



Emerging Economy Committee

to be held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 4 February 2026

at 5:00 PM

Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Acknowledgement of Country	3
2. Present	3
3. Apologies	3
4. Declaration of Interest	3
5. Presentations	3
5.1. Presentation - Ashley Bland - SEGRA Summit Update	3
6.1. Resetting Lithgow's Future	4
7. Administration Reports	4
7.1. LEEP Budget Update	4
7.2. Labour Market and Energy Transition Plans - Next Steps	4
7.3. Central West Academy of STEM Excellence - Further Discussion.....	5
7.4. 2026 LEEP Engagement Plan.....	6
8. General Business	6

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 6:00 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 respects to our neighbouring nations.

2. Present

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

Also in attendance

Ross Gurney
Vanessa Browning
Shaun Elwood
Bruce Mills

General Manager
Director Finance and Governance
Director People and Places
Emerging Economy Manager

3. Apologies

All being present, there were no apologies.

4. Declaration of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. Presentations

5.1. Presentation - Ashley Bland - SEGRA Summit Update

Ashley Bland from SEGRA provided information about the upcoming 3-day SEGRA Conference that Lithgow is hosting.

Recommendation

THAT the Committee note Ashley Bland's presentation, which provided an update on the SEGRA Summit.

6.1. Resetting Lithgow's Future

The chair moved to convene into "Committee of the Whole" and requested that Bruce vacate while the discussion proceeded.

The committee discussed the importance of the LEEP document in guiding our future and the Council's position on it.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the committee establish a working party with all Councillors to bring back a position on LEEP to the next Emerging Economy Committee Meeting.

MOVED: Cr C Coleman

SECONDED: Cr D Goodwin

CARRIED

7. Administration Reports

7.1. LEEP Budget Update

The committee discussed the LEEP Budget.

The committee discussed point d. of the recommendation, stating that the updates to the Emerging Economy Meeting ToR to reflect quarterly meetings should not be made and that meetings should remain monthly. Point d. is to be removed from the recommendation.

Recommendation

THAT the Committee:

- a. Note the update of this year's Transitions Management budget and the overview of past expenditure.
- b. Note that the LEEP Program is being overseen by the ELT LEEP Steering Committee monthly.
- c. Note that information regarding the LEEP Budget will be provided at each Finance Committee meeting.

MOVED: Cr S Ring

SECONDED: Cr R Smith

CARRIED

7.2. Labour Market and Energy Transition Plans - Next Steps

Bruce Mills returned to the meeting.

The Committee discussed the document.

The Chair stated that he does not wish to endorse the document. It was recommended that the committee simply note the report.

Recommendation

THAT the Committee note the Labour Market and Energy Transition Plans report.

MOVED: Cr C Coleman

SECONDED: Cr E Mahony

CARRIED

7.3. Central West Academy of STEM Excellence - Further Discussion

The Deputy Mayor and Mayor have met with the Director of Education. They stated that no other Council is contributing to the Central West Academy of STEM Excellence proposal and that the program is intended to extend beyond the Lithgow LGA.

The Mayor stated that she had assumed that the program was intended to serve Lithgow LGA students directly.

Lithgow High School's Principal has submitted an alternative proposal. The Mayor would like to ensure that the Council's 2-year funding will directly support the future of children in the Lithgow LGA.

The funds intended for the Administration Teaching position should be allocated directly to Lithgow High School so the school can continue its work.

The Committee noted that the Lithgow High School Principal is committed to the success of the proposed program.

The committee discussed that a rescission motion be brought to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Recommendation

THAT the Committee recommends to Council:

1. Council authorise the General Manager to enter into a formal agreement with Lithgow High School to deliver the Lithgow Net Zero STEAM and Community Skills Partnership endorsed at the Emerging Economy Meeting of the 4 February 2026.
2. Council endorse a \$50,000 budget allocation to Lithgow High School from the Economic Transition component of the SRV allocation.
3. Commencement of the program is to be determined between the General Manager and the Principal of Lithgow High School, subject to the availability of the funds

MOVED: Cr S Ring

SECONDED: Cr D Goodwin

CARRIED

7.4. 2026 LEEP Engagement Plan

Recommendation

That the Committee include the LEEP Engagement Plan in the proposed workshop with the committee.

MOVED: Cr S Ring

SECONDED: Cr E Mahony

CARRIED

8. General Business

Bruce raised that the Council has been approached by the University of Adelaide, which is participating in the Australian Research Council Linkage Project. This project brings together academia and industry to deliver practical research with industry applicability. Professor Andrew Beer drives this project. Professor Beer is looking to undertake a project on the barriers to, and opportunities for, the modern method of construction housing, also known as prefab housing. The opportunity would require a \$5,000 annual contribution over three years, and the Council would have a seat at the table to help develop industry guidance on high-quality modern methods of construction, including prefab housing.

The Council would take a leadership role in the process and articulate its position on the key locations for potential prefab housing and the built form.

This could be an option for major upcoming projects where Council has a process, policy, and appropriate locations identified, should prefab housing be needed.

The Committee discussed the proposal and agreed that a report would be required for Council to discuss, debate, and resolve. Bruce to check if reporting to Council is possible within the project commitment deadline.

Safer Cities Her Way Grant

Bruce noted that staff are planning to apply for the Safer Cities Her Way Grant as part of the NSW State Government Safe Cities Program.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7:14.