



MINUTES

Community Development Committee

held at

Lithgow Library and Learning Centre
Meeting Room
157 Main Street Lithgow

on

Tuesday 9 September 2025

at 4:00 PM

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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.

2. Present

Councillors – Mayor Cass Coleman, Councillor Eric Mahoney, Councillor Darell Goodwin

Members - Tim Roberts, Leanne Walding, Brett Groves, Rachel Young, Dennis Limbert, Emma Mason, Shirley Gray, Joy Smith, Jo Koleda, Angie Sheehan, Kylie Manson (Warrabinga), Karla Priestly, Nathan Mas-Stephens

Staff - Director People and Places, Manager Community & Culture, Library Coordinator, Community Development Officer Director Finance and Governance

3. Apologies

Glenda Anthes, Sarah Arnold, Aunty Helen Riley

MOVED: Joy Simth SECONDED: Tim Roberts CARRIED

4. Confirmation of Minutes

4.1. Confirmation of Minutes

Not required

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None

6. Conflicts of Interest

None declared

7. Presentations

Sharon Lewis, Library Coordinator gave a presentation providing an overview of the broad range of services offered by Council's Libraries including specific programming for children and young people, advances made in disability access, the home library service and library branches in Portland and Wallerawang.

There was significant interest in the presentation with members seeking further information on library services to promote to clients of community services and an update on the digital noticeboards for libraries.

Joy Smith commended Sharon and her team on the high quality of library services. Members noted that the library has received awards in the last two local business awards, led by the Chamber of Commerce.

ACTION: Heather Chaffey will explore opportunities to highlight these services through award nominations in future.

8. Staff Reports

8.1. Program Update – Heather Chaffey

Heather Chaffey and Alison (Ali) Kim spoke to a brief report on the Joint Programming Project which provided the committee with an overview of activities planned across libraries and the Community and Culture team within Council to deliver or support partners to deliver events and activities aligned with days of significance. The committee discussed the activities outlined and were supportive.

The Mayor Cass Coleman asked the team to include the function of lighting the tourism information centre and Cook Street Plaza in the colours of various campaigns in this plan.

Karla Priestly asked that Council consider including support for Ochre Day and Overdose awareness day in this schedule.

MOVED: Karla Priestly SECONDED: Emma Mason CARRIED

Heather Chaffey spoke to a brief paper regarding the new Lithgow Community e-News which came about because of advocacy from the members of CDC for stronger promotion of community programming and events.

The committee discussed the newsletter. Emma Mason asked Council to consider how to further promote the newsletter to increase sign-ups including a QR code and fliers, to be distributed through local business and community services.

ACTION: Ali Kim to follow up promotion of Lithgow Community e-news.

The Mayor, Cass Coleman acknowledged the work of the Council staff in quickly mobilizing this project in response to the committee.

MOVED: Brett Groves SECONDED: Joy Smith CARRIED

9. General Business

9.1 Jo Kaleda raised how impressed she was when she attended a recent PCYC event where she heard a young woman speak about her experience as a volunteer. Jo noted that as a community we need to find ways to promote these kinds of positive stories about the resilience, kindness, and skills of local young people.

Further, Jo and other committee members spoke about fundraising for community initiatives. Blinky Bill pre-school was also raised as a positive story.

ACTION: Heather Chaffey to convene a meeting of Jo, Emma and Karla to scope a 'positive stories project'; for future funding.

ACTION: Heather to seek a presentation from Blinky Bill pre-school to the CDC.

The committee also discussed the 'Made in Lithgow Podcast' and a project from Shepperton called 'Women of the Murray'.

ACTION: Heather to seek an online presentation from Women of the Murray to the Women's Advisory Committee.

9.2. Brett Groves raised the WAGAMBIRRA Seven Valleys NAIDOC Ball for October 18 and presented on Yindamurra – the Main St cleanup project.

ACTION: Ali Kim to share promotional material re WAGAMBIRRA with the CDC group

ACTION: Heather Chaffey is providing support to Brett with the Main St project and will continue to do so.

9.3. Australia Day 2026 – Brett Groves raised a suggestion for a capital works project at the Blast Furnace involving a new pathway and native planting to form an avenue.

ACTION: Heather Chaffey to meet with Brett to scope his concept and discuss potential future sources of funding from state and federal governments.

9.4. Other committee members raised awareness of various other initiatives and events including

- Blue Tree mental health event
- Dudes Doin Stuff – BBQ on Saturday at PCYC
- The Men's Table
- SDA BBQ on Thursday 12-2pm

ACTION: Heather to seek presentation from Mens Table to CDC at a future meeting

Discussion regarding disability access at events.

ACTION: Heather and team to explore undertaking a disability access audit for coming events and develop access plans for those events.

9.5. Nathan Mas-Stephens noted a Road Safety Grant and recent deaths/incidents on the Great Western Highway. Mayor and Shaun Elwood spoke to the advocacy that Council has been undertaking about this matter and that it has been a focus of both the TALC and Infrastructure committees in recent months. Cllr Goodwin spoke from his perspective as a Police Officer on the matter.

Further to this, discussion arose regarding Emora Park in Bowenfels. Karla Priestly has written to Council on this matter. It was noted that the Mayor, Cllr Fredericks and Jonothan Edgecombe (Director Infrastructure) have met with NSW DCJ to discuss transition of management of this park to Council along with negotiations with Transport for NSW regarding the Great Western Highway and surrounding state-owned land.

Councillor Mahoney noted that while volunteering is very honourable, volunteer labour should not replace the paid work of maintaining these sites which need a more frequent maintenance schedule than a quarterly mow of lawns. Volunteering should add value to a high standard of care in parks such as Emora Park.

ACTION: Heather to keep CDC informed of progress on this matter from Council perspective.

9.6. Director Finance and Governance, Vanessa Browning dropped into the committee meeting to update members on progress of Councils Volunteer Policy.

10. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: 11 November 2025

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:50pm.