



Lithgow City Council

Cultural Plan 2008-2013 Draft

Lithgow City Council Cultural Plan 2008 - 2013 Draft

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Executive Summary

The Lithgow City Council Cultural Plan acknowledges the diversity and contribution that the residents of the Lithgow Local Government Area play in developing the community. Arts benefit and strengthen communities, cultural tourism not only provides a direct economic benefit to communities but, important quality of life factors, such as improved health, wellbeing and reductions in anti-social behaviour can all be linked to the development of cultural activities and community building (Yates & Collins 2008, p.12).

The recent Lithgow Jobs Summit identified that there are “Two challenges....in assessing the ‘best’ ideas.....a lack of champions and a lack of knowledge of funding sources” (Western Research Institute 2008:7). By closely linking the strategies and actions from the Cultural Plan with the Lithgow Jobs Summit Report and other planning instruments within Council it is anticipated that Council will become the champion for future economic development and growth in the Lithgow local government area.

Lithgow City Council has developed this Draft Cultural Plan which outlines the processes to date in developing a cultural plan and a proposed direction for cultural development in the Lithgow local government area for the 2008 – 2013 time frame.

This document proposes that the way forward for cultural development in the Lithgow Local Government area is to begin a cultural mapping and placemaking process which will identify what the individual towns, villages and localities within the local government area want in terms of cultural development.

Cultural mapping will seek to identify current activities and community groups providing an overall view of the direct and indirect benefits of cultural activities within the community. In addition to this we will look at ways that Council can assist communities to develop new programs based on their tangible and intangible assets which will benefit the whole of the Lithgow local government area.

A sustainable approach to placemaking such as cultural, heritage, Main Street and Village Enhancement programs will be identified in conjunction with the local community. This type of approach aids in the promotion of community pride, growth and economic development.

Venues and facilities in the Lithgow area will be the subject of an audit process which will identify opportunities for enhancement and marketing of these facilities. A feasibility study into Cultural Precincts for Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland has been set as a key priority for the Cultural Plan. There is a diverse range of facilities within these towns which can provide a variety of services to the community.

The importance of heritage is a significant component of the Lithgow Region's identity. Identification and recognition of our cultural landscapes, both built structures and significant environmental corridors, will aid in the development of management plans for Crown Lands, Community Lands and local streetscapes. This information will inform Council's Local Environment Plan and future Development Control Plans designed to identify areas of industrial development, urban expansion and economic growth.

This plan recognises the role creative and cottage industries will play in the future economic development and growth of the area. As there is a shift in the future from the traditional industrial base, Lithgow will need to rely more on its ability for growth and renewal to develop economically sustainable and viable businesses. Active participation in the Learning Cities program will see the Lithgow area move forward into the future. A Learning City is one that renews itself and promotes life long learning. Education and the facilitation of proactive learning partnerships will generate a broader workforce and skills base.

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Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Culture of the area through the development of a Wiradjuri Language Program, festivals and events will promote understanding and inclusion. Working together we will start to tell the stories of the area; both traditional and settlement.

In conclusion, the Lithgow City Council Cultural Plan 2008-2013 provides a way forward for cultural community development in the Lithgow area. It is anticipated that this document will seek to encourage the community to look to ways that cultural activities can be a significant factor in the future development and economic growth of the Lithgow local government area.



2. Preamble

2.1 Introduction

The Lithgow City Council Cultural Plan has been prepared by Lithgow City Council with the cooperation and participation of the greater Lithgow community. The Cultural Plan will assist Council in identifying cultural resources and facilities existing in our communities, facilitate opportunities for improvements, define the role Council should have in cultural activities and develop a better understanding of the needs of our community. Furthermore, the Lithgow City Council Cultural Plan provides a framework from which achievements can be measured against identified outcomes.

To successfully implement the Cultural Plan, Council acknowledges the diversity and individuality of the towns, villages and localities in the Lithgow Local Government Area and their role in developing and shaping the community through heritage, festivals, the arts and the intangibles such as community spirit, shared stories and wellbeing. Council recognises the need to form partnerships with specific sections of our community and the need to consult with other governmental departments and agencies to further enhance and promote cultural opportunities.

The development of the Cultural Plan is a key strategic process that seeks to recognise our unique culture as an essential element of the social and economic existence of our community. The Cultural Plan will be closely linked to Council's Social Plan, Strategic Plan, Crime Prevention Plan, Management Plan and Local Environmental Plan.

The cultural planning process involves the examination (audit) of the community's social and cultural activities, resources and aspirations. It is also an important document for Council to have as a

background tool to enable the pursuit of government funding for cultural activities and specific community based funding opportunities for projects.

2.2 Local Government Association & Shires Association of NSW

"The future of local government depends largely on its capacity to anticipate, challenge, and respond to the forces that will shape our communities in the coming years."

Department of Local Government (2006)

Although it was initially suggested that all NSW Councils should have a Cultural Plan in place by November 2004, there is no mandatory requirement to date to develop a Cultural Plan. However, In July 2004, the NSW Ministry for the Arts (Arts NSW) and the NSW Department of Local Government published the "Cultural Planning Guidelines for Local Government". The guidelines provide a framework for the development and implementation of a Cultural Plan.

In 2002, amendments to the Local Government Act provided for Councils to include in their management plans a statement on social, community or cultural matters. However this does not imply that Councils are 'required' to develop a cultural plan (NSW Ministry for Arts & NSW Department of Local Government, 2004).

Cultural Planning and Development is recognised as a component of community planning and services. At the conclusion of the 2005 Annual Local Government Conference, a policy statement was developed which outlines local

2. Preamble

governments' vision for 'Community Planning and Services' acknowledging the important role it contributes to physical, psychological and social health, welfare and the general wellbeing of citizens (Local Government Association 2005).

The Third Cultural Accord was implemented on 1 January 2006 for a three year period to conclude on 31 December 2008 under the auspices of the Cultural Development Standing Committee (representatives of the Local Government & Shires Association & Arts NSW).

The focus of the committee is:

- To work collaboratively to establish a new Ministry funding program for Local Government that recognises Local Governments who are making a sustained commitment to the arts and culture through a cultural planning framework.
- In recognition of the important cultural collections held by Local Governments, to jointly encourage greater integration of the operation of Local Government cultural facilities including libraries, museums and art galleries.
- To jointly develop a proposal for a national strategy for Community Cultural Development through the Cultural Ministers Council.

2.3 Definitions

The following definitions are used by the Local Government Association & Shires Association NSW in regards to cultural policy and planning.

2.3.1 Culture

Culture in its broadest terms, is about how people socialise, interact with their

environment and each other, whether through activities and responsibilities associated with work, sports, leisure, common interests and other activities contributing to the well being of their society and family and to their quality of life. Culture is both tangible, it is the spirit of individuals and communities and it is the tangibles that people create that express the intangibles. Culture is how people determine their way of life.

2.3.2 Cultural Activities

Cultural activities encompass the visual, performing and literary art, social events and activities, educational activities leading to the development of cultural skills and knowledge, festivals, celebrations, commemorative events, community and urban planning and design, public art and cultural planning.

2.3.3 Art

Art is a medium, tool or resource/s that can be used to creatively express and communicate the community's culture and spirit, whether to promote issues, nurture and express their creativeness, embrace and preserve a quality of life and/or develop. Art can make the tangible intangible.

2.3.4 Community Cultural Development

Community cultural development describes processes in which communities interact at a local level with arts and culture. It is the nurturing, expanding and expression of a community's cultural life by the community itself, enabling communities to advance their artistic, social and economic aspirations.

3. Vision

3.1 Overarching Vision

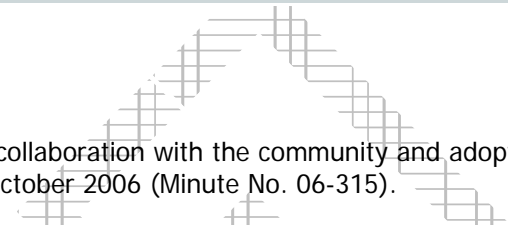
The following overarching vision was developed in collaboration with the community and adopted by Council at its Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting of 3 October 2006 (Minute No. 06-315):

“A Centre of Regional Excellence that:

- **Encourages community growth and development**
- **Contributes to the efficient and effective management of the environment, community and economy for present and future generations.”**

3.2 Vision Statements

The following vision statements were developed in collaboration with the community and adopted by Council at its Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting of 3 October 2006 (Minute No. 06-315).



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 Local Government Area.
Transport	Providing a choice of effective public and private transport options for those who live, work and visit our community.
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.
Education	Progressing to a “learning city of excellence” with a broad range of formal and non-formal education services.
Health	Creating a healthy community providing opportunities and facilities for a healthy lifestyle
Environment	Balancing, protecting and enhancing our diverse environmental elements, both natural and built, for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations.
Arts & Culture	Supporting, celebrating and expanding a diversity of cultural and creative adventures that explore and discover the richness in our society.
Youth	Providing suitable entertainment and recreational facilities; education and employment opportunities and lifestyle choices for our valuable community of young people.
Growth	Providing for sustainable and planned growth, while enhancing the existing rural and village identity.

4. Cultural Planning Process

4.1 Cultural Planning History

The development of a Cultural Plan for the Lithgow Local Government Area has had a long history.

- In 1998 the Lithgow Arts Council was re-established and has as one of its aims the development of a Cultural Plan.
- In 2000, the Arts OutWest Local Government Cultural Planning Project produced a Preliminary Draft Report. Following this Draft, a Working Party was established to develop a 'one page' statement outlining the framework for the development of a Cultural Plan.
- In 2002, Council reconvened this Working Party to further develop this framework for discussion and the finalisation of the Cultural Plan.
- In May 2003 a Draft Cultural Plan was prepared by John Bayliss, Lithgow Regional Library.
- In May 2004 Arts OutWest prepared a revised Lithgow Cultural Plan Draft for the Cultural Plan Working Party.
- February 2007 Lithgow City Council appointed a Cultural Development Officer who is required to develop and implement a Cultural Plan for the Lithgow Local Government Area.

4.2 Lithgow City Council Management Plan 2008-2011

Lithgow City Council has identified the following items within its 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 Management Plan as being integral to the development of Arts and Culture within the Lithgow local government area.

- Develop a cultural plan with the community
- Donations and sponsorship of community groups and organisations.
- Construction of new or upgraded public toilet facilities at Pioneer Park, Lithgow.
- Improvements to a number of community halls such as Hermitage Hall, Red Cross House, Meadow Flat Hall, Union Theatre, Vale Hall and the Civic Ballroom.

- The upgrade of park furniture and/or play equipment in the Vale of Clwydd, Lithgow; Cullen Bullen; Lake Wallace, Wallerawang; and Endeavour Park, Lithgow.
- The provision of advice and assistance to community groups to identify and apply for grant funding through the Grants Officer which is an initiative of the Central Tablelands Alliance.
- Donations to numerous community groups and organisations to assist with a project or activity.
- Donations to Ironfest, the Koori Kids NAIDOC Week activities, the City and Highland Bands, the Community Orchestra and a student scholarship to the Mitchell Conservatorium.
- Operation of Eskbank House and Museum.
- Conducting Australia Day activities.

Preparation of the management plan for 2009/10 – 2011/12 which is fully integrated with the Strategic Plan, Social Plan, Cultural Plan and other key documents (Lithgow City Council Management Plan 2007/08 – 2010/11, p6) is a key requirement in the governance and administration of Lithgow City Council. Quarterly reports in relation to progress with activities and programs identified in the Management Plan are presented to Council and available on Councils website www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au.

4.3 Methodology

The Lithgow City Council Draft Cultural Plan has been subject to extended exhibition and a community consultation period (as detailed below). The final plan is a five year working document. This is in keeping with the Department of Local Governments recommendations for 'Delivery Programs' in Option 3 of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Options Paper (2006) which should continue to inform Councils' overall long-term Strategic Planning Process – Our Place, Our Future the Lithgow City Council Strategic Plan prepared for Council by Geolyse in consultation with the community (April 2007).

4. Cultural Planning Process

A 'draft' document has been compiled by

- Amalgamating previous 'draft' Cultural Plans developed by Council and the Lithgow Arts Council.
- a review of the recent community consultation processes undertaken for the Lithgow Social Plan 2006-2011 and the Lithgow Strategic Plan – Our Place, Our Future.
- Conducting a joint community consultation process for the Cultural Plan and the Crime Prevention Plan with consultations (see attachment 1 – Community Consultation Session Notes) being held in:
 - Lithgow
 - Wallerawang
 - Portland
 - Rydal
 - Cullen Bullen

Consultations were also conducted with key target groups including:

- Local community groups & cultural workers
- The Indigenous Community
- Cultural & Linguistically Diverse Community
- People with a disability
- Local Students
 - Year 10 La Salle Academy
 - Year 6 Wallerawang Public School
 - Years 7-11 Portland Central School

85 cultural organisations, cultural workers, artists, performers and community groups within the local government area were sent an initial draft document requesting:

- a) Written submissions in relation to the 'Draft' Cultural Plan;
- b) Written responses to the Cultural Mapping form enclosed; and
- c) Nominated representatives to attend a Cultural Plan – Community Consultation Session.

Three written submissions, which have been summarised and included as attachment 2 to this document were received from:

- Margaret Maddock representing Lyre Blue Creative, Greater Lithgow Region Events Diary & Lithgow Regional Fellowship of Australian Writers.
- Wendy Carlson and Ian Milliss representing CarlsonMilliss Art & Heritage Management.
- The Lithgow Small Arms Factory Inc.

4.3.1 Key issues

The initial community consultation sessions held with community groups and cultural workers identified a number of key issues for the Lithgow area which are listed below in order of priority.

- Arts Centre/Resources
- Perceptions
- Raising Awareness
- Diversity
- Heritage
- Promotion
- Communication

Above all the number one priority was:

ACTION NOT WORDS!!!

4.3.2 The way forward

A Draft Cultural Plan has been prepared which will allow council to move forward with the implementation of cultural planning for the Lithgow local government area. The document to date has achievable goals and actions for the 2008-2013 periods.

4. Cultural Planning Process

4.4 SWOT Analysis

Following the first two Cultural Planning sessions it was agreed that a SWOT Analysis be developed of the perceived Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats identified by the participants.

STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The range and depth of cultural activities • Unique built & cultural heritage of the area. • Intangible cultural heritage • High School Musical Program • Venues – Halls (community run) • Volunteer/charitable/generosity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value adding to current cultural activities • Promotion of built and cultural heritage assets • Seek opportunities for adaptive re-use and preservation of built heritage assets • Identify intangible cultural heritage. • Promote and develop unique attributes to this area. • Develop opportunities for further skills development outside of school activities. • Carry out a facilities audit and look at ways to facilitate the use of halls. • Promote community halls. • Promote volunteering opportunities, efforts and achievements to the community. • Conduct a feasibility studying into the development of a cultural centre for Lithgow. • Greater promotion of activities on a regional level to draw on a greater population base.
THREATS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception that “things are better in other places” • Conservatism • Domination of sport & pub culture to the exclusion of other cultural pursuits • Public liability insurance • Lack of meeting/exhibition/workshop centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather • Small population base • Lack of cultural perspective on the part of Council and internal culture of discouragement • Apathy • Lack of momentum • Lack of resources • Lack of encouragement • No facilities audit identifying and facilitation of use.

4. Cultural Planning Process

Action Plan – Cultural Planning Process

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Develop guidelines for an integrated cultural planning process	Prepare cultural assessment	August – October 2007	Cultural Development Officer	Review prior draft documents and collate data.	2008/09 Management Plan
	Conduct community consultations & consider submissions to amend draft Cultural Plan	December 2007 – October 2008	Cultural Development Officer	Draft Cultural Plan amended.	
	Report to Councils Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting for adoption	15 November 2008	Community & Culture Manager	Exhibition of Draft Cultural Plan	
	Amend document and Report to Council	November 2008 – January 2009	Community & Culture Manager & Cultural Development Officer	Cultural Plan Adopted	
	Implement Cultural Plan	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Achievement of identified actions within set timeframes.	
Encourage Lithgow City Council to integrate cultural planning into their management planning process	Formal Council involvement in the cultural planning process	2008/09	Community Development Officer	Included in 2006-2011 Social Plan adopted Nov 2006.	
	Employ a grants officer to actively seek funding for Council and community groups.	2007/08	Policy & Planning Manager	Grants Officer position filled January 2008.	
	Improve collaboration between Council and community cultural organisations including financial support.	2009/10	Cultural Development Officer & Grants Officer	Development of a cultural grants process as part of Councils Financial Assistance Program	
	Incorporate the Cultural Plan into Councils Management Plan.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Annual inclusion of Cultural Planning actions in Management Plan	
Develop a review process for the Cultural Plan	Review annually by the Cultural Plan Working Party	Annual	Cultural Development Officer & Cultural Plan Working Party.	Review of the Action Plan and progress and inclusion of defined financial requirement in the Cultural Plan and Management Plan	As per identified actions in Cultural Plan

5. Venues & Facilities

5.1 Cultural Precinct

The community consultation process has identified the need to develop a venue with a focus for the community which incorporates an Arts Precinct, Gallery, Theatre, Entertainment Centre and Research Archive as the number one priority for the Lithgow Cultural Plan. The venue should become a focal point encouraging the sharing of ideas and resources. A place where the diversity of cultures can mix, living in harmony with the environment.

As part of the community consultation it is considered important that a feasibility study for the proposed Cultural Precinct should not only include the Hoskins Memorial Institute, Lloyd Copperworks Building and Union Theatre but take into consideration the surrounding streetscape which includes:

- Hoskins Church
- The Court House
- The central business district
- Eskbank House & Museum
- Blast Furnace Park
- Lake Pillans Wetlands
- Farmers Creek
- Mort Street and Railway Parade

The Precinct needs to incorporate indoor and outdoor environments to encourage sharing and mixing by the community. Small businesses such as cafes, retail and craft shops are seen as an integral part of the overall cultural precinct (Western Research Institute 2008:18).

It was proposed that a Research Archive be investigated for inclusion within the Hoskins Memorial Institute. This would provide opportunities for Lithgow to further capitalise on the Industrial Heritage of the area as part of the Learning Cities Program. The program offers an opportunity for Lithgow to 'specialise' in a key area of both local and

national history providing opportunities to serve as an adjunct to the State Archives in Western Sydney and becoming an archive for scholars of industrial heritage.

Cultural precincts offer increased employment opportunities for teachers, curators, artists, musicians, performers, administration (Western Research Institute 2008:18) etcetera along with sustained economic development and growth through increased retail and tourism related industry. These aspects add to an improved quality of life which in return encourages people to remain in the area retaining and building on our skills base.

The Hoskins Memorial Institute is a known local landmark – 'the Old Library Building'. Although a major part of the Hoskins Memorial Institute is currently unused, the building is still utilised to some extent by the following community groups:

- The Musical Society utilises the former Ballroom and Library Stack area as change rooms and prop storage for performances in the Union Theatre.
- The below street level basement is rented by the Lithgow Theatre Group, The Lithgow Senior Citizens Club and Basil Lemke's Gym.

As part of the feasibility study it is recommended that the current user groups be consulted and their facilities maintained. For example Basil Lemke's Gym epitomizes an 'old time gentlemen's gym' and is itself a mark of character and culture within the building which should be preserved.

The community consultation process identified the need to investigate the feasibility of incorporating an entertainment centre as part of the cultural precinct to attract major musical acts and be utilised by local performing arts practitioners, musicians and

5. Venues & Facilities

community groups as a performance and rehearsal space. It is noted that the Union Theatre does currently attract a number of acts to the area and that it would be advisable to undertake a planning process into the current usage, limitations and possible development of this facility to improve its standards and increase its marketability.

The Lithgow Branch of the Mitchell Conservatorium and the Lithgow City Band has identified a need to either redevelop their current sites or seek an alternative site. Both of these facilities are heavily utilised by both the building owners and other user groups.

Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre is also seeking to enter a partnership to enable the continued development and sustainability of community cultural development programs coordinated by the Centre.

As part of the initial stages of the consultation process into the cultural precinct it would be feasible to

- a) identify current and future user groups; and
- b) Potential partners in the cultural precinct.

A 'Music Education Node' has been proposed in the Lithgow Jobs Summit Report (2008:18 & 30). The development or identification of suitable infrastructure in the area is integral to furthering this concept with the need for a suitable Auditorium for concert, teaching and rehearsal space. There is an opportunity to "build on the success" of current schools and tertiary programs in the area providing ongoing educational and employment opportunities.

The scope of work for a feasibility study into the development of a Cultural Precinct should not be limited to Lithgow. Investigation of opportunities for the

development of cultural precincts within Portland and Wallerawang should include:

- The Crystal Theatre and surrounding streetscape in Portland; and
- The Blaxland Building and surrounding streetscape in Wallerawang.

5.1.1 Movie Theatre

Attending the movies at Bathurst or Penrith was identified as a major source of entertainment for the community, particularly among young people. It is noted that there are two community operated cinemas in the Lithgow Local Government Area; one in Main Street Lithgow and the second at the Crystal Theatre Portland. Both of these cinemas represent a part of the cultural precincts for Lithgow and Portland.

Although the need for further investigation into attracting a major cinema for the area was identified, young people in Portland also noted that they would like to see movies shown more frequently at the Crystal Theatre.

5.2 Governance & Administration

In addition to this it was considered important that Council review the fees and charges annually associated with the use of council owned and managed facilities such as the Union Theatre, the Memorial Hall at Wallerawang, Eskbank House & Museum and the Civic Ballroom to encourage greater usage by the community. It was also felt important that Council ensure that its facilities are seen to be community assets and not exclusively controlled by any single user group.

Key performance indicators for the management of the Crystal and Union Theatres have been set by Council as part

5. Venues & Facilities

of the 2008-2011 Management Plan (p.31) as follows:

- Hold Crystal & Union Theatre Committee meetings in accordance with the terms of reference of the committee.
- Increase the number of bookings for the Crystal & Union Theatres.

Lithgow's sporting heritage is notable and it was seen as important to ensure that the fees & charges in relation to the use of Sporting Fields by organisations be monitored to ensure affordability by families and community members participating in sports.

The Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre runs community cultural development programs in Wallerawang and Portland. When considering the future development of cultural precincts in these towns, partnership opportunities should be identified for facilities.

5.3 Eskbank House & Museum

Lithgow City Council has identified the promotion and development of Eskbank House & Museum as a principle activity in the 2008-2011 Management Plan (p.31-32). The following key performance indicators have been identified for this facility.

- Increase in the number of visitors to the facility
- Conducting of three exhibitions/displays per year.
- Improvements to the courtyard space to enable rotating exhibitions to be held in this space.
- Conducting Australia Day festivities at the Museum.
- Workshop the creation of significant collection replicas.
- Improvements to the Carpark.

Education is a principal activity in the Lithgow City Council Management Plan 2008-2011. One of the key objectives is to "provide the community with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills through Learning City Programs" (p.23).



Local students trying out the recently installed access ramp at Eskbank House & Museum.

The following activities currently implemented or identified to be implemented at Eskbank House & Museum are seen to be in line with this objective.

- Implementation of a Volunteer Management Program.
- Provision of quality school holiday arts programs.
- Provision of exhibitions and public programs sympathetic to the Museum and its collection.
- The development of a research program at the Museum to assist in providing quality exhibitions and to update the interpretation of the collection, the Museum and the Eskbank Estate.
- The development of an education program for local schools.
- The development of a newsletter or information packages for local schools designed to promote upcoming exhibitions, public programs and visitation to the Museum by local and regional schools.

5. Venues & Facilities

- The development of a public programs strategy for the Museum and its facilities.
- Provide informative guided tours of the Museum to visitors, tour groups and school groups.
- Develop an outreach program for the museum.

A staged capital works program designed to upgrade the facilities and maintain the property is integral to the future development of this community asset.

The development of a Conservation Management Plan and Landscape Strategy for the facility will assist in identifying property management priorities within heritage guidelines. This will also assist in establishing a future direction for the Museum in the areas of disabled access, garden/grounds development, facilities development/expansion etcetera. Through the community consultation process it has been identified that when developing a Conservation Management Plan and Landscape strategy for the grounds that consideration is given to:

- The inclusion of picnic/BBO facilities; and
- The inclusion of an edible/sensory garden and/or community garden.

Staffing

At present Eskbank House & Museum is staffed by the Cultural Development Officer three days per week and volunteers on weekends. Due to difficulty in recruiting and maintaining volunteers there are times when the museum is closed.

The adoption of the Cultural Plan by Council will require the Cultural Development Officer to be more focused on the implementation of the Plan. As such the current two-days per week spent on Cultural Development will need to be increased to full-time.

Furthermore, it is considered that there is a need to have a qualified Museums Officer employed at Eskbank House & Museum to:

- Develop Eskbank House & Museum as part of the Cultural Precinct.
- Promote and manage the Museum and its collection.
- Supervise and maintain the Volunteer Program.
- Implement exhibition, collections management and public programs strategies.

5.4 Lithgow Library Learning Centre

The Lithgow Library Learning Centre is a modern facility designed to encourage life-long learning within the community. Libraries are chartered with the requirement to provide recreational reference and information needs to the community.

The centre offers the community a diversity of programs and facilities including:

- The Delta Electricity Homework Zone
- The Local Studies Unit
- The Lithgow Technology Centre
- The Lithgow Forum
- Areas to read and enjoy the company of others.
- Meeting facilities
- Changing Exhibitions
- Reading groups
- Books for Babies
- Cooperative ventures with TAFE & Schools.
- Children's Story time
- School holiday activities

The Library also has a number of branches which are operated in Wallerawang, Portland and Rydal.

5. Venues & Facilities

5.4.1 Community Garden Project

The establishment of a community garden at the Lithgow Library Learning Centre by the Lithgow Family and Community Mental Health Support Group is included in the Community donations for 2008/09 (LCC Management Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11 p.14). The aim of this rehabilitation project is to promote health and well-being through social interaction for people with mental health issues. The Lithgow Family & Community Mental Health Support Group has an extremely good reputation within the Sydney West Area Health Service due to its successes and it is hoped that some participants will return to the workforce through re-skilling as part of this program.

5.5 Recreational Facilities

There was a general consensus for the further development or improvement of recreational facilities throughout the local government area. This included:

- The future development of more parks and recreational areas in new subdivisions;
- Inclusion of gas or solar BBQ facilities in parks and reserves including:
 - Hassans Walls Reserve
 - Lake Pillans Wetlands
 - Londonderry
 - Clarence Pirie Park (Capertee)
- More leash free areas
- Better public toilets
- Improvements to irrigation systems and inclusion of water saving tanks in parks and public facilities.
- More picnic facilities
- More bins
- Improvements to play ground facilities including outdoor recreational apparatus such as Climbing Walls.

5.5.1 New or extension of existing recreational facilities and activities

The Lithgow Local Government Area offers opportunities to develop and promote a broad range of passive recreation activities and extreme sports.

Quality sporting facilities and opportunities offer not only lifestyle benefits but also economic benefits through major tournaments and events.

It was considered to be important for Council to implement a program of improving the standard of current facilities to ensure greater marketability. The development of a proactive approach to encouraging sporting groups, developers and event coordinators to utilise and develop facilities in the Lithgow local government area is seen to be a priority. In addition to an audit of Cultural Facilities it would be beneficial to conduct an Open Space and Recreational Needs Study of all sporting and recreational facilities in the area.

5.5.1 Open Space & Recreational Needs Study

The objectives of an Open Space & Recreational Needs Study is to provide the Lithgow Local Government Area with a coordinated and well managed system of open space complimented by sporting and recreational facilities to meet a full range of recreational needs as follows:

- To ensure that open spaces and recreation facilities meet the needs of local people and promote greater social inclusion.
- To protect and improve open space and recreation facility provision in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and safety.
- To respond to the community's changing needs for access and

5. Venues & Facilities

use of open space and recreation facilities.

- To provide linkages within, and between, the open space network.
- To ensure open spaces and recreational facilities enhance the quality of the local environment.
- To encourage and facilitate partnerships with community and other public and private stakeholders for planning, provision, development and management of open space and recreation facilities.
- To provide direction on capital works, priorities and action to ensure “best practice” planning and management of open space and recreation facilities.

(LCC Memo 2008)

The consultation process has identified a number of suggestions for the improvement or replacement of facilities at the following parks and sporting fields within the local government area.

Kramer Park – Portland

- Improvement/replacement of the grandstand
- Review of the usage of the cricket pitch and possible removal.

Saville Park – Portland

- Installation of goal posts
- Assist the Portland Development Association to gain funding for a Rotunda/Bandstand to be built at the park which will become a focal point for outdoor concerts and festivals.

Clarence Pirie Park – Capertee

- Installation of a gas or solar BBQ
- Improve the rest area
- Develop a leash free area for travelers and locals

Lake Wallace Wallerawang – Foreshores

- Assist in the development of a boat shed to house sailing, canoeing and rowing equipment.



Sailing at Lake Wallace, Wallerawang

Greg Featherstone Park – Rydal

- Installation of children's play equipment.

Pioneer Park – Rydal

- Assist the Rydal Development Association to secure funding for an amphitheatre (Designed by local Artist, Antony Symonds) to further enhance community events.

Glanmire Oval – Lithgow

- Liaise with the Lithgow Hockey Association to identify requirements and funding opportunities for improvements to the turf.

Lithgow Golf Club – Marrangaroo

- Investigate possible opportunities for development of this facility to include:
 - Improvements to the current course.
 - A golf driving range.
 - Putt Putt Golf.

Emora Park – Bowenfels

- Liaise with community stakeholders for the revitalization of the Wisteria Walk as part of an

5. Venues & Facilities

overall community gardens project for Bowenfels.

- Upgrade the park in consultation with the Department of Housing the Bowenfels community.

Tennis Courts – Portland

- Assess the need for improvements to the tennis courts.

The **Oakey Park/Inch Street** area is serviced by four different parks each offering different recreational opportunities for the community. It is suggested that a survey be carried out to identify the types of usage for each park and improvements be made based on the specific needs of the community.

Oakey Park Oval appears to be utilised by the community for cricket practice. Young people are also noted for riding their bikes on the oval.

Saywell Street Recreation Area - open space backing onto Farmers Creek, there is also open space on the other side of the creek which could be linked by a walkway.

Inch Street Children's Playground – a small block opposite the Saywell Street Recreation Area which has some playground equipment.

Lake Pillans Wetlands is part of the cultural heritage precinct to be discussed in Section 7 of this document.



Lake Pillans Wetlands with Blast Furnace Park in the background

In addition to identifying the requirements and strategies for developing this area, it is further suggested that ways of linking the various recreational reserves and playgrounds be investigated as part of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan. This will highlight ways of promoting and enhancing the usability of these parks and may offer opportunity for redevelopment of some lands.

5.6 Skate Parks

There are four Council developed and maintained skate parks in the Lithgow local government area.

- Lithgow – Tony Luchetti Sportsground
- Wallerawang – Adjacent to the Wallerawang Memorial Hall and Childrens playground.
- Portland – Adjacent to Kramer Park
- Cullen Bullen – adjacent to the Rural Fire Shed.



SK8 Park at Tony Luchetti Sportsground courtesy of www.skateboard.com.au

Over the years Council has come under criticism for the inadequacy and poor planning of these facilities.

The cultural planning process highlighted the need for Council to implement a strategy for developing new skate park facilities and/or improving existing facilities.

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A number of concepts were put forward for consideration in the redevelopment of Skate park facilities:

- Combining Skate Park & BMX Facilities which cater for competition.
- The inclusion of 'Tagging Walls' for graffiti art.
- Inclusion of youth in the planning of facilities to encourage pride and ownership.
- Landscaping and family facilities.
- Integration of these facilities into areas of high visibility which incorporate other activities.

5.7 Swimming Pool

A general consensus has been reached across all age groups and through various planning sessions including the recent community consultations for the Cultural Plan and the Lithgow Jobs Summit for improvements to the current Lithgow Memorial Swimming Pool. The current pool, built in the 1960's is considered somewhat outdated and does not meet all of the needs of the community. It is considered appropriate that Council undergo a feasibility study to identify:

- The needs of the community and current facilities available.
- Potential partners in the project
- Funding and sponsorship sources.

A number of suggestions have been put forward in relation to the redevelopment of the current site including:

- Larger Pool – the current pool is an Olympic size pool.
- A high diving pool and board.
- A heated/Therapeutic pool.
- Investigation of water park concepts for inclusion i.e.
 - Water slide
 - Wave Pool
 - Aqua Golf

The concept of an Adventure Park was considered as part of the Lithgow Jobs

Summit (see Section 3 – Macro Ideas – Environment – Western Research Institute 2008:14). The development of an Adventure/Theme Park which incorporates a quality swim centre would provide economic development and population growth for the community through tourism, sporting events and increased social capital.



Lithgow Swimming Pool

5. Venues & Facilities

Action Plan – Venues and Facilities

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Develop cultural and recreational infrastructure that will meet the needs of the community now and in the future.	Survey user groups of Council facilities and identify future requirements and uses.	2008/09	Public Assets Engineer/Cultural Development Officer	Final report used to assist in the development of a Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study and Open Space & Recreational Needs Study.	Grant funding
	Develop a project scope for a feasibility study into the proposed Cultural Precinct.	2008/09 2009/10	Public Assets Engineer/Cultural Development Officer	Recommendations from Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study adopted by Council and included in Management Plan	
	Investigate funding for feasibility study for Cultural Precinct.	2009/10 2010/11	Cultural Development Officer/Grants Officer	Funding/sponsorship opportunities identified	
	Investigate current usage, limitations and develop a management plan for upgrading the Union Theatre to increase marketability.	2008/09	Cultural Development Officer/ Assets Officer /Union Theatre Management Committee	Development of a management and marketing plan for the Union Theatre	
	Develop a project scope for an Open Space & Recreational Needs Study taking into consideration the identified needs in the Cultural Plan.	2009/10 2010/11	Cultural Development Officer/Assets Officer/Strategic Planner	Recommendations from Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study adopted by Council and included in Management Plan	Grant funding
	Investigate funding for Open space & Recreational Needs Study.	2009/10	Cultural Development Officer/Assets Officer/Strategic Planner	Funding/sponsorship opportunities identified	
	Identify the need for a movie theatre complex to be developed in Lithgow.	2009/10	Economic Development Officer	Development opportunities identified	
	Open Space and Recreation Study and the Cultural Precinct Feasibility are developed in conjunction with the Study Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan.	2008/09	Road Safety Officer/Traffic Development & Engineer	Development of a consistent planning framework for Cultural, recreational and Accessibility planning.	

5. Venues & Facilities

Action Plan – Venues and Facilities

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Manage the Crystal & Union Theatres	Hold Crystal & Union Theatre Committee meetings in accordance with the terms of reference of the committee.	Ongoing	Public Assets Engineer/Cultural Development Officer	Regular attendance at meetings	Management Plan 2007-2010 (p. 30)
	Operate the Crystal and Union Theatres	Ongoing		Annual increase in bookings	Management Plan 2007-2010 (p. 30)
Undertake an audit of the existing cultural resources and facilities.	Implement a process to audit the Lithgow LGA's cultural resources as part of the Cultural Planning review.	Annual	Cultural Development Officer	Optimisation and enhancement of the role and accessibility of the existing cultural facilities and industries	Grant funding
	Identification of gaps within the cultural facilities provided and development of new performance and exhibition facilities	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer/Grants Officer	Obtaining of grant funding to upgrade and/or develop new facilities.	Grant funding
	Promotion of Council and Community run facilities to interested vendors.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Annual increases in bookings.	
Develop and promote Eskbank House and Museum as a cultural heritage venue.	Operate Eskbank House & Museum	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Annual increase in visitation	Management Plan 2007-2010 (p. 30)
	Conduct exhibitions and displays of the EHM Collection, Travelling Exhibitions, Councils Art Collection and Local & Regional Artists.	Annual	Cultural Development Officer	Minimum of 3 exhibitions per year	Management Plan 2007-2010 (p. 30)
	Improvements to the court yard space to provide for exhibitions	2007/08 2008/09	Cultural Development Officer	Works completed by 30 June 2008	Grant funding
	Implement a Volunteer Management Program	2007/08	Cultural Development Officer	Provision of informative guided tours of the museum to visitors, tour groups & school groups.	Nil
	Consult with the local indigenous community on the identification and interpretation of artifacts held within the Museums collection.	2008/09	Cultural Development Officer	Identification & interpretation of items which lead to educational outcomes for the community.	Grant funding

5. Venues & Facilities

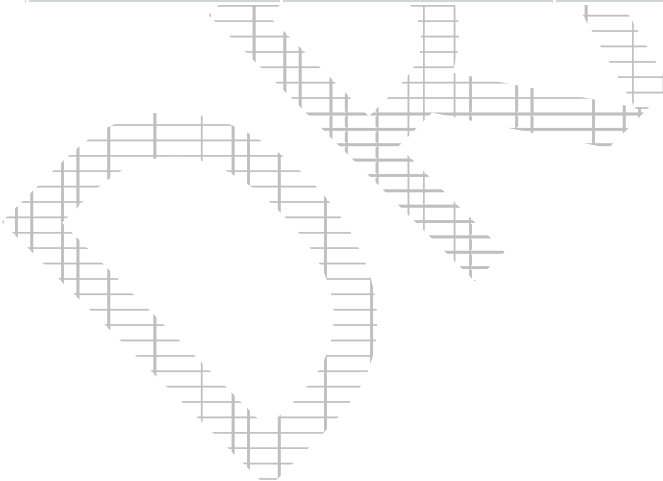
Action Plan – Venues and Facilities

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Develop and promote Eskbank House and Museum as a cultural heritage venue. (cont.)	Develop a Public Programs Strategy for Eskbank House & Museum.	2008/09	Cultural Development Officer/Grants Officer	A diverse program of arts, performances, events & exhibitions hosted at the Museum	\$5,000 (council) + Sponsorship/Grant funding for programs
	Enhancement & development of Waste 2 Art Exhibition and public programs.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Increases to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship • Entries • Visitation • Workshop participation 	Grant funding
	Development of an education program for Schools	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Programs catering to different educational needs from pre-school to secondary school.	Nil
	Development of a newsletter for Schools to promote the Museum facilities, exhibitions, public programs and schools programs.	Bi-monthly	Cultural Development Officer	Increased visitation by local schools	
	Develop and implement a research program based around upcoming exhibitions, interpretation strategies, the Museum Collection and the Eskbank Estate	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer & Volunteer/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a research library from which to develop exhibitions & interpretation for the Museum. • Provide a research facility for local history & family history enquiries. 	Nil
	Develop an Outreach Program for the Museum	2007/08	Cultural Development Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peep @ Sheep travelling exhibition from Department of Primary Industries • Joint exhibitions conducted with EHM & Lithgow Library • Small Travelling Exhibitions for local promotional opportunities 	Nil
		2010/11			Nil - In-house promotion & design

5. Venues & Facilities

Action Plan – Venues and Facilities

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Develop and promote Eskbank House and Museum as a cultural heritage venue. (cont.)	Implementation of a staged upgrade of the interpretation of the Museum and its collection.		Cultural Development Officer/Grants Officer	Gaining of Sponsorship/Grant Funding and Council budget allocations	Draft 2008/2012 Management Plan Grant funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front of House • Lithgow Pottery Exhibition – Barton Building • Coach House 	2008/09 2009/10 2010/11			
	Development of a Conservation Management Plan & Landscape Strategy	2008/09			
	Employ a full-time Museums Officer to manage and develop the Museum.	2009/10	Community & Culture Manager/Cultural Development Officer	Museums Officer employed and Cultural Development Officer allocated to full-time implementation of the Cultural Plan and overseeing Museum operations.	\$60,000 + on costs.



6. Civic Spaces & Public Places

6.1 Placemaking

Placemaking is “making a public space a living space”

Project for Public Spaces website (2008)

Placemaking offers an opportunity to discover the heart of the communities we live in through public consultation and cultural mapping. Community groups such as progress and village associations, tidy towns committees, arts and cultural groups have been working on community projects which focus on the needs of their towns and villages.

Through public consultation we can continue to identify capital, cultural, heritage and environmental programs currently being undertaken and new programs which the community feels will be of economic and social benefit.

Programs and activities such as:

- Physical artworks
 - Sculptures, murals, etcetera
- Main Street programs
- Creative and performing arts
- Neighbourhood enhancement
- Heritage restoration
- Cemetery Management

All contribute to the enhancement and well being of communities. Providing growth through economic development and learning opportunities.

Placemaking is not only concerned with the physical aspects of a community. It is about the emotional and social ties that bind a community; the heart and soul of a community, its history, heritage and traditions. These aspects can be replicated in the physical environment and through events and cultural activities which enhance the social well-being of the community.

Future planning and development for the Lithgow local government area should include the redevelopment of existing civic spaces and public places along with provision for new spaces as part of the development process for centres of commercial or residential development.

6.1.1 Council Administration Centre Entrance Courtyard

Consideration is being given to removal of the pine which dominates the entrance courtyard and redesigning the space. As part of the redevelopment of the site it is considered appropriate to include a sculpture and water feature to create a calming and soothing effect.



Administration Centre Entrance Courtyard taken from rear of courtyard facing Mort Street.

The courtyard is the entrance to the administration centre/customer service area and provides a link with the Centrelink building. It is proposed that by applying Feng Shui principles to the design and layout of corporate space it will enhance the success of the business, by encouraging a positive flow of energy, creating a happy and prosperous environment (Piscitello 2007).

The five elements of Feng Shui include: Fire, Water, Wood, Earth and Metal. These elements can be linked sculpturally to the History, Heritage, Industrial and Environmental aspects of the Lithgow Local Government Area. A recent

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discussion with a local business operator (Janette Watson, Jannai Goat Dairy) expanded the tag lines surrounding Councils logo to:

“Lithgow, a valley of artisans, surrounded by nature, steeped in history”

It is suggested that submissions be called from Artists/Architects to redesign the entrance courtyard, celebrating the industrial heritage and local environment incorporating Feng Shui design principles.

6.1.2 Cook Street Plaza

Cook Street Plaza in the centre of the Central Business District is seen to be an area of high priority for redevelopment as a civic space. The Plaza is regularly used for community activities such as:

- cake stalls;
- the Annual Lions Club Chocolate Wheel at Christmas; and
- International Womens Day festivities.
- Celebrate Lithgow Festivities
- NAIDOC Week activities

Cook Street Plaza is a meeting place with an outdoor café and also a source of community information through the Council maintained Community Notice Board.

It should be noted that great public spaces have the potential to not only be important to the community that values them, but also to be national or internationally acclaimed (Project for Public Spaces 2005:3).

Cook Street Plaza is already a popular tourist destination for fans of the Legendary ‘Lithgow Flash’, Marjorie Jackson seeking to view the bronze statue by Rydal Artist, Antony Symonds.

Due to Lithgow’s proud sporting heritage it could be considered appropriate that

redevelopment and enhancement of this site could include:

- Making it a more usable space for events, small concerts, busking and markets
- Instilling pride in our sporting achievements by developing a ‘Sportsman’s Walk’ replacing some of the pavers with pavers celebrating our local sporting heroes.
- Installation of a public amenities block.

6.1.3 Signage – Dual Naming

A program of including the traditional Wiradjuri names of areas in signage is seen to be of importance to the local indigenous community. Signage should include the correct spelling, pronunciation and where possible meaning thereby increasing awareness of the Wiradjuri Language and traditions in this area.

This program should be extended to include the interpretations of the area so that the stories and significance of places are told. For example locations such as Hyde Park in Hartley is a significant ‘Women’s Place’. This information should be interpreted for the community and visitors to the area in a sensitive and appropriate way.

6.2 Public Arts Program

The development of a Public Arts Program for the area was seen to be a priority. As part of the program a facilities audit should be carried out to identify the suitability of Council facilities, public space areas and community halls for hosting exhibitions, events and marketability.

Placemaking provides an opportunity to promote community well-being, a sense of pride and to further enhance tourism within the towns and villages. Sculptures, murals, seating and lighting etcetera all

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contribute to cultural landscapes. Further consultation with the individual communities that make up the Lithgow local government area will identify activities currently being undertaken within communities and ways that Council can assist and enhance these program i.e. tidy towns programs.

A facilities audit and community consultation will identify additional areas throughout the local government area which would provide suitable locations for a Public Arts Program.

6.2.1 Arts Trails

Council has identified the need to develop a Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan in 2008/09. This plan should be linked to the cultural plan and review the Greater Lithgow City Council Bicycle Plan (Cycle Planning, 1998) providing an opportunity to develop open space areas along designated biking/walking trails as public arts space.

Furthermore there is a need to obtain funding to revise the Lithgow City Council Bicycle Plan identifying locations of current heritage and attractions along designated bike trails and future locations and opportunities for cycleways and walkways.

The promotion of cultural activities and workers is seen to be a priority and the provision of a drive/ride pocket guide highlighting the cultural landscape and artist trail/s should be developed to promote healthy and fun ways to explore the area.

The community consultation process highlighted the need to promote current cycleways to the community and to develop new cycleways linking the towns and villages such as Wallerawang/Portland/Cullen Bullen.

6.2.2 Heritage Sites

Eskbank House & Museum has been utilised as an indoor/outdoor arts venue since 2004 hosting the successful Waste to Art Program. In 2007 Council transferred the Lithgow Australia Day festivities to the Museum and began to develop a living history style event.

A unique opportunity exists to further develop this venue as a public arts space for workshops, utilising the enclosed courtyard as a gallery space for local and travelling exhibitions.

The facility provides an opportunity to develop the site as a Cultural Center within the Cultural Precinct offering a variety of regular visitor programs to be developed in conjunction with exhibitions and performances by local and regional cultural workers.

Locations such as Blast Furnace Park, Lake Pillans Wetlands and the State Mine Heritage Park provide heritage backdrops which, like Eskbank House & Museum offer an opportunity to marry the celebration of our industrial heritage with a unique location to host events, use as backdrops for film making and permanent or semi-permanent displays of public art.

6.2.3 Pioneer's Heritage Park

Council has recently commissioned architectural plans to redesign the toilets at the Pioneer's Heritage Park. The Park features the following interpretation and monuments:

- Interpretative signage for Eskbank Station.
- Pioneers Wall which features 35 plaques donated by the families of Pre-1856 Pioneers in conjunction with the Lithgow District Family History Society.
 - It is also suggested that a rose, which covers some of the plaques may have been dedicated as a

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- Memorial Stone dedicated to Volunteer Fire Fighters, Ted Hughes and Col Eather who lost their lives fighting the bushfires, December 1997. This was a Youth Week project and features a poem by Levi Elms.
- Rotary Signage dedicating the Park 1963-68.



It is suggested that submissions be sought from local artists to create a sculptural piece which celebrates our early pioneers. Since the Pioneers Wall celebrate Pioneering Families pre-1856, it may be possible to celebrate our early industrialists.

It is noted that the Pioneers Wall does not include Andrew Brown, Thomas Brown or James Walker all of whom were early settlers to the district, playing a significant role in the development of Lithgow and Wallerawang. Furthermore, as noted above, there is an opportunity to celebrate our industrial pioneers including James Rutherford, William Sandford, the Hoskins Brothers and Thomas Mort. There is a need to conduct further research into

creating a suitable list of our industrial pioneers prior to approaching artists.

The space should include interpretation and a heritage walking map for visitors and locals to encourage visitation to heritage attractions. Many people to Lithgow by train for a day trip to go for a walking tour. When they get to the top of the Main Street this will provide them with directional information on our local heritage attractions.

Furthermore it is suggested that as this park celebrates our early pioneers, as part of the redevelopment project it should be included on Councils websites under the heritage section. The site should promote the park and its facilities, the sculptural works and memorials, listing the names of the Pioneers to encourage visitation to the park by tourists and family historians.

6.3 Wallerawang

6.3.1 Lake Wallace

Lake Wallace is significant not only to the Lithgow Local Government Area but, it is also of National Significance.

James Walker, the first colonist to settle in the Lithgow-Wallerawang district (Leslie, 1988:1) in 1823 on the site of present day Lake Wallace. The property was named Waller'o'wang, the Wiradjuri word for 'place of wood and water'.

In 1836, Charles Darwin stayed at the Walker property and discovered the Platypus on the Cox's River. The park on the Lakes foreshores has been named "Charles Darwin Park" and a monument has been erected in honour of this.

In 1865 Georgina Walker married Edwin Barton the surveyor for the Rail line across the Blue Mountains. In 1948, brother and sister, Lue Loveday and James Lyon Walker Barton were killed at Waller'o'wang House by William Benjamin Harvey Bugg.

6. Civic Spaces & Public Places

At this time the property was known as the Barton Estate. Following their deaths the house and property went into decay.

During the late 1970's the house and buildings were dismantled to allow for the present day Lake Wallace.

At this stage the historic cemetery was also dismantled, conservation works carried out and relocated to a site above the rising water line. The cemetery not only dates from 1836 but also boasts a number of names of families' synonymous to the district including the grave of Thomas Brown of Eskbank House. In addition to the grave markers of our early settlers, the cemetery is significant in that it pays tribute to the local indigenous community. In 1856, the Walker family erected a tombstone for "Bobby". The tombstone was inscribed as follows:

Erected by
Archibald James Walker
In memory of
**BOBBY and the WALLERAWONG ABORIGINE
TRIBE**
May 4, 1856

(Smith 1990)

Today, Lake Wallace serves as a water source for the nearby Wallerawang Power Station cooling towers.

The lake and its foreshores provide the community with a variety of recreational pursuits including:

- Fishing
- Sailing
- Sail boarding
- Canoeing
- Swimming
- Baseball
- Picnic facilities
- Bird Watching
- Walking/Cycling
- Leash Free Area
- Childrens playground

The recent installation of a Memorial to Charles Darwin is the beginning of telling the story of white settlement in the area.

The development of a Management Plan for the site which incorporates:

- Suitable recreational activities to be carried out on the site.
- Future development and partnerships for the site.
 - Cycle/walkways
 - Facilities
- Interpretation of the site
 - Indigenous culture and white settlement.
 - Environmental - Identification of birdlife, flora & fauna.
 - Dual naming signage
- Landscaping/Sculptural strategy
- Promotion
- Events/Celebrations

6.3.2 Development Control Plan

The implementation of a Development Control Plan for the land surrounding Wallerawang Public School was seen to be of importance to the community. It was noted that this area links the Lake with the forested ridge to the (NSEW) and that consideration should be given to ensuring environmental corridors are developed and/or maintained.

The community felt that a development control plan for this area should be sympathetic to the aesthetic environment linking the Lake and the Forest in relation to:

- Housing development
- The school and current sporting facilities.

The Development Control Plan should identify a Public Space Strategy for this area which includes:

- Linking to Forest Ridge Estate and Hume Avenue via cycle/walkways.
 - linking the forest ridge to the lake foreshores and wetlands.

6. Civic Spaces & Public Places

- Wetlands – preservation and interpretation
- Environmental Corridors from the forest to the lake to encourage the return of wildlife and native birds to the lake.
 - Encourage current landholders to protect/conserv wildlife corridors.
- A viewing platform and pathways along the ridge.

6.4 Villages

The community consultation process was conducted in Lithgow, Portland, Wallerawang and the villages of Cullen Bullen and Rydal. Through this process, residents identified opportunities for the enhancement of Cullen Bullen, Rydal and Capertee. It is suggested that Council Officers work with each of the three villages to develop Village Enhancement Strategies which will identify current and future programs, events and activities establishing priorities in the following areas:

- Current events
- Community resources
- Opportunities for youth activities
- Identification and interpretation of heritage and history of the village
- Village beautification program
- Development of a signature event
- Economic development
- Promotion of the Village
- Funding, sponsorship and partnership opportunities
- Signage

6. Civic Spaces & Public Places

Action Plan – Civic Spaces and Public Spaces

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Enhancement of Civic Spaces and Public Places within the Lithgow local government area through the development & promotion of public art and amenity.	Enhance the visual amenity and public facilities located at the Council Administration Centre & Pioneers Heritage Park through the installation and interpretation of public art and heritage.	2008/09 2009/10	Cultural Development Officer/Public Assets Engineer	Redevelopment and improvements to civic spaces.	2008/09 Management Plan
	Undertake Main Street Programs for Lithgow, Wallerawang & Portland.	2008/09 2009/10 2010/11	Economic Development Officer	Main Street Programs which link to Cultural Precinct and the inclusion of Civic Spaces	
	Identify usage, public/performance art & interpretative opportunities for the redevelopment of Cook Plaza as a Civic Space	2010/11	Cultural Development Officer	Increased usage and cultural programs for Cook Plaza linked to Main Street and Cultural Precinct development strategies.	Grant Funding
	Undertake a facilities audit as part of the Public Space & Recreational Needs Assessment to identify suitable locations for Public Art.	2009/10 2010/11	Cultural Development Officer/Public Assets Engineer/Strategic Planner	Public Arts Program for Civic spaces and Public Spaces.	
	Identification of current and future heritage and arts trails as part of the Lithgow Bike Plan.	2011/12	Road Safety Officer/Cultural Development Officer Tourism Manager/ IT Manager/Grants Officer	Identification of heritage and arts trails.	
	Development of a map, brochure & website indicating Heritage & Arts Trails for biking.	2009/10	Tourism Manager	Reproduction of Furnace, Fire & Forge Heritage Brochure and development of Arts Trail	
	Develop a Public Arts Program for the Lithgow Local Government Area	2010/11	Cultural Development Officer	Adoption by Council and implementation of a Public Arts Program for the Lithgow Local Government Area	

6. Civic Spaces & Public Places

Action Plan – Civic Spaces and Public Spaces

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Protection of local heritage and the environment within our towns and villages	To develop and implement a Management Plan for Lake Wallace and its foreshores.	2011 – 2013	Public Assets Engineer, Strategic Planner & Cultural Development Officer	Management Plan adopted by Council	
	To ensure development within the Wallerawang urban area is sympathetic to current public amenity and facilities.	2011-2013	Strategic Planner	Development Control Plan for Wallerawang.	
	To consult with local villages to develop and implement village enhancement programs.	2010 - 2013	Cultural Development Officer	Village Enhancement Programs development adopted by Council.	



7. Heritage

7.1 Cultural Landscapes

'Evolved continuing landscapes where people and nature dwell'.

(Leader-Elliott et al 2004:1)

Recognition and raising awareness of the regions built and natural heritage has been identified as a priority. This includes the need to consult with the local indigenous community to identify and promote indigenous culture and history.

The cultural landscape offers an insight into the tangible aspects of our heritage (Leader-Elliott et al. 2004:2). According to the NSW Heritage Office (2003:1) this includes:

- Homesteads and farmlands
- Remnant native vegetation
- Aboriginal sites & places
- Wetlands
- Early settlements
- Disused cemeteries
- Defunct industrial complexes
- Scenic landscapes

All of which celebrates our cultural diversity, providing both tangible and intangible assets which knit a community together thereby developing its identity.

The heritage and history of the Lithgow area is a valuable part of the areas identity. By developing an overarching intellectual framework which supports all cultural activities based on the heritage and history context we can seek to change peoples perception of the area.

Several items have been identified in the Lithgow City Council Management Plan 2007/08 – 2010/2011 (p.4) which will aid the further development of the identification, retention and promotion of heritage assets within the Lithgow LGA.

- Continuation of site stabilisation works at the Blast Furnace.
- Determination of the criteria and presentation of the inaugural John

Wellings Heritage Award to a local school student.

- Consideration and/or completion of the Heritage Study with a major focus on matters for the comprehensive Lithgow Local Environmental Plan incorporating the former Lithgow, Rylstone and Evans Heritage Studies as appropriate.

Councils key planning instruments such as the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plans should be developed to include the recognition and management of our cultural landscapes.

7.2 Heritage Study

Professor Ian Jack conducted a Heritage Study of the Lithgow local government area in 1998. The study has not formally been adopted by Council and is currently undergoing a final analysis to identify gaps and complete the study during 2008-2009. A number of recommendations have been made by Councils' Heritage Advisor, Christo Aitken in respect to adopting, implementing and integrating the study into Councils' planning and daily management processes.

- Include the Heritage Study in the Local Environmental Plan.
- Preparation of SHIDATA (State Heritage Inventory Data) Sheets for all significant items.
- Ensure all relevant Council Officers are trained in usage of the State Heritage Inventory Software.
- Map all heritage items and historic sites in Council Graphic Information System.

7.3 Heritage Streetscapes

The retention of the heritage features within the streetscape is seen to be highly significant to the area. The reinstatement of the Heritage Advisors Program and the completion and adoption of the Heritage Study will provide background for the

7. Heritage

development of a sustainable placemaking strategy for the area. Heritage streetscapes offer an enormous benefit to the area not only for their aesthetic value, but also their community and economic value (Sustainable-placemaking.org 2003:1).

The Gardens of Lidsdale House are listed on the State Heritage Register for their Cultural Landscape Significance. It would appear that this is the only item listed on the register for its cultural landscape significance from the Lithgow local government area (NSW Heritage Office).

7.3.1 Local Landmarks

Black Bridge – Wallerawang

The Black Bridge at Wallerawang is an identifiable local landmark synonymous with the area. Consideration should be given to the listing of this item on the local heritage register with appropriate mechanisms put in place to upgrade the bridge yet maintain its heritage significance.

Cullen Bullen Skip Line

The Cullen Bullen Tidy Towns is seeking to develop an interpretive walkway along the historic skip line. This walkway links the Castlereagh Highway to Carsons Siding Road (The Cullen Bullen/Portland Road) along the back of houses, travelling through an open space area off McCann Way and connecting the fire station and the Skate Park. This is an opportunity to not only develop an interpretive walk but also to develop a functional open space area for the community.

Portland Cement Works Site

The township of Portland's history is strongly linked to the Portland Cement Works Site. The community identifies with the site and proudly promotes itself as "The Town that built Sydney". In an area with a strong coalmining heritage this is a unique attribute to Portland. A number of

concepts were proposed as part of the community consultations;

- Redevelop the site to incorporate a museum;
- Rehabilitate the quarry for housing development;
- Develop heritage assets – adaptable re-use of cement works site and other heritage buildings within the township.
- Develop a function centre on the cement works site.
- Investigate the redevelopment of the quarry as a park/garden.

7.4 Environmental Corridors

Identification and understanding of our environmental corridors plays an important role in the development of councils future planning for urban, industrial and economic development.

Areas of place with scenic significance, special meaning to traditional Aboriginal Australians or containing remnants of early settlement can be identified in various locations throughout the local government area.

Identification of such sites should be included in management plans for community lands, Crown Land Reserves, Development Control Plans and the Local Environmental Plan. This will ensure that local indigenous sites are appropriately interpreted, protected, promoted and conserved.

The concept of developing a wildlife or Australian Native Park in the area was proposed during the consultation sessions. The Old Hermitage Colliery Site was one location proposed for this type of redevelopment.

Bicentennial National Trail

The Bicentennial National Trail has been designed to be a "living history of our country" (www.nationaltrail.com.au 2008)

7. Heritage

which allows horseriders, mountain bikers and hikers to travel between Healesville, Victoria and Cooktown, Queensland. A portion of the trail travels through Rydal, Wallerawang and the Capertee Valley in the Lithgow local government area. The trail is of National significance and there exists an opportunity to work closely with the Bicentennial National Trail office, local horse riders, hiking groups and the Mountain Bike Association to develop opportunities to promote this section of the track in relation to tourism and events.

Travelling Stock Routes

The issue of the possible sale of Travelling Stock Routes was raised as a concern by the residents in the Rydal area. It was noted that these lands are home to native grasses, plants and wildlife.

Hassans Walls Reserve

Hassans Walls Lookout is the highest lookout in the Blue Mountains at 1136m above sea level. The lookout is part of the Hassans Walls Reserve which includes Bracey Lookout and the area known as Sheady's Gully – The Lithgow Pony Club Grounds.

There is a need to develop a plan of management for the site which includes ways of promoting the site as a tourist area without denegrating the area. This should include

- Interpretation;
- mapping and identifying flora and fauna, developing viewing areas; and
- Identification of points of interest from viewing platforms and lookouts.

The implementation of an interpretive information bay for the Hassans Walls Reserve highlighting the historic and environmental significance of the site including a site plan for tourists should be included at both entrances to the site. This would be enhanced by interpretive

panels in key locations. This will allow visitors to the site to conduct a self-guided tour which could be enhanced by booklets or brochures designed to cater to specific interests ie:

- History of the Hassans Walls Convict Stockades
- Birdlife
- Native flora

Travelling through the site should also be included as part of the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan. This should include promotion of the site as part of a Walkways and Cycleways Program.

7.5 Heritage Advisor Program and Heritage Assets Working Party

The recent Lithgow Jobs Summit identified the need to develop "Champions" to drive and promote various aspects of economic development within the community. Council has a direct role to play in the development and promotion of cultural heritage within the community.

Council has operated the Heritage Advisors Program for approximately nine years (Aitken 2008:1). The program assists Council in the planning and development of its heritage assets and provides ongoing support for the community through consultation and assistance with heritage issues.

The Heritage Assets Working Party is currently a non-functioning committee within Council which consisted of Council Officers, the Heritage Advisor, a Councillor and community representatives from the State Mine Heritage Park & Railway and the Lithgow Branch of the National Trust. The committee was responsible for assessing and developing strategic plans for Councils Heritage Assets and developing cultural and heritage policies.

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The Draft Heritage Strategy 2009-2011 recommends that a Heritage committee be set up with clear terms of reference for the promotion and development of Councils Heritage Assets and Cultural & Heritage Policy.

7.6 Heritage Networks

It is also important that local and regional heritage groups and affiliations be further developed and recognised as integral to the development of the area and its unique heritage assets.

This includes supporting and working with the local branch of the National Trust and participating in regional or national networks such as the

- Central West Heritage Network
- Blue Mountains Area Cultural Heritage Organisation.
- History Council of Australia

Networking with regional and national organisations provides an opportunity to not only promote the unique attributes of the Lithgow area but, to develop cross promotional activities which are beneficial to the region as a whole.

7.7 Cultural Heritage Tourism

The Lithgow local government area has a strong link to its industrial heritage. The need to develop a marketing strategy which promotes Cultural/Heritage, Sporting and Eco-tourism has been identified as part of the recent Lithgow Jobs Summit (2008:77). The participants developed the tag line "Just a little further" as a way to encourage tourists to travel over the Blue Mountains and stay in the Lithgow local government area.

The development of a Tourism Marketing Strategy should take into consideration the public face of the area in respect to tourism; signage, entrances and hospitality all work together to promote a

welcoming environment which shows pride in our history and heritage.

The community consultation sessions highlighted the need to have the entrance to the Zig Zag Railway tarred. The Zig Zag Railway is one of the areas greatest tourism assets and it is important that this is reflected in the image presented to visitors to the area.

7.7.1 Furnace, Fire & Forge Heritage Trail

The Furnace, Fire and Forge Heritage Trail Interpretation Plan (2004) was developed for the Lithgow Cultural Heritage Partnership by the Lithgow Enterprise Development Agency. The program is designed to "present and interpret three important elements...Coal, Steel and Railways" (2004:4). Three main themes have been developed to interpret these elements:

- The legacy of coal
- The ironmasters and the birth of a nation
- Work, home and dignity.

With respect to the plan the Cultural Heritage Partnership consists of:

- Lithgow City Council;
- Zig Zag Railway;
- State Mine Heritage Park & Railway; and
- Lithgow Small Arms Museum & Collection.

Key outcomes to date from the plan include the installation of further interpretative signage throughout the Lithgow area building on and in keeping with the Centenary of Federation Signage and the development of a furnace, fire and forge brochure.

There has been a break down in the momentum, developed as a result of the plan it is now timely for the Lithgow Cultural Heritage Partnership to be reconvened in order to review the 2004 plan.

7. Heritage

Action Plan – Heritage

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Facilitate an awareness of the region's history - identifying, preserving, improving and promoting the LGA's indigenous and non-indigenous built and natural heritage.	Inclusion of Heritage Study in the Local Environmental Plan	2008/09	Manager Policy & Planning	Review and study completed by 30 June 2008.	Draft Heritage Strategy 2009-2011 (p2)
	Inclusion of the identification of cultural heritage & environmental corridors in planning instruments i.e. Crown Lands Management Plans, Community Lands Management Plans, and Development Control Plans.	Ongoing	Manager Policy & Planning	Inclusion of cultural landscape assessments and management criteria within all of Councils planning instruments.	
	Continuation of the heritage Advisor's Position to Provide guidance in restoring and preserving heritage items.	Ongoing	Manager Regional Services/Policy & Planning Manager	Number of residents utilising the service	Management Plan 2008-2011 (p.22)
	Prepare a heritage policy and strategy and commence implementation	2008/09 – 2010/11	Heritage Advisor	Strategy completed and adopted by Council by 30 June 2008.	
	Reconvening of the Heritage Assets Working Party to promote and develop policies for Cultural and Heritage development.	2008/09	Heritage Advisor/Cultural Development Officer	Adoption of Policies by Council.	Draft Heritage Strategy 2009-2011 (p1)
	Develop criteria for the John Wellings Heritage Award	Ongoing	Heritage Advisor	Design and present the Award	Management Plan 2008-2011 (p.22)
	Consult with the local indigenous community to identify, promote, interpret and preserve local indigenous sites.	2010/11-2011/12	Cultural Development Officer/Tourism Manager	Management plans and practices developed with local indigenous community & relevant stakeholders.	
	Site stabilisation works at Blast Furnace Park	2008/09	Manager Regional Services	Stabilisation of works.	Management Plan 2008-2011 (p.22)
	Refurbishment and interpretation of the South Bowenfels Gun Emplacements.	2008/09	Manager Regional Services/Heritage Advisor	Interpretation strategy Developed and site management plan developed.	Management Plan 2008-2011 (p.22)

7. Heritage

Action Plan – Heritage

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Facilitate an awareness of the region's history - identifying, preserving, improving and promoting the LGA's indigenous and non-indigenous built and natural heritage.	Reconvene the Cultural Heritage Partnership to review the 2004, Furnace, Fire & Forge Program in line with the development of a Tourism Marketing Strategy.	2008/09	Cultural Development Officer	Adoption of the Furnace, Fire & Forge Interpretation Program by Council.	Lithgow Jobs Summit (p.77)
	Development of a Marketing Strategy to promote Tourism throughout the Lithgow Local Government Area.	2009/10	Tourism Manager/Cultural Development Officer	Tourism Marketing Strategy developed and adopted by Council	
	Investigate a scope of works for a Plan of Management for Hassans Walls Reserve which includes the overall interpretation and conservation of the reserve.	2009/10 2010/11	Community & Culture Manager/Cultural Development Officer	Successful attaining of grant funding.	
	Participation by relevant officers in local and regional heritage networks.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer/Local Studies Officer/Heritage Planner/Tourism Manager	Attendance at relevant network meetings.	
	Assist towns and villages to develop the stories, interpretation, conservation and management of local landmarks.	2008/09 – 2012/13	Cultural Development Officer/Manager Operations/Assets Officer/Grants Officer	Assistance with identified projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cullen Bullen Skip Line • Wallerawang Black Bridge • Portland Cement Works Site 	

8. Economic Sustainability

8.1 Economic Development

To achieve community sustainability through economic development and employment, funding and partnership opportunities need to be identified and prioritised.

Through the creation of infrastructure, creative business opportunities, mentoring programs, education and skills development, the Lithgow local government area has an opportunity to become a leader within the region in the areas of culture, Heritage Management, the Arts, Tourism and Education.

Due to the future depletion of coal reserves in the area and the need to seek new and innovative industrial development it is felt that a more supportive role from Council will encourage future growth for the area. Greater assistance from Council staff and encouragement for people seeking to develop creative/cottage industries within the area is seen to be integral to the development of sustainable small business activities (Community Consultation Sessions).

The appointment of an Economic Development Officer who is pro-active in seeking to establish creative industries i.e. events, tourism, arts etcetera will be of benefit to the area's future sustainability. The community consultation process has identified a number of key areas to be developed in order to promote the Lithgow local government area as a viable place in which to live, work and invest.

8.1.1 Cultural Positions

Currently Council employs a Cultural Development Officer who works two days per week in a Cultural Development role and three days per week at Eskbank House & Museum, managing and developing the Museum and its programs.

With the finalisation of the Cultural Plan there is a need to review the current structure to provide for the implementation of the cultural plan and the further development of the Museum as a cultural facility.

8.1.2 Youth Job Network

The investigation of alternative ways to provide youth at risk with the opportunity to integrate with the community through education and job skills will assist in breaking the welfare cycle. There is a need to focus on alternative means of education through cultural programs such as the arts and opportunities to attend recreational camps and activities that focus on life and job skills.

8.1.3 New Business Incentives Programs

The need to develop a program to attract new business to the area was seen to be of the utmost importance. This will include the identification of industrial lands and development of a strategy to promote the area to potential developers.

8.1.4 Bells Line of Road Motorway

The motorway was seen to be positive for the future economic sustainability of the area. Noted advantages were the opening up of the transport routes and cultural development. There will be a need for the Economic Development Officer to research and develop strategies which will assist Lithgow in moving forward in the event that the town is bypassed by the development of the proposed Motorway.

8.1.5 Specialist Officers

Both the Indigenous and the Disabled communities identified the need for support workers. Although it was suggested that these positions should be housed within Council, there is a need to further investigate this area as part of the review of the Social Plan 2006-2011.

8. Economic Sustainability

8.1.6 Cultural Development

There is a perception within the community that the pub/club culture is limiting to personal development and that there is a need to develop an overarching intellectual framework which supports all cultural activities within the context of promoting Lithgow's history and heritage.

The Lithgow Local Government Area has a unique industrial history which provides an opportunity for the Lithgow area to become a 'specialist' within this field. The creation of a Cultural Precinct which includes workshop space, gallery space, a research archive and entertainment venue will provide the infrastructure to support a creative economy.

The small population base was seen as a weakness and it is perceived that the pub/club and sporting culture of the area is more strongly represented. Classical music performances are felt to be generally undervalued and not well supported by the community. However there exists an opportunity to develop a more regional focus for the arts in Lithgow promoting to the Blue Mountains and Central West in addition to the local community.

The Lithgow City Council Management Plan 2008 – 2011 (p.31) identifies the need to develop and implement a support program for local artists during 2008/09.

8.2 Regional Networks

Furthermore there is an opportunity to expand on our current skills base by developing cross regional networks. Recent developments have included Council working with the Bathurst Theatre Company to apply for funding to provide a School Holiday Youth Theatre Program at Eskbank House & Museum and the Cullen

Bullen Progress Hall in April and July 2008 respectively.

8.2.1 The Macquarie Philharmonia Foundation Inc.

The Macquarie Philharmonia Foundation Inc. is working to establish itself as Australia's Inland Symphony Orchestra. Residents of the Lithgow Local Government Area form part of its membership. During its 2006 concert series "Mozart's 250th Birthday" the Orchestra performed in Lithgow. The Foundations charter is to develop a Regional Concert Performance Committee with local committees currently established in Dubbo, Cowra, Mudgee and Bathurst and to be established in Lithgow and Orange.

8.2.2 The Mitchell Conservatorium of Music

The Mitchell Conservatorium of Music is one of 15 regional conservatoriums with branches in Bathurst, Forbes and Lithgow. The Conservatorium fosters a love of music from 18 months of age with its early childhood classes through to professional musicians.

8.2.3 FilmCentral

Lithgow City Council is one of 22 local government areas covering approximately 35% of inland NSW supporting FilmCentral NSW. FilmCentral NSW employs a Project Officer (based in Rylstone) to search for film and television locations throughout the area to promote to interested parties within the film and television industries. The promotion of filming within the LGA is seen as a key objective for Tourism in the Lithgow City Council 2008-2011 Management Plan (p. 20).

An extensive Location Gallery is available plus a searchable Local Film Support Services database (Resources Section) that lists skills, services, facilities available to assist film and television production in each Local Government Area.

8. Economic Sustainability

The Local Film and Television Directory (Resources Section) lists individuals living within the region who possess extensive film and television industry experience. Those listed are available to provide services to any production. (Filmcentral NSW).

8.3 Cultural Mapping

It is considered appropriate that Cultural Mapping be carried out during 2009/10 to allow a statistical base to be developed for monitoring the contribution a creative economy is making within the Lithgow Local Government Area.

A cultural mapping form was initially distributed in 2007 as part of the initial consultation process for the Lithgow City Council Cultural Plan. Its aim was to gain a comprehensive economic profile for the Lithgow local government area from both professional artists and community organisations. Nine responses from the following sectors were received and are included as attachment 3.

- 1 Tidy Towns/Progress Association
- 3 Musical groups/organisations
- 2 Youth Organisations/workers
- 1 Recording artist/label
- 1 Dance Studio/Instructor
- 1 Visual Artist

A breakdown of statistical information from the 2006 ABS Census for the Lithgow Local Government Area and national comparisons on public funding for arts and cultural activities, facilities and services for 2002-03 to 2004-05 from the Australia Bureau of Statistics Cultural Funding by Government, Australia 2004-05 are also included as part of Attachment 3 to this document.

8.4 Promotion

Promotion is seen to be integral to the economic development and sustainability of the Lithgow local government area.

There is a need to review the current new residents' kit ensuring that it promotes economic development, creative industries, culture and educational opportunities to new residents and developers.

The Lithgow Jobs Summit (2008:24) has identified a target of "50 events a year" for the Lithgow area. This includes an audit of current events and the development of strategies to promote new events. New events may or may not be ongoing events; they may include one-off events which will require the marketing of local facilities to event promoters and Organisers.

The Lithgow local government area is traversed by several touring routes including:

- The Tablelands Way from Muswellbrook to Canberra.
- The Botanists Way from Lithgow to Hawkesbury
- The Greater Blue Mountains Drive – touring routes in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area; and
- The Capertee Valley Drive – Glen Davis to Rylstone

These drives all have unique attributes from which Lithgow Tourism can promote the area. However, it is noted that the area does need to recognise its cultural and heritage assets in addition to its natural beauty.

"Lithgow the valley of artisans, steeped in history, wrapped by nature."

Janet Watson, Jannel Goat Dairy

8. Economic Sustainability

8.5 Retail Development

Overall, the consultation sessions provided a unanimous need for an improved retail sector in Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland. One consultation session, suggested that there was also a need for more shops in Capertee. The sessions identified that 'more shops equal more jobs' and greater marketing through tourism would also assist in reducing retail vacancies within shopping centres.

There were a number of suggestions for considerations by developers and planners in relation to retail development. It was noted that people with disabilities have difficulty in some shops and offices with the height of shop counters and reception desks. In general people considered that there is a need for a greater variety of specialty food stores including multicultural food stores and more cafes.

8.5.1 Main Street Programs

A Main Street Program was developed for Lithgow in 1997. A review of the previously developed program will ascertain if any of the recommendations are still relevant to this area. However, it is considered appropriate that any consultation for a Main Street Program for Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland should be considered in line with the identification and implementation of Cultural Precincts.

Communications Technology

There are a number of issues with black spots for mobile phone usage and broadband/internet technology throughout the local government area. The introduction of KP free Wireless Broadband Technology would assist in developing a vibrant 'café culture' in the central business district further enhancing a Main Street Program.

'My vision is people being able to sit in cafes and the plaza accessing information via their laptops. I think it could develop a cafe culture and bring

some life into Main ST. I also think it fits in very well with the Learning Cities concept. It is a very tangible and achievable goal.'

(Cultural Plan Submission 2008)

8.5.2 Local Product

Many people highlighted the desire for greater emphasis on the marketing of local product. A number of ideas were suggested with a groundswell of support concepts such as:

- Growers/Organic Markets
- Marketing and promoting local products through local restaurants and cafes.
- Foreign foods – classes and events utilising local product.
 - Multicultural Grocery Shop with free workshops on Ethnic Cooking.
- Development of cooperative concepts:
 - Food Share
 - Slow foods
 - Promoting local foods and products.
- Made in Lithgow Enterprises (MILE).

Some of these concepts are already in their infancy with groups developing and implementing the concepts. The State Mine Heritage Park and Railway is seeking to conduct a regular Farmers Market and the Beyond Lithgow Group is investigating ways to implement Made In Lithgow Enterprises.

8. Economic Sustainability

Action Plan – Economic Sustainability

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Promote economic development, education and employment opportunities.	Appoint an Economic Development Officer	2008/09	Group Manager, Community & Corporate	Economic Development Officer Appointed	Management Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11 (p31) Grant funding
	Review Councils corporate structure for the need to employ additional staffing in the Cultural Development Area	2008/09	Manager, Community & Culture and Cultural Development Officer	New structure for Cultural Development identified and funding sourced.	
	Develop local artists by offering support	2008/09	Cultural Development Officer	Recommendations from Artists Support Program adopted by Council and included in Management Plan	
	Identify gaps for economic development and employment opportunities within the creative arts and heritage management sectors.	2009/10	Cultural Development Officer	Cultural Mapping of the Lithgow LGA completed.	
	Investigate educational and skills development opportunities as part of the learning cities program	2010/11	Community & Culture Manager	Inclusion of identified skills development requirements in local school/TAFE programs.	
	Investigate funding opportunities for Economic development and growth within the creative arts and heritage management sectors of the community.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer/Grants Officer	Successful grant applications	
	Form industry partnerships with the Lithgow Business Association.	Ongoing	Cultural Plan Working Party & Lithgow Business Association	Representative of the Lithgow Business Association on Cultural Plan Working Party	
	Continued participation by Council in the Bells Line of Road Motorway proposal	Ongoing	Mayor/General Manager	Attendance at Meetings of the Bells Line of Road Motorway Group	
	Investigate the development of a Youth Job Network	2009/10 2010/11	Community Development Officer	Identification of service providers and development of a strategy for a Youth Job Network	

8. Economic Sustainability

Action Plan – Economic Sustainability

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Promote economic development, education and employment opportunities.	Develop and implement a New Business Incentives Programs	2009/10	Economic Development Officer	Adoption of program by Council	
	Investigate the need for the employment of an Indigenous Liaison Officer and Disabilities Officer in line with the Social Planning review process.	2009/10	Community Development Officer	Community consultation undertaken and recommendations made to Council.	
	Review and update the 'New Residents kit' and investigate ways to welcome new residents.	2009/10	Economic Development Officer	New Residents Kit distributed and a Welcome Program implemented.	
	Conduct an audit of events and develop strategies to promote Lithgow as a place to host events.	2009/10	Cultural Development Officer/Tourism Manager/Economic Development Officer	Tourism Marketing Strategy Adopted	
	Conduct a feasibility study into Main Street Programs for Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland.	2009/10 2010/11	Economic Development Officer/Cultural Development Officer/Heritage Advisor	Developed in line with Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study/s	
	Investigate and lobby for improved telecommunications and internet technology.	2008/09- 2012/13	General Manager/ IT Manager	Improved telecommunications and internet technologies.	
	Develop a strategy to promote local product to the community.	2008/09 2009/10 2010/11	Live Life Well in Lithgow Officer/Economic Development Officer	Strategy adopted by Council and implemented.	

8. Economic Sustainability

Action Plan – Economic Sustainability

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Promote networks and resource sharing local and regionally.	Establishment of a local cultural directory and network.	Annual	Cultural Development Officer	Comprehensive database of the cultural community.	As per Management Plan 2007-2010 Principle Activities.
	Encourage the sharing of ideas and resources through networking forums and membership on regional network groups	Bi-annual	Cultural Development Officer	Participation by local cultural workers & artists – promotion of cultural plan	
	Identify and promote opportunities for cultural groups and others to work together.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Regular information dissemination through e-blasts and newsletters.	
	Further identify the cultural needs of the region, including the funding of a complete and broad based needs analysis.	2009/2010	Cultural Development Officer	Identification of gaps within the cultural community as part of Cultural Mapping.	



9. Education

9.1 Learning Cities

A learning city is a city that renews itself by promoting lifelong learning and building partnerships within the community.

(Lithgow City Council Brochure, 2004).

Lithgow was pronounced the first Learning City in NSW in 1998. This was at a time when there was a downturn in industry with the closure of the Berlei factory and coalmines. A Learning City is designed to promote social and economic growth and support lifelong learning offering opportunities to re-skill the workforce through partnerships with industry and learning centres.

The following principles were developed by the Lithgow Learning City Management Committee as a focus to promote and develop lifelong learning in the Lithgow local government area.

- **Building partnerships** between business, education, welfare and health organisations and the people of the Lithgow region.
- Developing a **positive attitude to lifelong learning** through publicity programs, promotion of learning activities and consultation with the community.
- Coordinating the **Spread the Word** community literacy program and the **Books for Babies kits** which promote reading to children from birth.
- **Promoting** Lithgow as a Learning Community in order to create a positive image of Lithgow as a place to work and live.
- **Form links** with universities to establish a university presence in Lithgow.

- Attracting business investment by developing a **highly skilled workforce**.

(Lithgow City Council Learning City Brochures, 2004)

Lithgow City Council recognises the importance to the community of the Learning Cities Concept. Education is a principal activity incorporated into the Councils management plan with the key objective being "To provide the community with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills through Learning City Programs (p. 23)." The review and implementation of the Learning City Action Plan is seen to be a key priority for 2008/09.

The Lithgow Library Learning Centre is a result of the Learning Cities concept; it was designed to house the Lithgow Regional Library, Lithgow Technology Centre and the Lithgow Library Learning Shop.

Lithgow City Council operates the Lithgow Library Learning Centre and Portland, Rydal and Wallerawang Libraries.

9.1.1 Internet Technology

With the rapid increase of internet usage and expectations by people travelling for work or pleasure to be able to communicate with family, friends or business via internet and other methods of telecommunications. A greater emphasis is being placed on the development of increased serviceability in this area.

The development of a 'café culture' which enables people to access broadband telecommunications is seen to be the way of the future for economic development and education.

It was noted that by encouraging cafés to include internet facilities as part of their business development, this would enable the Technology Centre at the Lithgow

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Library Learning Centre to concentrate on more educational focused activities. Although this is a core function of the technology centre it is foreseeable that there exists an opportunity to act as an education provider or alternatively to market the use of the centre to outside education providers for the running of courses.

9.1.2 Schools and Tertiary Education

Students highlighted a need for the development of programs outside of school hours such as 'Summer School' programs.

As part of the Learning Cities Program there was an emphasis on forming links with Tertiary Institutions to establish a university presence in this area. The consultation process has further highlighted the need to continue to develop this concept.

9.1.3 Catering and Cooking Classes

There was an overwhelming response from all age groups to investigate the development of catering and cooking classes.

This included Multicultural Cooking Classes which are inclusive of all ages and ethnicities with this being an opportunity for couples and families also to mix and learn together.

School students highlighted a need for Catering Classes to be further developed

9.2 University of the Third Age

Members of the U3A are seniors, or people in their third age, with a passion for life long learning who wish to share their own knowledge or learn new skills. The U3A is a program of educational and recreational

as part of the schools program included religious, multicultural and indigenous foods.

9.1.4 Cultural Education Program

The promotion of cultural activities to schools and the need to encourage greater participation by schools in local activities was discussed. It was felt that Council needs to encourage schools to become more involved in these types of activities.

Council does contact schools regularly in relation to cultural activities being coordinated by Council. This includes:

- Information packs
- Newsletter
- Competitions and exhibitions
- School tour packages for Eskbank House & Museum
- Development of outreach programs for schools – Travelling Exhibition – Peep at Sheep.

9.1.5 Dog Ownership Education Program

It was suggested that there is a need for the running of a dog ownership education program, particularly in the Department of Housing area where, a number of residents have large dogs.

It is possible that as part of the Rangers program this could be coordinated in conjunction with local Veterinary Clinics and Kennel Clubs.

activities developed from its members and the resources of the community (U3A, 2008)

Current local activities which support this concept include:

- Beehive (Lithgow & Portland)
- Lithgow Senior Citizens Club
- Gorrie Ban Seniors Group

9. Education

- Seniors week activities
- Lithgow Forums held at the Lithgow Learning Centre on specific topics of interest.

9.2.1 Men's Shed Project

Investigation into the development of a 'Men's Shed' project is being considered for the area. This type of project can take one or two forms:

- A mentoring project where men teach youths' rare trades and skills type opportunities.
- An opportunity for men to get together in a relaxed forum to discuss issues.

These concepts are closely linked with the learning cities philosophy of life-long learning.

9.3 Indigenous Programs

Inclusion is the key to developing successful programs which aim to promote an understanding of different cultures and minority groups. All programs when developed should encourage participation by all, this will assist in ensuring the continuation and success of the program by breaking down cultural barriers.

9.3.1 Cultural Awareness Training

The 2006-2011 Social Plan (P165) and the recent community consultation process has identified the need for Cultural Awareness Training to be conducted for Councilors and staff. Cultural Awareness training can be provided by the Blue Mountains National Parks & Wildlife Service Aboriginal Heritage Environment Conservation Officer and/or Department of

Environment and Climate Change Cultural Heritage (Hurstville). This training will provide staff and councilors with an understanding of Aboriginal Culture and also aids in the identification of items found on work sites.

In addition to the initial training, an annual training program for new staff and Councilors should be implemented to ensure that cultural issues and identification of sites are dealt with correctly and respectfully.

9.3.2 Wiradjuri Language Program

The development of a Wiradjuri Language Program will foster the culture and its traditions within the community through the teaching of traditional Wiradjuri terms, pronunciations and names of the area. A successful program is currently being run in Bathurst and it is considered appropriate that this program could be extended to Lithgow.

9.3.3 Environmental Conservation & Bush Regeneration Programs

The issue of youth on the streets is seen to be a major problem in the area. It was noted that there is a need to look at suitable external education programs. Green Corp currently runs a program for youth in Environmental Conservation. A similar, TAFE Accredited program could be run between Lithgow and Bathurst to provide youth with the skills to maintain and conserve significant sites using both traditional methods and modern bush regeneration practices.

9. Education

Action Plan – Education

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
To provide the community with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills through Learning City Programs.	Review the Learning City Action Plan and identify opportunities to further develop the Local Government area as a learning city.	Annual	Community & Culture Manager	Review completed and actions incorporated into Management Plan 2009-2012.	
	Implement activities identified in the Learning City Action Plan according to priorities.	Ongoing	Community & Culture Manager	Completion of identified activities	
	Maintain membership of the Australian Learning Community Network.	Ongoing	Community & Culture Manager	Membership and participation in network.	
	Operate the Lithgow Library Learning Centre and the Portland, Rydal and Wallerawang Libraries.	Ongoing	Library Manager	Annual increases in borrowings, membership and attendance/participation in Library coordinated activities.	
	Investigate opportunities to promote the Technology Centre as a training facility to education providers.	2011/12	Library Manager	Promotion & marketing strategy adopted by Council	
	Investigate U3A programs currently available in Lithgow and identify opportunities to expand the concept.	2010/11	Library Manager/Cultural Development Officer	Included in Learning Cities Strategy	
	Investigate the need for a Men's Shed Program.	2009/10	Community Development Officer	Working Party implemented	
	Incorporate Cultural Awareness program into Councils annual staff/Councilor training program	2010/11	Community Development Officer/Human Resources Manager	Included as part of Councils annual Training program for all staff and Councilors	

10. Local Collections

10.1 Collection Management

The Lithgow Local Government Area has an opportunity to further develop and promote its industrial heritage through heritage management, archival management, collections management, and the arts and through the intangible cultural heritage of the community.

The identification of local collections held both privately and by community groups and organisations needs to be carried out to assist in the development of suitable infrastructure for the Lithgow area. The Lithgow area has a proud genealogical heritage which is both tangible (Family History Society archive) and intangible collective memories of the community. Investigation into the future needs of local collections should include the capturing of the communities collective memories.

10.1.1 Museums Advisor Program

The NSW Museums & Galleries, Museums Advisor Program provides a professional Advisor to assist communities to develop, promote and maintain their collections, museums and galleries. This program should be investigated and suitable funding sourced to enable an Advisor to work within the community.

10.1.2 Rydal Community Collection

The Rydal community is currently in the process of liaising with Council to develop a Museum telling the stories of Rydal in an old train carriage. As Council does not currently participate in the Museums Advisors program it is feasible that the Cultural Development Officer, Heritage Advisor and Grants Officer provide assistance and advice where possible on the development of this valuable resource for the community.

10.1.3 Cultural Grants Incentive Program

Furthermore the Cultural Grants Incentive Program needs to be investigated to encourage donations from the community to further develop and enhance our community held arts and heritage collections.

10.1.4 Lithgow City Council Collections Policy

A collection policy is required to be developed for all of Councils collections which will provide a focus for collecting, preservation and maintenance.

Lithgow City Council is responsible for four major collections:

- Eskbank House & Museum Collection
- The Lithgow City Council Art Collection
- Lithgow Library Local Studies Collection
- The Lithgow City Council Records Collection

10.2 Eskbank House & Museum Collection

A Preservation Study has been carried out on the Eskbank House & Museum Local History Collection which provides recommendations as to the preservation of the collection. Some of these are in the process of being carried out and it is advisable that the recommendations within the Preservation Study be further progressed and included in Council's management plan for the Museum and its collection.

The collection held at Eskbank House & Museum includes a number of sub-collections, which in 2005 were listed as 'of National Significance'. These sub-collections include:

- The Lithgow Pottery Collection 1877-1906

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- The Sutton Family Crazy Patchwork Quilt
- The Lithgow Woollen Mills Collection 1857 – 1977
- The Sir Joseph Cook Collection
- The Edwin Barton Diary & Workbook c1857
- The Lithgow Ironworks & Blast Furnace Collection 1876-1932
- The HMAS Lithgow Collection



Local students participate in a 'white-glove tour' at Eskbank House & Museum of the Sutton Family Crazy Patchwork Quilt.

A plan of management for the Eskbank House & Museum Collection needs to be developed which is inclusive of the recommendations in the Preservation Needs Survey. Such a plan should also include a collections policy identifying items which are to be collected by the Museum; a strategy to collect items within the "Nationally Significant Collections"; and research priorities for the collection.

Due to the size and significance of the Lithgow Pottery Collection held at the Museum it is considered appropriate that Museum Staff and Volunteers, through the implementation of a research program become 'experts' on this valuable collection. It is further considered appropriate that a strategy be developed to include items by modern potters who have been associated with or are associated with the Lithgow Pottery Site.

10.2.2 Indigenous Collection

Eskbank House & Museum holds within its collection several artifacts which may be of significance to the local Indigenous Community. Consultation with local Aboriginal elders and the Local Aboriginal Lands Council would provide an opportunity for the Museum to recognise the importance of these items to the local community. These artifacts provide an opportunity to educate the community on local aboriginal heritage.

10.3 Lithgow City Council Art Collection

The Arts and Culture section of the Lithgow City Council Management Plan 2007-2010 has included the development of a program for exhibiting and conducting exhibitions of Councils' Art Collection as a key objective with a view to managing and preserving the collection.

Lithgow City Council annually supports the Portland Art Purchase held in March by purchasing artworks to be included in the Councils' collection. New purchases are placed on display in the Council Chambers for twelve months for viewing by the public.

A policy has been developed for the collecting of art works by Lithgow City Council. This policy should be reviewed and include, but not be limited to preservation, exhibition, storage & handling, allocations of funding for collecting artworks and support of local art shows. This policy should be integrated with the Collections Management Policy for Eskbank House & Museum, the Lithgow Library Local Studies Collection and Lithgow City Council Records Collection to ensure consistency and establish priorities. This will enable applications for funding to be sought to conserve areas within the collection as a

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whole as opposed to individual applications.



St Bernards Church & Presbytery, Hartley Historic Site by local artist Hans Liebhart. Lithgow City Council Art Collection.

10.4 Lithgow Local Studies Collection

The Lithgow Local Studies Collection held by the Lithgow Learning Centre includes:

- Monographs
- Photographs
- Vertical Files
- Council of the City of Lithgow Historical Records on Microfilm
- Folios
- Family History Resources
- Newspapers
- Archives & Ephemera
- Maps
- Oral History Tapes
- Lithgow Woollen Mills Records
- Lithgow Valley Coal Company Records

The enhancement of the local historical photographic collection, digitisation of the social history recordings and provision of archival boxes for the preservation of community resources have been included in the Lithgow City Council Management Plan 2007-2010 for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 budgetary years (p.22).

10.5 Lithgow City Council Historical Records and Archives

Lithgow City Councils historical records and archives are subject to the State Records Act 1998 (NSW). Although they have value as cultural artifacts this does not diminish Council's responsibility to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Council holds an extensive archival collection. All council records prior to 1920 are required to be retained as State Archives.

Councils' archival records along with the Local studies collection, Art Collection and Museum collections will all be subject to an internal review by Councils Collections Management Officers and their preservation, management, future storage and accessibility under the State Records Act will be include in Councils Collections Policy.

10. Local Collections

Action Plan – Local Collections

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Facilitate an awareness of the region's history – identifying, preserving, improving and promoting the LGA's local history collections.	Implement the recommendations in the 2005 Preservation Survey of the Eskbank House & Museum Collection.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Actions included in the Management Plan as programs, archival materials etcetera.	Grant funding
	Develop a collection policy for Council's Cultural Collections and archival records.	2008/09	Cultural Development Officer/Local Studies Officer/IT Manager & Records Officer.	Collections policy adopted by Council	
	Upgrade Council's Museum Collections Database.	2008/09	IT Manager	Upgraded system installed.	Management Plan 2008-2011 \$1000
	Investigate and implement the Museums Advisors Program	2009/10 2010/11	Cultural Development Officer	Museums Advisor Position	\$6000 pa
	Identify and establish a database of the region's cultural collections.	2012/13	Cultural Development Officer	Cultural Collections Database	
	Provide assistance to the Rydal community for the development of its Train Museum.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer/Heritage Advisor/Grants Officer	Provision of advice and sourcing of suitable grant funding.	
	Undertake a feasibility study into the region's collections and future storage.	2009/10 – 2010/11	Cultural Development Officer	Completion of a feasibility study into the proposed cultural precinct.	See Section 4 Venues & Facilities.
	Register for Tax Incentives as per of the Cultural Gift Register	2009/10	Cultural Development Officer	Increases in donations to Council Collections.	
	Investigate the implementation of an oral history program for the Community to capture the 'collective memories' of the local area.	2010/11	Cultural Development Officer/Local Studies Officer and Grants Officer	Annual oral history program implemented to capture local stories.	Grant funding
	Transcribe and digitally enhance current oral history records held on audio tapes.	2009/10	Local Studies Officer/Grants Officer	Copies of current records available for use by the public	Management Plan 2008 – 2011 (p.22)

10. Local Collections

Action Plan – Local Collections

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Facilitate an awareness of the region's history – identifying, preserving, improving and promoting the LGA's local history collections (Cont.)	Enhancement of the local history photographic collection	2008/09 2009/10	Local Studies Officer/Grants Officer	Accessibility of photographic collection	Management Plan 2008 – 2011 (p.22)
	Purchase of archival materials for collection preservation.	Ongoing	Local Studies Officer/Cultural Development Officer	Appropriate storage and preservation of councils' collections.	Management Plan 2008 – 2011 (p.22)



11. Cultural Activities & Development

11.1 Events

The Lithgow City Council Social Plan 2006-2011 has identified the need for Council to provide cultural and recreational activities to meet the needs of the community.

Events provide both a direct and an indirect benefit to the community. They provide economic advantage to local businesses, accommodation providers and attraction operators offering an opportunity to raise the profile of the area through advertising and the experiences of the audience/participants.

Events such as Harmony Day and NAIDOC Week offer communities from multicultural and indigenous backgrounds an opportunity to raise awareness of the diverse cultures within the area.

Lithgow City Council recognises the economic impact on the community that events and tourism provide and one of its key objectives for local employment is:

“To foster Tourism in the LGA through promotional activities by:

Operating the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre including the provision of tourism marketing services such as:

- Tourism Ambassador Program
- ‘What’s in your backyard campaign’
- Support for local tourism events including Ironfest, Daffodils at Rydal, Hartley’s Big Backyard, Celebrate Lithgow and other events as supported by Council.”

(LCC Management Plan 2007-2010, p18)

As a result of this the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre compiles a regular list of events which is promoted on its website www.tourism.lithgow.nsw.gov.au, is

available from the Visitors Centre and displayed on the community notice boards in Cook Plaza & the Visitors Centre.

Although this list is promoted by the Visitors Centre, it was noted however, that there is insufficient awareness of the range of activities and the resources available in the area. The list has been extended to include community and cultural development activities coordinated by Lithgow City Council on an annual basis. The list is included as attachment 4.

11.1.1 ‘50 Events Concept’

The Lithgow Jobs Summit held on 22 July 2008 (p35) recognised the economic value of events on our community. As one of its key themes the summit has developed a ‘50 Events’ idea. It is accepted however, that there is a need to develop a strategy for the sustainability of events which promote and showcase the region as follows:

- Undertake an audit to develop an event profile.
- Determine the skills of event organisers and opportunities for skills development.
- Develop an understanding of how events showcase the history, heritage, industrial activities and sporting culture of the Lithgow area to develop ‘related’ events.
- Consider new event opportunities which fit within the event profile.

The community consultation process has provided widespread support for the development of events and activities which will enhance the quality of life within the community providing educational opportunities as part of the learning cities program. Suggested activities include:

- Concerts and festivals
 - Youth festivals which include music,

11. Cultural Activities & Development

entertainment and markets.

- Fireworks
- Events to promote multiculturalism and acceptance
- More country style events which include activities such as wood chopping, horse riding, archery, clay pigeon or target shooting.
- Food and wine festival focusing on multicultural foods and local product.
- New Years Eve festival for families
- Celebrations of international and cultural holidays and events ie:
 - Halloween
 - Queens Birthday
 - Oktoberfest

11.2 Volunteers

Lithgow City Council recognises the important role that volunteers play in our community.

Council has implemented volunteer programs to assist in the operations at the Lithgow Regional Library, Rydal Library and Eskbank House & Museum.



Eskbank House & Museum Volunteer, Kim joining in the festivities on Australia Day.

There is an enormous variety of volunteering opportunities within the area and it is considered appropriate that volunteers be recognised for their contribution to the community.

The development of a local volunteer network which promotes the benefits of volunteering to the community – health and well-being, learning, mentoring, companionship – will not only encourage new opportunities but, provide a forum for support and recognition of volunteers.

11.3 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People

Lithgow City Council has traditionally provided assistance to the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples through a rental subsidy for the use of Council owned premises as a meeting place (Lithgow City Council Social Plan 2006-2011:81). Unfortunately due to the demise of the Greater Lithgow & Torres Strait Islander Community (GLATSIC) this service is no longer provided.

The recent community consultations with representatives of the local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community have noted the desire by this group of people to develop a new cultural centre in the Lithgow Local Government Area. Discussions have indicated that the facility should be a multi-purpose facility which would provide cultural and social benefits to the community such as:

- A shop front facility to house a gallery for the exhibition and sale of arts and crafts produced by the community.
- Workshop space for art, silk screen painting and crafts.
- Café selling traditional foods.
- Educational facility for the teaching of traditional language programs
- A Keeping Place to house Aboriginal Artifacts.
- Aboriginal Liaison Officer
 - Court Support for Aboriginal Youth
 - Coordination of Hostel Accommodation for

11. Cultural Activities & Development

- Aboriginal Youths & Children.
- Coordinate Events and Celebrations

11.3.1 Aboriginal Consultative Committee

Through the community consultation process a number of identifiable actions have been developed and incorporated into the Social Plan 2006-2011, Cultural Plan 2008-2011 and Crime Prevention Plan 2008-2011. It is considered appropriate that an Aboriginal Community Consultative Committee be established as a Section 355 Committee of Council which includes representation from the newly formed MINGAAN Aboriginal Corporation and other relevant non government organisations to provide advice on cultural and social issues relating to the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community. The committee will develop a charter relating to cultural and social issues and work towards achieving the actions identified within Councils key planning instruments that relate to this community.

This group will also assist in the coordination and promotion of indigenous involvement in events and celebrations held in the Lithgow Local Government Area.

Events & Celebrations

Lithgow City Council currently supports the annual NAIDOC Week activities coordinated by Koori Kids.

Council also flies the Aboriginal Flag during NAIDOC and Reconciliation Weeks and out of respect on significant occasions.

Indigenous involvement in Council programs and events would provide an opportunity to further educate the community in Indigenous culture, practices and heritage.

11.3.2 Indigenous Events

The need to develop a major event which celebrates traditional Wiradjuri stories was considered to be important. There is an opportunity to identify funding and extend the "2007 River Dreaming Festival" started in Bathurst on the Macquarie River to Lake Wallace at Wallerawang. This project could be developed to achieve a number of educational, cultural and historical objectives:

- Telling of the traditional stories of the Platypus and waterways in our area.
- Educate on the importance of healthy eco-systems and waterways.
- Provide opportunities for workshops in traditional dance, artworks, theatre production etcetera.
- Telling the stories prior to and following white settlement which are of historical significance to the area.

11.4 Youth Programs

As part of the community consultation process, Council Officers consulted with the following student groups:

- Wallerawang Public School – Year 6
- Portland Central School – Years 7-11
- La Salle Academy – Year 10

The students provided a great deal of relevant information into the types of activities they wished to have within the area. This included contributing to the economic development, promotion of our local history and heritage, educational processes, event ideas as listed in section 11.1 above and also the types of youth programs they wished to be able to participate in.

The youth of the area expressed the continuation of the current family fun days

11. Cultural Activities & Development

program coordinated through the Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre.

The need for more after school activities and after school care in the towns and villages was seen as a high priority by the youth of the area. There was a great deal of support by local youth for outreach programs to be developed by organisations such as PCYC, YouthWorx and youth groups/clubs to provide afterschool activities in Portland, Wallerawang and the villages. This also included activities such as music tuition and school holiday workshops.

It was further suggested that parents should become more involved in non-sporting related activities for youth. It was noted that many parents participate in their children's sports as coaches or committee members however; there is also a need for parental involvement in developing and implementing cultural programs, youth camps and events.

11.4.1 Bands Nights and Discos

Opportunities for Youth Bands to participate at events such as Rock-Up held during Youth Week, discos and talent shows were seen to be extremely popular. There is a need to look further at funding opportunities to host more events to be held throughout the area, not just centralized in Lithgow. When considering funding opportunities transport needs to be included as a priority to allow youth from the towns and villages to participate.

11.4.2 Anti-social Behavior

There was an overwhelming sense that the perceived lack of recreational and cultural activities in the area leads to anti-social behavior amongst local youth. This has been identified as part of the Crime Prevention Plan 2008-2011 which is currently being developed for Lithgow City Council. However, it is noted that cultural activities can significantly reduce anti-

social behavior and also increase the overall well-being of the community.

Through planning instruments such as the Social Plan 2006-2011, Cultural Plan 2008-2011 and Crime Prevention Plan 2008 – 2011, Lithgow City Council Officers are able to work in conjunction with other service providers and law enforcement agencies to initiate activities aimed at combating anti-social behavior. Strategies should, however also be included in town planning and design to reduce isolation, poor lighting, improve access to open space recreational areas, create family friendly parks and skate/bike facilities which provide families and youths with an opportunity to interact in safe, fun environments.

11. Cultural Activities & Development

Action Plan – Cultural Activities

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Ensure the Lithgow community values and celebrates its unique cultural diversity.	Coordination and promotion of Cultural activities and events.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer/Tourism Manager	Regular promotion of Cultural activities within the Lithgow LGA via local and regional media and networks.	Estimated Cost \$21,000
	Development of an awareness program with regular media promotion of cultural activities to target and build new audiences	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer/Tourism Manager	Production and distribution of quarterly newsletters/e-blasts & cultural media outlets	
	Produce and enhance quarterly Council Connections newsletters	Quarterly	Cultural Development Officer/Executive Assistant	Production & distribution of quarterly newsletter.	
	Create a cultural section within the Councils website	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer/IT Manager	Developed as part of cultural planning process includes cultural mapping database	
	Inclusion of promotion of Councils Cultural Facilities, Council collections and public programs on Electronic Media Display	2012/2013	Cultural Development Officer/IT Manager	Installation of Electronic Media Display in Council Administration Centre, Tourism Centre and Lithgow Learning Centre	
Support and encourage community participation in the cultural life of our community.	Encourage (ensure) diverse representation in the cultural life of our community	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Involvement of each locality in the Lithgow Local Government Area in the development and implementation of the Cultural Plan.	
	Identify & promote local indigenous cultural and history.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Participation of local indigenous leaders in cultural activities.	
	Collaborate with community groups and organisations, individuals, education sector etc., to encourage community development projects.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Promotion of activities/events & opportunities through newsletters and e-blasts	
	Develop local artists by offering support	2008/09	Council	Develop and implement a program for support of local artists.	

11. Cultural Activities & Development

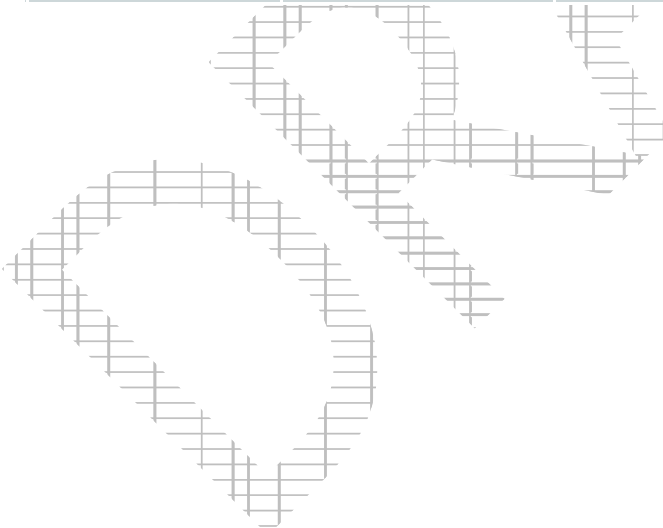
Action Plan – Cultural Activities

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Identify the needs of Lithgow's youth	Consult with local youth and representative organisations and work in partnership with them on cultural matters.	June 2008	Community Development Officer/Cultural Development Officer	Participation in Focus Groups	
	Encourage youth support in establishing cultural programs to meet youth needs.	Ongoing	Community Development Officer/Cultural Development Officer	Development of a Youth Programs Strategy	
	Seek ways to integrate youth programs within the wider cultural activities.	Ongoing	Community Development Officer/Cultural Development Officer	Youth activities incorporated into cultural programs.	
Encourage participation in cultural activities	Promote the benefits of being involved in cultural activities to all members of the community.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Participation	
	Ensure cultural facilities and activities are accessible to the general public.	Annual	Operations Manager/Cultural Development Officer	Inclusion of cultural activities in Disability Access Plan	
Utilise the creative talents of the Lithgow Region.	Establishment of a network of artists, artisans, performers, designers etc integrated with the Central West Cultural Directory hosted by Arts OutWest	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Comprehensive database of the cultural community.	
	Develop a Council Cultural Grants funding program including scholarships and Artist & Historian residencies	2009/10 – 2010/11	Cultural Development Officer	Inclusion in councils annual Management Plan.	
Identify the needs of the community to develop cultural landscapes	Consult with the community to promote placemaking as an integral part of community development	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Placemaking strategies adopted as part of the Cultural Plan	
	Apply the creativity of the region in streetscape and landscaping	2009/10	Cultural Development Officer/Manager Policy & Planning	Inclusion in Open Space Study	Grant Funding

11. Cultural Activities & Development

Action Plan – Cultural Activities

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Responsible Person	Key Performance Indicator	Estimated Cost
Encourage Accessibility & Equity within Cultural programs and facilities.	Promote opportunities for participation in cultural activities for the disabled, frail and disadvantaged.	Ongoing	Cultural Development Officer	Participation	Grant Funding
	Encourage arts organisations to make their venue and services more accessible for people with disabilities.	Ongoing	Group Manager, Regional Services	Provision within development planning	
	Investigate training opportunities for Arts organisations and Arts workers	2012/13	Cultural Development Officer	TAFE Accredited Disability Awareness and Access Training Program	
Encourage, Promote and recognise the role of volunteering to the area.	Develop a volunteer's network to promote and facilitate volunteering in the area.	2009/10	Community Development Officer	Participation	Council/Local Sponsorship
	Implement a recognition program for volunteering in association with International Volunteers Day.	2008/09	Community Development Officer/Cultural Development Officer/Library Manager	Annual ceremony and recognition of service to the community event.	



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13. Attachments

1. Lithgow City Council Cultural Plan Community Consultation Session Notes
2. Summary of written submissions
 - a. Margaret Maddock representing Lyre Blue Creative, Greater Lithgow Region Events Diary & Lithgow Regional Fellowship of Australian Writers
 - b. Wendy Carlson & Ian Milliss – CarlsonMilliss Art & Heritage Management
 - c. The Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc.
3. Cultural Mapping
 - a. Responses to Cultural Mapping Form sent out in 2007
 - b. 2006 ABS Census results for Lithgow Local Government Area.
 - c. Summary of Findings for Cultural Funding by Government, Australia, 2004-05 (Reissue)
4. Events listing for Lithgow Local Government Area 2007 – Compiled by the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre

