalisation and local precinct activation projects that aim to create safe, inviting public spaces for people of all ages, including flexible spaces for youth-led events and programming.</li> <li>• These actions are informed by the LEEP’s inclusive engagement strategy, which recognises young people as key transition stakeholders and includes them in co-design processes for future initiatives.</li> </ul>
1	<p>We need improve on public transport and jobs in how community and making empty shops not be empty anymore bring town back alive again.</p>	<p>Vacant shopfronts and activated main streets are a key focus of Council’s <a href="#">Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan</a> (LEEP). We’re actively working to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract new investment and industries to create diverse jobs beyond coal, including tourism, renewables, health, aged care, and creative industries.</li> <li>• Support small business and local entrepreneurs through pilot programs like the Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival, which is designed to increase foot traffic, test new business models, and create demand for retail and hospitality in the CBD.</li> <li>• Activate empty shops and test placemaking strategies to bring vibrancy and community life back to Main Street, including grants, tactical urbanism, events, and long-term planning for permanent public domain improvements.</li> </ul> <p>Relating to public transport opportunities, the Council continues to advocate for an integrated transport solution that better services the entirety of the Central West. Currently, rail services are insufficient, and timetabling/infrastructure is not conducive to effective freight thoroughfare. Similarly, travel by car over the Dividing Range experiences significant congestion over weekends and public holidays, with respect to both the Great Western Highway and Bells Line of Road.</p>

		The Council continues to lobby the NSW and Commonwealth Governments to include necessary studies and budget provisioning within all strategic plans moving forward.
Joint submission: Glen Alice Community Association, Glen Davis Community Association & Capertee Valley Landcare	<p>The single biggest need in the Capertee Valley to support health, safety, recreation, tourism, business, and sustainable growth, is vastly improved mobile phone and internet connectivity.</p> <p>Council (in partnership with the local community) must continue, as a high priority, to advocate for the community to the telecommunications providers and State and Federal Governments to establish Valley wide, stable, high-quality connectivity.</p> <p>Ongoing and recent natural disasters only reinforce the absolute importance of this connectivity in all, and especially rural and remote locations.</p>	<p>Council is working in collaboration with local stakeholders to sponsor and support local events in communities in the villages of the Lithgow LGA, this includes Capertee Valley.</p> <p>In 2025 Council has commenced a collaboration with a broad range of government agencies, community and health organisations to address health concerns across the LGA. This project, in the Lithgow Health Dialogue will continue in 2026.</p> <p>Lithgow City Council convenes the Lithgow Community Safety Committee which includes NSW Police and a range of community groups and services. In addition, Council will be piloting place-based community engagement programming and seeking to work closely with community-led groups such as progress associations on the development of signature events and localised community programming.</p>
Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District	<p><b>Caring for Our Community</b></p> <p><b>1. Prioritise the health and wellbeing of the Lithgow community.</b></p> <p>We recognise and acknowledge the challenges experienced by Lithgow communities in accessing healthcare services.</p> <p>We would welcome the opportunity to be consulted or involved in the initiatives outlined, including the development of the Precinct Masterplan.</p> <p>We encourage Council to also explore ways to support community health and wellbeing more broadly through prevention focused approaches including healthy urban development, Healthy Streets, and Movement</p>	<p>The support for the Community Strategic Plan 2040 is noted.</p> <p>The Council consults broadly with the Community and service providers on the development of all plans and strategies.</p> <p>Council continues to engage and consult government departments to ensure future works are designed to be compliance to all guidelines and legislation. We ensure this through our Drinking Water Management System operationally and ensure the consultation continues for new works.</p>

and Place. The proposed Community Wellbeing Strategy will provide opportunity to do this.

### Developing our Built Environment

#### 1. Secure the water supply

A safe and secure water supply is essential to ensure positive health outcomes for the Lithgow community, and we support Council's plans to improve infrastructure services, including the construction of a new water treatment plant.

We recommend that Lithgow Council continues to consult with NBMLHD to ensure that the new water treatment plant is constructed in accordance with all legislative requirements and that the drinking water supplied to the Lithgow community meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

### Developing our Built Environment

#### 2. Reimagining Public Spaces

We support Council's plans to improve the physical and social connections between the people of Lithgow and their local places.

Improving and activating public spaces will result in positive health benefits for the community through greater options for social connection, physical activity, and safe active travel, cooler shady streets and parks and enhanced night-time safety.

We encourage Council to also ensure these facilities are delivered in new developments through urban planning controls. The expense to retrofit is a burden on tight council budgets and may be avoided if these

	<p>vital facilities are delivered as a requirement of development or through developer contributions.</p>	
	<p>Preserving our Natural Environment</p> <p><b>2. Protect and manage the natural environment</b></p> <p>NBMLHD has emergency management plans for flood, bushfire and extreme heat (in development) to support residents during extreme weather events, and we work with all agencies and organisations to strengthen local community resilience.</p>	

# 2025/26 Operational Plan

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Council Response
1	<p><b>CBD Revitalisation</b></p> <p>The draft budget for 2025/26 identifies minimal direct action in the “Economic Development” space, particularly for short-term outcomes. While long-term planning via the LEEP initiative is vitally important, Lithgow’s Main Street and business community are in need of support now. Without a thriving local economy and visible activation, future planning will have little to stand on — people and businesses won’t wait around.</p> <p><u>Proposal Overview</u></p> <p>Council’s existing <b>Shopfront Restoration Program</b> currently offers up to \$2,500 for eligible restoration works. However, it has seen low uptake. Rather than continue to fund a dormant initiative, I propose replacing it with a refreshed Main Street Shopfront Activation Program, better aligned with the urgency and needs of our town.</p> <p><u>Key Features of the Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$4,000 per applicant to assist with shopfront activation and fit out. Targeted toward new or relocating businesses taking up vacant or underutilised premises in the Main Street precinct.</li> <li>• Limited to 5 grants per year to maintain budget control and ensure a competitive process.</li> <li>• Applicants must have ABN and 12-month lease.</li> <li>• Simple application and reporting process focused on outcomes, not red tape.</li> <li>• Priority given to businesses offering unique retail, services, creative industries, or tourism-aligned offerings.</li> </ul> <p><u>Why This Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Development Impact</li> <li>• Immediate visual and commercial uplift of the Main Street</li> </ul>	<p>Council will continue to deliver events within the Lithgow CBD. Two events scheduled to be held on Main St include the annual Halloween Event in October 2025 and the Lithgow International Schnitzel festival in February 2026.</p> <p>The <b>Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival (LISF)</b> - funded under the NSW State Government ‘Open Streets Program’ - is a three-year precinct activation pilot that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages outdoor dining, creative pop-ups, and shared trading zones</li> <li>• Trials façade improvement micro-grants and shared marketing with local businesses</li> <li>• Drives foot traffic and local spend through event-based activation</li> <li>• Uses pedestrian data and direct business engagement to inform long-term infrastructure planning, including potential footpath widening and night-time economy upgrades</li> </ul> <p>This approach includes the small-scale investment in shopfront activation and fit-out that this proposal recommends.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving perception for locals and visitors alike</li> <li>• Attracts new businesses</li> <li>• encourages activity in currently dormant shopfronts</li> <li>• Reduces vacancy in our town centre,</li> <li>• helping prevent further economic decline</li> <li>• Boosts foot traffic which benefits existing businesses — especially hospitality and retail</li> <li>• Cost-effective economic stimulus — small grants can unlock significant private investment and generate ongoing economic activity</li> </ul> <p><u>Tourism Benefit</u> A reinvigorated main street is one of the most cost-effective tourism assets a town can have. Visitors judge a town quickly — and a busy, inviting Main Street is often the deciding factor in whether they stop, spend, and come back.</p> <p>Activated shopfronts make a stronger impression than banners on poles.</p> <p>This program directly supports Lithgow’s ability to present as a welcoming, active regional centre.</p> <p><u>Final Thoughts</u> This program is not about big spending — it’s about smart spending. It leverages modest Council investment to unlock private business activity, attract visitors, and improve our town’s liveability. Rather than continue to fund an unused program, Council has the opportunity here to reallocate funds where they will have real, measurable impact within the 12-month budget cycle.</p>	
	<p><b>Council-Led Business Spotlight Program</b> I’d like to propose a Council-supported “Local Business Spotlight” initiative that showcases small and medium businesses across the LGA through social media, Council newsletters, and community platforms. This would operate as a low-cost, high-impact way to strengthen the visibility of local operators, encourage residents and visitors to shop locally, and reinforce the</p>	<p>While the <a href="#">Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan</a> (LEEP) is primarily focused on long-term economic transition, support for small and medium sized enterprises SMEs and local business in the shorter term is an important part of the mix as we work to build an adaptive, resilient, and future-facing local economy.</p>

	<p>Council's support for SMEs. Each week or fortnight, a featured business would be profiled with a photo, short story, and contact details—highlighting the people, products, and personalities behind local shops, services, and makers. The tone would be warm and community-minded, with a consistent visual style. The Council could lead content gathering in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce or local creatives, and the model would be similar to what the Visit Seven Valleys Instagram account already does for accommodation providers and food outlets. The benefits are broad: businesses gain free professional promotion, the community builds stronger ties with local operators, and Council visibly aligns itself as a champion of the local economy. Importantly, this kind of storytelling also supports economic development goals by increasing foot traffic, uncovering hidden gems, and encouraging positive perceptions of the region as a place to visit, live, and invest. This would be a simple and scalable way to support existing businesses while enhancing Council's reputation for practical, people-first initiatives.</p>	<p>We appreciate this suggestion, which aligns with the overarching LEEP and Council goals to support economic development and will be considered as part of our communications mix for the coming year.</p>
<p>1</p>	<p><b>Business/Tourism Seven Valleys Promotions – Photo competition</b>  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</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Council is implementing several related initiatives that align strongly with the proposal's intent.</p> <p><b>(a) Place Branding and Regional Identity</b>  Council is currently strengthening the Seven Valleys identity as part of broader efforts to develop a place brand that supports tourism, liveability, and economic transition goals. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifying how the Seven Valleys brand can be used across Council, tourism operators, and community</li> <li>• Laying groundwork for consistent messaging and imagery that local creators can use</li> </ul> <p><b>(b) Digital Engagement and Storytelling</b>  The LEEP supports digital engagement by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding precinct activations (like the Schnitzel Festival) that are designed to generate organic social content and visitor storytelling</li> <li>• Embedding visual identity and data capture in event delivery, helping Council promote local experiences</li> </ul> <p>Some active examples of how this can be implemented include:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporating selfie stands into interpretive signage at visitor locations as part of a Tourism Signage Strategy.</li> <li>• Encouraging photos and postings to Seven Valleys social media pages.</li> </ul>
	<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 (example image below). 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 of interest for people visiting.</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 signage strategy where all interpretive and directional signage is identified as a need, a need for replacement, or of short-term value is needed across the LGA. It will be important to maintain a similar look and feel across all signage and therefore will require significant planning and budgetary attention to bring it to fruition. It is closely aligned to actions in the Destination Action Plan 2024-30 and the Seven Valleys Marketing Strategy 2024-27.</p>

1	<p><b>Town Entry Signage – Seven Valleys Tourism Brand</b> I agree with Councillor who stated that ‘Seven Valleys’ means nothing to people outside council. Signage must include ‘Lithgow.’</p>	<p>The Seven valleys brand is a place brand for the whole of the Lithgow LGA. The town of Lithgow will be directly included with the Seven Valleys Marketing.</p>
1	<p><b>Hassans Walls Reserve</b> Council should ensure that it does what it says. Motherhood statements are fine, if follow through action results. I'm particularly interested in our natural environment and have a degree in Env Science to support this interest. In my opinion there is much work to be done. In Hassans Walls Reserve, (an area of chronic council neglect), Council should start with the basis of developing knowledge of what is in the reserve and get a data base organised. There are many scientific minds walking around the reserve on any given day. It is recognised amongst the community that there are, for example, many rare and endangered plant species on the hill and in Sheedys Gully. Yet non-commissioned tracks are regularly being pushed through sensitive heathland and other habitats without any care of what is growing there. Recreational pursuits are welcome, but the reserve is essentially an area for nature.</p> <p><u>Waste Management</u> Council does not pick up rubbish in the reserve or even empty the couple of bins at the lookout often enough. These bins are regularly overflowing with rubbish strewn through the surrounding bush. More bins and signage should be placed around the mountain to at least give people the option of using a bin. There are a couple of areas around the access road that are regularly used as dumps. Myself and others are constantly asking Council to barricade these areas, install wildlife cameras or use other means to discourage illegal dumping.</p>	<p>Council is continually evaluating the management of Hassans Walls Reserve and is in the process of updating the Crown Reserve Plan of Management (PoM). In addition to this, ecological and heritage studies have been performed on Sheedy’s Gully to inform management, the results of these studies will be included in the updates PoM.</p> <p>Council carryout a weekly rubbish collection within Hassans Walls Reserve. This is the current service level that Council can provide. Council will investigate through the Plan of Management for the area waste management and factor in the possibility of more signage.</p>
1	<p><b>Tony Luchetti Showground – Camping</b> Lithgow is in a good position at the end of the electric rail line to attract people from further West to travel here, leave a vehicle or even a caravan, and travel to Sydney or medical appointments. The Showground could be a good spot for this to develop some resources</p>	<p>This aligns with the Events Strategy where a repeat of short-term use of the Tony Luchetti Showground can lead to significant return to the local Visitor Economy.</p> <p>In addition, significant upgrades were made to the infrastructure at the showground to facilitate the short-term camping of an aligned group.</p>

		<p>A strategic plan would certainly advocate for the financial benefits, although allowance of individual camping on a regular basis may not be a viable option and would likely conflict with local businesses offering a similar service.</p>
<p>4 plus Joint submission: Glen Alice Community Association, Glen Davis Community Association &amp; Capertee Valley Landcare</p>	<p><b>Waste management</b> in the Capertee Valley remains unresolved since 2019. The lack of appropriate facilities poses health, environmental, and safety risks to both residents and the large number of visitors. Proper provision of waste management services is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bulky goods waste collection twice a year</li> <li>• A properly organised and safe waste management facility</li> <li>• Including appropriate waste stream handling for recycling and re-use.</li> </ul>	<p>Council is commencing consultation on the option to extend the kerbside service area to the Capertee Valley (Glen Alice &amp; Glen Davis). The provision of a kerbside service includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red (general waste), yellow (co-mingled recycling) and green (food and garden organics) kerbside bins; and</li> <li>• Bulky household waste collection twice per year; and</li> <li>• Bulky green waste collection twice per year.</li> </ul> <p>The outcome of the consultation will inform waste services in the Capertee Valley moving forward.</p>
	<p><b>Precinct Planning &amp; Signage:</b> Council must have a wider approach to precinct planning reaching into the rural areas of the LGA, not just Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang For the Capertee Valley there are two zones which would benefit from precinct planning:</p> <p><b>1. Capertee as the gateway</b> to the area is a patchwork of residential, community hall, tourist spot, hotel, turnoff to Capertee Valley, and heritage buildings without cohesion or a sense of place for either the community or travellers.</p> <p><b>2. Glen Davis:</b> The sense of place is compromised by neglect in planning and a minimum change and maintenance only approach by Council. There is a combination of things that need consideration in the “total” picture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is home to permanent and part time residents who treasure the place for its community, natural setting and accessible housing and community support. The adjoining Gullies Road and Glen Davis Road residents add to this mix.</li> <li>• Council’s Glen Davis Reserve being ecologically restored by Capertee Valley Landcare and gradually transforming from a weed ridden liability into an accessible and usable public space</li> <li>• Impending opening of the Great Wollemi Walk.</li> <li>• Nearby Coorangooba Campground</li> </ul>	<p>The Council acknowledges that there is a need to develop plans and strategies for the unique villages and localities across the LGA in addition to the three major town centres of Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang.</p> <p>In 2024, Council’s Tourism Department facilitated a workshop in conjunction with Destination Store to assist stakeholders in the Capertee Valley and Wolgan Valley to maximise tourism opportunities.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other local assets: the shale works, heritage buildings, campground, community hall, and amenities block, offer the opportunity to create a place which will be attractive, a stronger community gathering place, and a contributor to the visitor economy of the valley and the LGA.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Glen Davis Hall and Glen Davis Reserve</b>  Glen Davis Reserve being ecologically restored by Capertee Valley Landcare and gradually transforming from waste land to usable public space, plus the impending opening of the Great Wollemi Walk there is an urgent need to consider precinct planning for Glen Davis.</p> <p>If Glen Davis is to become an important staging point, then there should be investment in an <b>upgraded hall</b> (kitchen facilities, roof, guttering, signage, information, emergency contacts etc) and a <b>new amenities block</b> of a type that is low maintenance, easily and regularly cleaned, disabled access compliant etc.</p> <p><b>Glen Davis Community Facilities – Hall and Amenities Block</b>  Our toilets and showers are working but in a bad state and also a commercial grade kitchen within our Glen Davis community hall. I believe that the GD hall kitchen should be upgraded into a commercial grade approved kitchen. An approved kitchen offers numerous benefits, including increased access to healthy meals, opportunities for skill development &amp; social connection, and reduced barriers for community groups to share their cultures. Additionally, it can provide access to commercial-grade equipment and compliance with regulations to provide food for events, visitors and a future income for the hall for the upkeep of our local community centre.</p>	<p>Council has been working with and consulting through different stages of incremental improvements to the Glen Davis Hall in the Glen Davis community. Improvements fitting within council's resources have been achieved. However, the improvements suggested are much more significant and are outside the capacity of Council to deliver. Council remains open to the opportunity of working with the Progress Association to source grants which may facilitate this outcome.</p>
	<p><b>Glen Alice Hall</b> should be considered as an alternative emergency meeting station. The RFS station is located here to allow for emergency and disaster management; the community hall is equipped to cater for large numbers and has a locked toilet block (currently managed by the Glen Alice Community Association), which Council could easily assume management and care of.</p>	<p>The location of Emergency Evacuation Centres cannot be declared at Council's discretion. They require deep risk assessments and facility improvements to ensure they are fit for purpose. Lithgow's main facilities are the Lithgow Workmen's Club and the Civic Ballroom, to give some indication of the standard of facility required for such purposes. At this time, a remote facility like the Glen Alice Hall would be considered high risk due to threat of bushfire, the same threat that would likely result in evacuation in the first instance.</p>

	<p><b>Roads:</b> Maintenance and safety of Valley roads remain a top community concern. A structured, transparent, and ongoing engagement process specific to road issues is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always top of the agenda across the Valley, the need for proactive, quick response, high quality, durable road maintenance and fixing potholes and decaying edges.</li> <li>• Needs to be the focus of specific ongoing Valley community forums explaining what is happening and proposed, timeframes plus first and next steps.</li> <li>• Ideally, separately so that other community issues can still be discussed without being overwhelmed by Roads.</li> <li>• Generally, need improved directional, wildlife hazard and road condition signage Structure Valley community engagement to give air to both roads and other issues.</li> </ul>	<p>Unfortunately, this request cannot be met.</p> <p>The maintenance of the roads in the Capertee Valley is of high importance to Council. Council maintenance teams have spent many weeks in the last few months repairing and improving the sealed roads of the area. Council has also just completed over \$800,000 of major repairs and improvements to the roads in the valley to increase the quality and longevity of the life of the roads.</p> <p>Moving forward, Council has conducted a holistic condition assessment of all roads, prioritised all works into a 6-year strategic plan and will be conducting pavement testing in the coming 12 months to verify this plan. Operational practices are being modified to move toward Australian best practice models of asset management and service delivery, whilst the Council and its administration work together to determine the long-term financial strategy to fund the backlog reduction works.</p> <p>Engagement with the community will occur once the plan is finalised.</p>
	<p><b>ROADS, ROADS, ROADS</b></p> <p>The development and delivery of a properly resourced strategic road development, resurfacing and maintenance plan for the Valley and LGA is essential. The community needs clarity of what is happening and when and reassurance that the work is of high quality....and that Council and Contractors are held accountable for quality and performance</p>	<p>Council is undertaking a major strategy change in the way it manages its roads right across the LGA. All roads have been assessed across many aspects of the road characteristics, and these will be developed into a strategic plan to maintain and upgrade the roads. Councils budget for the 2025/26 financial year has been developed with this strategy as the driving factor.</p> <p>Moving forward, Council has conducted a holistic condition assessment of all roads, prioritised all works into a 6-year strategic plan and will be conducting pavement testing in the coming 12 months to verify this plan. Operational practices are being modified to move toward Australian best practice models of asset management and service delivery, whilst the Council and its administration work together to determine the long-term financial strategy to fund the backlog reduction works.</p> <p>Engagement with the community will occur once the plan is finalised.</p>
	<p><b>Glen Davis Bridge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What community engagement is proposed</li> <li>• Timeframe for the work and actual delivery of a new bridge</li> </ul> <p>Clarification of likely funding sources</p>	<p>The application for the Glen Davis Bridge under the Commonwealth Government's <i>Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program</i>, was unfortunately unsuccessful. Council will continue to pursue all opportunities for funding to bring this project for life.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideal partnership opportunity with the local community</li> </ul>	<p>Further engagement with the community will occur once a new source of funding has been identified.</p>
<p><b>Tourism Strategy &amp; Investment:</b> Council's underinvestment in tourism is leading to underperformance. The Capertee Valley community is ready to partner in realising the LEEP and Destination Management goals, but this requires meaningful, funded action-not passive strategies.</p>	<p>The Council will continue to advocate for any available investment and funding to realise the goals of the Destination Action Plan and LEEP.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Stewardship:</b> We support the enhanced focus on natural area management and partnership approaches included in the plans. We strongly support the inclusion of Glen Davis Reserve in the Operational Plan but request accelerated timelines and dedicated resources. The natural values of the Valley are significant and require active protection and promotion. Strongly endorse the inclusion of Glen Davis Reserve as a priority in the Operational Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request plan completion be brought forward to the end of 2025 (not June 2026), with works commencing in 2026 including a financial allocation.</li> <li>• Request an additional action 'to work in partnership with Capertee Valley Landcare and other community groups to secure additional resources and grants to progress the planned Glen Davis Reserve works'</li> </ul>	<p>Council has incorporated into the Operational Plan the Glen Davis Reserve remediation in partnership with Capertee Valley Landcare and North East Wiradjuri Co.</p>
<p><b>Grants</b> are an important funding mechanism for local government and communities. Suggested actions of civic leadership on grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (and the Associations) maintain an active watch for partnership grant opportunities</li> <li>• Council provides the "production support capability" for agreed partnership submissions as the Associations have limited support capability, particularly for major submissions</li> <li>• More generally, Council in its actions, actively engage as a reliable, transparent, genuinely consultative partner</li> </ul>	<p>Council works closely with a range of community groups and community organisations to support funding applications and the promotion of available grants within the local community services sector.</p> <p>Council is investigating options for improving communication with residents, community groups and community services regarding the promotion of local services, activities, programs and events. Council will include the promotion of grant opportunities in the scope of this project in 2025-26.</p> <p>Council offers grants through the Financial Assistance Program (FAP) and is currently piloting event sponsorship. The FAP and Events</p>

	<p>working closely with the whole valley community. Our community is a willing partner.</p>	<p>Sponsorships will be reviewed in 2025-26 with the intent of improving these programs in future years.</p> <p>Finally, in 2025-26 Council will bring various place-based resident groups and the like together to discuss opportunities to support and build the capacity of these essential community-led initiatives. Rural and regional areas are highly dependent on volunteers and community-led initiatives to meet community needs, to advocate and to celebrate community strengths. As a small Council, LCC will seek to rebuild and strengthen these relationships in coming years.</p>
	<p><b>Signage</b>  Signage to and within the Capertee Valley remains unaddressed by Council (and NPWS).  Drivers meander through the Valley (without knowing that they won't have internet connection) and fall on locals seeking basic directional and attraction and walk information. The internet gives them names of places but on the ground the reality is that many don't know they are actually in the Capertee Valley, and they all have no idea how to find the things they want to see and do.</p> <p>For roads appropriate wildlife and road condition signage is an important part of road safety, especially for first time tourists.</p>	<p>A traffic signage audit has been undertaken across the valley and will be implemented to address the shortfall in traffic signage over the next financial year. Engagement with the community will also occur to ensure there is good understanding of the scope of the project, with approximately 500 signs requiring relocation, replacement, or new installation.</p> <p>A comprehensive signage strategy encompassing Tourism directional and interpretive signage is necessary to comprehend the needs for new and replacement signage across the entire LGA including the Capertee Valley. The strategy will be critical to coordinating the roll out of signage and realising all available funding.</p>
<p>Kanimbla Wombats</p>	<p><b>Wildlife Friendly Roads</b>  It is fantastic to see councils' interest in promoting a sustainable future for the Lithgow region and looking after the environment. However, the strategic plan has little to no mention of the wildlife who call this place home. When looking at womSAT a reporting software designed by Western Sydney University, the Lithgow LGA is the largest hotspot in New South Wales for reported wombats hit by Cars.</p> <p>Looking at these figures I would like to see an amendment to the strategic plan to include strategies for protecting wildlife in any new development of roads including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The implementation of wildlife signage on existing roads.</li> <li>2. Wildlife corridors, under or overpasses.</li> <li>3. Lithgow council to perform due diligence when undertaking road works to identify wombat burrows and to prevent burying wombat alive.</li> </ol>	<p>Council will investigate the feasibility of infrastructure tools such as signs, fences and overpasses to reduce roadkill as part of wombat conservation projects.</p>

1	<p><b>Wildlife and Roads – A Planning Priority</b></p> <p>As development expands and traffic increases, wildlife is increasingly displaced and frequently ends up injured or killed on roads. This places strain on rescue groups, creates hazardous driving conditions, and diminishes our region’s natural value. This issue affects both biodiversity and community wellbeing and should be addressed through integrated planning, including transport, development and environmental impact strategies.</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map known wildlife corridors that intersect roadways across the LGA</li> <li>• Install signage and implement reduced speed zones in priority areas</li> <li>• Investigate fauna fencing and underpasses in sensitive zones</li> <li>• Consult with local wildlife rescue groups and use data from rescue callouts to identify blackspots</li> <li>• Incorporate wildlife impact assessments into all future development approvals</li> <li>• Include wildlife-vehicle collision data in Council’s environmental and transport reporting</li> </ul>	<p>Council has submitted a grant application for a wildlife corridor strategic plan, that will map known wildlife corridors within the LGA. As part of conservation projects data collect, infrastructure and data collection will be investigated and prioritised when planning projects.</p> <p>Wildlife-vehicle collision is an impact assessed during environmental planning and approvals for Council projects following part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.</p> <p>Council has also delivered a comprehensive review of its Part 5 Environmental assessment processes, with a new strategy and assessment process applying to consideration of environmental impact for all projects.</p>
3 incl. Capertee Progress Association & Joint submission: Glen Alice Community Association, Glen Davis Community Association & Capertee Valley Landcare	<p><b>Electronic Vehicle Chargers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visitors to <b>Glen Davis Campground</b> and activities at the hall are already asking about EV charging as these cars are now increasingly seen in the valley, driven by visitors from Sydney.</li> <li>2. I suggest that Council should include in the Plan provision for electric vehicle chargers at <b>the rest area in Capertee</b>. Capertee is a well-placed location for travellers, including those in electric vehicles, lying between Lithgow and Mudgee and at the junction for travellers heading down to the Capertee Valley. The Capertee pub is just a few minutes’ walk away for those wanting a meal while their car charges, and the servo / general store / coffee&amp; food is across the road.</li> </ol>	<p>A grant application has been submitted in collaboration with two EV charger providers for the installation of new chargers both at the Capertee Rest Stop and the Hartley Historic Village. These applications closely align with the Council’s endorsed Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.</p> <p>Once the outcome of this grant application is known, engagement with the community will commence.</p>
	<b>Capertee Recreation Reserve (Crown Reserve)</b>	All appropriate tourism destinations marketing tools will be used to promote the area and to bolster the offerings in the Seven Valleys.

<p>Capertee Progress Association</p>	<p>This is a fabulous resource which is being underutilised as many people do not realise that it is there. This is also a Tourism plus for the Lithgow LGA; a park, walking track, fitness trail, playground &amp; picnic area. We request the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signage to direct people to the reserve.</li> <li>2. The Capertee Recreation Land Managers have approached Kirkconnell Correctional Centre to do 6-monthly grass cutting of the Capertee Recreation Reserve but has hit a brick wall. On behalf of the Land Managers, Capertee Progress would like Council to look at assisting with the maintenance of the Reserve.</li> </ol>	<p>Directional signage will be investigated to form part of a wider signage strategy across the LGA, including potential sources of funding.</p>
	<p><b>Capertee Rest Area – Waste Management</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The addition of yellow lidded bins to the Capertee Rest Area to enable travellers to put their bottles &amp; paper, rather than everything going into the red bins.</li> <li>2. The installation of a Return &amp; Earn facility at the Capertee Rest Area for residents as well as travellers.</li> </ol>	<p>Yellow-lidded recycling bins have previously been provided at the Capertee Rest Area. Unfortunately, due to high levels of contamination, this service had to be discontinued. Council is investigating options for the longer-term provision of waste services, including recycling options, at the Capertee Rest Area.</p> <p>Council does not provide Return and Earn Facilities; these are provided by the network operator TOMRA Cleanaway.</p>
	<p><b>Glen Davis and Glen Alice Roads</b></p> <p>We would like Council to commit to a 6-monthly servicing program to prevent issues getting bigger and then requiring Council to gain grants to fix the road.</p>	<p>Council has employed a Roads Asset Inspection Officer who will increase the inspection of Council roads and be able to improve the reporting of the required works before maintenance teams move into the Capertee Valley.</p> <p>The Council has committed to the purchase and operation of a second road patching vehicle (and the associated structural change to operate the machine) which will increase the frequency of the maintenance of Councils roads, across the LGA. Councils' road patching vehicle has been in the Capertee Valley for 3 separate maintenance periods in the last 12 months, in addition to the major works that have occurred.</p>
	<p><b>Capertee Hall</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Repair the huge hole in the road beside the footpath outside the Capertee Hall.</li> <li>2. Install door strips at the bottom of the outer doors to protect the hall from vermin getting in.</li> </ol>	<p>Repairs of the bitumen surfacing in front of the Capertee Hall are programmed for the week commencing 16 June 2025.</p> <p>The door strips for the Capertee Hall have already been completed. This occurred in March 2025.</p>
<p>1</p>	<p><b>Coxs River Road – Urgent Need for Speed and Safety Review</b></p> <p>Coxs River Road is now home to a growing number of families</p>	<p>Council has conducted a holistic condition assessment of all roads, prioritised all works into a 6-year strategic plan and will be conducting pavement testing in the coming 12 months to verify this plan. Operational</p>

	<p>and subdivisions, but the road remains unsafe for current usage. Local concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children afraid to get on/off school buses due to other road-user speed and lack of visibility at current speed</li> <li>• Residents exercising, walking dogs, or cycling with current traffic speed</li> <li>• Frequent collisions with wildlife, affecting both public safety and animal welfare. Requests:</li> <li>• A full speed zone and safety review of Coxs River Road</li> <li>• Immediate reduction of the speed limit to suit current residential conditions</li> <li>• Installation of wildlife warning signs in high-strike zones</li> <li>• Inclusion of Coxs River Road in road asset renewal strategies and forward infrastructure planning</li> </ul>	<p>practices are being modified to move toward Australian best practice models of asset management and service delivery, whilst the Council and its administration work together to determine the long-term financial strategy to fund the backlog reduction works.</p> <p>While the strategy will be subject to change as Council’s pavement data matures, Coxs River Road is currently scheduled for the following work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reseal of 3.684km at an estimated cost of ~\$270,000 in 2026/27</li> <li>• Reseal of 4.841km at an estimated cost of ~\$310,000 in 2030/31</li> </ul> <p>In the meantime, Ganbenang Road is programmed for work in 24/25 and 25/26.</p>
1	<p><b>Protecting Wildlife Builds Tourism Value</b></p> <p>Lithgow is already recognised for its scenic beauty, but we have a unique opportunity to build our identity around responsible environmental values and thriving native wildlife. Our region supports many species, including threatened species, including koalas, gliders, wallabies, wombats, echidnas and diverse birdlife. Visitors increasingly seek out regions that offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authentic Australian nature experiences</li> <li>• Conservation leadership, aligned with our neighbours at BMCC</li> <li>• Safe and sustainable outdoor recreation</li> </ul> <p>The Operational Plan’s focus on tourism and environmental education can be further strengthened by incorporating wildlife-friendly policies into infrastructure, signage, and promotional materials. Strong biodiversity planning will enhance Lithgow’s reputation as a destination for nature-based tourism, supporting local jobs, businesses and community pride.</p>	<p>Wildlife friendly policies directly align with the Destination Action Plan and subsequent Marketing and Branding Strategy to position the Lithgow LGA/Seven Valleys as a place close to Sydney, but full of scenic beauty and amazing biodiversity.</p> <p>The region boasts endangered breeding programs, conservation programs for both flora and fauna, and this will form part of the marketing of the area. Events have been conceptualised to celebrate the native fauna of our region, and there are tourism businesses who are leveraging off this too.</p> <p>It will be essential to capitalise on these amazing assets and incorporated into the Seven Valleys Tourism strategy going forward.</p>

## 2025/26 Fees and Charges

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Council Response
Lithgow Wolves League Club Workies Rugby Football Club	<p>We would ask that the Council consider our fees and charges be looked at as a 'package' for ground hire for our season for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The two competitions that are outlined in the document are both no longer existing.</li> <li>2. Our playing season has fewer home games than the old Group Ten competition.</li> <li>3. We ask the Council to consider our lighting charges. In comparison to other clubs who use community fields ours seem to be a lot. We have no other 'purpose built' football ground and use the lighting for only 4 hours per week and have a similar outlay for lighting that other sports have for over 12 hours per week light usage.</li> <li>4. Our yearly costs are around \$10,000 to Council. It is a massive bill for us. Possibly a reason, in the future, that we will not be financial enough to continue.</li> </ol>	<p>Council is in the process of completing a comprehensive fee structure review as it applies to community assets like halls, open spaces, playgrounds, showgrounds, playing fields and aquatic centres. This will be delivered in two phases, being:</p> <p><b>Phase 1: A</b> review of Council's public halls and sports facilities fees and charges to ensure they are appropriately set according to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cost of service</li> <li>• inclusivity rather than exclusivity, considering user group age, gender, means and geography,</li> <li>• comparative analysis with like councils,</li> <li>• requisite subsidies considering the above,</li> <li>• a sensitivity analysis of available options.</li> </ul> <p><b>Phase 2:</b> Develop a fee review policy, noting a procedure where fees are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• statutory</li> <li>• discretionary or non-discretionary market pricing</li> <li>• full-cost recovery</li> <li>• subsidy and full-subsidy pricing.</li> </ul> <p>Community engagement will be included as part of this process, to gauge community sentiment surrounding existing fees and charges. The outcomes of this process will be communicated through the Sports Advisory Committee.</p> <p>This will be completed by September 2025.</p>
1	<p><b>Lithgow Resource Recovery Centre – Building Waste Fees and illegal dumping</b></p> <p>The waste management facility is a great success and generally welcomed locally. One bug bear is for Council to try and charge locals to discard what is perceived as</p>	<p><b>Illegal dumping</b> is an ongoing problem in our bushland reserves, particularly in more remote areas. Council is open to facilitating community groups such as the one suggested here and intends to run more community-based events like <b>Clean Up Australia Day</b> to assist. Council is also having ongoing</p>

	<p>'building waste' If a home gardener digs up an old path for example and turns up at the dump with a dozen broken bricks, Council tries to charge them. So, the more unscrupulous turn around and head into the bush somewhere to chuck it. Many instances of this turn up on Hassans Walls. Perhaps insist on rates notice to allow locals to dump minor amounts of such stuff. Council could encourage a volunteer workforce to be gathered to help monitor and keep bushland clean. There's already a group of locals that regularly clean up. You could make it easier by supporting their efforts. More bins, more signage, more regular emptying bins by Council trucks.</p>	<p>conversations with the EPA on support and grant funding for illegal dumping prevention within our reserves.</p> <p><b>Resource Recovery Centre</b> Council only accepts <i>household</i> waste 'free of charge' at our waste facilities. The cost of providing this service is built into the waste rates. The acceptance of <i>building waste</i> free of charge would require an increase in waste rates for all ratepayers, regardless of whether those ratepayers disposed of building waste or not. Council must balance waste charges with the cost of providing the service and potential impacts of illegal dumping.</p>
<p>Seven Valleys Creatives Forum</p>	<p><b>Prioritise and Promote Local Creatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt a "Local First" Policy for all Council-run and supported events, ensuring paid creative roles (performance, staging, production, etc.) are first offered to local artists and makers.</li> <li>• Mandate local support acts for non-local headline performances, with adherence to the \$250 Musicians Australia Minimum Performance Fee.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain a central registry of local artists, musicians, creatives, and producers—potentially integrated into the Seven Valleys website—to streamline engagement.</li> <li>• Commit to local representation across all creative initiatives, ensuring local artists are visible and engaged in delivery, planning, and evaluation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Improve Access and Affordability of Creative Venues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review community rate structures to enable free or significantly reduced fees for local creatives, particularly during off-peak days (Monday–Thursday).</li> <li>• Pilot flexible venue-use models, such as ticket percentage or profit-share agreements, for local events and performances.</li> <li>• Host venue Open Days to showcase under-utilised Council-owned spaces like the Crystal Theatre, encouraging community-led activation.</li> </ul>	<p>The submission received will be used to inform the development of the following actions as identified in the Operational Plan 2025/26.</p> <p><b>SE3.1: Active marketing of the Lithgow region and our capabilities to existing and potential residents, business, investors and visitors.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement the Main Street Banner Program promote community events, encourage shop local and tourism.</li> </ul> <p><b>SE3.2: A Variety of events, festivals, venues and activities for locals and visitors, ensuring accessibility for all.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local stakeholders to draft a proposal for the development of a new Cultural Plan for Lithgow.</li> <li>• Prepare a project proposal for the development of a business plan for the Union theatre including cost benefit.</li> <li>• Develop and implement trial capacity building activities for local artists and creative producers.</li> <li>• Develop a Community Advisory Group for the Union Theatre to Strengthen communication between stakeholder and generate opportunities for increased programming and Theatre development.</li> </ul> <p>Council's LEEP, Tourism and Community and Culture teams work closely with local businesses and with local artists and creatives to support a diverse range of initiatives locally.</p> <p>Council has been developing and delivering events for many years with varying levels of success. Utilising our learning from these events, leaning into feedback from community stakeholders and with the support of</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make smaller, under-utilised spaces available for creative activities (e.g., pop-up exhibitions, rehearsals, workshops), including areas under the Visitor Information Centre.</li> <li>• Consider providing a safe and suitable rehearsal space to support grassroots performing arts groups.</li> </ul>	<p>committed funding with Councils operational budget, the following actions are underway.</p> <p>Council is actively piloting an events sponsorship program which will support local businesses, artists/creatives, and community groups to pitch for sponsorship which will support a diverse offering of events across Lithgow.</p>
	<p><b>Enable and Support Small-Scale Local Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop tiered event support packs, providing clear, scalable information based on event type and size (e.g., insurance, DA, permits, timeframes).</li> <li>• Offer micro-grants and in-kind support, such as assistance with marketing, promotion, or equipment.</li> <li>• Maintain active and ongoing partnerships with regional bodies (e.g., Arts Out West) and trusted local creatives for co-design and consultation.</li> </ul>	<p>Council is reviewing its Financial Assistance Program and will review the first round of events sponsorships in 2026. The intention of this review will be to create an open, transparent and fair offering of funding opportunities for community organisations and diverse events.</p> <p>Businesses throughout the CBD as well as local artists and creatives will be actively engaged in the development of both the annual Halloween event in October 2025 and the new International Schnitzel festival in February 2026.</p> <p>Other smaller events, with carrying target audiences and scale, are being held at Eskbank House, the Union Theatre, and in local neighbourhoods such as Bowenfels.</p>
	<p><b>Lead Main Street Activation through Creative Collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate a Main Street creative activation strategy, led by Council in partnership with local artists, businesses, and residents.</li> <li>• Support pop-up tenancies or residencies in empty Council owned shopfronts, drawing on models like Renew Newcastle.</li> <li>• Simplify and promote busking permits, with designated high-visibility busking zones</li> <li>• Invest in permanent activation infrastructure, such as a small stage or performance space in Cook Street Plaza.</li> <li>• Champion regular cultural events (e.g., weekend markets, music performances, craft fairs) with a focus on strong local content.</li> </ul>	<p>All Council events, big and small, utilise a suite of local contractors and seek to create opportunities for local businesses to participate and, where possible, generate income.</p> <p>In 2026, Council will work with a broad range of community groups and artists to undertake stakeholder mapping and commence community engagement for the development of a Cultural Plan. This engagement will include an explicit focus on capacity building for local artists and creative industry development.</p> <p>Council continues to proactively form partnerships with Cultural Institutions and organisations across our region in order to increase local programming and touring performances. In addition, a formal partnership with Arts OutWest supports them to deliver training and development activities in Lithgow and surrounds for creative industry professionals.</p> <p>In addition, Council regularly seeks funding for arts and cultural programming. Efforts to attract funding to build the capacity of local creative</p>

		industry and to increase local creative programming will continue for years to come.
1	<p><b>Hassans Walls Reserve (HWR) and Hyde Park Reserve</b> deserve the care and maintenance and is long overdue, fast track Plan of Management by 2025 and expedite permanent funding to achieve not only flora and fauna, aboriginal and European heritage, mine subsidence assessments, but to include achieving adequate management staffing to maintain this reserve.</p>	<p>Council has employed a full time permanent Natural Area Management Officer to aid in management of Council bushland reserves including Hassans Walls and Hyde Park Reserves.</p> <p>Hassans Walls Reserve has a current Crown Lands Plan of Management, that is being updating by an external consultant. This update includes, refreshing the information listed regarding flora and fauna, heritage and mine subsidence as required. Council commissioned several studies, including ecological and heritage assessments within Sheedy's Gully, which see the most recreational activity within the reserve, to inform this process.</p> <p>Hyde Park Reserve also has a current Plan of Management which is also getting updated after Hassans Walls Reserve.</p> <p>In addition to this, Council is seeking funds from NSW Crown lands to assist in weed management within both reserves. Advice has been sought from the NSW Mine Subsidence Advisory on Mine Subsidence in the Reserves and further study as appropriate.</p>
	<p><b>Portland Common</b> Investigation and delivery for better management for Portland Commons as with any other Council Reserves.</p>	<p>Portland Common is not a Council managed reserve; it is a Crown Reserve with separate Crown Reserve Land Managers.</p>
	<p><b>Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association</b> Council to provide supporting letters for our local Lithgow &amp; Oberon Landcare organisation to succeed with adequate funding of full-time staff financial support.</p>	<p>Council provides letters of support for applications for funding upon request.</p>
	<p><b>Natural waterways and potable drinking water</b>  Our natural waterways, Lithgow has 3 headwater catchments there needs to be better protection with the loss of surface water and contamination from mining in our waterways with insurance more than</p>	<p>Council is currently reviewing the Clarence to Wallerawang pipeline as a part of the ongoing Water Resourcing and Strategy program.</p> <p>There are a number of factors affecting the decision making for the location of the new water treatment plant as well as where we source our water from. Council currently operates a WTP at Oakey Park that has risks associated with bushfire and restricted access in natural disasters. This coupled with a</p>

	<p>ever the preservation and management of our surface water to be maintained into the future as with groundwater.</p> <p><b>Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline and new water treatment plant at Wallerawang.</b></p> <p>I as with many others would like to know more on this proposal it would be valued if there has been any detailed information on the current proposal with using untreated mining water from Clarence colliery treated piped to suggested site at Greenspot including a new water treatment plant on that site. Why are we not using the pristine water provided from those headwaters in particular our current water supply from Farmers Creek Catchment with a long overdue water treatment plant at Oakey Park. Why are we spending for a pipeline to Greenspot when a pipeline to a new water treatment plant at Oakey Park considered?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I do understand that the current operational farmers creek dam will be decommissioned;</li> <li>• Removal of the remaining mine discharge water from the wild river – Wollangambe River;</li> <li>• Oberon Water catchment limited;</li> <li>• Water security into the future to drought proof Lithgow and possibly western areas;</li> </ul> <p>Is this the only proposal to use Clarence Colliery untreated mine water for Lx water supply? If so assurance that all the discharge water be treated for Lithgow drinking water meets ANZECC guidelines and for the receiving waterways meets (NorBE) and</p>	<p>extreme category 120-year-old dam at the head of Farmers Creek presents significant risk to Council and the township.</p> <p>The proposed pipeline is broken into sections with the first sections to be from Clarence to our current WTP at Oakey Park. The second stage is between the existing water plant and to the new water plant position in Wallerawang. This has some strategic benefits that the system can then be connected to the various trunk mains and system already in place and converging in Wallerawang.</p> <p>Council is able to extract water from the Wollangambe dam and transfer water to Farmers Creek Dam which is used primarily in drought events. Even with this and the supplementary surface water sources from Oberon Dam and the Fish River Scheme, Lithgow Council's water supplies are not secure and resilient enough for future growth and ensuring long term supply.</p> <p>There have been various studies and work completed to assess the resilience of the water sources in the area and the aquifers in the LGA are far more secure than the surface water systems which are used by other licensees, and used have effect environmental flows in drought and flooding.</p> <p>The program is to investigate and review as many sources as possible within the area for the long-term supply of water for the Lithgow LGA. Council have completed various investigations on hydraulic, hydrological, ecological, biodiversity etc studies for this program. Council will be abiding by all regulations, legislation required for the future works as it has in the past. Council understands and acknowledges that various water sources are required for security and so the Clarence to Wallerawang project is not the only source being investigated.</p> <p>Council has worked closely with the government and Centennial Coal on the existing supply, exiting infrastructure and the ongoing management for water into the environment and into Lithgow via environment and via drinking water. responsibility across these aspects is split between parties as they relate to that party. Council is not carrying out work for other entities or parties regardless of sentiment.</p> <p>The long-term planning is being developed across industry and with Council. Council is contributing and actively working with state government on the Fish River-Wywendy Strategy that will help form the future of water in the Central</p>
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	<p>with any residual excess be treated the same level into the Coxs River.</p> <p>Why is the government and Council not pursuing to seek a solution and water treatment plan for Centennial to treat the water from the mine? This is not our problem.</p> <p>Is this proposal in the interim until Clarence colliery closes if so, what is the long-term plan? If it is a long-term plan for Lithgow drinking water supply. This is not acceptable or sustainable to continue to drain the ancient aquifers.</p>	<p>West. Council will continue to advocate and work to create a long-term water servicing plan based on secure and resilient water supply.</p>
	<p><b>Wolgan Valley Access</b></p> <p>Wolgan road descent needs immediate action to reinstate the existing road given the time span with still no adequate road to the residents, visitors or One and Only resort. Noting that Blue Mountains City Council experienced the same impacts on Megalong Valley Road with the existing road was reopened in April 2025.</p>	<p>Council submitted a \$325,357,265.00 restoration of essential public asset claim to TfNSW on 27 June 2024, addressing damage caused by AGRN 1034 during the event "NSW Flooding from 14 September 2022 onwards," which impacted Wolgan Road on 5 October 2022.</p> <p>In December 2024, TfNSW requested an independent review of the estimated costs.</p> <p>CCHD had reviewed the funding application cost plan that recommended a budget of \$325,357,265 and proposed an increased budget of \$384,824,540. A value of \$354,615,636 (excluding GST) was agreed upon.</p> <p>While progressing the design of a new alignment, Council is simultaneously procuring an independent Wolgan Road Slope Risk Assessment (SRA) to review the original risk assessment produced by WSP and consider whether it is currently possible to include the Old Wolgan Road into the project, whether this inclusion is part of the permanent solution, or whether it is part of an interim access solution.</p> <p>If the independent SRA deems the closed section of Wolgan Road operable (full/partial), Donkey Steps alignment or Old Wolgan Road may secure greater community support.</p> <p>The outcomes of the SRA will dictate how Council proceeds and will be openly communicated with the community. It remains in Council and the community's interests to pursue the simplest, cheapest and quickest solution to the reinstatement of access to the Wolgan Valley.</p> <p>Regular updates are provided to the community on Councils website <a href="https://council.lithgow.com/projects/wolgan-gap/">https://council.lithgow.com/projects/wolgan-gap/</a></p>

**Renewable Energy**

We are limited with time with our transition away from coal and Council/Councillors to support in principle of any renewable projects proposed for the Lithgow region to our area until the required documents are provided by proponents with Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents registered via the Dept of Planning Industry & Environment – Major Portal.

Council immediate discussions with state or federal government funding for the opportunity for a community battery. I am aware that the previous and current government funding allocated only to the current designated renewable energy zones.

(NOTE: I oppose Energy from Waste- it is not a renewable energy which will increase toxic residual ash and emissions to our area.

The LEEP Action Plan 2025–2026 provides clear strategic direction for Lithgow’s transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy. In alignment with this plan and its focus on economic diversification, energy innovation, and place-based investment, Council is actively pursuing all feasible opportunities to support renewable energy uptake across the region, including community battery options. We acknowledge that current funding programs have focused primarily on designated Renewable Energy Zones (REZs). However, Lithgow’s inclusion in the Central-West Orana region, as recognised in the Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041, strengthens Lithgow’s case for inclusion in state and federal renewable energy infrastructure discussions.

Our advocacy and project planning also align with the following LEEP strategies:

- LEEP Action Plan Part A - Energy Innovation and Industry Attraction: This includes actions to attract investment in clean energy infrastructure and low-emission industries to former coal precincts.
- LEEP Action Plan Part D - Enabling Infrastructure and Planning: We are pursuing grant opportunities for the Lithgow Net Zero Transition Precinct project to progress precinct-scale land readiness and infrastructure planning that supports renewable energy-enabled industrial uses.

Council has also initiated direct engagement with state and federal stakeholders on renewable energy options, and we continue to seek clarity on opportunities that could be enabled through tailored funding or planning pathways for non-REZ regions like ours.

In alignment with the LEEP Action Plan’s whole-of-community resilience and health principles, Council has not identified Energy from Waste (EfW) as a transition pathway. We acknowledge your concerns and confirm that EfW is not part of our current policy agenda or investment strategy.

We remain committed to delivering a just energy transition and welcome continued input from Councillors and the community.

	<p><b>Health</b></p> <p>Council to continue to lobby governments/politicians until achieved with Lithgow's current health services is in the Western Sydney Health region to revert back to the previous boundary Western aka Central West region and to include all health services to our local Lithgow Public Health hospital. The current system is failing our community dismally since the health boundary adjustment. Our community is suffering due to the costs to travel to Nepean Hospital; families who are not close to support those to get to appointments or any ongoing health treatment. Our financial disadvantaged or elderly are forgoing those health needs due to those constraints.</p>	<p>The Council has developed an Internal Health Working Party and has recently held a Health Summit to identify local issues and solutions for improving access to health services in the Lithgow LGA.</p>
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## General Statements

Number of submissions received	Topic/Summary	Officers Response
1	As a resident of Lidsdale, it is disappointing to see that we do not even rate a mention on the map or in the strategic plan. We appear to have been tossed into the Wallerawang general area. As the gateway to the Wolgan Valley and Newnes plateau and with its own historic significance, this is an omission that should be rectified.	The mapping has been updated to include Lidsdale.
Joint submission: Glen Alice Community Association,	<b>Community Recognition &amp; Data Accuracy:</b> Misrepresentation of our community groups, events, and geographical features undermines confidence in Council's understanding and engagement.	Census data is consistently used in the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents to reflect the demographics of the local government area as a whole. Any discrepancies within the document suite with regard to community groups or events have been updated to reflect correct naming.

Glen Davis Community Association & Capertee Valley Landcare	Census data fails to reflect the real, dynamic population of the Valley, significantly underestimating service needs	
	<b>Smart Communities &amp; Equity:</b> Council's Smart Places roadmap risks further marginalising rural communities. We call for inclusion of rural areas in smart infrastructure initiatives to ensure fair and forward-thinking development.	The <a href="#">Smart Places RoadMap</a> adopts a place-based approach, assessing potential sites based on social characteristics, physical amenities, and existing digital technologies that can be leveraged or enhanced. The RoadMap prioritises location on these factors. Once the prioritised locations and projects have been delivered, other locations will be considered. Options for smart infrastructure in other locations will also be considered should funding opportunities arise.
	<b>Partnership &amp; Governance:</b> We seek a new model of partnership with Council, one built on transparency, co-design, and proactive engagement. The Valley's associations are active, capable collaborators, but Council must meet them with the necessary support to develop joint grant submissions and shared initiatives.	In 2025-26 the Community and Culture Team will pilot quarterly gatherings with place-based community-led groups such as progress associations to strengthen the relationship between Council and the resident groups as well as between the groups themselves. This will be aligned with the place-based community engagement pilot and pending community feedback will be adapted to suit the needs of the community groups engaged.
1	<b>Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014 – Glen Davis</b> The council needs to re-examine the LEP. Development in Glen Davis is effectively frozen. You can't get a DA for anything. Likewise, for all the 'blockies' down here. Despite being subdivided and sold off from larger farms, the blocks are still classified as RU1. That severely limits any development. Whilst some blockies maintain their primary producer status for tax purposes, the lot size restricts the income generating capacity for any farming beyond intensive high value operations (such as specialist livestock and truffle/saffron/lavender type operations). Agri-tourism development is severely curtailed. Accommodation and cafe's.....nigh impossible. This needs to change as it is the newcomers who are most likely to undertake such development. Large scale farmers are unlikely to invest the time, money and effort in small scale projects that do little to diversify their income sources. It is the relatively "well off" younger blocky cohort that has the imagination, interest, time and money to develop such businesses. But the Council currently says NO. And all the App's and marketing	Council is preparing a Rural Strategy as part of the comprehensive Growth Management Strategy that will amongst other things review the opportunities and constraints for rural tourism land uses.  The Growth Management Strategy is scheduled to be developed in the 25/26 financial year.  This strategy work will inform a review of Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014.

	bumpff will not change the landscape until the LEP recognises that.	
1	<p><b>Subcategory Comparisons across councils</b></p> <p>When compared to other councils, the Lithgow Council has not set rates fairly, ethically and without bias because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is not sufficient subcategory groupings within the Business subcategory to ensure an approximate 27.7% increase as outlined in the Revenue and Rates Policy 2023-24. The subcategories should more be in-line with State zoning/land usage, for example the Caravan Park is R2 Low Density Residential which is not comparable to a business in Main Street which are zoned E1 - Local Centre since they have lower valuations increases and therefore lower rates.</li> <li>2. Compared to the Council's Business – Lithgow subcategory has a very high ad valorem of 2.14, whereas most councils compared are approximately 0.5-1. This is not due to the SRV as the Business – Lithgow ad valorem was still 2.05 in 2022-23.</li> <li>3. Lithgow's high variance in ad valorem rates creates bias where Lithgow residents and businesses have a higher rates burden than Portland and Wallerawang.</li> <li>4. The SRV report produced by Lithgow Council was not adequate to show there was no 'undue hardship on property owners' as it was not reported the highest and lowest % increase in rates, only the average which was misleading.</li> </ol> <p><i>It is to be noted that this submission was in relation to rates levied in 2023/2024, where the impact of the revaluation resulted in increases above and below the 27.7% Special Rate Variation.</i></p>	<p>Each council has a multitude of different property types, rateability, property valuations and land uses. There are a range of options in relation to how a council can distribute rates across each property. The combination of these factors means that the ad valorem (or rate in the dollar) rates cannot be used for comparative purposes.</p> <p>The 27.7% SRV increase relates to the total increase in income allowed to be collected, and does not tie back to an individual property. This is particularly the case in the year of a full revaluation, which was the case when the SRV was levied.</p> <p>This also applies every year with the rates peg, the overall permitted increase to total income will not align to each property in the local government area. This arises for a multitude of reasons, mostly associated with changes in the number of properties in each area and any valuation changes.</p> <p>It is determined by Council resolution each year when setting the rates structure as part of the Operational Plan, that rates are fair and equitable, this is the mechanism by which the legislation is enacted.</p> <p>Minor adjustments were made to the proposed rating structure for 2025/2026, which included adding new business sub-categories.</p> <p>The Valuer General has advised that a full revaluation occur a year early, with effect on rates from 1 July 2026. Therefore, a comprehensive review will be undertaken on the rates structure to reassess the distribution of rates across each of the categories and sub-categories later this calendar year, for implementation in 2026/2027.</p> <p>There will be consultation with the community regarding the impact of the changes determined as part of the exhibition of the 2026/2027 Operational Plan in May 2026.</p>

<p>Capertee Valley Landcare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capertee Valley Landcare Inc (CVL) welcomes the increased focus and action on natural area management and partnerships that are evident in Council's plans.</li> <li>• We strongly endorse the inclusion of Glen Davis Reserve as a priority in the Operational Plan and appreciate the increased engagement of Council officers in current site planning.</li> <li>• We are currently working on an evidence-based Valley Plan to identify priority habitats and locations for future works with Council, Local Land Services, North East Wiradjuri Company, etc within the broader Capertee valley.</li> <li>• CVL also supports ensuring people are kept safe when experiencing the natural environment in our valley through improved signage, internet coverage, good roads, access to toilet facilities and places to eat and picnic and more information about things to do in the local area to make their excursion to the valley memorable.</li> </ul>	<p>Council has incorporated into the Operational Plan the Glen Davis Reserve remediation in partnership with Capertee Valley Landcare and North East Wiradjuri Co.</p>
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