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Submission: As a carer of an elderly mother both of us have concerns about being able to afford our rates if this massive rise goes ahead. Most of The Lithgow council area is considered to be of a low socio economic level and I feel the council is not taking this into consideration. I feel our rate money could be better spent on local infrastructure rather than wasted celebrating Holloween, yes it's fine to have such a thing for the community but, \$100000 seems way overboard. The money spent on Cook St plaza was a total waste, it looked so much better the way it was. It's nothing but an expensive eyesore. Rather than putting rates up the council should find someone that can better manage finances.