



# DRAFT MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 7 April 2021

at 4:00pm

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# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

## **1. Present**

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Mayor Councillor Ray Thompson - Chair  
Councillor Steven Ring  
Councillor Joe Smith  
Councillor Deanna Goodsell  
Councillor Wayne McAndrew (entered 4:34pm)

Officers:

Craig Butler - General Manager  
Jonathon Edgecombe - Director Infrastructure Services  
Matthew Trapp - Senior Engineer Water and Waste Water  
Mark Gervasoni - Water & Waste Water Senior Engineer  
David Anderson - Building and Recreation Facilities Manager

## **2. Apologies**

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Daniel Buckens - Director Water & Waste Water

## **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

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The minutes were endorsed and were presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 22nd March 2021.

### **ACTION**

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

**MOVED:** Councillor D Goodsell

**SECONDED:** Councillor S Ring

## **4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

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The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

No matters were raised.

## **5. Declaration of Interest**

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Nil

## **6. Staff Reports**

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## **6.1. Standing Item - Water & Sewer Infrastructure Update**

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The Senior Engineer of Water and Waste Water briefly went through the report providing advice on what was included in the report.

### *Smart Meters*

It was noted that there is approximately 500 smart water meters left to be installed with the contractors scheduled to complete the installation in the coming weeks. Cllr Ring raised that the signal coverage was not good in all areas. It was noted that the team are working on rectifying the issue.

### *Capital Works*

The committee were advised that the tender will be closing shortly for the Water Mains Capital Works Program and results will be reported to Council to be awarded. It was confirmed that the project will not be completed by the end of this financial year but expected to be completed by the end of July. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised the committee that the Water and Infrastructure teams align projects that works can be done together.

Cllr Ring raised concerns with the number of carryovers and how it will affect next financial year's budget. The General Manager advised the committee that he is currently working with all directors and gaining feedback with programming of works and the delivering the project on time and budget.

### *Operational Issues*

The Water & Waste Water Senior Engineer provided advice on the operational issues noting that Council is supplying water from Oakey Park across the whole network, including the villages as there is still an ongoing issue with the quality of water being supplied by Water NSW. It was also raised that there are no accurate records of valves in the area advising that an investigation was undertaken close to the Marjorie Jackson statue in Cook Street Plaza where a valve was found to be causing many issues with the water network in recent months. The Committee were also advised that the Water and Waste Water department are looking to shut down the Oakey Park WTP in the next 6 weeks to undertake a much needed maintenance of the plant and equipment over a 2 month period. It is proposed that water will be supplied from Water NSW during the closure period however water quality needs to be guaranteed. It was noted that communications will be issued to residents prior to the shutdown.

The General Manager also made comment advising that Council is facing a number of challenges and has approached IPART in relation to water access charges and the quality of water being supplied. It was noted that a meeting has been scheduled for the 28th April 2021.

### *Dirty Water Complaints*

Cllr Ring noted that Council are receiving the dirty water complaints from residents in the village when the supply is coming directly from Fish River. The Water and Waste Water Senior Engineer advised that Council has passed on complaints to Water NSW / Fish River noting that they can only offer bottled water. There is not much Council can do other than pump water from Oakey Park WTP. It was noted that Water NSW should supply water to the Australian Drinking Standard.

It was also asked where the Asset Management System is up to. It was confirmed that maps are available but need to be confirmed and once confirmed will be GPS and logged in to the system. A report with and update on the progress of the system will be reported to a future committee meeting.

### *License Breaches*

The General Manager noted that the report included the license breaches and a number of other matters, advising the committee that the Director Water and Waste Water has carried out an audit of how Council can improve practice and procedures. It was also noted that Council need to better at risk planning and need to do scenarios and plan for that better with the aid of the further use of technology and in the 21st century.

Clr Ring noted that staff including plumbers and staff working at the STP should know what they are accountable for and systems need to be improved and staff need to be trained and skilled up.

Clr Smith noted that the neighbour to the Wallerawang STP still has not been contact in relation to works. The Water and Waste Water Senior Engineer advised the committee that he has tried contacting the customer several times and left messages. Clr Smith advised that he will pass on contact details.

## **ACTION**

**THAT** the Committee accept the report an update on operational matters in the Water and Wastewater Directorate.

**MOVED:** Councillor J Smith

**SECONDED:** Councillor D Goodsell

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

## **6.2. Standing Item - Cullen Bullen STP Update**

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The Senior Engineer for Water and Waste Water advised the committee that process of the land acquisition is still ongoing. It was noted that the gateway access to the site is currently being investigated and a review of the environmental factors is still continuing. In the attached documents to the report presents a timeline of the project. It is expected that Council will go out for design / tender in May for the low-pressure scheme and sewer plant. It was advised that once the land transfer is complete the residents will be advised.

## **ACTION**

**THAT** the Committee note the report on the Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Councillor R Thompson

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

### **6.3. Standing Item - Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan**

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The committee were advised that Council has been in contact with DPI and have been back and forth in relation to the IWCMP and has taken some time to receive feedback. Council will lodge an application to DPI to seek funding with a scope of plans for a 30-year strategy and water security. It was noted that no water is being taken from Clarence at this stage. The management plan also covers water being transferred out to Wallerawang Dam with new plans for a pipeline. It was advised that information would be provided to Councillors in terms of water charges compared to other LGA.

#### **ACTION**

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

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Councillor D Goodsell

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

### **6.4. Water Security In LGA**

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This report is schedule to be brought back to another meeting due to the absence of the Director of Water and Waste Water.

### **6.5. Sewer Surcharges in Lithgow LGA**

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The committee were advised that this report includes a combination of past reports and extra data. Cllr Ring raised complaints being received in relation to backflow of sewer into yards. The Senior Engineer of Water & Sewer advised that many lines have been identified as areas requiring upgrade to increase size of pipework. Smoke testing has been carried out in the past, this process now is with building and development and are in the interim of serving orders to non-compliant residences if stormwater is being released into the sewer system, and as it is not meant to be interconnected and Council can prosecute if the defect is not rectified. The smoke testing in the area has picked up many defects with residents notified and issues rectified. It was noted that a lot of the time the problem is cause as the sewer is at the lowest point of the property.

Cllr W McAndrew entered the room at this point of the meeting. Time 4:34pm.

It was confirmed that the Curtin Place issued was rectified and have not received any complaints since.

The Water and Waste Water team are working on a plan to move forward in rectifying the issues. The Committee requested the number of complaints that we made in relation to Extension Estate.

Results from each year of testing is included in the report.

**ACTION**

**THAT** the committee accepts the report on Sewer Surcharges in the Lithgow LGA.

**MOVED:** Councillor D Goodsell

**SECONDED:** Councillor S Ring

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

**6.6. IPART Rural Valleys Pricing Determination**

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The report details the new IPART pricing structure proposal. The Director of Water and Waste Water has been involved in this matter. The General Manager requested that this item be brought back to the next committee meeting. Councillors are also requested further information on how this gets carried through to the customer and how it is explained.

**ACTION**

**THAT** the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Operations Committee with further information on how this is carried through to the customer.

**MOVED:** Councillor J Smith

**SECONDED:** Councillor W McAndrew

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

**6.7. Standing Item - Monthly Project Update**

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The Director Infrastructure Services advised that major progress has occurred in the past month:

- The Pump Track is 50% with the design with a review of plans being assessed by the Director Infrastructure Services. This will be reported to Council shortly.
- Road works on the Glen Alice Road has commenced, rain events have caused delays by the project is expected to be completed by the end of the financial year.
- Barton Avenue / James Parade footpath works are currently out for tender.
- The resealing of the carpark at the Tourism Centre are expected to be completed this week.
- The Bridge at Farmers Creek is currently being looked at Hydraulic Engineers who are assisting with bridge designs in terms of flood resistance and impact. Councillors will be briefed when findings are provided. Procedures are in place with communications between departments in relation to this project.
- Funding has been sourced for further works on the Wolgan Gap Slope Stabilisation

- Plans have progressed for the toilet block for Rydal. It was noted that there is in-principle support with heritage assessment approved. Additional funding for the project has been sourced with a Development Application to be submitted. Council has consulted the community also noting the General Manager has also met with the progress association.
- The Macauley Street Slope is not planned for this financial year and will be carried over to the next financial year with additional funding being sought.
- The Fishing Platform at Lake Wallace is underway with Council undertaking works on the foreshore of the approach with contractor carrying out the rest.
- Sealing works on the Old Western Road were recently completed. Minor works to occur now with vegetation control and line marking.

The Senior Engineer for Water and Waste Water confirmed that the Tweed Mill project is 70% complete and is expected to be completed by the end of the financial year.

The Director Infrastructure Services advised the committee that assessments of the road assets in the LGA have been undertaken after the recent flood event. Marsden Swamp Road had major damage with emergency works commencing today as the road will need to be reconstructed. It was also noted that Jerrys Meadow Road required major maintenance. The Committee were also advised that the Lithgow LGA has been assessed and approved as a natural disaster area. Also recent installation of storm water drainage in Woolnough Street / Marrangaroo and Allison Close were put to the test during the weather event and are all working well.

## **ACTION**

**THAT** the monthly project update be noted by the committee.

**MOVED:** Councillor J Smith

**SECONDED:** Councillor W McAndrew

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

## **6.8. Lithgow Street / Hassans Walls Road, Lithgow - Intersection Improvements**

The Director Infrastructure Services advised the committee that this project is funded under the NSW Safer Roads Program and is a proactive improvement to the flow of traffic at this intersection and improving sight distance as the current flow does not comply with Aus. Road guidelines. Traffic Counters were put in place to capture data and residents were consulted by way of letter box drop and requested to make comment. It was also advised that the plan has been presented to TALC for information.

## **ACTION**

**THAT** the information in relation to the Lithgow Street / Hassans Walls Road Intersection Improvements be noted.



**MOVED:** Councillor D Goodsell

**SECONDED:** Councillor S Ring

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

### **6.9. Hassans walls lookout road - one way and pedestrian / bike lane option**

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Report will be presented to a future Ordinary Meeting of Council. An implemented traffic management plan has also be provided as an attachment. It was noted that the trial would be a significant cost and does not align with Council's current asset maintenance and renewal priorities.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council

1. seek public comment for twenty eight (28) days for the proposal to make part of Hassans Walls Lookout Road one way to safely cater for pedestrians and bicyclists, and report back to the Operations Committee with the submissions.
2. Pending the outcome of the public consultation process, develop this proposal into a shovel ready project in preparation for any upcoming grant opportunities.

**MOVED:** Councillor D Goodsell

**SECONDED:** Councillor J Smith

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

### **6.10. Councillor Requests**

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#### *Cleaning of Ashley Grandstand*

It was noted that they were dirty, with chairs covered in cobwebs and rubbish on floors. The Building and Recreation Facilities Manager advised that he will investigate this matter.

#### *Williwa Creek Road*

It was raised that the road is quite rough with potholes and corrugated due to the wet weather. Road goes through to the commons with a large number of campers entering the area.

#### *Capertee Valley - Runoff from Glen Davis Road flooding adjacent paddocks*

This matter has been inspected. The water flooding the paddocks originates from private land to the rear of the property, including the water collected by the land itself. The road as it is constructed is not the source of the flooding. This has been communicated with the concerned resident.

#### *Glen Alice Cement Bridge - drain blockages causing pooling of water*

Minor sediment is collected by ongoing use by vehicles and sporadic rain events – it is not possible or reasonable to keep the bridge clear of all sediment or debris at all times. However, as part of the upcoming Glen Alice Road resealing project, the approaches to the bridge are being resealed. It is expected that this will improve the situation somewhat. We will continue to monitor and clear debris if/when it becomes a problem.

#### *Genowlan Road – maintenance*

As it stands, Genowlan Road is maintained according to ongoing asset inspections and the assessed priority in line with the requirements of the region. Genowlan Road has been assessed as requiring a gravel resheet and this has been programmed to occur in 2021/22. This assessment occurred and the decision made to reseal prior to receiving this request, and the intent to resheet Genowlan Road has been communicated with those residents who have made contact.

#### *Road side vegetation – grass growing onto road*

It is common for rural roadsides to be grassed to their edge. The grass acts as a stabiliser to bind the shoulder together and reduce erosion and scouring. This is particularly important during periods of rainfall. The natural effect of road use prevents grass from growing too far into the road reserve, and the reserves are either mowed or sprayed to control growth where required.

#### *Bushfire Management*

Update on preparing bid to RFS to remove overarching trees etc.

A meeting is to be held with representatives of the RFS and Council. There are some concerns that if the purpose of the overarching tree removal is for it to act as a fire break, this may provide only minimal benefit for the associated cost as Glen Davis Road is only 8 – 9 metres wide. Also, the scale of this project could be significant and require Council resources to project manage. If a reasonable, agreeable and cost-effective scope can be determined, a funding bid may be prepared.

#### *Alternate escape route from Wolgan Valley – Old Coach Road*

Council has made application for the development of a formal evacuation plan as part of the BCRRF program. This will include feasibility, scope, minor design and improvement works associated with alternate access to the Wolgan Valley. It is expected that the results of this program will be announced shortly.

Clr Ring raised that he has received positive feedback from residents in relation to the recent road works in Glen Alice.

It was noted at the last RFS meeting it was requested that Council put a bid in place for funding to remove overarching trees over roads in the Glen Davis and Capertee areas. It was advised that there is a risk as most trees have a shallow root systems and dead wood. It was made known that management will be meeting with the RFS to discuss options and funding.

In relation to Wolgan Gap and with the alternate escape route, the Director of Infrastructure Services advised that there are geo tech issues and would need to contact MP's for National Parks to maintain fire trails for example - Coach Road.

#### **ACTION**

**THAT** the information be noted.

**MOVED:** Councillor S Ring

**SECONDED:** Councillor W McAndrew

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

## **7. General Business**

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It was noted that over the recent long weekend there was issues with the garbage collection and ongoing problems with amenities. It was advised that procedures and contractors have not met demand.

Clr Smith raised the driveway issue in Tweedie Street Wallerawang. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that it will eventually be hot mixed to permanently solve the issue however; temporary measures have been put in place until the driveway will be hot mixed.

## **8. Meeting Close**

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Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 4:00pm in the Committee Room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 05:23 pm.