

As a business owner and home owner in Lithgow I DO NOT agree with Councils application for a special rate variation. Lithgow council is in the position it finds itself due to bad financial management, not due to lack of funds through rates. I pay over \$9,000.00 a year in rates for my 2 properties and get nothing other than water and garbage collection. The Main street Cook street plaza upgrade is a disgrace, yet Council still thinks they did a good job of it. There would lucky to be a handful of locals that say it is an improvement. So now anybody who has a concrete saw and a shovel are digging it up. I would like to know how much rate payers had to pay in legal fees and compensation

Council CAN NOT use ratepayers money to settle their own personal differences with staff. We have friends in Bathurst in a new estate and OUR rates are \$600.00 a year more, and yet they receive better services. Council posted a comparison of base rate charges and boasted that we were the lowest base rates in our group. So were does all the extra rates come into the equation? The base rate is only one part of the total amount we have to pay. When Lithgow Council show that they can spend the rate money they receive now wisely then maybe rate payers might agree with an increase.