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Submission: I believe this is absolutely disgusting. Rate payers do not get value for the services they are paying for now, you have council owned land not taken care of, none of the council owned land is properly mowed and maintained, in the cemeteries they poison the grass so they don't have to mow, they got rid of the gates so vandals can walk in at all hours, it's all dirt rate payers are personally having to maintain graves, poor sewerage and rubbish services. There are no green waste bins, They spend too much on [REDACTED] like Halloween, Lithgow but can't spend money on employment opportunities, mental health and youth or the local disadvantaged people. There is no support for businesses and forget about new businesses coming to town. They do all they can to drive them to the next council! We can not afford to keep paying increased rates. You are putting first home buyers out of the market by making it not worth buying... it's cheaper to rent! The water is brown and nothing is done about it, ratepayers spend thousands of dollars in bottles or filtered water because they can't utilise the water they pay for! You have council members doing the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] so money spent on legals. Not only do I believe this rate rise is wrong but I further believe that an independent body needs to review the use of existing funds. You have roads that they "fix" that they are subsequently ripping up, there are pipes that continually burst are fixed and then burst again and flood streets. I like many others had to move to another town to get employment because lithgow has no employment opportunities for youth/school leavers, it's only that I accepted a low paying job the next council town over that I am back here. We are struggling to pay our mortgage as is and all the other bills without adding to our financial strain. All community property is in a state of disrepair not due to lack of funds but lack of giving a toss by council, I implore you not to allow the rate rise... we will sell up.