



Emerging Economy Committee

to be held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 9 July 2025

at 5:00 PM

Minutes

---

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

---

<b>1. Acknowledgement of Country .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Present .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Apologies .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Declaration of Interest.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5. Confirmation of Minutes.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. Administration Reports .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6.1. Emerging Economy Committee Terms of Reference .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6.2. LEEP Action Plan Update .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6.3. LEEP -- Outstanding Grant Applications.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6.4. LEEP Budget Status Update .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6.5. Adaptive Skills Hub Update.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.6. Policy Framing - Bells Line - Great Western Hwy - Marrangaroo Interchange .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.7. Proposed Membership - NSW Association of MERC (Mining and Energy Related         Councils) .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.8. LATE REPORT - Cr Ring - SSD Position .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7. General Business.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8. Meeting Closed .....</b>	<b>8</b>

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 Committee recommend that Council adopt Version 1.4 of the Emerging Economy Committee 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 Committee:

1. Note the report.
2. Note that the Chair will meet with the GM and Emerging Economy Manager to review the action plan issues raised by the Chair and report back to the Committee..

**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:

1. Note the report.
2. Note that the Chair will meet with the GM, Finance & Governance Director and Emerging Economy Manager to review the budget and report back to the Committee.

**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 the 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 - Marangaroo Interchange

The Committee noted the report. The Committee discussed the need for the Administration to prepare draft policy framing documents to support Council's advocacy for improvements to the Bells Line of Road, the Great Western Highway, and Marangaroo Intersection.

An amended motion was passed to prepare three reports:

Recommendation

THAT reports on the following items be prepared:

1. On rail services and potential upgrades that can be sought to enhance regional connectivity;
2. On traffic management between McKanes Falls Rd and the Correctional Centre, including potential roundabouts and safety upgrades; and

**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 the matter of Lithgow City Council joining the association of Mining and Energy Related Councils NSW be referred to a Councillor Information Session.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Councillor D Goodwin

**CARRIED**

## 6.8. LATE REPORT - Cr Ring - SSD Position

The Committee discussed the recommendation 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 agenda 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.