



MINUTES

Infrastructure Committee Meeting

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 17th of September 2025

At 5:00 PM

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

Councillor Steve Ring (Chair)
Councillor Ray Smith
Councillor Eric Mahony
Councillor Tom Evangelidis

Officers:

Ross Gurney, General Manager
Matthew Trapp, Director – Water, Wastewater and Waste
Sharron Wood, Executive Assistant – Water, Wastewater and Waste
Jim McGee, Engineering Officer

3. Apologies

Mayor Cass Coleman
Cr D Goodwin

4. Declaration of Interest

Nil declarations.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Previous Committee meeting minutes were approved at the last Council meeting.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil.

7.6 Bayonet Street Lithgow

The committee discussed Bayonet St, Lithgow and repairing the water and roads issue. One of the impacts has been the watermain and services leaking and causing the roadway to breakup over time with the main in the centreline of the road and services to properties on both sides.

This is an "old set up" with the main running down the middle of the road with plans to have the main moved to the side of road. It could potentially be completed at the same time as the road work in the area. Full pavement repair is required in the street, replacement and stabilisation of the road, to expect a 40-year life span of the road. This would take a week to complete an asphalt seal. It was proposed that the project could be overnight works. Col Drewe Drive is an example of what can be done, and the plan is to do the same on Bayonet St.

This is a 300-metre stretch of road and has high traffic; however more dangerous roads exist in the network which has pushed this down the order for repairs. The old pipes will need to be left in place and disconnected the old pipes are asbestos cement. A new main would be required to be constructed along the roadway side and services laid to this point.

Recommendation:

THAT the Committee note the report on the issues associated with Bayonet Street Lithgow.

Moved: Cr Mahony **Seconded:** Cr Evangelidis.

7.1. Standing Item - Water Resourcing and Security Projects

Discussion on plan for water resources are continuing, currently we are going backwards and forwards with the EPA and state departments regarding the water ecology and works required for the access to water from the Clarence plateau. Further studies in aquatic ecology need to be completed due to endangered species of Macquarie Perch with the studies to be completed by Council. The scope of works is being completed now.

A new water treatment plant, fit for industrial, commercial and residential uses, maybe possible in co-location with Greenspot in conjunction with Public Works, and the proposed sewerage treatment works. Risk assessment and Multi Criteria Analysis for water resources and process to be set up in the future with Public Works so water treatment plant process suits the incoming water and the outgoing requirements. As a part of development of water resourcing, a plan will be made to make wastewater a resource through a recycling plant. View is to work on the sewer system, so that it creates a reduced load on the potable water system cycle.

Farmers Creek Dam was discussed with the best solution is to go to Wallerawang with a new plant and become explore the various water sources including Fish River. We could approach Energy Australia and potentially transfer or apportion access license in the Coxs river system. However, to do this the Cox's River water accesses require breaking a special purpose access licence for power generation. Under the existing legislation, this requires an act of parliament.

The Veolia plant at Mt Piper was discussed as well as Springvale colliery. Whilst the mine is closer to the potential WTP destination the water in its raw form requires a higher degree of treatment and a different level of waste generated with brine produced from any process. Similarly, water from the Veolia water would need to be treated again to meet potable requirements.

2. Fish River – Wywandy Regional Strategy

No updates from last meeting, further consultation needs to be completed with Water NSW customer advisory group, the modelling is being completed for the Lithgow area and the further central west region. A concern exists around the fish river in drought. In the future Council may investigate Storm Water Harvesting and what happens when we get into a drought again, concerns about the Fish River in the case of emergency. Currently working to develop a Recycled water management system including working on large underground storage systems for stormwater harvesting.

Action: A future report to be completed in relation to storm water harvesting potential.

Recommendation

THAT the committee receive the report on the Water Resourcing and Security Program

Moved: Cr Evangelidis **Seconded:** Cr Smith

7.2 Standing Item - Sewerage Systems

The administration is currently working on a future plan with Public Works NSW on the Wallerawang sewerage system. Development of the scheme and STP is triggered by capacity and development noting that the system uptake will inform the rate of development for the sewer system. Aspects being worked on currently include environmental and engineering aspects the potential sites for the

STP. Issues including trade waste need to be worked through, now and ongoing as well as increased costing.

PFAS continues to be an issue for water utilities. Council has undertaken with NSW Health testing water supply for PFAS and its compounds. Whilst the water supply is safe and without any contamination it is in the urban settings in the sewer system that PFAS has been detected. The EPA NSW is becoming focussed on PFAS compounds in sewer and biosolids which only enters the system from the customers connected to the system and sewer treatment plants. Discussion around mitigation of PFAS in the water supply with government intervention being key at the top of the water and sewer cycles.

Action: Work on how to educate the public about PFAS and compounds

A notice of motion will be put to the Council to take the fluoride out of the water. This would save money every year, but the process is quite difficult to remove following the implementation of the systems.

Recommendation:

THAT the committee receive the report on sewerage issues and ongoing strategic plans.

Moved: Cr Mahony **Seconded:** Cr Evangelidis

7.3. Standing Item - Waste and Recycling Management

1. Pinedale Resource Recovery Precinct

Still working on the advocacy piece, Nigel and the waste team have created the project briefing and he has received some legal advice and have been working with Forestry Corp to determine the best way forward for access/acquisition to the proposed site. The EPA has a void of information, and the EPA and state government needs to be more forward in educating and being progressive on waste streams and the waste hierarchy particularly as it relates to the controversial areas that the public have seen.

2. Kerbside collection consultation

At the next meeting the team will follow up on the commentary as many opinions have been received. This will help to form the next waste strategy.

3. Resource Recovery Centre

Following the opening and ongoing operation of the RRC issues appeared around people waiting for the reuse shed to open and spending all day at the centre. This raises some safety issues for the public as well as staff. Complaints about people dumping clothing and being sent to landfill. It's preferred to offer them to Vinnie's or Salvo's rather than put clothing into RRC and other options to utilise them. Only the truly unusable material is being put to landfill with the preference to reuse and recycle.

Charging for products was discussed as a potential option as it is done at other sites such as at the Orange tip shop and the Junction tip shop. A problem exists when people are stripping hardware off furniture i.e. handles off furniture these can be sold as a bundle and are worth a lot.

Discussion around a building area to store timber, windows, gardening material and roofing was discussed. This could be based on the junction model. Councillors raised a possible rebrand of the reuse shed, and charge for goods, provide vouchers as an offset. Similarly, a potential service offer to pick up waste i.e. old tiles was given as an example.

Acton: The Waste and Recycling Manager to come back with a report on potential resource recovery pathways and options for the Reuse Shed.

Recommendation

THAT the committee receive the report on Waste Management matters.

Moved Cr Smith **Seconded:** Cr Mahony

7.4. Standing Item - Techtalk and Education

Water night 2025

Water Night is about education, awareness, and behavioral changes, starting with the school children an example was given that children will inform parents of the “right” thing to do. The last major drought we had, no water restrictions were imposed on the community. In Lithgow we have an older demographic that exists through the LGA and these people are educated in water use, if you don’t need it don’t use it. Water education needs to continue in the younger generations about where water comes from, It is about constantly educating young people about the water systems; we are working with the CSIRO and schools.

There was discussion about issues with flooding, and the potential installation of retention systems. The model used by Melbourne water was spoken about through the rainwater tanks, by having a two-tank system. Other points were the development of contact within the community to build tanks for use and potentially could a negotiation of bulk purchase of water tanks and then individuals could purchase them. It could go out as an EOI to companies to get quotes and locals for potential interest and uptake.

Action: Report on the potential for water storage of rainwater harvesting using the Melbourne Water example.

Recommendation:

THAT the committee receive the report on programs being prepared for the community and Council for education purposes.

Moved: Cr Ring Seconded: Cr Evangelidis.

7.5. Strategic Project Review

Main Strategic project is the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline and the Wallerawang Water Treatment Plant which have been seen the grant opportunity pushed back. The projects were discussed noting that some may be deferred to next financial year which will be determined in quarter one budget review. The departments will be deep diving into operations and fees and charges with full review of budgets. We can start by having conversations about what it costs to produce water; what does it costs to treat sewer and what does it cost for waste.

Grant income is minimum and the works that are required will be continued but only minimally with a view to plan the expenses and income for various projects. These projects will still be worked on in the background and tenders arranged and as soon as the funding is available then we can move forward.

General Business

Question in relation to Portland water supply. Resident has questioned why there has been several shutdowns in the last year. The problem is the main has is quite long and ha no secondary connection or ring main. The usual design allows feed from multiple directions. The infrastructure mapping project will assist to fix these issues by understanding the problem and the asset issues. An extension of the main will fix these issues.

Water pressure in Portland on Ridge St remains an issue. The administration is working on a decent pressurising system, such as, a small pressuring system. It is only a problem when Water NSW is not feeding from Duckmaloi plant where elevation is higher.

Meeting closed at 6:45pm