



Emerging Economy Committee

to be held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Tuesday 19 May 2026

at 5:00 PM

Minutes

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The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5:02 pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside and extended respect to our neighbouring nations.

2. Present

Councillor C Coleman
Councillor E Fredericks
Councillor E Mahony
Councillor S Ring
Councillor R Smith

Also in attendance

Ross Gurney
Vanessa Browning
Matthew Trapp
Shaun Elwood
Trinity Newton
Bruce Mills

General Manager
Director Finance and Governance
Director Water, Wastewater and Waste
Director People and Places
Minutes Secretary
Emerging Economy Manager

3. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor T Evangelidis who is unable to attend.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

That the apology from Councillor T Evangelidis be noted.

MOVED: Councillor R Smith

SECONDED: Councillor E Fredericks

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Committee noted that the Minutes of the Emerging Economy Meeting held on 7 February 2026 were adopted at the 23 February 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

6. Administration Reports

6.1. Development of the 3 Pillar Approach to Support Economic Renewal and Development

The proposed change for the Council is to focus on economic renewal and development while continuing targeted advocacy during the economic transition.

The Committee believed that the community wants to see advocacy for projects to get them up and running, to bring businesses to the area, and to work toward the advocacy list created by the Mayor and ELT. The community wants to see change.

A focus on economic development will need to wait until an economic development role is recruited.

Key industrial landscapes were identified through the LEEP Plan. The market-driven private sector intervention in the rail depot shows involvement from the private sector.

Lithgow has several issues, and they are all at the same level of importance. Lands surrounding Lithgow are not 'at market employment lands'.

The Committee asked the LEEP Team to outline the actions that are being put in place for this to occur:

- Officers have listened carefully for the past 6 months.
- acknowledge that the community is frustrated because they do not see the progress being achieved.
- Have a range of shovel-ready sites that, when grant opportunities become available, there is something there to be eligible for grants as shovel-ready.

In six or seven years, to benefit from construction works over the period, there would be potentially supporting properties for industry and business.

The recent successful grants help pay for infrastructure, making further events more achievable and profitable.

The message that there is a future for Lithgow needs to be promoted more.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee:

1. Endorse the use of the three-pillar approach of Economic Transition, Economic Renewal and Economic Development as the strategic framework for the Council's emerging economy work.
2. Note that Economic Transition relates to structural coal and energy change and associated whole-of-economy responses, Economic Renewal relates to visible recovery and confidence-building in affected places and sectors, and Economic Development relates to the ongoing growth of the Lithgow LGA.
3. Endorse the preparation of a 2026-2031 roadmap using the three-pillar framework to organise priorities, actions, delivery and reporting.
4. Note that Council's priority in the immediate and medium term is to focus on economic renewal and economic development while still continuing targeted actions in economic transition.

5. Note that a further report will be brought to the Committee or Council on the final roadmap, implementation sequencing and reporting framework.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

6.2. Draft Terms of Reference - Working Group - Energy Change Opportunities

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee:

1. Endorse the *Draft Terms of Reference - Working Group - Energy Change Opportunities*.
2. Note that the March 2026 resolution is to be implemented as a time-limited sub-group of the Emerging Economy Committee, rather than as a separate governance vehicle.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

6.3. Transitions Management Budget & Work Program - Remainder of 2025/26 & 2026/27 Budget

The Committee discussed the Great Western Highway closure and the timeframe and options for fixing related issues. The Committee noted publicly available information from TfNSW that there will be an announcement in late June about the contractor who will be repairing the road.

Councillor Fredericks left the meeting at 5:56 pm.

If the Council has a backlog of local infrastructure due to increased traffic, LCC should advocate for Resource for Regions, given the inconvenience caused by traffic from the GWH closure. The Mayor noted that advocacy will continue.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee:

1. Note the reconciled update on the 2025/26 Transitions Management SRV-funded budget.
2. Endorse the proposed 2026/27 LEEP work program and budget, subject to Council's budget approval.
3. Endorse the use of the three-pillar approach - economic transition, economic renewal and economic development - as the organising framework for the five-year program.
4. Support in principle the following items subject to further information being presented at a future EEC meeting and endorsement of Council
 - 2025/ 26 Transition Management Budget Exceptions: Targeted Improvements in Priority

Precincts - \$30,000; Establishment of Working Groups (Health, Skills, Tourism, Placemaking) - \$2,500; Engagement & Business Attraction - \$20,000

- 2026/ 27 Transition Management Budget Exceptions: Mine and power station reuse, Hermitage and strategic site investigations - \$65,000; 2026 LEEP Engagement Plan, communications and community reporting - \$65,000; Priority precinct placemaking, Open Streets and targeted improvements - \$70,000

5. Receive a further report confirming carry-forward items, reserve treatment, grant commitments and 2026/27 budget finalisation.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

6.4. Safer Cities: Her Way 2 Grant - Acceptance of Funding

The Committee noted the recent success for grant funding - \$1.506M in the past six months.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee recommends to Council:

1. To accept the successful grant application, subject to the execution of the funding deed.
2. Add project income and expenditure budgets of \$1,100,000 (excluding GST), including a \$100,000 co-contribution funded from the SRV transition management reserve and note that the full payment schedule is to be confirmed in the funding deed.
3. Authorise the General Manager to finalise and execute the funding deed and associated documentation, subject to the final terms being satisfactory and consistent with the submitted application and budget allocation.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

7. General Business

Councillor Ring raised the matter that the Lithgow Jobs and Investment Committee, established a few years ago, has not met for some time.

A review of the ToR to be done prior to the July EEC meeting. The Committee will be raised at the upcoming Lets Talk Business on Friday.

The LEEP plan should be embedded across the organisation.

The Meeting closed at 6:11 pm.