



MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 2 June 2021

at 4:00 PM

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

1. Present

Councillor Wayne McAndrew (Chair)
Councillor Ray Thompson (Mayor)
Councillor Steve Ring
Councillor Joe Smith
Councillor Deanna Goodsell

Officers:

Craig Butler - General Manager
Jonathon Edgecombe - Director Infrastructure Services
Matthew Trapp - Director Water & Waste Water
Kaitlin Cibulka - Minutes

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Operations Committee held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 were presented to the Council on Monday 24 May 2021.

ACTION

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

MOVED: Councillor R Thompson

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

Clr W McAndrew advised that he had some questions, but will raise them in the relevant discussions with each listed item.

5. Declaration of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

There were Nil declarations of interest.

6. Staff Reports

6.1. Standing Item - Water & Sewer Infrastructure Services Update

The Acting Director Water and Waste Water gave an overview of the report provided.

It was advised that Council are waiting on contractors to return to the area to complete the smart meter roll out. The Committee also requested that a timeline be reported in relation to the smart meter installation with information on how they are working and rectifying the issues with telemetry and signals.

The committee also noted that the water mains renewal in Coalbrook & Stephenson Street will commence next week. Communications have been sent to residents and media releases to follow. The Acting Director of Water and Waste Water advised that the LGA water is currently being supplied by Water NSW from Fish River whilst the Oakey Park Water Treatment Plant has necessary maintenance work carried out. The committee noted that the water quality from Fish River has improved, with no quality issues raised. It was advised that a potassium treatment has been carried out on the supply. The committee requested that the public be notified of the change of supply.

Clr R Thompson raised a concern from a resident in relation to an odor coming from the Tweed Mills SPS. The Acting Director of Water & Waste confirmed that he has been in contact with the resident and the odor issue has been rectified with regular pumping occurring at the site.

The Acting Director of Water & Waste Water advised that the Portland Water Infrastructure Upgrade project is proceeding with the contractor GHD undertaking a hydraulic assessment to determine water pressure and services for areas such as the foundations. The assessment is expected to be completed by the end of the financial year. A grant for renewals of mains has been awarded and the focus will be on East Portland. Clr J Smith raised the water pressure issues in Ridge Street, Portland. The Acting Director of Water & Waste Water advised that the low pressure is to the result of residents being close to the reservoir, however pressure valves are being investigated to increase water flow.

The Acting Director of Water & Waste Water advised that the Belt press at the Lithgow STP is progressing well and in line with the timeline with works expected to be completed by early August.

It was also advised that in the Lidsdale area, all 1.5km of relining has come under budget with the project to be completed by the end of the financial year.

ACTION

THAT

1. The Committee notes the report; and
2. A report be presented on the smart meter installation timeline and issues with telemetry
3. Council issue a media release in relation to the current water supply situation

MOVED: Councillor R Thompson

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.2. Standing Item - Cullen Bullen STP Update

The Acting Director of Water & Waste Water advised the committee that tenders for both design and construction and the Cullen Bullen low pressure scheme are currently being advertised. These tenders will be extended past the 17th June however will make the July Council meeting based on current timelines. The General Manager advised that the land purchase will be finalised on the 25th June 2021.

Clr J Smith asked about when a community meeting will be held. The Acting Director of Water and Waste Water advised that the date was set for the 23rd June 2021 however, has been advised that as a result of other commitments, that Councillors are unable to attend on this date. The committee discussed various dates with the General Manager suggesting that the meeting should occur after the 25th June when Council will officially have the land for the proposed site. It was agreed that the first week of July would be preferable (week commencing Monday 5th July).

ACTION

THAT

1. The committee note the progress report on Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme
2. A community meeting be scheduled for the week commencing Monday 5th July 2021

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor R Thompson

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.3. Standing Item - Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan

The Acting Director of Water and Waste Water advised the committee that the proposal from Public Works has been received for consultancy. This gives Council guidance on how we should proceed in terms of water security / hydraulic design etc. over a 30-year period. It was noted that a breakdown of costs for the project is included in the report. Council is currently waiting on word from DPIE regarding this proposal.

The committee discussed the tenuous nature of Lithgow's water security and the ongoing work to further strengthen Lithgow's water supply continuity. It was requested that a report be provided in the future on water security.

Clr Ring noted that this is a 30 year plan but questioned the potential increase to the population growth in the area to support the proposal and made enquiries as to fact checking being undertaken and any triggers and what they are. It was advised that the IWCM is a 30-year plan and larger numbers have be factored in to the modelling compared to our growth, however it should be reviewed every 4 to 8 years. Even though this is a difficult process DPIE provide support. With this information a foundation exists for future grant funding applications and budgeting for new the water treatment plant.

Clr D Goodsell asked about mapping in terms of water flow and breakages. The Acting Director of Water and Waste Water advised that that this is a capital project for 2021/22 and with a new Assets Engineer employed recently, will be able to report a timeline of the implementation of a water asset management system to the committee. There are a significant number of assets to capture and Infrastructure Services to provide assistance to Water & Waste Water if required. It

was noted that leak detection services were completed. Location and ground penetration is also a capital project and will occur alongside valve testing. This will assist with tracing many problems alongside the already installed smart metering capturing missing water.

The Acting Director of Water and Waste Water will report progress of the EAM implementation and will include a timeline for completion. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that management would update the full Council of the assets management system progress.

ACTION

THAT the committee note the report.

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.4. Standing Items - Monthly Project Update

The Director of Infrastructure Services gave an overview of the report noting that the completed and deferred projects have been removed and that the list only contains the ongoing projects.

Clr D Goodsell asked about the installation of the foot bridge on Burton Street. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised the committee that Council is in receipt of a engineer's report which has been reviewed. It refers to the collapsible railing barriers in a flood event. The Director of Infrastructure Services explained to the committee that the barriers are constructed with large bolts holding them intact however, debris impact will cause the barriers to collapse to make water flow continuously without further obstruction. Information regarding the frangible barriers has been provided to the consultant to further assess flood impact to adjacent properties

Clr J Smith asked if correspondence has been sent to the residents to keep them up to date.

Clr Ring asked at what point is this considered flood effected. The Director of Infrastructure Services indicated that it is based on a 1 in 10 flood event. It was noted that water itself will not be strong enough to push down the rails and requires large force such as debris impact. Structurally the bridge is stable and safe.

Clr R Thompson asked when the gardens at the visitors information centre will be completed. Further information on this to be reported. Clr W McAndrew noted that the area of seal is quite small. The seal of the area was based on demand, designated parking has been formed on both sides of the area with caravans parking off site. It was also asked if there is a possibility of an entry and exit point through Quota Park. The Director of Infrastructure Services to investigate and arrange meeting on site.

Clr J Smith requested that the report include if the project works are being carried out by contractors or in house. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that he will need to speak with the software administrator to see if this can be included in the report.

The Committee were advised that the pier installation at Lake Wallace is nearing completion with the boardwalk to be installed thereafter. The concreting will be undertaken by Council.

It was noted that the Library awning project was deferred, however there is currently a tender out for the project to commence in the new financial year

The Director of Infrastructure Services advised the committee that some problems with the roofing structure at Hermitage Hall have risen. There is a minor cost to repair and replace with steel battens. Project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the financial year.

It was noted that administration is finding suitable grants to apply for refurbishment of the Kremer Park Grandstand. It was requested that a detailed report be brought back to the committee on the Kremer Park Grandstand.

The Pump Track project is running to schedule and is expected to be completed by the end of June.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the progress of the above listed projects.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.5. Councillor Requests

Williwa Creek Road.

The committee was advised that works on the road are commencing this week.

Request for Bins

The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that there no surrounds left to match what is currently in place. Capital cost in terms of ongoing service & place will need to be considered. It was requested that a report be brought back indicating a funding source. It was also agreed that the bin near the toilet blocks be moved and placed near the rotunda.

Weeds and Dead Trees at Lake Wallace.

The committee were concerned about the risk of falling branches within the grounds of Lake Wallace particularly with the large amount of users of the facility. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that a proposal has been provided by an environmental consultant with management planning moving forward including an operating procedure, Vegetation Management Plan and requisite community consultation.

Clr Ring asked about a risk assessment and how we are managing this. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that we do not have the resources to remove dead trees at this time, however the risk has been assessed and the administration is actively seeking funding opportunities to facilitate this work.

Clr J Smith advised that there is a local contractor able to remove the trees for free. The Director of Infrastructure advised that from a resource point of view this is great however need management plans in place to manage environmental risk.

The committee discussed installing signage in the area to raise risk to users of the facility.

Mower Range

Clr Ring raised that a local supplier would like to carry out a demonstration of the automated power range machines. It was advised that a commercial product will be released shortly. This would be a great opportunity to investigate new technology and its possible uses for Council.

ACTION

THAT

1. The Committee note the report; and
2. A report be presented to the Committee with costing of placing a new bin near the Portland Post Office; and
3. Move the bin from the toilet block in Saville Park to the Rotunda.

MOVED: Councillor R Thompson

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.6. Locking Facilities in LGA Overnight

The Director of Infrastructure Services advised the committee that facilities such as the Blast Furnace is being locked up during the night. Council has received positive feedback from residents and local law enforcement and this seems to be being received well.

Clr W McAndrew raised concerns about contractors unlocking and opening up facilities with them undertaking the task on time. This is currently being trialed with no issues raised. Signage to be installed notifying closing times.

Investigation is being undertaken for the access to Lake Pillans from Inch Street. It is suggested that Council contact Sydney Trains as this is an access point for their depots and possibly enter into a cost sharing arrangement as this option would also deter vandals entering their depot.

Clr D Goodsell left the meeting (5:21pm)

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council:
2. Commence the immediate closure of both Tony Luchetti Sportsground and Blast Furnace Park at 6PM, with reopening at 6AM,
3. Liaise with relevant landowners and service providers to develop an agreed proposal to restrict after-hours access to Hassans Walls Lookout and Lake Pillans,
4. Subject to agreement of relevant landowners and service providers:
 - a. Develop proposed permanent signage to inform users of closure times,
 - b. Seek quotes from local metal fabricators for the procurement of heavy-duty gates for Lake Pillans and Hassans Walls Lookout; and
 - c. Liaise with Council's security contractor to determine the costs for this service.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

7. General Business

The committee were updated on the Cookes Scrap Metal matter.

Clr W McAndrew raised the notification of the new round of funding for Resources for Regions and requested that projects are focused on public infrastructure such as extra facilities at Lake Wallace and tree / reed removal, rather than use our own resources, use grants to better Council's infrastructure and build tourism in the area. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that projects like this would be consistent with the fund criteria.

Clr S Ring suggested the upgrade of the Main Street pavers. The Director Infrastructure advised that projects such as the Main Street Revitalisation, flood improvements at Cupro & Main Street and Lake Wallace improvements are being considered.

Clr S Ring suggested the development of land near the hospital, using the funding for infrastructure in the area.

Clr J Smith advised that trees along James Parade require trimming and signage installed for the pedestrian refuge near the children's playgroup which was removed when the new footpath was being constructed.

Clr S Ring asked about the bridge into the Capertee Valley. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that a report will be provided to a future Operations Committee Meeting as this project in will be a delivered collaboratively with neighboring Councils to achieve economies of scale.. The environmental investigation of this project will commence in the new financial year with practical completion in December 2022. Clr S Ring asked if the timber from the "old" bridges can be purchased by the public. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that should Council decide to sell the timbers, then the process used will need to be equitable and consider the practicable purposes Council may be able to reuse the assets for other minor projects.

Clr S Ring also requested a list of roads to be graded in the Glen Alice/ Davis area.

The committee were advised that the Glen Alice Road is nearing completion with works to Mount Marsden expected to commence on the 22nd June 2021.

It was raised if there is a possibility of the Women's Shed association using the former men's shed at the showgrounds. The Director of Infrastructure Services will request the Building and Recreation Facilities Manager organise a meeting to discuss.

The Acting Director of Water and Waste Water advised that the toilet at Kremer Park for the Men's Shed is still be assessed. It was advised that the proposed point of connection was not suitable, and investigations are being undertaken to find a suitable connection point.

8. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 3:30pm in the Committee Room.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 05:45 pm.