

LEEP NEWS



Central West Adaptive Skills Hub opening - Lithgow Mayor Cassandra Coleman, Australian Government Senator the Hon. Deb O'Neill, Member for Calare, the Hon. Andrew Gee, with students from Lithgow High School, Portland Central School, and La Salle Academy.

Central West Adaptive Skills Hub opening – 19 February, 2025

The Central West Adaptive Skills Hub received a warm welcome when it opened its doors on Mort Street, Lithgow, for the first time on 19 February 2025, with local high school principals, students, and members of the community in attendance, along with official guests the Mayor of Lithgow, Cassandra Coleman, Australian Government Senator the Hon. Deb O'Neill, and Member for Calare, the Hon. Andrew Gee.

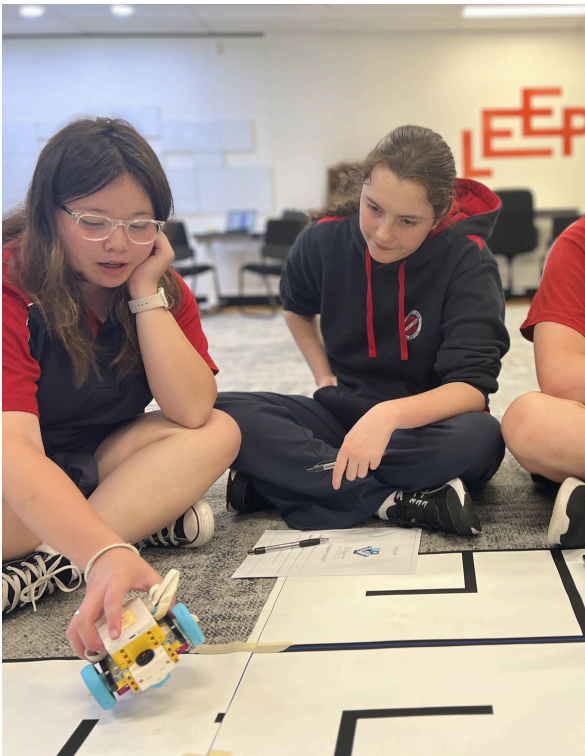
The Central West Adaptive Skills Hub is a new dynamic learning facility, laboratory and technical 'maker-space' for delivering specialist student learning and short courses for workers across the Lithgow LGA.

The opening of this facility marks a major step forward in the implementation of Lithgow's Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP Report) that is supported by an \$830,000 grant from the Australian Federal Government, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' Local Jobs National Priority Fund.

The Lithgow STEAM uplift pilot program

A bespoke curriculum for Lithgow

The LEEP team worked with local schools on the Lithgow STEAM Uplift program, a bespoke curriculum targeted to the unique needs of the Lithgow LGA, with a focus on STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths. This program included the majority of the schools in the Lithgow region, bridging the divide between public, private and independent, and giving students equitable access to specialised STEAM equipment.



Secondary school students take part in their second STEAM uplift pilot program lesson at the Central West Adaptive Skills Hub, coding robots to navigate a four-stage maze.



Primary school students developing coding skills integrated into literacy lessons as part of the Lithgow STEAM uplift pilot program.

A shared space for learning

The primary school Lithgow STEAM Uplift pilot program integrates 21st century skills like robotics, coding, and filmmaking; local First Nations culture; and 'softer' STEAM skills such as project management, problem-solving, collaboration and communication into students' regular learning, highlighting the adaptability of these transferrable skills across all key learning areas. For the secondary school Lithgow STEAM uplift pilot program, students will build, code, repair and choreograph drones in a cross-school approach where all three local high schools work together in weekly shared classes at the Central West Adaptive Skills Hub. The innovative curriculum developed for the Drone Pilot Program is recognised by the Department of Education as an elective iSTEM course.

LEEP update - training for transition

Implementing the LEEP Report

The Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan Transition Report (LEEP Report) implementation has initially focused on three key areas:

1. Land use planning and precinct development: A lack of market-ready land presents a significant barrier to business and industrial growth in Lithgow, so the LEEP team has taken immediate steps to assess and address availability of land that would support the growth of priority industries identified in the LEEP Report, such as Advanced Manufacturing, Rail, Health and Social Services Support, Public Administration and Tourism.

2. The creation of two key plans: A detailed Action Plan to guide the LEEP team's day-to-day work in support of the bigger-picture LEEP Report, and an Engagement Plan, which introduces an innovative approach to engagement with a strong focus on partnerships and collaboration with government, local industry, business, and the community.

3. Supporting targeted education and skills training for the local community: The newly-opened Central West Adaptive Skills Hub will provide specialist STEAM education opportunities to Lithgow's school students, plus industry-aligned training to local workers for the jobs of the future.

Transitions Management short course – 3 & 4 April

The LEEP team is hosting training in Transitions Management to furnish attendees with skills they need to navigate the impending changes on the road ahead.

During the two-day, in-person workshop, participants will gain an understanding of transitions management and its role in changing economies, and of 'adaptive capacity' – a new focus for government. This workshop will be interactive and feature a number of case studies to demonstrate the practical application of transitions management theory. Help set the stage for Lithgow's future – you'll want to be part of this journey!

Find out more –

www.leep.lithgow.com/adaptiveskillshub

LEEP Speaker Series – April 4 @ Central West Adaptive Skills Hub

LEEP SPEAKER SERIES – 4PM | 4 APRIL



Join us for an update about LEEP and hear from inspiring guest speakers:



Transitions Management in 10 minutes –
Leading Australian economist, Professor Andrew Beer

Pathways to Potential –
Lithgow Highschool Principal Dr Foty Loupos

PLUS A performance from the Barrinang Aboriginal Corporation Dance Group

Central West Adaptive Skills Hub - 176 Mort Street, Lithgow



LEEP Action Plan + Engagement Plan

The Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) Transition Report explores opportunities to reinvent and reinvigorate the Lithgow LGA's economy by developing new opportunities and attracting new investment to expand industries and businesses. To support us in this task, the LEEP team has developed an Action Plan, and an Engagement Plan.

LEEP Action Plan 2025-2026

The LEEP Action Plan 2025-2026 outlines the actions that will progress the recommendations of the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan Transition Report (LEEP Report), which was commissioned to inform the NSW Government and other key stakeholders on the priorities and activities most likely to place the local economy in the best position for the future.

The LEEP Report contains 68 recommended actions, of which 40 are identified for delivery in the near future. While primary responsibility for delivering the LEEP Report rests with the NSW Government which is responsible for regional economic development, in recognition of the importance of taking action now, Lithgow City Council has allocated \$1.07m each year to transition management. This allocation, along with grant funding, underpins the delivery of the Action Plan 2025-2026.

LEEP Engagement Plan

Engagement is critical to LEEP because we want to harness the expertise and insights of the community and organisations to help shape a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future for Lithgow.

An engaged community that has the knowledge and the ability to provide input to the LEEP implementation, will lead to better outcomes for everyone. The LEEP Engagement Plan contains mechanisms for capturing community expertise and insights, while building community resourcing and capacity. It identifies the LEEP stakeholders and outlines the activities and mechanisms that will be used to engage with each stakeholder group.

View the LEEP Engagement Plan at www.leep.lithgow.com/documents



For more information about the LEEP program,
visit www.leep.lithgow.com

