

11.3. LATE REPORT - IS - 25/07/2022 - Operation Committee Meeting Minutes 14/07/2022

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Department Infrastructure Services

Authorised by Director of Infrastructure & Services

Summary

This report details the Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on 14th July 2022.

Commentary

At the Operations Committee held on 14th July 2022, there were numerous items discussed by the Committee including:

- Project Update – Replacement of Bridges Along Glen Davis Road
- Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy
- New Partnerships – Water NSW and Kirkconnell Correctional Facility
- Sewer Infiltration and Rectification
- Ongoing Natural Disaster Recovery

The following items had recommendations that were outside the committee's delegations and require Council to formally approve the recommendation:

Item 6.1 - Project Update Replacement of Bridges Along Glen Davis Road

Recommendation:

THAT Council writes a letter of thanks to the property owners that have assisted with the detour routes.

Item 6.3 New Partnerships Water NSW and Kirkconnell Correctional Facility

Recommendation:

THAT Council write to Paul Toole MP with relation to maintenance services of the Department of Housing Recreation areas in the Lithgow LGA.

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

- Budget approved - Nil
- Cost centre - N/A
- Expended to date - Nil

- Future potential impact - Nil

Legal and Risk Management Implications

Nil

Attachments

1. DRAFT Minutes Operations Committee Meeting 14 July 2022 [**11.3.1** - 10 pages]

Recommendation

THAT Council

1. Notes the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 14th July 2022; and
2. Writes a letter of thanks to the property owners that have assisted with the detour routes; and
3. Write to Paul Toole MP with relation to maintenance services of the Department of Housing Recreation areas in the Lithgow LGA.



DRAFT MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Thursday 14 July 2022

at 4:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:08 pm.

1. Present

Councillor Stuart McGhee (Chair)
Councillor Stephen Lesslie
Councillor Col O'Connor
Councillor Deanna Goodsell
Councillor Eric Mahony (non-voting member)
Councillor Cassandra Coleman (non-voting member)
Councillor Almudena Bryce (non-voting member)

Officers:

Craig Butler - General Manager
Jonathon Edgecombe - Director Infrastructure Services
Matthew Trapp - Executive Manager Water and Waste Water
Paul Creelman - Transport Manager
Kaitlin Cibulka - Minutes

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes were presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday 23rd May 2022.

ACTION

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

MOVED: Cr S Lesslie

SECONDED: Cr C O'Connor

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

Cr S Lesslie raised the report on natural disaster on page 5, Item 6.2 in relation to alternate route Wolgan Gap, and asked about the progress of these works. It was noted that the southern end (donkey steps) there are approximately 12 logs blocking the access and wanted advice on why the works were not progressing.

The Director Infrastructure Services advised that the community were consulted in December where concerns were raised that the access would be used by the public on a regular basis rather than the intended purpose being during emergencies. It was noted that due to the inclement weather a creek has formed over the access and still continues to run. This would need to clear prior to any further works continuing on the access and damaging works already completed. The works will consist of diverting the water under the track, and being a steep slope would need to make it aware to residents and make the road an all-wheel drive access making it safe and user friendly.

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The committee were advised that the Northern Access route is readily available. It was also raised that the logs were put in place to deter people from entering but can be easily moved in the case of an emergency. The Transport Manager also advised that this road will be constantly inspected over time to ensure they are always ready to be used in emergency circumstances.

Cr S Lesslie also raised a matter from page 7 of the minutes where it is mentioned that a report on Council's EV Strategy would be brought back to the committee. The Director Infrastructure Services advised that the findings have not been published as yet and a report will be presented to the committee when the document is finalised.

Cr S Lesslie also raised a matter from page 7 of the minutes in relation to Cupro Street funding for drainage improvements. It was advised that this matter is still pending investigation, however Council will continue to press for attention through grant applications to state and federal governments. Cr E Mahony raised that west Main Street is a state road connecting to the central west. This area should not be shut on a regular basis being a significant route between Bells Line of Road and the Great Western Highway. The Director Infrastructure Services advised that it is a Council responsibility due to the stormwater that is entering from Extension Estate and this ultimately impacts on the state road. Cr C Coleman asked how many applications have been put forward for grant funding for this matter. It was advised that a total of two applications have been lodged but both have been rejected. No feedback is generally provided. Council does attempt to seek feedback however the feedback that is provided has little to no value.

5. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

6. Staff Reports

6.1. Project Update - Replacement of Bridges Along Glen Davis Road

This project in particular is a significant one for this financial year. The committee were advised that the Crown Creek Bridge replacement has commenced with a detour route being constructed with the physical construction of the bridge to commence on 25th July. Negotiations with businesses and land owners occurred in relation to the replacement of the bridge with a detour being a minor inconvenience for a temporary period.

The new bridges will be constructed with dual lanes and a footpath to cater to pedestrians and birdwatchers in the area.

Cr S McGhee asked if there would be any provisions for a carpark close to these bridges if there was any leftover funding. It was advised that the money is limited to the bridges and if there was a significant amount left over then it would be used to upgrade the approaches for the bridges.

The Director Infrastructure Services advised the committee that these new bridges would have a 100 year lifespan and a cost saving has been made by having the structure precast. There is also a minor material supply issue that has occurred which has resulted in a slight delay on the project. Tree pruning in the area will also maximise the value of the project. Project officers have also calculated a significant contingency for the project with the expected material cost to rise over its duration. The community have been informed of the bridge replacement project by means of letter box drop, large signage on the approaches with date stamps, social media and an up to date web page.

With the current temporary route/bridge in place, there is no way to accommodate vehicles over 4.5 tonne during this period and unfortunately will need to detour through Rylstone.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. The committee note the update in relation to the Glen Davis Road Bridge Replacement Project.
2. Council writes a letter of thanks to the property owners that have assisted with the detour routes.

MOVED: Cr S Lesslie

SECONDED: Cr D Goodsell

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.2. Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy - Update

The Executive Manager Water and Waste Water gave an overview of the report.

There are some changes to local water utilities with their strategic planning requirements that look long term over the course of 30 years. There is now an impending requirement to include this information within the IP&R Framework. This is being piloted by a few councils, however has not been prescribed to use as yet. This way is hoped it will lessen the duplication of Council's reporting requirements.

The IWCM is still going to be Council's main project, focusing on water security planning and changes to the water plant to better service the whole area including large businesses. It was noted that the highway upgrade could use a large amount of water for the tunnel project and Council is investigating the feasibility of any assistance that can be provided. The project is progressing well with a finalised report to be presented to Council and the community once completed.

Council is continuing to work through the IP&R Framework over the next two months.

Cr E Mahony asked about potential opportunities in the future for food industries that need high quality water. The Executive Manager Water and Waste Water advised that water security and augmentation of the water plant are designed around the Australian drinking water guidelines and the quality of water coming in. For productions that require ultra-filtration, they may need to consider that as part of their development. Putting in place facilities like this are very high in cost and not sustainable for the Council.

ACTION

THAT the committee note the report on the IWCM and the future strategic planning for Water and Wastewater departments

MOVED: Cr D Goodsell

SECONDED: Cr C O'Connor

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.3. New Partnerships - WaterNSW and Kirkconnell Correctional Facility

The Director Infrastructure Services advised that this report presents the status of the Administration's progress in developing good working relationships with government departments. These newly formed relationships will have exceptional outcomes for the community.

Water NSW

Council and Water NSW have reached an agreement to deliver 3 interlinked stormwater projects in the area being:

- Stormwater Data Improvement

This will see all stormwater assets inspected and mapped with accurate condition and attribute data of the infrastructure included within Council's asset management system. This will be directly fed into development planning and reduce risk by assisting with tracking storm water pollution and retro fitting water quality improvement devices.

- Development of Stormwater Controls

This will assist council with introducing stormwater planning in development that reflects best practice and new data collected in the previous project, including such features as stormwater retention, bio filtration in development controls. Council will be able to work with Water NSW to fund a trainee with a contract for a 2 year period with budget capacity to remain employed and continue works. It is expected that a candidate will be sourced from Charles Sturt University however a wider net can be cast if needed to get a quality candidate. Training and resources will be able to be used to provided to other Councils and to skill broadly.

- Management Plan of Farmers Creek

This document will assist with flood immunity. After recent flooding there is significant erosion which is threatening private property. This management plan will demonstrate what is required to address such concerns i.e., regular maintenance, enhancement of the area environmentally, engaging to ensure cultural connections and education campaigns continue with the community. Ultimately, this project will improve Council's management of the asset, and the health of the creek generally.

Cr D Goodsell asked about further canalling of Farmers Creek as suggested in the flood plan to continue the channelization further east to continue flood improvement. It was advised that this can be quite costly and there are many more environmental controls that can be put in place. The Floodplain Risk Management Plan was also raised and was advised that a final review is occurring now with the office of environment and heritage and then returned to Council for the final sign off. A report will be presented to a future Councillor information session.

Cr S Lesslie asked if Council would be mapping existing and new stormwater pipes and channels, and develop plans for areas that require stormwater works including Cupro & Main Street. This matter was discussed by the committee noting that surveys and design works have been done for this particular issue to support grant funding applications however Council has been unsuccessful but will continue to apply for funding to upgrade the stormwater infrastructure in this area.

Cr E Mahoney congratulated staff on the reports and the new on trainee employment opportunity.

The Director Infrastructure Services advised that a combined funding from Water NSW, Council and the Government will support this project.

Kirkconnell Corrections

The Director Infrastructure Services advised the committee that Council approached Kirkconnell Corrections to reform the relationship. An MOU was formed and signed with terms to assist with basic maintenance i.e. mowing of areas that are needed the most ie Parks and Open Spaces, to improve Council's levels of service provided to the community. There were also discussions had

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between the parties in relation to expertise being used with respect to fabrication and welding. The Mayor and staff met with Kirkconnell Supervisors to conduct a tour of the facility. This will also lead to the facility being able to apply for work tenders with Council.

Cr C Coleman noted that there was an MOU in place previously. It was advised that there was an MOU however it was very basic and ceased during the COVID pandemic. The new MOU was strengthened defining responsibilities that have been agreed upon by both parties with an undefined expiry date

Cr D Goodsell asked if Council will still pursue the Department of Housing in relation to the level of service provided by their development to open spaces in the Bowenfels area. It was also noted that an attempt was made requesting a maintenance schedule with no response. The Director Infrastructure Services noted that while this may alleviate the issue, the focus will be on Council owned assets first.

The committee were in support that Council should continue to pursue the Department of Housing for a permanent resolution, while Council continues to provide temporary support.

Cr C Coleman asked if Council should send representation to the state agency and local state ministers.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. The Committee note the report regarding the Administration's successful efforts in developing partnerships and sound working relationships with agencies across the State Government.
2. Council write to Paul Toole MP with relation to maintenance services of the Department of Housing Recreation areas in the Lithgow LGA.

MOVED: Cr C O'Connor

SECONDED: Cr S Lesslie

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.4. Sewer Infiltration and Rectification

Cr C O'Connor advised that the pipes around the Tank Street Pump Station have been exposed during the recent inclement weather. It was advised that staff are aware of the issue, however are awaiting contractor availability and the construction of necessary building materials to retain the area. It was noted that the area will be rectified, quotes have been received and contractors engaged to complete the work.

Cr E Mahony asked if natural materials could be used as to retain areas along the creek. The Transport Manager advised that natural materials tend to have a shorter lifespan, with rocks needing to be keyed in and this can be undermined and tend to unravel in quick flow situation therefore the wall retained would fail. With no major flows a natural option could be implemented. The concrete blocks used are interlocked and are constructed to an Australian standard however, and are therefore a better solution in this instance.

It was confirmed in that no houses were flooded during the recent rainfall event.

Cr E Mahoney noted that the works carried out in the Vale of Clwydd had a considered approach and with the work, achieved a good outcome for the community.

Cr C O'Connor noted that the creek held up well, compared to past events where houses were flooded in these situations.

The Executive Manager Water and Waste Water advised that infiltration issues have affected a number of homes in the area. There is currently a project and ongoing programs to reduce this occurring. It was advised that smoke testing kits have been purchased and training is currently being undertaken by staff to carry out this program in-house. This program is expected to commence in the next month in high visibility areas such as Main Street and areas of known infiltration such as Extension Estate. Infiltration is occurring from flows upstream joining the network further down and overflowing the system.

Council's sewer pipe relining project was also discussed. This project will commence shortly with works also commencing in Extension Estate.

Cr D Goodsell asked how the relining of pipes worked. The Executive Manager Water and Waste Water advised that instead of digging up roads, they go between the man holes plugging either end, where a clean will occur and CCTV inspections are carried out to check the pipe. At this stage, a sleeve is pushed through and steamed to set it in place inside, essentially becoming a pipe inside the pipe. Approximately, this extends the pipe life for an additional 50 years. This is also a very cost effective renewal measure, compared to a full main reconstruction.

Cr S Lesslie asked about water saturation in the front and back yards of property and where does the water go, apart from evaporation. The Executive Manager Water and Waste Water explained that the water will continue to go down into the ground and takes the easiest path to get either into the sewer or to an underground void.

Cr E Mahony expressed his interest in stormwater and complemented the report presented to the committee

Cr D Goodsell asked about both projects of relining and smoke testing in terms of the vicinity that these projects are commencing and the timeframe of the project. The Executive Manager Water and Waste Water advised that the relining project will start at the top end of Extension Estate ie Birdwood Street, Wrights Road, and continue toward the west where the infiltration is occurring in the most congested mains. It is expected that works will take a 2 month period to be completed. Tenders have been advertised, with contractors to be assessed and appointed by September 2022 with works expected to be well under way before the end of quarter 1. It was also noted that weather would not effect this project.

In relation to the smoke testing this project will cover a large area. Enfield Avenue will be one of the areas covered, with high visibility areas to be targeted first such as Main Street. If an illegal connection is detected, a defect notice will be communicated to the property owner with a period of 6 months to rectify the matter. After this period they will be retested and if no works to rectify have been carried out then further action will be taken such as serving orders or repairing the defect and costing works to the customer.

Cr E Mahony asked if there was potential to for a linkage between Council and Water NSW to develop a possible 'no-fault' approach with residents to rectify the infiltration of stormwater in the sewer. It was advised that this would be something that would need to be investigated.

ACTION

THAT

1. the Committee note the report on the outlook for wastewater strategic projects; and
2. a no-fault incentive program be investigated in relation to relieving stormwater infiltration into the sewer system.

MOVED: Cr D Goodsell

SECONDED: Cr C O'Connor

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.5. Ongoing Natural Disaster Recovery

The Transport Manager advised the committee that this report is an overview of the recovery works currently occurring in the LGA after the recent natural disaster. It was noted that this is a live document and can change day to day but was correct at the time of issue of the agenda.

The committee were informed that there are currently 3 crews and 5 contracting teams working on the recovery process across the LGA, completing tasks such as restoring roads, clearing drainage points etc. During this disaster a total of 6 roads were completely cut off. Council has also received correspondence from a local quarry, who are supplying materials for the recovery, that due to the influx of requests to supply material for land slips there will be a limit on materials that are available for Council. Fortunately there are 4 quarries in the area that are alternative to purchase material from. However this does show how broad this disaster has impacted the surrounding areas. It was also noted that large concrete pipes are in high demand and low supply with long waiting periods. When this is the case, alternate materials are being investigated.

The Transport Manager also advised that a geotechnical engineer has been engaged to assess the Wolgan Gap and Browns Gap slope stability. Investigations found that this unprecedented rain event is the most significant that has occurred in the Lithgow LGA to date. This also indicates that the infrastructure has been overly saturated in this event and weak points of the road network were exposed. The committee were informed that Council is also assisting Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) with creating an access / emergency route for residents in Kanimbla Drive which is being funded by the state with natural disaster recovery funds. It was also noted that there is pressure on staff and the financial system with a lag between spending and receiving funds. The Transport Manager also mentioned that this recovery effort and funding will be excellent for resilience.

The General Manager that the past few disasters have overlapped each other and is becoming a normal operating environment with a constant response being required. More significant funding is needed to ensure that Local Government is able to ensure asset resilience in anticipation of disasters, rather than after the fact.

The General Manager left the meeting at this point in time (5:31pm).

The Director Infrastructure Services advised that he is currently working with Blue Mountains City Council to present as a resilience forum in the near future.

Cr S Lesslie raised a matter of flooding in Barracks Place, which previously occurred on a regular basis and the issue of a blocked drain due to littering. It was advised that a junction pit in the areas was modified and moved upstream to alleviate this issue and the chances of surcharge occurring are significantly less, however should it occur, it will happen on the street rather than inside private property.

Cr C Coleman asked about the works occurring on the Pipers Flat Rd / Range Road intersection. The Director Infrastructure Services advised that this is funded through the Australian Government's Black Spot Program to improve the safety of this intersection, with works including

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reducing the curvature of the intersection, adding a safe bus stop hard stand area and improving the overall intersection to make it safer for road users.

Cr E Mahony noted that this was a good report and provided clear detail on the matters.

Cr S McGhie also advised the committee that any maintenance matters must be brought straight to the heads of the department to be dealt with as soon as possible rather than wait for a committee forum to raise issues.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the report regarding Council's flood damage rectification works to date.

MOVED: Cr C O'Connor

SECONDED: Cr D Goodsell

CARRIED: Unanimously

7. General Business

Several maintenance issues were raised in General Business. Required action has been noted and will be followed up with relevant Councillors and residents, however these matters fall outside the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

8. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: Thursday 6th October at 4:00pm in the Committee Room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:44 pm.