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## 1. Mayoral Minutes

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### 1.1. Mayoral Minute - 30/06/2025 - 2025/26 State Budget

**Report by** Mayor – Councillor C Coleman

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#### Commentary

The NSW State Government 2025/26 budget was handed down on 24 June 2025.

This is the Minns Labor Government's third budget, NSW Treasurer, The Hon. Daniel Mookhey, said that the Government was securing the State's economy, and the essential people in it, while accelerating economic growth.

NSW State governments of the past, present and future are elected on platform and the budget is a clear understanding of the Government of the day's direction.

As the Mayor of Lithgow, I was keen to read what funding was allocated to benefit our community, so that we can plan for advocacy well in advance.

In the 2025 NSW State Budget, the following was allocated to support the residents of Greater Lithgow.

- **\$27.3 million** to establish the Future Jobs and Investment Authority (FJIA) to coordinate new economic opportunities in coal-producing communities.

The 2025-26 NSW Budget will include \$27.3 million over four years to fund the Authority, initially focussing on the Hunter and Central West regions, of which Lithgow must become a significant part, led by this Council to the benefit of our local community.

This initiative will be backed by the Future Jobs and Investment Fund to unlock more than \$100 million in funding.

As part of its remit, the Future Jobs and Investment Authority will develop a framework to allow the funding to be spent on projects like infrastructure and post-mining land use planning, skills mapping, feasibility assessments and training programs.

I have already sent a letter to Minister The Hon. Courtney Houssos requesting a meeting to provide a detailed update on the recent strong successes of the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP), as well as to advocate for the office of the FJIA to be located in Lithgow.

- **\$340,000** allocated under the Better Open Spaces grant program.

This is the funding for the Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival. The Festival is a three-year annual place activation that will transform Main Street into a vibrant pedestrian precinct with music, culture, creativity, and crispy golden schnitzels.

- **\$60.3 million** over four years to continue the implementation of safety improvements on Bells Line of Road (Australian Government funded).

- **\$19.1 million** over four years to continue the Great Western Highway through Medlow Bath (NSW and Australian Government funded).
  
- **\$5.4 million** over four years to reopen Wallerawang Railway Station.
  
- **\$9.4 million** new Lithgow Fire Station for which a development application is not required.
  
- Lithgow High School facility upgrades and improvements which includes:
  - school entrance refresh.
  - library and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) rooms,
  - 2 arts rooms and 2 music rooms,
  - woodwork and metalwork rooms, and
  - a multipurpose hall.

Lithgow High School, from the Principal and teachers to all the pupils, should be commended for becoming part of the NSW Education Department's High Potential and Gifted Education School Partner Program, and I look forward to seeing this progress for future generations of our local kids.

## **Attachments**

Nil

## **Recommendation**

THAT Council note the Mayoral Minute on the 2025/26 State budget and plans for further advocacy to maximise the outcomes for the community of the Lithgow LGA.