



Emerging Economy Committee

to be held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 24 September 2025

at 5:00 PM

Minutes

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The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5:03 pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair 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 D Goodwin
Councillor E Mahony
Councillor S Ring (Chair)
Councillor R Smith

Also in attendance

Ross Gurney	General Manager
Vanessa Browning	Director Finance and Governance
Shaun Elwood	Director People and Places
Bruce Mills	Emerging Economy Manager
Jessica Gadd	LEEP Engagement Manager
Leah Stubbs	Minutes Secretary
Kaitlin Cibulka	Minutes Secretary

3. Apologies

Councillor Fredericks	
Jonathon Edgecombe	Director Infrastructure & Project Delivery
Matthew Trapp	Director Water, Wastewater & Waste

4. Declaration of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

ACTION

The Committee noted the Minutes of the Emerging Economy Committee held 6 August 2025.

MOVED: Cr T Evangelidis

SECONDED: Cr R Smith

CARRIED

6. Administration Reports

6.1. 2026 SEGRA Conference

J Gadd gave an overview of the project advising the Committee that the SEGRA Conference will be hosted in Lithgow in March 2026, with the theme being regional economic development. It was noted that this was a national event and good exposure to promote the Lithgow area. There will approximately be 200 delegates in attendance. The Committee were advised that there will be cross promotion of tourism opportunities and accommodation in the area.

B Mills congratulated J Gadd on the efforts of having this event hosted here in Lithgow.

Cr T Evangelidis asked how Councillors can help or be involved during this event. J Gadd advised there will be opportunities to attend workshops, noting that the program is still under review.

It was also discussed that the LEEP Team reach out to tourism businesses about opportunities during this time period for attraction tours. It was also discussed, speaking with businesses, to hold mid-week events for entertainment purposes during the conference period.

The Committee also discussed if parliamentary timetable and calendars have been investigated for invitations to be sent to senior government figures to attend the event.

The program has not been finalised for this event, however it is noted that there will be multiple workshops held during the conference.

S Elwood also noted that the Ridgy-Didge Trail Run Festival is scheduled to be held on the 28 March 2026 and may be an event they could promote on the invitation.

ACTION

THAT the Committee:

1. Note the report providing an update on the status of the upcoming National Regional and Economic Development Summit for 2026, and
2. Endorse the event and formally thank the Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) Foundation for their commitment to Lithgow's future economic growth and potential.

MOVED: Cr T Evangelidis

SECONDED: Cr D Goodwin

CARRIED

6.2. LEEP Action Plan Refresh

R Gurney advised that the LEEP Action Plan refresh is still in draft, however it is being put to the Committee before it is finalised. The Executive Leadership Team have been involved in workshops with regard to the refreshed action plan.

Cr S Ring was concerned that there was no reference to Western Sydney University, the Aerotropolis or Horticulture and Agricultural industry.

The Committee was advised that this document is the starting conversation towards the blueprint. The original approved Action Plan did not take in to account feedback from the new Council or the change in the organisation structure.

B Mills advised the Committee that the original Action Plan was the first detailed pathway and was created with a matter of urgency. The new document is to refresh the action plan to include a wider range of information and structured programming for the future decade ahead based on the feedback that has come out of the most recent Councillor and Executive sessions.

The Committee discussed the need to unlock support from the government to attract industry to the area and advocate to the relevant Ministers and the jobs authority with the expectation of alternative industries being established in the area.

It was suggested the LEEP make contact with businesses and universities with relation to other opportunities for industry in the area. Cr E Mahony shared details of a business looking for opportunity to bring industry to the area for LEEP to reach out and make contact.

Cr S Ring requested that the Aerotropolis to be re-entered into the action plan and that he would send minor adjustments for the document to the General Manager.

Cr C Coleman stated that this is plan is looking better and looks to be going in the right direction.

ACTION

THAT the Committee endorse the refreshed Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) Action Plan 2025-2035, with the amendments as discussed, to be put to the 27 October Ordinary Meeting for adoption.

MOVED: Cr D Goodwin

SECONDED: Cr C Coleman

CARRIED

6.3. Marrangaroo Urban Release Area - Minister for Regional Transport Support

R Gurney reported that Council has received a letter from the Minister with regards to a collaborative approach to progress the Marrangaroo Urban release area.

With this approach, the development of the area is more feasible.

Cr C Coleman mentioned that this outcome is due to recent advocacy.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the letter from the NSW Minister for Regional Transport, advising of a collaborative approach to progressing the Marrangaroo Urban Release Area.

MOVED: Cr C Coleman

SECONDED: Cr D Goodwin

CARRIED

6.4. Standing Item - Charles Hoskins Building

The administration staff are working through options with regards to future use of the Charles Hoskins Building. A formal report will be presented to a future meeting.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the update on expressions of interest for use of the Charles Hoskins Building.

MOVED: Cr T Evangelidis

SECONDED: Cr R Smith

CARRIED

7. General Business

No General Business raised.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:29 pm.