



# MINUTES

Finance Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 22 October 2025

at 4:30 PM

DRAFT

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:35 pm.

## **1. Acknowledgement of Country**

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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**

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Present:

Councillor C Coleman  
Councillor S Ring  
Councillor T Evangelidis  
Councillor E Fredericks  
Councillor D Goodwin  
Councillor E Mahony (Chair)  
Councillor R Smith

General Manager - Ross Gurney  
Director F&G - Vanessa Browning  
Director WWWW - Matthew Trapp  
Director I&PD - Jonathon Edgecombe  
Director P&P - Shaun Elwood  
Executive Assistant - Sarah Lewis (Minutes)

## **3. Apologies**

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Apologies:

Councillor M Statham  
Councillor M Ticehurst

## **4. Declaration of Interest**

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There were no declarations of interest made.

## **5. Staff Reports**

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### **5.1. Proposed Works Programs to Address the Condition of Our Local Road Network**

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A large portion of Councils roads are in poor to very poor condition, with another portion in fair condition at present. If works are not done on these roads the fair and poor condition roads will deteriorated further to very poor, costing substantially more over time to fix.

All the roads have been independently assessed with the entire sealed road system investigated. With ageing infrastructure, Council must act and make a decision on how to fund a roads program that improves not only the surface of the roads but also the structure underneath for longevity of the road system.

Two funding options were put to the committee for discussion, one with a \$20M loan to be drawn down progressively over five years, depending upon program delivery, capacity to service loan and alternative funding options, the other with no loan, which would result in over \$13M cost escalation.

Council is continuing to investigate all options for managing its assets.

A report will be going to the 1 December 2025 Council meeting.

### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT for Lithgow City Council's forward road renewal strategy, the Finance Committee recommends Option A, being the taking out of a loan to the cumulative value of \$20M using the following program, to supplement and fast-track Council's existing resources and capacity:

- 2026/27: \$5,000,000
- 2027/28: \$5,000,000
- 2028/29: \$3,500,000
- 2029/30: \$3,500,000
- 2030/31: \$3,000,000

The matter will be reported to the 1 December 2025 Council meeting.

**MOVED:** Cr S Ring

**SECONDED:** Cr D Goodwin

**CARRIED**

### **5.2. Honeysuckle Falls Road - Crown Roads Transfer**

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The Committee discussed the Crown Roads transfer of Honeysuckle Falls Road, with the NSW Government gazettal of the road to Council.

The committee discussed options moving forward:

- Option 1: that Council refers to Policy 10.11, where this road serves one property owner only and does not carry a comparable risk to the road network, that Council retains ownership but designates this road as an unformed and un-maintained road. The resident may choose to upgrade or maintain the road at their cost by application to Council.
- Option 2: that Council transfer/sell ownership to the sole resident that receives benefit from its existence. This would need to be by agreement with the resident.
- Option 3: that Council re-classifies the road as a maintained public road, upgrading to the Austroads standards and be regularly maintained. This option would come with construction, maintenance and depreciation costs which adds to Council repair and renewal backlog.
- Potential Option 4: that Council does some works to the road and then the resident takes ownership of it.

The committee discussed that they would like all options to be laid out for debate and decision.

### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

That further options are developed and legal advice be provided to the next I&PD Infrastructure Committee meeting for determination on moving forward.

**MOVED:** Cr S Ring

**SECONDED:** Cr D Goodwin

**CARRIED**

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### 5.3. Water Outage - Strategic Discussion on Council Response

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Council has been conducting debriefing sessions to understand what happened with the outage and where to improve for the future. A report will be present to the 1 December Council meeting.

Council has a motion going to the LGNSW conference on NSW Government Response - Financial Sustainability. Lithgow Council LGA does not have sufficient rating base due to its small population and large size. The motion is to lobby for the State Government to provide better resourcing for regional councils who do not have the population for the size of the LGA's that need to be managed.

The quality of mapping of water infrastructure was discussed, with improvements required and a request for staff to determine how much would be required to appropriately map the assets.

It was noted that from this outage, a lot has been learnt about the water infrastructure. We now know that the water treatment plant has a limit on how much the pressure is needed for the treatment plant to get back up and running. There has never been a situation where the lines were this low on water pressure.

The Committee acknowledged the work of all the staff who helped get the water back up and running again.

Workflows are currently being put into place, with the building up of a data collection system with tracking day to day data and putting into the asset system. There will be a few challenges going forward depending on how much funding can be allocated to the project.

A question was raised on how long it will take for a proposal on the water asset program to be put together and taken to Council. Estimated for the first quarter of 2026.

#### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee:

1. Note the discussion on strategic actions to be taken to minimise the risk of future major water outages and how these may be funded.
2. Note that a proposal on the water asset program will be developed for Council's consideration.

**MOVED:** Cr S Ring

**SECONDED:** Cr D Goodwin

**CARRIED**

### 6. General Business

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The chair asked if there were any general business matters.

#### Main Street Pedestrian Crossing near Coerwull School

The Committee discussed the pedestrian crossing on Main Street. This is a major issue that needs to be investigated and made a priority as there are major concerns with where it sits.

It was noted that concerns on this crossing were made at the January Council meeting, with two significant injuries sustained from different incidences. It was stated that there are legislative requirements that need to be adhered to and that the road is a State Road, not a Council road.

It was stated that all options are being investigated and reviewed and that correspondence from the State was received today informing Council that they are looking into it.

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It is to be noted that a report will be coming to a TALC meeting and to Council.

## **7. Meeting Close**

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There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6:52 pm.

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