

## Public Administration and Safety Industries

### PROPOSED OUTCOME

*Lithgow is respected as a base for decentralised government services, which provide a steady economic foundation for the community.*

### CONTEXT

Lithgow LGA is the base for a range of executive, service delivery, judicial, and public safety, security and defence activities of the Commonwealth and NSW Governments and Lithgow City Council, including:

- Lithgow City Council
- State Debt Recovery Centre
- Services such as the Commonwealth Department of Human Services (Centrelink, Medicare), Service NSW, NSW Department of Family and Community Services, NSW Local Land Services
- Emergency services, including the PoliceLink multi-media contact centre for NSW
- Lithgow Local Court
- Lithgow Correctional Centre maximum security facility for men
- Marrangaroo Training Area for the Australian Defence Forces.

Collectively, these services employed 930 people or 10.7% of the workforce in 2020-21. This is significantly higher than for NSW and Regional NSW where it accounted for around 6.2% of total employment.

Public administration and safety is the third largest sector in Lithgow, contributing \$110.4 million or 7.8% to GVA, significantly higher than for NSW and Regional NSW .



Lithgow City Council



# Public Administration and Safety Industries

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

The public administration and safety sector is driven by government decisions to expand existing services and/or establish new services in Lithgow. Operating regional services hubs in a decentralised public sector can improve services and policy development, create social and economic opportunities for communities, and reduce operating costs for government.

The Australian Parliament's House of Representatives Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation (2018) recommended that decentralisation be part of a broader strategy for regional development that is considered when:

- a new unit, agency or organisation is created;
- an organisation is merged or reorganised; or
- a significant property break occurs such as the termination of a lease.



State Debt Recovery Centre, Lithgow



Given Lithgow's proximity to Sydney and particularly to the growing Western City metropolis, it offers convenience to the seat of government, combined with potential for affordability.

Lithgow's potential role as a future multi-modal transport hub would also support the mobility and engagement of workers between public administration hubs in the city, the region and in Sydney.

It is recommended that services be considered that leverage existing operations, such as the contact centre capacity of PoliceLink and the State Debt Recovery Centre's processing and collection of fees and fines.

Similarly, opportunities could be sought where Lithgow's infrastructure demonstrates competitive advantage, including affordable vacant or underutilised buildings and warehousing that offers secure and government-compliant networks and storage. This could also be attractive to the private sector.

The current profile of employers is already generating a workforce with suitable skills for public administration and safety. Attraction of further government services would position Lithgow as a location for people to pursue a public service career, enabling mobility between agencies while retaining their skills within the community.

