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Submission: Myself and my husband pay over \$9000.00 a year in rates To Lithgow council at the moment. One for our home and one for our business. We CAN NOT afford to pay any more!!! We pay way more in rates then other councils in our area as well as the city and they seem to be managing. We have a council that for years has never been able to work together to grow this town. They are too busy fighting with each other. Nothing this council does makes it easier for businesses to establish themselves here. They just move to Bathurst were they are welcomed. Lithgow council can't manage the money we rate payers provide them with now. What with the money rate payers paid out in failed court cases and the so called beautification program....what a failure that was. When this council can show us that they can manage the money we already provide in rates then maybe we could consider an increase....but never ever a permanent increase.