



LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF COUNCIL

TO BE HELD AT

THE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, LITHGOW

ON

05 JUNE 2006

AT 6.00pm

AGENDA

PRESENT

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY

PRESENTATIONS

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND STRATEGY
COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 1 MAY 2006**

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

NOTICES OF MOTION - NIL

NOTICES OF RESCISSION - NIL

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

General Manager Reports
Environment And Planning Services Reports

REPORTS FROM DELEGATES - NIL

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - NIL

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

ITEM:1 EXEC - 05/06/06 - CENTROC - NSW STATE ELECTION

REFERENCE

NIL

SUMMARY

This report seeks from Council issues which Council feels a need to be raised with the State Government prior to the next election.

COMMENTARY

As Council is aware CENTROC is a body of 13 member Councils who strive to improve the standard of all the communities within the membership area. Along with specific functions, CENTROC also boasts a lobbying power which receives the "ears" of all levels of Government in Australia and is seen as a body which, with its combined membership has great lobbying powers.

CENTROC has written to all member Councils seeking advice as to the matter Councils wish CENTROC to raise with the Government. Attached to this report are matters already raised, Council may wish to augment this listing or support those matters already listed.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Having the ability to provide a list of matters worthy of consideration before an election will enable Council to facilitate advice to the community on matters which affect our individual Local Government areas and the CENTROC region as a whole.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

Council is requested to consider matters for CENTROC to raise with the Government prior to an election, these matters may include issues such as:

- Provision of Natural Gas to Portland
- Rural road funding
- Power generation
- State significance planning matters and Council involvement
- Financial assistance grants
- Workers compensation premium increases, or any other matters Councils feels need to be raised.

ATTACHMENTS

1. List of matters already raised for Centroc

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council identify those matters its wishes CENTROC to raise with the Government prior to the next election.

ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM:2 EPS - 05/06/06 - POTTERY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to exhibit a Draft Development Control Plan (DCP) for the Pottery Estate area.

COMMENTARY

The Pottery Estate area has been the focus of business expansion in Lithgow town area recently. Recognising this Council has resolved to adopt a Local Environmental Plan for the area generally known as Pottery Estate, which would change the location of Business 3 zoned land to the east of Silcock Street to an area south of the existing commercial uses south of Valley Drive and to replace it with a Residential 2(a) zone.

The Draft LEP also will make minor amendments to the existing Open Space 6 zone to rationalise boundaries, delete unnecessary areas and provide for the historical quoits court and north flowing natural watercourse to be protected by appropriate Open Space Zoning.

The changes proposed will result in a more rational location of each zone based on the existing land use, the needs of the community and will facilitate the consideration of development applications for the further extension of retail, commercial, entertainment and aged care housing facilities to meet the growing needs of the community. Council can provide direction for development of the area through a Development Control Plan which will provide a basis for approvals and ensure a holistic framework rather than on an ad hoc basis.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

What is a Development Control Plan and its effect?

A Development Control Plan may signify Council's intention with respect to an area or type of development and provide guidelines for developers. It can set out the development control principles that Council will apply when considering applications and discussing proposals with developers.

Preparation of a Development Control Plan enables Council to give formal recognition to policies and codes, to which Council refers when exercising discretion, while maintaining flexibility and avoiding an elaborate local environmental plan process to consider changes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this stage.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Public Participation

The Draft DCP will be required to be exhibited for a minimum period of twenty-eight (28) days as prescribed by legislation. A notice will be placed in the Lithgow Mercury with an accompanying press release and the documents will be on display at Council's Administration Centre. It is also proposed to individually advise major stakeholders in the area such as landholders of significant developable land, local real estate agents, local builders and professionals such as architects, surveyors and environmental consultants.

As the exhibition process is for 28 days, and there will likely be matters arising from the public, it is proposed to have a forum midway through the exhibition where the issues arising can be aired and discussed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Pottery Estate and Adjacent Lands Development Control Plan for business, Recreational and Residential Land Uses.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council resolve to publicly exhibit the Draft Pottery Estate and Adjacent Lands Development Control Plan for Business, Recreational and Residential Land Uses for a period of at least 28 days in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act & Regulations.

ITEM:3 EPS - 05/06/06 - UPDATE OF STRATEGIC PLAN

REFERENCE

Item 4. Policy & Strategy Committee 06/02/06
Item 5, Policy & Strategy Committee 06/03/06
Item 4 Policy & Strategy Committee 03/04/06

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the regular update of the Strategic Plan Project.

COMMENTARY

Community Engagement Program - Visioning

The first round of community engagement took place in March and April. The purpose of this consultation was to formulate the vision statement/s for the Strategic Plan. A further session was required and was held on 19th April, 2006. This session was again well attended and the community members along with Councillors, Council officers and the project consultants were able to deliver ten statements which were to be subject to editorial review by the consultant team.

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This review was completed and the Geolyse project manager presented a consolidated draft of the statements to the Strategic Working Party meeting on 4th May, 2006. The Working Party reviewed these statements and concluded that an overarching vision statement and perhaps a mission statement would also need to be developed to link the statements together.

The following was forwarded to those who participated in the visioning sessions and were asked for feedback which is yet not available.

OVERARCHING VISION STATEMENT BEING DEVELOPED TO LINK THE FOLLOWING ACTION STATEMENTS		
Community	We retain, respect and strengthen both our overall sense of community, and the unique linked communities of groups, rural areas, villages and towns that make up the Lithgow LGA.	Comment: The themes are written as action statements to support the overall statement
Transport	Providing a choice of effective public and private transport options for those who live, work and visit our community	Comment: Focuses on availability of a variety of suitable transport alternatives
Employment	Developing and embracing diverse job opportunities for all ages and abilities.	
Heritage	Celebrating, protecting and sustaining our unique industrial and natural heritage, its cultural landscapes and its built heritage.	Comment: Acknowledging the uniqueness in the area
Education	Progressing to a "learning city of excellence" with a broad range of formal and non-formal education services.	Comment: Emphasising innovation and adaptability
Health	Creating a healthy community providing opportunities and facilities for a healthy lifestyle.	Comment: Includes but does not limit to specific aged care or health services
Environment	Balancing, protecting and enhancing our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations.	Comment: Recognises both natural and built environment
Arts and Culture	Supporting, celebrating and expanding a diversity of cultural and creative adventures, exploring and discovering the richness in our society.	

Following this feedback, the finalised vision statement will be tested through the Resident Feedback Register and then used to guide the development of key directions in the next phase of the project.

The results of the feedback forms issued at the visioning was predominantly positive with the following being the most relevant points;

Notification of session

35.80% Newspaper
27.16% Flyer
23.46% Word of Mouth
3.7% Poster
1.23% Website

Enjoyment of session

29.21% found the sessions very enjoyable
42.08% found the session enjoyable
26.24 % found the sessions OK.

Belief that they were listened to and responded to

38.61% stated that they definitely believed
42.07% stated that they basically believed
1.85% stated they did not believe at all

Main areas of concern for the future of Lithgow

12.82% Jobs
11.3% General concerns
9.77% Heritage/Town Character
9.62% New Development
9.31% Nature/Environment
7.94% Infrastructure

Confidence that their input will be taken into account by Council

15.84% were confident
60.39% were hopeful
16.34% were uncertain
3.46% were extremely doubtful

Resident Feedback Register (RFR)

The Resident Feedback Register has been established with an initial 232 participants. Two participants have subsequently withdrawn for reasons outside of Council's control or influence. The Register has a gender mix of 60% female and 40% male. The age distribution is 1% unknown, 10% 18-34, 21% 35-44, 44% 45-60 and 24% 60 plus.

Participants were advised of their selection in early April and given the opportunity of completing the survey on line at home or work, attending one of Council's libraries or by hard copy whereby Council would provide a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of the survey.

This represents additional costs in terms of printing, postage and administrative resource, however it is considered necessary to ensure equity for all community members to participate. A total of 34 participants have advised that hard copy mail is their preferred option.

Participants replying on-line will be provided with a password and link within Council's Web-site to complete the survey. All responses will be sent directly to Twyford Consulting who will administer the first two stages of the RFR. The last stage will be administered by Council to enable Council to enable the continuation of the RFR beyond the Strategic Plan project.

Government Authority/Agency Forum

A forum was held on 10th April, 2006 with government authorities and agencies with 21 attendees from a good cross section of departments. Most notable absentees were the Department of Planning and the RTA. The forum served to validate the main issue areas and discuss further the level of detail needed to successfully capture data for the Strategic Plan. The results of this forum will form part of the Policy and Instrument Analysis in the Local Profile.

A separate meeting was held with the RTA on 23rd May, 2006 and arrangements have been made to meet with the Department of Planning, who on 21st April, 2006 advised that Lithgow will now again be administered by the Central West/ Far West Region branch.

Draft Local Profile

The draft Local Profile is 2 months behind the anticipated work plan/timeline of Mar 20 -31 due to problems being experienced with acquisition of data from the Land and Property Information Service and also the extension of the visioning consultation program. It is anticipated that this will not impact significantly on the final completion date of the project. However, the Community engagement program for the issues paper will be pushed back into August instead of July and other potential risks to the overall timeline are being identified and solutions investigated.

Out of the nine required analyses to form the local profile, five are now in draft format. The remaining analyses being Land Use and Rural Lands, Planning Policy and Instrument Analysis will be provided as supplementary reports due to delays in data acquisition. The spatial analysis will be embedded within the other relevant analysis such as economic, land use & rural lands. The completed draft local profile is expected to be submitted on 9th June, 2006.

Work currently being undertaken

TASK	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS
Completion of draft local profile reports	Geolyse
Review of draft local profile reports submitted	Council
Finalisation of vision statements	Geolyse and Twyford (review by Council)
Development of Survey for RFR	Twyford (review by Geolyse and Council)
Development of Issues Paper	Geolyse and Council
Identification of risks to project timeline and revised plan	Geolyse and Council

Results of the above work will be provided in the next update report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No policy implications arise from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Strategic Plan project is funded by the Planning Reform Fund Program and is currently within budget limits.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No legal implications arise from this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

**ITEM:4 EPS - 05/06/06 - MARRANGAROO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY
AND MASTERPLAN**

REFERENCE

Planning, Policy and Development Committee

- 7/2/05
- 27/6/05
- 22/8/05
- 12/12/05

Policy and Strategy Committee

- 1/5/06

SUMMARY

To inform Council of the progress of the Marrangaroo Local Environmental Study and Masterplan.

COMMENTARY

At the last meetings of the working group and the community groups on 25 May 2006, the consultant provided information including maps of planning precincts, concept plan for discussion and a table of permissible likely uses and objectives within the area. These have been distributed to all Councillors.

It was agreed to hold another community meeting prior to the exhibition of the plan in order to confirm the mapping is as agreed with the group. A report will then be presented to Council with the Draft Local Environmental Study to recommend exhibition. It would also be a sensible idea to hold a workshop with Councillors to provide an interactive briefing on the issues prior to exhibition.

Questions have already been received from the communities which are being researched at present. These questions are being developed into a “frequently asked questions” (FAQ’s) sheet for the newsletter and exhibition. There will also be another open house midway through the exhibition.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this stage

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not as a result of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the progress of the Marrangaroo Project be noted and a date be set for a Councillor workshop prior to final consideration to exhibit the Local Environmental Study.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE