



# MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 13 May 2026

at 4:00 PM

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# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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## 1. Acknowledgement of Country

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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.

## 2. Present

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### Present:

Julie Favell - Lithgow Environment Group  
Susan Gregory - Lithgow Community Nursery  
Councillor E Mahony- Chair  
Councillor S Ring  
Councillor D Goodwin

### Staff:

Ailis Chapman - Natural Area Management Officer  
Galip Kartop - Team Leader Environment and Regulatory Services  
Shaun Elwood - Director People and Places  
Trinity Newton - Minute Taker

### Guest and Presenters:

Perrin Walsh - Operations Manager - Water and Wastewater  
Matthew Trapp - Director Water, Wastewater and Waste

## 3. Apologies

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Apologies were received from:

- Trish Kidd – Lithgow and Oberson Landcare Association
- Frances Chung - Tidy Towns Lithgow
- David Peters – Community Representative
- Sharon Riley - Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation

### ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the apologies received for the meeting of 13 May 2026.

**MOVED:** Julie Favell

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory.

**CARRIED**

## 4. Confirmation of Minutes

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### ACTION

THAT it be noted the Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held 11 March 2026 were presented and adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 23 March 2026.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory

**CARRIED**

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## 4.2. Actions Arising from Previous Minutes

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In regard to nature based recreation that is high risk in nature, e.g. Mountain Biking and Rock Climbing, it is only Hassans Walls Reserve that LCC is aware of that there are community carrying out these activities.

- Hassans Walls is the main risk to public liability at present.
- Some risks at present with non-licenced commercial events (commercial operators running events on Council land without approval) and operators using reserves without LCC knowledge.
- If people are aware of commercial operators running commercial nature-based events, Council needs to be informed of the events.

11/3/2026 – Western Region Planning Panel is the determining authority for the State Mine Gully mountain bike park proposal. Still waiting on further DA information to come through.

Pony Express DA Compliance - This is ongoing and still waiting on any implications from insurer to come back.

Assets Register is an ongoing project.

Council Environment staff are working closely with the Asset team to ensure that natural assets are correct in the system.

Aunty Sharon Riley is invited to provide and update on the indigenous ranger program.

## 5. Declaration of Interest

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There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

## 6. Reports

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### 6.1. Water Treatment Plant Water Quality Testing Presentation

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WWW staff presented to the EAC regarding the Water Treatment Plant Water quality Testing process.

Data confirms that there was 100% compliance for both water and sewage for this first half of the year. Well under the 90% limits.

It was noted that LCC does not test salinity.

The average flows 3570kl per day with Wallerawang and Portland being in the 300-500 kl per day range. The majority of the time LCC is well below the permitted discharge limits.

Nitrogen and phosphates - all three STP measures are well below the limits.

What is the process for flocking. How is it captured and how does it get placed.  
Flocking was explained.

BOD limits is 15. All plant average at 2-2.2 mls.

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Ammonia is well below the allowed levels .

Testing is based off the independent testing from Sydney Water. This is then put onto the Council website.

Council does daily testing. One day per month one sample independently sent to the Sydney Water from testing.

Faecal col (FCC) 1% is the reading for LCC.

PH is 6.5-8.5 and Council is at 7.5.

Reticulated network is tested weekly by NSW Health.

The difference between Australian drinking water is greatly different to those standards that are required for Farmers Creek natural environment testing.

**ACTION:** A set of results from the previous testing be presented to the Committee.  
A more accessible link to the testing to be looked at for the LCC website.

The reticulation line cleaning is of a very high standard within the LGA. With some readings being at level 5 and Council was recently at 3 and as low as 0.5.

Cullen Bullen Sewage plant -was discussed.

## **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the committee note the presentation from the Water and Wastewater Operation Manager.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Julie Favell

**CARRIED**

## **6.2. Roaming Cat Impacts on Bushland Reserves**

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The Committee asked if there is an opportunity to have private land owners to take part in the Roaming Cat program.

It is limited with what Lithgow City Council has the ability to enforce, however roaming cats continues to be a major issue.

Lithgow Council Staff have been engaging with other Councils regarding management practices for roaming cats.

Current key action process:

- when cat is caught, it has to be taken to animal shelter, held for 14 days for assessment for appropriateness to rehome. If it is not able to rehome that it may be humanely euthanised.

Feral and infant cat policy - if any animal is not able to be rehomed due to health conditions, this part of the act allows councils to humanely euthanise without keeping for 14 days for the welfare of the animal itself.

A pet cat or dog must be microchipped and registered by law. It was noted that microchipping does not automatically mean animals are registered. Registration is a separate process.

Data is required on feral cat numbers and locations, etc.

Outreach program in Lithgow was a great success but despite this the cat microchipping of cats in this area is extremely low. The challenge will be increasing the compliance on microchipping cats. Trapping in the Hassans Walls reserve to catch feral cats is being implemented.

**ACTION:** A Motion be prepared to put to the LGNSW Conference at the end of the year.

Partnerships sometimes work to help with implementing these types of feral animal projects. They have high visibility but low rate of capture.

Education on desexing, cat runs, love cats love wildlife.

Data shows that community education needs to be backed with enforcement for meaningful behavioural change. .

An annual control program is run for feral animals at local tips. It has been successful to date.

The committee discussed the issue of rats within the natural environment.

**ACTION:** Request that when opportunities exist, the Local Land Services present to the Committee when appropriate.

### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the committee:

1. Notes the initial program and approach being undertaken by Council to reduce the impact of roaming cats.
2. Council staff prepare a Motion for the LGNSW Conference 2026 to advocate for residential area feral and roaming cat control in NSW.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory

**CARRIED**

### **6.3. Lithgow Healthy Waterways Program**

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The Lithgow Healthy Waterways Program is in the early days and is currently at the scoping stage.

Lithgow Oberon Land Care has supported this program so far with an ongoing frog monitoring program at Farmers Creek.

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Council partners with Water NSW and BMCC Healthy Waterways Scheme to create a Lithgow Healthy Waterways program.

Acknowledgement and thank you to Blue Mountains City Council for mentoring LCC on this program.

The program will initially be Farmers Creek but will grow with time.

Lithgow Environment Group (LEG) has been doing data collection on a 30km radius with 30 locations and can help Council with this information noting that the data is intellectual data of the LEG.

**ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT

1. The committee note the update on the Lithgow Healthy Waterways Program
2. Opportunities as they are recognised are considered for program expansion into other streams within the LGA.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Julie Favell

**CARRIED**

**6.4. Feral Pest Animal Interagency Field Day and Control Program**

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Update was given noting that the – Natural Area Management Officer attended an interagency pest animal field day as part of local Land Services good neighbours' program.

It was well received that Lithgow was present.

A collaborative feral pig control program is being organised in the Capertee Valley. The goal is to implement a feral pig program on every property along the river at Glen Alice and Glen Davis.

**ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the committee note the staff update.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory

**CARRIED**

**6.5. Running Items**

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**ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the committee note the updates.

**MOVED:** Julie Favell

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory

**CARRIED**

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## 7. General Business

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The Committee thanked Ailis Chapman for working with the external stakeholders.

### **Lithgow Community Nursery**

Results of the onsite Phytophthora testing were negative, and it has not been detected on the nursery property.

The Committee asked Council to acknowledge the nursery for the contribution that they make to the community.

Landholders from Capertee valley are seed collecting for the Lithgow Community Nursery.

### **Future Matters**

Kangaroo population increases at the golf course and Marrangaroo Fields is a matter that will be brought to the next EAC meeting.

Lake Wallace and homelessness at present. A strategic review and plan for the management of Lake Wallace reserve area is scheduled for 26/27.

### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee extend a thank you to Ailis Chapman for running a community planting event at Glen Davis Reserve.

**MOVED:** Julie Favell

**SECONDED:** Councillor S Ring

**CARRIED**