

Business Paper



40 Bends from Hassans Walls

Ordinary Meeting of Council

to be held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 29 April 2026

at 6:30 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Administration Reports	6
1.1. WWW - 29/04/2026 - Proposed Borrowing — Wastewater Capital Works Program	6
1.2. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Draft 2026/27 Operational Plan	10
1.3. P&P - 29/04/2026 - DA011/25 Residential Flat Buildings and Subdivision, 214 Main Street Lithgow	21
1.4. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014 - Housekeeping Planning Proposal	28
1.5. GM - 29/04/2026 - Council Resolution Action Register	38
1.6. EXEC - 29/04/2026 - Active Regional Communities Grant Application - Youth Transition Hub & Pathways Program	40
1.7. F&G - 29/04/2026 - Investment Report March 2026	44
1.8. F&G - 29/04/2026 - Review of Privacy Management Plan	48
1.9. F&G - 29/04/2026 - Alternate Fuel Rebate Policy - Rescind	50
2. Council Committee Reports	52
2.1. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 11 March 2026	52
2.2. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes - 31 March 2026	54
2.3. I&PD - 29/04/2026 - Local Transport Forum Meeting Minutes - 2 April 2026	55
2.4. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Crime Prevention Committee Meeting Minutes - 7 April 2026	57
2.5. I&PD - 29/04/2026 - Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes - 7 April & 15 April 2026	58
2.6. I&PD - 29/04/2026 - Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 8 April 2026	60
3. Delegates Reports	61
3.1. EXEC - 29/04/2026 - SEGRA Conference 2026	61
4. Questions with Notice	64
4.1. QWN - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Stage 2 construction works for the Lithgow Main Street Footpath and Foot Crossing Restoration Project	64
4.2. QWN - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Ironfest 2026	65
4.3. QWN - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Transport for NSW Traffic Counts	67

4.4. QWN - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Categories of Land for Rating.....	68
5. Notices of Motion.....	69
5.1. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Fredericks - Traffic Management and Diversion Routes.....	69
5.2. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Mahony - Role of Council Car Parks in supporting Main Street retail and in transit tourism	71
5.3. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Smith - Advocation for the Bells Line Expressway	73
5.4. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Numbered Street Addresses for all Lithgow City Council Facilities	75
5.5. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Re-opening of Wolgan Road, Wolgan Valley for local residents and businesses.....	77
5.6. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - 194-Year Celebration of the Victoria Pass and 'Mitchells Bridge' in 2032	79
6. Business of Great Urgency.....	81
7. Closed Council.....	82
7.1. CONFIDENTIAL - GM - 29/04/2026 - Grant Application	82

Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country

Lithgow City Council acknowledges Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside. The Council also extends our respects to our neighbouring nations.

Declaration of Webcasting

I 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.

Public Attendance

In accordance with the mandatory requirements of the NSW Local Government Code of Meeting Practice, clause 15.20, members of the public attending a meeting of Council

- (a) must remain silent during the meeting unless invited by the chairperson to speak,
- (b) must not bring flags, signs or protest symbols to the meeting, and
- (c) must not disrupt the meeting.

Council Meeting Emergency Procedures

Procedures to be outlined in the meeting.

Present

Apologies

Declaration of Interest

Ethical Decision Making and Conflicts of Interest

A guiding checklist for Councillors, officers and community committees

Oath or Affirmation of Office

Councillors are reminded of the Oath or Affirmation taken of office, made under section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993* when elected.

Ethical decision making

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Do you stand to gain personally at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. The test for conflict of interest:

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
 - Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
 - Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of 'corruption' – using public office for private gain.
-

- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest.

There are two types of conflict:

- **Pecuniary** – regulated by the *Local Government Act 1993* and Office of Local Government. A person with a pecuniary interest should at least disclose and not vote, but it would also in these cases be appropriate to leave the chamber.
- **Non-pecuniary** – regulated by Codes of Conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Office of Local Government (advice only). If declaring a Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, a person with a non-pecuniary interest can choose to either disclose and vote, disclose and not vote or leave the Chamber.
- Local Government Act 1993 and Model Code of Conduct
For more detailed definitions refer to the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 14 Honesty and Disclosure of Interest and adopted Code of Conduct.

Identifying problems

1st Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in? **2nd** Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter? **3rd** Do my private interests conflict with my official role?

Disclosure of pecuniary interests / non-pecuniary interests

Under the provisions of Section 440AAA(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (pecuniary interests) and the Model Code of Conduct it is necessary for you to disclose the nature of the interest when making a disclosure of a pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary conflict of interest at a meeting.

A Declaration form should be completed and handed to the General Manager as soon as practicable once the interest is identified. Declarations are made at Item 3 of the Agenda: Declarations - Pecuniary, Non-Pecuniary and Political Donation Disclosures, and prior to each Item being discussed.

Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 23 March 2026.

1. Administration Reports

1.1. WWW - 29/04/2026 - Proposed Borrowing — Wastewater Capital Works Program

Strategic Context for this matter:

Developing Our Built Environment: To provide a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities, and lifestyle choices while enhancing the existing rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Author: Owen Mabumbo – Strategy and Projects Manager

Responsible Officer: Matthew Trapp - Director Water, Wastewater and Waste

Executive Summary

The Water and Wastewater Department is seeking Council's endorsement to proceed with securing a loan of approximately \$5.5 million to fund the delivery of the Wastewater capital works program and to ensure adequate cash balances. The loan is required to ensure continuity of works without financial delays, given that the timing of Development Services Plan (DSP) charge receipts from approved Development Applications (DAs) is variable and cannot be relied upon to fund the program as works occur.

Wastewater infrastructure must be constructed before development, and a range of significant capital works has been undertaken in recent years and will need to continue into next year. The cost of this infrastructure is recovered via DSPs, once the development has reached a certain stage. As a result of this timing discrepancy, the Wastewater Reserve is projected to close this financial year with a negative balance of (\$2.5 million), and a negative balance of (\$4.2 million) as at the end of the 2026/27 financial year.

Outstanding Wastewater headworks charges are anticipated to exceed \$3.3 million; however, these payments are received unpredictably, making it unreliable to schedule capital works against unrealised income. A loan facility would provide the financial certainty required to deliver the program on schedule and maintain satisfactory Wastewater operations to the community. The Administration requests that Council resolve the matter at the 29 April Ordinary Meeting to allow sufficient time to establish the loan facility before June 2026.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the sourcing of a Wastewater loan of \$5.5 million from a lending institution approved by the Office of Local Government.
2. Note that the purpose of the loan is to fund the delivery of the Wastewater capital works program and to continue Wastewater services to the community.

Attachments

Nil

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Min. No. 25-163 Ordinary Meeting held 30 June 2026.

Background and discussion

The Water and Wastewater Department operates a capital works program to deliver sewerage infrastructure across the LGA. This program is funded, in part, through DSP charges collected from developers upon the completion of the relevant stages of the development. While DSP charges are levied at the time of DA approval, the actual receipt of payments is tied to the sub-division works certificate milestone, which varies considerably from development to development. Council currently has outstanding wastewater headworks charges anticipated to total more than \$3.3 million. However, these funds cannot be reliably forecast or scheduled to align with the wastewater capital works program, creating a risk of delays if works are planned against unrealised income.

To mitigate this risk and ensure the works program can proceed in accordance with approved plans and schedules, the Department is proposing to establish a loan facility of approximately \$5.5 million to cover costs incurred in recent years to construct development-enabling infrastructure and to continue providing this essential infrastructure. The loan will bridge the gap between program expenditure and the receipt of DSP charges, which will, in turn, be used to repay the loan as collected.

The infrastructure funded by DSP payments from wastewater reserves is aligned with the DSP Plan. Much of the infrastructure that has been constructed and funded from reserves has been to both enable development, such as in the West and South Bowenfels areas, and to support the coupling of asset renewal and rationalisation plans. For example, the DSP funded projects recently constructed are the West Bowenfels and Sweet Briar pumping stations which enable the future development of the western area. These charges are also a cost recovery for infrastructure previously constructed, such as the Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant and its augmentations.

It is to be noted that the costs of the infrastructure delivered and planned will service future projected growth above the current Development Applications, where DSP has been identified as part of consent (\$3.3 million). The balance of the costs will be recovered from future development, as it arises, the timing of which is unknown.

Timeline and Urgency

To ensure that Council can draw down the needed loan funding before 30 June 2026, a Council resolution is required at the 29 April Ordinary Meeting. A quotation process will be held to obtain applicable interest rates and determine which financial institution to seek loan funding from.

Consultation and Communication

Internal consultation has been undertaken between the Council's Finance Department and an external borrowing advisor, who has confirmed both the feasibility of the proposed loan amount, and the timeline requirements outlined above.

No external consultation is required to establish a Council loan facility. Relevant stakeholders will be kept informed as the loan establishment process progresses. Once the loan is in place, DSP charge payers will not be affected, as the loan has no bearing on the charges levied under the approved DSP framework.

Policy

The proposed borrowing is consistent with Council's Borrowing Policy (Policy 8.12), which provides the framework for Council's debt management and establishes the requirements for Council approval of borrowings. The recommendation is consistent with that Policy.

Legal

The subject matter of this report is a function of Council conferred by the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Council has the authority to borrow funds for the purposes of carrying out its functions under section 621 of the Local Government Act 1993. Any loan must be approved by Council resolution and may be subject to the requirements of the Office of Local Government. Administration will ensure that all necessary statutory requirements are met before executing any loan documentation.

No legal concerns are identified arising from this report beyond the standard requirements applicable to Council borrowings.

Risk Management

Risk	Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Mitigation Strategy
Program delay due to cash flow shortfall	DSP charge receipts may not align with expenditure requirements, creating cash flow gaps that could delay the wastewater capital works program. Outstanding charges and unpredictable collection timing elevate this risk.	Moderate – High	Moderate – High	Moderate – High	Establish the loan facility to provide cash flow certainty and allow the works program to proceed on schedule.
Failure to establish a loan before the advisor's unavailability	If Council does not resolve the matter by April 2026, the loan may not be established before the financial advisor's June–July 2026 absence, potentially delaying the program by up to two months. This would result in the Council breaching legislation with a negative Wastewater Fund Reserve balance.	High	Moderate	Moderate	Prioritise Council consideration to ensure sufficient time to establish the loan before the advisor's unavailability.
Loan not repaid promptly	DSP charge receipts may be delayed beyond expectations, extending the repayment period and increasing interest costs.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Size the loan conservatively. Provide periodic reporting to the Council on the loan balance and repayment.

Financial

- Budget approved – Nil, will be incorporated into the draft 2026/27 Budget, if adopted.
- Expended to date – Nil.
- Future potential impact - Loan repayments will be funded from DSP headworks charge receipts as collected. Interest costs will be met from the Wastewater Fund. There is no anticipated impact on the General Fund.

Projected Borrowing Costs and Impacts of the Loan

It is recommended that, to ensure adequate Wastewater Reserve cash availability, a \$5.5 million loan with a fixed 10-year term be sought. Based on indicative interest rate information from NSW TCorp (5.72%), annual repayments would be \$730K. The total interest over this period amounts to \$1.8M. Structuring the loan with a 10-year repayment term and options to refinance every 2 years to enable early repayment in line with DSP payments received will reduce overall borrowing costs over the term of the loan.

The draft 2026/27 Budget, which does not include the impact of the proposed loan, currently forecasts an operating surplus of \$1.5M, which will reduce to \$1.2M due to the interest expense on the proposed loan. The forecast closing Wastewater Reserve balance without the loan is a negative \$4.2M, and with the loan will improve to a positive \$0.6M.

1.2. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Draft 2026/27 Operational Plan

Strategic Direction:

Caring for Our Community: To retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Developing Our Built Environment: To provide a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities, and lifestyle choices while enhancing the existing rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Strengthening Our Economy: To provide for sustainable and planned growth through the diversification of the economic base, the development of diverse job opportunities and the provision of a broad range of formal and non-formal educational services.

Enhancing Our Natural Environment: To balance, protect and enhance our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations

Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership: To develop community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed

Author: Deborah McGrath – Organisation Performance and Communication Manager

Responsible Officer: Shaun Elwood - Director People and Place

Executive Summary

The Operational Plan 2026/27 (the Plan) sets out Lithgow City Council's actions, services, projects and budget for the year ahead, aligning with the Our Place, Our Future Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2040 and the Delivery Program 2026–2030. It outlines how Council will respond to current financial, economic and community challenges and opportunities, while continuing to deliver essential services and invest in the future of the Lithgow Local Government Area.

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council endorse the draft Operational Plan 2026/27, which includes the Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Fees and Charges (both under separate cover) to be placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days, and to consider any public submissions before final adoption of the Plan at the 29 June 2026 Ordinary Meeting.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Operational Plan 2026/27 to be placed on public exhibition for no less than 28 days, including the following documents:
 - a. Draft Operational Plan 2026/27.
 - b. Draft Revenue Policy 2026/27.
 - c. Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27.
2. Note the proposed changes to the rating structure from 1 July 2026 to harmonise the residential and business subcategories of Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang to Urban.
3. Note that the closing date for submissions is intended to be Friday, 29 May 2026.

Attachments

1. Draft Revenue Policy 2026-27 [1.2.1 - 17 pages]
2. Draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges [1.2.2 - 57 pages]
3. Discontinued Fees and Charges 2026-27 [1.2.3 - 3 pages]
4. Proposed New Fees and Charges 2026-27 [1.2.4 - 2 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

N/A

Background and discussion

Overview of the 2026/27 Operational Plan

The Operational Plan 2026/27 sets out Council's actions, services, projects and budget for the year ahead, aligning with the Our Place, Our Future Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2040 and the Delivery Program 2026–2030. It outlines how Council will respond to current financial, economic and community challenges and opportunities, while continuing to deliver essential services and invest in the future of the Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA).

Strategic Context and Vision

Council's vision is to be a centre of regional excellence, supporting community growth, environmental stewardship and a sustainable local economy for current and future generations. The Plan is structured around the five CSP themes:

- Developing Our Built Environment,
- Caring for Our Community,
- Protecting Our Natural Environment,
- Strengthening Our Economy, and
- Responsible Governance and Civic Leadership.

A Strategic Reset Year

The 2026/27 year has been identified as a strategic reset year, with Council committing to:

- A comprehensive review of the Community Strategic Plan,
- Service reviews and asset rationalisation to ensure sustainability and value for money,
- Reviewing and strengthening the Council's Financial Sustainability Program,
- Embedding organisational values and improving operational efficiency, and
- Completing key recovery and resilience programs related to natural disasters.

Financial Position and Budget

Council's draft 2026/27 budget reflects the challenge of maintaining services while addressing rising costs and significant increases in depreciation following asset revaluations.

- The budget projects a net operating deficit of \$1.2 million before capital contributions, largely driven by higher depreciation and cost pressures beyond Council's control.
- Rates are set in line with the IPART rate peg of 3.1%, with increases in domestic waste, water and wastewater charges to reflect the true cost of service delivery.
- Council continues to advocate and work closely with the NSW Office of Local Government and the Expert Advisory Panel, addressing sector-wide financial issues.

Capital Works Program

Council proposes a \$25.8 million capital works program for 2026/27, funded through reserves, grants, the special rate variation and general revenue. Key investment priorities include:

- Renewal of roads, bridges and stormwater infrastructure,
- Water, sewer and waste infrastructure upgrades,
- Maintenance and renewal of community buildings, pools and recreational assets, and
- Strategic projects supporting economic diversification, planning and tourism.

Community, Economy and Services

Council will continue to deliver services across infrastructure maintenance, community development, libraries, culture, events, tourism, regulatory services and environmental management. Libraries and community facilities remain a strong focus, providing inclusive programs that support wellbeing, education and social connection.

Economic development efforts will focus on implementing the LEEP Action Plan Refresh, the 3 Pillar approach to support economic renewal and development, attracting investment, promoting tourism under the Seven Valleys brand, and advocating for housing and employment enabling infrastructure, as well as the establishment of a Business Development Officer position.

Advocacy and Partnerships

Council will actively advocate to State and Federal Governments for:

- Sustainable local government funding,
- Improved disaster recovery and resilience funding,
- Transport connectivity, including road and rail improvements, and
- Investment in health, education and social services to meet community needs.

Governance and Transparency

The Operational Plan demonstrates Council's commitment to accountable governance, sound financial management and transparent reporting. Progress against the Plan will be monitored through quarterly reviews and reported to Council throughout the year.

In summary, the 2026/27 Operational Plan provides a practical and financially responsible direction for navigating a challenging operating environment while continuing to support Lithgow's community, economy and environment through a period of economic transition and renewal.

Draft 2026/27 Budget

The focus of the draft 2026/27 budget is to maintain services to the community and ensure that Council's services and works are funded within projected cash and total income. The Office of Local Government (OLG) has recognised issues associated with the revaluation and depreciation requirements currently in place and has removed its previous financial performance ratios and benchmarks. The OLG also established an Expert Advisory Panel to assist with financial sustainability in local government by reviewing:

- Rating exemptions,
- Statutory fees and charges,
- Service delivery costs and Consumer Price Index,
- Asset depreciation and valuation, and
- Financial performance ratios.

Councils across NSW are encountering significant challenges in balancing operating results (where operating income equals operating expense). For the 2024/25 financial year, 71% of all Councils recorded an operating deficit, with 81% of country councils recording an operating deficit.

The main contributing factor is the requirement to revalue infrastructure assets, which increases the depreciation expense recorded in the following year (not a cash expense). Over the past five years, depreciation arising from asset revaluations has increased by \$500 million across NSW.

The previous Operating Performance Result Benchmark, mandated that the operating result should be at least balanced (meaning that operating income covers operating expenditure, including depreciation). Depreciation is calculated using an accounting allocation, as mandated by the Local Government Accounting Code, rather than based on how an asset is consumed over time. This measure was intended to force savings to be set aside for future asset renewal. The reality is that this may not occur, or it may be delivered by funding sources that are not through general revenue.

The primary means of achieving this benchmark, particularly as depreciation costs rise steeply after a revaluation, is to cut services and programs for the community, which leads to intergenerational inequity, as future replacement and renewal costs are funded by current ratepayers.

Operating Result (Before Capital)

In a time of significant financial challenges, the draft 2026/27 budget is presented to Council with a deficit General Fund operating result of (\$3.0M). The consolidated operating result (before capital) is a deficit of (\$1.2M). The deficit arises from a \$2.3M increase in depreciation, mostly arising from the revaluation of infrastructure assets undertaken in 2024/25.

While significant steps were taken to reduce costs, further savings can only be achieved by reducing service levels and cutting services. Implementing these measures to address the \$2.3M depreciation increase over a nine-month period does not allow for the required analysis and community consultation. This constraint is the main reason why the Administration has opted to present a budget with an operating deficit, but within available income and cash. Additionally, the deficit provides a more realistic picture of the Council's ability to deliver current services and service levels to the community.

The balance of the deficit relates to funding operating business cases that will either:

- Achieve future cost savings,
- Enhance potential to attract grant funding,
- Lead to better informed future investment decisions and asset management decisions,
- Enhance public safety,
- Generate additional income, and/or
- Reduce reliance on rates and annual charges.

Council is taking a longer-term approach to decision making to ensure the financial, economic and social sustainability of our community.

Other budgetary challenges encountered when developing the draft budget included:

- The rate peg of **3.1%** generated only \$663K of additional income from 2025/26,
- Due to lower levels of reserves and therefore availability of cash to invest, mostly arising from the use of the flood recovery funding, investment income is \$1M lower than 2025/26,
- The projected **3.5%** NSW industry award increased employee costs by \$742K, and
- The January 2026 Consumer Price Index, which is a key input to Materials and Services costs and Capital Works projects, was **3.7%** and is likely to be over 4.5% due to supply issues arising from the conflict in the Middle East.

The table below shows the draft 2026-2027 budget operating result budget (before capital) by fund.

	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Consolidated
Income excluding capital grants	\$49.2M	\$11.1M	\$10.3M	\$70.7M
Expenditure	\$52.2M	\$10.6M	\$9.0M	\$71.9M
Operating Result	(\$3.0M)	\$0.5M	\$1.3M	(\$1.2M)

Bottom Line Result

As outlined above, the focus was to deliver works and services that are within projected income and available cash (reserves), known as the 'bottom line result'. In summary;

Operating Result + Capital Result + Reserve Transfers = Bottom Line Result

The table below shows the consolidated bottom line result for 2026/27.

	2025/26	2026/27
Operating Result – Surplus / (Deficit)	\$1.5M	(\$1.2M)
Capital Expenditure	\$35.9M	\$25.8M
Capital Funding (depreciation, capital grants and proceeds of sale)	\$29.0M	\$26.2M
Reserve Transfers – To / (From)	(\$5.4M)	(\$0.8M)
Bottom Line Result	\$0	\$0

Strategies / Factors to Help Deliver a Balanced Bottom Line Budget

A number of actions have been necessary to achieve a draft balanced bottom line budget for the 2026/27 year. Some actions are short-term responses, and these circumstances are not likely to be sustainable beyond this year. A summary of actions taken is:

- Employment costs - estimated savings due to time taken to fill vacancies and a pause on vacancies with limited-service impacts - \$1.6M,
- Materials and Services – a total of \$1.4M savings from reviews undertaken and targeted savings targets,
- Several priority operational business cases were not included – saving \$225K, and

- Capital Works – a total of \$9.3M of capital works were unable to be funded and were excluded based on prioritisation.

Operational Projects

The following operational business cases, beyond business as usual, were included in the draft budget for the strategic reasons outlined earlier in this report.

Funding Source	Project	Amount
General Revenue	Railway Parade Local Area Traffic Management Plan	\$20K
	Vale of Clwydd Local Area Traffic Management Plan	\$20K
	Esbank Street Precinct Local Area Traffic Management Plan	\$40K
	Large Scale Tree Removal – Wallerawang Cemetery	\$40K
	Cemetery Strategic Planning	\$80K
	Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan	\$60K
	Developer Engineering Guideline Update	\$90K
	Parking Enforcement (will generate income in future years)	\$15K
Section 7.12	Streetscape Planting Strategy	\$50K
Water Fund	Infrastructure Mapping	\$60K
Waste Fund	Wallerawang Landfill Rehabilitation Maintenance	\$10K
	Domestic Waste Strategy and Audits	\$75K
SRV	Lake Wallace – Operational Review and Options Analysis	\$80K
	Playgrounds Spatial Needs Analysis	\$60K

	Tourism Marketing Program	\$130K
	Growth Management Strategy	\$250K
	Business Development Resourcing	\$124K
	Capability Framework Development Resourcing	\$95K
	Total	\$1.4M

Capital Works Program

The total Capital Works Program amounts to \$25.8M, which will be updated based on the progress of the 2025/26 program delivery. The attached draft 2026/27 Operational Plan provides a breakdown of the specific projects to be delivered, noting that changes will occur throughout the year based on changes in costs, availability of supplies, contractors, resources, and other economic factors. Changes will be communicated in Quarterly Budget Reviews reported at the November, February and May Council Meetings.

The draft Capital Works Program summary is provided in the table below.

Funding Source	Category of Capital Work	Amount
General Revenue (\$6.7M)	Buildings	\$564K
	Cemeteries	\$70K
	Community	\$25K
	Information Technology	\$400K
	Plant and Equipment Replacement	\$2.2M
	Recreation	\$180K
	Transport Infrastructure	\$3.2M

Grants (\$8.1M)	Library	\$20K
	Transport Infrastructure	\$8.1M
Reserves (\$7.8M)	Buildings (split Water, Wastewater and Waste)	\$45K
	Wastewater	\$3.2M
	Waste	\$2.8M
	Water	\$1.5M
SRV (\$3.4M)	Recreation	\$440K
	Transport Infrastructure	\$3.0M
	Total	\$25.8M

Draft 2026/27 Special Rates Variation (SRV) Program

The total draft SRV Program value is \$7.0M. The program will be updated, based on the progress of the 2025/26 program delivery. The draft 2026/27 SRV Program is summarised in the table below.

Draft SRV Program 2026/27	
Program	Allocation
General Asset Transport Maintenance	\$584K
Asset Inspection Resourcing	\$99K
Traffic Officer	\$124K
Strategic Asset Management Resourcing - 25%	\$45K
Higher Risk Road Safety Signage & Barriers	\$148K
Roadside Weed Spraying Program	\$169K
General Asset Stormwater Maintenance	\$313K
Urban Kerb & Gutter Replacement Program	\$168K
Rural Roadside Drain Reformation	\$145K
General Other Asset Classes Maintenance	\$444K
Natural Areas Management Resourcing	\$137K
Natural Areas Management Program	\$111K
Community Buildings Maintenance & Repairs	\$98K
Playgrounds Maintenance & Repairs	\$98K
Governance & Strategic Capacity	\$280K
Governance & Risk Resourcing	\$205K

Governance & Risk Program	\$75K
Capacity Building	\$280K
Services Review Resourcing	\$124K
Capability Framework Resourcing	\$95K
Fresh Start Program	\$62K
Transition Management	\$1.2M
LEEP Resourcing	\$392K
Business Development Resourcing	\$124K
Growth Management Strategy	\$250K
Destination Marketing Plan	\$130K
LEEP Priority Actions	\$329K
Roads Renewal	\$2.8M
Strategic Asset Management Resourcing – 25%	\$46K
Roads Renewal Program	\$1.5M
Transfer from Roads Maintenance	\$1.2M
Stormwater Drainage Renewal	\$201K
Urban Drain Reformation	\$201K
Other Asset Classes Renewal	\$580K
Aquatic Centre Equipment Replacement	\$120K
Aquatic Centre Solar Mat Replacement	\$120K
Aquatic Centre Lighting Upgrade	\$30K
Playground Shadesails	\$60K
Playgrounds Spatial Needs Analysis	\$60K
Sporting Field Renovations	\$40K
Saville Park Irrigation Upgrade	\$35K
Lake Wallace - Operational Review & Options Analysis	\$80K
Queen Elizabeth Park Irrigation Controller Upgrade	\$30K
Lithgow Skate Park Fencing (part)	\$5K
Transfer to Contingency Reserve	\$280K
Transfer to Contingency Reserve	\$280K
Total SRV Program - 26/27 Allocation	\$7.0M

Loan Borrowings

No new loan borrowings are planned for the 2026/27 year. The 29 April Ordinary Meeting business paper includes a report seeking Council's endorsement to proceed with securing a loan of approximately \$5.5 million before 30 June 2026 to fund the delivery of the Wastewater capital works program and to ensure adequate cash balances.

Revenue Policy

Council's Revenue Policy has been comprehensively reviewed and is attached.

A general revaluation was undertaken by the NSW Valuer General in 2025, which partly determines the allocation of rates to each property. The impact of this latest revaluation has been incorporated into the determination of the rates from 1 July 2026.

Each year, the rating structure is reviewed to determine if adjustments are required, with the proposed changes outlined below.

1. Harmonisation of Residential Rates and an increase of the base amount by \$50 per property to alleviate the impact of the revaluation. The Residential sub-categories of Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang have been merged into one Urban sub-category.
2. Harmonisation of Business Rates and an increase of the base amount by \$100 per property to alleviate the impact of revaluation. The Business sub-categories of Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang have been merged into one Urban sub-category.

The harmonisation of Residential subcategories and Business subcategories is in line with recommendations from the Review of Rating undertaken in 2022. To minimise the impacts of significant changes to the rates structure and due to the results of the revaluation, this year was the optimal year to implement these recommendations.

Due to significant impacts arising from the current fuel supply situation, increases in Fish River water supply pricing, and to ensure adequate provision of critical services to our community into the future, increases to annual charges are proposed and detailed with the Revenue Policy and outlined below.

Annual Charge	Annual increase
20mm Annual Access Water Charge	\$60 to \$515 (13.2%)
Residential Sewer Charge	\$140 to \$1,240 (12.7%)
Residential Garbage Charge	\$54.20 to \$656.80 (9%)

Fees and Charges

Pricing considerations include the need to fund the cost of services impacted by higher inflation, equity, capacity to pay and benchmarking with neighbouring Councils.

For 2026/27, management has undertaken a review of fees and charges, utilising a methodology which includes:

- 3.2% CPI was applied to all non-regulatory / non legislated fees and charges with a critical review of fees and charges for key areas;
- Simplifying fee structures where possible;
- Fees and Charges reviewed to identify:
 - conscious pricing principles,
 - new market opportunities and marketing of facilities,
 - cost to provide the service vs income generated; and
- Regulatory / legislated fees and charges are applied on advice from relevant authorities.

The following documents are included as an attachment to this report:

1. Draft Fees and Charges Report 2026/27,
2. Discontinued 2026/27 Fees and Charges,
3. Proposed new Fees and Charges.

Consultation and Communication

The Draft Operational Plan 2026/27, including the Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Fees and Charges, will be placed on public exhibition, with community feedback sought for a period of 28 days from 30 April to 31 May 2026.

Policy

Nil arising from this report.

Legal

The Local Government Act 1993, Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Bill 2009 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 outlines requirements for the preparation, exhibition and adoption of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The Draft documents must be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days.

Risk Management

The draft Plan presented for public exhibition addresses and responds to a range of medium to longer term financial, asset and service provision risks, while the Draft Capital Works Program addresses some of Council's assets at greatest risk of failure.

Financial

The Draft Operational Plan 2026/27 presents a financially prudent and cashflow neutral budget. Council needs to review and continue to implement the Financial Sustainability Plan actions to return to a balanced operating result (before capital) budget for the General Fund.

1.3. P&P - 29/04/2026 - DA011/25 Residential Flat Buildings and Subdivision, 214 Main Street Lithgow

Strategic Direction: **Developing Our Built Environment** To provide a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities, and lifestyle choices while enhancing the existing rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Author: Lauren Stevens – Development Planner
(reviewed and edited by Sandra Politi – Development Manager)

Department: Development

Responsible Officer: Shaun Elwood - Director People and Place

Property Details Lot 5 DP 19238, Lot 10 DP131092 and Lot 1 DP308160, 210-214 Main Street Lithgow NSW 2790.

Property Owner Hospland Pty Ltd

Applicant The Trustee For Hospland Unit Trust

Executive Summary

This report is submitted to Council for consideration and determination of Development Application DA011/25 which seeks consent for a Residential Flat Building consisting of four (4) x 3 bedroom strata dwellings, a torrens title subdivision and a strata lot subdivision.

Background

DA011/25 was called in on 28 May 2025 by Councillor Evangelidis. At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 30 June 2025, Council resolved (Min. No. 25-165) that:

1. Council note the information provided on Development Application DA011/25.
2. An onsite meeting be organised for staff, Councillors and residents and that the Farmers Creek Floodplain Risk Analysis report be discussed at this meeting.
3. Council note that a report on the final assessment and recommendation will be furnished to a future Council meeting for determination of DA011/25 for Residential Flat Buildings including subdivision (Torrens and Strata) development.

Onsite meeting

An onsite meeting was held on 8 December 2025 with Councillors, staff and residents. The main matters raised at the onsite meeting were flooding and parking in relation to the Theatre Royal. Each of these is addressed below and in the attached Assessment Report.

Assessment

Council's Development Planner has prepared an Assessment Report, which is included as Attachment 1 of this report. The Assessment Report provides details of the matters that must be considered during the assessment of the development application, and identifies the legislation, environmental planning instruments, standards, and controls that apply to the development. The Assessment Report also includes proposed conditions of consent.

Other attachments provided with this report are:

2. Statement of Environmental Effects
3. Subdivision Plan – torrens title lots A and B
4. Summary of Submission
5. Elevation Plan
6. Site Plan
7. Subdivision Plan – Lot A into strata lots

The development application was referred to external agencies, including Water NSW, Endeavour Energy, and Sydney Trains. None of the agencies objected to the proposal, and each has recommended that conditions be applied to the consent if Council approves the development application.

The Application was notified and placed on public exhibition from 23 April to 26 May 2025. No submissions were received during the public exhibition period, but two (2) submissions were received after the public exhibition period. The submitter's concerns and the Development Planner's response are summarised in the attached Assessment Report.

The key environmental considerations arising from the assessment of the proposal include flooding, access, traffic and car parking, noise, and contamination. These matters are addressed in the attached Assessment Report and can be satisfactorily managed through conditions of consent. Therefore, it is recommended that the development application be approved with appropriate conditions.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT:

1. Development Application DA011/25 be APPROVED subject to conditions of consent as detailed in the attached planning assessment report.
2. A DIVISION be called in accordance with the requirements of Section 375A(3) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Attachments

1. Att 1 - Planning Assessment Report [1.3.1 - 81 pages]
2. Att 2 - Statement of Environmental Effects [1.3.2 - 48 pages]
3. Att 3 - Subdivision Plan - torrens title lots Lots A and B [1.3.3 - 1 page]
4. Att 4 - Summary of Submission [1.3.4 - 1 page]
5. Att 5 - Elevation Plan [1.3.5 - 1 page]
6. Att 6 - Site Plan [1.3.6 - 1 page]
7. Att 7 - Subdivision plan - Lot A into strata lots [1.3.7 - 4 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Min No. 25-165 Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 30 June 2025 (Call In Report)

Background and discussion

Nature of the development application

Council is in receipt of Development Application DA011/25. The application seeks consent for the following at 210-214 Main Street Lithgow.

- Subdivision of land into two (2) torrens title lots,
- A Residential Flat Building comprising four (4) x 3 bedroom strata dwellings, and
- Subdivision into four (4) strata lots.

The Site and Surrounds

The site is formally known as Lot 5 DP 19238, Lot 10 DP131092, and Lot 1 DP308160, with street address 210-214 Main Street, Lithgow. The land is zoned E1 – Local Centre.

The site contains three irregularly shaped allotments with a combined site area of approximately 1467 m² and a slight fall to the north.

The property is located on the western end of Main Street on the north side of the street. It adjoins the former Theatre Royal building to the east, residential apartments to the west and the railway line to the north. Queen Elizabeth Park is located opposite the property.

The site is sealed with asphalt and retains remnants of footings from former residential buildings (structures constructed before the 1940's). Council's records indicate it was a paddock in 1982.

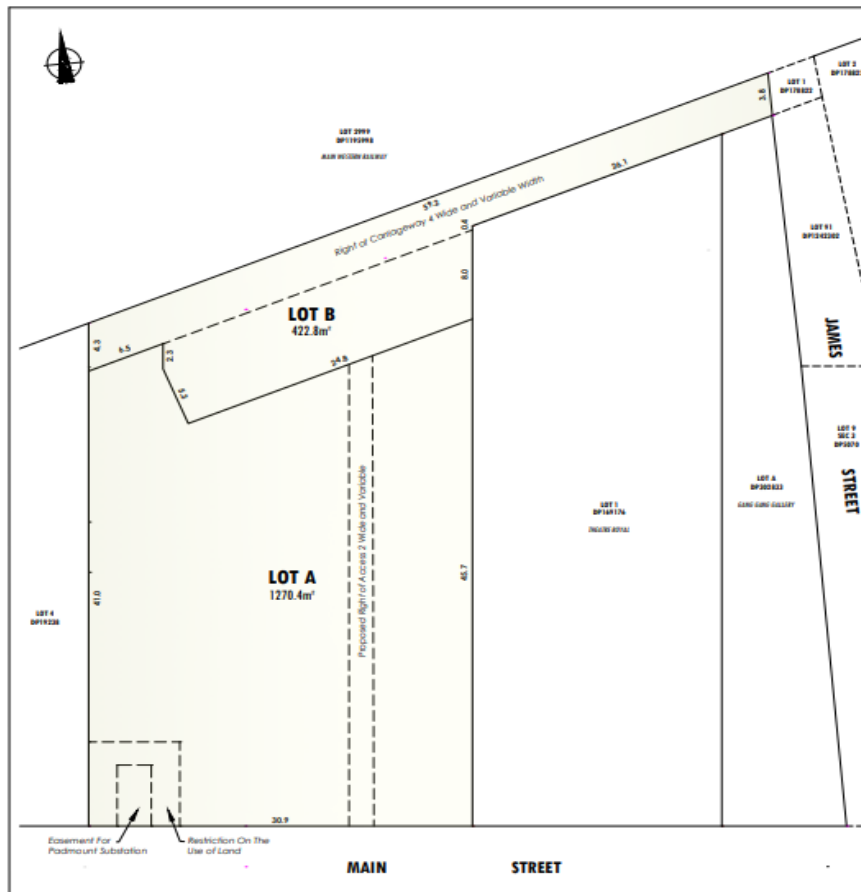


The proposal

The proposal consists of a subdivision into two lots to form Lots A and B, construction of four (4) x 3 bedroom dwellings and a subdivision of Lot A into four (4) strata lots.

(a) Subdivision into two (2) torrens title lots

As shown on the following lot layout plan, Lot A will be 1270.4 m² and Lot B will be 422.8 m². Lot A will comprise the residential flat building and Lot B will encompass a right of way access and a carparking area which is proposed to be retained for future use by the adjoining Theatre Royal.



(b) Residential Flat Building comprising four (4) strata dwellings

It is proposed to construct a residential flat building comprising four (4) strata dwellings on Lot A. Each dwelling will contain three (3) bedrooms, a combined dining, lounge and kitchen, two (2) bathrooms and a double garage. Three of the buildings will be attached, with the fourth building being separated by a private undercover walkway and storage area.

The dwellings front Main Street and will feature black baton fencing along the front and side boundaries, with enclosed private courtyards and elevated pedestrian entries to each dwelling. The front elevation will present as two storeys, with articulated brickwork extending above the roofline to complement the heritage character of the adjoining Theatre Royal.

The buildings are to be constructed of selected brickwork with a Colorbond roof and solar panels.

The ground floor of the residential flat building will sit slightly above the Main Street footpath, with the existing front boundary retaining wall to be reconstructed.

The rear of the residential flat building will present as three storeys, with the basement accommodating the garages for each dwelling.

The first floor of each dwelling is proposed to accommodate the kitchen, dining and lounge areas, with the second floor containing the bedrooms. Balconies are provided on both levels at the front and rear.

The setback of the buildings is 16.84m along the western boundary to the north (rear of the site at the shortest measurement), 1.217m from the adjoining eastern boundary (Theatre Royal), 8.571m from the front southern boundary and 1.2m from the adjoining western boundary.

The overall height of the building, including the façade, is approximately 10m.



(c) Subdivision into four (4) strata lots

The residential flat building will be subdivided into four (4) strata lots with some common property. The common property will comprise the visitor parking area, landscaping, bin storage location and the pedestrian walkway between Apartments 3 and 4. A security gate and associated fencing are proposed along the boundary between the strata site and the parking area, and an access way is to be established on Lot B.



Onsite meeting – 8 December 2025

The key matters raised at the onsite meeting on 8 December 2025 were flooding at the site and parking for the Theatre Royal.

Flooding - Impacts to the property from flooding stem from Council's existing stormwater system located opposite the property at Queen Elizabeth Park, which has been identified as a Council concern during major flood events. The proposed development has been designed to allow water to disperse via three pathways and into the Farmers Creek catchment without increasing flood occurrence or impacts on surrounding properties.

Parking – The development application provides for eight (8) parking spaces for use by the Theatre Royal, to be located on proposed Lot B (shown on the Subdivision plan – Torrens title attached to this report).

Development application referrals

The development application was referred to external agencies, including Water NSW, Endeavour Energy, and Sydney Trains. WaterNSW issued conditions of consent on 28 August 2025, Transport for NSW (as delegated rail authority for the rail corridor operated by Sydney Trains) issued conditions of consent on 27 August 2025, and Endeavour Energy provided concurrence on 30 April 2025.

The development application was also referred to internal Council departments, including Infrastructure Services (response 15 August 2025), Water & Sewer Services (response 7 August 2025) and Building Services (response on 5 August 2025).

Historical connection with the adjoining Theatre Royal

Several development consents have been issued for the Theatre Royal in the past. Three of those consents included a condition requiring the subject site to be used for 50-51 parking spaces. Additionally, one of the development consents required that the Theatre Royal site and the subject site be consolidated into one lot.

Council staff have reviewed those consents and are of the view that they are not operative. However, to avoid any potential for confusion or conflicting development consents, if DA011/25 is approved, a condition will be imposed on the consent requiring the surrender of DA143/87, DA42/88 and DA414/06 relating to the Theatre Royal.

Any future use proposed for the Theatre Royal will require a new development application that must consider impacts on the surrounding environment, including parking and noise.

Public exhibition and neighbour notification

DA011/25 was notified and placed on public exhibition in accordance with the Lithgow Community Participation Plan 2020 from 23 April to 26 May 2025. No submissions were received during the public exhibition period, but two (2) submissions were received after the public exhibition period.

Division 3 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* provides that a submission made after the end of the public exhibition period is not a submission for the purposes of the Act, the regulations or an environmental planning instrument, however a consent authority is not prevented from considering a submission made after the end of the period.

The concerns raised in both submissions relate to the impact on any future development of the Theatre Royal and the loss of parking on the subject site for the Theatre Royal.

As stated above, any future use proposed for the Theatre Royal will require a fresh development application that must consider impacts on the surrounding environment, such as parking and noise. However, DA011/25 is not required to consider hypothetical scenarios as to what may or may not be proposed on the adjoining property in the future.

A summary of the submissions received, together with the Assessing Officer's response, forms an attachment to this report.

Recommend approval

All matters that are required to be assessed and considered pursuant to section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* have been evaluated as documented in the attached Assessment Report, and the Assessing Officer recommends that DA011/25 be approved with conditions included in the Assessment Report.

Policy

Policy 7.7 Calling in of Development Applications by Councillors

This report is submitted to Council for determination of development application DA011/25.

This application was called in on 28 May 2025 pursuant to Policy 7.7 "Calling in of Applications by Councillors" Item 3 that states:

3. *Should written notice signed by a Councillor be provided to the General Manager prior to determination of a development application, the application shall not be determined under delegated authority but shall be:*
 - *Reported to the next available Ordinary Meeting for the information of Council that the development application or development application/construction certificate has been 'called in'; and*
 - *Reported to a Meeting of Council for determination where the application is in a state that it can be determined.*

Legal

The subject matter of this report is a function of Council conferred by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and under the Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014.

The proposed development requires consent in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and under the Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014. In determining a development application, Council, as the consent authority, is required to take into consideration the matters of relevance under Section 4.15 of the Act. These are addressed in the attached Planning Assessment Report. The application is recommended for approval and has been assessed as achieving compliance with relevant regulatory requirements.

Risk Management

Nil.

Financial

- Budget approved - N/A for the assessment of the development application.
- Cost centre - N/A for the assessment of the development application.
- Expended to date - N/A for the assessment of the development application.
- Future potential impact - N/A for the assessment of the development application.

1.4. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014 - Housekeeping Planning Proposal

Strategic Context for this matter:

Developing Our Built Environment To provide a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities, and lifestyle choices while enhancing the existing rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Strengthening Our Economy To provide for sustainable and planned growth through the diversification of the economic base, the development of diverse job opportunities and the provision of a broad range of formal and non-formal educational services.

Enhancing Our Natural Environment To balance, protect and enhance our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations

Author: Christian Matthews - Strategic Planner

Responsible Officer: Shaun Elwood - Director People and Place

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement to request the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure (DPHI) to proceed with the finalisation of the Lithgow Housekeeping Planning Proposal under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, having satisfied all applicable Gateway Determination conditions.

The planning proposal has completed public exhibition and the public hearing in accordance with the Gateway determination. The proposal includes minor and administrative amendments to the Lithgow Local Environmental Plan (LEP) intended to correct anomalies, update mapping, and improve the clarity and operation of planning controls.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT the Council;

1. Resolve to endorse the Lithgow Housekeeping Planning Proposal to proceed to finalisation.
2. Request the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure to make the plan pursuant to section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
3. Delegate authority to the General Manager to make the supported amendments to the Housekeeping Planning Proposal before forwarding the Planning Proposal to the Department for Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure for finalisation.
4. A DIVISION be called in accordance with the requirements of Section 375A (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Attachments

1. Public Hearing Report - Reclassification [1.4.1 - 3 pages]
2. Summary of Government Agency Submissions - Housekeeping Planning Proposal [1.4.2 - 21 pages]
3. Lithgow LEP 2014 Housekeeping proposal - Gateway determination [1.4.3 - 2 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Min 25 –205 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held 25 August 2025

Min 24 -167 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 July 2024

Background and discussion

At the Ordinary meeting held on 22 July 2024, Council resolved to support the preparation of a Housekeeping Planning Proposal. The 'housekeeping' amendments are, as the name suggests, a general tidy-up of the Lithgow LEP 2014 to contemporise and increase the plan's efficacy. The proposed amendments do not require a change of land use policy or further strategy work to inform implementation. The amendments are generally consistent with local and state planning strategy, directions, and instruments.

The proposed housekeeping PP amendments are administrative and include:

- Updating Schedule 5 – Environmental Heritage, to correct errors and omissions and update the significance of newly registered heritage listings.
- Adding additional LEP provisions in relation to:
 - Calculation standards for battle axe lots,
 - Standard Instrument Clause 5.22 Special Flood considerations,
 - Reinstating dwelling entitlements for existing lots or holdings below 4000m² within RU5 Village at Cullen Bullen that can be serviced with reticulated sewer.
- Updating land use table of zones RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape, RU5 Village to include artisan food and drink industry as permitted with consent and include recreation facility (outdoor) as permitted with consent in the C3 Environmental Management zone.
- Rezoning of small parcels of site-specific lands to correct zoning and land use anomalies, and updating rural lands gazetted as national park estate.
- Amendments to the title of the Biodiversity Overlay, Sensitive Lands Overlay and Water Overlay maps to remove reference to Environmentally Sensitive Areas.
- Reclassification of specific Council owned land from Community to Operational.

On the 25th of July 2025, Council received a favourable Gateway Determination from DPHI, permitting Council to proceed with public exhibition of the Planning Proposal pending the satisfaction of the conditions issued.

Public Exhibition/Community Consultation

The Housekeeping Planning Proposal was placed on public exhibition for nine (9) weeks between the 28th of November 2025 and the 31st of January 2026. The duration of the public exhibition was extended beyond the forty-two (42) day resolution due to the exhibition period extending over the Christmas Closure period as required under Section 16, Schedule 1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

To support the exhibition, the following was undertaken to satisfy the relevant directions of the EP&A Act and Council's Community Participation Plan 2020:

- Notification in the local newspaper in the Council's column throughout the exhibition period.
- Notification on Council's website (Let's Talk Seven Valleys) with a link back to the Planning Portal for online submissions.
- Written notification to all landowners within the Cullen Bullen township; and
- Notification to all relevant government agencies via the NSW Planning Portal.

Council received a total of six (6) written submissions during the exhibition period, four (4) from government authorities/agencies and two (2) from private residents, as detailed in Table 1 below. While no submissions outright objected to the making of the Local Environmental Plan, issues were raised regarding certain sections of the Planning Proposal.

Table 1 Submission Summary

Name of Submitter/Agency	Submission Summary	Council's Strategic Planning Response
Government Authorities/Agencies		
WaterNSW	<p>WaterNSW is not supportive of the inclusion of Recreational Facility (Outdoor) in the C3 Environmental Management Zone, as the proposed developments permitted under the definition are potentially incompatible with the zone's objectives. Much of the C3 zone is identified as an environmentally sensitive area, and the uses would be unlikely to meet NorBE requirements.</p>	<p>Not Supported.</p> <p>Council acknowledges WaterNSW's concerns regarding the inclusion of Recreational Facility (Outdoor) within the C3 Environmental Management Zone and the potential for incompatibility with environmentally sensitive land and NorBE requirements.</p> <p>Council is, however, supportive of the inclusion of this land use, noting that the definition encompasses a broad range of recreational activities, including low-impact uses such as walking tracks and mountain bike trails. Council intends to facilitate only low-impact recreational outcomes that are consistent with the objectives of the C3 zone and do not compromise environmental values or drinking water catchment requirements.</p> <p>It is noted that similar recreational activities already occur within environmental zones in neighbouring and other local government areas within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, including the Blue Mountains and Wingecarribee, where such uses are managed through development assessment rather than land use prohibition. Council also notes that the objectives of the C3 zone under the Standard Instrument align closely with those of comparable C2 zones in which these activities are established.</p>

		<p>Potentially intensive or incompatible forms of recreational development would remain subject to rigorous assessment under section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, including consideration of environmental sensitivity, clearing impacts, erosion and sediment control, and compliance with NorBE and catchment protection requirements. Council does not consider that the permissibility of the use itself would result in inappropriate development outcomes.</p> <p>On this basis, Council considers that permitting Recreational Facility (Outdoor) within the C3 zone provides a balanced and flexible planning framework that supports appropriate low-impact recreation while retaining strong environmental and catchment protection through the development assessment process.</p>
	<p>The Lithgow Cemetery should be identified in Schedule 4 of the LLEP 2014</p>	<p><u>Not Supported due to program scheduling implications (supported in principle).</u></p> <p>Council is generally supportive of including cemeteries in Schedule 4, where appropriate, to improve the clarity and certainty of planning controls.</p> <p>However, a public hearing has already been held for the current Housekeeping Planning Proposal, and the inclusion of this additional item would require another public hearing. This would extend the planning process beyond the timeframe specified in the Gateway Determination and risk</p>

		<p>non-compliance with Gateway conditions.</p> <p>On this basis, it is recommended that Council seek to address the inclusion of Lithgow Cemetery in Schedule 4 as part of a future housekeeping planning proposal.</p>
HeritageNSW	Supportive of the state and local heritage listing amendments. No further actions are requested.	Supported. No further action.
National Parks and Wildlife	Item 8 - Figure 64 shows a sliver of land that is to remain 40ha in the C1 zone. This should be removed as it is within the reserve area.	Supported The sliver appears to have arisen from a cadastral misalignment following the gazettal of the land. Given the sliver's small size and remote location, and noting that it adjoins land proposed for removal from the Minimum Lot Size map under another item of this Housekeeping Planning Proposal, its treatment is consistent with the proposal's intended outcomes.
	Item 9 - the description of land should be amended to reflect an amendment gazettal made by NPWS on the 8th of June 2018.	Supported. The text is recommended to be amended to reflect the amending gazettal as demonstrated below. <i>"Parish Goollooinboin, about 2.96 hectares being the Crown Road within Lot 90 DP751640 and the Crown Road separating the northernmost boundary of Lots 108 and 56 DP751640 from Lot 10 DP751640"</i>
	Item 16 - An inconsistency between the mapping and the table description. The parcels listed in the description are not shown on the map.	Supported. The description taken from the NSW Gazette includes lands that were also handed over to NPWS in Oberon. The lands that should be identified in the description are Lots 1 and 2 DP 1178133.

	<p>On the 24th of October 2025, an additional 64.52 hectares were reserved as part of the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area via Gazette. This land should be included, noting that it is currently zoned SP2 Water Supply System and has no applicable MLS. The sites are identified as Lots 421 and 422 DP 1152246</p>	<p><u>Not Supported.</u> The gazettal of the new area that forms part of the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area occurred post the formal Council resolution to proceed to Gateway and public exhibition, and shortly before the public exhibition period officially started. Given the timing of the gazettal and the lack of opportunity for community consideration, it is recommended that the area be amended via another Planning Proposal in the near future, either by a Council initiated PP or via a 3.22 request.</p>
	<p>A lot in the Hartley Historic Village has been zoned C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves, but is not reserved under the Act. It is requested that the zone be amended to reflect similar controls of nearby lands.</p>	<p><u>Not Supported.</u> The land identified as Lot 7305, DP 1166069 (less than 100 m2) is held in crown ownership. Given the size of the allotments, no further development can occur on this land regardless of MLS or zoning. No meaningful planning outcome would be achieved through rezoning at this time. A separate Planning Proposal or 3.22 should be undertaken when a use is decided for the land, as any zoning given to this lot must reflect the lots behind (Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, DP 758503) due to its location.</p>
	<p>Item I245 (Railway Line Newnes – Zig Zag etc) should be renamed to ensure consistency of names between Schedule 5 of the LLEP 2014 and the State Heritage Inventory.</p>	<p><u>Supported.</u> Council supports aligning the State Heritage Inventory register with the LLEP 2014. Given the insignificant scale of the change, Council considers the name change as a minor amendment and that further consultation with the community is not warranted.</p>
<p>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the</p>	<p>CPHR objects to the addition of the 'Recreational Facility (Outdoor)' land use in zone C3 Environmental Management.</p>	<p><u>Not Supported.</u> See WaterNSW response.</p>

<p>Environment and Water (DCCEEW)</p>	<p>CPHR objects to the removal of 'Environmentally Sensitive Area' text from the Environmentally Sensitive Area – Terrestrial Biodiversity Overlay and the Environmentally Sensitive Area – Land Overlay maps</p>	<p><u>Supported.</u> Council is in support of amending the Biodiversity Overlay Map in the LEP to differentiate 'high' and 'moderate' biodiversity values in accordance with the Exempt and Complying Codes SEPP while retaining the Environmentally Sensitive Area description.</p> <p>This already occurs as a standard internal practice for Council and will provide for better clarity for future development proposals.</p> <p>Council is currently working with DCCEEW before the finalisation of the Local Environmental Plan to prepare the mapping.</p> <p>It is not envisaged that the extent of the areas identified with Terrestrial Biodiversity will change in any meaningful amount.</p>
<p>Private Submissions</p>		
<p>Private Submission #1</p>	<p>The submitter owns a block currently zoned RU1 Primary Production at Cullen Bullen and is seeking a rezoning to RU5 Village. The rationale for the rezoning is that the lot has the potential to connect to the new sewer treatment plant and is adjacent to the existing RU5 village core.</p>	<p><u>Not Supported.</u> Council notes the submission and acknowledges the concerns raised regarding zoning, the availability of servicing, and surrounding land uses. The Lithgow Housekeeping Planning Proposal is limited to minor administrative and technical amendments and is not intended to facilitate site-specific rezonings.</p> <p>Consideration of zoning changes for land within villages, including Cullen Bullen, is more appropriately undertaken as part of the ongoing Lithgow Growth Management Strategy, which will provide a comprehensive strategic framework to guide future land use and zoning decisions.</p>

		<p>Inclusion of a site-specific rezoning within the Housekeeping Planning Proposal would require changes to the Gateway Determination and re-exhibition of the proposal. This would extend the process beyond the specified completion timeframe and pose a risk to the timely resolution of the remaining housekeeping amendments.</p>
<p>Private Submission #2</p>	<p>The submission has been made on behalf of the landowner of 227 Chifley Road, Dargan, requesting that the following land uses be permitted with consent on the land through Schedule 1 – Additional Permitted Uses of the Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational Facility (Indoor) • Recreational Facility (Outdoor) 	<p><u>Not Supported.</u></p> <p>The Lithgow Housekeeping Planning Proposal is limited to minor administrative and technical amendments and is not intended to facilitate site-specific amendments to land use permissibility.</p> <p>Inclusion of a site-specific planning control amendment within the Housekeeping Planning Proposal would require amendments to the Gateway Determination and re-exhibition. This would extend the planning process beyond the specified completion timeframe and pose a risk to the timely progression and resolution of the remaining housekeeping amendments.</p> <p>It is recommended that the landowner pursue the request through a separate, owner-initiated Planning Proposal to allow for appropriate strategic justification, assessment, and consultation.</p>

In accordance with the EP&A Act and Regulations, and the conditions of the Gateway Determination issued by DPHI, a public hearing was required as part of the exhibition process for the Lithgow Housekeeping Planning Proposal. The hearing was held at the Lithgow Regional Library between 2:00pm and 5:00pm on the 26th of February 2026.

One (1) submission was received during the public hearing, as detailed in the attached Public Hearing Report. The submission raised concerns regarding emergency egress from the Union Theatre. Council has considered the submission and notes that the proposed reclassification would not affect existing egress routes, with access retained to both the western (Bridge Street) and

eastern (former Western Sydney University campus) exits. The area subject to reclassification does not encroach upon existing pathways, and sufficient space remains to facilitate any future pathway connections if required.

No changes to the Planning Proposal are recommended as a result of the public hearing.

Timeline

The timeline for completing the LEP is 1 June 2026 as per the Gateway Determination. Discussions with DPHI have suggested that, should a resolution be made by Council in April, it is possible to meet the Gateway Condition deadline. If not, a variation to the deadline will be considered by DPHI.

Next steps in the process

Should Council resolve to endorse the Lithgow Housekeeping Planning Proposal for finalisation, Council will forward the endorsed planning proposal, together with the Council resolution and all supporting documentation, to DPHI, requesting that the proposal proceed to finalisation. As Council is not the plan-making authority, responsibility for making the amended Local Environmental Plan rests with DPHI.

DPHI will review the submitted documentation to confirm that all conditions of the Gateway determination have been satisfactorily addressed, that the planning proposal remains suitable for finalisation, and that no further amendments or re-exhibition are required. This assessment will also include confirmation that relevant agency consultation and statutory requirements have been completed.

If DPHI is satisfied, the Department will proceed to make the amending Local Environmental Plan under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. This process includes preparing the final legal instrument and publishing it on the NSW Legislation website. The LEP amendment will come into effect upon gazettal.

Following gazettal of the plan, Council will update its planning maps, systems, and internal procedures as required and apply the amended LEP provisions in future planning activities.

It is envisaged that the finalisation process should be concluded by 1 June 2026 in accordance with the Gateway Conditions.

Disclosure of political donations and gifts

Under Section 10.4(4) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act a person who makes a relevant planning application including a planning proposal to Council must disclose the following reportable gifts (if any) made by any person with a financial interest in the application within the period commencing two (2) years before the application is made and ending when the application is determined:

1. All reportable political donations made to any local councillor or council;
2. All gifts made to any local councillor or employee of that Council.

No disclosure has been made in relation to this planning proposal.

Recording of voting on planning matters

Pursuant to Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993, a division is required to be called whenever a motion for a planning decision is put at a meeting of the Council or Council Committee.

A Planning Proposal and Draft Local Environmental Plan is a planning direction for this division.

Policy

Nil.

Legal

The planning proposal must be prepared, assessed, and administered in accordance with Part 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Risk Management

The primary risk relates to meeting the Gateway Determination timeframe for finalisation. Failure to meet the Gateway Determination timeframe may prevent the Housekeeping Planning Proposal from proceeding to finalisation or require a formal extension to be sought from the Department, which may further delay the process.

This risk is mitigated by limiting post-exhibition amendments to minor, non-substantial changes, ensuring consistency with the Gateway Determination, and progressing the proposal promptly following Council endorsement. Council considers the risk to be low and manageable.

Financial

- Budget approved – \$5,500
- Cost centre - 800410
- Expended to date - \$400
- Future potential impact – Nil.

1.5. GM - 29/04/2026 - Council Resolution Action Register

Strategic Context for this matter:

Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership To develop community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.

Author: Sarah Lewis – Executive Assistant

Responsible Officer: Ross Gurney - General Manager

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the status of outstanding resolutions determined at Council meetings during the current term from October 2024. As of 17 April 2026, there are 54 resolutions to be finalised.

Administration's Recommendation

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

Attachments

1. October 2024 to March 2026 - Council Resolution Action Register - as of 17 April 2026 [1.5.1 - 14 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Min. No. 25-186 - Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 July 2025

Min. No. 25-252 - Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 October 2025

Min. No. 26-7 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 January 2026

Background and discussion

It is the role of the General Manager to implement, without undue delay, lawful decisions of the Council, in accordance with s335 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The Resolution Action Sheet is an ongoing document, updated progressively by staff. As items are completed, they are removed.

Resolutions relating to land transfers, purchases, or sales can take 2-5 years to be completed. Completion of some actions have needed to be prioritised, due to competing priorities, staff turnover and delays in recruiting for vacant key staff positions.

The Resolution Action Sheet is presented to Council quarterly.

The current reporting period covers October 2024 (the start of the Council term) to the 23 March Ordinary Meeting.

Consultation and Communication

N/A

Policy

N/A

Legal

The subject matter of this report is a function of Council conferred by the Local Government Act 1993.

Risk Management

N/A

Financial

Nil arising directly from this report.

1.6. EXEC - 29/04/2026 - Active Regional Communities Grant Application - Youth Transition Hub & Pathways Program

Strategic Context for this matter:

Caring for Our Community To retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Strengthening Our Economy To provide for sustainable and planned growth through the diversification of the economic base, the development of diverse job opportunities and the provision of a broad range of formal and non-formal educational services.

Author: Bruce Mills - Emerging Economy Manager

Responsible Officer: Ross Gurney - General Manager

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement to apply to the NSW Government's Active Regional Communities Package - Community Participation Stream for the proposed Lithgow Youth Transition Hub & Pathways Program.

The Community Participation Stream is open to Lithgow City Council as a named applicant and provides grants of \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 for projects that increase liveability and social cohesion through greater participation in community activities that contribute to residents' wellbeing and social or economic participation.

Projects must commence within 6 months of the funding deed and be completed within 4 years. Eligible activities include activating underused assets and introducing new or expanded services or programs. The grant outcomes must include increased access to diversion activities, stronger skills and connections for young people and families, and helping regional communities to attract and retain workers to build resilience to economic or environmental shocks.

While the guidelines include examples such as facility upgrades, the merit assessment is not infrastructure focused. Instead, projects are assessed against participation, social cohesion, economic engagement, place-based need, regional resilience, and alignment with the Regional Development Trust Fund priorities of community connection and capacity building, improving regional service delivery, and support for communities in economic transition.

The proposed project would establish a highly visible youth, worker and community support facility using the Charles Hoskins Memorial Building as the principal delivery base. It would combine the activation of an underused asset with youth diversion activities, WorkReady-style employability support, health and aged care employment pathways, school holiday STEM and leadership activities delivered in partnership with local providers, and initiatives that directly address barriers to participation.

The proposed project budget is \$1,200,000 (GST exclusive), comprising a grant request of \$960,000 and a Council co-contribution of \$240,000 from the LEEP reserve, noting that there is a minimum 20% co-contribution requirement.

This proposal is intended to provide Lithgow with a highly visible 'front door' for youth, worker, and family support, while also delivering economic renewal and supporting longer-term workforce development.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the submission of an application to the NSW Government's Active Regional Communities Package - Community Participation Stream for the Lithgow Youth Transition Hub & Pathways Program by 1 May 2026.
2. Endorse a grant funding application of \$1,200,000 (GST exclusive) comprising a grant request of \$960,000 and a Council co-contribution of \$240,000 from the LEEP reserve, subject to final confirmation of eligible costs and grant requirements.
3. Note that the proposed project is intended to activate part of the Charles Hoskins Memorial Building as the principal delivery base, subject to final internal operational, property and governance approval.
4. Authorise the General Manager to finalise the project scope, budget, supporting documentation and lodgement of the application, including minor amendments required to strengthen alignment with the grant guidelines and assessment criteria.
5. Note that, if successful, a further report will be brought to Council regarding funding deed execution, delivery arrangements and any required budget allocation.

Attachments

1. Community Participation Stream program guidelines _ NSW Government [1.6.1 - 16 pages]

Background and discussion

Lithgow's youth, workers, and families need support to remove barriers to employment, build skills for future industries, strengthen collaboration, participate in shaping the community's future, and see visible action during the transition.

This proposal is intended to meet that need through a practical, place-based intervention rather than a strategy or advocacy document.

The three-pillar framework

Economic Transition

This project responds to structural change in Lithgow's coal and energy economy by creating practical pathways for young people, workers, and families into new forms of participation, training and employment. It supports adaptive capacity, future-skills development, and transition readiness.

Economic Renewal

The project also has a renewal role. It activates an underused community asset and delivers visible programming for young people, workers, and families, providing a practical confidence-building initiative.

Economic Development

The project supports economic development by improving employability, strengthening pathways into growth sectors such as health and aged care, and helping retain young people and working-age residents in Lithgow.

Proposed project

The proposed Lithgow Youth Transition Hub & Pathways Program would be a place-based participation package using the Charles Hoskins Building as the delivery base, subject to final internal approval.

The project would establish a highly visible 'front door' for youth, worker and family support in Lithgow, combining:

- Activation of part of the Charles Hoskins Memorial Building,
- Youth diversion and engagement activity,
- WorkReady and employment support activity,
- Job-readiness support,
- Health and aged care pathway activity,
- School holiday STEM, leadership and future-skills programs,
- Transport and supervision support to remove barriers to participation, and
- Partner-delivered outreach and referrals.

Consultation and Communication

Internal consultation with ELT has occurred and draws on existing Council material, including the 2026 LEEP Action Plan Refresh, labour market transition work, and prior Committee discussions regarding use of the Charles Hoskins Building. If endorsed, the Administration will undertake the targeted consultation and documentation gathering required for the application, including:

- Internal confirmation regarding use of part of the Charles Hoskins Memorial Building,
- Partner letters of support and co-delivery commitments,
- Evidence of need and community benefit,
- Confirmation of operating model and budget evidence, and
- Any required landowner or internal approvals.

The application form requires evidence of need, evidence of support, a project management plan, a risk management plan, and evidence of co-contribution.

Policy

The proposal is consistent with:

- The LEEP refreshed Action Plan,
- The 2026 LEEP Engagement Plan,
- Council's labour market transition and advocacy work,
- The emerging three-pillar framing of Economic Transition, Economic Renewal and Economic Development, and
- The Regional Development Trust Fund priorities of community connection, capacity building, and improving regional service delivery.

Legal

The subject matter of this report is within the Council's functions under the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to economic development, community wellbeing, strategic planning and grant applications. If successful, Council would be required to enter into a funding deed and comply with reporting, acquittal, insurance, child safety, record-keeping and evaluation requirements.

Risk Management

Application risk

The main risk is that a building-based proposal could be read as ordinary infrastructure or BAU. This is mitigated by framing it as a transition-focused participation project with clear service outcomes.

Deliverability risk

The program requires delivery within 4 years. This is manageable provided the project is staged, and the final scope is confirmed early.

Property / operational risk

Use of the Charles Hoskins Building remains subject to internal confirmation, noting prior Committee discussion that options for the building require careful consideration and collaborative decision-making.

Reputational risk

An evidence-based application with partner roles and an achievable operating model will reduce this risk.

Financial

The proposed funding application is:

- **Grant request:** \$960,000
- **Council co-contribution:** \$240,000
- **Total project cost:** \$1,200,000

The proposed Council co-contribution would be funded from the LEEP reserve, subject to Council approval.

The final budget will be refined prior to lodgement of the grant to ensure:

- Cost compliance,
- Project management / administration does not exceed 10% of grant request,
- Contingency does not exceed 20% of grant request,
- Co-contribution evidence is available, and
- Total project cost and scope are agreed by ELT.

1.7. F&G - 29/04/2026 - Investment Report March 2026**Strategic Context for this matter:**

Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership: To develop community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.

Author: Jonathon Reid - Financial Services Manager

Responsible Officer: Vanessa Browning - Director Finance and Governance

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of investments held as at 31 March 2026 and to note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer that funds have been invested in accordance with legislation, regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

The report also provides commentary on the cash and investments balance compared with the funding required for internally and externally restricted reserves. A key aspect of the report is that while Council has total investments and cash of \$48.0M, most of this amount is restricted (internally or externally). Restricted funds are not available for any purpose beyond that for which they have been restricted. The balance of \$333K is unrestricted and available as the Council's working capital.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT:

1. Investments of \$47,300,000 and cash of \$703,146 (which is mostly restricted for specific purposes) for the period ending 31 March 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.

Attachments

1. Investment Report Attachment - March 2026 [1.7.1 - 1 page]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Min No 26-56 Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 March 2026.

Background and discussion**Movements in the Cash and Investments Balance**

Council's total investment portfolio as at 31 March 2026, when compared to 28 February 2026, has increased from \$46,250,000 to \$47,300,000. Cash in Council's bank account decreased from \$4,778,487 to \$703,146.

March is usually a cashflow negative month, with grant income being the main funding source. In March 2026, there were low cash inflows resulting in a decreased cash position.

If the movement in the bank account is negative, this is shown as a net redemption. If the movement in the bank account is positive, this is shown as a net new investment.

The movements in Investments for the month of March 2026 were as follows:

Opening Balance of cash and investments as 1 March 2026	\$51,028,487
Plus New Investments – March 2026	\$7,050,000
Less Investments redeemed – March 2026	\$10,075,341
Closing Balance of cash and investments as at 31 March 2026	\$48,003,146

The attachment to this report provides an overview of the current market value of investments held with each financial institution. The difference between the value quoted in the attachment and within the report relates to the recognition of interest earned but not yet received by Council.

Responsible Accounting Officer comment on the cash and investments balance – there was a \$3M decrease in cash and investments in March 2026. Low cash inflows, combined with payments to suppliers (\$5.18M), has decreased the cash balance. Cash outflows continue to be managed to ensure that the timing of grant funding milestones matches the pace of works undertaken.

High value supplier payments included:

- \$620K Domestic Waste collection for January & February (Waste Reserve funded),
- \$558K Wolgan Valley Access Road design and project management (DRFA funded),
- \$543K Magpie Hollow Road, South Bowenfels Repair Works (DRFA and General funded),
- \$173K Water usage September and October 2025 from Fish River (Water Reserve Funded),
- \$135K Playground equipment, Kiddle Park, Lithgow (SRV and General funded),
- \$126K Playground equipment, Ted Hughes Memorial Park, Lidsdale (SRV and General funded),
- \$116K Footpath upgrade of Main St, Lithgow (reserve and grant funded),
- \$107K Growth Management Strategy consultancy (SRV funded), and
- \$102K Playground equipment at JM Robson Aquatic Centre, Lithgow (SRV and General funded).

Funding Requirements for Restricted Reserves

A large proportion of the Council's investments are held as restricted assets for specific purposes. Restricted assets may consist of externally restricted assets, which must be spent for the purpose for which they have been received (e.g. water, wastewater, domestic waste) or internally restricted assets, which have been set aside by Council resolution. Some internal restrictions are held to fund specific liabilities such as employee leave entitlements, bonds, and deposits.

Responsible Accounting Officer comment on restricted reserves – Council had sufficient cash and investments as at 31 March 2026 to fund \$39.8M of externally restricted reserves and \$7.9M of internally restricted reserves. Council is able to meet its short-term financial obligations effectively.

The Council's working capital (used to fund outgoing payments) was \$333K as at 31 March 2026. The decrease in working capital from \$918K as at the end of February to \$333K at the end of March is due low cash inflows. Council is still taking action to manage cashflow with works deferred until the unrestricted cash balance maintains a stable, satisfactory level, to ensure that Council does not use externally restricted reserves.

As at 31 March 2026, the period during which General Fund expenses could be met with available unrestricted cash was estimated at three weeks. It should be noted that cash inflows and outflows can vary substantially from month to month due to a range of factors. The end of month balance does not accurately reflect the liquidity of the Council. Based on the budgeted position, management action and known information at the time of this report, it is projected that Council will have sufficient unrestricted cash at year end.

Cash and Investments Statement (\$'000)				
	30 June 2025	30 September 2025	31 December 2025	31 March 2026
	Position	Position	Position	Position
Externally Restricted				
Developer Contributions	1,913	2,060	1,979	2,307
Special Purpose Grants	33,822	30,667	26,749	23,558
Water Supplies	3,864	4,922	4,298	4,194
Sewerage Services	294	410	(316)	(197)
Domestic Waste	8,531	9,857	9,547	9,526
Unexpended Loans	1,700	984	593	380
	50,124	48,901	42,849	39,768
Internally Restricted				
Land & Buildings	85	85	80	72
FAGs	3,359	-	-	-
Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-
Bonds, Deposits & Retentions	400	352	261	318
Works in Progress	137	137	137	137
Carry Over Works	63	66	43	26
Commercial Waste	2,769	3,910	4,225	4,492
ELE	661	661	161	161
Election	77	77	77	77
Other	1,223	350	2,545	2,618
Internal Borrowing to General Fund	0	(2,196)	(3,264)	0
Total Internally Restricted	8,774	3,442	4,266	7,902
Unrestricted (working capital)	-	-	-	333
Total Cash and Investments	58,898	52,343	47,115	48,003

CERTIFICATION OF THE RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

I hereby certify that the investments listed in the report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's Investments Policy.

Both internally and externally restricted reserves are managed in accordance with legislation, regulation, Council resolutions and Council's endorsed budget allocations to / from reserves.

Vanessa Browning
Director Finance and Governance - Responsible Accounting Officer

Consultation and Communication

N/A

Policy

Investments are held in accordance with the Council's Investment Policy at the date of investing funds. On 23 March 2026, the Council adopted a revised Investment Policy, which includes the Minister's Investment Order of 12 January 2011.

Legal

Council's Investment Policy complies with the Minister's Investment Order of 12 January 2011.

Risk Management

Risk is managed by adopting a conservative approach to the Council's investments, investing only in term deposits.

Financial

- Interest income budget approved \$2,053,000 (full year)
- Cost centre 800152-8130-41500
- YTD Income to date \$1,617,999
- Future potential impact Nil.

Council's original budgeted investment interest income for 2025/26 is \$2.8M, approximately \$653K less than the 2024/25 actual interest received. The original forecast of \$2.8M has been reduced to \$2.1M due to lower than budgeted cash balances. During March, the average rate achieved was 4.97% on an investment balance of \$46M, 50% of which is due to the remaining balance of the \$33.8M advance payment for natural disaster restoration works.

Interest is paid on the maturity date of the investment. The budget for interest income is determined by the average level of funds held and the rate of return. Adjustments to the budget estimate are processed through the Council's Quarterly Budget Review process. Interest returns are determined by the average funds invested and the rate of interest return.

1.8. F&G - 29/04/2026 - Review of Privacy Management Plan

Strategic Context for this matter:

Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership: To develop community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.

Author: Ally Shelton - IT Manager/Right to Information Officer

Responsible Officer: Vanessa Browning – Director Finance and Governance

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council adopt revised Policy 9.15 – Privacy Management Plan. The proposed amendments incorporate provisions relating to the management of CCTV footage and includes reference to Council's Data Breach Management Plan.

Administration's Recommendation

That Council adopt and implement revised Policy 9.15 - Privacy Management Plan with immediate effect.

Attachments

1. Policy 9 15 Privacy Management Plan V5 1 [1.8.1 - 43 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Min No. 21-12 Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 January 2021

Background and discussion

Management of CCTV Footage

The revised policy clarifies the terms for the management and use of the Council's CCTV systems, including strict controls on access to footage. It formalises that footage is released only to authorised law enforcement agencies or where legally required and confirms that all requests are subject to legislative and privacy compliance requirements. The amendment also reinforces requirements for the documentation, retention and disposal of CCTV footage in accordance with the Council's records management obligations.

Data Breach Response Plan

Amendments to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW), effective 28 November 2023, introduced the Mandatory Notification of Data Breach (MNDB) Scheme. Under this scheme, all NSW public sector agencies, including local councils, are required to maintain a Data Breach Policy, keep internal and public registers of eligible breaches, and notify the NSW Privacy Commissioner and affected individuals where required. The policy update reflects the Council's existing Data Breach Response Plan and ensures alignment with these legislative requirements.

Consultation and Communication

Nil

Policy

Recommendation to Council for adoption of revised Policy 9.15 Privacy Management Plan.

Legal

Nil

Risk Management

The implementation of the revised policy will reduce legislative and reputation risks to the Council.

Financial

Nil

1.9. F&G - 29/04/2026 - Alternate Fuel Rebate Policy - Rescind

Strategic Context for this matter:

Enhancing Our Natural Environment: To balance, protect and enhance our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations

Author: Sarah Lewis – Executive Assistant to the Office of the General Manager and Mayor

Responsible Officer: Vanessa Browning - Director Finance and Governance

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to formally rescind Policy 5.7 - Alternate Fuel Rebate, as the program has been discontinued and is no longer administered by Council.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council rescind Policy 5.7 Alternate Fuel Rebate.

Attachments

1. Policy 5.7 - Alternate Fuel Rebate - V 1 [1.9.1 - 5 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Min. No. 19-275 Ordinary Meeting held 23 September 2019

Background and discussion

The Alternate Fuel Rebate Policy was adopted to support a Council rebate program designed to incentivise the use of alternate fuel burning appliances within the local government area. The objective of Policy 5.7 was to provide a process for providing rebates to eligible resident for the replacement of coal fired appliances with an alternate cleaner system.

The Alternate Fuel Rebate program is no longer operational and is not funded within the Council's recurrent budget / Operational Plan. The policy no longer serves a functional purpose, and retaining it presents a risk of confusion or misinterpretation by the community and staff. Rescinding the policy will ensure Council's policy framework remains current, accurate, and aligned with active programs.

The rebate program has ceased operation due to changes in funding availability, program priorities, and external policy settings. Council no longer receives or processes applications under this scheme, and no rebates have been issued for a significant period.

Despite the program's cessation, the policy remains listed among Council's current policies, creating the potential for:

- Community misunderstanding regarding the availability of rebates,
- Unnecessary administrative enquiries, and

- Inconsistency between Council policy and operational practice.

Consultation and Communication

No community consultation has been undertaken or is required, as the policy relates to an inactive program and does not affect current services.

Policy

Subject to Council's resolution, the Alternate Fuel Rebate Policy will be removed from Council's policy register and website and will be archived in accordance with Council's records management requirements.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from rescinding the policy. The policy is not required under legislation and does not underpin statutory functions.

Risk Management

Nil

Financial

Nil

2. Council Committee Reports

2.1. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 11 March 2026

Strategic Context for this matter:

Caring for Our Community: To retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Enhancing Our Natural Environment: To balance, protect and enhance our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations

Author: Ailis Chapman - Natural Areas Management Officer

Responsible Officer: Shaun Elwood - Director People and Place

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held on 11 March 2026.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held on 11 March 2026.
2. Reduce the committee quorum to three (3) committee members and one (1) Councillor.

Attachments

1. EAC Meeting Minutes 11 March 2026 [2.1.1 - 6 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Min. No. 25-226 Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 September 2025

Background and discussion

At the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on 11 March 2026, a number of items were discussed:

- Farmers Creek Masterplan Revitalisation Project.
- Hassans Walls Crown Reserve Plan of Management.
- State Mine Gully Mountain Bike Park development application.
- General Business
 - Lithgow Environment Group – additional nomination for committee membership
 - Lithgow Tidy Towns change of committee representative
 - Monitoring of discharges into waterways by our treatment plants
 - Update on Councils Asset register and management plan
 - Recommend an amendment to the ToR to reduce the quorum.

Financial

- Budget approved - N/A
- Cost centre - N/A
- Expended to date - N/A
- Future potential impact - N/A

2.2. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes - 31 March 2026

Strategic Context for this matter:

[Caring for Our Community](#) To retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Author: Alison Kim - Community Development Officer

Responsible Officer: Shaun Elwood - Director People and Place

Executive Summary

The attached minutes provide a summary of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 31 March 2026.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council note the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 31 March 2026.

Attachments

Key items discussed and actions arising included:

- Item 7.2 Community Development Program Update - that Council consider investing in another Lithgow Health Expo 2027 with the option of applying for sponsorship, funding or charging for the stall.
- Item 7.3 Lithgow Community Connective enewsletter - that the Community Development Officer request that Community Connective send an email reminder close to the cut off, reminding subscribers to contribute content.
- Item 7.4 Lithgow Citizenship Awards 2027 - that the Community Development Committee support the Lithgow Citizenship Award categories proposed for 2027. The categories are:
 - Citizen of the year,
 - Emerging leader of the year,
 - Community group of the year, and
 - Event of the year.
- Item 7.5 Financial Assistance Plan Update and changes - the Community Development Committee noted and discussed the proposal, providing feedback to inform the management of the Financial Assistance Program in FY27.

1. Community Development Committee Minutes 31 March 2026 [2.2.1 - 8 pages]

2.3. I&PD - 29/04/2026 - Local Transport Forum Meeting Minutes - 2 April 2026

Strategic Context for this matter:

Developing Our Built Environment To provide a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities, and lifestyle choices while enhancing the existing rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Author: Kaitlin Cibulka – Cemeteries & Administration Supervisor

Responsible Officer: Jonathon Edgecombe – Director Infrastructure & Project Delivery

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the minutes of the Local Transport Forum (LTF) held on Thursday 2 April 2026.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes of the Local Transport Forum held on 2 April 2026; and
2. Item 9.3 - install 'No Stopping' zones on the approaches to the intersection of Church Street and Maple Crescent (Item 9.3); and
3. Item 9.3 - undertake linemarking for:
 - a. Give Way line in Church Street at Bridge Street Intersection
 - b. Give Way lines around the traffic island at Maple Crescent / Church Street intersection (x3)
 - c. Double middle lines from the Lithgow Aged Care driveway in Maple Crescent to the 40 School Zone in Church Street
4. Item 9.4 - endorse the proposal for National Parks and Wildlife Service to change traffic conditions on Old Great Western Highway, Hartley in accordance with the Traffic Management Plan to conduct the Back to Hartley Event between 6:00am and 5:00pm on Sunday 3 May 2026.

Attachments

1. DRAFT Minutes Local Transport Forum Minutes 2 April 2026 [2.3.1 - 6 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Nil

Background and discussion

At the Local Transport Forum held on 2 April 2026, the following items were discussed and actioned under the forum's delegations:

Item 9.1 - Disabled Parking Space Request – 4 Hayley Street, Lithgow

ACTION : THAT the Local Transport Forum supports Council's Planning Department in declining the request to remove onsite accessible parking and move it on to the street parking for 4 Hayley Street.

Item 9.2 - Main Street Lithgow – Temporary Closure

ACTION: THAT the temporary closure of Main Street at the eastern end near the Bridge Street intersection for a period of five (5) days and nights to undertake pedestrian crossing replacement works be noted.

The following items were outside the Forum's delegations and require Council to formally approve the recommendations, as listed in the Administration's Recommendation section of this report:

- Item 9.3 - Stop Sign Request – Maple Crescent/ Church Street, Lithgow.
- Item 9.4 - Traffic Management Plan – Back to Hartley Event.

Financial

- Budget approved - Nil
- Cost centre –N/A
- Expended to date - Nil
- Future potential impact - Nil

2.4. P&P - 29/04/2026 - Crime Prevention Committee Meeting Minutes - 7 April 2026

Strategic Context for this matter:

Caring for Our Community To retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Author: Alison Kim – Community Development Officer

Responsible Officer: Shaun Elwood - Director People and Place

Executive Summary

The minutes attached provide a summary of the meeting of the Lithgow Crime Prevention Committee held on 7 April 2026.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes of the Crime Prevention Committee meeting held on 7 April 2026.
2. Commit its support to the 16 Days Against Gender Based Violence campaign in Lithgow.

Attachments

Key items discussed included:

- International 16 Days Against Gender Based Violence campaign led by UN Women.
- A presentation on the work of Lithgow Cares.
- The significant service gaps and the Council's role in the service response to homelessness in Lithgow.

1. Crime Prevention Committee Meeting Minutes - 7 April 2026 [2.4.1 - 5 pages]

2.5. I&PD - 29/04/2026 - Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes - 7 April & 15 April 2026

Strategic Context for this matter:

Caring for Our Community To retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Developing Our Built Environment To provide a choice of effective public and private transport options, suitable entertainment and recreational facilities, and lifestyle choices while enhancing the existing rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Author: Kaitlin Cibulka – Cemeteries & Administration Supervisor
Responsible Officer: Jonathon Edgecombe - Director of Infrastructure and Project Delivery

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 7 April 2026 and the subsequent meeting held on 15 April 2026.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 7 April 2026 and the subsequent meeting held on 15 April 2026; and
2. Note the report detailing the core logic supporting the Administration's decision to reinstate access on the currently closed section of Wolgan Road, in an interim capacity as soon as practicable (Item 7.1).

Attachments

1. Minutes Infrastructure Committee Meeting 7th April [2.5.1 - 4 pages]
2. MINUTES Extra Ordinary Infrastructure Committee Meeting 15 April 2026 [2.5.2 - 7 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

Nil.

Background and discussion

At the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 7 April 2026, the Committee received confidential presentations from the Central Tableland Weeds Authority and Transport for NSW.

A subsequent meeting was held on 15 April 2026 to discuss the following reports;

- Item 7.2 - Kremer Park Update
ACTION: That the Committee note the update on the Kremer Park Retaining Wall project.
- Item 7.3 - Proposed New Footpath Design – Western Side of Great Western Highway through Lithgow

ACTION: That the Committee note the report detailing progress made on the design of a footpath on the Great Western Highway between Caroline Avenue and Mudgee Street.

- Item 7.4 Asset Management

ACTION: That the Committee receive and note the report on Asset Management.

- Item 7.5 Project Update - > \$500,000 or grant funded

ACTION: That the Committee notes the update provided relating to capital infrastructure projects in the Infrastructure and Project Delivery directorate that are valued at \$500,000 or more or are otherwise grant funded.

The following item was outside the Committee's delegations and require Council to formally approve the recommendation:

- Item 7.1 Residual Geotechnical Risk – Wolgan Road

RECOMMENDATION: That Council note the report detailing the core logic supporting the Administration's decision to reinstate access on the currently closed section of Wolgan Road, in an interim capacity as soon as practicable

Financial

- Budget approved - Nil
- Cost centre – N/A
- Expended to date - Nil
- Future potential impact - Nil

2.6. I&PD - 29/04/2026 - Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 8 April 2026

Strategic Context for this matter:

Caring for Our Community To retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.

Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership To develop community confidence in the organisation by the way it is directed, controlled and managed.

Author: Leah Stubbs – Executive Assistant

Responsible Officer: Jonathon Edgecombe - Director of Infrastructure and Project Delivery

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the minutes of the Sports Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 April 2026.

Administration's Recommendation

THAT Council note the minutes of the Sports Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 April 2026.

Attachments

1. Minutes Sports Advisory Meeting - 8 April 2026 [2.6.1 - 9 pages]

Reference to any relevant previous minute

N/A

Background and discussion

At the Sports Advisory Committee meeting held on 8th April 2026, the following items were discussed by the Committee:

- Item 6.1 - Financial Assistance Request
ACTION - that the information regarding financial assistance be noted.
- Item 7.1 - 2026 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Sports Star Of The Year Awards
ACTION - The 2026 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Senior Sports Star of the Year Award for *March 2026* be awarded to *Harry Bender (Golf)*.
- Item 8 – Booking Requests
ACTION - All bookings detailed in Item 8 be approved.
- Item 9 – New Members
ACTION - The committee notes the information provided.
- General Business
In General Business, Cr Darryl Goodwin raised the possibility of renaming the Grandstand at Tony Luchetti Showground from the “Bill Ashley Grandstand” to the “Barry Rushworth Grandstand.” Cr Goodwin has advised that he plans to put forward a motion, as a matter arising from the minutes, to progress this matter.

Financial

- Budget approved - NIL
- Cost centre – N/A
- Expended to date - NIL
- Future potential impact - NIL

3. Delegates Reports

3.1. EXEC - 29/04/2026 - SEGRA Conference 2026

Report by Ross Gurney - General Manager

Commentary

SEGRA 2026 Summit – Summary Report

For information

Purpose

To provide Council with a report on the National Regional & Economic Development Summit (SEGRA 2026), held in Lithgow from 24 – 26 March 2026, and to note key outcomes for the Lithgow Local Government Area.

Background

SEGRA 2026 was the 29th National Regional & Economic Development Summit convened by the SEGRA Foundation. The Summit was hosted in Lithgow with the support of Lithgow City Council and key regional partners, including Regional Development Australia Central West and Regional Development Australia Orana.

The theme of the 2026 Summit was “*A Future Made in Regional Australia*”, with a strong focus on regional transition, economic diversification and place-based development.

Event Overview

The Summit was held across multiple Lithgow and Portland venues from 24 – 26 March 2026 and included:

- A pre-Summit “New Horizons” workshop focused on renewable energy transition and community benefit frameworks,
- Two days of keynote presentations, panel sessions, workshops and SEG TALKS, and
- Local site visits, cultural tours and networking events showcasing Lithgow’s heritage, economy and future opportunities.

A total of 102 delegates attended from across Australia, representing government, industry, not-for-profit organisations and universities.

Keynote speakers at SEGRA 2026 included Commissioner Catherine de Fontenay (Productivity Commission), Professor Andrew Beer (University of Adelaide), Bjorn Jarvis (Jobs and Skills Australia), Professor Jacki Schirmer (University of Canberra), Jonathan Atkins (ABC Heywire), Kate Haycock (AEC Group) and senior representatives from Energy Australia and Thales.

Key Themes and Discussions

Across the program, the Summit explored practical approaches to regional transition and renewal, particularly relevant to Lithgow’s current economic context. Key themes included:

- Economic diversification and building local capability,
- Post-mining transition and land use planning,
- Capturing long-term community benefits from the energy transition and major projects,
- Workforce attraction and retention,
- The role of arts, culture and storytelling in regional leadership and liveability, and
- Emerging opportunities associated with artificial intelligence in regional economies.

Lithgow was consistently referenced as a national case study for communities managing complex, overlapping transitions.

Benefits and Outcomes for Lithgow

The SEGRA Summit delivered several direct and indirect benefits for Lithgow, including:

- Economic impact: Approximately 87 per cent of event expenditure was directed to Lithgow businesses, supporting local accommodation providers, caterers, venues and service suppliers.
- Profile and positioning: Lithgow was showcased to a national audience of regional practitioners and decision-makers as a leading example of place-based transition planning.
- Knowledge sharing: Local leaders and organisations engaged directly with national experts on regional transition, workforce and energy issues.
- Legacy activity: A draft Community Benefit Framework for Central NSW Joint Organisation members was developed through the New Horizons workshop and will be further progressed post-summit.
- Media exposure: A “Big Ideas for Rural Australia” panel was recorded for the ABC Big Ideas podcast, which will further promote Lithgow’s story nationally.

Council Participation

Mayor Coleman attended official Summit events, including the Welcome Drinks at the Blast Furnace and the networking dinner at Portland Foundations / Zig Zag Brewery, and several Councillors attended sections of the summit and the networking dinner. The General Manager and senior staff participated in the New Horizons Community Benefit Framework workshop.

The SEGRA Foundation formally acknowledged Council's support as an event partner, and Council branding was featured in promotional materials and on stage during the keynote presentations.

Feedback

Feedback from delegates and speakers was overwhelmingly positive, with strong recognition of:

- The quality of speakers and discussions,
- The relevance of Lithgow as a host location, and
- The value of place-based learning embedded throughout the program.

Delegates highlighted the Summit as a high-quality, practical and well-curated event that supported meaningful peer learning and collaboration.

Next Steps

Following the Summit:

- The SEGRA Foundation will convene an online meeting with LEEP, the Central NSW Joint Organisation and Regional Development Australia partners to progress the Community Benefit Framework.
- Opportunities for ongoing engagement and support for Lithgow in state and national policy discussions are being explored.
- Event photos, videos and presentations have been shared with participants and via e-newsletter and on social media, and can be viewed here: [SEGRA 2026 Summit - Lithgow NSW 25 - 26 March 2026](#)

Conclusion

SEGRA 2026 delivered significant economic, reputational and strategic benefits for Lithgow. Hosting the Summit reinforced Lithgow’s position as a leading regional centre actively planning for transition and future industries, while providing Council and regional partners with valuable national connections and insights.

Attachments

1. SEGRA 2026 Report to Lithgow City Council [**3.1.1** - 5 pages]
2. SEGRA 2026 Feedback [**3.1.2** - 6 pages]

Recommendation

THAT Council note the report on SEGRA 2026 and the key outcomes for the Lithgow Local Government Area.

4. Questions with Notice

4.1. QWN - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Stage 2 construction works for the Lithgow Main Street Footpath and Foot Crossing Restoration Project

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

Commentary

With respect to the forthcoming final completion of the remaining loan-funded portion of Stage 2 construction works for the Lithgow Main Street Footpath and Foot Crossing Restoration Project on the southern side of Main Street between Eskbank Street and Bridge Street, I ask the following questions:

- Q. Is the Council satisfied that it has taken all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of personal harm or injury from the completion of the newly constructed footpaths in the Top End of Main Street and Bridge Street Lithgow?
- Q. Is the Council satisfied that all foreseeable hazards have been suitably identified, addressed and declared safe?
- Q. Is the Council satisfied that all Stage 2 works comply with the provisions of the Civil Liability Act 2002?
- Q. Is the Council aware of any complaints, such as trip hazards, non-compliance with disability legislation, etc. and requests for multiple handrails, additional mobility parking and wheelchair access, etc. with respect to the up and down steps onto the footpath along the northern end of the new Main Street footpath?

Attachments

Nil

Management Comment

Responses to the four questions are provided in the comments below.

The civil design documents were created with specific reference to all applicable Australian Standards. Hold points have also occurred along the critical path of the project, ensuring that works are being delivered in strict accordance with the civil design specifications. Upon completion of the project, a Practical Completion Certificate will not be issued until the final site walkthrough has been completed and the works have been verified as meeting Council's standards and specifications.

All feedback and commentary received by the Council has been responded to. It has been advised that disability parking and a custom ramp/handrails will be installed in front of 'The Hub' pizzeria at the conclusion of the project. This location has been selected because it is the only one that will meet the relevant mobility standards. This has been discussed at an Infrastructure Committee meeting.

If any specific areas of concern arise, it is requested that this detail be provided to the Administration for prompt inspection and rectification.

Jonathon Edgecombe
Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery

4.2. QWN - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Ironfest 2026

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

Commentary

As published under 7. Business of Great Urgency of the Business Paper for the most recent Ordinary Meeting of the Lithgow City Council held on Monday 23 March 2026, it states:

The General Manager / Acting General Manager publicly confirms, that before and during this Ordinary / Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Lithgow City Council, that they have provided all Councillors with full access to all relevant information necessary for the performance of their official functions and necessary to effectively discharge their official functions.

The General Manager / Acting General Manager is aware that Council Staff Members have provided full and timely relevant information to all Councillors, sufficient to enable them to exercise their official functions and in accordance with Council Procedures.

1. Notwithstanding this statement, on the 1 April 2026, the Mayor, Councillor Cass Coleman on her public personal Facebook page, publicly informed our ratepayers, residents including another Councillor and myself for the first time that, 'Lithgow City Council is thrilled to provide sponsorship' to the 'Ironfest in Portland 2026 Wlonk Festival', 'taking place on the 18 and 19 April'.
2. On Sunday 5 April 2026 Councillor Tom Evangelidis on his Lithgow NSW 2790 Facebook page confirmed that with respect to Ironfest 2026, the 'Council has made a contribution' and additionally confirmed that this financial 'sponsorship' and 'contribution' was \$10,000; a huge financial figure I was not previously aware of?

On the 29 April last year, the Lithgow City Council called for expressions of interest from event organisers seeking sponsorship support for new, unique, and engaging events to be held in the Lithgow Local Government Area with individual sponsorship opportunities of up to \$40,000 may being available to successful proposals under the new sponsorship program. Further, 'Mayor of Lithgow Cass Coleman has praised the funding for new events saying, "This is an innovative and partnering approach to creating new events, there are a lot of great ideas from people interested in creating events in our area."

My questions are:

- Q. Could the Lithgow City Council's General Manager immediately provide ALL Councillors with copies of the successful Expression of Interest lodged with the Lithgow City Council from the event organisers seeking \$10,000 in financial sponsorship support for their unique and engaging Ironfest 2026 destination development event to be held within the LGA at The Foundations, Portland?
- Q. Could the Lithgow City Council's General Manager immediately provide ALL Councillors with copies of the completed Performance Agreement between Lithgow City Council and the Ironfest 2026 organisation, required under the Council's Financial Assistance Policy for financial assistance of \$10,000 and above?
- Q. Could the Lithgow City Council's General Manager immediately provide ALL Councillors with copies of the Event Sponsorship Opportunities Agreement between Lithgow City Council and the Ironfest 2026 organisation; including under 3.1 (g) any required supply to the Council by Event Organisers of any signed and witnessed 'Conflict of Interest' declaration/s between the Event Organisers and Lithgow City Council for its elected representatives, employees, contractors; an agreement which provides a clear expectation for the use of the funds, in line

with the Council Policy aims and objectives of the Ironfest 2026 Event and their benefit to the Lithgow LGA?

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL - Sponsorship-agreement- Ironfest March 2026 [4.2.1 - 10 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL - Ironfest EOI June 2025 [4.2.2 - 5 pages]
3. CONFIDENTIAL - The Foundations - Ironfest Feb 2026 [4.2.3 - 2 pages]

Management Comment

- Q1. Ironfest submitted an Event Sponsorship EOI to Council in June 2025. Subsequently, once the event dates had been confirmed, a further submission for sponsorship and Council support for Ironfest 2026 was received by Council in January 2026 (see confidential attachments).
- Q2. No funds from the Council Financial Assistance Program were accessed for the Ironfest event sponsorship. The sponsorship of Ironfest and other similar sponsored events in 2025/26 was sourced from the Council's Major Events Budget.
- Q3. The event Sponsorship Agreement between Ironfest and Council is included as a confidential attachment (commercial -in-confidence). Sponsorship Agreement clause 3.1 (g) is activated "where specified, and if requested, by Council". No Conflict of Interest declaration was requested by the Council from Ironfest.

Shaun Elwood
Director People and Places

4.3. QWN - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Transport for NSW Traffic Counts

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

Commentary

The Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass has been closed since early March 2026 and still remains currently closed to traffic in both directions for urgent road repairs with no date yet set for any such repairs to commence.

The NSW Government has set up the Great Western Highway Community Coordination Taskforce, led by the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Transport for NSW, to provide practical support and make sure that communities, businesses and freight operators across the Blue Mountains and the Central West get the assistance they need.

This Taskforce I understand also includes the Lithgow City Council.

Q. Could this Council please provide the following information:

Transport for NSW Traffic Counts for Main Street / Chifley Road Lithgow to Bell and Darling Causeway to Mount Victoria AND the Great Western Highway Mount Victoria to Little Hartley from the 16 April to 22 April 2025?

Transport for NSW Traffic Counts for Main Street / Chifley Road Lithgow to Bell and Darling Causeway to Mount Victoria from the 1st of April to 7 April 2026?

Comment: What I am seeking are the traffic figures for the Easter Period in 2025 when the Great Western Highway and the Chifley Road / Bells Line of Road were BOTH OPEN and the recent traffic figures from the recent Easter period when the Great Western Highway was CLOSED and the Chifley Road / Bells Line of Road being the ONLY SOLE ROAD OPEN.

Attachments

Nil

Management Comment

The question was forwarded to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on the same day that the Question with Notice was received by the Administration. TfNSW have confirmed receipt, and that this information will be provided to the Council once it is available. The information will then be forwarded to all Councillors.

Jonathon Edgecombe
Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery

4.4. QWN - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Categories of Land for Rating

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

Commentary

Council is required to categorise each parcel of land for rating purposes according to their dominant use.

Q. Could the Council Administration please advise what are all of the MAIN and related SUBCATEGORIES of Land for Rating purposes in the Lithgow Local Government Area?

Attachments

1. Rating Structure 2025-26 [4.4.1 - 2 pages]

Management Comment

The rating structure, incorporating the rating categories and sub-categories, is included in Council's annual Revenue Policies, which are available on Council's [website](#). For the 2025/2026 financial year, the rating structure is provided as an attachment.

The proposed rating structure for the 2026/2027 financial year is outlined in Item 1.2 P&P – 29/04/2026 - Draft 2026/27 Operational Plan Report, included in the agenda for the 29 April Ordinary Meeting. The Draft Operational Plan will be publicly exhibited during May 2026 and will be open for public submissions on all items in the Operational Plan, including the 2026/27 rating structure within the draft 2026/27 Revenue Policy.

An overview of the proposed rating structure and impact of the general revaluation undertaken by the NSW Valuer General was provided to Councillors at a workshop held on 16 February 2026.

Council will consider the public submissions received and determine whether to adopt the rating structure at the 29 June Ordinary Meeting.

Vanessa Browning
Director Finance & Governance

5. Notices of Motion

5.1. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Fredericks - Traffic Management and Diversion Routes

Report by Councillor Elizabeth Fredericks

Commentary

Council would be aware that Transport for NSW recently presented to the Infrastructure–Strategic Review Committee a proposal to encourage both local and diversion route traffic to utilise Bridge Street, Short Street, Eskbank Street, Bent Street, Methven Street and Bayonet Street as an alternative to the current diversion route.

These streets are already subject to ongoing concerns relating to road condition, capacity, and long-term sustainability. Increasing traffic volumes through these corridors will place additional strain on infrastructure that is already under pressure, further contributing to Council’s significant road maintenance backlog, which is currently in the millions of dollars.

Council would be aware further that in November 2025, the TALC Committee identified Short Street as a high-risk area for the safety of students and pedestrians. This led to the development of a Traffic Management Plan investigation covering Mort Street through to Lithgow High School and surrounding streets. This plan was formally endorsed by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of 1 December 2025.

Given that a Traffic Management Plan was triggered and endorsed due to safety concerns, the suitability of these streets to accommodate increased traffic volumes is highly questionable. The proposed redistribution of traffic has the potential to significantly increase safety risks, particularly for school students, pedestrians, and local residents who already experience the impacts of current traffic conditions.

There may be suggested alternative options that may better distribute local and light traffic while reducing the impact on residential areas and school zones. These include diverting smaller volumes of traffic via Bridge Street to Railway Parade, continuing through Sandford Avenue, Young Street and Barton Street, reconnecting with the Great Western Highway near the Miners Lamp.

Additional measures such as reducing speed limits to 40 km/h between the Great Western Highway/Main Street intersection and the commencement of the 100 km/h zone, along with targeted traffic control at key intersections such as Coerwull Road, may also assist in improving safety and traffic flow.

It is critical that any traffic management response prioritises the safety of the community and limits the impact of the current diversion, which is seeing in excess of 12,000 vehicles per day redirected through local streets.

Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

THAT Council note the information contained in this report and the concerns raised regarding the proposed redistribution of traffic onto local residential streets.

Management Comment

There is no proposal to encourage both local and diversion route traffic to utilise Bridge Street, Short Street, Eskbank Street, Bent Street, Methven Street and Bayonet Street as an alternative to the current diversion route.

The confidential presentation to Councillors on 7 April 2026 proposed temporary changes to traffic flow at the intersection of Mort Street and Eskbank Street. The plans are only indicative and subject to modelling and more formal design. For safety reasons, the proposal suggested altering traffic flow by restricting turning movements to 'left in and left out' at both the northern and southern intersections of Eskbank Street with Mort Street, with school buses excepted.

Put another way, right turn movements would be restricted to school buses only, when exiting Eskbank Street onto Mort Street.

The proposed changes would not divert detour traffic onto local roads.

When Councillors noted their concerns about possible traffic impacts on Short Street, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) were frank in their advice that these were valid concerns. In response, TfNSW reiterated that the plans were only in draft form and indicative, to aid discussion, and committed to considering additional measures to minimise broader local road network impacts in this area.

After the presentation to Councillors, the Administration met with TfNSW the next day. Council's Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery noted that the organisation was considering a 'Local Area Traffic Management Plan' that would consider how we may achieve improved parking, traffic flow and business use of all roads in the precinct, including:

- Cook Street,
- Eskbank Street,
- Bridge Street,
- Main Street CBD Lane,
- Mort Street,
- Mort / Lett Lane,
- Lett Street,
- Short Street,
- Lett / Bent Street,
- Bent Street,
- Bent / Hill Lane,
- Hill Street, and
- Hill Street Lane.

Transport for NSW have shown great interest in a partnership with Council to deliver this work and ensure as little impact to Lithgow's local road network as possible.

Only through close collaboration with the NSW Government can we achieve the best possible outcomes from the difficult situation arising from the Great Western Highway closure. To date, Transport for NSW have demonstrated the utmost respect, empathy and concern, and are listening to Council staff, Councillors and the community to determine solutions to these significant challenges.

Jonathon Edgecombe
Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery

5.2. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Mahony - Role of Council Car Parks in supporting Main Street retail and in transit tourism

Report by Councillor Eric Mahony

Commentary

Background:

Lithgow currently faces the dual challenge of supporting local small business while accommodating in transit travellers and vehicle numbers passing through Lithgow.

Council's car parks, are often seen solely for their functional values, can play a strategic role in the visitor economy.

With changing travel patterns, electronic vehicle uptake, and evolving consumer expectations, our car parks can act as gateways to our Main Street, supporting both local business as well as capturing passing trade.

Discussion:

Supporting Main Street small businesses.

Accessible, well-connected parking can boost retail activity by improving convenience, increasing visitation, and encouraging spending.

Effective design which incorporates signage, and pedestrian pathways ensures car parks link seamlessly to retail areas.

Many of our car parks are positioned along the Mort Street and Main Street Road corridors. These car parks can serve as rest hubs offering safe stopping points, amenities, electronic vehicle charging points, and nearby food options. This can help convert passing traffic into local economic benefit.

Clear, consistent signage is critical. Advanced signage, utilising universal symbols, and internal wayfinding improve accessibility and visibility, helping drivers locate facilities and encouraging stopovers, enhance economic resilience, support place-making, and improve driver safety.

The approach proposed delivers multiple benefits: increased dwell time, higher visitor spend, improved visitor experience, and potentially stronger local business performance. Without effective signage, the opportunities for these benefits are reduced.

Our council car parks, when well-designed, maintained and integrated with our Main Street retail sector, are vital economic and community assets supporting long-term regional sustainability.

Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

THAT Council

1. Works with Transport for NSW to make our carparks more visible through the strategic location and use of compliant signage.
2. Add to this car parking capacity by the immediate opening of the car park attached to the Hoskins Institute for public use.

Management Comment

The Council has yet to determine permanent and ongoing use of the former Western Sydney University site (Charles Hoskins Building). A report is planned for the 25 May Ordinary Meeting, pending receipt of valuations. Should businesses come to rely on parking on the site, it will become very difficult to rescind this use. It is suggested that the Council should not limit its decision-making ability, explicitly or implicitly, until a report is considered. There is also a current issue of access to and from the Mort Street highway detour route.

Council is currently working with Transport for NSW to identify privately owned vacant lands around the Lithgow Rail Interchange to support parking in some capacity. Information on the vacant lands can be circulated by private memo to Councillors after the meeting, if requested.

A proposal to prepare and promote a Lithgow CBD public car parking map (including EV charging stations) has been discussed with Transport for NSW.

Jonathon Edgecombe
Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery

5.3. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Smith - Advocation for the Bells Line Expressway

Report by Councillor Ray Smith

Commentary

The recent closure of the Great Western Highway has caused havoc to traffic and business and to a certain extent isolated Lithgow and the wider Central West from Sydney. At a recent press conference given by the NSW roads minister here in Lithgow it failed to give any assurances when it may re-open. Based on this brief it could take months or even years. As a result of this, I believe now is the opportunity to lobby hard for a genuine discussion regarding the Bells Line Expressway over the mountains. I understand that some years back that a route had been agreed upon and any barriers or restrictions had been dealt with through an approvals process. We are about to enter into our winter months and is well known that the present Bells Line is susceptible to ice and snow, one can only expect with extra traffic using the route there could be any number of accidents that could close this road as well- effectively isolating Lithgow and the Central West from Sydney.

I also understand the tunnel through the mountains has been discussed, but previous and current State and Federal Governments have steered away from this option as being too costly. In my view the access between Lithgow and the Central West to Sydney should be the number one priority for NSW Government and to consider the best long-term solution. The Bells Line has a broader potential for greater capacity and a faster alternative for commuter and freight transport.

Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

THAT The Lithgow City Council immediately lobby State and Federal Government ministers responsible for roads and regional areas regarding road access through the Blue Mountains and the priority should be the construction of the Bells Line Expressway. Plus seek in writing full support from the CNSWJO and WSROC.

Management Comment

Transport for NSW has not included any action on a Bells Line Expressway in its recently released strategic planning documents.

The Administration has already acted on the following resolution.

25 -44 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Notes the impending 2025 Australian Federal Election is to be held on or before 17 May 2025 to elect members of the 48th Australian Parliament.
2. Fully supports on behalf of this Council's own 11,000 plus ratepayers and residents, the future planning and major construction of the Bells Line Expressway across the Blue
3. Mountains.
4. Seeks in writing, the full public support from the Central NSW Joint Organisation
5. (CNSWJO); The Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Ltd (WSROC) and the Blue Mountains City Council, for immediate planning and future major construction of the Bells Line Expressway across the Blue Mountains.

6. Seeks in writing, the full public support from all of the major political parties and all of the various Calare Electorate Candidates, for the immediate planning and future major
7. construction of the Bells Line Expressway across the Blue Mountains.
8. Prepares a structured Motion within the required guidelines on the future Nation Building of the long-outstanding, new Bells Line Expressway over the NSW Blue Mountains and submits it to the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) 31st National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) to be held in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025 and attended by Senior representatives from the Lithgow City Council.

Action taken includes:

- A motion was submitted for the 2025 NGA on 12/3/25. The motion was declined as the ALGA determined that the motion related to a state or local issue and was therefore not relevant to the work of local government nationally.
- Advocacy by the Mayor and General Manager with relevant NSW Government Ministers.
- Inclusion of Bells Line of Road improvements in the Council's submissions on the Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan and Bells Line Safety Upgrades program, together with similar input to the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) submissions.
- Inclusion in the CNSWJO shared regional priorities.

Advocacy relating to Min. No. 25-44 is ongoing.

Ross Gurney
General Manager

5.4. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Numbered Street Addresses for all Lithgow City Council Facilities

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

Commentary

As Council may be aware, the vast majority of travellers utilise various Global Positioning Systems (GPS), either in car or by mobile phone to travel to and from Lithgow and across both NSW and Australia to get to their destinations, including our own various Council facilities.

Additionally, there is the comprehensive use of GPS's by all Emergency Service organisations, in particular the NSW Ambulance Service; so, it is vitally important that where calls are made to or from our Council facilities, that there is a designated numbered street address so as to avoid both delays, confusing messaging or having to rely on someone's local knowledge.

Further, whilst many Council facilities already have a designated street address, many don't and in my opinion, having designated numbered street addresses for all of the Lithgow City Council's facilities may assist greatly all visitors and travellers to use our Council facilities more and aid Emergency Services, particularly those from other regional and remote locations who are called in to assist our communities in after-hours situations.

For example, the Council's Jim Robson Aquatic Centre's address is google listed as 'George Coates Avenue, Lithgow NSW 2790' and the Seven Valleys 7V Visitor Information Centre is google listed as '1137 Great Western Hwy, South Bowenfels NSW.'

References

NSW Address Policy and User Manual.

Australian Standard AS/4819:2011 Rural and Urban Addressing.

Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

THAT Council begin as soon as possible and complete the process of having designated numbered street addresses for all of the Lithgow City Council's facilities

Management Comment

Modern GPS units do not rely solely on street addresses to locate a chosen destination. They also use 'points of interest' so that the user can simply type "Lithgow Pool" into Google Maps or Apple Maps, and it will automatically suggest "J M Robson Aquatic Centre" and allow for accurate routing to the site (see map snip below). Similar processes can be used for GPS units built into vehicles, and standalone units like TomTom and Garmin.



Street addresses are generally useful when there are several of the same type of building/asset in a given location. For example, there might be scores of residential dwellings on a given street, so a unique identifier, such as a street address, is useful. However, the Lithgow township has only one Aquatic Centre, so a second unique identifier is not a necessity, given the resources that would need to be redirected to a facilities street numbering project, which is not included in the current year or the draft 2026/27 Operational Plan.

The name of the public building or service is much more likely to be used when providing such details to Emergency Services, or if trying to find the building or location as a resident or visitor. Corresponding street blades are also an effective means of directing traffic to a specific service or location.

The work required to designate a specific street address for all Council assets would be a resource intensive and time-consuming process. We have not received any requests for the Council to undertake this exercise.

It is suggested that if the Council sees merit in this proposal, it should first seek the feedback of Lithgow's Local Emergency Management Committee to determine whether our emergency services consider that this project would assist their operations. This information can then be considered by its Infrastructure Committee, with a recommendation being subsequently made to the Council.

Finally, 3.10 of the Code of Meeting Practice states:

Where a notice of motion or mayoral minute makes a recommendation which, if adopted, would require the expenditure of funds on works and / or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan, it must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the recommendation.

If the motion or mayoral minute does not identify a funding source, the council must defer consideration of the matter, pending a report from the General Manager on the availability of funds for implementing the recommendation if adopted.

The General Manager advises that there are no available funds in planned budgets to implement the recommendation, if adopted.

Jonathon Edgecombe
Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery

5.5. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - Re-opening of Wolgan Road, Wolgan Valley for local residents and businesses

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

Commentary

Minutes of the Wolgan Road Reconstruction Project Executive Oversight Committee have confirmed that:

The Project Team is exploring opportunities to expedite safe and practicable interim access for residents and bona fide business operations. This includes escorted customer, supplier and trade access, similar to the arrangements for Donkey Steps; and

At completion, the interim works will allow access for up to 12.5 metre trucks and most two-wheel drive vehicles.

The interim works will not eliminate all geotechnical hazards and risks but will adopt the ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) approach to minimise risk.

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.

The EOC confirmed that the next online Community Webinar is scheduled for 22 April 2026.

Attachments

1. Key-messages-from-the-23- February-2026-project- Executive- Oversight- Committee- EOC [5.5.1 - 2 pages]
2. Key-messages-from-the-24- March-2026- Project- Executive- Oversight- Committee- EOC [5.5.2 - 2 pages]

Recommendation

THAT Council note the information from the Wolgan Road Reconstruction Project Executive Oversight Committee and provide its formal approval for the urgent re-opening of the Wolgan Road, Wolgan Valley for the safe and practicable interim access for residents and bona fide business operations with signed Civil Liability waivers. This includes escorted customer, supplier and trade access, similar to arrangements for Donkey Steps.

Management Comment

The intent of the Notice of Motion is appreciated, however, the matter of reopening the Wolgan Road to any traffic has a high level of complexity. It requires balancing complex geotechnical risk against both infrastructure and operational controls to mitigate it, so that it is 'as low as reasonably practicable' before any work proceeds.

It is considered unlikely that residents and business operators will waive their ability to take action against Council under the Civil Liability Act (2002), nor should the Council utilise this mechanism to protect itself, other than on an urgent/critical basis (as it did with Emirates Resort, only to support their re-opening).

The Infrastructure Committee and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee have considered Wolgan Valley access at length and in depth. A more detailed discussion of the risks associated with the reopening, and the works being undertaken to minimise these, is included in the agenda and minutes of the recent Infrastructure Committee meeting. These minutes are included as a report to this Ordinary Meeting.

To ensure that Council can demonstrate that it has fully considered the risks and impacts of reopening the road prior to making a resolution, it is suggested that Council endorse the reopening (or otherwise) of Wolgan Road as part of the discussion and recommendation included in the Infrastructure Committee Meeting minutes.

Jonathon Edgecombe
Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery

5.6. NOM - 29/04/2026 - Cr Ticehurst - 194-Year Celebration of the Victoria Pass and 'Mitchells Bridge' in 2032

Report by Councillor Martin Ticehurst

Commentary

As the Council would be aware, at their Ordinary Meeting of the Lithgow City Council on 1 December 2025, the Council resolved:

That the Administration through the Events Working Party engage with adjoining Councils and the NSW Government to identify specific historical events or milestones which may be relevant for celebratory recognition, including the Bicentenary of The Victoria Pass and 'Mitchells Bridge'.

Since this Council Resolution, the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass is now closed to all traffic in both directions for urgent road repairs on the historic 194-year-old Mitchells Convict Bridge.

Further, whilst the current closure is for '3 months', in all likelihood it will be closed for up to several years for either repairs or replacement with the historic Convict Bridge expected to be totally replaced or removed.

The NSW Government recently announced the establishment of the Great Western Highway Community Coordination Taskforce. This Taskforce is a whole-of-government initiative chaired by the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Transport for NSW, designed to streamline support to those impacted by the prolonged closure of the Great Western Highway.

The NSW Government has publicly recognised the significant and ongoing disruption this has caused across the Blue Mountains and the Central West for communities, local businesses, freight and industry.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority's coordinating role in recovery makes them the ideal agency to support the whole-of-government response for the ongoing disruption.

References

Lithgow City Council Resolution 25 – 292 made on 1 December 2025

Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

THAT the Mayor and Council Administration request that the Great Western Highway Community Coordination Taskforce investigate and conduct public celebrations of the now historic 194-year-old Mitchells Convict Bridge, prior to any future replacement or removal of the Bridge and whilst the Great Western Highway remains closed, both at Mount Victoria and the Little Hartley.

Management Comment

Consistent with Min. No. 25-292 (Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 1 December 2025), the Administration will engage with the Great Western Highway Community Coordination Taskforce to identify specific historical events or milestones which may be relevant for celebratory recognition

prior to any future replacement, or removal, of 'Mitchells Causeway'. As at 19 April 2026, a scope of works or timeline to reopen Victoria Pass has not been determined.

Shaun Elwood
Director People and Places

6. Business of Great Urgency

The General Manager / Acting General Manager publicly confirms, that before and during this Ordinary / Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Lithgow City Council, that they have provided all Councillors with full access to all relevant information necessary for the performance of their official functions and necessary to effectively discharge their official functions.

The General Manager / Acting General Manager is aware that Council Staff Members have provided full and timely relevant information to all Councillors, sufficient to enable them to exercise their official functions and in accordance with Council Procedures.

Ross Gurney
General Manager

In accordance with Clause 241 of the Local Government Act (General) Regulations 2005 business may be transacted at a meeting of Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors. However, this can happen only if:

- a) A motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting; and
- b) The business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency.

7. Closed Council

Recommendation

THAT Council Resolve to move into Closed Council to consider the confidential reports as listed in the Business Paper.

7.1. **CONFIDENTIAL - GM - 29/04/2026 - Grant Application**

Reason for Confidentiality

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following: -

- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret,