

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2019 9:07 AM  
**To:** Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL, SPECIAL VARIATION APPLICATION

I, Kevin Camberwell submit My submission for this review

Regards  
Kevin Camberwell  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I DO NOT Agree with this increase, Councils are supposed to be working for their community, NOT trying to rip them off to put them into hardship.

I pay \$ [REDACTED] per year now, for a council who can't supply services that are normally supplied elsewhere, this increase of 9% EACH YEAR is absolutely ridiculous and I would refuse to pay this amount.

The average family have trouble paying the rates that they are subject to now, to add 9% each year is not only [REDACTED] but not feasible by many rate payers. Looking at CPI Increases and wage/salary increases most workers are lucky to receive a maximum of 2.5% pay increase each year. This is 1/3 of what this council wants to increase their rates by, and why? Why does the Lithgow Council need to increase the rates of the people in the Lithgow district when they don't supply the services that they already should be supplying? Is it purely greed?

What is the average wage/salary paid in Lithgow? I am sure an increase of 9% in rates would increase the hardships where many people struggling now would not be able to meet with their payments.

Lithgow Council would be one of the [REDACTED], not only is it impossible to have works completed in out-lying areas, they cannot supply any decent services to these out-lying communities.

Numerous requests have been sent to have services fixed in Portland and other surrounding districts with the end result always being "We the council do not have the funds to fix this problem, we will need to put in a business case to have this rectified" Well just after these requests Lithgow Council resurfaced numerous streets in the Lithgow Township costing hundreds of thousands of dollars for what reason? It is obvious the money was wasted on resurfacing lane-ways (many that did not need to be done) with no monies being utilised in the surrounding district. Portland township alone had nothing, they still haven't supplied curb and guttering to most of the township which needs to be done, but Lithgow council looks after Lithgow first and outlaying townships get nothing.

The Lithgow Council wanted to increase the rates a couple of years ago to build the new indoor heated pool at Lithgow, the surrounding townships disagreed with this as there are other townships with council pools in them, Portland Pool is still utilised for School Swimming carnival events from schools all around the district, they do not use Lithgow Pool as it is inadequate.

Domestic Water services in the Portland and surrounding area is so bad that it may as well be non-existent. After years of complaints, years of numerous broken water pipes, years of having no water for weeks at a time, years of complaining to fix broken water pipes in the Portland area councils answer to this resulted in "some" pipes being replaced the water pressure being reduced so low that when having a shower you need to turn the hot water on full bore to get any heat in your shower. Still water pipes break on a regular basis with minimum services supplied and water services turned off.

If repairs to services are needed where counsellors live they have these fixed immediately, any other repair services takes forever. It took almost 10 years to replace water pipes that were continually breaking in the Portland area in the street I live in, after daily repairs were done digging up roads and applying makeshift repairs to these breaks within hours there would be another break. If they replaced the pipes in the first place it wouldn't have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in daily repairs that did nothing, the money was wasted.

It was not unusual to come home after a day at work to discover the water was turned off waiting for the council plumbers to arrive and fix the break. This would take them in some cases up to 6 hours to fix.

Most of these families are already struggling, many families in the area are pensioners who have trouble with their incomes and making ends meet.

To increase the rates of these people by 9% WILL PUT THEM FURTHER UNDER THE POVERTY LINE, this is only leaving the council an opening to [REDACTED] when they can't meet their payments.

I SAY NO TO 9% YEARLY INCREASES.