

Key messages from the 24 March 2026 Executive Oversight Committee (EOC)

Governance

The Wolgan Road Reconstruction Project is governed by a Project Control Group (PCG) and an Executive Oversight Committee (EOC). This committee comprises senior officers from Lithgow City Council, the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Transport for NSW.

The EOC provides senior level governance, coordination and oversight to ensure the project progresses in a safe, transparent and accountable way, in line with disaster recovery funding and environmental requirements.

This governance structure ensures coordinated decision-making and accountability across all involved agencies.

EOC Key priorities

- **Restoring access:** Progressing interim works to enable reopening of the existing Wolgan Road under controlled conditions as soon as possible, including opportunities to expedite minor works, approvals and procurement.
- **Safety first:** Ensuring the reopening of the existing Wolgan Road provides adequate protections for the safety of the community and other road users.
- **Open communications:** To ensure that the Wolgan Valley community is kept informed of the deliberations of the EOC and throughout the progress of the interim reopening of Wolgan Road and the decision making process for overall project.

Summary of the 24 March 2026 EOC meeting

Senior officers from the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Lithgow City Council, and Transport for NSW met on 24 March 2026 as the EOC for the Wolgan Road Reconstruction Project. A summary of the key meeting discussions and outcomes is as follows.

Interim reopening of Wolgan Road

Lithgow City Council, supported by specialist consultants, is progressing planning and design for interim works to manage the reopening of Wolgan Road.

Key points agreed upon by the EOC include:

- The technical design and geotechnical assessment for interim works has been publicly released on the Lithgow City Council website.
- Designs have continued to be refined to support earlier and more efficient construction, while maintaining a strong focus on safety.
- Interim works will include road surface improvements, safety barriers and slope stabilisation treatments where required.
- The project team is actively considering how works can be staged to enable the road to reopen as early as safely possible, including options that prioritise one-way traffic access if necessary.
- Early works (such as drainage cleaning and preparatory activities) to support the main construction phase have been awarded to Gracey and Son and will commence in April 2026. The community will be advised in advance of works starting, including information on timing and any temporary access arrangements.

- A weather station procurement is underway to support real-time monitoring and ongoing risk management.
- Electronic gates have been installed on Wolgan Road to replace the padlocked gates at the Donkey Steps, improving safety and making access easier and more straightforward for the community. Further details on gate operation, access arrangements and timing will be provided to the community by Council as part of upcoming communications.

Subject to final approvals, the finalisation of a procurement strategy and the engagement of a delivery contractor by Q2 2026, the earliest anticipated timeframe for interim reopening is Q3 2026. Following EOC endorsement, a detailed overview of the interim reopening program, including critical path activities to reopening, will be shared with the community.

Planning for a permanent solution

While interim reopening works are progressing, planning for a long-term permanent solution continues in parallel. Key points from the EOC include:

- GHD is developing strategic design options for a permanent solution along the existing Wolgan Road alignment.
- Multiple options will be evaluated through a structured independent evidence-based process considering safety, resilience, cost, constructability and environmental factors.
- An EOC-endorsed multi-criteria assessment (MCA) will compare options before a preferred solution is confirmed. This MCA will assess options against a balanced set of criteria beyond safety, including time to restore reliable access, community resilience and economic activity impacts, environmental effects, constructability, affordability and whole-of-life value. Draft criteria and proposed weightings will be published for community feedback before finalising the MCA, ensuring consistent application across options.
- Community input will be sought as options are refined and assessed.

What the Community can expect next

The EOC confirmed ongoing engagement with the community, including:

- The next online Community Webinar is scheduled for 22 April 2026. Registration information will be shared on the project website in early April.
- Publication of key messages and updates on Council's website following EOC meetings.

Closing message

Council and the NSW Government acknowledge the substantial and ongoing impact of the Wolgan Road closure on the community. While reopening and restoring the road is a complex process, all agencies remain committed to:

- Restoring access as soon as practically possible.
- Improving safety outcomes.
- Delivering a long-term solution that is resilient, sustainable and community-supported.

Thank you for your continued patience and engagement as this important work progresses.