



Emerging Economy Committee

to be held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 5 November 2025

at 5:00 PM

Minutes

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The Chair declared the meeting open at 6:01pm.

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 S Ring - Chair
Councillor C Coleman
Councillor T Evangelidis
Councillor E Fredericks
Councillor E Mahony
Councillor R Smith

Also in attendance

Ross Gurney	General Manager
Vanessa Browning	Director Finance and Governance
Jonathon Edgecombe	Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery
Shaun Elwood	Director People and Places
Trinity Newton	Minutes Secretary
Bruce Mills	Emerging Economy Manager

3. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor D Goodwin.

4. Declaration of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Emerging Economy Meeting held on the 24 September 2025 were noted as being confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 27 October 2025.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

6. Administration Reports

6.1. Submission - Jobs and Skills Roadmap for Regional Australia

ACTION: A copy of the roadmap to be sent to Councillors

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the submission to the review of phase 1 of the Jobs and Skills Roadmap for Regional Australia.

MOVED: Councillor T Evangelidis

SECONDED: Councillor R Smith

CARRIED

6.2. Planning for Market Change and Energy Transition in Lithgow Report

The Committee discussed the Planning for Market Change and Energy Transition in Lithgow report.

It was asked if the Planning for Market Change and Energy Transition report will lead to grant funding opportunities. This would occur indirectly.

The funding proposal requires the delivery of a reference group that would meet monthly. The Committee were informed that is a mandatory requirement of the funding agreement which has been met.

The Committee discussed:

- The identified emerging roles did not mention AI.
- School leavers and the availability of apprenticeships in the LGA.
- Emerging Economy Committee's need to identify priorities.
- The skills that need to be taught cannot be identified at present as the industries have not yet come to the LGA.
- The Australian consumer is making their own decisions on energy production by using solar etc. which is impacting the bottom line of energy companies.
- It was determined by the Federal Government, which matters were to be addressed within the report.
- The closure of Mt Piper, when it occurs, will be a decision made by the State and Federal Government.
- Council and LEEP are looking to create a better outcome for the workers, community and economy when closures occur.
- The skills that are currently taught in schools and adaptive Skills hub are those which will be required now and into the future which are adaptable across industries.
- The aim is to move the community forward with a diverse range of jobs to create a resilient future.
- It was noted that STEM are basic skills that are always taught and are being made relevant to future use.
- Council's job is to attract businesses here.
- Skills Audit generic information in report, LCC to approach Centennial and Energy Australia to determine the skills that they currently have within their organisation.
- EA and Centennial should be able to produce a skills audit.
- Legislation states that they are to upskill their staff one to two years away from closure.

- Discussion on the processes at Centennial and EA on the submission made to the Net Zero Authority to mandate more employee support in the circumstances of a wind down.

Next steps

Prioritise Actions

What industries - Action Plan acknowledges that electricians, boiler makers and carpenters are the trades, and industries to aim at include manufacturing, transport and engineering as the focus.

Waste to Energy - parliamentary enquiry was raised and it was noted that it has only recently closed for submissions.

Growth Management Strategy will help to identify the skills and industries that are required.

Adaptive Skills that can be adapted between industries that are critical.

Industries that may take several years to build will help to boost the community and economy.

Attracting other businesses and industries will attract residents to the area and jobs.

Key problems: perceived lack of leadership, Councillors need to be a positive influence for the Community and the youth of the area. Lead by example and foster a better culture within the community. Be pragmatic and lead the community and set the standard, be positive.

Next meeting, discussion on the priorities and focus on the plans, and work out the way forward.

ACTION

THAT:

1. The Emerging Economy Committee note the *Planning for Labour Market Change and Energy Transition in Lithgow* report.
2. Any strategic or policy document contracted by the Administration in relation to either emerging economy or economic development is referred to the Emerging Economy Committee prior to formal adoption by Council.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

6.3. LEEP Action Plan Update on Priorities

Budget to be brought to the next EEC meeting

Need to understand what is grant and what is LEEP funded.

Items that may arise in the meantime will be circulated to the committee.

ACTION

THAT the Emerging Economy Committee receive and note the report on the LEEP Action Plan Update.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor R Smith

CARRIED**7. General Business**

The Draft Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan was brought to the attention of the Committee noting that there is a strong alignment with LEEP:

- Specifically addresses the Marrangaroo release area,
- Rail to Lithgow with electric trains to Lithgow more frequently, making Lithgow rail station the "Central Station for the Central West"
- A submission is important for anything that Council thinks is missing or can be improved from the report.
- Discussion on a rail manufacturing precinct.
- Concept of the Lithgow Interchange Precinct.
- No mention of a Great Western Highway tunnel.

Meeting closed at 6:29pm.