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Submission: My name is George Hannouche, I am a Lithgow local who has moved here from Parramatta NSW. I moved here for a nicer less stressful life for my family and myself. Although not the case as I wish I was aware of Lithgow City Council's approach and heavy handed dealings with the locals. The rate is high at the moment when you consider what the council offers for its residents in return. As it sits now, I feel as locals don't get enough back from the council considering the price we pay in rates. If a pay increase occurs, Lithgow council has not shown us much for what we contribute at the moment so I have no faith that it will contribute anymore than what it currently does. Look at the infrastructure and employment issues locally. I would understand if it was a town that produced opportunity and growth then I would be all for it. Given the reality of this town and lack of improvements and employment, increasing rates will only push people out causing the town to go further backwards. I would expect to pay the same amount in rates and have rates increased in a town/ suburb that was able to provide adequate services and an area that put more focus into the future rather than stay stagnant.