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Submission: I wish to advise council of our families strong opposition to the proposed rate increase of 9%. For countless years of consecutive inept governance from elected councillors and decision making staff our community has suffered and the signs around town are all the evidence we need to support this claim. Over 20 vacant shops in main st an absolute pathetic so called beautification to cook st plaza left unfinished and an ugly eyesore, high unemployment, already expensive rates and the most shocking maintained roads in the state. Council has claimed the increase is required to include carrying out road repairs, i would advise them to strongly look at administration staff who control allocation of work and costs associated with it. For example, Everyone in the community are currently enraged at the disgraceful state and condition of the road from mort st down to tank st close to the workmans club, caution is required as it resembles riding a bucking bronco driving in this area. Tourist buses and locals use this road regularly and council recently announced on local media that urgent road repairs would be carried out in a number of streets and its not mentioned. Hello it should be number one priority carried out as soon as possible. The rate payers of the lithgow and surrounding region should not be once again slugged with an exceptionally high rate hike to cover years of poor application and spending from council. I know personally from talking with friends and associates around town that everyone has had a gutful and would like to see signs of where our rates are being spent, and those responsible for previous costs controls and spending held accountable for there unacceptable decisions. Council must look at other measures to carry out required works instead of this proposed huge increase.