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Submission: I am opposed to the application based on the method and content of the public awareness undertaken by Lithgow Council.

The notices did not outline in true detail the totality of the application ie: previous SRV plus new SRV and overriding percentage. There was inadequate description of the works to be undertaken and the true effect on rates - an average rate effect was shown which did not demonstrate the range of the rates increase nor did the proposal describe the effect of not pursuing an SRV.

A "community consultation " conducted by a consultant was heavily weighted to channel responses and limit the ability of interviewees to make any comment aside from the interviewer's Q & A repertoire. Any negative views expressed to Council officers have been dismissed as irrelevant and may have been recorded as non consenting but there is no evidence to that. Lithgow Council is notorious for offering a "budget plan " and not delivering it as proposed. When pushed for details of their proposed expenditure of the SRV extras detailed budget outlays were not tendered in response. The effect is that there is in their submission unaccountable lumps of money that cannot be audited for completion.

The proposed expenditure in the suggested budget fails miserably on matters of importance to ratepayers. Roads are neglected and in a sad state of disrepair and it is virtually impossible to get anything done to fix the dangerous conditions that exist.

Lithgow Council has not complied with the letter and spirit of the application process and should not be awarded any SRV as proposed without further justification to the ratepayers and IPART.