



Emerging Economy Committee

to be held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 9 July 2025

at 5:00 PM

Minutes

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The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5:00pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor acknowledged Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside and extended respect to our neighbouring nations.

2. Present

Councillor C Coleman
Councillor T Evangelidis
Councillor E Fredericks
Councillor D Goodwin
Councillor E Mahony
Councillor S Ring

Also in attendance

Ross Gurney	General Manager
Vanessa Browning	Director Finance and Governance
Shaun Elwood	Director People & Places
Bruce Mills	Manager, Emerging Economy
Jessica Gadd	Manager, LEEP Engagement

3. Apologies

An apology was received for Jonathon Edgecombe who is unable to attend.

Procedural Motion

That a leave of absence be granted to Jonathon Edgecombe.

MOVED: Councillor E Fredericks

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Interest

The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION

The Minutes of the Emerging Economy Committee held on the 10 June 2025 were taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor T Evangelidis

CARRIED

6. Administration Reports

6.1. Committee Functions

Version 1.4 was adopted. Councillors acknowledged that while some functions were added or reworded, the final version reflects a collaborative, whole-of-Council approach and defines the Committee's role more clearly.

Recommendation

1. THAT the Emerging Economy Committee consider a recommendation to Council regarding their Functions under a relevant Terms of Reference.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

6.2. LEEP Action Plan Update

Cr Ring moved to defer the item and requested a meeting with the GM and relevant officers to clarify unresolved items and improve the report's format and detail.

Recommendation

THAT the item be deferred to another meeting.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

6.3. Outstanding Grant Applications

The Committee noted grant applications awaiting the outcome of funding decisions. A discussion focused on the rationale behind the Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival.

- A strategic place making initiative aimed at reactivating Main Street and open spaces.
- Successful in attracting full grant funding unlike many other councils.
- Described as a 'masterstroke' in branding and community engagement.
- Councillors stressed need for communication with residents and leveraging the festival to support traders, cultural identity and public realm upgrades.
- Discussion included integrating multicultural food experiences, and place making infrastructure (e.g. pop-up dining furniture, traffic plans).

Recommendation

THAT the Emerging Economy Committee:

1. Note the progress of grant applications.
2. Endorse the proposed consultation and place-making activities for Main Street.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodwin

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

6.4. LEEP 2025/26 Budget

Cr Ring raised requested a clearer breakdown of grant vs. SRV funding, consultant spending, and project allocations.

Recommendation

THAT the Committee receive and note this report.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

6.5. Adaptive Skills Hub Update

The report was noted, with strong support expressed by the Committee:

- Extension of the program until end of 2025 ensures full academic-year delivery.
- Participation from all 11 primary schools and all local high schools.
- Use of advanced equipment (drones, 3D printers, laptops, videography) commended.
- Speakers' series and broader STEAM uplift work was highlighted.
- Committee acknowledged that although not traditionally Council's role, Council's leadership in this space has been critical.

Recommendation

THAT Committee note the update provided with respect to the Council's Adaptive Skills program.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

6.6. Policy Framing - Bells Line - Great Western Hwy - Marrangaroo Interchange

THAT the Emerging Economy Committee:

1. Note the report
2. Recommend to Council that the Administration prepare a draft a policy framing document to support Council's advocacy for improvements to the Bells Line of Road, the Great Western Highway, and Marrangaroo Intersection.

An amended motion was passed to prepare three reports:

Recommendation

THAT reports on the following be prepared:

1. On rail services and potential upgrades to enhance regional connectivity;
2. On traffic management between McKanes Falls Rd and the Correctional Centre, including potential roundabouts and safety upgrades;
3. Clarification that Council is not actively promoting the Marrangaroo urban release area until market demand exists, though noting recent Transport for NSW openness to revised staging and signalised access.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

6.7. Proposed Membership - NSW Association of MERC (Mining and Energy Related Councils)

Council's previous resolution referred this to an information session. It was confirmed that would proceed as originally intended.

Recommendation

THAT Lithgow City Council join the association of Mining and Energy Related Councils NSW for a period of 12 months, at a cost of \$8,800. At the time of membership renewal, a report will be presented to Council detailing the achievements of the past 12 months, for Council's consideration prior to renewing this membership.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

6.8. LATE REPORT - Cr Ring - SSD Position

That the Committee recommend that the Council adopt an agnostic position on all State/Critical State Significant Development until the Environmental Impact Statements are made available and open for submissions.

Committee debated adopting a neutral stance on future State Significant or Critical State Significant Developments until Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are available. Given potential conflicts with existing Council resolutions, it was agreed to refer the matter to a future Council Ordinary Meeting and potentially to a working party.

Recommendation

THAT the matter be deferred to a future Ordinary Meeting of Council.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

7. General Business

First Nations Engagement: A memo was tabled and circulated outlining the integrated engagement approach across Council teams under the LEEP Action Plan. All local groups have been engaged and attended recent meetings. Committee acknowledged this collaborative approach.

Vacant Transformation Hub: Cr Mahony requested a standing item on the Transformation Hub. Consensus was reached that:

- The building's ground floor should be prioritised for education, innovation and public good (e.g. 'Lithgow Institute', university, or training use).
- Upper floor may potentially be used temporarily for Council staff.
- Market rent should be sought for any tenancies.
- Council is exploring university partnerships and operational planning is underway.

8. Meeting Closed

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6:30pm.

The next meeting is rescheduled for **Wednesday 6 August 2025 at 5:00pm**, 176 Mort Street.