

6 September 2019

Hon David Littleproud MP
Parliament Office
PO Box 6022, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Littleproud

Drought Communities Programme - Extension

The Hon Andrew Gee MP notified Council of the availability of the above funding opportunity on 26 March 2019 and a detailed application was submitted on 5 June 2019. Council's application process included consultation with the Lithgow LGA regarding suitable projects and has resulted in funding for a \$1M project.

As at 22 July 2019 Council had not received notification of approval and at the July Ordinary Council Meeting resolved the following:

That Council

1. *Note the Drought Communities Programme Application Status report*
2. *Due to the failure of the government to adequately respond to Lithgow City Council's inquiries about the Drought Communities Programme, Council write to the Hon David Littleproud and the Hon Andrew Gee MP seeking an extension to the project completion date to the 30th June 2020.*


On 26 July Council received notification that its application had been successful and work started immediately to commence the project.

Leading up to 26 July Council had contacted Andrew Gee requesting help to expedite the approval of Council's funding application and more importantly, should Council's application be successful, requested additional time be granted to complete the \$1M project (see attached correspondence with Andrew Gee's office).

Council is very appreciative of the \$1M funding for our local project and work on the project is well underway, however the timeframe for completion remains extremely tight (20 December 2019).

Concern that the project may not meet the 20 December deadline still exists and your consideration of Council's resolution (2) above would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Faulkner
GENERAL MANAGER