

The council should be able to work within its budgetary framework without seeking 9% increase (annually). Money is being misspent and wasted on events which bring no direct or indirect benefit to the community, eg Halloween. How can council justify spending \$100k on this event. Lithgow's roads and footpaths are a disgrace and must rank as one of the worst in the state. I have lived in Lithgow all my life and as I approach retirement I despair about Lithgow's future and its identity. What will become of Lithgow when our last coal mine closes? There are far too many empty shop premises, and the number will increase as landlords pass on the rate increases to their tenants. The council is over staffed and with no foresight. Industry is discouraged from relocating to Lithgow. The state government is complicit in this as it has done nothing to encourage decentralisation. We are dying on the vine. Soon tumbleweeds will be blowing down Main street. Lithgow does not need a rate increase. It needs better management of existing monies, and failing that the appointment of an administrator