



Ordinary Meeting of Council

held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 23 March 2026

at 6:30 PM

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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: 8

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 Ring declared a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest on item 5.3 as President of the Lithgow District Chamber of Commerce, which is a beneficiary of funding from Energy Australia to implement training for businesses within the Lithgow LGA. This position is a voluntary position and Councillor Ring receives no financial benefit from the training. Councillor S Ring undertook that he would remain in the Chamber.

Councillor R Smith declared that he does not have a conflict of interest in item 5.3 on the business paper in any way, shape, or form. Councillor R Smith undertook that he would remain in the Chamber.

Councillor E Mahony notified Council that he has a non-significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in relation to Item 3.2 on the Business Paper. Councillor E Mahony went on to inform Council and the community that he has resigned from any community group that he was involved in to enable him to carry out his role as a Councillor on behalf of the community with no perceived conflicts of interest impeding him.

Confirmation of Minutes

26 -51 RESOLVED

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 February 2026 were taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

1. Mayoral Minutes

1.1. Mayoral Minute - Our Landing Place Greater Lithgow

Report by Mayor – Councillor Cassandra Coleman

26 -52 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Call on the NSW Government to commit to a whole-of-government approach to the Great Western Highway closure so that we have a collaborative framework across government agencies.
2. Request the NSW Government to declare the cracking of Mitchell's Causeway a disaster so that funding assistance may be made available for Lithgow City Council and NSW Government agencies to speed up a solution.
3. Create a dedicated page on its website as a single source of truth to keep the community informed on the management of the progress of resolving the failure of Victoria Pass.
4. Establish dedicated email address for residents to raise concerns regarding the impacts and possible solutions resulting from the closure of Victoria Pass.
5. Request TfNSW to assess the potential for staggering truck movements through Lithgow to avoid unnecessary delays on Scenic Hill.
6. Request copies of all geotechnical reports being commissioned by TfNSW in relation to Mitchell's Causeway on Victoria Pass.
7. Urgently request the newly established Great Western Highway Community Coordination Taskforce to investigate, whilst the road closure continues, establish and fund a new monthly Little Hartley Community Sunday Fair upon the now unused, recently completed section of the Great Western Highway to assist and financially support the various local Lithgow Hartley and Hartley Valley Businesses.
8. Reaffirm Council resolution 25-44 of 24 February 2025, on the construction of the Bells Expressway.

9. Convene an urgent meeting with Reconstruction NSW and Transport for NSW with ABCD Inc. in relation to issues affecting Bell, Clarence and Dargan.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

Councillor E Fredericks noted a matter arising.

Councillor M Ticehurst called a Point of Order on Councillor M Statham bringing her attention to the matter arising from Councillor E Fredericks.

The Mayor accepted the Point of Order and noted the comments from Councillor M Statham.

26 -53 RESOLVED

That the Mayor formally requests an urgent meeting with the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO), inviting all Mayors, Deputy Mayors, General Managers and interested Councillors from regional, rural and remote NSW, to coordinate a joint delegation to Parliament.

This delegation will advocate for:

- The immediate suspension of the proposed \$90 Billion Newcastle -Sydney fast rail project;
- The redirection of those funds towards the development of a new freight corridor connecting Sydney and the Central West; and
- Investigate rail improvement, road and aviation connections.

MOVED: Councillor E Fredericks

SECONDED: Councillor M Ticehurst

CARRIED

2. Administration Reports

2.1. GM - 23/03/2026 - Labour Market and Energy Transition Plans - Next Steps

26 -54 RESOLVED

THAT

1. As per Council resolution 26-47, Council reconfirms its position of 23 Feb 2026 that Council note *the Labour Market Change in Lithgow* report.
2. The Administration prepare a report on the development of the "three pillar" approach to the next available Council Meeting.
3. The Administration invite LEEP to prepare a report on the impacts of the long-term closure of the Great Western Highway.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

The Mayor noted that she had a matter arising.

Councillor S Ring called a Point of Order on Councillor E Mahony, stating that the LEEP Team are not working on the Growth Management Strategy.

Councillor E Mahony corrected his statement, clarifying that the LEEP Budget has paid for the Growth Management Strategy.

The Mayor brought forward a matter arising.

26 -55 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Note that Lithgow City Council is committed to supporting the coal mining and thermal power workers' community through the energy change.
2. Establish a working group between the Mining and Energy Union, relevant Mining Companies and Council Administration and Councillors to explore opportunities.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

2.2. F&G - 23/03/2026 - Investment Report February 2026

26 -56 RESOLVED

THAT:

1. Investments of \$46,250,000 and cash of \$4,778,487 (which is mostly restricted for specific purposes) for the period ending 28 February 2026 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 E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

2.3. F&G - 23/03/2026 - Review of Investment Policy

26 -57 RESOLVED

That

1. Council includes in Policy 8.7 Investment Policy the addition of Section 16 Liquidity and, with other minor changes, adopts the revised Investment Policy for immediate implementation.
2. Council's Director of Finance and Governance include in each Monthly Investment Report the following Statement:
"Council is able/unable to meet its ability to meet its short-term financial obligations effectively. As at (the end date of the month), the number of months of General Fund expenses that the Council can meet with available cash was estimated (number of months, 1; 1.5; 6 months)".
3. The investment report format is reported to the next Finance Committee meeting to determine a report template that can make the information provided to Councillors more useful.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

Councillor M Ticehurst called a Point of Order stating that he is willing to make Councillor S Ring's amendment as point 3 on his motion.

The Mayor upheld the Point of Order and the third point was added.

2.4. P&P - 23/03/2026 - Six Month Progress Report (July - December 2025)

Councillor E Fredericks left the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Councillor E Fredericks returned to the meeting at 8:17 pm.

26 -58 RESOLVED

THAT Council note the 2025-2026 July – December Progress Report.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

2.5. I&PD - 23/03/2026 - Skidsteer Lease/purchase Contract

26 -59 RESOLVED

THAT Council approve the second period of lease from STM Trucks and Machinery, expiring 1 October 2026, for the ASV Skidsteer and attachments for \$125,800 plus GST

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

2.6. F&G - 23/03/2026 - Proposed Acquisition of Valley Drive - Public Road Encroachment

26 -60 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Approve the acquisition of private land for \$84,000, as outlined in this report.
2. Authorise the General Manager to do all things and sign all documents necessary to give effect to the acquisition and dedication of the encroached area as a public road.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor M Statham

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT the meeting is adjourned for a 5-minute recess at 8:40pm.

MOVED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

3. Council Committee Reports

3.1. F&G - 23/03/2026 - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - 17 February 2026

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT the meeting re-convened at 8:47 pm.

MOVED: Councillor E Fredericks

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

26 -61 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2026, and endorse the business paper recommendations recommended by the Committee, and
2. Reinstate the deferred 2025/26 Great Western Highway Stormwater Drainage Project to be funded from the Planning Agreements Reserve.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

3.2. I&PD - 23/03/2026 - Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 18 February 2026

26 -62 RESOLVED

THAT:

1. The 2026 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Junior Sports Star of the Year Award for December 2025/January 2026 be awarded to Sienna Hemmy (Hockey);
2. The 2026 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Senior Sports Star of the Year Award for December 2025/January 2026 be awarded to Nikera Hann (Cricket); and
3. The 2026 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Junior Sports Star of the Year Award for February be awarded to Archie Morris (Rugby League); and
4. The 2026 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Senior Sports Star of the Year Award for February be awarded to Amy Luck (Sport).
5. Council note the minutes of the Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2026.
6. Council accept Greg Guest as the Sports Advisory Committee representative from the Lithgow Golf Club.
7. A Recommendation Action Register is created for the Sports Advisory Committee for the Committee to review.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

3.3. WWW - 23/03/2026 - Water, Wastewater & Waste - Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes - 9 March 2026

26 -63 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes of the Water, Wastewater and Waste Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 9 March 2026.
2. Endorse the recommendations for Portland Waste Facility site supervision:
 - The Administration is to communicate to the community the 6-month feedback period.
 - A report be brought back to the next Finance Committee meeting on the cost of implementing waste and recycling operational changes.
 - Modified opening hours for the supervised Portland Waste Facility to be Wednesday to Saturday from 8:30 am to 4 pm.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

3.4. F&G - 23/03/2026 - Audit Risk Improvement Committee (ARIC) Minutes - 10 March 2026

26 -64 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes of the 10 March 2026 ARIC Meeting, and
2. Approve the reappointment of Ron Gillard as an independent voting member and Chair of ARIC for a further four-year term ending 23 May 2030.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

4. Delegates Reports

4.1. Delegates Report - 23/03/26 - CNSWJO Board meeting 26 February 2026

26 -65 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Note the report from the General Manager on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meeting on 26 February 2026 held in Grenfell.
2. Discuss the potential Tourism contribution of just over \$12,000 at the next Councillor Workshop to be held on Monday, 30 March 2026.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

5. Questions with Notice

5.1. QWN - 23/03/2026 - Cr M Ticehurst - Limestone Creek Road Portland

The Question with Notice was tabled.

5.2. QWN - 23/03/2026 - Cr R Smith - Council's Responsibility in Fulfilling Work Proposal Commitments Post DA Approval

The Question with Notice was tabled.

5.3. QWN - 23/03/2026 - Cr R Smith - Lodgement of EIS for Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project

The Question with Notice was tabled.

6. Notices of Motion

6.1. NOM - 23/03/2026 - Cr M Ticehurst - Lithgow City Council Property Lease with Lithgow Golf Club Ltd.

Councillor Ticehurst and the Mayor Called a Point of Order on Councillor Ring.

Councillor S Ring called a Motion of Dissent, asking what the Point of Order is.

The Mayor overruled the Point of Order and notified Councillor S Ring that the Pumped Hydro project is not relevant to the current topic being discussed.

Councillor Ticehurst called a Point of Order on Councillor E Mahony, stating that the Golf Club is not paying for upgrades, it is paid for by the state or Federal Government, and it is an illusion that they are paying for it.

he Mayor sought clarification on the matter.

Councillor E Mahony corrected his statement, stating that the Golf Club is paying for improvements by their own efforts and finances, as well as from grant funding contributions.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT Item 6.1 be PUT.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

Councillor S Ring called a Point of Order, stating that Councillor M Ticehurst's comment was hearsay and not part of the prior debate.

The Mayor upheld the Point of Order.

Councillor E Mahony called a Point of Order, taking exception to the comments of Councillor M Ticehurst.

The Mayor overruled the Point of Order and PUT the Motion.

MOTION

That:

1. Council note the Report and the additional Management Comments by the Council's Director of Finance and Governance.
2. Given Council's Intentus Auditors Report and the Councils currently publicly acknowledged poor financial situation; the Lithgow Golf Club Ltd. be immediately advised that under Clause 2.2 (Lease Term and Holding Over) of their currently expired Property Lease with the Lithgow City Council, that Council wishes to provide it in writing with one months' notice of the termination of Clause 13 (Maintenance of Golf Course) within the Joint currently expired month to month property lease.
3. Seek to in 2. above, to formally terminate Clause 13 (Maintenance of Golf Course) of the property lease by 30 April 2026.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

LOST

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor M Ticehurst

Divisions

FOR: Councillor E Fredericks and Councillor M Ticehurst

AGAINST: Councillor C Coleman, Councillor T Evangelidis, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor E Mahony, Councillor S Ring, Councillor R Smith and Councillor M Statham

6.2. NOM - 23/03/2026 - Councillor E Fredericks - Indefinite Closure of the Great Western Hwy at Victoria Pass.

Councillor D Goodwin left the meeting at 10:17 pm.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT an extension of time be granted to Councillor E Fredericks.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

CARRIED**26 -67 RESOLVED**

THAT:

1. Council and Councillors are provided with timely and transparent updates regarding:

- The ongoing impacts and management of the Great Western Highway closure and diversion; and
- Any business/community financial assistance and compensation measures.

With such updates to be formally communicated with Council and Councillors, rather than external channels' social media posts, such as Transport for NSW or other State Electorate MPs.

2. The NSW Government provide immediate emergency funding to upgrade:

- Hartley Vale Road,
- Hartley Valley Road, and
- Browns Gap Road.

To a safe and suitable standard to accommodate diverted vehicles (up to 8 tonnes), enabling partial relief of traffic pressure on the CBD and wider LGA.

3. The NSW government provide urgent emergency funding to repair and remediate accelerated road damage caused by increased traffic volumes avoiding the diversion route, on local streets, including but not limited to:

- Bridge Street,
- Short Street,
- Eskbank Street,
- Bent Street,
- Methven Street,
- Musket Parade, and
- Bayonet Street.

4. Additional traffic control personnel be deployed immediately at key school crossings, specifically Mort Street and Eskbank Street, during peak school drop off and pick up times to ensure pedestrian safety, and extra Police and Ranger patrols take place during these times to prevent illegal parking.

5. Council requests broader representation on the newly established transport task force, ensuring that more than the Mayor and Administration are included to adequately reflect the interests and concerns of the community.

MOVED: Councillor E Fredericks

SECONDED: Councillor M Ticehurst

CARRIED

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor M Ticehurst

Divisions

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

AGAINST: Councillor T Evangelidis

7. Business of Great Urgency

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

Councillor M Ticehurst raised a matter of urgency seeking information on the process after the resignation of an Executive Team member today.

26 -68 RESOLVED

THAT the request that the matter of the process for appointment of an Executive Team member after his resignation be declared as business of great urgency.

MOVED: Councillor M Ticehurst

CARRIED

The Mayor declared the matter to be / not to be of great urgency in accordance with Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations.

The General Manager gave advice.

Councillor E Mahony thanked Mr J Edgecombe for his service to the Community and Council and wish him the best for his future.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10:41pm.