



Ordinary Meeting of Council

held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 28 January 2026

at 6:30 PM

Minutes

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DRAFT

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 6:30 pm.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor 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.

The Mayor went on to inform all those in attendance at this meeting, that the meeting is being webcast and that those in attendance should refrain from making any defamatory statements concerning any person, Councillor or employee, and refrain from discussing those matters subject to Closed Council proceedings as indicated in clause 14.1 of the code of meeting practice.

Present

Public: 4

Councillor C Coleman
Councillor T Evangelidis
Councillor E Fredericks
Councillor D Goodwin
Councillor E Mahony
Councillor S Ring
Councillor R Smith
Councillor M Statham
Councillor M Ticehurst

Also in attendance

Ross Gurney	General Manager
Vanessa Browning	Director Finance and Governance
Jonathon Edgecombe	Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery
Matthew Trapp	Director Water, Wastewater and Waste
Shaun Elwood	Director People and Places
Trinity Newton	Minutes Secretary

Apologies

All being present there were no apologies.

Declaration of Interest

The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

Councillor M Ticehurst declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 2.2 due to a family member working for a key stakeholder being discussed in the matter. Councillor M Ticehurst undertook to vacate the Chambers when the item is discussed.

Councillor R Smith declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 2.2 due to a family member working for a key stakeholder being discussed in the matter. Councillor R Smith undertook to vacate the Chambers when the item is discussed.

Councillor E Fredericks declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 2.2 due to a family member working for a key stakeholder being discussed in the matter. Councillor E Fredericks undertook to vacate the Chambers when the item is discussed.

Councillor M Statham declared a non-significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 1.8 as she resides on the road that is being discussed in the matter. Councillor M Statham undertook to remain in the Chambers when the item is discussed.

Confirmation of Minutes

26 -1 RESOLVED

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 1 December 2025 were taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Councillor E Fredericks

SECONDED: Councillor M Statham

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT Items from the subsequent Business Paper be dealt with in succession after Item 1.10 and be numbered as Items 1.11, 1.12 and 1.13.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT Item 1.9 is moved to directly prior to Item 1.7 in the meeting.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT the following items brought forward to this point in the meeting and moved by exception: 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5

The items are to be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

1. Administration Reports

1.1. GM - 28/01/2026 - Update Ordinary Meetings of Council Dates 2026

26 -2 RESOLVED

THAT Council endorse the schedule of Ordinary Meetings of Council for 2026, usually being the fourth Monday of each month (except for January, June and November; and December there being no meeting):

- 28 January 2026 (Wednesday due to the Australia Day Public Holiday)
- 23 February 2026
- 23 March 2026
- 27 April 2026
- 25 May 2026
- 29 June 2026 (5th Monday due to the National General Assembly)
- 27 July 2026
- 24 August 2026
- 28 September 2026
- 26 October 2026
- 30 November 2026 (5th Monday due to the LGNSW Conference)

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT the following items brought forward to this point in the meeting and moved by exception: 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5

The items are to be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

1.2. GM - 28/01/2026 - National General Assembly NGA26 - Call for Motions**26 -3 RESOLVED**

THAT Council:

1. Appoint the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as attendees to the 2026 NGA Conference.
2. Authorise the General Manager to also attend the 2026 NGA Conference.
3. Determine motions to the 2026 NGA Conference, which are due to be submitted by Friday 27 February 2026.
4. Submit the following motion for consideration at the National General Assembly 2026. "That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to retain five-minute flood warnings rather than the 15 minute intervals being proposed by the Bureau of Meteorology and, if required, source a different computer software solution."

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

2.3. I&PD - 28/01/2026 - Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes - 8 December 2025**26 -4 RESOLVED**

THAT Council note the minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 8 December 2025.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

2.4. F&G - 28/01/2026 - Audit Risk Improvement Committee (ARIC) Minutes - 9 December 2025**26 -5 RESOLVED**

THAT Council note the minutes of the 9 December 2025 ARIC Meeting.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

2.5. I&PD - 28/01/2026 - Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 10 December 2025**26 -6 RESOLVED**

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes of this Sports Advisory Committee held on 10th December 2025; and
2. Provide *Rylee Millar* with \$500.00 toward the cost of participating in Australian Country Women's Hockey Team competing in Malaysia in April 2026; and
3. Provide *Sienna Hemmy* with \$300.00 toward the cost of participating in the NSW Under 14s Indoor Hockey Team to compete in Goulburn in January 2026.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

1.3. GM - 28/01/2026 - Council Resolution Action Register**26 -7 RESOLVED**

THAT Council note the January 2026 quarterly report on the Council Resolution Action Register.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT Item 4.2 is moved to this point in the meeting as it directly relates to Item 1.3.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

CARRIED

4.2. NOM - 28/01/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Cessation of various outstanding Council Community Programs

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

26 -8 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Take no further action on LCC Resolution 24 – 211: Trial of Honorary Young Mayors; and
2. Take no further action on LCC Resolution 25 – 43: Music in the Community Program; and
3. Take no further action on LCC Resolution 25 – 82: Rule changes to Mayoral Relief Fund; and
4. Take no further action on LCC Resolution 25 – 83: Trial of Mayoral Ambassadors.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst
CARRIED

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

1.4. F&G - 28/01/2026 - Investment Report November 2025**26 -9 RESOLVED**

THAT:

1. Investments of \$49,200,000 and cash of \$1,714,263 (which is restricted for specific purposes) for the period ending 30 November 2025 be noted.
2. The enclosed certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.
3. The commentary on cashflow and funding requirements for restricted reserves be noted.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodwin

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

1.5. F&G - 28/01/2026 - Investment Report December 2025**26 -10 RESOLVED**

THAT:

1. Investments of \$46,200,000 and cash of \$915,284 (which is restricted for specific purposes) for the period ending 31 December 2025 be noted.
2. The enclosed certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.
3. The commentary on cashflow and funding requirements for restricted reserves be noted.
4. The Finance Working Party is briefed monthly to monitor the progress of Council's cashflow management.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

1.6. F&G - 28/01/2026 - Proposal to Enter Licence Agreement with LSMR Limited**26 -11 RESOLVED**

THAT the proposal to enter into a license agreement with LSMR Limited is referred to both the Finance Committee and Planning Working Party for consideration

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

1.7. I&PD – 28/01/2026 – Tender Evaluation - Pavement Rehabilitation and Sealing at Sodwalls Road Sodwalls**26 -12 RESOLVED**

THAT Council:

1. In accordance with Clause 178 (1)(b) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, declines to accept any of the tender submissions for Pavement Rehabilitation and Sealing at Sodwalls Road, tender number TEN15/25;
2. In accordance with Clause 178 (3)(e) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, enter into negotiations with the highest ranked tenderer to confirm tendered pricing.
3. Authorise the General Manager to approve the outcome of the negotiations and execute a contract with the highest ranked tenderer, with the details reported to an upcoming Infrastructure Committee meeting.

MOVED: Councillor M Statham

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

1.8. I&PD - 28/01/2026 - Tender Evaluation - Road Patching & Resheeting - Portland Sunny Corner Rd - TEN18/25**26 -13 RESOLVED**

THAT Council:

1. Note the tender evaluation report for Road Patching and Sealing – Portland Sunny Corner Road.
2. Accept the Administration’s Recommendations, shown in the confidential tender evaluation attachment, in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.
3. Authorise the General Manager to execute the contract on behalf of Council under delegated authority.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

1.9. I&PD - 28/01/2026 - Disaster Recovery Support Services

Councillor E Fredericks left the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Councillor E Fredericks returned to the meeting at 7:12 pm.

26 -14 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. On the basis of the reasoning provided in the report, approve an exemption from tendering under Section 55 (3) (i) of the Local Government Act (1993) for Disaster Recovery Support Services, due to “extenuating circumstances, remoteness of locality or the unavailability of competitive or reliable tenderers, a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenderers.”
2. Approve a variation to the Shepherd Services Pty Ltd engagement of \$475,167.00 over the term of the engagement (through to the end of 2027/28) for the purpose of providing dedicated oversight and structured coordination of the DRFA program, with all costs being compensable under the DRFA.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor M Statham

CARRIED

1.10. P&P - 28/01/2026 - 2024/2025 Annual Report**26 -15 RESOLVED**

THAT:

Similar to previous Lithgow City Council Resolution 24-266;

1. Council endorse the attached draft 2024/25 Annual Report and that;
2. The General Manager includes in the final published 2024/25 Annual Report, all financial information with respect to Council Resolution 21-119, a Property Lease with Lithgow Golf Club Ltd (ACN001 037 823), as the Council did in in's previous 2023/24 Annual Report.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

1.11. LATE REPORT - I&PD - 28/01/2026 - TEN 16 25 Tender Evaluation Report for Pavement Rehabilitation & Sealing - Magpie Hollow Road - TEN 16/25**26 -16 RESOLVED**

THAT Council:

1. In accordance with Clause 178 (1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, declines to accept any of the tender submissions for Pavement Rehabilitation and Sealing at Magpie Hollow Road, tender number TEN16/25;
2. In accordance with Clause 178 (3)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, enter into negotiations with the highest ranked tenderer to confirm tendered pricing.
3. Authorise the General Manager to approve the outcome of the negotiations and execute a contract with the highest ranked tenderer, with the details reported to an upcoming Infrastructure Committee meeting.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

1.12. LATE REPORT - I&PD - 28/01/2026 - Tender Evaluation - Pavement Rehabilitation and Sealing - Lowther Siding Road - TEN 17/25

Councillor S Ring left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Councillor S Ring returned to the meeting at 7:51 pm.

26 -17 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Note the tender evaluation for the Pavement Rehabilitation and Sealing at Lowther Siding Road.
2. In accordance with Clause 178 (1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, accept the tender submission from Gracey & Son Earthmoving for the tendered amount of \$1,164,960.99 (ex GST).
3. Authorise the General Manager to execute the contract on behalf of Council under delegated authority.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor M Statham

CARRIED

1.13. LATE REPORT - I&PD - 28/01/2026 - Draft Unformed and Unmaintained Roads Policy

Procedural Motion

THAT due to the late report, this item be deferred to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

CARRIED

2. Council Committee Reports**2.1. P&P - 28/01/2026 - Seven Valleys Tourism Meeting Minutes - 25 November 2025**

26 -18 RESOLVED

THAT Council note the minutes of the Seven Valleys Tourism Committee meeting held on 25 November 2025.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

2.2. F&G - 28/01/2026 - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - 8 December 2025

Due to earlier declarations of interest

Councillor E Fredericks left the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Councillor R Smith left the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Councillor M Ticehurst left the meeting at 7:59 pm.

26 -19 RESOLVED

THAT Council note the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Finance Committee meeting held on 8 December 2025, and the business paper recommendations endorsed by the Committee.

MOVED: Councillor M Statham

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

Councillor E Fredericks returned to the meeting at 8:03 pm.
Councillor R Smith returned to the meeting at 8:03 pm.
Councillor M Ticehurst returned to the meeting at 8:03 pm.

3. Questions with Notice

3.1. QWM - 28/01/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Workers Compensation Matters

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

The Question with Notice was tabled.

3.2. QWN - 28/01/2026 - Cr Fredericks - Residential Vacancy, Conversion and Uninhabitable Dwellings within the Lithgow LGA

Report by Councillor Elizabeth Fredericks

The Question with Notice was tabled.

4. Notices of Motion

4.1. NOM - 28/01/2026 - Cr Fredericks - Flood Warning Services – Federal Cost Shifting to Local Government

Report by Councillor Elizabeth Fredericks

26 -20 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Write to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, and the relevant Federal Labor Ministers, expressing Council's strong opposition to the cost shifting of flood warning services onto Local Government. Also, seek formal clarification from the Federal Government as to whether other critical emergency warning services — including bushfire warnings, severe storm warnings, and heatwave alerts — are intended to be transitioned to paid services in the future.
 2. Write to the Federal Member for Calare, The Hon. Andrew Gee MP, outlining Council's opposition to these changes and requesting his advocacy on behalf of the Lithgow community.
 3. Lodge Notices of Motion at all relevant Local Government conferences, calling for collective opposition to these changes and advocating for the reversal of this legislation.
 4. Publicly exhibit the full financial impact of these legislative changes on Lithgow City Council, including all initial and ongoing costs associated with subscription to flood warning services.
-

5. Immediately reach out to the Central NSW Joint Organisation (JO), and request that our JO reach out to all other JO's, to form an inter-regional advocacy group to support the Council's initiatives. This could occur through the Joint Organisation's Regional Resilience Group, of which Lithgow Council is the chair.
6. Engage with the State Emergency Services, including their Minister, The Hon. Jihad Dib, seeking feedback on the matters above and how they propose to mitigate the undeniable impacts on disaster response. If there are concerns about cyber security, a transition to different software would be supported, as long as there is no cost shifting or reduction in service.

MOVED: Councillor E Fredericks

SECONDED: Councillor M Ticehurst

CARRIED

Councillor Ring Foreshadowed a Motion (Matter Arising).

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor C Coleman

Divisions

FOR: Councillor C Coleman, Councillor E Fredericks, Councillor R Smith, Councillor M Statham and Councillor M Ticehurst

AGAINST: Councillor T Evangelidis, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor E Mahony and Councillor S Ring

26 -21 RESOLVED

THAT the Infrastructure Committee review Council's flood management practices, inclusive of lowering Farmers Creek Dam during high rainfall periods, to minimise the adverse impacts of flooding within Lithgow.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

5. Business of Great Urgency

The Mayor asked if there were any matters to be considered as matters of great urgency.

Councillor M Ticehurst raised the matter of the Wild Foods Festival on 21 February, asking if the issues that occurred at Halloween have been considered in the Traffic Management Plan for this event and what portion of Main Street will be closed.

The Mayor put the decision of great urgency to the Council.

26 -22 RESOLVED

THAT the request by Councillor M Ticehurst regarding the question on the Wild Foods Festival Traffic Management Plan be declared as business of great urgency.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

CARRIED

The Mayor declared the matter to be of great urgency in accordance with Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations.

Councillor M Ticehurst asked for an explanation of the traffic management plan for the Wild Foods Festival on the 21 February and did not move a motion.

The Administration outlined the process and the traffic management plan for the event.

6. Closed Council

The Mayor asked if there were any objections from the public with regards to the listed reports being in a session of the meeting that is closed to the public.

There were Nil objections.

26 -23 RESOLVED

THAT Council resolve to move into Closed Council to consider the confidential report listed in the business paper.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

The Mayor informed the Public that the webcasting will be turned off at this point in the meeting and will be reopened at the end of the session of the meeting that is closed to the public.

7.2. CONFIDENTIAL - LATE REPORT - I&PD - 28/01/2026 - Wolgan Road Variation Request**26 -24 RESOLVED**

THAT Council:

1. Vary the existing contract with GHD for the amount of \$586,584 excl. GST to undertake works as agreed with NSW RA and TfNSW to develop Strategic Design Alignment options along the existing Wolgan Road, as proposed in the GHD Revision V submission.
2. Endorse an amount of 15% of the GHD amount, being \$87,987.60 excl. GST to be allocated for contingency due to the pricing structure for this engagement including a Time Plus Disbursements component. The Contract includes hourly rates for each of the roles, with payment made based on actual hours worked.
3. Note that the proposed works are eligible for reimbursement within the Total Upper Limited Grant for the project.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

26 -25 RESOLVED

THAT Council resolve to return to open Council and inform the public of the resolution of the session of the meeting that was closed to the public.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor T Evangelides

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:55 pm.