



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 3 September 2025

at 4:00PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:00pm.

1. 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.

The Chairperson 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

Present: Clr Mahony, Clr Ring, David Peters, Julie Favell, Jackie Altair

Officers: Shaun Elwood (Director People & Places), Ailis Chapman (Natural Areas Management Officer), Matthew Trapp (Director Water Wastewater & Waste), Jonathon Edgecombe (Director Infrastructure & Project Delivery)

3. Apologies

Trish Kidd, Susan Gregory, Sharon Riley

Officers: Cassandra Turner (Executive Assistant People & Places)

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes were endorsed by the Environmental Advisory Committee and there were no actions/items carried over.

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: David Peters

5. Declaration of Interest

Nil

6. Presentations

6.1. Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)

The Director of Infrastructure and Project Delivery made a presentation in relation to the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, following the documents that were circulated to the Committee.

The presentation consisted of the following information:

- Council has been updating the RVMP for the last 12 month in response to incidents that have showed Council's policies are inadequate.
- Associated policies to the RVMP will be updated next year
- The RVMP is in three parts
 - 1) Works approval pathway
 - 2) Council policy and community interest
 - 3) Comprehensive biodiversity assessment of the road network
- The RVMP is carried in all infrastructure staff utes
- Weed control is carried out by Central Tablelands Weed Authority
- Council machine cleaning schedule now implemented and recorded
- Timing of operations continuing to improve with a new machine being purchased
- Basic weed ID training provided to staff
- Also reviewing ENM/VENM policy
- Part 5 assessments now conducted before contractor procurement so all environment measures are included in the scope of works and contract documents.

Questions and suggestions made:

- Citizen Science be used as a tool for recording sensitive species
- Is scouring used? – JE response: yes, if appropriate (location, vegetation and soil type considered)
- Are staff given adequate time to clean machines properly – JE response: yes, and new machine will also be self cleaning.
- Suggested that a local panel of contractors for weed spraying be used to increase retention of knowledge.
- Is the Central Tablelands Weed Authority aware of RVMP and Council Policies –
- **ACTION JE to advise on notice**
- It was suggested timing operations to move with season west to east for maximum outcome.
- Asked if we could share machines with other Councils – JE response: that is not feasible at this time.

EAC will have the opportunity to review the new policies in 2026 once they are ready.

6.2. Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Proposal

The Director of Water Wastewater and Waste made a presentation on the proposed Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project.

Following the presentation the following points were raised:

- If the Oakey Park plant was adequate to treat heavy metal and salinity inputs from the new pipeline
– **ACTION MT to advise on plants capacity and provide data on notice**

- What the long term plan is for Farmers Creek Dam?
 - There is currently a risk and safety review being done for the dam by public works which will inform the long-term plan. The dam will likely be a secondary source once the pipeline is constructed

- What will happen when the Clarence Colliery closes?
 - An agreement is in place with the mine that at end of operation Council will sink bores and harvest water on their land post life of mine.

- Concerns Expressed with limited data on aquifers in Lithgow, Bathurst and Oberon.
 - A risk assessment is scheduled for an effluent recycling system that will allow parks and gardens to be irrigated using recycled water to reduce pressure on potable sources.
 -

ACTION: Topic will also be taken to the Infrastructure Committee and the EAC will be informed on the outcome.

7. General Business

NAMO Project update:

Hassans Walls Reserve

- Hassans Walls Reserve PoM update still underway – taking longer than anticipated due to increased range of issues and external information sourcing
- As part of evolving response to illegal dumping, litter and vegetation clearing Council is scoping additional signage and cameras to the ones currently being used in the reserve. To fund this, Council is planning on applying for an EPA grant later this year
- There was two major incidents at HWR last month – a trailer has been pushed off a cliff and numerous trees have been felled. Council is investigating and remediating. The police have been notified. Illegal rubbish dumping is an ongoing issue adjacent to the roads network in the reserve.
- Council and LOLA are looking into the feasibility of a Hassans Walls Reserve Landcare Group

Hyde Park Reserve

- PoM update due to start once HWR PoM is complete
- General approach for remediation is a two stage plan – first to stabilise and prevent the erosion getting worse and then to repair damage. This will likely needed to be funded in parts.
- Council is intending to reapply for the Crown Reserve Improvement Fund later this year and Environmental Trust Grants. Saving our Species have kindly offered to assist with the grant application
- Council is commissioning erosion control designs for remediation to assist with grant application and contractor procurement
- Regular on site meetings are going to be organised with stakeholders to assist with communication, project planning a funds seeking.

Biodiversity Month

- Eight community events happening this September

Great Southern Bioblitz

- Timing coincides with Halloween so organising a spooky bioblitz insect photography competition with schools through the LEEP team

Roadkill prevention program

- Working with the roads teams and Kanimbla wombats to collect data for a project – intending to apply for a WIRES National Grant 2026

Pearsons Lookout

- Currently in procurement and environmental approval phase of tree removal to restore lookout sight lines.
- An on-site meeting has been organised with other council staff to discuss amenity and site improvements.

Glen Davis Reserve

- Capertee Valley Landcare has drafted a reserve Masterplan which Council reviewed and provided comment. Council then commissioned a Vegetation Management Plan to assist with the implementation of the Masterplan that details planting and weed control on the site.
- New gates and signs are being installed on entrance road.
- Council met with Capertee Valley Landcare on site with the principal ecologist preparing the VMP to discuss weed control methods and future direction. Endeavor Energy attended and have expressed interest in funding some of the plan.
- Council is assisting with an event on the reserve as part of the Capertee Valley Brid Festival

Council helped run a successful erosion control workshop in Portland.

Farmers Creek

- Council successfully delivered bush regeneration and exercise equipment installations at five sites along farmers creek
- The Farmers Creek Precinct Masterplan is currently being updated and an associate Riparian Corridor VMP being prepared, which is funded by WNSW. Widespread community consultation to come in October-November

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee accept the reports from the administration.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Jackie Altair

CARRIED

8. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 5.50pm and the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 October 2025.