



Lithgow  
City Council

COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

Dec 2009

**Lithgow City Council**  
**PO Box 19**  
**Lithgow NSW 2790**

**Administration Centre**

180 Mort Street, Lithgow  
Phone: 02 6354 9999  
Fax: 02 6351 4259  
council@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au  
www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

**Lithgow Visitors Centre**

Phone: 02 6350 3230  
tourism@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

**Lithgow Library  
Learning Centre**

Phone: 6352 9100  
lithgow.library@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

**Eskbank House Museum**

Phone: 6351 3557  
eskbank@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

**Council Meetings**

18 January 2010  
8 February 2010  
1 March 2010  
22 March 2010  
12 April 2010  
3 May 2010  
24 May 2010  
21 June 2010

**Rate Instalment Due**

28 February 2010  
31 May 2010

**Christmas Closure**

Lithgow City Council will close for business from 4.30pm on 24 December 2009 and will re-open at 8.15am Monday 4 January 2010.

**For emergency services contact 6354 9999.**



**Mayoral Message**

*Mayor Neville Castle*

Christmas is a time to reflect on the events of the past year and look forward to the coming year with anticipation, seeking opportunities for growth and development.

Some major works have been completed throughout recent months.

Rock stabilisation of Wolgan Gap and roadworks on Wolgan Road has made travelling to and from the picturesque Wolgan Valley a safer journey. The opening of the Emirates Resort has increased traffic volumes on the road with visitors and employees of the resort. The Resort has provided many local jobs and a significant boost to the local economy as many products and services are sourced locally.

During the school holidays and the warmer months, people are looking for a way to cool down and enjoy the long hot days. Recent improvements to the Lithgow Memorial Pool include the installation of a ramp on the eastern side of the pool allowing wheelchair access.

Many of the projects identified in the first round of the Regional and Local Communities Infrastructure Program have been completed and Council is well into the planning stages for projects at the Tony Luchetti Sportsground, Jim Monaghan Athletics Oval, Ashley Grandstand and Civic Ballroom. The development of these facilities will make this precinct more marketable providing opportunities for increased cultural and sporting activities.

A combined development application and construction certificate has been submitted for the resurfacing of the sand-based hockey turf and other amenities for the Glanmire Oval Precinct.

This will include a water collection and reuse system designed to capture water run-off which will be recycled.

Major local events are continuing to put Lithgow on the map. The recent employment of an Events Coordinator to assist the local community to develop a diverse range of social, cultural, recreational and sporting events will promote the Lithgow local government area as a premier destination for hosting events.

The Lithgow Skate Park has proven to be a huge success with families and visitors to the area. In the New Year, Council staff will be working with local youth as part of the Youth Council to develop a range of events to be held at the Park.

Council is moving in a new direction developing strategic plans which will ensure the Lithgow local government area grows and prospers.

Community input into the Economic Development Strategy, Business and Retail Study and Cultural Precinct Study has been significant, providing a comprehensive base to develop sustainable community outcomes.

On behalf of the Councillors and staff at Lithgow City Council, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas. We look forward to working with the community in 2010 to continue to plan for a sustainable and prosperous future for the Lithgow local government area.

**P2** Planning for our future to meet the needs of the community.  
**- 3**

**P4** Developing quality facilities through asset improvement.  
**- 5**

**P6** Providing infrastructure for growth and improving our assets.  
**- 7**

**P8** Encouraging community involvement.

# Planning For The Future



## A new way forward for Local Government

Extensive community engagement is already underway through forums, advisory committees, surveys and workshops which will inform Council's new approach to integrated planning. Planning activities have and will result in a number of strategic documents such as a cultural plan, economic development strategy and land use strategy to name just three. These planning documents will all link together to encourage growth and the long-term sustainability of the Lithgow local government area.

The passing of the amendment to the Local Government Act 1993, on 1 October 2009 in State Parliament requires all NSW Councils to develop an integrated approach to planning and reporting. This will see a number of significant changes to the way Council undertakes strategic planning and reporting including developing a 10 year Community Strategic Plan which will inform:

- A four-year Delivery Program;
- Annual Operational Plan; and
- Resourcing Strategy for Council comprised of a Workforce Plan, Asset Management Plan and long-term Financial Plan.

Lithgow City Council has nominated to be compliant with its legislative requirements by 30 June 2012. This will enable an extensive community engagement program to be undertaken to develop the Community Strategic Plan and to implement the required changes in corporate processes.

## Community Strategic Plan Your Guide to the Future

The Community Strategic Plan will identify the community's long-term aspirations including priorities for the growth, development and sustainability of the whole local government area. Council will not be responsible for delivering every aspect of the Community Strategic Plan. It will work with community groups, regional, state and federal agencies to achieve the actions identified within the Community Strategic Plan.

Over the next two years, Council will be working towards ensuring that all members of the community are kept informed, and able to be involved as part of the consultation process. The community, in turn, can become involved by providing input into the planning process through participation in workshops, community forums and surveys.

## Economic Development Strategy Highlighting Opportunities

Community interest in the development of an Economic Development Strategy has been high with many business operators participating in workshops and forums. The community workshops generated a great deal of interest and provided excellent material, regarding the community's knowledge of and aspirations for the Local Government Area.

In order to improve business prospects for the area participants have identified the need:

- For council to be more proactive in helping and attracting businesses;
- For greater promotion of the area;
- For beautification of Main Street in Lithgow; and
- For the development of a Branding and Marketing Strategy for the area.

Community input is the key to making Lithgow's Economic Development Strategy a comprehensive and practical document that will support the sustainable growth of the entire Local Government Area.

## Business and Retail Study Highlights growth in the sector

A Business and Retail Study is currently underway that will identify clear and specific actions required to address retailing issues and to develop our retail centres. Over 125 local business owners, in the retail centres of Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang, were surveyed to identify characteristics and key issues/opportunities that they face. Some key findings of the surveys were as follows:

- 52% of respondents had operated their business for up to five years only.

- 44% of businesses surveyed were established over 20 years ago.
- 60% of respondents stated that their business had performed better over the last 12 months.
- 66% of respondents stated that the recession had not had a negative effect on their business.
- 80% of those surveyed had employees.

Actions from this Study will be included in the Economic Development Strategy.

# Investing In Growth



## Strategic Land Use Planning Issues being identified

NSW Councils are required to review and develop a new Principal Local Environmental Plan. Local Environmental Plans can impact on every aspect of a community including where we live, work and play. The Local Environmental Plan is a document that guides decision making on land use. These plans determine the areas in which various types of development can be considered; and which areas of open space and environmental sensitivity need to be protected.

Council has been working solidly with external consultants to undertake necessary strategic land use planning to inform the preparation of the new Principal Local Environmental Plan.

This work has led to the preparation of a Draft Land Use Issues Paper that identifies local planning issues and considers options to be further explored within the development of the Land Use Strategy to address these issues.

The next phase involves the development of the Land Use Strategy. Once completed Council will consult the community to ensure that no issues have been missed and that the strategies and actions recommended balance community expectations.

The timeline for the project has been extended by the NSW Department of Planning and Council to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to the project and that all available information is considered and utilised in its development. The planned delivery date for the new Principal Local Environmental Plan is now late 2011.

The project is partnered and jointly funded by the Planning Reform Fund Program (PRFP) of the NSW Department of Planning

Further information on this project can be obtained from Council's Strategic Land Use Planner Mrs Sherilyn Hanrahan on 6354 9999.

## Lithgow City Council participates in CORSnet

A new GPS base station will allow Council, developers and corporate industry with access to specialised GPS devices to record highly accurate coordinates. This makes it easier to pinpoint the location of infrastructure and utilities.

The system enhances Council's current mapping technology making it easier for Council staff to map the location of assets such as roads, water mains and sewer lines. It will increase efficiencies in asset management, planning work and infrastructure development.

Council has entered into a partnership with the Department

of Lands to host a Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) This system is part of a network of Global Navigational Satellite Systems (GNSS) located around New South Wales.

Accuracy is enhanced the closer you are to a base station. The base stations make corrections to the satellite data removing any inaccuracies caused by changes in the atmosphere. Previously there were 23 stations operating across the State with the closest to Lithgow being Springwood and Bathurst.

Now that Lithgow has a base station, accuracy has been increased to one centimeter.

## Revamped exhibition space at Eskbank

Greater access to travelling exhibitions, the display of Council's art and historic collections and opportunities for local artists to exhibit will be the focus of the revamped Courtyard Gallery at Eskbank House Museum.

As part of the revamp an under-lit glass display panel has been installed which highlights bricks from Newbold and Hughes Brickworks, convict bricks and a large sandstone block into which is carved a Masonic Compass and Square symbol.

Council provides a discount to members of the Lithgow local government area when they visit the museum. Reminisce about the days gone by before television, cars, CDs and the electric refrigerator were all invented.

Pack a picnic and enjoy the grounds of the museum and its facilities over the school holidays. Possum the locomotive is a favorite of both small children and train buffs alike.

### Eskbank House Museum

**Located on the  
Cnr Inch & Bennett Sts  
Lithgow**

Open

**Wednesday to Sunday  
10am – 4pm**

**Phone: 6351 3557**

## Meeting Your Needs



### Stop, Revive, Survive this Christmas and Holiday Season

A safe holiday season for yourself and your family should be at the forefront of your minds as we prepare for the coming festive and holiday season.

School holidays, Christmas shopping, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year are all nearly upon us. Whether you're travelling around town or heading off on holidays, remember to stop, revive, survive and have a safe holiday season.

Driver fatigue can affect you either on a long or short trip. The symptoms of driver fatigue include feeling sleepy or tired, having poor concentration, yawning, tired or sore eyes, restlessness, missing road signs and feeling irritable. Driver fatigue can severely impair judgment and anyone can be affected

Always plan your trips and aim to stop at least every two hours. Exit the vehicle, have something to eat or walk around for at least 15 minutes. This takes your mind off the driving task. Make sure you have had sufficient sleep as well.

Driver reviver sites operate throughout NSW at peak holiday times. These are safe places for motorists, motorcycle riders and passengers to stop and refresh with a free cup of tea or coffee.

**Remember to Stop,  
Revive and Survive this  
festive season.**

### Live Well Lithgow Challenge

The Live Well Lithgow Challenge has come to an end after 12 big weeks of community events and activities. The program was very successful with over 1100 people signing up for the challenge between September and November.

This joint initiative between Lithgow City Council and Sydney West Area Health Service was aimed at promoting healthier lifestyles, encouraging everyone to be more active and eat more healthily. Our very own Lithgow Panther became the mascot for healthy living in Lithgow and his green paw prints supporting the program were a common sight in the area.

Everyone who signed up received a pedometer and a kit with health related information and details of the various Live Well Lithgow events. Local libraries and doctors' surgeries were strong advocates of the challenge and instrumental in distributing the kits to many people.

Numerous events were held over the 12-week period including seminars, bushwalks and heritage walks, the healthy lifestyle expo, sports club open days and supermarket tours. The Challenge also provided the stimulus for many initiatives that may continue into 2010 such as the new fresh produce markets, Latin dancing, aqua

exercise classes and the reopening of the Portland tennis courts.

The success of the program has been largely due to the many individuals, clubs, associations and businesses that provided their time, resources, support and sponsorship and to everyone in the local community that embraced it.

Special thanks goes to LINC and the Healthy and Active Lithgow Program, which provided support for many of the Live Well Lithgow initiatives, our principle sponsor CS Health for providing the main prize for the challenge and other key sponsors Blooms the Chemist and Newnes Hotel Cabins for also donating substantial prizes.

Following on from the challenge, the Eat Well Lithgow program was recently launched with over 30 local food retailers promoting healthier food options when eating out in Lithgow. The Live Well in Lithgow program will also continue into 2010 with other initiatives aimed at encouraging healthier living.

To help everyone continue their healthy habits, a local directory of health and fitness activities has been compiled. This can be downloaded from [www.lithgow.com/livewell](http://www.lithgow.com/livewell). Copies can also be obtained from Lithgow City Council and your local library.

### Supporting Community Projects

Council's Financial Assistance program is available to not-for-profit community groups and organisations seeking to undertake community based projects within the Lithgow local government area.

A downloadable application form and a copy of Council's policy are available from the website or by contacting 6354 9999.

From 2010, Council will call for applications in April and October of each year.

# Working Together



Get your  of approval -  
Ensure you're Septic  Safe

Property owners with onsite sewage management systems, such as septic tanks and aerated waste water systems are responsible for ensuring that their systems are well maintained and working well.

A failing septic system is a health risk for your family and the community and may be causing harm to the environment.

To protect your family and friends there are some simple things to look out for which may indicate that your system is not working as well as it should. These can include:

- Strong or foul odours around the tank or wastewater disposal area.
- Long grass, spongy ground, or pooling wastewater in the wastewater disposal area.
- Slow draining fixtures and gurgling toilets.
- Weed growth and native vegetation die off in or near the wastewater disposal area.

Things you can do to help your system include:

- Pump out your septic tank every 3-5 years.
- Check your grease trap every 3 months.
- Check there are no cracks or holes in your tank that will allow pests such as mosquitoes into your tank to live and breed.

- Prevent hygiene products and toxic chemicals such as disinfectants, bleaches, nappy soakers and whiteners entering your wastewater system.
- Ensure stormwater is diverted around tank and wastewater disposal area.
- Use products that are labelled as biodegradable or SepticSafe.
- Break your laundry washing up over the week so as to not overload your system.
- Practice water conservation.

The SepticSafe program is helping councils and septic system owners prevent pollution and health problems caused by poorly functioning septic systems. As part of Council's SepticSafe Strategy Council will be inspecting all septic systems within the Local Government Area and has started with those in the Sydney drinking water catchment.

Council is also conducting Information Sessions to inform the community on how to maintain their septic system and on the SepticSafe Program. All information sessions will be advertised in the Council Column of the Lithgow Mercury.

Further information on the SepticSafe Program can be found on Council's website including an Easy Septic Guide that shows you how to manage your septic safely.

## Drought Relief Funding

\$400,000 has been received from the NSW Government to fund the supply of reticulated water to all towns and villages currently on the Fish River Water Supply in our area. This will help to relieve the pressure on the Oberon Dam water supply.

Portland, Wallerawang, Lidsdale, Cullen Bullen, Rydal and Glen Davis, are currently serviced from the Fish River Water Supply which sources water from Oberon Dam.

Staff from Council and State Water are working on the project to relieve the pressure on the Oberon Dam water supply. A number of trials have been undertaken over recent months to supply water from the Lithgow Reticulation Water Storage System to these areas.

To date these trials have not been successful. As a result both State Water and Council staff are working with specialist hydraulic engineers to resolve the water pressure issues so the scheme may proceed as soon as possible.

In addition to this, during 2010 Council will be working towards augmentation of the Clarence Transfer System to boost the Lithgow water supply.

**Greenwaste  
Collection 2010**  
**8 February**  
**12 April**

**Council Clean-Up  
2010**  
**8 March**

**To arrange for collection contact the Council  
Administration Centre on 6354 9999.**

# Quality Community Facilities



## Crystal Theatre A modern facility retaining old time grandeur

The newly refurbished Crystal Theatre at Portland will provide the community with access to year-round events. The recent upgrade has been the result of careful planning to maintain the heritage integrity of this fine old theatre whilst improving the facilities for accessibility and health standards.

The installation of a chair lift will ensure that persons with limited mobility can access the theatre area of the building. A new accessible toilet has been constructed in the foyer for use in conjunction with the improvements to the front entry.

Other improvements include the installation of a heating system and extensions and refurbishment of the existing kitchen, as well as a new meeting room and construction of a projection room and gallery area on the upper floor of the Theatre.

The community of Portland feels that the works are a credit to Council and the builder. The works will enhance the opportunity to develop a vibrant cultural scene within Portland, building on current activities focused around the Crystal Theatre.

This work has been made possible by funding provided from the Federal Government (under the Better Regions and Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program), NSW Ministry of Arts, Delta Electricity, Mine Workers Trust and Lithgow City Council.

## More Community Facilities to be Improved

Families, sporting clubs and rural communities will all benefit from \$208,000 provided under the Federal Government's Regional and Local Infrastructure Program Round 2.

Queen Elizabeth Park in Lithgow will benefit from the replacement of some out-dated and under-utilised equipment with modern, state of the art play equipment. This proposal also includes funding for the installation of a Liberty Swing, which will allow children in wheelchairs to actively participate in recreational activities.

Improvements to Meadow Flat Hall will include provision of disabled access, installation of kitchen facilities, reconstruction of the existing stage, upgrading of amenities, and redesign and reconstruction of the front entry area.

Extensions to the Lithgow Soccer Clubhouse at Marjorie Jackson Oval in Lithgow will include an additional change room and storage space, and refurbishment of the existing change

room, amenities and officials' room to adequately cater for users.

Kremer Park in Portland will also benefit from the replacement of some out dated and under utilised equipment with modern, state of the art play equipment.

Improved Access to Lithgow Croquet Club will include the construction of ramps from the playing fields to the Clubhouse, concrete paths linking the Clubhouse to James Street and the installation of accessible handrails and fencing.

Council is now awaiting the assessment of these projects and approval to commence works which will provide major benefits to the community.

Improvements to Hermitage Hall in Lithgow include upgrading the existing amenities to provide disabled access, and provision of a ramp allowing access into the hall (both front and side).

## Sewage Treatment Upgrade

Improved environmental performance will be the result of a major upgrade to the Lithgow Sewerage Treatment Plant.

The plant will be upgraded using the latest technology to achieve best practice in environmental performance which is particularly important given its location within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. The project, costing in excess of \$18 million, will be partly funded through the Country Towns Water and Sewage Scheme and assistance

from the Sydney Catchment Authority.

Lithgow City Council has engaged Haslin Constructions to commence the Stage 2 upgrade of the Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant. Work will commence in early January with the project expected to last 12 months.

Council is also proceeding with the upgrade of the Wallerawang Sewage Treatment Plant with the combined costs of major treatment plant upgrades to be expected to cost in the vicinity of \$30 million.

## Faults Hotline 6354 9999

Council encourages community members to report any faults in relation to the following facilities:

- Oakey Park Water Treatment Plant
- Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant
- Portland Sewage Treatment Plant
- Wallerawang Sewage Treatment Plant
- Lithgow Solid Waste Facility
- Portland Garbage Depot

# Improving Our Assets



## Round 1 Works

Project	Funding Allocation	Progress
Lithgow Skate Park	\$260,000	Completed
Civic Ballroom, Lithgow	\$30,000	Completed
Vale Hall, Lithgow	\$10,000	Completed
Union Theatre	\$50,000	Completed
Wallerawang Library	\$64,000	Completed
Wallerawang Boat	\$35,000	Completed
Crystal Theatre, Portland	\$80,000	Completed
Design & Project Management	\$140,000	On going
Lithgow Skate Park - Design & installation of equipment	\$240,000	90% Complete. Completion February 2010.
Civic Ballroom, Lithgow	\$1,070,000	Plans being developed
Tony Luchetti Sports Ground Precinct	\$747,500	Plans being developed
Ashley Grandstand	\$660,000	Plans being developed
Glanmire Oval Precinct	\$1,140,500	Combined Development Application/Construction Certificate Lodged

## Proposed Round 2 Works

Project	Funding Allocation	Progress
Queen Elizabeth Park, Lithgow - Children's playground	\$55,000	Included in submission for funding
Kremer Park, Portland - Children's playground	\$30,000	Included in submission for funding
Marjorie Jackson Oval, Lithgow	\$50,000	Included in submission for funding
Lithgow Croquet Club	\$8,000	Included in submission for funding
Meadow Flat Hall, Meadow Flat	\$50,000	Included in submission for funding
Hermitage Hall, Lithgow	\$15,000	Included in submission for funding

## Wolgan Road Upgrade

An estimated \$1.5 million is being spent during 2009/10 to improve driver safety on the Wolgan Road and down the Wolgan Gap.

Tree removal and rock bolting has been undertaken to stabilise the loose and crumbling rock face along the

Wolgan Gap section of the road along with minor widening of the road, construction of a concrete table drain and guard rails. The pavement of the road is being reconstructed and resealed to provide a safer surface for vehicles using this dangerous section of the road.

## Proposed Capital Works Program

### November – March

#### Rural Road Upgrades

- Glen Alice Road, Capertee Valley
- Glen Davis Road, Capertee Valley
- Turon Gates Road, Capertee
- Sodwalls/Tarana Road, Tarana
- Rydal/Hampton Road, Rydal
- Magpie Hollow Road, Bowenfels
- Browns Gap Road, Hartley

#### Timber Bridge Improvements

- Glen Davis Road, Glen Davis

#### Urban Roads

- Lithgow & Portland Laneways
- Methven Street, Lithgow
- Clwydd Street, Lithgow
- James Street, Lithgow

#### New Playground Equipment

- Lake Wallace, Wallerawang
- Queen Elizabeth Park, Lithgow

# Encouraging Community Involvement



## Lithgow Skate Park A place for everyone to enjoy

Much to the delight of skateboard, bike and scooter riders the new skatepark is proving to be a fun place for all the family.

One of the exciting things about the new park, is that it has proven to be a great place for families who like to sit near by and watch both the older and younger kids sharing the space, having fun and learning new skills.

Another great aspect of the park is that not only has it been a huge success for our local youth, it has also received a lot of interest from people outside of Lithgow as well.

Council will work with local youth to look at events and competitions that can be held at the park.

## Weddings at Eskbank

Looking for a romantic and intimate setting for your special day?

Why not have your wedding ceremony or wedding photos taken in the grounds at Eskbank House Museum.

With the romance of roses and grandeur of yesteryear Eskbank House is the perfect place to celebrate your marriage.

Eskbank House Museum is open 10am to 4pm Wednesday to Sunday for enquiries and inspection.

**Phone 6351 3557**

## Events are putting Lithgow on the map

Lithgow has recently been part of hosting the "best ever" World Masters Games. The Sydney 2009 World Masters Games ran from 11 to 18 October 2009, with Lithgow hosting the orienteering competition. Some 1,146 competitors descended into Lithgow for a week filled with action-packed competition.

Our guests were given a taste of all of the Lithgow seasons during their stay with rain through to sunshine during their competition, and a touch of sago snow falling during the opening ceremony. The Orienteer's first battled through Ben Bullen State Forest for the first two rounds of competition. Competition was strong with a range of medals given at the final and closing ceremony at Clandulla State Forest.

Lithgow Visitor Information Centre liaised with the Sydney World Masters Games organisers and Orienteering NSW to make our international visitors welcome.

The Lithgow Visitor Information statistics show an increase

of nearly double in visitor numbers during this period.

Such was the success of the Games that a new orienteering competition is being planned for 300 competitors in the new year in the Lithgow area.

Lithgow City Council and Lithgow Tourism is already preparing for some new and recurrent major events. 2010 starts with the "richest womens' footrace in Australia", the Lithgow Flash Gift which is set down for Saturday 6 March 2010.

Portland has been confirmed as host for the Australian 4 Day Enduro Motorcycle Championship from 8 -11 April, with the Rally of Lithgow being on the 17 April and Ironfest being held on the ANZAC long weekend.

**For further information on  
any upcoming event contact:  
Lithgow Tourism  
Tel: 1300 76 02 76 or  
[www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com)**

## What's on at the Library

The featured book of the month for January is "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendek. This will coincide with the release in December of this exciting children's movie. The Lithgow Library Learning Centre will be holding a number of exciting activities including craft mornings, a colouring competition, children's story time and reading club for adults and kids during the school holidays based on the theme "Read on the Wild Side".

Author and wildlife photographer Jan Latta will be featuring her "true to life" series of children's books during January. On Thursday 21 January, Jan will be visiting the Lithgow Learning Centre to talk about her adventures as a wildlife photographer and writer. Sessions will be held throughout the day.

## World Heritage

### Wonder Pass

Experience the best  
the World Heritage  
Area has to offer for  
one low price!

Zig Zag Railway

Mount Tomah Botanic  
Gardens

Jenolan Caves

**Family Pass**

**\$125**

**Call 1300 76 02 76**

or visit

**[www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com)**