

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PATHWAYS

CREATING LIFELONG LEARNING PATHWAYS IN LITHGOW



The *Long-Term Education and Training Pathways Plan* sets out a strategy to strengthen Lithgow's learning ecosystem, ensuring residents can access diverse, high-quality education and training throughout their lives.

Lithgow's education and training system is ready to evolve – but structural barriers like low enrolment, limited course diversity and poor digital literacy must be addressed to unlock its full potential. Collaboration between providers, employers and schools is key to building a more responsive and inclusive learning ecosystem.

STEAM programs and hands-on learning experiences are not only vital for industrial growth – they also offer pathways into health, tourism and emerging sectors. Building foundational digital skills will help ensure all learners can participate in the future economy.

Strategic priorities

- Address barriers to training and improve completion rates
- Expand course offerings and flexible delivery models
- Strengthen coordination among education providers
- Promote local learning pathways and study support

Key actions

- Establish a Regional University Study Hub and shared VET space
- Grow STEAM programs and hands-on learning experiences
- Improve student support through mentoring and peer networks
- Partner with external institutions to expand course access
- Explore community-led learning models and improve transport links to neighbouring centres



Why it matters

Lithgow's training infrastructure is underutilised, and many residents face barriers to further education. By investing in collaboration, infrastructure and student support, the region can build a stronger pipeline of skilled workers and ensure learning is accessible, relevant and lifelong. This approach addresses underutilised facilities, while supporting LEEP's goals for local training, STEAM capability and clear career pathways.



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PLANNING FOR LABOUR MARKET CHANGE AND ENERGY TRANSITION IN LITHGOW

REPORT

The *Planning for Labour Market Change and Energy Transition in Lithgow* report provides a strategic framework to guide the region through its energy transition, anticipating significant workforce impacts from the decline of coal and coal-fired power generation as Australia transitions towards net zero goals.

It outlines opportunities for industry diversification, workforce reskilling, and community resilience, with a focus on building Lithgow's adaptive capacity – its ability to respond to change by leveraging its financial, human, institutional and natural resources.

Commissioned by Lithgow City Council and prepared by the University of South Australia, the report was led by Professor Andrew Beer – one of Australia's foremost experts in regional labour market transitions. It contains five essential reports which each address a critical component of Lithgow's workforce transition, ensuring that planning is both strategic and responsive to local needs:

01 Regional Manufacturing Industry Skills and Training Audit

Identifies current and emerging skills gaps in manufacturing, helping align training programs with industry needs and investment opportunities.

02 Regional Workforce Adaptive Capacity Plan

Assesses the region's ability to respond to economic change, focusing on resilience, transferable skills, and systems that support workforce agility.

03 Long-Term Regional Workforce Plan

Provides a strategic roadmap for workforce development over the next 10–20 years, ensuring alignment with future industries and demographic shifts.

04 Long-Term Education and Training Pathways Plan

Maps out clear, accessible pathways from school to employment, helping young people and career changers navigate evolving job markets.

05 Rapid Response Plan

Ensures the region is prepared to act quickly in the event of sudden closures or job losses, minimising disruption and supporting affected workers.



The report recommends a place-based, community-led approach as key to successfully navigating major economic transformation.

