



MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 5 February 2020

at 4:00 pm

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Present	3
2. Apologies	3
3. Confirmation of Minutes.....	3
4. Declaration of Interest	3
5. Staff Reports	3
5.1. Standing Item - Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme Update.....	3
5.2. Standing Item - Water & Sewer Infrastructure	4
5.3. Standing Item - Capital Works Report	6
5.4. Update - Grant Funding Application.....	7
5.5. Response - Paul Toole MP - Wallerawang School Car Park	7
5.6. Request for Widening - Hartley Valley Road, Lithgow.....	8
5.7. Update on Union Theatre Works.....	8
5.8. Update - Asset Management System.....	9
6. General Business	9
7. Meeting Close	10

DRAFT

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 04:00 pm.

1. Present

Present: Mayor Councillor Ray Thompson
Deputy Mayor Councillor Steven Ring
Councillor Wayne McAndrew (Chair)
Councillor D Goodsell
Councillor S Lesslie
Councillor J Smith

Officers: Graeme Faulkner – General Manager
Jonathon Edgecombe – Director Infrastructure Services
Daniel Buckens – Director Water & Waste Water
Lewis Bezzina – Transport Manager
Kaitlin Cibulka – Executive Assistant (Minutes)

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on the 6th November 2019 were endorsed by committee members.

The minutes were presented to Council on Monday 25th November 2019.

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Councillor R Thompson

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

4. Declaration of Interest

Nil

5. Staff Reports

5.1. Standing Item - Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme Update

The Director of Water and Waste Water provided an update to the committee in relation to the current situation of the Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme.

The Committee were advised that Council have been given verbal approval on the variation to the Scope to Works by Infrastructure NSW but are still awaiting on formal correspondence in relation to the approval.

It was noted that the footprint has reduced and the proposed area has been pegged for property owner. Council are engaging a land valuer to assess the land and commence negotiation with the property owner

ACTION

THAT the Committee accept the report as an update on the status of the project.

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

5.2. Standing Item - Water & Sewer Infrastructure

Discussion - Water Main Break - Lithgow Township

A verbal update was provided by the Director of Water and Waste Water with relation to the water main break which saw many parts of Lithgow (including Morts Estate , Hermitage Flat, Cupro Street , Calero Street, Rifle Parade) effected during end of January , early February.

It was noted that contractor for Detection Services will be in the area at the end of Feb /March 2020 to undertake condition assessment of the water mains in Main Street Lithgow. Council has engaged CEH to map the area of all the water infrastructure (water mains). The committee were advised that the Council does have maps of infrastructure but was never updated when new connections were made.

It was the advised that the last major break occurred on a pipe that was meant to be a sole pipe to connect water plant to shaft street reservoir, when it had burst it should not have affected the town supply but connections have been made to this particular pipe which had a knock on effect and disrupted services to areas around Lithgow.

Director of Water and Waste Water advised that it is not only old infrastructure that is the issue, but also the pressure to the system from the recent bushfires and fish river access. It is hoped that the commissioning of the new Shaft Street reservoir should take pressure of the system.

Document provided by Cllr Ring for review by the Committee(Reducing Leakage in Australia), media release re: Smart Metering. Reporting - Increases breakages over the year.

Taggle (Smart Metering System) can also note the trend in usage and notify of leaks to Council & registered customer. It can also link in to a number of other devices in the field (once installed) and monitor pressure in and around Lithgow / surrounds.

With the rollout of the Asset Management system , information recorded will help staff (rather than hand written notes) in relation to location of mains/ valve, provide information on the valves as most valves are operated differently (ie directions of opening & closing) and allow records of operation of the valves to be kept so that all staff are aware of the state of the valve (e.g. open/closed).

Communication to Public

Communication to residents needs to be sent out promptly. Councillors agree that public need to be advised of what Council is doing with the water issues being currently experienced.

Media Releases have been written and sent to public and staff tried door knocking in effected areas / Letter box drops (generally use for planned works) , radio messages , sms (text message), social media (outlets), Council Website. It was noted that Administration can send alerts via sms if resident are registered for the smart metering. Administration to work on long term planning to notify residents in effected areas in a timely manner and encourage resident to report water issues direct to Council (Customer Service / After hours) for crews to respond/attend to the matter.

Congratulation to P Watson and the team at 2LT/Move FM to get word out on local radio to the public.

Works Update

It was advised that Inch Street / Bridge Street water works have been completed and that remedial works (roads) taking place and media release sent out today (5th February 2020).

Tarana Water Update

The committee were advised that there is no water in the river at Tarana, Council are currently carting water from Wallerawang to Tarana. The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that funding is being sought by government to cover carting costs.

Report to be drawn up about how water in the area is being used in the area, noting that the supply is non portable. Further notifications have been sent to residents advising the supply is non-potable.

Standpipe

Residents have raised questions to Councillors in relation to installing standpipes in rural areas. Director of Water & Waste Water advised that a contractor has been engaged to install standpipes in certain areas around the LGA , it was noted that there is no word when they will be commissioned for public use. It was also advised that a request for a standpipe to be installed at Sodwalls has been received but the committee noted that this would run off the fish river network and this is not something Council can do and have forwarded the request to Water NSW for consideration.

Water Quality / Treatment

Clr R Thompson raised a concern from a local resident in relation to grey water in household pipes in the LGA (particularly in the areas of Calero / Cupro) . Director of Water and Waste Water confirmed that Council staff have been taking regular water samples as part of the NSW Drinking Water Monitoring Program operated by NSW Health with no reported health related issues and no elevated iron or manganese levels. Sampling has confirmed that there is no health risk based on the results received to date..

ACTION

THAT the committee note the information provided and administration work on a communication plan to promptly advise residents of major breakages where appropriate.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor R Thompson

5.3. Standing Item - Capital Works Report

The committee review the capital works report. The Transport Manager gave a brief overview of items details in the report and advised that there will be a couple of carry forward projects such as the Wolgan Road Slope Stability. Most other capital works programmed will be completed by the end of the financial year.

The committee were advised that the Bridge at Hartley Vale is built and ready to be installed; currently engineers are still working on matters for bridge to be installed. Administration are also in the process of training a new project engineer, and will be dealing with new street lights at train station in car park.

It was noted that works on Sunray Ave, View Street, Lidsdale Street, and Sofala Street are delayed due to the forecast rain and the contractor will return to site after this period.

The committee were also advised that with this forecast rain, sandbags have been prepped and ready for use if required.

Bushfire Recovery Update:

50% of Clarence /Dargan Area clean up works are complete.

It was noted that new ADF Task force will be in the area to assist with the clean-up bringing along large equipment and engineering expertise.

Wolgan Gap - It was advised that there is arborist and absailors in the area to assist with clean up in the area particularly along the road down into the valley to make it safer for residents accessing the area.

It was report that 20 large trees that were damaged in the bushfires have been removed from the running stream area by contractors.

ACTION

THAT the committee note the information provided.

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

5.4. Update - Grant Funding Application

The committee were advised by the Transport Manager that an application for Grant Funding to seal local roads has been lodged. Funding is being sought to seal the Hartley Vale Road, Hartley Vale (from Comet Inn to the Council Boundary) and the Dark Corner Road, Dark Corner (from 809 Dark Corner Road to Branch Gully - Just past Wattle Creek Road)

The works will be undertaken by a contractor if grant funding is approved. It is expected that Council will receive correspondence by the end of February advising of the outcome.

ACTION

THAT the committee noted the information provided in relation to the recent submissions to fixing local roads.

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor R Thompson

5.5. Response - Paul Toole MP - Wallerawang School Car Park

The committee noted the response received from Paul Toole who made contact on behalf of Council to the Department of Education in relation to car park facilities for the Wallerawang Public School . It was noted in the letter that the Department of Education will not be involved with the matter. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that in April 2019 a meeting was held with Council in attendance in relation to the matter were numerous options provided for a car park facility in the vicinity of the School and noted that no action has been taken since that time.

Clr J Smith advised that 7 Concrete boulders were donated by Angus place and installed by council near cycling track at the dam.
Community pressure might help assist with the matter to install a car park.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the advice provided to Lithgow City Council by the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC relating to its request for assistance with additional parking in the vicinity of Wallerawang Public School.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

5.6. Request for Widening - Hartley Valley Road, Lithgow

Residents of Hartley Valley Road have expressed their concerns via correspondence to Council and while meeting with the Director of Infrastructure Services & the General Manager in relation of the matter of the road.

The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that minor sealing has been done to assist edge breaks and jersey kerbs have been installed in the vicinity.

The committee discussed both options presented and recommended that Option 2 be presented to Council for final endorsement.

1. Allocate \$40,000.00 to the widening of Hartley Valley Road, Lithgow in the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan, for the consideration of Council.

OR:

2. Inform the resident of the considerable backlog of Council's roads renewals program and not consider the widening of Hartley Valley Road, Lithgow until such time that existing sealed road asset conditions have become satisfactory overall.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council Inform the resident of the considerable backlog of Council's roads renewals program and not consider the widening of Hartley Valley Road, Lithgow until such time that existing sealed road asset conditions have become satisfactory overall.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodsell

5.7. Update on Union Theatre Works

Clr Ring had questions in relation to the matter regarding payment of the lifts and expected time frame when matter will be resolved in having the lifts installed.

The Director of Infrastructure Services took the questions on notice.

The committee agreed to defer the matter until the next committee meeting were a delegate can be present and discuss the matter further.

ACTION

THAT the committee note the information provided in relation to the Union Theatre Upgrade Works and defer matter until next committee meeting where delegate can be present to further discuss item.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor R Thompson

5.8. Update - Asset Management System

The committee reviewed the update provided in the report and a brief overview of the asset management system was provided by the Director of Infrastructure.

It was explained that 2 to 3 staff are working in the background to get the system ready for the official roll out to staff (Expected 1st July 2020). It was noted that all works will be dictated by the system and staff can continue to monitor and update the system while out on the work site to make sure Council have the most up to date record of all assets.

ACTION

THAT Council note the information provided in relation to the Asset Management System.

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodsell

6. General Business

Pool Hours

The committee discussed the hours of extension at the Aquatic Centre during the summer periods. The Director of Infrastructure Services gave advice that Administration are continually monitoring demand of patronage and that Council have employed more permanent staffing resources.

Tree Removal - Meadow Flat

Clr Thompson raised a residents concern of the tree assessment / removal at Meadow Flat. Director of Infrastructure Services advised that tree assessed by specialist arborist and trees being removed were noted as dangerous. It was noted that there is 2 Trees that the resident is concerned about with low hanging branches. Administration advised that these trees were not deemed dangerous and not marked for removal.

Overgrown Vegetation

The committee noted that a property on Henderson Place with Overgrown Vegetation is privately owned. It was advised that the owners have been issued an order to clean up.

Pitts Lane

It was raised that a resident in Pitts Lane has a concern about the dust & truck speed in the vicinity. It was noted that if the road is unsigned an application need to be made to RMS. Administration also advised that traffic Counters can be put in place to record data info regarding speed which can be forwarded on to the Local police for their information/ action.

Road Works

The Transport Manager advised that repair works to Bell Street & Commens Street Wallerawang will be undertaken this week (weather permitting)

Unregistered Vehicles

A matter of unregistered cars and horse floats being parked on Council footpath was raised. It was advised by Administration that this is a matter for the Council Rangers and that concerned residents should contact Council to report these matters for investigation.

Compliment to Staff

Clr D Goodsell requested a Thank-you be forward to Council Staff with regard to the community bushfire recovery meeting. Residents from the effected Clarence area advised Councillors of that they are grateful for the assistance being provided.

7. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 4:00pm in the Committee Room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 05:37 pm.