

OUR PLACE OUR FUTURE

Community Engagement Strategy Feedback Report

26 April - 28 May 2022



Contents

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY	2
SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS	6

Community Engagement Strategy

Council, at the Ordinary Meeting of 26 April 2022, resolved to place the Integrated Planning Framework on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 27 April to 28 May 2022.

The Framework consists of the following documents:

- Our Place, Our Future Community Strategic Plan 2035
- Our Place, Our Future Combined 2022-2026 Delivery Program & 2022/23 Operational Plan
- Our Place, Our Future 2022/23 Revenue Policy
- Our Place, Our Future 2022/23 Fees & Charges
- Our Place, Our Future 2022-2032 Long-term Financial Plan
- Our Place, Our Future 2022-2032 Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Our Place, Our Future 2022-2026 Workforce Plan

Copies of the plan were made available at the following locations:

- Councils' Our Place Our Future website: www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com
- Council Administration Centre
- Lithgow Library Learning Centre
- Wallerawang Library
- Portland Library

Council developed a comprehensive community engagement strategy which was designed to enable community members to make informed submissions to the Draft Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework.

- Two Media Releases were distributed to local and regional media on Tuesday 27 April with release dates scheduled to align with promotion of the Community Information Sessions.
 1. Have your say on the 2022/23 Local Infrastructure Program
 2. Proposed Changes to Water Charges
- One video – [An explanation of the proposed water pricing structure 2022/23](#) which was available on YouTube with links from www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com, Facebook and Instagram.
- Radio Advertising on both 2LT and MOVE FM from 13 – 25 May 2022.
- Promotion of media releases via:
 - Council Connections – weekly subscriber eNewsletter – 703 recipients.
 - Lithgow Business & Tourism Matters – Monthly eNewsletter – 1,357 recipients
 - Council Column in the Village Voice
- Attendance at Pop-up Café's by the Corporate Communications Team held in Glen Davis (3 May) and Dargan (17 May) to discuss the IPR (Integrated Planning and Reporting) Suite of documents and answer any questions by residents (2 submissions were received from residents from Dargan).

Posts to Council's Facebook Page				
Post	Post Reach	Reactions	Shares	Link Clicks
It's Our Place, Our Future – Have Your Say!	2,511	33	7	141
You're invited to have your say – Tell us your vision for the future of the Lithgow LGA (Local Government Area).	2,090	11	9	40
Have your say on the 2022/23 Local Infrastructure Program	581	0	0	4
An explanation of the proposed water pricing structure 2022/23 - video	475	0	0	30
Mayor Statham inspected new safety fencing at Hammond Park	2,847	83	7	303
Have you visited the Our Place, Our Future Website	403	47	3	31
Have your say – An explanation of the proposed water pricing structure 2022/23 – video (reposted)	1,597	36	4	156
You're Invited to have your say – Facebook headers (1)	404	49	6	31
\$10m transport program proposed in 2022/23	2,601	25	3	196

- **Reach** - The number of people who saw your post at least once. Reach is different from impressions, which may include multiple views of your post by the same people. This metric is estimated.
- **Facebook Post reactions** - The number of reactions on your post. The reactions button on a post allows people to share different reactions to its content: Like, Love, Haha, Wow, Sad or Angry.
- **Facebook post shares** - The number of shares of your post.
- **Link clicks** - The number of clicks on links within the ad that led to destinations or experiences, on or off Facebook. For ads promoting Instagram profile views, link clicks include clicks on the ad header or comments that led to the advertiser's profile. Link clicks were to www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com

Posts to Council's Instagram Page				
Post	Accounts reached	Impressions	Interactions	Likes
It's Our Place, Our Future – Have Your Say!	109	136	3	2
You're invited to have your say – Tell us your vision for the future of the Lithgow LGA.	63	67	0	2
An explanation of the proposed water pricing structure 2022/23 - video	57 Views of the video on Instagram			
Mayor Statham inspected new safety fencing at Hammond Park	126	137	2	5
Have you visited the Our Place, Our Future Website	62	70	0	0
\$10m transport program proposed in 2022/23	133	161	1	8

Video Posts to Council's YouTube Page

Post	Views
An explanation of the proposed water pricing structure 2022/23 - video	109

Website

The Integrated Planning Framework document suite was included on Council's [Our Place Our Future website](#) under [On Exhibition](#). Visitors to the site were able to view the documents of interest to them and make a submission relevant to the document. Below is statistical data from the website showing visits, downloads, and views during the exhibition period of 27 April – 29 May. There were 1,673 website hits during the exhibition period.

Document downloads

- Draft Fees & Charges 2022-2023 – 61 downloads
- Draft Revenue Policy 2022-2023 – 27 downloads
- Draft Strategic Asset Management Plan – 37 downloads
- Draft Workforce Management Strategy 2022-2026– 41 downloads
- Draft Long-term Financial Plan 2022-2032 – 40 downloads
- Draft Delivery Program 2022/23 - 2025/26 Operational Plan 2022/23 - 174 downloads
- Draft Community Strategic Plan 2035 – 129 downloads

Daily Statistics for April 2022											
Day	Hits		Files		Pages		Visits		Sites		KBytes
1	4	2.09%	2	2.25%	2	2.08%	1	1.54%	2	2.63%	0
2	8	4.19%	6	6.74%	2	2.08%	1	1.54%	6	7.89%	0
3	2	1.05%	1	1.12%	1	1.04%	1	1.54%	2	2.63%	0
4	5	2.62%	2	2.25%	3	3.12%	2	3.08%	4	5.26%	1
5	6	3.14%	3	3.37%	3	3.12%	2	3.08%	3	3.95%	0
6	4	2.09%	3	3.37%	1	1.04%	1	1.54%	2	2.63%	2
7	3	1.57%	1	1.12%	2	2.08%	1	1.54%	2	2.63%	1
8	6	3.14%	3	3.37%	3	3.12%	2	3.08%	3	3.95%	0
9	4	2.09%	2	2.25%	2	2.08%	2	3.08%	4	5.26%	1
10	10	5.24%	7	7.87%	3	3.12%	2	3.08%	3	3.95%	4
11	7	3.66%	2	2.25%	5	5.21%	4	6.15%	5	6.58%	0
12	6	3.14%	3	3.37%	3	3.12%	3	4.62%	4	5.26%	0
13	4	2.09%	2	2.25%	2	2.08%	1	1.54%	2	2.63%	0
14	1	0.52%	1	1.12%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	1.32%	1
15	6	3.14%	3	3.37%	3	3.12%	2	3.08%	3	3.95%	0
16	2	1.05%	1	1.12%	1	1.04%	1	1.54%	2	2.63%	0
17	8	4.19%	3	3.37%	5	5.21%	4	6.15%	6	7.89%	1
18	4	2.09%	2	2.25%	2	2.08%	1	1.54%	2	2.63%	0
19	3	1.57%	1	1.12%	2	2.08%	2	3.08%	3	3.95%	0
20	6	3.14%	3	3.37%	3	3.12%	2	3.08%	3	3.95%	0
21	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
22	6	3.14%	3	3.37%	3	3.12%	2	3.08%	3	3.95%	0
23	9	4.71%	5	5.62%	4	4.17%	3	4.62%	4	5.26%	0
24	5	2.62%	3	3.37%	1	1.04%	1	1.54%	3	3.95%	2
25	16	8.38%	4	4.49%	8	8.33%	3	4.62%	6	7.89%	3
26	3	1.57%	0	0.00%	3	3.12%	2	3.08%	2	2.63%	0
27	19	9.95%	7	7.87%	16	16.67%	9	13.85%	11	14.47%	243
28	5	2.62%	2	2.25%	4	4.17%	2	3.08%	3	3.95%	30
29	10	5.24%	5	5.62%	3	3.12%	3	4.62%	5	6.58%	2
30	19	9.95%	9	10.11%	6	6.25%	5	7.69%	7	9.21%	57

Daily Statistics for May 2022													
Day	Hits		Files		Pages		Visits		Sites		KBytes		
1	3	0.16%	1	0.07%	2	0.41%	2	0.60%	3	1.06%	0	0.00%	
2	9	0.49%	4	0.29%	5	1.03%	4	1.19%	5	1.77%	0	0.00%	
3	14	0.77%	6	0.43%	10	2.06%	7	2.09%	8	2.83%	60	0.13%	
4	43	2.35%	19	1.36%	24	4.95%	21	6.27%	22	7.77%	4	0.01%	
5	46	2.52%	19	1.36%	27	5.57%	26	7.76%	27	9.54%	0	0.00%	
6	15	0.82%	9	0.64%	7	1.44%	6	1.79%	7	2.47%	149	0.31%	
7	9	0.49%	5	0.36%	3	0.62%	3	0.90%	6	2.12%	1	0.00%	
8	11	0.60%	6	0.43%	5	1.03%	4	1.19%	6	2.12%	2	0.00%	
9	55	3.01%	47	3.36%	15	3.09%	14	4.18%	10	3.53%	3135	6.58%	
10	28	1.53%	22	1.57%	9	1.86%	8	2.39%	6	2.12%	3697	7.76%	
11	32	1.75%	22	1.57%	13	2.68%	8	2.39%	6	2.12%	823	1.73%	
12	20	1.10%	15	1.07%	7	1.44%	6	1.79%	6	2.12%	1154	2.42%	
13	38	2.08%	18	1.29%	22	4.54%	19	5.67%	19	6.71%	2682	5.63%	
14	28	1.53%	21	1.50%	9	1.86%	8	2.39%	7	2.47%	3164	6.64%	
15	13	0.71%	10	0.71%	4	0.82%	4	1.19%	4	1.41%	1127	2.37%	
16	23	1.26%	14	1.00%	10	2.06%	7	2.09%	7	2.47%	151	0.32%	
17	26	1.42%	18	1.29%	10	2.06%	8	2.39%	8	2.83%	3385	7.11%	
18	13	0.71%	9	0.64%	4	0.82%	3	0.90%	4	1.41%	261	0.55%	
19	3	0.16%	2	0.14%	2	0.41%	1	0.30%	2	0.71%	32	0.07%	
20	10	0.55%	7	0.50%	4	0.82%	3	0.90%	4	1.41%	19	0.04%	
21	49	2.68%	21	1.50%	23	4.74%	21	6.27%	31	10.95%	801	1.68%	
22	9	0.49%	6	0.43%	3	0.62%	3	0.90%	3	1.06%	4	0.01%	
23	24	1.31%	12	0.86%	15	3.09%	11	3.28%	11	3.89%	82	0.17%	
24	35	1.92%	20	1.43%	12	2.47%	9	2.69%	15	5.30%	1011	2.12%	
25	27	1.48%	12	0.86%	8	1.65%	7	2.09%	10	3.53%	103	0.22%	
26	329	18.02%	277	19.79%	74	15.26%	43	12.84%	49	17.31%	7228	15.17%	
27	402	22.02%	348	24.86%	76	15.67%	36	10.75%	36	12.72%	9005	18.90%	
28	176	9.64%	151	10.79%	31	6.39%	15	4.48%	17	6.01%	3679	7.72%	
29	127	6.96%	107	7.64%	18	3.71%	9	2.69%	11	3.89%	2301	4.83%	
30	139	7.61%	117	8.36%	21	4.33%	11	3.28%	11	3.89%	2574	5.40%	
31	70	3.83%	55	3.93%	12	2.47%	8	2.39%	12	4.24%	1002	2.10%	

Summary of Community Submissions

The following table provides a summary of the 18 submissions received which are relevant to the Integrated Planning Framework and require the consideration of Council. Matters raised in submissions, which a) can be dealt with through the Customer Request System; or b) do not relate to the Integrated Planning Framework suite of documents are not included below and will be responded to separately.

Community Strategic Plan 2035	Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
Development and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of information regarding developers and proposed developments. No Detail on current land that is available for development. 	<p>The following information is available on Council's website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Search function provides information on current applications before Council. Major Development Applications currently on exhibition for public comment. Development Assessments that are subject to a report to Council are available for viewing in the respective meeting agenda under the Council Meetings section of the website. <p>Detail relating to land that is zoned for distinct types of development is available in Councils 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement and within the Lithgow Local Environmental Plan.</p> <p>Zoning is only one step in land being "available" for development. Where zoned and vacant land sits within the supply chain is a function of the private market.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developers should be required to install long life infrastructure such sustainable roads, paths etc. New estates are already seeing roads deteriorate which will become a burden to ratepayers. 	<p>Developments are required to be supported by an appropriate level of infrastructure. Council places conditions upon development consents to ensure this occurs.</p> <p>Council also has a development contributions framework in place to meet the infrastructure demands from development that occurs beyond the development site. This ensures that all development that creates a demand for local public infrastructure contributes to its cost.</p> <p>Council has also undertaken a review of its procedures with respect to subdivision development and the contributions framework.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tourism revenue mentioned is not clearly defined. I.e., how did they estimate the figure? 	<p>The Economic Profile data in the Community Strategic Plan is available on Council's website. https://economy.id.com.au/lithgow/tourism-value</p>

Proposed Changes to the Community Strategic Plan by Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District			
Section	Current Strategy	Proposed Strategy	Officers' response
CC1 – to plan and provide quality community and recreational facilities and services for a healthy, vibrant and a harmonious community that embraces challenges and has the resilience to adapt to change.	We will work together to ensure the communities of the Lithgow region feel supported, connected, and united.	We will work together with government departments, NGOs, and community to ensure the communities of the Lithgow region have access to services and feel supported and united.	The IPR document suite will be updated to reflect this
		Increase community access to affordable healthy food options.	Council does not currently have programs in place to achieve this and therefore it is not measurable.
		Support local food production.	Planning Priority 9 of the Lithgow Local Strategic Planning Statement - “ <i>Attract Investment and Grow local Jobs – Agricultural</i> ”. The LSPS will implement this through agribusiness and agritourism opportunities. Council has developed “Mary’s Garden” at Eskbank House Museum, a cottage garden established to interpret life in early Lithgow which is maintained by Museum Volunteers.
	We will manage and regulate public places to achieve safe and healthy lifestyles.	We will manage and provide public spaces that promote physical activity and sport and recreational facilities that are accessible to all, to achieve safe and healthy lifestyles.	During 2021/22 Council has further implemented the Farmers Creek Masterplan which aims to increase public use and physical activity along the creek corridor. Several new sections of shared pathway have been constructed, bringing the total shared pathway network to approx. 7.5kms. Further extensions will be constructed in future years as funds allow. The IPR document suite will be updated to reflect this.

Proposed Changes to the Community Strategic Plan by Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District			
Section	Current Strategy	Proposed Strategy	Officers' response
P53 – Caring for our Community How will we measure success?	Improved liaison with our local Indigenous and CALD communities.	Increased consultation with our local Indigenous and CALD communities.	Council works closely with local indigenous communities on relevant issues, including support for NAIDOC events. Council also works with CALD and refugee communities including the celebration of Harmony Week. Council is currently consulting with the community to develop and Indigenous Protocol.
SE1 – To provide sustainable and planned growth that supports a range of lifestyle choices and employment options.	We will plan and work in partnership with residents of new and emerging suburbs and towns to connect and evolve their own distinct neighbourhood spirit and character.	To this section add: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure new and emerging suburbs have high walkability, cycling infrastructure and green spaces. We will plan new and emerging suburbs which are environmentally sustainable. 	The IPR document suite will be updated to reflect this. The LSPS is the document that will deliver this through identified planning priorities, commitments, and actions. Future LSPS documents and supporting documents will become more refined over time.
SE2 – To explore and discover the richness in our society through the pursuit of educational, creative, and cultural opportunities to diversify the economy, skills base, and employment opportunities.	We will celebrate the cultural diversity and rich heritage of the Lithgow LGA. COMMENT: This can also be an opportunity to include Lithgow LGA being a Refugee Welcome Zone, leveraging off and building on Lithgow Council's commitment in 2017 to become a Refugee Welcome Zone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and celebrate refugees, create awareness of refugee lived experiences. 		Council raises awareness of refugees lived experiences through Refugee Week and Harmony Week. The document suite will be updated to reflect this.
P61 – Strengthening our Economy How will we measure success?	Number of development applications	Number of developments contributing to sustainable, town centres and healthy streets and suburbs. ADD: Number of suburbs that are environmentally sustainable.	All new subdivisions are assessed against a raft of environmental controls (flood, mine subsidence, bushfire, vehicular access, biodiversity etc.), not only the physical environment but also for social impact. Newer subdivisions incorporate, for example, cycle ways and open space in proximity to residents to encourage walking and cycling to access recreational and commercial facilities

Proposed Changes to the Community Strategic Plan by Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District			
Section	Current Strategy	Proposed Strategy	Officers' response
BE2 – To ensure sustainable and planned growth through the provision of effective public and private transport options, and suitable entertainment and to enhance the lifestyle choices of the community.	We will develop quality multi-purpose sporting and recreational facilities which encourage active, healthy lifestyles.	We will develop quality and affordable multi-purpose sporting and recreational facilities which encourage active, healthy lifestyles	The IPR document suite will be updated to reflect this.
BE3 - Diverse and affordable housing options are available for our residents throughout all life states.	We will realise more new affordable homes in Lithgow and other established urban centres.	We will realise newer affordable environmentally sustainable homes in Lithgow and other established urban centres.	Council's LSPS Planning Priority 2 addresses this. Council will prepare and implement a Local Housing Strategy and advocate for vulnerable groups in the community such as elderly, persons with disabilities, young and those suffering housing stress.
		Add: Planning and development of new suburbs will incorporate active transport connections.	The IPR document suite will be updated to reflect this. LSPS Action 6.7 is to Adopt and implement the Active Transport Plan.
NE1 To conserve and preserve the natural environment whilst balancing the impact of development to ensure a sustainable and healthy community.		Add: Improved air quality by reducing fossil fuel combustion.	Council provides an alternate fuel rebate for residents who replace their coal heaters with cleaner heating alternatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,400 for pensioners • \$1,000 for non-pensioners See NE1.1.2 – Alternate Fuel Rebate Program The IPR document suite will be updated to reflect this.

Transitioning the Economy – SE1.1.1 – Lithgow Evolving Economy Plan (LEEP)	
Summary of Community Submission	Officers' Response
Mining & Power Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mining and power sector contribute by far the most revenue to the LGA. The Mt Piper maintenance outages are worth millions alone. 	<p>Council is currently developing an Evolving Economy Plan to provide an action plan to both the NSW Government and Council with tangible, measurable actions to guide the Lithgow LGA toward a new economy beyond coal mining and electricity generation. Council is also considering options to cover a future loss of mining and power generation rates, e.g., building a reserve of funds for a transition management program.</p>
Tourism/Accommodation Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism will not go anywhere near filling the void when mining and power generation ceases. A huge slice of Hotel/Motel occupancy rates are contractors for the mining industry 	<p>It is true that Tourism in the short term cannot fill a void should mining cease immediately, but the transition phase is critical to this process, hence LEEP. It is also true that contractors do account for a proportion of nights, but there is no reason to believe that new industries will not attract the same number of contractors.</p>
TfNSW – Major Road Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council must openly support the major road upgrades from Katoomba to Lithgow. This upgrade alone will be the biggest contributor to the local economy outside of mining and power generation 	<p>Lithgow City Council resolved (Min. No. 22-39) to support the Great Western Highway upgrade between Katoomba and Lithgow and a submission be made accordingly during the public consultation process. While several requests were made, including reductions in speed zones, the highest standards of design and an equal focus on improved rail connections, this submission was well received and clearly elucidated the Council's support of this important project.</p>
Aged Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lithgow can be a retirement hub for the Sydney basin if the facilities were available, but this is not mentioned. Aged care is currently one of the biggest concerns in Australia and we should be offering the LGA as part of the solution. 	<p>The Land Use Planning Framework provides for flexibility of aged care, seniors housing and housing for people with disabilities across the LGA. However, this is dependent upon private sector investment and the ability for investors to obtain 'bed licences' which are administered by the Federal Government.</p> <p>Growth industries such as aged care and health sector industries will be further explored as part of the Lithgow Emerging Economy Project (LEEP).</p>
Energy from Waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEEP - makes a comment of making Waste for Energy a replacement for Coal Fired generation - this not supported by the city and surrounds and is a poor strategy. Understand that our location limits forms of replacement for 'Wang and Piper' but don't agree on the limited review of potential options for replacement. No energy to waste facilities in the area! Bad for everyone and everything, and not a strategically smart future growth area like sustainable energy. Concern that the Incinerator is a focus when there are so many other options for our beautiful valleys - rather than fill them with micro-plastics, we could be marketing ourselves as a tourist destination 	<p>Councils position on energy from waste is very cautious and protective of public and environmental health. Council is committed to a broad suite of economic sectors being expanded or attracted to the city to create a desirable economic social and environmental future.</p>
Cultural Development Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a regional area Lithgow should nominate to host a Universal Basic Income trial for artists Lithgow needs its own public art gallery too, to support the growth of The two arts hubs in CBD and Portland, commercial and cafe galleries, and the increasing gravitation of artists to the area. Council subsidised artist studios for contemporary artists will enable vacant spaces to be utilised and enhanced Shops and cafes that support the sale of bespoke local produce 	<p>Council has adopted a Cultural Precinct Strategy that encompasses several facilities including the Union Theatre, Western Sydney University Transformation Hub, History Avenue Heritage walk, Eskbank House and Blast Furnace Heritage Park. This cluster of cultural activities and businesses aims to create momentum and visibility for the cultural sector, for local people and to attract visitors.</p> <p>Council proposes to review the Cultural Precinct Strategy in the coming year.</p>

Transitioning the Economy – SE1.1.1 – Lithgow Evolving Economy Plan (LEEP)

Summary of Community Submission	Officers' Response
<p>Placemaking Council to consider trialling parklets in the CBD so that we can inspire people to utilise the space, activating the streets, increasing dwell times, and enhancing vibrancy. https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/leisure/parks-and-public-spaces/dean-street-parklet-trial?fbclid=IwAR1PAuB69GrRKVgvaltdxpcuV5rT-0XED4LEuTffY4eGBDeBsS9Jj9YPtQ</p>	<p>In the past two years, Council completed an upgrade of Pioneer Park on Main Street Lithgow. This was a Streets as Shared Spaces project. New accessible toilets, landscaping, furniture, and bus shelter have converted a small and degraded parklet into a vibrant and functioning space.</p>

Options for a Sustainable Future

Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
<p>Concern expressed that when mining and power generation ceases the hit to the local economy and Council finances will be simply horrific.</p>	<p>Consideration is being given to developing pathways to ensure that mines and coal-fired power generators continue to contribute to Council's rating income during their rehabilitation phase.</p>
<p>I strongly oppose any increase in council rates, my street (Old Bathurst Road) is a disgrace and is barely navigable by any non 4wd vehicle.</p>	<p>Council is currently considering the recommendations included in a recent review of rating and revenue. The review report considered potential productivity / efficiency gains, cost savings and opportunities to build Council's own source revenue. Council has achieved over \$1M of short-term savings in the 2021/22 year whilst still delivering quality services. Council plans to engage with the community on long-term financial sustainability options in the second half of 2022.</p>
<p>It only addresses the increases of rates as the major fix to the financial problems and sustainability.</p>	

BE2.4.1.7 – Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project

Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
<p>Why does the potential industry at the old Wallerawang Power Station need water pumped in from Clarence, instead of water drawn from Lake Wallace/Lake Lyell as the former power station did?</p>	<p>Council is considering a variety of options for servicing the LGA for water and this includes various existing and new sources for potential. The Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy is currently being completed with various configurations being analysed and reviewed for the best possible combination of water sources for Lithgow City Council including those made available by industries no longer in the area such as the water from the Coxs river system</p>
<p>What are the potential effects on Lithgow's drinking water supply from the Clarence Water Transfer Scheme? Will the Clarence Water Transfer Scheme for Lithgow's drinking water continue to operate if the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline moves ahead?</p>	<p>The proposed project will enable the current water treatment plant to take water from both Farmer's Creek Dam No.2 and from the new pipeline. The Clarence water transfer scheme will still be operational for the purpose of topping Farmer's Creek Dam No.2 for an additional water supply</p>
<p>Our region is transitioning away from the coal economy. This includes the closure of local coal mines in the near to mid-term future. The concept of relying on water supplied from a coal mine to enable Lithgow to transition away from a coal-based economy (i.e., coal mines and coal fired power stations) does not add up. What is the expected working lifetime of the proposed pipeline? Would that pipeline continue to operate after the mine is closed?</p>	<p>The coal mine will send treated water whilst operating into Lithgow via the pipeline with Council able to utilise the water for topping up the Farmer's Creek Dam No.2 and directly into the Oakey Park Water Treatment Plant for treatment to Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The pipeline acts as a secondary source of raw water regardless of its level of treatment. The pipeline at closure of mining would be provided to Council with any additional infrastructure required subject to agreement with Centennial. Council would then obtain the rights to draw water from a groundwater source for future usage in perpetuity.</p>
<p>Regarding project funding, of the \$10,000,000 in 2024/25 listed as "Funding/Water" and the \$7,547,395 in 2025/26 listed as "Revenue" how much of this will be ratepayer dollars?</p>	<p>The amounts included in the draft 2022/23 Operational Plan for the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project are pending the outcomes of the feasibility study and the funding breakdown is yet to be confirmed. Should the project</p>

BE2.4.1.7 – Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project

Summary of Community Submission		Officers Response
		proceed, Council may borrow up to \$10M to ensure intergenerational equity. Council would advocate for the maximum grant funding available from the NSW Government. Water Fund reserves (from prior year surpluses) may be utilised for part of the project cost, however, the fund had only \$2.4M available on 30 June 2021.
If Lithgow City Council intends to commit over \$17 million to this project, there must have been some commitments made around the level of industry that is expected to set up at Greenspot. Please provide additional information to ratepayers regarding the value of the proposed industries including job creation. At the Community Event held by Greenspot in April 2022 Greenspot claimed that their proposed waste incinerator project does not use nor produce water. If this water pipeline is not for the proposed incinerator, what are the industries/projects it will support?		The proposed water scheme is being examined for the purpose of providing water security for the city, now and as it grows.
Assuming most of the water piped to the former power station site will leave the site as wastewater, what is the impact and where will this water be discharged? What contaminants will the proposed water treatment plan be equipped to handle? How will the Cox's River (Sydney Water Catchment) be impacted?		The water, as a part of this project, will be sent to the site as raw water and treated to potable water at a new water treatment plant to serve the LGA and its customers. The treatment plant will be designed to treat any water, from its designated water sources to Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. If the treated water from the mine site is excess to Council requirements, then this water would be discharged to the Cox's system whilst it met the licensed limits of the EPA. If it did not meet the licensed limit, then discharge would cease.
Then the idea of pumping to Wallerawang was [previously] considered problematic from an engineering and environment perspective- due to the distances and topography involved. For me this is still not a valid 'project' because of this and the fact that the Greenspot site is adjacent to a dam designed to provide water for a thermal generator and should be sufficient for the programs at the Wallerawang site.		The project is still in its feasibility stage and being reviewed as a part of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy which will provide a combination of configurations that will best place Council for water delivery into the future. This project allows for both the current water treatment plant to be serviced with another raw water source but in future a new treatment plant at Wallerawang to service the LGA. There are other water sources in the area being considered for this and the licensing involved in accessing these sources.

Operational Plan Action(s) (2022/23)	Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
BE2.2 – Our roads and other associated infrastructure will ensure connected and efficient movement throughout the Lithgow region.	There needs to be funds allocated to undertaking maintenance of rural Roads. Works need to be undertaken to repair road shoulders that are breaking away and where water is pooling on roads to prevent further deterioration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50km/hr speed limit until rural roads are brought to a safe standard following the wet weather. 	Lithgow City Council is understanding of the funding gap which separates the level of service expected by the community and that which is affordable and sustainable in Council's current environment. Unprecedented and inclement weather has impacted Council's Road network. Hence, Council continues to lobby the state and federal government for increased

Operational Plan Action(s) (2022/23)	Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
		commitment to untied infrastructure renewal funding. Council also continues its work to improve effectiveness and efficiency through the development of sound asset management plans – a project proposed for commencement in the upcoming financial year.
	council to inspect the road and consider repairing the access Road that runs in front of Dargan properties West from Valley View Road on Chifley Rd (2 submissions received).	Unfortunately, this road is not publicly maintained, nor under the care and control of Lithgow City Council. This is a private right of way which lies within the bounds of private property. While unfortunate, due to limited capacity, all Council resources must be dedicated to the upgrade and repair of public road assets under local government control.
	Girraween Drive and Bundarra Place (Marrangaroo Fields) resealing does not appear in the draft plan. I request that both these roads be included in the resealing works of the 2022/23 Operational Plan as they are in an unsafe condition.	Girraween Drive and Bundarra Place have been objectively assessed as a lower priority compared to those local and regional roads included within the Draft Operational Plan. Both assets and their condition will continue to be assessed and information recorded for consideration in subsequent years, or as other external opportunities become available.
	I noticed that Rydal and Sodwalls upgrades were mentioned, but what about Tarana roads? They need to be fixed, including the bridges. Sodwalls Rd and Tarana Rd get used a lot. The roads and bridges are too narrow, and roads have many potholes.	Sodwalls Tarana Road is actively being repaired as part of the delivery of the 2021/22 Operational Plan. Work will continue on this road into 2022/23 as part of Council's response to the declared natural disasters of Feb/March 2022 (AGRN (Australian Government Reference Number 1012)).
BE2.5.1.6 – Watsford/Conran Lighting and Clubhouse.	Agree with the concept but not the allocated funds. To be honest this looks like a 'slush bucket' for project funds. Saw no explanation in the document.	This project will see the installation of low maintenance park furniture, the formalisation and seal of the carpark and installation of a new irrigation system. It is expected, based on Council's pragmatic understandings built from similar past projects, that this work will result in greater efficiency due to reduced costs of water consumption and maintenance expenditure while also delivering a higher level of service and asset standard.
CC2.2 – We will build resilient and inclusive communities. CC2.2.4 – Support volunteering within our community. GL1.4 Our workforce, systems and processes will support high	Little credit is given to those in the general population who are willing to assist in reducing council costs through volunteering their services. A volunteer who would like to assist council require to fill out sheets of paperwork, complete an induction and	Lithgow City Council recognises that volunteers from the community make a valuable contribution to a range of council activities and acknowledges that we need to review and streamline our volunteer processes. However, the risks associated with volunteering have been brought into

Operational Plan Action(s) (2022/23)	Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
performance and optimal service delivery for our community.	questionnaire and then have a medical.	sharp focus by a recent case against Camden Council: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/news/safework-media-releases/camden-council-fined-750000-after-mens-shed-member-fatality The governance and administration for volunteering is no less than that for managing contractors and direct employees and in some cases constant supervision of volunteers is required. This is something that must be costed, using volunteers is not always a cost-effective use of resources. Council does, however, have a few volunteers who work at Eskbank House Museum and the Library.
NE1.1.2 – Alternate Fuel Rebate Program	I recommend an education component be included in conjunction with the Fuel Abatement Program. Please consider running a social media campaign, publishing a notice on your website about the program, and having flyers available at the council building, libraries, etc.	There are flyers available at the Administration Centre. We are in the process of updating the website and developing a social media campaign, which will also include email banners and information available through Customer Service.
	Would the Council consider conducting an excessive smoke survey and smoke abatement notice program as well?	Council will consider this as part of the 2023/24 Operational Plan.
NE1.5.2.3 – Main Street/Cupro Street Stormwater Improvements	I would like to submit that Lithgow Council make it a priority to address the street flooding that occurs at the junction of Cupro St and Main St, Lithgow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This flooding prevents road and pedestrian traffic along Main St in both directions. Affects properties in the region, in worst cases flooding them. Becomes a health issue when the backed-up storm water mixes with escaping sewer. 	Lithgow City Council understands the pressure placed on aged assets through changing weather patterns, and the impact this continues to have on residents and businesses. As such, Council has been actively pursuing the design of stormwater amplification infrastructure in the vicinity of the Main Street and Cupro Street intersection. Currently the project involves the triplication of the 900mm pipework underneath the rail line which conveys stormwater between Main Street and Farmers Creek. However, Council is also conducting hydraulic modelling of the construction of a pedestrian viaduct adjacent to the trafficked lane. This addition will benefit the community through increased pedestrian safety, but also act as an overland flow path during periods of flooding to allow natural overflow during periods of severe inundation. However, the triplication of subsurface infrastructure is expected to cost \$2M and remains outside the capacity of Council to deliver without external assistance. Applications continue to be made for State and Federal Government programs.

Operational Plan Action(s) (2022/23)	Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
NE1.3.1 – Implement the Lithgow City Council Waste Strategy.	I applaud the Council for finally including plans for a FOGO service in the Waste Strategy. 1. Who is the intended contractor? 2. Where will the collected material go for processing?	Council is currently developing an implementation plan for FOGO and the contractor and processing facility have not been determined at this stage.
NE2.3.2. – Undertake an Environmental Education Program targeting school aged children.	FOGO education to be undertaken before during and after the program deployment to ensure the community is properly educated to maximise the effectiveness of the program and to reduce contamination in the FOGO system.	The FOGO implementation plan will include education that forms a critical function in the roll-out of a FOGO service. Education will occur before, during and after roll-out of the service.
NE2.2 We will protect and improve our natural areas and ecosystems, including Hassans Walls Reserve, Farmers Creek, and other waterways.	No internal funding or grant funding has been included to continue the bushland regeneration works undertaken over recent years along Farmers Creek and other bushland areas in the Lithgow Valley. No consideration of a dedicated environment management program/position within Council.	Funding opportunities are currently being investigated to enable bushland regeneration and further shared pathway construction.
SE3.2.3 – Develop & activate the Union Theatre	Is a significant sum of money for a really good cause but I am concerned about the potential ROI for such a spend. I don't see anywhere a mention of what plans are in place for the justification of this spend. I understand that the pieces being replaced have reached 'end of life' but what plan is there to increase use of this facility.	The investments that Council has made to date aim to bring the standard of facilities to a suitable level for performers and audiences. Previously there were no back of stage amenities and storage areas for performers. The front of stage areas needed significant upgrades for audience comfort. A recent Opera Gala event was sold out, demonstrating the demand for cultural performance in Lithgow. Planning is underway to attract future performances.
SE4.2.2.1 – State replacement of Main Street pavers.	Is council going to repair pavers and subgrade or replace and, if the answer is replaced, what with? Would disagree totally with a concrete replacement but understand the repair strategy.	Many small businesses operate from Lithgow's Main Street and the surrounding precinct. With scores of service and entertainment providers, retailers and cafes on offer, Lithgow's Main Street is part of our community's lifeblood. To support these businesses, it is essential that infrastructure is provided which is accessible, serviceable and offers good standards of amenity. Existing infrastructure does not meet the needs of today's community and therefore must be replaced.
BE2.2 – Our roads and other associated infrastructure will ensure connected and efficient movement throughout the Lithgow Region. SE4.2.2.1 – State replacement of Main Street pavers.	Both these items reflect the repair or replacement of key assets. What is not noted is the 'prioritisation process for these, and other, repairs.	While funding is secured, detailed project planning is only in its initial stages. Preliminary plans will see the removal of pavers, reconstruction of the underlying stormwater infrastructure and pavement, and replacement with exposed aggregate concrete in 500-600mm panels. Industrial brick banding will also be installed to increase amenity, match Cook Street Plaza and reflect on our industrial heritage. Concrete panels are preferable as this infrastructure must be cost effective and is

Operational Plan Action(s) (2022/23)	Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
		<p>expected to last for up to 100 years. Paver suppliers can close their doors (existing red pavers can no longer be bought), underlying services must be accessed periodically, this infrastructure must be resilient, and Council must be able to easily clean and replace, as necessary.</p> <p>A robust community consultation process will occur, engaging with both the residential and business community prior to any construction commencing.</p>

Long Term Financial Plan 2022-2026	
Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
<p>Page 20 - On the list of major investments Lithgow is set to see over the coming years it includes "Mount Piper Energy Recovery Project is a \$170m project which will create 300 construction jobs and 16 permanent jobs".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What plan/application is being referred to in this point Is that plan publicly available for review? If so, please provide it. 	<p>The reference to Mount Piper Energy Recovery Project is outdated and will be removed from the version of the LTFP (Long Term Financial Plan) and IPR Suite of documents put to Council for adoption at the 27 June 2022 meeting.</p>
<p>Where in the Long-Term Financial Plan is the funding for the proposed Clarence to Wallerawang Water Pipeline Project included?</p>	<p>The amounts included in the draft 2022/23 Operational Plan for the Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline Project are pending the outcomes of the feasibility study. The LTFP will be updated with a funding breakdown if the project proceeds following the completion of the feasibility study.</p>

Water Pricing Structure	
Summary of Community Submission	Officers' Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$71 increase How can you propose any increase until there is a clear plan for the water so rate payer know what the increase will be spent on? 	<p>The proposed increase is to account for current rises in servicing the LGA with potable water. This pricing change does not include the provision for infrastructure or changes to Levels of Service in future other than what is currently in place for operations and capital works.</p>
<p>I object to this as my water bill will rise by at least \$200 per year, with the fixed charge being the main contributor to this.</p> <p>I feel Council should concentrate on consolidating services currently offered and if water services need more money spent, this money should be redirected form within the budget.</p>	<p>Note: increases to water bills raised in this submission will be investigated and a true indication of increase on respective water accounts addressed with the correspondents, respectively.</p>
<p>It should be noted that the water usage charges that LCC already impose upon residents are some of the highest rate charges in NSW.</p> <p>While I am pleased that there are plans to decrease the water usage charges, I believe it is still not enough.</p> <p>My second concern is the increase to the Fixed Annual Access Fee from \$205.00 to \$380.00, an increase of 85%. I believe councils work on the 'Best Management Practice Guidelines' and that a 75% return is what Councils aim for.</p>	<p>These charges have been compared to some other utilities as well as the differences between Lithgow and other utilities in the infrastructure used to deliver service. Council has changed its methodology for pricing with an increase in access for many reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the WaterNSW charges to Council of 36% WaterNSW charges on an 80% income generated from fixed charges and 20% from usage model Increased pensioner rebate which is subsidised by the community Low water usage across the LGA

Water Pricing Structure	
Summary of Community Submission	Officers' Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large amount of infrastructure to be operated and maintained across the LGA. <p>Whilst the best practice guidelines state, "utilities with more than 4000 connections should operate on income generation of 75% collected via usage charges and 25% on Access or fixed charges", this is not indicative of the service Council provides nor the cost recovery available with extremely low usage across the network comparatively to similar or neighbouring utilities.</p>

Draft Fees & Charges (2022/23)	Summary of Community Submission	Officers Response
JM Robson Aquatic Centre	Under the heading of Squad preparation classes at the bottom of page 59, there is no detail to what fees will be charged or the structure of the squad preparation classes.	Council is currently reviewing this fee and liaising with the Lithgow Swimming Club.
Liquid Waste – Septic Tank – Discharge to STP	A fee per kilolitre of liquid waste at \$55 will significantly increase our cost to operate our business. Our fee structure for our pump out service has not changed for a long period of time, but, if this charge is approved, we will inevitably need to pass it on to the customer.	This fee has been amended from \$55 per kilolitre to \$55 per load received.