



Our Place Our Future

Community Strategic **2040**
Plan

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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.



Maiyngu Marragu Aboriginal Place

A message from our leaders

In 2006, the community adopted *Our Place, Our Future* as its theme for the area. It is still as true today as it was then, this is *Our Place, Our Future* and we are proud to live, work and play in a unique location surrounded by nature and steeped in a shared history both indigenous and non-indigenous.

The Community Strategic Plan is a shared blueprint for the future direction of the Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA). It has been developed taking into consideration the values and aspirations of our community for the future of the Lithgow LGA.

This Plan builds upon previous Community Strategic Plans and considers the changing needs of our community. The Plan has taken into consideration conversations had with the community over the past four years as we have worked and engaged with you. Throughout these conversations there have been a number of recurring concerns and themes. The Council has listened to you, the community, and worked to find a balance that will provide growth whilst ensuring harmony with the environment and the wellbeing of the community.

The CSP guides the long-term strategic direction for the local government area, in some areas we will have quick wins, but other plans take many years to come to fruition. By working in partnership with local communities, state and federal governments together we will:

- drive economic transition in Lithgow
- implement our exciting vision for tourism in Lithgow
- celebrate the unique qualities of the Lithgow LGA
- celebrate and support creative industries
- create a vibrant civic precinct
- enhancing transport connectivity
- secure the water supply
- reimagine public spaces
- reduce waste and promote sustainability
- protect and manage the natural environment
- ensure that Lithgow City Council is sustainable and prepared for the future.

By working together, we can continue to ensure the future of the Lithgow LGA into the future.



Our community's Vision

A centre of regional excellence that:

- Encourages community growth and development
- Contributes to the efficient and effective management of the environment, community and economy for present and future generations.

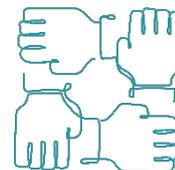


5 key themes

Each theme has a mission statement to articulate to the community aspirations of what the Lithgow LGA will look like in 2040.

Caring for Our Community (CC)

Retaining, respecting and strengthening both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.



Developing Our Built Environment (BE)

Providing effective and sustainable asset renewal which is based on the outcomes of sound asset management planning and practice, while also ensuring a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities, and lifestyle choices.



Preserving Our Natural Environment (NE)

Balancing, protecting and enhancing our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations.



Strengthening Our Economy (SE)

Providing for sustainable and planned growth through the diversification of the economic base, the development of diverse job opportunities and the provision of a broad range of formal and non-formal educational services.



Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership (GL)

Developing community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.



About the Lithgow Local Government Area.

The Lithgow LGA is located on the western ramparts of the Blue Mountains, 140 kilometres from Sydney. The Lithgow LGA totals 4,567 square kilometres from the Capertee and Wolgan Valleys in the north, Little Hartley in the east, Tarana in the south and Meadow Flat in the west.

The major urban centre of Lithgow nestles in a valley of that name, overlooked by the sandstone escarpments of the Blue Mountains.

In addition to the major urban centre of Lithgow, the Lithgow LGA has 12 villages/ hamlets with mining or farming backgrounds. These smaller centres have proven to be attractive rural residential areas, along with the broader rural areas.

The Lithgow LGA lies almost wholly within the Wiradjuri Aboriginal nation, with the Gundungurra nation situated to the south and the Darug nation to the east.

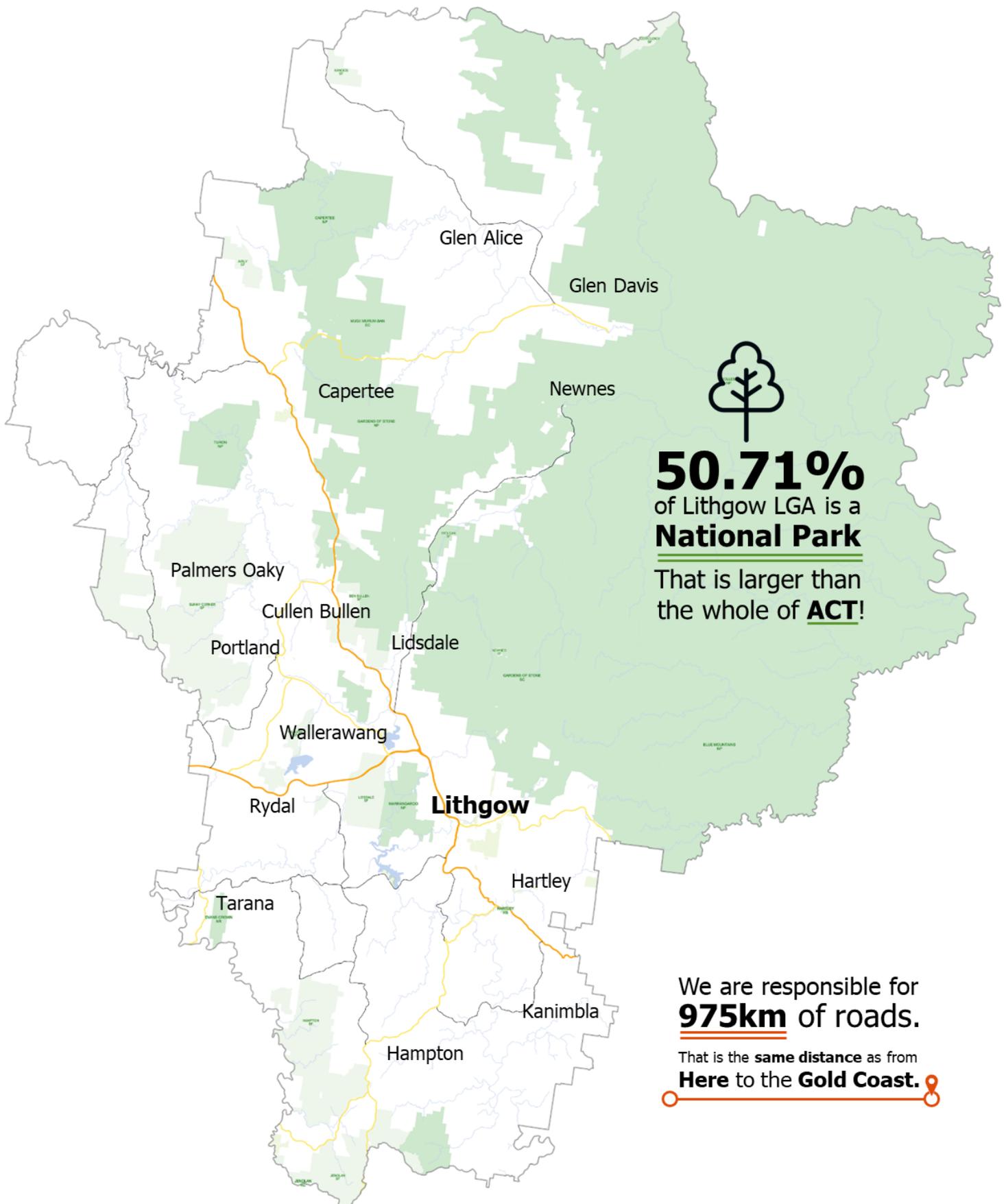
Lithgow was previously perceived to be an inland mining and industrial centre; however, recent developments have seen Lithgow recognised as an important tourism destination, heritage centre and a desirable residential area as well.

The Lithgow LGA includes World Heritage listed National Parks and State Forests, making Lithgow an important leisure destination for Sydney residents.

Lithgow has unlimited opportunities for outdoor activities such as bush walking, mountaineering, camping, orienteering, hang gliding, horse riding, off road 4wd, fishing, sailing and water skiing.

What we love - "The relaxed lifestyle."



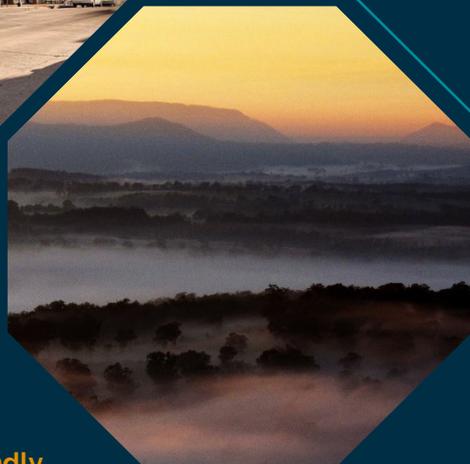




Where we live



Total area: **4,567km²**
Total Population: **20,724**
Total Number of Dwellings: **10,238**



A place with "friendly people and a sense of community"

	Population 	Number of dwellings 
Lithgow	11,197	5,729
Wallerawang	2079	890
Portland	1841	919
Hartley/ Little Hartley and Hartley Vale	1191	538
Blackmans Flat/Lidsdale	493	184
Rydal/Sodwalls/Tarana	444	237
Meadow Flat/Mt Lambe	421	159
Kanimbla/Megalong Valley	332	192
Marrangaroo/Springvale	297	107
Cullen Bullen/Ben Bullen	237	112
Good Forest /Hampton and Lowther	225	155
Dark Corner/Sunny Corner/Upper Turon and Palmers Oaky	177	128
Capertee (inc. Running Stream & Round Swamp) and Capertee Valley	130	105
Clarence/Dargan	83	52
Wolgan, Newnes and Newnes Plateau	78	20

Population statistics obtained from [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) from CENSUS year 2021

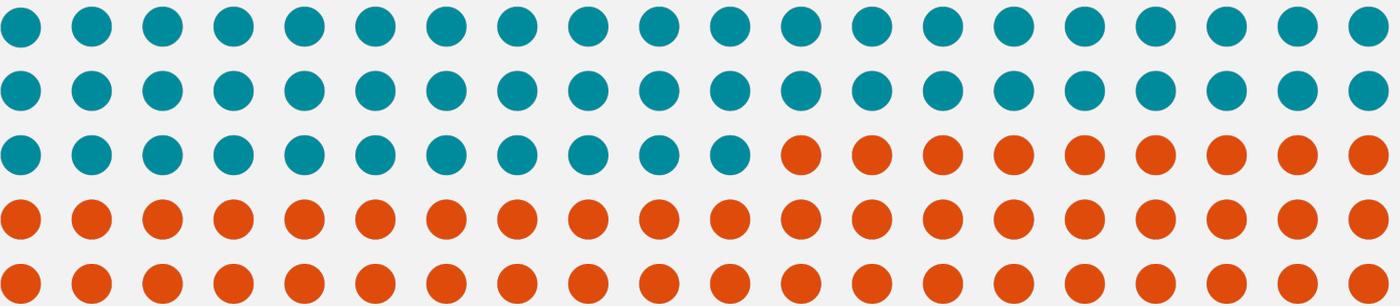
Our community

Top 5 industries by employment

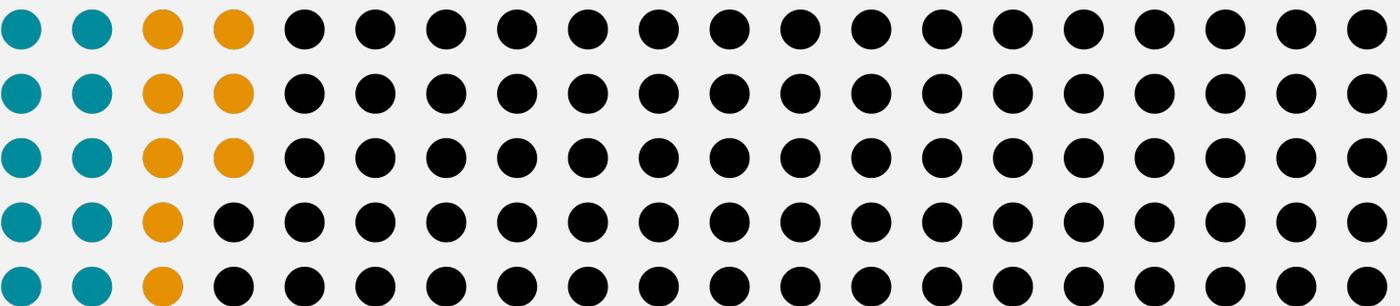


If Lithgow City Council consisted of 100 people, there would be:

51 **males**, 49 **females**



10 **born overseas**, 8 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**.



16

Completed higher education



22

Obtained vocational/trades qualification



41

Work locally¹



12

volunteer



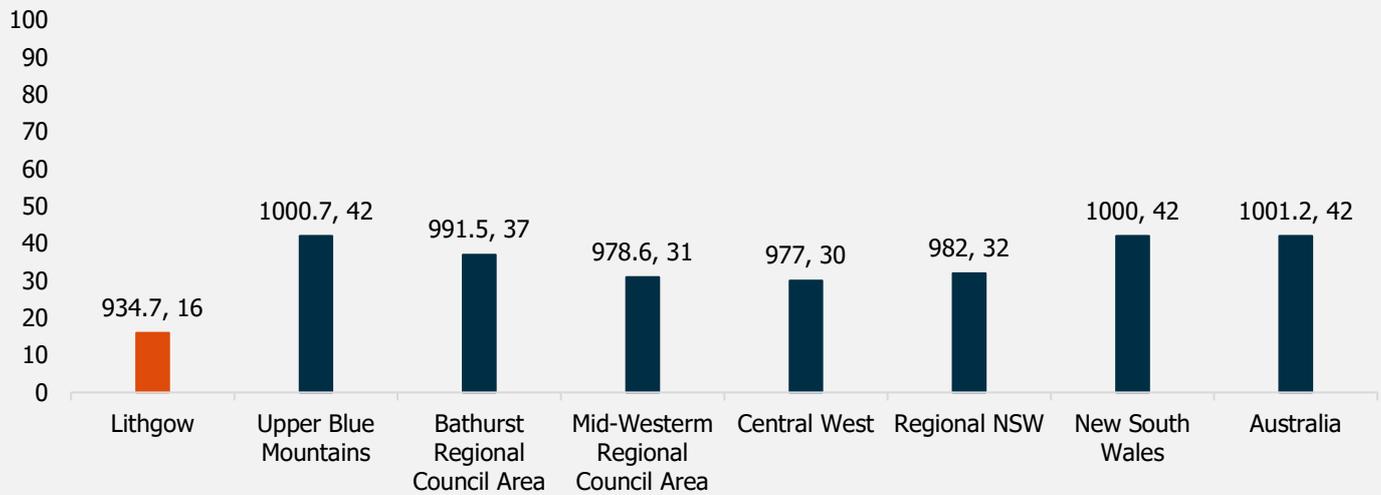
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With an individual income less than \$600 p/w



¹ NEIR (National Institute of Economic Industry Research), 2023

SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas) scores and corresponding percentile values for Lithgow relative to other regions



The first listed value is area's SEIFA (Socio-economic Indexes for Areas) score. It is used to rank areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage in terms of people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society. A lower score on the index means a *higher level of disadvantage* on both indexes.

The percentile (second value) indicates the approximate position of the region relative to Australia's suburbs and localities in 2021. A higher number indicates a higher socio-economic status.²

² Information obtained from profile.id.

Engaging our community

<p>Transparent & Accountable</p>	<p>The council will aim to implement community engagement processes that are transparent and accountable. Participants will be provided with an understanding of how their input will be used and the extent to which it will inform Council policy and /or decision-making processes.</p> <p>Key questions we will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we ensure open, transparent and accountable engagement processes? • How can the results of engagement be considered and assessed in a transparent and accountable way? • How can we ensure timely feedback to participants on the outcomes of engagement processes?
<p>Civic Leadership</p>	<p>We will demonstrate civic leadership seeking the best possible outcomes for current and future residents. The Council will foster and grow partnerships with the community, other levels of government, agencies, business sectors to support the review, update and implementation of the plan.</p> <p>Key questions we will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can engagement processes support the best possible outcomes for current and future residents? • How can we foster and strengthen partnerships with the community and other agencies and organisations?
<p>Sustainable</p>	<p>We will encourage the development of a sustainable Community Strategic Plan that enhances the quality of life for residents of the Lithgow LGA now and into the future.</p> <p>Key questions we will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we support the achievement of a more sustainable Lithgow LGA - socially, environmentally and economically. • How can we best meet the needs of our community whilst ensuring a balanced budget.

Community Survey

A total of 580 people were engaged in the development of the Community Strategic Plan 2040. Micromex Research and Consulting conducted a telephone survey (16-23 September 2024) and online survey (25 September – 6 October 2024) which were followed up by a presentation of the survey results and Councillor Visioning workshop on 20 January 2025.

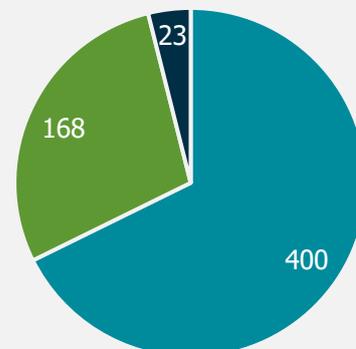
The results of the survey have been used to inform this Community Strategic Plan and quotes from the surveys are sprinkled throughout the document on page 17 and in bubbles on image showcasing the LGA and our community.

The objectives of the survey were to:

- Understand and identify community priorities for the Lithgow LGA
- Identify the community's perceived quality of life
- Identify the community's level of agreement with statements regarding the Lithgow City Council area.
- Gauge the community's level of support towards a range of future Council projects and initiatives.
- Understand the community's level of concern for preparedness for shocks and stressors.

Lithgow City Council's [Community Engagement Strategy](#) for the Community Strategic Plan 2040 is underpinned by Social Equity and Justice principles. The opportunity to participate in the Community Survey was promoted on local radio, local print media (Lithgow Mercury and Village Voice Newspapers), social media, Council's weekly eNewsletter – Council Connections and website – ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com and council.lithgow.com (Have your say).

Community Engagement Participants



- Telephone Surveys
- Online Surveys
- Councilor and Leadership Team Workshop



Connecting Seniors program.

What we love - "Everyone knows everyone."

What did our community say...



Our Strengths (most loved aspects of living in the Lithgow LGA)

- Sense of community/values
- Beautiful and clean natural environment and settings
- Proximity to major population centres including Sydney and the new airport.
- Liveability in terms of affordable housing (comparative to Sydney and other metro areas).
- Relaxed, peaceful lifestyle and country living.

“The picturesque countryside”

“It is a convenient spot to live”

“Slow-paced country life that is not the fast pace of the city”

“Job opportunities for the younger generation coming through”

“Long-term planning in terms of town design and infrastructure”

“New industries to come into our area”



Our Challenges (what could be changed about living in the Lithgow LGA)

- Transitioning our economy from coal fired energy production
- Economic growth to provide job prosperity (esp. for youth)
- Attracting businesses, particularly major retailers to the area.
- Upgrading and maintaining roads
- Connectivity to Sydney
- Recreational opportunities
- Greater funding and access to services.
- Investment in infrastructure
- Enhancing civic pride.
- Limited capacity of local Councils

Council's role – delivering the CSP

Council is committed to understanding the community's priorities, concerns and needs in critical services, infrastructure, facilities and programs.

While Lithgow City Council takes the lead in the preparation and implementation of the Community Strategic Plan, all levels of government, businesses, industry groups, community groups and individuals will share the responsibility for achieving our long-term community goals.

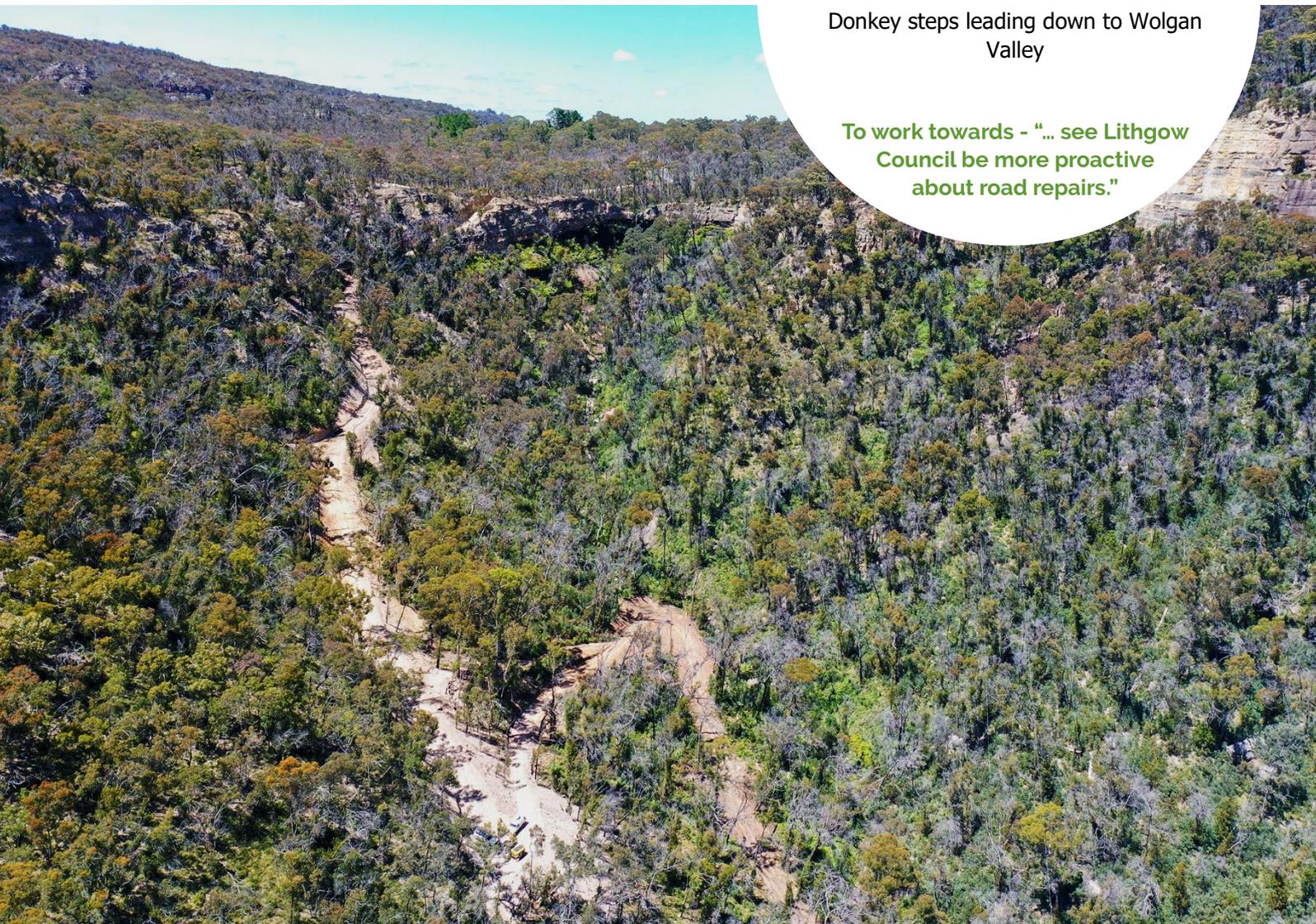
The Plan outlines the Council's role in the delivery of each priority and whether the role is to lead, partner, advocate, support or facilitate.

Council's role	When it applies
<p>Manager/Leader</p> <p>Council manages, leads delivers and communicates commitment, progress and outcomes</p>	<p>Where Council has a direct responsibility and capability to deliver the outcomes required. This will involve dedicated resources, agreed timeframes and clear responsibilities. External funding or other resources may be required to make the project happen. In taking on this role, Council also must be aware of the level of community interest in outcomes and needs to communicate its commitment, the timeframe, progress and outcomes.</p>
<p>Critical Partner</p> <p>Council is an informed critical partner in the delivery of a project with mutual benefits for the partners.</p>	<p>Where Council has a direct responsibility to deliver the outcomes, and either partnerships are required to proceed, or the delivery of outcomes is enhanced by partnerships. Council needs to define its preferred position on outcomes and enter the partnerships with the aim of value-adding and providing benefits for all parties.</p>
<p>Advocate</p> <p>Council develops an informed position and influence others who have the responsibility to make the decision and act.</p>	<p>Where Council does not have the resource/s or the direct responsibility to enact or make the decision. Council develops a position on the strategy/issue with a defined path forward and advocates to the responsible partners for the changes to occur. In this way, Council is part of developing the solutions rather than just presenting the issues.</p>
<p>Supporter</p> <p>Where a project is initiated external to Council and Council provides assistance to enable the project to be realised.</p>	<p>Where others are responsible for the decisions, actions and outcomes, that align with the overall Community Strategic Plan, then Council might provide support by way of in-kind support or additional resourcing etc. The responsibilities and actions are those of the initiating party.</p>
<p>Facilitator</p> <p>Council makes it easier and builds the capacity of others to delivery.</p>	<p>Where Council develops the capacity of others (community groups, business groups, government agencies etc), to find their own acceptable solutions. For example, several community groups may wish to run a community project. Council could facilitate by being a neutral third party to call meetings initially, assist sourcing funds from government, develop processes etc. The responsibility for action and ownership of outcomes lies with the community groups, business groups or agencies.</p>

Our commitment to a sustainable and resilient Lithgow

Together we will develop a holistic approach to Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and drought resilience.

- **Embed climate change into decision-making:** by giving consideration to latest policies, relevant state and government initiatives, scientific research findings and indigenous knowledge, guided by principles of equity, social justice and environmental/asset stewardship.
- **Climate Change mitigation and adaptation:** Collaborate with key stakeholders, including Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO), to keep abreast of and adopt best practice in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction mitigation and adaptation:** Collaborate with key stakeholders, including the NSW Reconstruction Authority, to keep abreast of and adopt best practice in disaster risk mitigation and disaster adaptation plans.
- **Build Back Better:** We will *Build Back Better* by integrating resilience measures to enable climate change adaptation for the restoration of physical infrastructure, social systems, and the revitalisation of livelihoods, economies and the environment.
- **Ensure our communities have the skills and tools** they need to remain resilient and financially stable in a changing world.
- **Promote and exemplify environmentally conscious behaviours by enhancing efficiencies in resource and energy usage** to protect our unique natural assets and ensure they are preserved for enjoyment by future generations, while also reducing ongoing operating costs to the organisation.
- **Fortify our existing social capital** and attract a diversity of people to our region to ensure we remain mentally and socially resilient during times of hardship.



Donkey steps leading down to Wolgan Valley

To work towards - "... see Lithgow Council be more proactive about road repairs."

Our Advocacy Priorities

Together we will continue to advocate for a fair share of resources for the Lithgow LGA(LGA). We will continue to build partnerships within our community, with neighbouring councils and through the Central NSW Joint Organisation as well as State and Federal Governments to advocate for the community's priorities to build a brighter future for the Lithgow LGA. Our advocacy priorities have been clustered under four themes:

1. Sustainable Local Government

- Substantially **review and reform the funding arrangements for Local Government** to provide the sector with the capacity to meet the many challenges of the 21st century.
- **Disaster Recovery Funding** - pushing for better disaster recovery funding to support the region in times of crisis, ensuring resilience in the face of unforeseen events and enable betterment to limit repeat expenditure rebuilding the same infrastructure after disasters.

2. A diverse, strong and resilient local economy

- Rapidly implement the [Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan](#) – a cross-government commitment, affirmative action, significant increase to the levels of funding provided for economic transformation (recognising that the task of transforming the Lithgow economy will require significant supporting funding over 7 – 10 years). Please refer to the Council's endorsed [Emerging Economy Plan Yearly Action Plan](#).
- **Bring forward new employment precincts** – use the capacity of the NSW Government to examine and then facilitate the re-purposing of the city's brownfield sites for employment purposes.
- **Secure Lithgow's housing growth** – resolve the issue of traffic access associated with the Marrangaroo Urban Release Area, support the activation of the former Wallerawang Power Station, identify and work to resolve key infrastructure gaps that may be impeding future infill development through Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland.
- **Facilitate development of key residential commercial and industrial sites** by prioritising economic development efforts to attract investment into industries that can absorb capital and grow at an inorganic rate. This includes projects like precinct planning of key green and brownfield employment generating sites, reviews of existing land zonings, finalise Council's Employment Lands Strategy, and collaboration with local tourism, healthcare, manufacturing and public service providers.

3. Sustainable transport options linking the Central West and Western Sydney.

- Work with Council to implement the [Lithgow EV Strategy](#)
- Improve road connections
 - **GWH upgrade** – Advance the Great Western Highway upgrade.
 - **Expressway (Bells Line) and Freight Access** to Lithgow facilitating smoother East-West connectivity. This would be key in positioning Lithgow as a vital employment and logistics hub.
- Recognise and act on the potential for Lithgow to act as a hub for improved rail services to the east and west, including:
 - Advocating and demonstrate rationale for more frequent rail services between Lithgow and Western Sydney
 - Advocating and demonstrate rationale for faster and more frequent passenger rail services between Western Sydney and regional centres in the Central West.

4. Supporting the community across multiple dimensions of health and wellbeing.

Advocating for additional funding and specialised services in critical areas such as mental health, paediatrics, and drug/alcohol rehabilitation to ensure that the community's diverse needs are addressed.

Caring for our community

our 10-year goal

Retaining, respecting and strengthening both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

1 Together we will prioritise the health and wellbeing of the Lithgow community

By building strong partnerships with service providers and advocating for necessary resources, to ensure that the needs of the community are met and that residents have access to vital services.

Health Forum: Host a Health Forum that brings together key stakeholders, providing a platform for open dialogue and collaborative solutions on local health issues.

Improved Service Access for the Lithgow LGA: Forming a Councillor working group that will directly engage with service providers, focusing on enhancing health services in the areas that need it most—ensuring more equitable service delivery across the region.

Health Precinct Plan: A precinct plan be developed to catalyse and consolidate an industry around innovation in health and ageing in Lithgow. This will require:

- Development of a Lithgow Health, Ageing and Innovation Precinct Masterplan to investigate, support and foster growth in the health and ageing sector and, particularly, delivery of expanded and ongoing services outlined in the NBMLHD Strategic Plan 2023-2028
- Develop an infrastructure plan, including consideration of staff accommodation for Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) and nursing staff, students and interns.

This approach will not only improve immediate health services but also lay the groundwork for a healthier, more resilient community in the long run. By fostering collaboration and seeking additional resources, we are taking steps to bridge the gaps in healthcare provision and improve overall quality of life.



How we will measure success:

	Measure	Source
1	Reported levels of wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Canberra Regional Wellbeing Survey
2	Community access to key services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lithgow City Council Community Sentiment Survey Lithgow LGA Community Profile (.idcommunity) Lithgow LGA Social Atlas (.idcommunity) CNSWJO – Statistical Snapshot
3	Incidents of crime in outdoor or public places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW recorded crime statistics (BOSCAR) Lithgow Crime Prevention Committee
4	Attendance and participation at council-run community events	Council data
5	Number of community programs held	Council data
6	Number of programs conducted and held at the Adaptive Skills Hub and council facilities to promote lifelong learning	Council data
7	Community members accessing our Libraries and community cultural facilities	Council data
8	Animals impounded and processed at the Lithgow Animal Shelter	Council data



Our partners

- State and Federal Government
- Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
- Arts Out West
- Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre
- Peak industry bodies and Not for Profit organisations
- Local education providers
- Chifley Local Area Command
- Village and Development Associations
- Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Local Indigenous Groups and Elders
- Community groups



Alignment with State, Federal and Regional Plans

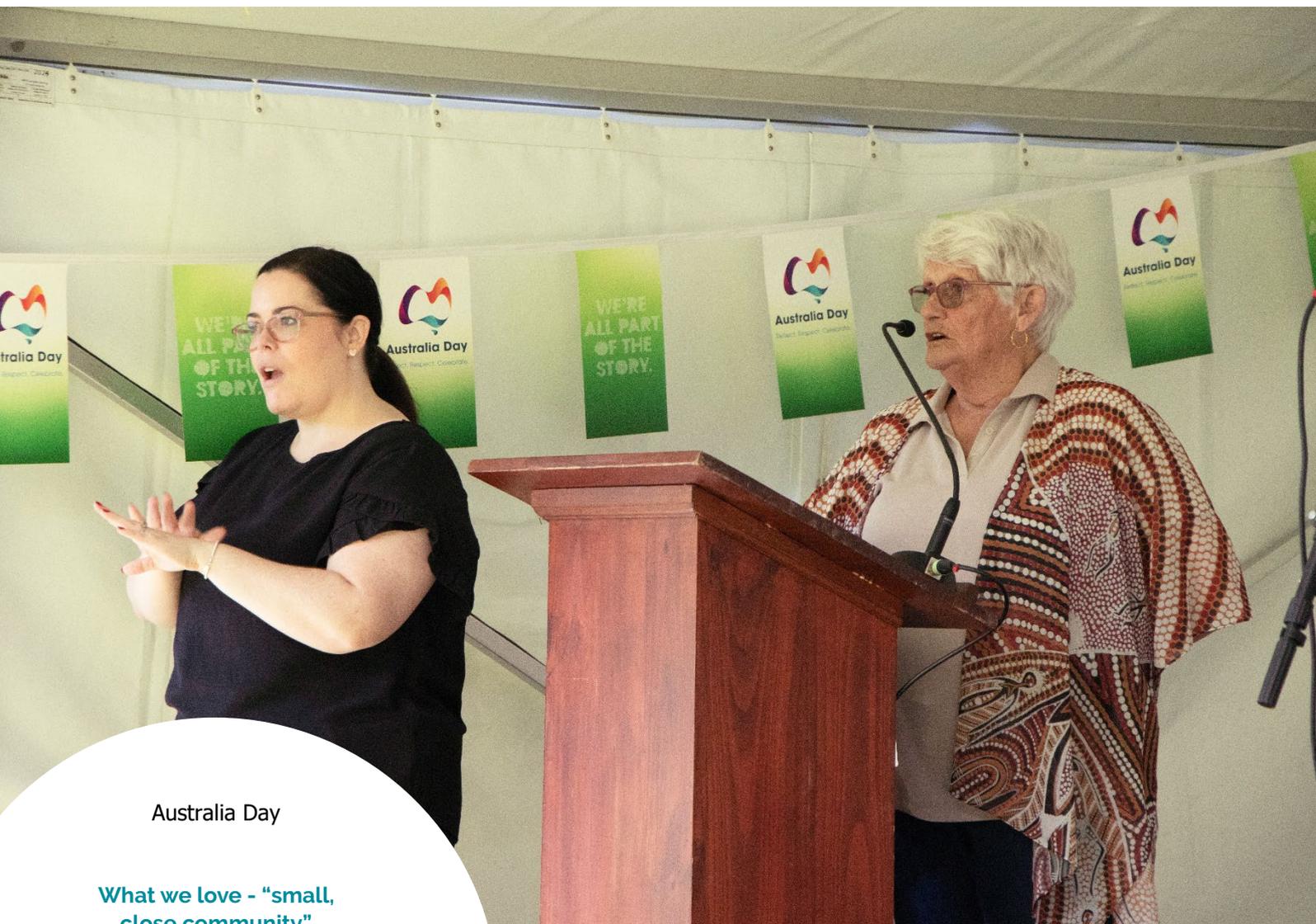
- NSW State Plan
- NSW Women’s Strategy 2023-2026
- Central NSW Joint Organisation Health and Ageing Advocacy Plan
- Bathurst, Lithgow and Oberon Drought Resilience Plan
- Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Our Strategic objectives

Objective CC1: Plan and provide quality community services for a healthy, vibrant and harmonious community that embraces challenges and has the resilience to adapt to change.

Objective CC2: Manage and provide public places where people feel safe and included.

Objective CC3: Plan and provide facilities that protect and value our domestic animals and the role they play in residents wellbeing, both physical, social and psychological.



Australia Day

What we love - "small, close community"

Strengthening our economy

our 10-year goal

Providing for sustainable and planned growth through the diversification of the economic base, the development of diverse job opportunities and the provision of a broad range of formal and non-formal educational services.

1 Together we will drive economic transition in Lithgow

...focusing on the shift from coal-fired power generation to a more sustainable, diverse economy. The approach includes a variety of initiatives that touch on renewable energy, job creation, regional development, and workforce retraining.

Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan: Transitioning the region from coal-fired power generation, focusing on renewable energy alternatives alongside industry sectors aligned with advanced manufacturing, public services, aged care and health, tourism and intensive agriculture.

Employment Lands Strategy: Establishing long-term employment opportunities through strategic land development, breaking down the traditionally established barriers to green and brownfield industrial land development, ensuring that Lithgow remains a hub for businesses and industries.

Sustainable Jobs and Career Pathways: Creating jobs and career development opportunities for local youth and families to strengthen community attraction and retention.

Energy Transition Collaboration: Develop partnerships to leverage clean energy projects across the region to maximise the economic potential of renewables.

Reskilling and Retraining: Supporting current primary and secondary students alongside workers from coal and power sectors with training and retraining initiatives to help them embrace industries of the future.

Western Sydney International Airport: Harnessing growth from the new airport to enhance regional opportunities.

This comprehensive strategy positions Lithgow to thrive in the green economy and creates a forward-looking, sustainable future.

Working with Developers of the Foundations and the former Wallerawang Power Station for Economic Growth

Collaboration with developers in key areas like the Portland Foundations and the former Wallerawang Power Station is crucial for driving economic growth within the LGA. By aligning development with the needs of the community and the local economy, it can help create jobs, support local businesses, and stimulate innovation.

The Foundations: This could be an area focused on commercial, retail, and mixed-use development, attracting businesses and creating opportunities for employment while ensuring the area remains pedestrian-friendly and accessible.

Former Wallerawang Power Station: A potential hub for sustainable or green industries, focusing on renewable energy, eco-tourism, or environmental technologies, with appropriate strategic planning, the Former Wallerawang Power Station could become a centre for innovation, offering growth in green jobs and attracting eco-conscious businesses.

These developments should consider the future needs of Lithgow's residents and businesses, and focus on creating synergies between growth, job creation, and environmental sustainability.

2 Together we will implement our exciting vision for tourism in Lithgow

...emphasising the region's natural beauty, outdoor adventure potential, and vibrant community culture. By focusing on eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and local experiences, creating a strategy that can fuel economic growth, job creation, and long-term sustainability.

Eco-Tourism Promotion: Leveraging the region's natural settings to promote eco-tourism, improving signage, and boosting social media presence to increase visibility and attract visitors. This will create new opportunities for local businesses and jobs while showcasing the beauty of the Lithgow LGA.

Adventure Tourism Development: Tapping into adventure tourism with activities like mountain biking, hiking, and hosting festivals and carnivals. These events not only attract tourists but also encourage repeat visits, building a strong tourism culture.

Collaboration with Capertee Valley Landcare Group: Working with local groups like Capertee Valley Landcare to create a link between the Glen Davis Reserve and Coorongooba Campground, enhancing the overall visitor experience and connecting more natural landmarks including the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area Great Wollemi Walk.

Food Culture and Night-Time Economy: Developing a unique local food culture and expanding the night-time economy with restaurants, cafes, and evening events, encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore Lithgow after dark.

Vibrant Events Culture: Creating a vibrant events calendar that supports community wellbeing, boosts brand recognition, and maximises partnerships. Events can foster community pride, connectivity and resilience, attract tourists, and promote positive customer experiences, helping to ensure the long-term success of the tourism industry.

Maintaining Lookouts as Key Attractions: Managing and maintaining local lookouts, ensuring they remain clean, accessible, and well-promoted as major tourist attractions.

Visitor Information Infrastructure: Support the development of electronic visitor information kiosks at key locations across the LGA including (but not limited to) Lake Lyell, Lake Wallace, Endeavour Park (Adventure Playground), Cook Street Plaza, Queen Elizabeth Park, Portland CBD, Clarence Pirie Park at Capertee to provide visitor information where visitors are, encouraging greater exploration of the area and return visitation.

Wiradjuri Cultural Centre: Support our indigenous community to improve cultural understanding and immersion by providing a cultural centre within the Lithgow LGA.

This multi-faceted approach is designed to build Lithgow's reputation as a must-visit destination for nature lovers, adventure enthusiasts, and those looking to experience local culture.

3 Together we will celebrate the unique qualities of the Lithgow LGA

...while fostering sustainable growth and honouring the area's history, identity, and future potential. By focusing on tailored strategies for Lithgow, Wallerawang, and Portland, as well as aligning development with sustainable growth, the LGA can support thriving communities while maintaining its distinct character. Here's a deeper look into each of these strategies:

1. Developing Precinct Plans for Lithgow, Wallerawang, and Portland

Each of these areas has its own distinct identity, and developing strategies that cater to their individual needs and opportunities will ensure sustainable and vibrant growth.

Lithgow: As the regional centre, focus on enhancing its role as a hub for commerce, arts, and culture. This could include improving infrastructure, expanding retail opportunities, and further developing the Civic Precinct.

Wallerawang: Known for its natural beauty and proximity to power generation and the well-known Lake Wallace, Wallerawang can be positioned as a gateway to the outdoors and eco-tourism. Developing green spaces, promoting renewable energy, and creating recreational hubs can enhance its appeal to both residents and tourists.

Portland: This town has a unique heritage, with its historic buildings and small-town charm. Preservation of its heritage, while allowing for controlled growth, can make it an attractive destination for those seeking a slower pace of life, while still offering modern amenities.

By tailoring plans to these areas, the LGA will be able to embrace their distinct characteristics while ensuring cohesive development across the region.

2. Creating Opportunities for Housing, Land Availability and Affordability

Affordable housing is crucial for ensuring that the growth of the LGA benefits all residents, not just new arrivals. Creating a mix of housing options, from affordable homes to higher-end developments, will help cater to diverse income groups and attract a range of people.

Affordable Housing: Introduce initiatives to increase the supply of affordable homes, possibly through partnerships with developers or government incentives. Zoning strategies can also be adjusted to allow for more mixed-use developments and affordable housing projects.

Land Availability: Ensuring that there is sufficient land available for future housing developments and that infrastructure supports these areas will be critical. Planning for growth that balances density with green spaces will maintain a high quality of life for residents.

3. Implementing the Employment Lands Strategy

The Employment Lands Strategy should focus on identifying and preparing sites for industrial and commercial use that are easily accessible, well-connected, and aligned with the long-term economic goals of the LGA.

Industrial Development: Ensuring that there are strategic zones for industries like manufacturing, logistics, and technology can help create a diverse local economy. Partnering with businesses to attract industries that align with Lithgow's strengths (e.g., mining, energy, manufacturing, agritourism or agriculture) will support job creation.

Small Business and Start-ups: Encouraging tech start-ups, and creative industries can diversify the economy and offer opportunities for innovation. Offering spaces for co-working or business incubators will attract entrepreneurs and boost economic vitality.

The Employment Lands Strategy should also ensure that the employment lands are sustainable and integrated with the surrounding environment, creating jobs that are connected to the broader community and economy.

The sustainable growth strategy will support a balanced approach to development—one that ensures that economic growth is matched with the creation of affordable housing, preservation of the natural environment, and a thriving community life.

4 Together we will celebrate and support the creative industries

By contemporising the Cultural Plan and developing a public arts strategy to create a thriving, inclusive arts scene that resonates with both locals and visitors.

- 1. Contemporising the Lithgow LGA Cultural Plan:** By updating the Cultural Plan, the aim is to reflect and accommodate the evolving needs of the community and artists. This could include providing better resources, grants, and opportunities for collaboration. It will also be important to integrate technology, as digital art and online platforms are becoming more prominent in the arts world. A modern plan might also look at sustainability in the arts, ensuring that creative projects are not only innovative but environmentally conscious.
 - **Funding and Support:** Increased investment in local artists, organisations, and public art projects.
 - **Collaborative Opportunities:** Encouraging partnerships between artists, businesses, and educational institutions.
 - **Artist Residencies and Development Programs:** Establishing spaces where artists can create, experiment, and grow professionally.
- 2. Developing a Public Arts Strategy:** Embracing both permanent and temporary installations will bring dynamic life to the streets and public spaces of Lithgow. The idea of combining both temporary and permanent art forms acknowledges the changing nature of creativity and culture, keeping the community engaged with fresh experiences while celebrating established works.
 - **Outdoor Art Installations:** Public sculptures, murals, and light projections that are placed in high-traffic areas, parks, and along streets to create an art-filled environment.
 - **Temporary Exhibitions:** Pop-up art exhibitions or interactive art that changes throughout the year, ensuring there's always something new to see. This might include art festivals or seasonal events where local and visiting artists can showcase their work.
 - **Community Engagement:** Encouraging locals to get involved in creating art or hosting events that bring the community together, fostering a deeper connection with the cultural scene.

The public art strategy could also invite local artists to participate in workshops or collaborate on projects that reflect the unique character of Lithgow LGA, building a sense of ownership and pride within the community.

This approach not only boosts the local economy but also promotes creativity, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging.



Puppetry Workshop

To work towards -
"activities for families and
kids to do within the LGA"

5 Together we will create a vibrant Civic Precinct

...in the heart of Lithgow to drive growth and economic revitalisation. By strategically developing this area, we're not just improving the physical space but also fostering a sense of community, creativity, and civic pride. The proposed elements of this precinct have the potential to transform Lithgow's CBD into a central hub for both residents and visitors.

1. **Strategic Planning for the Civic Precinct:** Developing plans for the Civic Precinct in the CBD, spanning from Eskbank and Bridge Streets, Mort Street, and Main Street Lane. This central location ensures that the precinct will be easily accessible and serve as a focal point for the community.
2. **Administrative Centre:** The inclusion of an administrative centre will consolidate key government services, making it easier for residents to access information and support. It will also create a more centralised and efficient hub for civic engagement.
3. **Modern Arts and History Building:** Adding a modern arts and history building will provide a space for local artists to showcase their work, reflect on the Lithgow of yesteryear as well as host cultural events and performances. This will add to the vibrancy of the area and promote creative industries, drawing more visitors and nurturing local talent.
4. **Creative Open Spaces:** Incorporating open spaces for creative activities and community events will encourage social interactions and serve as gathering points. These spaces can host markets, festivals, public art installations, and performances, all of which enhance the liveability of the precinct and attract both locals and tourists.
5. **Economic Growth & Retail Invigoration:** This Civic Precinct will act as a catalyst for local economic growth by attracting businesses, creating jobs, and energising the CBD retail sector. As more people visit for arts, events, administrative needs, and community gatherings, local shops and restaurants will thrive.
6. **Build community and pedestrian friendly spaces:** Through the delivery of vibrant events that align with Lithgow's unique character and identity, build a sense of community cohesion and drive support of local business while also celebrating Lithgow's culture and heritage.

The Civic Precinct has the potential to become a vibrant heart of Lithgow—combining creativity, community spirit, and economic growth to benefit everyone.



How we will measure success:

	Measure	Source
1	Attendance and participation at council-run community events	Council data
2	Number of active businesses registered	Economy.id
3	Unemployment rate	Small area labour markets data (SALM)
4	Visitor expenditure	Tourism Research Australia
5	Number of programs conducted and held at the Adaptive Skills Hub and council facilities to promote lifelong learning	Council data
6	Community members accessing our community cultural facilities	Council data



Our partners

- State and Federal Government
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Peak industry bodies and Not for Profit organisations
- Tourism NSW
- Local Tourism operators
- Lithgow Business Association
- Retail, business and industry sector organisations
- Central West Tourism
- Arts Out West
- Museums & Galleries Australia
- Local creatives and cultural organisations
- Local education providers
- Village and Development Associations
- Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Local Indigenous Groups and Elders
- Community groups
- Investors and developers



Alignment with State, Federal and Regional Plans

- NSW State Plan
- Central West and Oranga Regional Plan 2041
- Lithgow Regional Economic Development Strategy 2023 Update
- Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area Master Plan
- Central NSW Joint Organisation Regional Prosperity Advocacy Plan
- Central NSW Joint Organisation Energy Advocacy Plan
- Bathurst, Lithgow and Oberon Drought Resilience plan

Our Strategic Objectives

Objective SE1: Provide sustainable and planned growth that supports a range of lifestyle choices and employment options.

Objective SE2: Explore and discover the richness in our society through the pursuit of educational, creative and cultural opportunities to diversify our economy, skills base and employment opportunities.

Objective SE3: Create a vibrant, smart and innovative economy promoting the Lithgow LGA as a desirable place to work, live, visit and invest.

Objective SE4: Develop the Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland CBDs as vibrant, unique spaces which create strong sense of place within the community.



Reveal of the Lithgow Arts Trail

To work towards - "Need to open up a center for arts"

Developing our built environment

our 10-year goal

Providing effective and sustainable asset renewal which is based on the outcomes of sound asset management planning and practice, while also ensuring a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities, and lifestyle choices.

1 Together we will focus on enhancing transport connectivity

... which is essential for boosting Lithgow's role as a regional hub and enabling the local connectivity required to support Lithgow's sense of place and drive local tourism. By improving transport infrastructure, we're not only connecting Lithgow better to Sydney and the Central West, but also ensuring better access for businesses, residents, and potential investors.

Advocate for an improved, and balanced, transport solution between Sydney and the Central West:

Lithgow is a strategic centre with both regional and cross-regional opportunities for population growth. With strategic improvements to rail and road connectivity, Lithgow has significant locational advantages that can be leveraged to shift travel patterns, support remote working and decentralise businesses to increase regional employment and population growth. The role that Lithgow must play in these changes does not only apply to Lithgow itself, but the entire Central West.

Lithgow is the convergence of four significant arterial transport corridors opening to the Central West and Orana Region:

- Bells Line of Road,
- Great Western Highway and
- Castlereagh Highway
- End of the electrification of the Western Rail Line.

The significance of this strategic position cannot be understated in relation to regional connections for both people and freight with Greater Sydney including the new Western Sydney aerotropolis and ports. To date, there has been a demonstrated focus on improvements and amplification of road networks without a commensurate emphasis on development of rail options.

As part of this advocacy initiative, it is proposed that Council will work to create a more connected, liveable, productive and sustainable Lithgow by advocating for:

1. Improvements to the Bathurst Bullet service by modifying its route to operate between Lithgow and Orange only, creating an opportunity for a more frequent service.
2. The extension of Intercity electric rail services from Mt Victoria to Lithgow at a 30 min frequency.
3. Delivery of the anticipated 'central section' Great Western Highway tunnel between Medlow Bath and Hartley, without which the broader economic rationale of the Great Western Highway Upgrade cannot be met.
4. Reinstatement of plans for an alternative route across the mountains and a shorter (and sometimes faster) route from Lithgow to Sydney, known as the Bells Line Expressway.

This strategy directly aligns with Initiatives 12, 23, 24, 40, 44 and 58 of the [Central West Orana Regional Transport Plan](#).

Deliver a constraints analysis and precinct plan for the currently derelict and disused former Rail Maintenance facility, currently owned by Pacific National: The Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) and the Lithgow Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) have identified a shortage of ready-for-market employment land, which limits Lithgow's ability to attract high-value industries. The reason for the shortage almost certainly relates to the economics of bringing green-field industrial land to market in the Lithgow LGA over an extended period. In the longer-term, this situation will correct with release of employment land at Marangaroo and Wallerawang.

Council will work to secure public funding through relevant state and federal funding mechanisms to conduct due diligence, environmental studies, and infrastructure planning necessary to support the site's redevelopment. This funding would allow for detailed assessments of constraints such as heritage overlays, contamination, accessibility, and infrastructure upgrades - all critical steps in preparing the land for future investment.

To overcome this challenge in the short-term, Council has prioritised unlocking key historical and underutilised existing industrial sites to support economic transformation and to ensure that Lithgow has ready-for-market employment land available for investment that supports economic transition to net-zero, precinct planning in areas of Lithgow's assessed relative advantages, and job creation in Lithgow.

The former Rail Maintenance facility site presents an opportunity as one such site. This site holds potential when exploring local opportunities to develop strategic manufacturing, logistics, rail, and freight hub, thereby supporting regional connectivity and economic resilience.

Position Lithgow as a strategic centre for EV connectivity and charging infrastructure: The transport sector is on the precipice of a period of profound change with the growing demand and availability of electric vehicles. As more governments in key vehicle markets around the world restrict the sale of new internal combustion vehicles, car manufacturers are shifting their production to electric vehicles, creating more choice while reducing prices and reducing charging times.

As the Australian car fleet shifts to EVs in response to these changing market conditions, there will be a need to develop suitable destination charging infrastructure that brings benefits to everyone in the community, including those who don't drive or don't own an EV. Local government's critical role in road transport infrastructure and parking, local environmental amenity, and ensuring their local communities thrive, means they have a critical role to play in supporting and benefiting from the electrification of transport.

Regionally, Lithgow has a critical role to play because of its strategic 'gateway' function, being the point of intersect between the Great Western Highway, Castlereagh Highway, Bells Line of Road and the electrified rail line. For this reason, Lithgow City Council is aiming to lead the Central West in the delivery of destination charging infrastructure, ensuring adequate opportunities to meet the growing demands of local and regional EV owners, as well as those of EV visitors to the region.

Wolgan Valley Access Road: Responding to the impacts of natural disaster and the necessary closure of Wolgan Road, continuing to plan and advocate for a new access road into the Wolgan Valley, which would improve both local and tourist accessibility, opening new areas for development, supporting residents and building resilience into vulnerable assets in the face of future unpredictable weather patterns. However, this project represents a possible \$354 million of expenditure over four financial years, entirely funded by the NSW Government and Federal Government. Projects of this nature come with significant risk. This project must be delivered with consideration to:

1. Respect to the traditional owners of the Aboriginal Place and the irreplaceable value that the land holds.
2. The ongoing operational needs of the Local Government Area. This project must be delivered in such a way that does not see the rest of Lithgow starved of resources.
3. A necessary balance between cost efficiency during construction against the recurrent maintenance and depreciation costs post-completion.
4. Timeliness of delivery, understanding the significant impacts of this project, and the rugged nature of the temporary access, on the Wolgan Valley community.
5. The accuracy of initial cost estimates, understanding that the disaster recovery funding arrangements do not typically allow for variations, thereby eliminating any capacity for Council to cover the costs of financial variations on a project of this size.

Browns Gap Road Improvement: Rebuilding and enhancing Browns Gap Road, ensuring better connectivity and safer travel for residents and businesses, particularly in the event of extreme weather or natural disasters. Browns Gap Road epitomises the challenges faced by Local Government in maintaining a road network through such challenging terrain. Much of Lithgow is characterised by mountainous, densely vegetated terrain.

With climactic conditions changing, so must our focus on the capacity of infrastructure if we are to be assured our roads, buildings and other assets are able to meet the challenge of providing an acceptable level of service to the community. Hence, Lithgow is dedicated to restoring the Browns Gap Road to an increased state of resilience, with the expectation that there is a reduced likelihood of the significant disruption that the community is currently experiencing occurring again.

These improvements will help boost economic activity, ease travel, and foster growth by connecting Lithgow more seamlessly with neighbouring regions. It's clear that improving accessibility is key to Lithgow's future success.

Work on Browns Gap Road



2 Together we will Secure the water supply

... and ensure the long-term sustainability of water resources for Lithgow LGA is a critical priority, especially in light of increasing climate variability and drought risks. The **Water Resourcing and Security Project** and a new **Water Treatment Plant at Wallerawang** are key components of building a resilient water supply. Here's a more detailed look at these initiatives:

1. Delivery of the Water Resourcing and Security Project

The construction of a water pipeline connecting the Clarence area to Wallerawang would play a significant role in diversifying the water supply and increasing the overall reliability of the LGA's water system delivered with other projects for resilient and reliable water supplies.

Increasing Water Supply Capacity: This project will ensure that water can be sourced from multiple locations, reducing dependency on a single water source. By linking the region's water resources to a new single point in Wallerawang, we can provide a reliable and resilient supply in case of drought or other disruptions to local water sources.

Drought Resilience: The pipeline as a part of this project will help secure water availability during drought conditions, where local sources may not be sufficient to meet demand. It provides a more sustainable solution by diversifying water sources, helping the community avoid water restrictions and shortages during dry periods.

Supporting Future Growth: As the population and local businesses continue to grow, additional water supply infrastructure will be needed to meet demand. This project will future proof the area's water supply system and support ongoing growth in Lithgow, Wallerawang, and surrounding areas.

Reducing Environmental Stress: By ensuring a more stable water supply, the project can reduce the environmental stress placed on local water sources, including rivers and aquifers, by distributing demand more evenly. This can support the health of ecosystems that depend on consistent water flows.

2. Constructing a New Water Treatment Plant at Wallerawang

Building a new water treatment plant at Wallerawang will not only enhance the efficiency of water treatment but also provide a more reliable and sustainable solution for ensuring clean, safe water for residents.

Enhanced Water Treatment Capacity: This plant will increase the overall capacity of the water treatment system in the LGA. It will be able to process higher volumes of water, meeting the growing needs of both residential and commercial customers.

Improved Water Quality: A modern, efficient treatment facility can better meet the community's water quality needs. Upgrading treatment technologies will ensure the water meets health standards and is free of contaminants, continuing to provide the community with clean and safe drinking water.

Resilience During Emergencies: In case of contamination or issues at one water source, the linking of several sources at a single point at Wallerawang will provide redundancy, ensuring that water supply is not disrupted. This is especially important during natural disasters, contamination events, or maintenance needs.

Supporting Future Population Growth: As the region expands, the demand for potable water will increase. By establishing a new treatment plant, Council can accommodate future growth while ensuring that the water treatment system keeps pace with population, commercial and industrial demands.

Integration with Other Infrastructure Projects: The Wallerawang Water Treatment Plant will complement other water infrastructure improvements, such as the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline, creating a fully integrated, efficient water management system. Together, these initiatives will build a more robust water network that is flexible and responsive to the community's needs.

To further support the goal of securing water and drought-proofing the LGA, there are additional complementary strategies that can be explored:

Water Conservation Programs: Encourage the community to adopt water-saving practices in homes, businesses, and public spaces. This can include the uptake of property owners using Aqualus to monitor water use, efficient irrigation systems, and low-water-use appliances.

Water Recycling: As an additional backup, the LGA could explore the feasibility of wastewater recycling technologies. Recycling water for non-potable uses, such as irrigation or industrial processes, can reduce pressure on the potable water supply.

Improving Water Infrastructure and Leak Detection: Invest in modernising existing water infrastructure to reduce water loss through leaks and inefficiencies. Leak detection systems, upgrades to aging pipelines, and smart water meters can help conserve water and ensure efficient distribution.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Promoting public awareness of the importance of water conservation, drought preparedness, and sustainable water use will foster a culture of water stewardship across the community.

By implementing these infrastructure projects and additional strategies, Lithgow can strengthen its resilience to droughts and water scarcity while ensuring sustainable access to clean water for future generations.



3 Together we will reimagine public spaces

...emphasising both the physical and social connections between people and the places they inhabit. By improving infrastructure, promoting sustainability, and enhancing the aesthetic appeal of Lithgow, you're making the region more attractive, liveable, and engaging for both residents and visitors.

Lithgow CBD Revitalisation: Continuing efforts to revitalise the CBD, focusing on attracting new businesses, improving retail spaces, and creating a more vibrant city centre where residents and visitors alike will want to spend time and shop.

Lighting Plan for Public Spaces: Developing a lighting strategy for street trees along Main Street and in Queen Elizabeth Park, as well as overhead lighting along Main Street. This will help invigorate the night-time economy, enhancing the overall atmosphere of these areas, connecting them to other key locations like Blast Furnace Park, and boosting social media visibility through visually appealing installations.

Walking and Cycling Network: Creating a high-quality, well-connected walking and cycling network that connects Lithgow's towns and villages, making it easier for residents and visitors to choose sustainable, healthy forms of transportation for commuting, leisure, and recreation.

Signage Strategy: Developing a comprehensive signage plan that includes clear wayfinding, interpretive signage, and welcoming town entry signs. This will create a consistent, recognisable brand for Lithgow that helps promote the area and makes it easier for visitors to explore and connect with the region.

Street Tree Master Plan: Establishing a coordinated plan for future street tree planting to ensure that Lithgow's streets remain green and resilient. This will help enhance the local environment, provide shade, and contribute to the overall aesthetic appeal of public spaces.

Traffic and Pedestrian Circulation Study: Lithgow is a city that, at the turn of the 19th century, proliferated with the boom of steel manufacturing, concrete production and defence manufacturing. However, cities evolve over time, as does its people. Lithgow's Main Street and broader commercial precinct has not significantly changed in the past 100 years, but its people have. We need to critically review the services and infrastructure required of a modern community and incrementally make such changes to support community growth and connectedness.

Master Planning of Queen Elizabeth Park: Council has heard the community's calls for improvements at Queen Elizabeth Park, Lithgow's premier open space area. Some want more lighting; others call for enhanced tree plantings. We have also heard requests for a PA system in the rotunda to support events, but also the need for play equipment that will cater to children of all ages. In some cases, these requests are complimentary, sometimes not. The first step, however, must be to define the community's vision for this space so that Council can work to achieve this goal in a strategic, incremental manner.

By focusing on these aspects, we will enhance the physical infrastructure of Lithgow and foster a stronger sense of community and identity. These changes will improve both the liveability and the attractiveness of the area, encouraging tourism, supporting local businesses, and creating a more connected environment for everyone.



How we will measure success:

	Measure	Source
1	Length and suitability of pedestrian/cycleways	Council data
2	Suitability of Council's parks and gardens	Council data
3	Condition of sealed and unsealed roads.	Council data
4	Water infrastructure upgraded	Council data
5	Sewerage infrastructure upgraded	Council data
6	Asset Maintenance Ratio	Council data
7	Asset Renewal Ratio	Council data
8	Asset Backlog Ratio	Council data
9	Demonstrated reduction in Council's Road asset renewal backlog.	Council data



Our partners

- State and Federal Government
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Sydney Water
- Department of Public Works
- Transport for NSW
- Peak industry bodies and Not for Profit organisations
- Investors and developers
- Village and Development Associations
- Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Local Indigenous Groups and Elders
- Community groups



Alignment with State, Federal and Regional Plans

- NSW State Plan
- Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan
- Central West Orana Regional Plan 2041
- Central West Orana Regional Transport Plan
- Lithgow Regional Economic Development Strategy 2023 update
- Central NSW Joint Organisation Transport Advocacy Plan
- Central NSW Joint Organisation Water Advocacy Plan

Our Strategic Objectives

Objective BE1: Plan for suitable infrastructure to promote sustainable and planned growth, while enhancing the existing identity of the towns, villages and rural areas of the Lithgow LGA.

Objective BE2: Plan and provide quality recreational facilities and promote healthy active lifestyles in a safe environment.

Objective BE3: Provide effective public and private transport options and infrastructure that support connectivity, tourism, business and industry.



Preserving our natural environment

Our 10-year goal

Balancing, protecting and enhancing our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations.

1 Together we will reduce waste and promote sustainability

... to create a healthier environment and improve the overall quality of life for Lithgow's residents and visitors. By implementing the Lithgow Waste Management Strategy and improving waste management in public spaces, we are setting the stage for a cleaner, more eco-friendly community. Here's a closer look at how these initiatives could be shaped:

1. Implementing the Lithgow Waste Management Strategy

The Lithgow Waste Management Strategy could serve as a comprehensive plan to address waste reduction, recycling, and sustainability within the LGA. This strategy could include:

Waste Reduction Programs: Encouraging residents and businesses to reduce their waste generation by providing incentives for reducing single-use items and promoting reusable options (e.g., reusable bags, containers). Educational campaigns on minimising food waste and better recycling practices could also play a big role in improving waste management.

Improved Recycling Services: Expanding recycling and resource recovery to include more materials or providing dedicated bins for specific types of recyclable waste (e.g., electronic waste, textiles, batteries) could boost recycling rates. Partnering with local recycling facilities to ensure proper processing of collected items will be crucial.

Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO): Council's Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) program enables households and businesses to divert organic waste from landfills. What is the next stage? To continue to plan for a major resource recovery precinct to support and service the LGA

Waste-to-Energy Solutions: Review options for turning waste into energy, such as through anaerobic digestion or other sustainable waste-to-energy technologies, to reduce landfill reliance and ensure better waste practices for the community.

Public Education and Engagement: It's essential to involve the community in waste reduction efforts. Public workshops, school programs, and awareness campaigns can teach residents about responsible waste disposal, recycling rules, and the environmental impact of waste.

2. Waste Management in Open Spaces and Public Areas

Addressing waste management in public spaces such as parks, lookouts, and community hubs is vital for maintaining the cleanliness and sustainability of these areas. Here's how this could be approached:

Strategic Placement of Bins: Ensure that public areas are equipped with clearly marked waste and recycling bins. The key is to make it easy for people to dispose of waste in the right way. Ensuring that residents and site users have facilities where appropriate.

Regular Collection and Maintenance: Regular waste collection services, particularly during peak times when people are out and about (weekends, holidays, festivals). Ensure that bins are emptied often enough to prevent overflow and clean up areas that are prone to littering (e.g., high foot-traffic zones, lookouts, event areas).

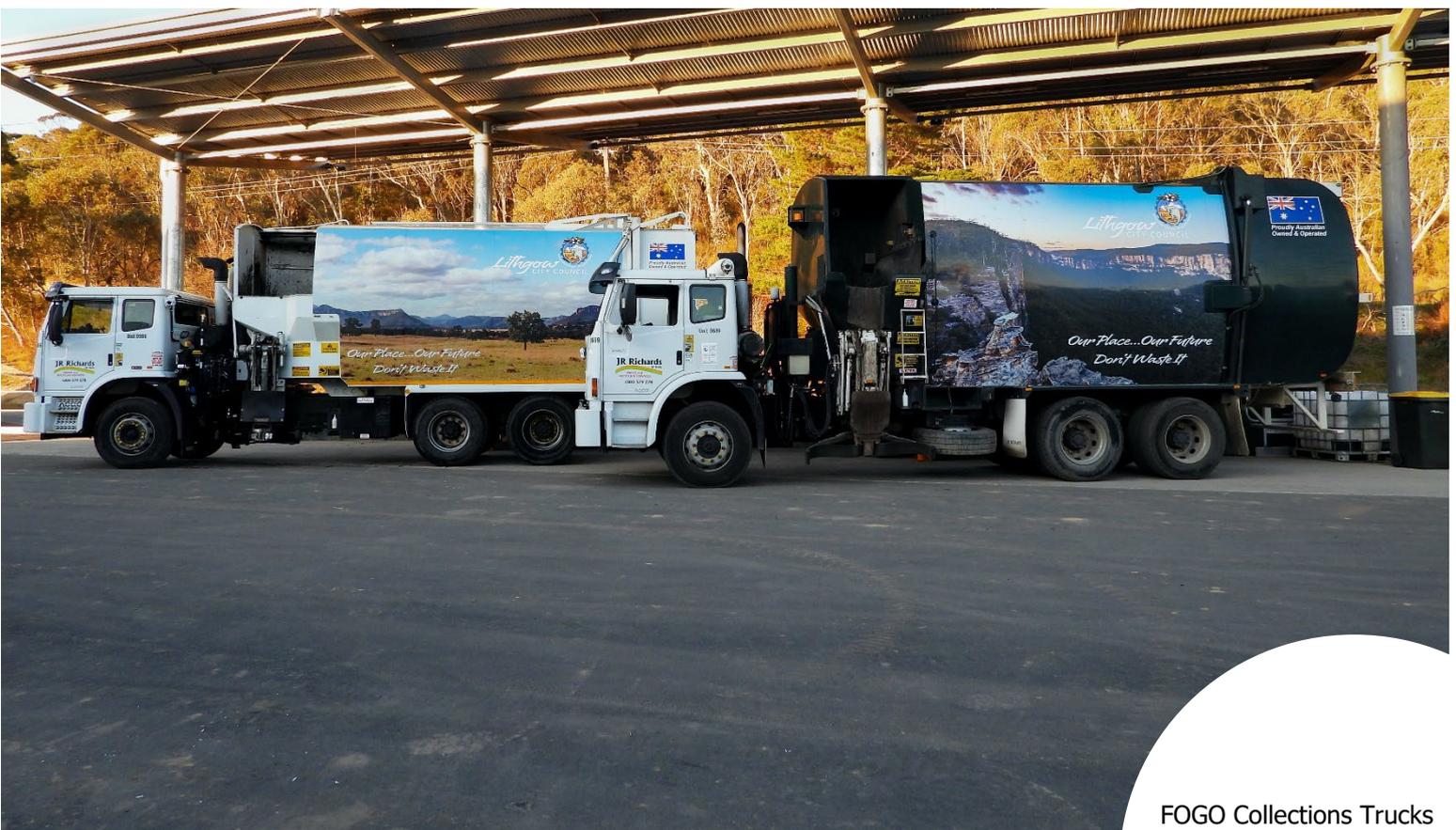
Public Awareness and Signage: Installing signage that encourages people to clean up after themselves and dispose of waste properly can go a long way. Educational signs on recycling, composting, and the environmental benefits of waste reduction can promote more responsible behaviour in public spaces.

Encouraging Eco-Friendly Practices: Encourage businesses and event organisers to adopt sustainable practices, such as using compostable materials or reducing plastic waste in public events like festivals, farmers markets, or outdoor concerts. Collaborating with local vendors to supply biodegradable packaging could cut down on waste significantly.

Community Education and Empowerment: Educate and empower the community to achieve the targets of the NSW Waste and Sustainable materials strategy 2041.

Building a Culture of Sustainability

A combination of solid waste management practices, community involvement, and continuous education is key to reducing waste in Lithgow. As the community becomes more aware of the impacts of waste and the benefits of recycling, composting, and waste reduction, it will create a culture of sustainability.



FOGO Collections Trucks

2 Together we will protect and manage the natural environment

... for the long-term well-being of the Lithgow LGA. By focusing on the Farmers Creek Management Plan and the Floodplain Management Plan, we are addressing both ecological preservation and the community's resilience to natural disasters. Here's how each of these plans could be effectively implemented to benefit the environment and the community:

1. Implementing the Environmental Objectives of the Farmers Creek Management Plan

The Farmers Creek Management Plan provides a framework for preserving and enhancing the natural environment around Farmers Creek, which is a vital waterway in the Lithgow area. Key environmental objectives could include:

- **Water Quality Management:** Implementing measures to reduce pollution entering the creek, such as limiting urban runoff, improving stormwater management, and controlling agricultural runoff. This could involve planting vegetated buffer zones along the creek to act as natural filters, preventing pollutants from reaching the water.
- **Erosion Control and Habitat Restoration:** Restoring riparian vegetation along the creek to stabilise the banks and prevent erosion. Native plants would not only protect the creek's banks but also improve biodiversity by providing habitat for local wildlife, such as birds and aquatic species. This could be achieved through community tree-planting initiatives and working with local environmental organisations.
- **Public Education and Engagement:** Involving the community in the stewardship of Farmers Creek by hosting educational programs, clean-up days, and workshops on water conservation and habitat restoration. Encouraging responsible land use practices that benefit both the creek and surrounding communities can have a significant impact.
- **Monitoring and Data Collection:** Setting up systems to monitor the health of Farmers Creek, tracking water quality, biodiversity, and habitat conditions over time. By collecting data, you can make informed decisions about future interventions and measure the effectiveness of the Management Plan.
- **Sustainable Development Practices:** As new developments are planned near the creek, ensure that they follow environmental guidelines to minimise their impact on the waterway. This includes controlling runoff, reducing impermeable surfaces, and implementing green infrastructure like rain gardens and permeable pavements.

2. Implementing the Floodplain Management Plan

The Floodplain Management Plan aims to reduce the risk of flooding and protect lives, properties, and the natural environment from flood events. This plan would focus on:

Flood Risk Mapping and Land Use Planning: Develop detailed flood risk maps to identify high-risk areas and inform zoning regulations. This could help prevent overdevelopment in flood-prone areas and direct new development to safer locations. Implementing land use policies that restrict certain types of building in floodplains can reduce damage during heavy rainfall.

Flood Mitigation Infrastructure: Construct or upgrade flood mitigation infrastructure, such as levees, flood barriers, and retention basins, to manage stormwater and prevent floodwaters from reaching vulnerable areas. These measures should be carefully designed to be both effective and environmentally sensitive.

Improved Stormwater Management: Invest in better stormwater management systems, such as detention basins, swales, and green infrastructure that can absorb and slow the flow of water during heavy rains. This can help reduce the strain on the floodplain and protect both urban and rural areas from flash floods.

Flood Warning and Emergency Response: Enhance flood monitoring systems to provide early warnings to communities when flood risks increase. Ensure that emergency response plans are well-developed and accessible to residents, with clear guidelines for evacuation, securing property, and safety measures during flood events.

Community Preparedness and Awareness: Educating the community about flood risks and preparedness is crucial. Workshops, information campaigns, and flood resilience programs can help residents and businesses understand how to protect themselves and their properties during a flood.

Restoration of Natural Floodplain Functions: Sometimes floodplains are modified by human activity, disrupting natural flood management systems. The plan could include restoring floodplain wetlands and flood storage areas to help absorb floodwaters naturally. This also improves biodiversity and creates vital habitats for local wildlife.

Adequacy of Existing Infrastructure: Some infrastructure within the bounds of Farmers Creek was designed, built and installed during a period of reduced sensitivity to flood impacts and environmental protectionism. We must critically review the suitability of this infrastructure, such as the pipework taking stormwater from Cupro Street to Farmers Creek, or the causeway crossing Farmers Creek at Geordie Street, and consider its replacement to adhere to modern construction standards.

Building a Resilient Future

By focusing on both environmental protection and flood risk management, these initiatives will create a more sustainable and resilient environment for the Lithgow community. Effective implementation will safeguard the natural beauty of the area while also ensuring the safety of residents and the longevity of local ecosystems.

Floods in Capertee Valley, 2022





How we will measure success:

	Measure	Source
1	Community satisfaction that development is balanced with community values.	Council community survey
2	The extent of natural areas rehabilitated	Council data
3	Council energy use	Council data
4	Conversion of Council vehicles to EV's	Council data
5	Council fuel use	Council data
6	Percentage of waste diverted from landfill	Council data
7	Percentage of cross contamination between red, yellow and green bins	Bin Audit



Our partners

- State and Federal Government
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Central Tablelands Local Land Services
- Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association Inc.
- Central Tablelands Weeds Authority
- Peak industry bodies and Not for Profit organisations
- Local education providers
- Chifley Local Area Command
- Village and Development Associations
- Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Local Indigenous Groups and Elders
- Community groups
- National Parks and Wildlife Services
- WaterNSW
- Tourism Operators.
- Local landholders and producers



Alignment with State, Federal and Regional Plans

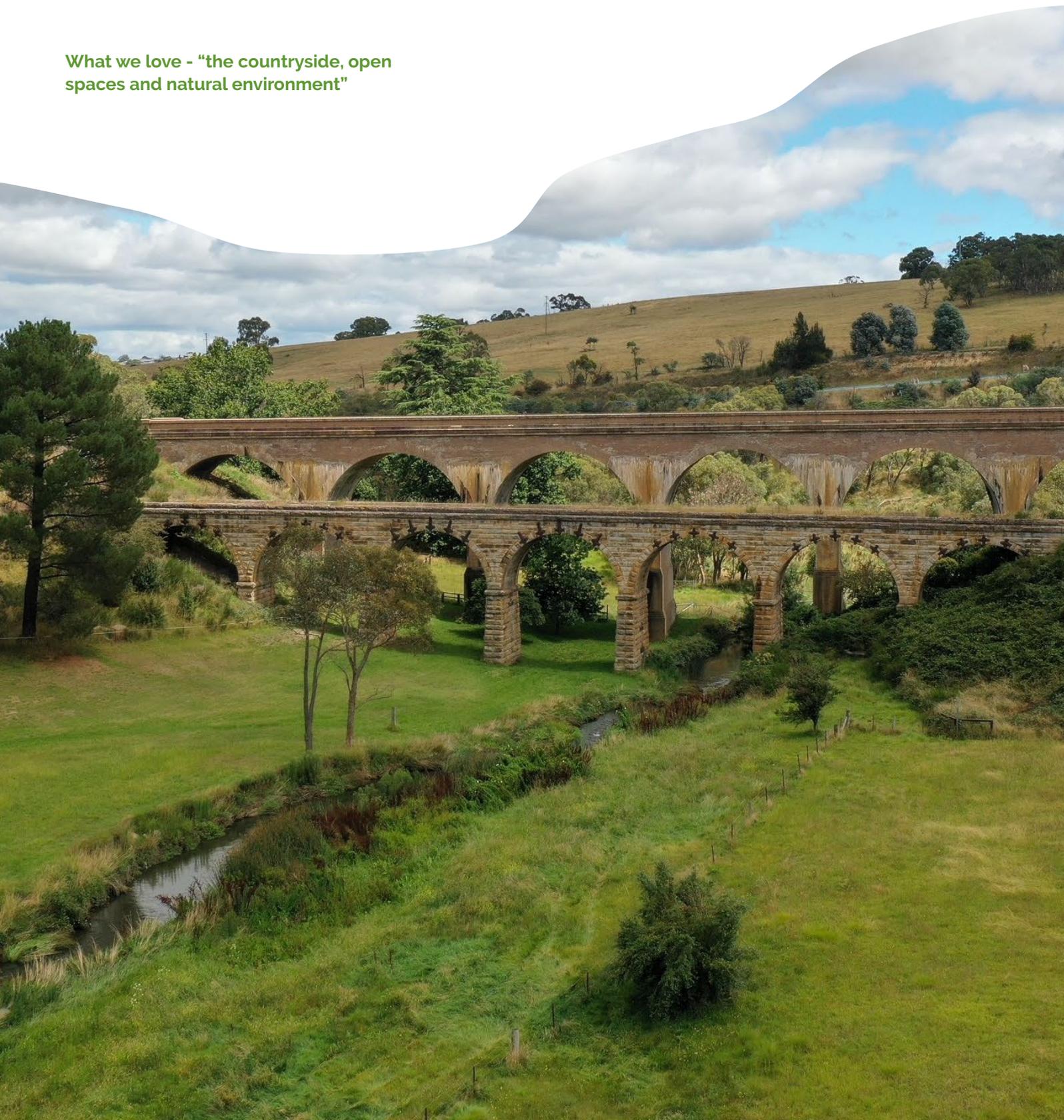
- NSW Waste and Sustainable materials strategy 2041
- Bathurst, Lithgow and Oberon Drought Resilience plan

Our Strategic Objectives

Objective NE1: Conserve and preserve the natural environment whilst balancing the impact of development to ensure a sustainable and healthy community.

Objective NE2: Enhance, manage and maintain the Lithgow region's distinct and exceptional natural environment for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

What we love - "the countryside, open spaces and natural environment"



Responsible governance and civic leadership

our 10-year goal

Developing community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.

1 Together we will ensure that Lithgow City Council is sustainable and prepared for the future

Civic leadership is crucial for maintaining a strong, responsive, and efficient local government. By focusing on improving communication, customer service, financial management, and service delivery, we can build trust and improve the overall quality of life for residents.

1. Greater Communication and Transparency from Council to the Community

Transparency and communication are the foundation of a healthy relationship between the Council and the community. The goal should be to ensure that residents are informed, involved, and engaged in decision-making processes.

- **Regular Updates:** Establishing regular communication channels, such as newsletters, social media updates, and a dedicated website, to keep residents informed about council decisions, upcoming projects, and community events.
- **Public Forums and Consultations:** Holding regular town hall meetings or community consultations to allow residents to voice their opinions, ask questions, and provide feedback on key decisions. This ensures that the community feels heard and involved in the shaping of their community.
- **Open Data Initiatives:** Making key council data, budgets, and performance metrics publicly available in an accessible format so that residents can better understand how their rates are being spent and how projects are progressing.
- **Clear, Accessible Information:** Ensuring that important council documents, decisions, and plans are easily accessible to the public, including through plain language and user-friendly digital platforms.

2. Providing Timely, Efficient, and Consistent Customer Service

Effective customer service is essential for fostering trust and ensuring that residents have positive interactions with Council.

- **Responsive Channels:** Offering a variety of communication channels (phone, email, social media, website forms, in-person service desks) to ensure that residents can easily get in touch with Council and receive timely responses to their inquiries.
- **Customer Service Standards:** The Council's [customer service standards](#), set our commitment to providing excellent customer service. We aim to deliver a welcoming, consistent and positive customer experience on every interaction.
- **User-Friendly Online Services:** Developing or enhancing an online portal for residents to access services, pay bills, apply for permits, and track requests. This can streamline processes, reduce wait times, and make it easier for residents to interact with Council.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Implementing feedback systems so that residents can rate their experience with council services, allowing the council to continually improve and address issues promptly.

3. Continuing to Implement the Financial Improvement Plan

Financial sustainability is key to ensuring that the council can continue to deliver quality services without compromising its long-term viability.

- **Improving Budgeting Practices:** Adopting transparent, well-structured budgeting processes that prioritise the efficient use of resources. This involves aligning budgets with community needs, strategic objectives, and long-term goals.
- **Identifying Cost-Saving Opportunities:** Continually reviewing Council expenditures and identifying areas where efficiency can be improved or waste reduced. This includes streamlining administrative processes, outsourcing non-core functions, or optimising energy use across Council facilities.
- **Strengthening Revenue Streams:** Exploring new revenue opportunities such as grants, partnerships, or fee-for-service models that align with the community's needs and capabilities, ensuring financial sustainability while maintaining affordability for residents.
- **Financial Reporting and Accountability:** Regularly reporting financial performance to the community, so they can see how funds are being allocated and used, and how Council is performing against established benchmarks, building confidence in council management.

4. Reviewing Service Delivery

As the needs of the community change, it's important that service delivery adapts accordingly. Reviewing and improving service delivery ensures that the council is offering the community the right mix of services at the optimal service level in an efficient manner.

- **Service Evaluation:** Regularly evaluating the effectiveness and quality of services provided, including collecting feedback from residents and service users. Identifying opportunities for improvement or innovation in service delivery could include expanding digital services or outsourcing certain functions for greater efficiency.
- **Performance Metrics:** Establishing clear performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of services. These could cover areas like responsiveness, quality of service, community satisfaction, and operational efficiency.
- **Innovation and Technology:** Exploring the use of technology to improve service delivery, such as introducing automation for routine tasks, mobile apps for service requests, or AI chatbots for quicker customer service responses. This can make services more accessible, reduce wait times, and enhance user experience.
- **Collaboration with Local Organisations:** Engaging local community groups, businesses, and other stakeholders in service delivery. Collaboration can help extend the reach of council services and make sure they're meeting the needs of specific groups within the community, such as seniors, youth, or those with disabilities.
- **Service Level Reviews:** Engaging with the community to determine what services the community desires and at what level the service is to be delivered at, including the affordability of that service level will ensure that the community is not paying for services that are not wanted. This will ensure that resources are prioritised appropriately, and services are delivered in the time and to the quality expected in a manner that the community has the capacity to fund.

5. Develop an integrated Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Plan which responds to the unique needs of Lithgow's asset base:

We aim to improve Council's management of all community assets with the expectation that our processes and decision making contribute to the sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and the delivery of effective services. Increasing revenue to manage infrastructure assets is only one half of the equation; Lithgow Council must ensure that every dollar invested in infrastructure, particularly roads, delivers the expected value and meaningfully contributes toward the provision of an acceptable level of service.

Based on a comprehensive network inspection and defect rehabilitation scoping exercise, the Council now understands the full extent of the challenge, built up by the impacts of several natural disasters in quick succession, but also historically poor asset management practice. Today, the roads renewal backlog sits at \$88 million. In response, Council will focus on:

- Developing a **sustainable model of asset renewal** which will make meaningful progress toward reducing the asset renewal backlog, year after year.

- Deliver a suite of **asset management plans** that are integrated with each other, balanced against the true state of Council's asset base and human/financial capacity, and adequately feed into the Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Resourcing Strategy.
- **Improving the standard of works delivered**, such that the community can rely on the fact that Lithgow City Council delivers what it commits to deliver, and that our design outcomes and renewal interventions are reflective of what that asset requires to deliver an acceptable level of service over the lifespan of the asset.
- **Maintain acceptable capacity** to ensure the regular inspection of Council's asset base, ensuring that the Council always holds contemporary and relevant data with respect to the condition and form of all its assets, particularly those that are identified as high risk.
- **Regularly reviewing Council's asset base** to determine whether assets are meeting the needs of an evolving community, whether they are surplus to needs and should be decommissioned or sold, or whether a shift in their operating model could result in improved services being provided to the community or reduced costs to the organisation.
- Developing better mechanisms to **communicate and engage with the community** with respect to its forward planning, maintenance regimes, renewal schedules, and proposals for asset upgrades.

The road to a bronze standard of asset management will not be easy, nor is it achievable overnight. However, Lithgow Council commits to meaningful progress, year after year.

Building a Sustainable and Responsive Council

By implementing these strategies, we are creating a council that is not only more efficient and transparent but also more connected to its residents. Sustainable governance and good service delivery are crucial for fostering a sense of trust and ownership within the community.

Community engagement during Wolgan Road visit.

To focus on - "Our Council be more progressive"





How we will measure success:

	Measure	Source
1	Operating performance ratio	Council financial data
2	Percentage of Council revenue received from grants and contributions	Council financial data
3	Community satisfaction with involvement in Council decision making	Council community survey
4	Community satisfaction with Council's overall performance	Council community survey



Our partners

- State and Federal Governments
- NSW and Australian Local Government Associations
- Local Government Professionals
- Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO)
- Office of Local Government (OLG)
- NSW Councils
- NSW Country Mayors Association
- Service providers
- Community groups
- Ratepayers and residents

Our Strategic Objectives

Objective GL1: A proactive Council that sets the long-term direction for the LGA to ensure a sustainable future.

Objective GL2: A Council that focuses on strong civic leadership, organisational development and effective governance.

Objective GL3: A collaborative Council that engages with the community encouraging active participation in decision making processes affecting their future.

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