



MINUTES

Finance Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Tuesday 20 May 2025

at 4:30 PM

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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:

Mayor - Councillor C Coleman,
Ross Gurney - General Manager
Vanessa Browning - Director Finance and Governance,
Councillor T Evangelidis,
Councillor E Mahony,
Councillor S Ring

Officers:

Jonathon Reid - Finance Manager
Trinity Newton - Minute taker

3. Apologies

All being present there were no apologies.

4. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

5. Staff Reports

5.1. March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review

The Quarterly Review projects that there will be a \$2.1M deficit. Taking away the impact of the income received last year for the LRRRP grant funded project that was spent this year there would have been a surplus of \$1.2M.

From a cash point of view, it's improved in terms of what the value of cash will be at the end of the year because of reviewing the time frames in relation to project delivery. There was also a range of projects where the expenditure was less than projected

LCC will be looking at staging projects to be able to do more preliminary investigations, scoping, design and quantity surveying so that a better handle of the delivery time frames and what it is going to cost in the current market.

The Committee asked regarding the projected Water Fund operating result and income that budgeted to be less than current actuals, it was outlined that internal charges are offset against income at year end.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report and the projected consolidated operating result (before capital) of (\$2.1M) deficit for the 2024/25 Operational Plan as detailed in the Quarterly Budget Review Report for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025.
2. Note the commentary on the capital expenditure budget, cashflow and reserve balances.
3. Note the income, expenditure and capital budget variations to the 2024/25 Council budget as outlined in the attached Quarterly Budget Review Report.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED**5.2. 2025/2026 Budget Update**

There have been a few submissions received. These will be presented to Council at an information session on 16 June 2025 and then go to the council meeting 30 June.

The Director of Finance and Governance informed the Finance Committee that the Long-Term Financial Plan will not meet the legislative deadline required as it is preferred not to rush the final stages but to ensure that it is robust and fit for purpose.

It was outlined that approximately \$600K was needed in either increased income or reduced expenditure to meet budgetary targets for 2025/26. The impacts of the operating business cases that were unable to be funded were also considered.

LCC will be looking at adjusting chart of accounts to provide more accurate and timely information regarding the cost of services and assist with service reviews. This is likely to take 12-18 months to complete and 6 months to completely embed into the organisation.

The sale of land can take some considerable time and many steps need to be taken prior to selling, particularly if re-gazettal is required to change from Community Land.

Discussions were held regarding the ongoing nature of some community grants, which lessens the funding pool available for other community groups and also raises sustainability concerns for groups dependent upon recurrent Council funding.

ACTION: The Community Development Manager to review the criteria and nature of funding to be supplied under the Financial Assistance Grants Program.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Finance Committee note the update to the draft 2025/2026 Budget and review of the LTFP.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

5.3. Draft Delegations Register - Final Review

The Mayor requested that the Mayoral reception delegation be changed to "civic receptions for up to maximum of \$500".

Point 8 - Policy Making - needs to include wording "does not include a monetary delegation".

Point 10 - include wording "in a declared emergency situation" - Ross took the wording down.

Deputy Mayor - TALC meeting delegation to be corrected.

From Point 8 under the GM delegations to be reviewed and removed when they are sub-delegated to other staff.

Page 29 - unlimited delegation to GM - a clarification note to be added.

The legislated table will be updated from the Council Pulse system.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Finance Committee endorse the amended draft Delegations Register to be tabled for Council's consideration at the July Council Meeting for adoption.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor T Evangelidis

CARRIED

5.4. Draft Borrowing Policy

The development of a borrowing policy for capital works and other borrowing that may be required.

Sets out that the LCC can borrow monies for projects that will either generate income or result in savings. Internal borrowings are also addressed within the policy. The use of internal reserves is also addressed.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Finance Committee endorse the draft Borrowing Policy to be presented to the 30 June Council Meeting for consideration.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

5.5. Review of Policy 8.9 External Grant Funding

The policy is proposed to be rescinded, and a new policy is to be created that addresses grant reporting, maintenance of a grant register and identifies milestones for approved grants.

This will be created in the coming months.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. The Finance Committee endorse in principle rescinding Policy 8.9 External Grant Funding and replacing it with a Grants Management Policy incorporating the elements of the current Policy and expanding the scope to include the management and reporting of grants.; and
2. The draft Grants Management Policy be tabled at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

MOVED: Councillor T Evangelidis

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

6. General Business

Improvement of Committees has been noted by the Councillors.

Central Tables lands roadside spraying, for Lithgow is working out to be \$600 per kilometre. This is due to the terrain and geographic location. The weeds are paid above the cost of membership, is it cheaper to find another service provider for the spraying of weeds? This will be researched to identify potential savings. All avenues to be considered during a service review.

7. Meeting Close

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6:08 pm.