



Our Place Our Future

Delivery Program 2022/23 – 2025/26

6-MONTH
PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY – JUNE
2024 - 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

Lithgow City Council acknowledges Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which Lithgow's communities reside.

The Council also extends our respects to our neighbouring nations.



Message from the General Manager

From January to June 2025, the Council has made significant progress toward achieving its Delivery Program and Operational Plan goals, particularly on its advocacy actions.

- Preliminary investigations, extensive community engagement and advocacy were carried out to progress the Wolgan Valley access Road project. This culminated in a visit from the Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.
- An increase in the consulting contract to \$7.6 million was approved by the Council for investigations and works on Brown's Gap Road, funded by the State and Federal Governments.
- As part of Lithgow's Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP), funding of \$340,000 was secured from the NSW Open Streets Program to grow Lithgow's economy. Starting in 2026, the grant will be used to host the Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival.
- In caring for the future of our region, the STEAM (Science, Technology, English, Art and Maths) program was rolled out at the Adaptive Skills Hub. Targeting primary and secondary school students, it seeks to nurture their passion and advance skills essential for Lithgow's future. For the mature workforce, the Hub offers a growing range of talks and micro credentials to facilitate the region's economic transition.
- Community engagement has been one of the Council's top priorities, resulting in the launch of the Connecting Seniors Program, aiming to enrich and facilitate meaningful connections among more isolated members of our community.



Ross Gurney

General Manager

Councillors have played an integral role in developing a vision for the future of the Lithgow Government Area. Over the past six months, Councillors, Council and community came together to work on many long-term Planning and Reporting documents. Such collaboration ensures that Lithgow continues to develop in a manner that supports its citizens.

The highlights, progress and challenges of the past six months are summarised in this January to June report. I am proud of the accomplishments the Council has made over this time.



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The 6-monthly progress report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines (OLG, 2021) essential element 4.9 -

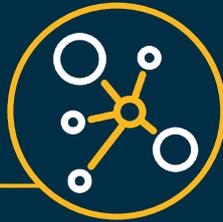
"The general manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to the council, with respect to the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program, at least every 6 months."

All financial figures included in this report are preliminary, unaudited and subject to review as part of the audited 2024/25 financial statements for Council.

Highlights

Making Connections

Launch of the **Connecting Seniors** program



Connecting seniors' program – First Wednesday Club

Our bright future

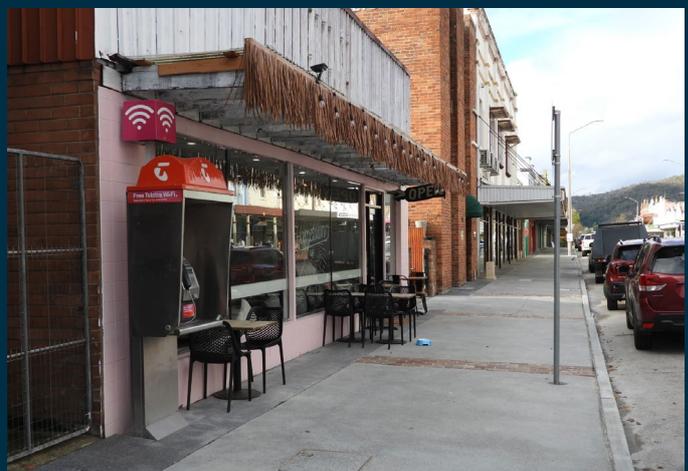
The opening of **Adaptive Skills Hub**, launch of STEAM school program and LEEP community education



Launch of the Adaptive Skills Hub

A rejuvenated look

Renewal of the **Mainstreet Footpaths**



Completed Mainstreet footpath segment

Paving ground for the journey ahead

Commencement of surveys and community engagement for **Wolgan Valley access**



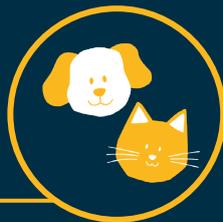
Staying heathy

23,379 visits to the JM Robson Aquatic Centre



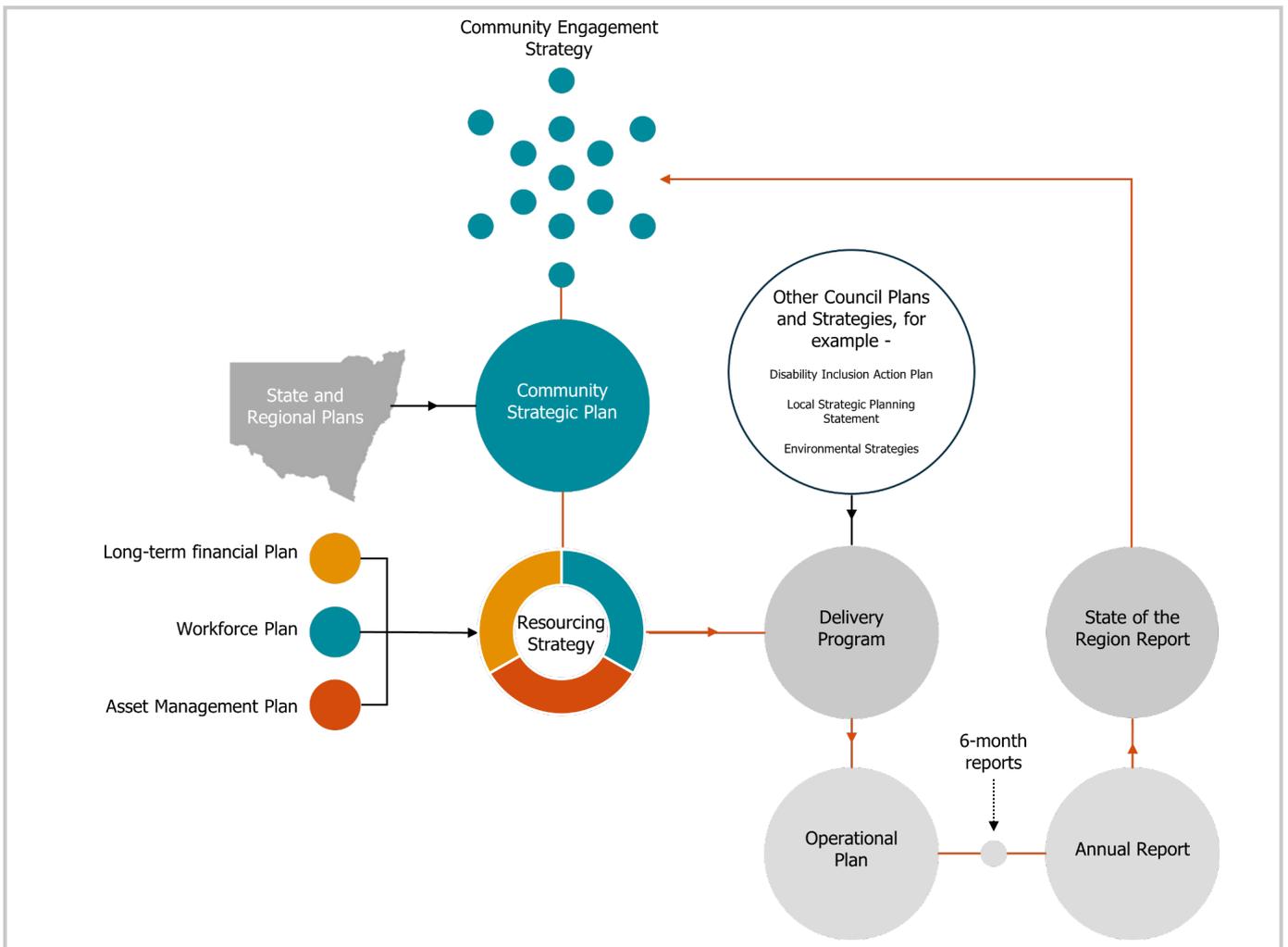
Caring for all living things

67 animals rescued/sold and 43 returned to owners



Our Document Structure – Integrated Planning and reporting

The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework brings together all Council’s plans. This ensures consistency between the aims outlined in different documents, improves planning and management of Council’s resources. How the documents are integrated and brought together is summarised in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework to the right.



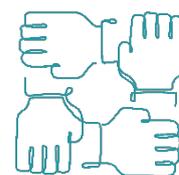
Lithgow Council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Our Five Community Strategic Plan Themes

The Community Strategic Plan is at the top of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. It is written in collaboration with the community and identifies the key focus areas the community wishes to address in the upcoming fifteen years. These focus areas are referred to as “**themes**”. In 2020, Lithgow City Council prioritised the following five key themes. For more information on the Community Strategic Plan, visit the Lithgow City Council Website → Council → Strategic Plans and Reports

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.





Our Priorities

What we seek to deliver – our Community Strategic Plan Advocacy Priorities

Advocacy is key to local council. By advocating for causes salient to the community, Lithgow Council ensures that sufficient funding is obtained for projects. These bring us a step closer to realising the community's vision for Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA).

The Community Strategic Plan identifies three advocacy priorities for the upcoming years:

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.

A diverse, strong and resilient local economy

- Finalise and rapidly implement the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) – 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).
- Bring forward new employment precincts – utilise 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.

Sustainable transport options linking the Central West and Western Sydney to the Marrangaroo Urban Release Area.

- Work with Council to implement the Lithgow EV Strategy
- Improve road connections – Great Western Highway (GWH) upgrade – Advance the Great Western Highway upgrade
- Recognise and act on the potential for Lithgow to act as a hub for improved rail services to the east and west.
- More frequent rail services between Lithgow and Western Sydney
- Consider the potential for faster and more frequent passenger rail services between Western Sydney and regional centers in the Central West



Our Advocacy Highlights

- Meeting between Mayor Coleman, Josh Murray (Secretary of Transport for NSW) and Matthew Longland (Chief Executive of Sydney Trains) to discuss future developments to railway services in Lithgow. (Meeting initiated by Community Power Project).
- Advocating for support from local council and government organisations for the construction of the Bells Line Expressway to enhance connectivity between Central West and Western Sydney.
- Wolgan Valley residents and Council hold an audience with The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to advocate for the approval of State Government funding to resource the construction of the new road.
- Council approved the seeking of a loan no greater than \$2.1 million to fund footpath upgrades on Main Street between Bridge and Eskbank Streets
- Mayor Cassandra Coleman, Cr Elizabeth Fredericks and General Manager Ross Gurney attend LGNSW Rural and Regional Summit where they discuss Lithgow's Emerging Economies Project and state significant local projects
- Attendance of the Country Mayors Association, Regional Transport Summit in Orange by Mayor Cass Coleman, General Manager Ross Gurney and Director of Infrastructure and Economy Jonathon Edgecombe. Current and emerging transportation issues were discussed with the NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Hon Jenny Aitchison

What we seek to deliver – our **Operational Plan Priorities**

In line with Operational Plan Priorities, in 2024-25 we will be...

1. Implementing the 2024/25 Financial Sustainability Plan & Productivity Program actions.
2. Developing and improving technology and communications systems to meet organisation requirements.
3. Finalising and integrating Asset Management Plans with Strategic Asset Management plans which will be linked to improved Asset Management practice.
4. Meeting commitments and increasing capacity for project delivery.
5. Responding to natural disasters while working to improve resilience in our community.
6. Completing the Growth Strategy, Employment Lands Review and Housekeeping LEP
7. Implementing a community accessible online platform for Development Applications, approval information and automated Planning Certificates.
8. Establish a sustainable and focused Events Strategy.
9. Farmers Creek Integrated Catchment planning (Infrastructure/Engagement/ Restoration)
10. Progressing the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project.



Visit by the Hon. Jenny Aitchison
MP to advocate for the
construction of Wolgan Road

Our progress in the last six months

1. Implementing the 2024/25 Financial Sustainability Plan & Productivity Program actions.

The Financial Sustainability Plan and Productivity Program split into five focus areas:

1. Responsible and sustainable income and spending
2. Investment in Infrastructure
3. Financial and Asset Management
4. Intergenerational Equity
5. Ongoing productivity improvements

There were a range of savings made as part of the March Quarterly Budget Review, adopted by Council at the May Council meeting. These achievements will be elaborated on in the 2024/2025 Annual Report.

2. Developing and improving technology and communications systems to meet organisation requirements.

Over the past six months, Council has enhanced its IT business continuity capabilities by implementing a new remote disaster recovery (DR) solution.

To improve community access to Council information and resources, an internal working group has been formed. This group will work closely with Granicus to update the Lithgow City Council Website.

The transition to Windows 11 continues across Council departments, with due date set for October 2025.

3. Finalising and integrating Asset Management Plans with Strategic Asset Management plans which will be linked to improved Asset Management practice.

Council has received the finalised versions of its Asset Management Plans for Open Spaces, Transport, Buildings, and Stormwater. An Asset Systems Officer has been appointed to review these plans to ensure they are current and accurate. Once amended, the plans will be reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee in late 2025 before being placed on public exhibition. These plans will also inform updates to Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan, scheduled for adoption in 2025.

4. Meeting commitments and increasing capacity for project delivery.

Over the past six months, the established Project Delivery Oversight Group (PDOG) met monthly to ensure responsible management of projects.

The council continues to research solutions to improve project reporting, transparency and oversight.

5. Responding to natural disasters while working to improve resilience in our community.

Council continues to work on road assets damaged in the 2022 natural disasters and the following years. The following works were completed in the last six months:

- Coxs River Road, Little Hartley
- Cranbrook Park Road, Little Hartley
- Corderoy Place, Wallerawang
- Pipers Flat Road, Wallerawang
- John Mackey Drive, Portland
- Glen Davis Road, Glen Davis
- Glen Alice Road, Glen Alice

Wolgan Valley Access Road reconstruction project

On January 28th, Council resolved to appoint BD Infrastructure Pty Ltd as Environmental Sustainability, Community and Stakeholder Specialists.

The Council ran a competitive tender process for the procurement of a new slope risk assessment which, on the 25th of June, was awarded to GHD. Preliminary site reconnaissance and inspections have been completed, with ongoing activities including community engagement, historical record review and geological modelling ongoing.

These works are entirely covered by Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Council continues to engage with the NSW Government to ensure the eligibility of all works associated with the project, including design, environmental assessments, risk analyses, and other associated initiatives.

While Council is seeking a total upper limiting budget approval of approximately \$365 million, the final design solution is not yet finalised. Council remains committed to delivering the most cost-effective solution, in the shortest possible time, with the least

possible environmental impact. For more information visit *Key Projects* → *Wolgan Gap Disaster Response* on the Council’s website.

Brown’s Gap Road Recovery Project

In the past 6 months, Council has approved an increase in the WSP consulting contract to \$7,603,748.50, funded through State and Federal disaster recovery prepayments. This funding will support expert geotechnical assessments, options analysis, and strategic design services for the project. In June, Council submitted applications for additional funding to deliver a resilient slope stability solution and will continue its collaboration with Transport for NSW to advance the forthcoming assessments. For more information visit *Key Projects* → *Browns Gap Road Works* on the Council’s website.

6. Completing the Growth Strategy, Employment Lands Review and Housekeeping LEP

The Strategic Planning Team has completed initial scoping and key stages of the procurement process to engage an external consultant for the preparation of the Growth Management Strategy.

As part of this work, a Draft Employment Lands Strategy (ELS) was prepared by HillPDA. The plan will be integrated into the broader Growth Management Strategy.

Council continues to work closely with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on the Gateway Determination for the Lithgow Housekeeping Planning Proposal. The proposal is now awaiting executive endorsement.

In June 2025, a meeting was held with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to discuss transport issues related to the Marrangaroo Urban Release Area. Council is currently awaiting a response from TfNSW.

7. Implementing a community accessible online platform for Development Applications, approval information and automated Planning Certificates.

Council continued preparation works ahead of the CIA Live project that will commence in early 2026. One of the deliverables of this project will be a portal that will allow community users to access property information including approvals and certificates, as well as rates information.

8. Establish a sustainable and focused Events Strategy.

Council has expanded its capacity to deliver community events by appointing a Community and Culture Manager and a Community Events Coordinator. The Community and Events teams have worked collaboratively to broaden the range of activities offered across the region.

The Connecting Seniors program was launched on 13 March, providing older residents with opportunities to participate in enriching activities and foster stronger social connections. (For more information, see page [27](#)).

Based on the success of the 2024 Christmas events program—and with advice from the Events Working Party—Council has allocated additional funding toward the 2025 Christmas concert. Council has also supported the development of new event concepts aimed at boosting Lithgow’s visitor economy. Four community-proposed events have been awarded financial assistance.

As part of Lithgow’s Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP), Council successfully secured \$340,000 through the Open Streets Program to host the Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival over the next three years. (For more information on the LEEP program, see page [25](#) and check out [LEEP website](#)).

9. Farmers Creek Integrated Catchment planning (Infrastructure/Engagement/ Restoration)

Council has completed the first draft updates of the Farmers Creek Masterplan and the complementary Riparian Management Plan.

In partnership with Lithgow Oberon Landcare, Lithgow Council hosted twelve Landcare events across the city, targeting Oakey Park, Lake Pillans, Geordie Street Crossing, and State Mine Gully with more than 250 trees being planted. Three monthly volunteer groups participated in ongoing environmental activities at Oakey Park, undertaking weed control, planting, maintenance, and water quality testing.



Connecting Seniors Event

10. Progressing the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project.

The project aims to establish a reliable water system across the Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA).

Over the past six months, Lithgow City Council (LCC) engaged *The Environmental Factor* to conduct a gap analysis of studies completed under the Review of Environmental Factors. Council is currently awaiting further advice regarding the scope of future aquatic ecology assessments.

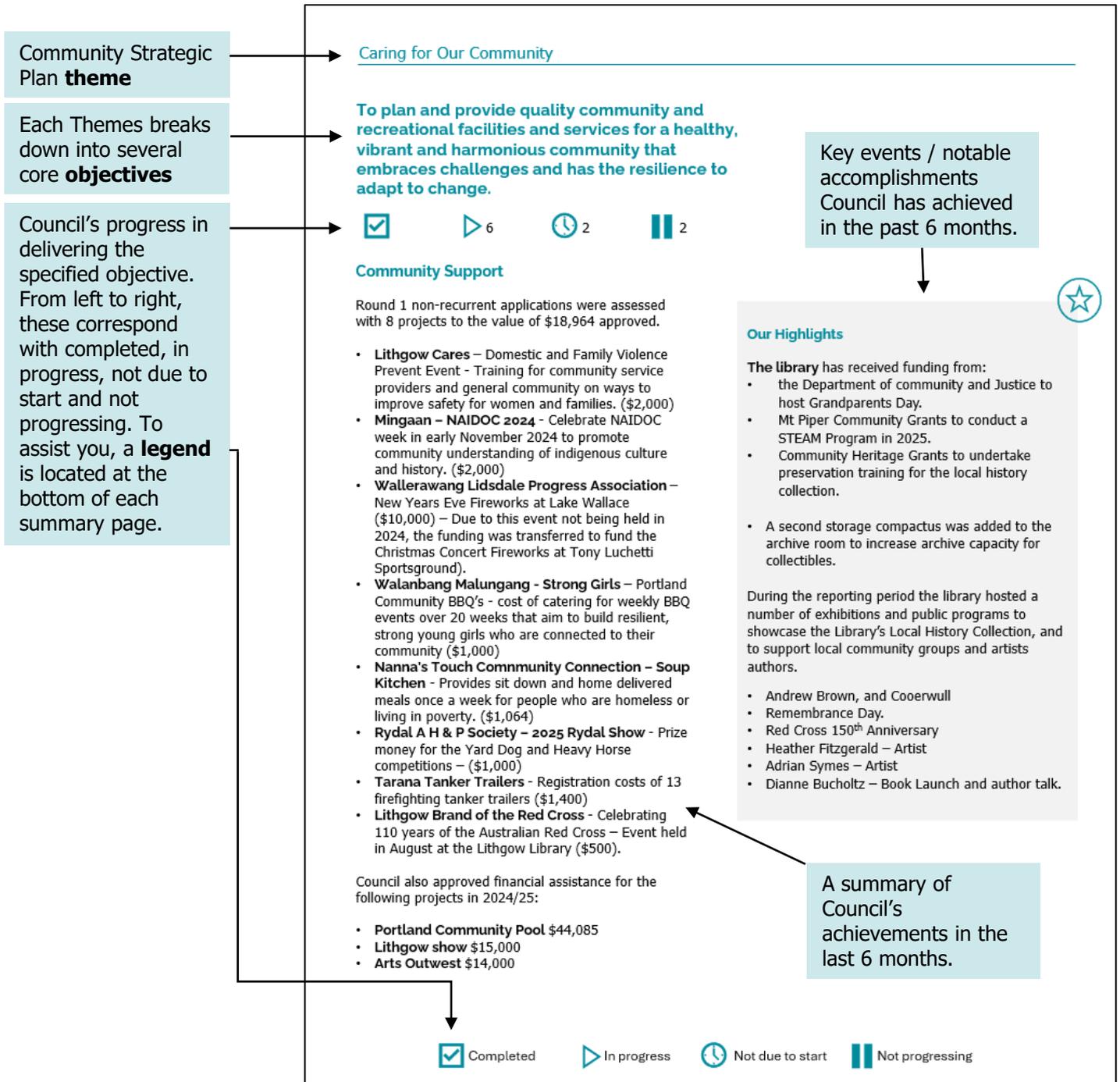
LCC has also provided feedback on reports submitted by project partner Aurecon, which are now undergoing finalisation.

In support of the next project phase, Council held meetings with Greenspot and Section 51 to review the new guidelines for the Regional Precinct Partnership Program. The aim is to submit a joint funding application for the design of the pipeline and Water Treatment Plant.



How to read this document

This six-month report is organised by themes outlined in the Community Strategic Plan (Developing Our Built Environment, Caring for Our Community, Responsible Governance and Civic Leadership, Preserving Our Natural Environment and Strengthening Our Economy). The first couple of pages provide summary and highlights. Proceeding these are tables detailing specific actions and tasks the Council committed to in the last six months.





Delivery Program 2023/24 – 2025/26

CARING FOR OUR
COMMUNITY

To plan and provide quality community and recreational facilities and services for a healthy, vibrant and harmonious community that embraces challenges and has the resilience to adapt to change.



Community Support

On the 28th of January the Council approved the sponsorship of the following community initiatives:

- **Lithgow Flash Dragons Boat Club** Assistance with operating costs including insurances, boat and equipment maintenance.(\$1,000)
- **Blue Mountains Historical Society** Brochure printing and website advertising highlighting all rail and industrial heritage sites in the Blue Mountains and Lithgow. (\$590)
- **Capertee and District Progress Association** Purchase catering items to enable the Association to hold events at their hall (\$400).
- **Walanbang Malungang - Strong Girls** Organisation of weekly BBQ's in Portland Park to support high school aged girls who have become disengaged in school and disconnected from community (\$1,500).
- **Lithgow View Club** Purchase of a computer, printer and software to support the administrative and financial record keeping of Lithgow View Club. (\$1,000).
- **Mountains Youth Services Team** Funding to hold an Easter school holiday event to engage with local young people. (\$2,000)
- **First Australian Muzzle Loading Gun, Rifle & Pistol Club and Lithgow Valley Archers** Rate reimbursement for the Muzzle Loaders and Lithgow Valley Archers venue (\$1,000).
- **Lithgow District Car Club** Rate reimbursement for the Portland Motorsport Park (\$1,000).
- **Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre** Rainbow Tea party events at Wallerawang Library for LGBTIQI+ teenagers (\$480).
- **Lithgow Event Series Partnership** sponsorship of collaboration between Event Co and local churches to provide free events that promote local artists and creatives, building stronger community connections (\$1,500).



Mayor Coleman with Lithgow's Citizen of the Year - AgShows NSW Honorary Secretary David Peters.

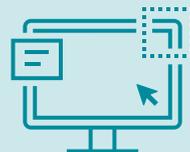


Our Highlights

- Roll-out of **Cost-of-Living Support Hub** on the Lithgow Council Website to assist the community with saving money on everyday costs
- Australia Day Celebrations

288 views

Of the Cost-of-living support hub page



88 users

Of the Cost-of-living support hub page.



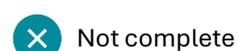
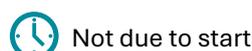
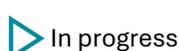
7 events

booked at the Union Theatre.



2 historical exhibitions

celebrating International Women's Day at Eskbank House.



To work together to support, celebrate and expand the social and cultural diversity of our community whilst promoting healthy, active lifestyles in a safe environment.

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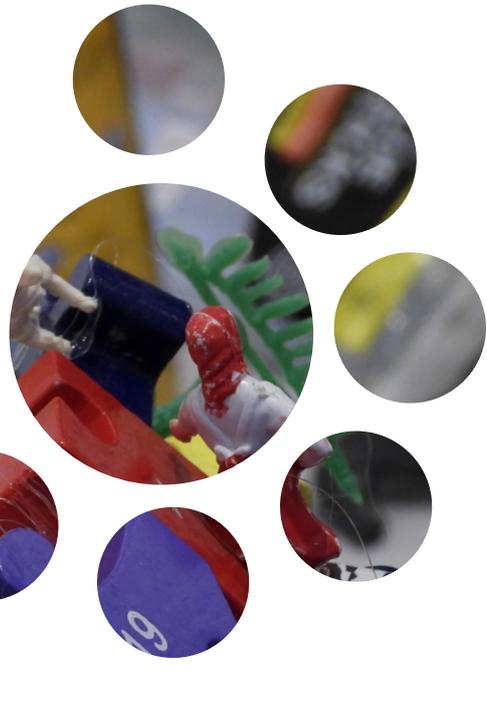


Cr Coleman - There is a significant social benefit to having housing [Specialist Disability Accommodation] like this right in the middle of town, The residents who live here will have access to the shops, cafes, and services in the Lithgow Main Street which will improve their quality of life and sense of independence immensely.



Our Highlights

- Opening of the Ethical SDA Specialist Disability Accommodation by Mayor Cass Coleman. The 17 apartments located in the former TAFE building are designed to cater for residents' diverse needs



Completed
  In progress
  Not due to start
  Not complete



429
New library
Members

15,926
Loans
At Lithgow Library

1866 Loans
At Wallerawang
Library

2360 Loans
At Portland Library

Our Libraries
56 users
Of the Home
Library Service

**143 events
& programs**
Held at the libraries

25,836
visitors
to the Lithgow
Library

5214
visitors
to the Wallerawang
Library

7313
visitors
to the Portland
Library

4340 Loans
e-Book Loans

Bee-Jay the pony visits Lithgow Council building to celebrate Council's sponsorship of the Lithgow Show held 13 – 15 March





Delivery Program

2023/24 – 2025/26

**DEVELOPING OUR
BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

To plan for suitable infrastructure to promote sustainable and planned growth, while enhancing the existing identity of the towns, villages and rural areas of the local government area.



Main Street – next stage of renewal

With the completion of work on the northern side of the Main Street between Eskbank Street and Bridge Street, the Council continues to collaborate with local business owners to minimize disruptions while completing a stage-by-stage renewal of the footpath.

Works have commenced on the Southern side with the removal of old kerbs outside the Grand Central Hotel including completion of header and bending pavers at the intersection of Main Street and Bridge Street.

These improvements enhance accessibility to shops, increase safety, and elevate the appearance of Lithgow's capital district.

To fund future stages of the Main Street renewal, the Council is advocating for the promised reinstatement of \$2 million in grant funding by Andrew Gee. Additionally, \$118,414 will be allocated from the loan balance for the footpath reconstruction.

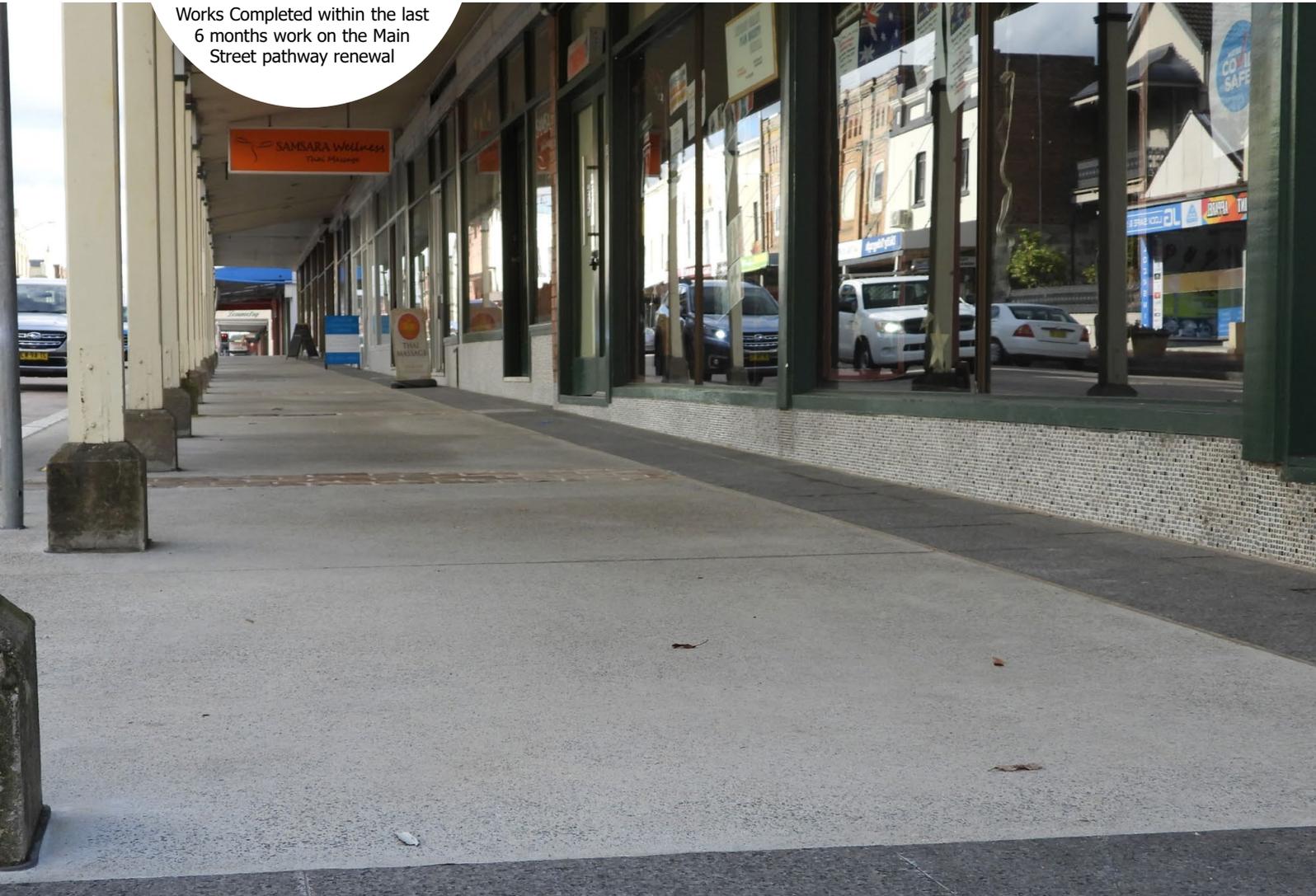
Cr Coleman – “Council is committed to consultation with the community about this project, including their vision for the future of Main Street”.



Our Highlights

- Advocacy for reinstatement of \$2.1 million to fund future stages of Main Street renewal

Works Completed within the last 6 months work on the Main Street pathway renewal



To ensure sustainable and planned growth through the provision of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and to enhance the lifestyle choices of the community.



Community feedback - On behalf of the residents on Upper Nile Road... thank you for the road repairs that have taken place last week.



Our Highlights

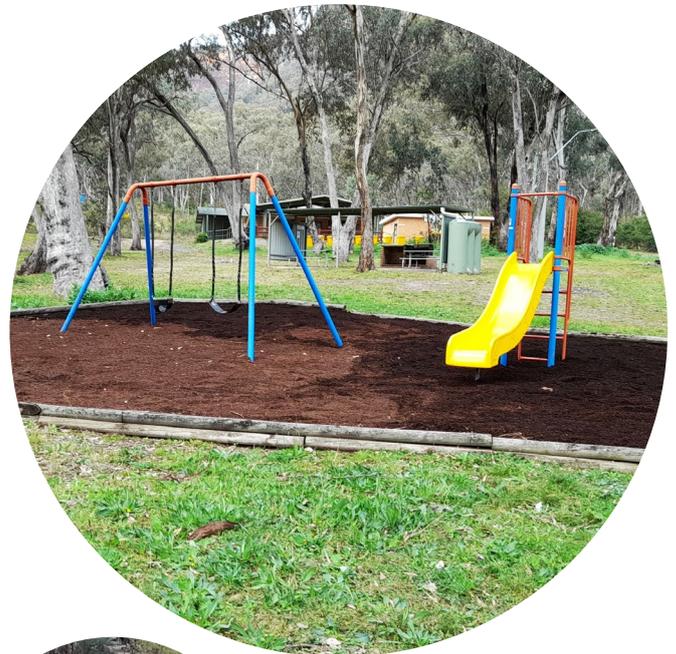
- Replacement of Lake Lyell and Glen Davis Playgrounds
- Restoration of the Lake Wallace Mine Transporter
- Congratulations to Charlie Evans, recipient of the Sporting Financial Assistance Grant to attend the 2025 National Age Swimming Championships
- Pontoon repairs at lake Lyell

- Installation of a new, disability considerate toilet block at Queen Elizabeth Park
- Attendance of the Country Mayors Association, Regional Transport Summit in Orange by Mayor Cass Coleman, General Manager Ross Gurney and Director of Infrastructure and Economy Jonathon Edgecombe.
- Renaming Farmers Creek Causeway (immediately adjacent to Burton Street) the "George Pearce Memorial Crossing".



Before (right) and after (below) of the Glen Davis playground

DIAP





JM Robson Aquatic Centre

422 patrons
engaged in exercise programs

2049 children
participated in the learn to swim

17 bookings
of the kid's party package

23379 visitors
to the JM Robson Aquatic Centre



Waste Strategy Capital Works Program is 100% complete.

Watermains and **Water treatment Capital Works programs** are 100% complete.

Sewerage Capital Works Programs is 68% complete. Clear water channel Relining

Cemeteries Program is 100% complete.

Transport program is 61% complete. Completed works include:

- Coxs River Road, Little Hartley
- Glen Davis Road, Glen Davis
- Cranbrook Park Road, Hartley
- Glen Alice Road, Glen Alice
- Pipers Flat Road, Wallerawang to Portland
- John Mackey Drive, Portland
- Browns Gap Road, Hartley
- Wolgan Road, Wolgan Valley
- Corderoy Place, Wallerawang
- Kerb and Gutter renewal
- Kirkley Street Roundabout
- Portland/Sunny Corner Road and Ilford Street, Portland - Traffic Island
- Limestone Creek Road, Portland
- Kremer Crescent Wallerawang
- Lithgow Street, Lithgow
- Hill Street, Lithgow
- Portland Street, Portland
- High Street, Portland
- Martins Road, Rydal
- Blackmans Creek Road

Installation of a new toilet block at Queen Elizabeth Park



Completed



In progress



Not due to start



Not complete

Diverse and affordable housing options are available for our residents throughout all life stages.



Discussion on resolving the issue of traffic access to further development of Marrangaroo Urban Release Area

In late June 2025, following persistent advocacy the to Minister for Roads, Jenny Aitchison, a meeting was held between Council and Transport for NSW. Previously, TfNSW advised that, under the Controlled Access Road designation, any changes—even reduced-speed signage—were prohibited if they could impact highway efficiency. At that time, a grade-separated interchange, estimated at over \$150 million, was seen as the only gateway to unlock development in the Marrangaroo precinct.

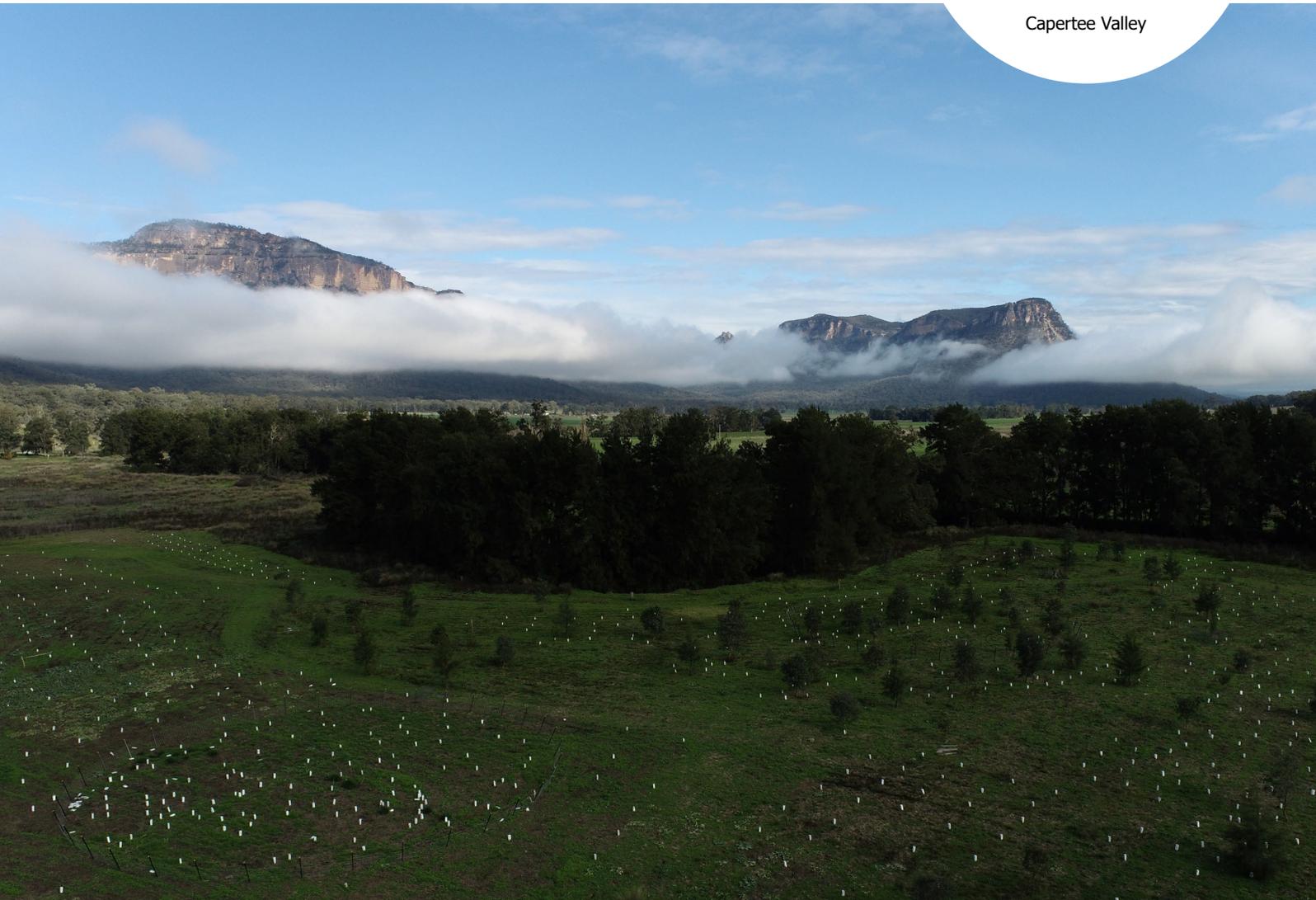
However, TfNSW has now clarified that the Controlled Access Road designation restricts only additional intersections, not the introduction of speed-reduction signage. In light of this, Council will assess its options and plans to further the development of Marrangaroo Urban Release Area.



Our Highlights

- 16 Section 68 Solid Fuel Heater applications registered
- 30 On-site Sewer Management Applications registered
- 5 Water Applications registered
- 12 Complying Development applications registered
- 30 Quotes for applications issued on request
- 11 Certificate Linen Releases requests registered
- 2266 Action Requests registered
- 929 certificates processed
- 105 Development Applications registered
- 37 Construction Certificates registered
- 14 Sewer Applications registered

Capertee Valley





Delivery Program

2023/24 – 2025/26

**STRENGTHENING OUR
ECONOMY**

To provide sustainable and planned growth that supports a range of lifestyle choices and employment options.

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- 4
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-

Cr Coleman - "The community is genuinely concerned about the future of the local economy, and the Action Plan 2025-2026 outlines the steps Council is taking to deliver on the community's desire to prepare for a new economy, and the creation of jobs for the future."

Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP)

Released in January 2025, the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) Action Plan 2025-2026 outlines the steps Council will take to advance the most pressing of the 68 recommended actions from the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan Transition Report (LEEP Report). The LEEP Report identifies implementation of these actions as key to placing the local economy in the best possible position for future growth. Lithgow City Council has allocated \$1.07m each year to transition management. This financial allocation, along with grant funding, underpins the delivery of the LEEP Action Plan 2025-2026.

The LEEP Action Plan focuses on four key areas:

1. **Governance** – how the LEEP implementation is governed and accountable
2. **Engagement** – how the LEEP implementation will involve stakeholders
3. **Precincts, Strategic Planning and Investment Attraction Driving** – how the LEEP implementation can attract investment and growth
4. **An Innovative, Agile and Skilled Workforce** – how the LEEP implementation can support the development of a highly skilled and adaptive workforce.

The LEEP Action Plan emphasises the importance of a coordinated approach to the transition, bringing government, industry, workers, and communities to work in partnership together to ensure the best possible outcomes for the people of Greater Lithgow.

Our Highlights

- Opening of the Central West Adaptive Skills Hub and launch of the STEAM pilot program
- Adoption of the Smart Places Road Map-guidelines outlining the provision and management of smart public open spaces across the Lithgow Local Government Area.

The community is included in the LEEP implementation through a number of events and activities including fee-free short courses, the Lithgow schools STEAM Uplift Pilot Program, working groups and committees, and a regular Speaker Series event which highlights topics related to the region’s transformation such as transition management, leadership, excellence in education and technology, and placemaking. These events, and key strategic documents such as the LEEP Report and the LEEP Action Plan 2025-2026, are available on the [LEEP website](#).



Portland Central School students participating in the STEAM engineering program

- Completed
- In progress
- Not due to start
- Not complete

To 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.

- 7
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Sponsorship of local events

Earlier this year, the Council reached out to community, seeking ideas for events to be sponsored and delivered by Lithgow City Council in 2025/26.

In addition, the Council is committed to delivering Halloween, Lithgow Christmas Concert, be a partner in the Capertee Valley Bird Festival and Sponsor Wallerawang New Year’s Eve event.

Community feedback – [Australia Day] Celebrations went smoothly.. [staff] involvement did not go unnoticed by those present, who also sang high praises for the presence and ensuring the safety of all.



Our Highlights

- Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) from the community for new events



Waste-2-Art Workshop done in collaboration with Mythika studios

- Completed
- In progress
- Not due to start
- Not complete

The Lithgow Region is seen as a desirable place to work, live visit and invest.



Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival

The Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival is a delicious way to bring our community together, drive tourism, create new opportunities for local business, and tell a positive story about our future.

- Cr Coleman

Backed by \$340,000 in NSW Government funding over three years, Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival will bring Pop-up dining spaces, live entertainment, turning Main Street into a space of celebration and connection.

Starting from 2026, the festival will feature *Snitty Showdown* competitive cook-off, *Schnitz & Giggles* comedy performances, and a hands-on 'Crumbed & Curious' Schnitzel Innovation Lab led by Lithgow High School students.

The event is part of the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan, and will aim to build local pride, support local traders and attract tourism to the area.

Lithgow Library – writing workshops.

The workshops were conducted by Tracie McMahon and were held over 6 weeks in May and June. 10 people attended initially but 9 finished the program. All participants were engaged with the course and commented on how it had given them the confidence to continue writing. A Google classroom was set up to allow participants the chance to get feedback on their writing and organise in person writing group days. The writing group will meet at least once every two months on a Saturday morning where anyone else interested in becoming a member will be able to attend. The group will also continue to use the classroom space as a place for contact with the other members and provide feedback on each other's writing.

Community feedback - charming and knowledgeable guides and making Eskbank come alive.



Our Highlights

- Sponsorship of \$340,000 by the NSW Open Streets Program to commence and host Lithgow International Schnitzel Festival for the next three years, starting from 2026
- Commencement of the Connecting Seniors Program
 - Commencement of Wednesday Club
 - Library Program – writing workshops

Connecting Seniors: A Yearlong Celebration of Community, Creativity, and Connection for Lithgow's Older Residents

With the support of the NSW Government's Connecting Seniors funding, Lithgow City Council has been delivering the Lithgow Connecting Seniors program, a yearlong initiative offering older residents' opportunities to engage in a variety of enriching activities, connect with peers, and discover the many community services offered by Council.

The initiative officially launched on the 13 March with a beautiful performance by local musician Glenda Phipps and everyone enjoyed a morning tea.

In June, Council also commenced the First Wednesday Club at the Union Theatre. The opening cabaret-style show featured inaugural performances by poet Mark Llwyd Flood and an interactive journey of music and movement from the group "A Rock Back and Forward".



First Wednesday Club event featuring performances from by poet Mark Llwyd Flood and the group "A Rock Back and Forward"



Delivery Program

2023/24 – 2025/26

**PRESERVING OUR NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT**

To conserve and preserve the natural environment whilst balancing the impact of development to ensure a sustainable and healthy community.



Our Highlights

- Participation in the development of Emissions Reduction Strategy
- Integration of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and Regional Climate Change Framework into Council’s Planning and Reporting documents
- Committing \$1.4 million to the improvement of stormwater Infrastructure around the Local Government Area

68 entries

were received for the annual Waste-2-Art competition. This year’s theme is **Toys**.



1064 tonnes

from the target 1400 tones of waste was recycled.

16,387 tonnes of waste

recorded at Lithgow Solid Waste Facility from July to December 2024.

1974 tonnes of waste

recorded at Portland Garbage Depot from July to December 2024.

960 tonnes of Food Organics Garden Organics

(FOGO) collected between October 2024 and June 2025 with less than 1% contamination.

336 tonnes of waste

recorded at Capertee Garbage Depot from July to December 2024.

533 properties

registered for the March Bulky Waste Collection.

30 tonnes of waste

recorded at Glen Davis Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

82 tonnes of waste

recorded at Tarana Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

89 tonnes of waste

recorded at Angus Place Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

51 tonnes of waste

recorded at Hampton Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

82.4 tonnes

diverted from Landfill by the Reuse Shed.

48 tonnes of waste

recorded at Meadow Flat Transfer Station from July to December 2024.

1051kg of waste

per capita was collected from July to December 2024.

> 30 participants

attended the NetWaste workshop.

117kg of recycling

collected per capita from July to December 2024.

355 tonnes

of scrap metal recycled by the Lithgow Solid Waste Facility.

20 Properties

registered for April’s Green Waste Collection.

518 Tonnes of comingled recycling

collected from July to December 2024.

Lower than average, **10.45% contamination rate** was recorded for the month of June in comingled recycling (relative to 11%).



To work together to enhance, manage and maintain the Lithgow region's distinct and exceptional natural environment for the enjoyment of current and future generations.



Joint Council and Oakey Park Residents Association on tree planting

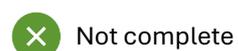
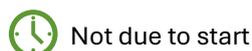
In February of this year, Council's Outdoor Team has worked extensively with Oakey Park Residents Association, planting Pin Oaks at Oakey (Zig Zag) Park. The 12 new trees are just the latest addition to the plantings around the park and were funded through a grant given to the Oakey Park Residents Association. The collaborative effort has brought new life to the park, building on the previous year's work – installation of seating and a new playground.

Our Highlights

- 12 Landcare days and events hosted by the Landcare Team at Oakey Park, Lake Pillans, Geordie Street Crossing, State Mine Gully
- 250 trees planted at the lower end of Farmers Creek, near Geordie Street crossing



February's Landcare Day (top) and planting of trees at Oakey Park (right).





Delivery Program

2023/24 – 2025/26

**RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE
AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP**

To be a proactive Council that sets the long-term direction for the local government area and Council to ensure a sustainable future for the Lithgow local government area.



Encouraging LGA's future workforce

The Council has engaged with local schools to increase visibility of the jobs in Local Government and for students to gain insight into Council processes.

Council representatives from Water, Recreation, Human Resources, Transport, Communications and the Aquatic Centre participated in career opportunities information session ("Try-A-Trade") at Lithgow High School. Students got the chance to Local Government career opportunities and participate in an immersive experience of being in the driver's seat of heavy machinery.

In June, Mayor Cass Coleman and General Manager Ross Gurney welcomed Lithgow Public School, hosting a mock council meeting. This experience aligns with the Department of Education's High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) policy, supporting the development of social awareness and competence.



Our Highlights

- Promoting inclusion through a cross-council introduction of preferred pronouns to e-signatures.
- Attendance of Council's Water, Recreation, Human Resources, Transport, Communications and Aquatic Centre teams at Lithgow High School's Try-A-Trade day.
- Hosting a mock Council meeting for the students from Lithgow Public School
- Setting up pop-up café meetings throughout the LGA to get residents' feedback on the classification of land as part of *Farmland for Rating Policy* review. 13 appointments were made, and more community members were engaged without an appointment at the pop-up cafes, via phone and at Lithgow City Council reception
- Community engagement for the delivery of Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents – Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational plan



Lithgow City Council
Representation at Lithgow High
School's Try-A-Trade.

To be a Council that focuses on strong civic leadership, organisational development and effective governance with engaged community actively participating in decision making processes affecting their future.



Our Highlights

- Establishment of three Councillor working groups to manage Health, Planning and Events in the Lithgow region
- Held lifeguard training at JM Robson Aquatic Centre

Lifeguard training at JM Robson Aquatic Centre



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