



## **LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL**

**“A Centre of Regional Excellence”**

### **AGENDA**

**EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**TO BE HELD AT**

**THE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, LITHGOW**

**ON**

**23 FEBRUARY 2009**

**AT 7.00pm**

# AGENDA

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**PRESENT / APOLOGIES**

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**MAYORAL MINUTES - NIL**

**NOTICES OF RESCISSIONS - NIL**

**NOTICES OF MOTION - NIL**

**REPORTS**

General Manager Report

**REPORTS FROM DELEGATES - NIL**

**BUSINESS OF GREAT URGENCY** (as identified by Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS - NIL**

**CLOSED MEETING**

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## **242 Agenda for extraordinary meetings**

- (1) The general manager must ensure that the agenda for an extraordinary meeting of a council deals only with the matters stated in the notice of the meeting.
- (2) Despite subclause (1), business may be transacted at an extraordinary meeting of a council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the councillors. However, this can happen only if:
  - (a) a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting, and
  - (b) the business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency.Such a motion can be moved without notice but only after the business notified in the agenda for the meeting has been disposed of.
- (3) Despite clause 250, only the mover of a motion referred to in subclause (2) can speak to the motion before it is put.

## GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

### ITEM GM - 23/02/09 - REGIONAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2008/09

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#### SUMMARY

On 13 February 2009, the Australian Government announced an additional \$500 million to the previous \$300 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) announced by the Prime Minister at the first meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government on 18 November 2008.

Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday February 16, 2009 to call an Extra Ordinary Council Meeting to consider an application under this funding round.

#### COMMENTARY

In addition to the \$300 million the Federal Government is making available a further \$500 million under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program 2008/09 to local government to stimulate growth and economic activity across Australia.

The funding is for local government to stimulate growth and economic activity across Australia and support national productivity and community well-being. The additional \$500 million is for community infrastructure like sports grounds, swimming pools, community centres and town halls. This takes the amount available under the Regional and Local Communities Infrastructure Fund for Strategic Projects to \$550 million and the total funding package to \$800 million.

The \$800 million component of the Nation Building package is to be delivered as follows:

- \$550 million for Strategic Projects
- \$250 million allocated direct to councils and shires

Council has been allocated \$529,000 from the \$250 million funding pool. This is to be used for the following projects:

Projects	\$
Lithgow Skate Park	260,000
Union Theatre/Hoskins Building – complete linking	40,000
Union Theatre Toilets	10,000
Crystal Theatre – contribution to upgrade	80,000
Wallerawang Library	64,000
Lithgow Civic Ballroom	30,000
Vale Hall Kitchen	10,000
Wallerawang Boatshed	35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>529,000</b>

Council has also made the following prioritised allocations should any of the preferred items not be eligible or should they be considered not capable of being completed in time:

Lithgow	\$
Playground equipment - Replace and Upgrade Queen Elizabeth Park & Brook Street Park	40,000
Civic Ballroom refurbishment - partial ceiling replacement, general asset improvement	60,000
Eskbank House BBQ & Shelter	10,000

Portland	\$
Crystal Theatre upgrade - Completion of all upgrade works, eg stage, additional fire upgrading	200,000
Electric BBQ for Saville Park	8,000
Playground upgrade - Kremer Park	30,000

Wallerawang	\$
Playground upgrades - Lake Wallace	30,000
Picnic and BBQ facilities	15,000

Council previously did not make application for the strategic projects. The strategic projects fund previously closed on December 23, 2008. The Government is now giving local councils and shires the opportunity to submit new or revised applications for the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects.

To this point the program has been extremely popular with 344 submissions received previously – which sought more than \$1.2 billion to build infrastructure.

### **\$550 million Strategic Projects**

With the extra \$500 million, local councils and shires will have the opportunity to submit new or revised applications.

Councils and shires will have until **4pm AEDST, Friday 6 March 2009** to submit new or revised applications. Interested local governments must do one of the following:

- advise the Department that they wish to continue with their existing applications;
- submit a new application for a new project; or
- revise their existing application and resubmit within the deadline.

The existing Guidelines for RLCIP Strategic Projects will continue to apply. They include:

- applications are limited only to local governments, and **only one application per council**;
- projects must be ready to go and able to **proceed within six months** of signing a contract;
- projects must be seeking a Commonwealth contribution of at **least \$2 million**;
- councils and shires are **encouraged to contribute their own funds** or secure partnership funds for projects; and
- community organisations' projects are permitted as long as they are sponsored by a local government.

The Government is also conscious of the additional needs of local communities that have been affected by the Victorian bushfires and the Queensland floods. The Government is consulting with councils to determine options for assisting the rebuilding effort in their communities.

### **Lithgow Project**

Council had not previously made a submission for this funding. At the time the funding pool was \$50 million Australia wide with a minimum allocation per project of \$2 million. Obviously there were limited opportunities for this funding. With the additional \$500 million allocation there are many more opportunities and Council should consider making an application, remembering that only one application may be made per council.

As advised previously to the Ordinary Council meeting Council does not currently have a single project that is sufficiently progressed or that is of a significant enough value to make application currently under consideration. However Council may like to consider grouping several possible projects creating one overall project. Possible projects are:

- A Glanmire Oval Sporting and Community Precinct, e.g.
  - ✓ Hockey field and ancillary facilities upgrade
  - ✓ Carparking
  - ✓ Cricket nets
  - ✓ Playground equipment
  - ✓ Internal road works
  - ✓ Seating structures
  - ✓ Shade structures
  - ✓ Drainage works
  - ✓ Community hall improvements
  - ✓ Skate park (addition to existing proposal)
  - ✓ Walking/cycle paths connecting other facilities
- The upgrade of the Tony Luchetti Sports Ground in association with the upgrade of the Civic Ballroom, creating a precinct
- Lithgow Aquatic Centre (unlikely due to timeframes)

Project applications will require:

- 3 year cash flow projections for your organisation including: Attached
  - Projected capital cost of establishing project
  - Projected revenues for future years
  - Projected ongoing costs for future years
  - Any assumptions, calculations and data underlying projections
- Last 3 years annual reports for the organisation
- Proof of loan approvals (if applicable)
- Cost estimates and/or quotations for products or services included in the project (include project cost evidence, ie quotes)
- Feasibility Study for the project
- Business Plan for the project with cash flow projections
- Detailed Project Plan for the project
- Completed Budget
- Authorisation to Undertake an Independent Viability Assessment (IVA)
- Proponent and project viability

This will require a significant effort on behalf of Council to complete the above for these projects and staff time will need to be reallocated to complete any application.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Council should consider making a contribution to this project to demonstrate that the project is wanted in the local area and to give the application a greater level of success.

Council is currently budgeting for a \$317,000 surplus for the current financial year.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Media Release – The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government dated February 13, 2009; “RUDD GOVERNMENT SECURES EXTRA \$500 MILLION FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE - NO THANKS TO LIBERAL AND NATIONAL PARTIES”
- Guidelines Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects 2008-09 – \$550 million
- Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects \$550 million Application Process for 2008-09
- Frequently Asked Questions Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects

### **Recommendation**

**That Council:**

1. Make application under the Regional and Local Communities Infrastructure Program 2008-09 – Strategic Projects funding;
2. Determine the preferred project for application;
3. Allocate, for this application only, \$250,000 from the projected surplus for 2008/09; and
4. Seek financial commitments from users of the precinct to assist the application

## **BUSINESS OF GREAT URGENCY**

In accordance with Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 business may be transacted at a meeting of Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors. However, this can happen only of:

- a) A motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting: and
- b) The business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency.