



# MINUTES

Infrastructure Committee Meeting

held at

Council Administration Centre  
176 - Training Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 9 March 2026

at 5:00 PM

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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<b>1. Acknowledgement of Country .....</b>	<b>3</b>
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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5pm.

## **1. Acknowledgement of Country**

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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**

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Present: Councillor S Ring, Councillor E Fredericks, Councillor T Evangelidis, Councillor C Coleman, Councillor E Mahony, Councillor R Smith

Officers: Perrin Walsh, Owen Mamumbo, Matthew Trapp, Ross Gurney, Vanessa Browning, Glynnis Nancarrow, Nigel Campbell, Trinity Newton – minute taker.

## **3. Apologies**

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Apologies: Councillor D Goodwin

## **4. Declaration of Interest**

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There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

## **5. Staff Reports**

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### **5.1. Sewerage Systems**

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#### **Procedural Motion**

That items 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 be moved by exception.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Councillor E Mahony

**CARRIED**

#### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the committee receive the report on sewerage issues and ongoing strategic plans..

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Councillor E Mahony

**CARRIED**

### **5.2. Education and Techtalk**

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## **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the committee note the report and the activities undertaken and in the planning phase engagement and education.

**MOVED: Councillor S Ring**

**SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony**

**CARRIED**

## **5.5. Strategic Project Review**

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### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee note the progress of the 2025–26 Water, Wastewater and Waste Capital Works Program.

**MOVED: Councillor S Ring**

**SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony**

**CARRIED**

## **5.3. Waste and Recycling Management**

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Reduction of operating hours at Portland landfill was discussed as a part of the increased supervision required at the site.

The reason - four key drivers for waste management and causing lots of issues.

Cost is always increasing; risks are increasing with remote unsupervised sites.

The only way to minimise risks is through supervision and real time monitoring of disposal.

It was agreed and noted, Cr Ring requested the matter be put out to the community.

Now there is no external funding or grants for these operational activities. The EPA are pressuring Councils to move to supervised sites as well as closing unlicensed sites. Transfer stations are not ceasing; it is just the unmanned solid waste facilities.

Community engagement is recognised but the only way to meet regularly requirements is to have the sites supervised.

Unlawful and unmonitored disposal presents a risk to council if an incident occurs.

The move to increased supervision is to improve compliance with legislation and policy because the Portland site is also licensed by the EPA NSW similarly to LSWF.

It is balancing the service levels with cost. This is even more prevalent with the fuel prices increasing.

The operating hours was recognised as the issue rather than the supervised role.

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The purpose is to have convenient sites out in the outer areas; with limited hours it gives Council more ability to complete the requirements of the operational tasks.

**ACTION:** Report to next finance committee on the cost of implementing waste and recycling operations as detailed in the report to the IC.

This also addresses the risk of incidents at waste facilities.

**ACTION:** Proposed changes to the opening hours of the Portland waste facility to be circulated to the Committee for information.

### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee receive the report on Waste management matters and Portland Waste Facility:

- Administration to communicate to the community the 6-month feedback period.
- A report be brought back to the next finance meeting on the cost of the implementing waste and recycling operational changes.
- Opening hours change for Portland Waste Facility to Wednesday to Friday and Saturday being 8:30am to 4pm.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Councillor E Mahony

**CARRIED**

## **5.4. Water Resourcing and Security Projects**

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Councillor Mahony's previous action to the administration on a potential stormwater rebate and was received and discussed.

Three water services in the district and these should never meet being sewer, potable water, and stormwater.

This is a starting point for the conversation on the water management and opportunities for the rebates coupled with protecting the water sources.

There will naturally be a reduction of income on water due to the implementation of this project and usage dropping to an extent.

The Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline project was discussed. Alternative supplies were also discussed and the need for back up plans noting the existing condition and risk the Farmers Creek Dams place on Council.

Clarence to Wallerawang, Lake Wallace, Fish River Water Scheme and Farmers Creek Dam all remain as options with the Clarence to Wallerawang option the prevailing best solution to capacity, resilience and security – the future of the Farmers Creek Dam will need to be discussed with what options come along in the future. It is a well put together dam that is in good condition with no major leaking but maintains a significant risk to Council and the downstream area.

Fish River - not reliable and not secure.

Locally Sourced water is restricted by licensing held by third parties which can be only undone by the Minister.

A question on the possibly supply to other council areas was raised.

If Council can secure its own water locally, then the water that LCC uses from Oberon could be allowed to go to another customer.

Our resources are not reliable and efficient enough to be considered secure.

**ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee note the progress of the IWCM program and the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline project.

**MOVED:** Councillor T Evangelidis

**SECONDED:** Councillor R Smith

**CARRIED**

**5.6. Water Outage Report and Action plan**

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This Action Plan is currently only a draft.

A list of actions is provided that will be organisational wide. These have been presented to Department of Climate change, Energy, the Environment and Water and NSW Health.

The Committee asked when will the asset register be updated for the water assets.

The team captures the data and collates the information whilst on site.

This will further feed into the long-term plan and planning for future projects.

This process is not only giving council the information required but it is giving the staff substantial education opportunities, building capacity, and sharing knowledge within the organisation.

**ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT

1. The committee note the draft action sheet and future works to be undertaken as part of the water outage review.
2. The committee provide any actions they believe need to be reviewed or added to the action sheet following review to the Director – Water, Wastewater and Waste for review and potential inclusion.

**MOVED:** Councillor E Mahony

**SECONDED:** Councillor C Coleman

**CARRIED**

**6. General Business**

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The Committee requested an update on the Lithgow Plaza. A way forward has been proposed to the plumber and Manager for the Plaza and are now happy to work their way through the issue.

A proposal for a modification to the Terms of Reference for this committee, that a change to the quorum from half plus 1 to 3 committee members was put forward.

**ACTION**

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That the Terms of Reference for the Infrastructure Committees be changed to have a quorum of 3 committee members be present for the meetings to proceed.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Councillor E Mahony

**CARRIED**