



MINUTES

Infrastructure Committee Meeting

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

7 July 2026

at 5:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

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

2. Present

Present: Cr Steve Ring - Chair
Cr Cass Coleman
Cr Eric Mahony
Cr Ray Smith
Cr Tom Evangelidis
Cr Daryl Goodwin (via Teams)

Officers: Ross Gurney - General Manager
Shaun Elwood- Director People and Places
Matthew Trapp - Director Water, Wastewater and Waste
Vanessa Browning - Director Finance and Governance
Paul Smith - Acting Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery
Heike Artelt - Governance and Risk Manager
Sharron Wood - Minute Taker

3. Apologies

Apologies NIL

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The Chair noted that the minutes of the previous Infrastructure Committee meeting had been endorsed by Council at its meeting of 25 May 2026 and did not require re-confirmation by this Committee.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes. NIL

6. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

7. Staff Reports

7.1. Water Outage Review Presentation

Prior to the presentation, the Chair raised emergency planning, noting that Council has not previously had a comprehensive emergency management strategy. An Incident Management Action Plan is being developed with senior managers and an external party, and clarification of the LEMO role is

being sought as interpretations of the role differ. The water outage was the first crisis of its nature for Council, and lessons from the experience are being incorporated in consultation with the external party.

Discussion addressed how the plan will operate in practice, noting that during the recent crisis there was no clear sense of emergency protocols in place. The plan will apply across Council and will define trigger points, decision-making responsibility and escalation, supported by scenario testing to be rolled out through the organisation. The Incident Management Team will be structured on skills, with tasks identified and allocated to members.

Questions from the briefing covered:

- Engagement of emergency contractors and associated work health and safety considerations.
- Community understanding and acceptance of the situation, and the need for a single point of communication.
- Relationships with other water suppliers and neighbouring councils, noting WaterNSW will assist in such situations.
- Staff fatigue management, to ensure personnel are rested and Council does not face work health and safety exposure.

A question was raised regarding a potential water main break near the bike shop, given traffic redirection. A burst on this main was identified as the principal current risk given heavy vehicle use of the road. Council is working closely with Transport for NSW regarding this infrastructure.

The committee had long discussion on the place of communication and how it will be placed into the Council practices. This was discussed from the view to prevent injury and loss and to ensure source of truth for administration as well as Councillors in all emergencies.

Cr Evangelidis commented that community speculation creates a grey area as to whether a Councillor has communicated, reinforcing the need for one credible source of information. Council will control information issued to the community; however, unless it is a Council incident, Council will not be the lead communicator.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee note the report on the Water Outage actions and the update provided by staff on the actions and status update.

MOVED: Cr Mahony

SECONDED: Cr Smith

CARRIED

7.2. Wolgan Road Strategy

The Director – Infrastructure and Projects provided the committee an update on the works being undertaken on Wolgan Road, particularly to the risk associated and the legal advice recently received for the project and risks to the project.

Update provided from the Executive Oversight Committee meeting, including discussions with the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Transport for NSW on the old road.

- The road is not insured. Legal advice on the consequences was stark: Council is exposed to common law negligence, and Statewide Mutual will not provide cover for the road.
- Rockfall risk is significant. If a rockfall caused a fatality, Council would carry the risk despite not owning the rock face. Council holds no easement, and the land above the road is owned by the National Parks estate.

- The question for Council is whether it is prepared to accept the risk and financial responsibility as a PCBU. The matter will be reported to Council. The legal advice has been informative in that the risk can be transferred back to the Crown.
- Council should not take on the risk. Contractors are not insured in performing work on the road, and uncertainty remains based on the advice received from Council's consultant.
- Community use of the road will need to cease, with further information provided to the community on the road.
- If reopening were pursued, the rock face would require stabilisation, and the upgrade would take multiple years to complete.
- The community had been informed the interim arrangement would remain an option until the end of the year; the change has an impact on the Wolgan Valley businesses.
- The responsibility of National Parks in respect of the rocks above the road was questioned, noting Council has been pushed into a corner on the matter.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee receive the report from the Director - Infrastructure and Project Delivery on the Wolgan Road

MOVED: Cr Evangelidis

SECONDED: Cr Coleman

CARRIED

7.3. Browns Gap Road Strategy

The Director – Infrastructure and Projects provided the committee an update on the works being undertaken on Browns Gap Road.

- Browns Gap Road has reopened to two-way traffic under contraflow arrangements.
- Permanent works are expected to take approximately six months to complete, and the road may need to be closed for the duration of the works.
- It was suggested that internal drainage systems across the road network be reviewed, and that the maintenance schedule be examined to confirm whether maintenance of the road has been appropriate.
- Tender responses are awaited. The funding body is to be approached, and the tender needs to be returned quickly.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee receive the report from the Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery on the Browns Gap Road strategy.

MOVED: Cr Goodwin

SECONDED: Cr Mahony

CARRIED

8. General Business

NIL

9. Meeting Close

Next Meeting to be held 14th of July 2026 at 176 Mort St, Lithgow

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6:10pm