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Submission: I think before Lithgow Council applies for such an increase they need to review how and where they are currently spending and to look at other sources of income. I have worked in compliance and other roles for a total of 11 Sydney Council's over the years. Most Council's rely heavily on compliance to raise revenue - how much revenue does Lithgow bring in? We have no parking officers, the only thing you'll see a ranger doing is catching dogs. The area is completely overgrown with weeds and rubbish and so forth. Does this Council utilise existing opportunities such as compliance, to raise funds? if not why not? The shire is untidy and a mess. If they are not spending time and money on looking after basic things like care of reserves, pot holes and so forth, then where is the current money being raised going?

Something is not right here. I'd love to see a table of revenue in and revenue out first! If I can see they are operating efficiently right now but just aren't meeting costs, then I will happily vote for an increase as I know rates pay for things I like to use like car parks, reserves, public loos etc.

The Council could also seriously take more advantage of it's sporting venues to hold events that would bring in visitors and tourists that spend money.