



MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Thursday 11 February 2021

at 4:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 04:02 pm.

1. Present

Councillor W McAndrew (Chair)
Councillor R Thompson (Mayor)
Councillor D Goodsell
Councillor J Smith
Councillor S Ring

Officers:

Jonathon Edgecombe	Director Infrastructure Services
Daniel Buckens	Director Water & Waste Water
Craig Butler	General Manager
Lewis Bezzina	Transport Manager
David Anderson	Building & Recreation Facilities Manager
Kaitlin Cibulka	Minutes

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on 18th November 2020 are proposed to be presented to the Council on Monday 22nd February 2021.

ACTION

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

MOVED: Councillor R Thompson

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

No matters raised.

5. Declaration of Interest

Nil

6. Staff Reports

6.1. Standing Item - Water & Sewer Infrastructure Update

The Director of Water and Waste Water provided a brief overview of the Water and Sewer Infrastructure Report.

The committee were advised that the smart metering program has not progressed since it was last reported to the committee, however the last of the roll out of meters is expected to commence this month.

It was noted that the Coalbrook Street / Stephenson Street water main renewal was deferred due to cashflow issues. The Director of Water and Waste Water advised the committee that administration are currently in the process of finalising the Tender Documents to formally go out to tender for this project within the next couple of months.

The Director of Water and Waste Water also advised that Council has continued to supply water to service to the villages since Thursday 4th February 2021. After the recent upgrade to pipework in Wallerawang, villages serviced by Water NSW - Fish River Water Supply (FRWS) were still experiencing dirty water after the replacement of pipework. It was noted that the quality of the supply from Oberon Dam has not improved since November 2020. By supplying water from OPWTP the water quality is expected to improve. Council is also keeping in contact with residents in relation to the water quality. It is expected that Council will continue to supply water from OPWTP for 4 weeks for Fish River to further investigate water quality issues.

Councillor Ring advised that there has been some criticism about water quality / breakages with in the Lithgow LGA. The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that an issue with water quality in Inch Street is under investigation. It was noted that the issue may be caused by drawing water illegally out the mains system. The General Manager also advised that Council is seeking compensation from Water NSW in relation to the FRWS access charge for water that does not meet service standard and extended water outages effecting our LGA. It was noted that IPART is now involved in the matter.

Councillor Smith noted that within the report, there was a non-compliance at the Wallerawang & Lithgow treatment plants in November 2020. The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that internal testing systems indicated that a sample taken at Wallerawang STP returned results less than the licence limit with no anomalies. After being sent to the lab it was returned with a higher reading exceeding the licence limit. Council did request a reanalysis of the sample, it was re tested returning a consistent result with the initial test.

It was also noted that the Lithgow STP recorded a non-compliance. The Director of Water and Waste Water raised another issue, pertaining to a contractor undertaking works in the area mistakenly tearing up signal/ power cables effecting the UV treatment therefore failing in treatment quality in January 2021. The issue was picked up upon taking the sample and the EPA was notified immediately. Administration are finalising a report on the matter for the EPA as these results also exceed the licence limit.

Councillor Smith asked if Council has been in contact with the resident next to the Wallerawang STP in relation to the fencing matter. The Director of Water and Waste Water confirmed that staff have been in contact with the resident and will continue contact noting that the Council is waiting on a final validation report from the EPA for the site before any works including fencing can commence.

Councillor Ring raised that there are still issues with the MiWater signal in the Portland area. The Director of Water and Waste Water advised the committee that the contractor (Taggle) will be back in the area in February to further work on this matter but have suggested to find an alternate site for the receiver and also undertake an RF survey and extend the height of the receiver pole particularly in areas of Lithgow still experiencing issues with signals including Hassan's Walls & Macauley Street areas.

ACTION

THAT the Committee accepts the report as an update on water and wastewater infrastructure projects and issues.

MOVED: Councillor R Thompson

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.2. Standing Item - Cullen Bullen STP Update

The Director of Water and Waste Water provided an update on the Cullen Bullen STP project.

The committee were advised that Council has procured a site for the proposed sewer treatment plant. Council's Property Officer is working with the solicitors to execute sale / deed documents. Council will continue to work with GHD on a review of the environmental factors and provide a new proposal of costings with Council going out to tender once process is completed for design and construction.

Councillor McAndrew requested a clarification on the timeframe. The General Manager requested that clarification be sought and that an email be sent to all Councillors feasible timeframes. The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that alternate designs could change costs and timeframes, clearer timeframes could be improved and shown through tender process. It was also confirmed that Council will consult the residents of the Cullen Bullen Community in relation to the project.

ACTION

THAT Council notes the report on Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.3. Standing Item - Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan

The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that Council is awaiting an outcome from DPIE (Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment) in relation to the increase to the scope of works.

Councillor Ring raised that in the report it notes Marrangaroo Industrial land and Greenspots plan as part of this process. The Director Water and Waste Water confirmed that the IWCM is a focus on town water supply only but the scope has been extended to include other industrial /

commercial like activities around the Clarence Pipe Line project. The licence that Council holds is for town water supply and can only supply certain industries.

The committee also discussed water security for the LGA. It was requested that a report be presented to a future committee meeting with further information on water licensing and supply of water to the community.

ACTION

THAT the Committee accepts the report as an update on the IWCM Development.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodsell

SECONDED: Councillor R Thompson

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.4. Standing Item - Monthly Project Update

The Director Infrastructure Services gave a brief overview of the report noting the following:

- Back Cullen Road works have commenced this week
- Contractor has been engaged and will be advised of a start date for the Glen Alice Road
- The Hartley Valley Bridge project is completed
- The Portland Capital works are due to commence next week (from 15th February 2021)

Council has received the results for the asbestos analysis on the Vale Hall. The Building and Recreation Facilities manager to communicate further on asbestos removal and timeframes of when this will occur.

It was also noted that there are 2 projects at risk, and Council is seeking further funding from the State/ Federal Governments to complete these projects:

- Macauley Street & Wolgan Road Bank Stabilisation

Councillor Smith asked about the James Parade Footpath project. The Director Infrastructure Services advised that a survey of the area has been undertaken by a local contractor and a design process is underway and residents will be consulted further about the project which is expected in March / April.

Councillor Ring requested a timeline on the roadworks on the Glen Alice Road. It was advised that this project was deferred due to cashflow matters however a timeframe can be provided upon receipt of the contractors availability.

Councillor Goodsell asked about the recent removal of play equipment behind the Vale Hall. It was advised that it was unsafe equipment was removed as it did not comply with current Australian Standards. It was also raised that an architect has been engaged (same one that produced the Adventure Playground) to design a new play area within the grounds of the Gumnut House.

The proposed upgrade of the Carpark at the Visitors Information Centre was raised. The committee were advised that the works will be put out to tender next week.

It was also advised that a report will be presented to a future committee in relation to a scope of the Kremer Park Grandstand in Portland.

ACTION

THAT the committee notes the progress of the projects listed.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodsell

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.5. Main Street Lithgow Water Main Condition Assessment

The Director of Water and Waste Water provided an update to the committee. It was advised that the water mains are in a generally good condition.

Councillor McAndrew made note that of the report indicates that the sections of the pipeline that are in bad condition are in areas that have undergone revitalisation.

It was also advised that there was a typo within the report in the second last paragraph and should read:

"Overall, what this indicates is that there is significant remaining useful life, and that the asset has not fully depreciated and should not be considered for renewal."

Councillor McAndrew also asked about the timeframe of life left. It was noted that the oldest was 80 years and has degraded to 20% , however it is hard to put a date on it as condition can change.

The committee were advised that a report on Asset Management of Water and Waste Water will be presented to a future meeting.

It was also discussed that water services (water main to meter) and upgrade of stormwater infrastructure will be undertaken as part of the Main Street Revitalisation.

The Committee also noted that the new meters have made a massive impact on detecting leaks.

ACTION /RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. the Committee accept the Condition Assessment Report
2. The Committee recommend to Council that no water main renewals be undertaken as part of the Main Street Revitalisation Project.

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodsell

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.6. Update - Bushfire Recovery Grant for Farmers Creek Masterplan Implementation

The committee members reviewed the report and requested that the project manager be present at the next meeting when a report is brought back in March as indicated in the report.

ACTION

THAT the committee

1. Note the update on the Bushfire Recovery Grant for Farmers Creek Masterplan Implementation.
2. Request a further report to the Operations Committee of March 2021 detailing the expected scope, feasibility, mapped location and cost / benefit of each of the 6 identified options presented within this update.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor R Thompson

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.7. Councillor Requests - Updates on Various Matters

The following items were at the request of Clr McAndrew & Clr D Goodsell

- **Lake Wallace**

- A site meeting was held on Thursday 28th January, where the following was discussed:
 - Updated signage to be installed in relation to open fires & grey water disposal.

- **Mowing**

- Recreation team continuing to work as per schedule / upcoming events
- Highway Mowing being carried out by Council & Contractors over the next 2 weeks.

The committee members raised the issue of mowing during growing season and how this needs to be a priority in the area. The Building and Facilities Manager explained that there is a circuit that the staff follow. It was noted that the circuit often stops due to urgent customer requests and heavy rain periods. Councillor Ring requested a report be presented to the next committee meeting with the planned schedule.

- **Garbage Bin Collection**

- Public Parks / Sporting Fields collection occurs on Monday by recreation team all other areas carried out by JR Richards

Councillor McAndrew raised this matter, noting that particularly during the holiday period at Lake Wallace / Glen Davis and Wolgan where there is a lot of dumping of rubbish occurring in the area. It was suggested that Council speak with National Parks as it is believe that's where a lot of the rubbish is coming from due to no bins being present within the National Parks. The Director Infrastructure Services advised the Committee that administration have plans to install a transfer station at Glen Davis near the campgrounds , but in the interim skip bins will be placed during holiday periods. It should be noted that this is not a permanent solution.

- **Cleaning**

- A report will be presented to the February Council meeting in relation to the cleaning contract.

- **Cullen Bullen Sewer Update – Meeting with Residents**

This matter was discussed in item 6.2

- **Bubbler in Queen Elizabeth Park**

- Building and Recreation Facilities Manager currently investigating the potential of adding additional bubblers with the Queen Elizabeth Park.

The committees were advised that administration are seeking quotes for a new bubblers to be installed in the area. It was noted that the cast iron bubbler in the park was put there some years ago. Unfortunately frost has cause an internal split in the bubbler system and Council is unable to repair the issue, hence the bubbler was disconnected.

- **Water Fountain in Queen Elizabeth Park**

- Building and Recreation Facilities Manager is also investigating the water fountain which is believed to be a maintenance issue with the pump.

ACTION

THAT the committee notes the update on the various matters reported.

MOVED: Councillor W McAndrew

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodsell

CARRIED: Unanimously

7. General Business

Councillor Ring advised that the Coco Bridge on the Glen Davis Road is missing bolts. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that a full inspection has been carried out and the condition reports note that they are safe for public use at this time.

It was also report that there are 4WD in the Glen Davis area driving recklessly. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that placing traffic calming measures on unsealed roads can cause drainage issues. It was discussed that Council could request local police to attend from time to time to investigate matter.

At the recent Bushfire Committee Meeting it was raised that the Glen Alice / Davis brigade requested the removal of over arching trees in the area. It was confirmed that Council representatives would meet next week to discuss this matter.

It was advised that Council is working with the Lithgow Show Committee as a matter of priority in relation to the repairing / replacing damaged cattle yards due to a fallen tree within the showgrounds.

Councillor Smith complimented the recent works to a pipe near the playground at Lake Wallace. It was also asked if there was a possibility of closing the road past the playground. It was confirm that this was not a possibility..

Councillor Smith also advised that long grass has been removed at the top of Barton Ave / James Parade. It was noted that a letter would be sent in relation to weed spraying.

Councillor McAndrew asked if there was a final report done on the unapproved road works on Wattlemount Road. The Transport Manager advised that the matter was reported to Police, EPA & DPIE Local residents also came forward with report but there was conflicting information. Council undertook maintenance works only.

The matter of Upper Turon Road was raised with the Director Infrastructure Services advising that protection items are still in place with Council seeking legal advice. It was noted that a meeting is schedule to be held Monday in relation to ownership matters and will be able to report further on the matter after Monday.

8. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 4:00pm in the Committee Room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 05:32 pm.