

Community Submissions received
during the exhibition period
26 November – 11 January

Special Rate Variation Submissions

Name [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

What activities, capital works and new initiatives would you like to be considered in the Draft 2019/20 Operational Plan? No Special Rate Variation

IP Address [REDACTED]

User-Agent (Browser/OS) Apple Safari 8.0.3 / OS X

Referrer <http://www.haveyoursay.lithgow.com/draft-operational-plan-2019-20/>

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 13 December 2018 9:44 AM

To: Lithgow City Council

Subject: Tax (rates) increase

So far this year council has diverted money away from the Caper tee-Glen Davis road sealing and has failed to keep up with the deterioration of the existing section. That is about the only place I see results for my rates and there have been none. I remind council that we were promised that this road would be fully sealed by 2000 - over 18 years ago now!

I am opposed to any increase, special or otherwise. Particularly I do not see why rates should normally increase at a rate greater than the CPI.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 11 December 2018 2:42 PM

To: Lithgow City Council

Subject: Srv19-20

Laughable at the least raising the rates a bit like the banks fees for no service !!!

Unless you are deemed under the new rule of who you know not what you know

Back lanes fixed and tarred for people that do not use them ???

And others where at least SIX rate payers are left with a deplorable nearly unusable back lane not touched in 20 years

Jamieson St for example

The front road is a disgrace after the last FIX up that was done in a NOT professional manner

It was just added to the old road surface in doing so created problems with power lines being taken out frequently and storm water entering

property's and also loose gravel on the sides causing window damage during mowing BY the owners because council staff are rarely seen.

SO in conclusion

IF you want to raise the rates RAISE your game

Yours regretfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 10 December 2018 4:28 PM
To: Lithgow City Council
Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation

I refer to the letter under the above topic dated 4th December 2018 and signed by Cr Thompson.

Firstly I wish to register my dissatisfaction that you refer us to a website that is unprotected and carried three cookies when I brought it up on my computer. Another failure by Lithgow Council in dealing with ratepayers and dealing with personal confidential matters. I will point out that past surveys conducted by council have failed to deliver the promised feedback and I must assume the same consultant is engaged and will fail in the task of presenting a fair view of responses.

From the first reading of this letter I gained the view that this is another mushroom job on residents and seeks to whitewash the clear intentions of council not to reveal any details of the planned use of the extra funds sought. Wordy platitudes promising to meet the needs of the community are vacuous in the extreme. Past experience shows that resources and funds are directed to areas of interest to few but those in niche circles. Despite the clear opposition to the nonsense expense of some projects like the swimming pool to the

disadvantage of more fundamental needs like roads council has played smoke and mirrors with budgets and plans for too long.

This letter seeks to indicate a wish list of non specific areas of expenditure that you could fly a jumbo jet through. Council needs to accept responsibility for specific budget and delivery of projects not some amorphous bucket of niceties. Take for example the resurfacing of Coxs River Rd, Kanimbla Drive and Megalong Place at Kanimbla (as well as other roads in the area). Announcements never fulfilled or if at all only in part. We have to beg to get a patching crew to come and do their half baked effort at repairing potholes that make the road only slightly more trafficable. Recent work on Coxs River Rd was substandard and penny pinching in the extreme.

Now your scenarios are poorly structured and given to be not able to be verified. You should outline in greater detail the facts of each case. Numbers and percentages to not align and you appear to ignore the benefit of the 2.7% in case 1. A proper outline would indicate the base case (total revenue) and the variations with a demonstration of the difference then with percentages.

Your second case has a pea and thimble trick in it as you carefully ignore adding the 2.7% to the combined 9% to indicate the true increase of potentially 11.7%

Furthermore you do not specify which assets are at risk nor indicate the budget for any maintenance or renewal which should be outlined at least for the major items. Again no responsibility to deliver on specific works.

Your rates calculator is meaningless for other than the specific cases shown. In our own case the annual rate exceeds by a significant margin for residential or farmland cases. Based on the correct impact of case 2 the rise in rates for our property will be \$187 per annum -- again higher than your case examples that should be intended to reflect the true impact. Added to this situation there will soon be a new Unimproved Valuation and council offers no guidance on this effect on rates.

Council also has the responsibility to outline in detail the effect of not getting approval of these initiatives and whether there is in fact any effect of ratepayers not agreeing to these proposals and how that will be activated.

It is time for Council to get a more real understanding of ratepayers expectations and needs. Past Councillors have waved off "The Villages" as irrelevant to the whole process of delivering your much vaunted ideals for the future of Lithgow. Fanciful schemes are of little relevance when it is believed that council is only good for collecting garbage and maybe fixing potholes poorly. I suggest that you make an effort to meet the locals outside of the town and understand our priorities not just impose your fanciful visions.

What about some shed meetings with people who live under the council umbrella and are getting wet.

I do not support the rate variation as presented.

██████████

████████████████████

██████████ ██████████

████████████████

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation.

Your submission has been noted and will be included amongst submissions received as part of the public exhibition process in the Agenda to the Extra Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 29 January for consideration.

The Council Agenda will be available online by close of business Thursday prior to the meeting and may be viewed on Council's website www.council.lithgow.com go to the Council drop down menu and select Council Meetings/Business Papers and Minutes for 2019.

You will be advised of the outcome of this submission following the Council Meeting.

Council has completed a Draft Works Program for Transport, Buildings and Stormwater Drainage which is attached for your information. The draft works program is subject to the consideration and approval of Council as part of the 2019/20 Operational Plan and will not be adopted until June 2019.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 02 6354 9999.

Dear ██████████

I acknowledge your reply which must have taken you at least two minutes to compile.

Sadly I regret your lack of comprehension of the matters raised and the failure to consider the idea that I might -- just might have raised a valid question or two.

You have provided a document that only adds to the questionability of Council's capacity to manage the finances they seek to extract from ratepayers.

You have failed to address the points I raised in my letter pertaining to the quantum of the base rates revenue, the value of the works (partly given in your reply but we will visit that in a minute), and the calculation of the effect of the changes in potential rate revenue, and still not the effect of not getting the increased rate. Nor have you given a response to the way the dollar amounts in the initial letter from council are derived in plain English and numbers. I request that you do so in any reply you may send.

I put it to you and Council that the statement should specifically list out the way you arrive at the numbers.

Let me refer to your very interesting document attached to your reply.

To keep it simple and without debating the merit or otherwise of expenditure I refer you to the amounts earmarked for transport on page three.

Even a simple person like I can detect what appears to be a gross error or a falsehood. The very colourful presentation and format lists headings and total for such. Then the breakdown is shown below. The only thing is that you show \$360 K as works complete and then add that in to the total to arrive at a total of \$725 K and this is then carried into the mail out as the total to be completed. Now is the work done or not and is the money needed or not? It would be considered very creative accounting to add it in for this section only and not the whole of all other items in the plan.

I require a considered reply to all the matters I have raised and failure to do so will cause me to send a copy of all correspondence to IPART and the local press.

██████████

██████████ ██████████

Thank you, once again for your correspondence regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation.

Your submissions have been noted and will be included amongst submissions received as part of the public exhibition process in the Agenda to the Extra Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 29 January for consideration.

The Council Agenda will be available online by close of business Thursday prior to the meeting and may be viewed on Council's website www.council.lithgow.com go to the Council drop down menu and select Council Meetings/Business Papers and Minutes for 2019.

You will be advised of the outcome of this submission following the Council Meeting.

Written submissions may also be made to IPART in writing or online at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

- IPART, PO Box K35, Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

Regards

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 13 December 2018 9:52 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Notification - No Support Proposed Special Rate Variation - [REDACTED]

Well [REDACTED] you seem to be getting even more patronising as we go along.

No doubt you have some very interesting qualifications to secure your position but clearly comprehension and mathematics are not included. You have not answered my specific questions.

So to assist this process I have enlisted the assistance from The Minister For Local Government and the office of IPART (as you suggest)

Your failure to provide simple factual responses to my simple questions amounts to avoidance and obfuscation. Clearly you see yourself as the brick wall to stop any challenge to this SRV Application and you clearly have not passed my questions to the responsible council officers to deliver the clarification needed. A simple response would have been enough but you have chosen to just put my amil in the bin.

4. I took time to read through the Long term Financial Plan which does explain the position facing Council now and in the future. And there is some good coverage in that Plan which should have been brought to the attention of ratepayers. In particular, the base case scenario with improvement initiatives – this is before any SRV addition. In that Plan there are 3 scenarios but only two are proffered to ratepayers – the do nothing approach and the SRV approach. Not sure why this occurred.

5. As already mentioned, the 4 page letter from Council detailing the reasoning for Scenario is sketchy. The advice to householders deals only with the coming 2019/20 year impact on rates. I appreciate the rate impact varies according to residential/business. But the Council rates are just one of many cost imposts facing the community and business. The other related issue is the question of what occurs in subsequent years – how will households / business be impacted – this is not explained in the communique by Council. This to me is the most worrying aspect to all of this.

6. I believe Council should have included 4 options not just 2; they being:

- base case (do nothing other than the peg rate increase) – to me this is unsustainable at 2.7%
- base case with ongoing improvements – **Council can 'survive' along with taking ongoing business measures**
- base case with one SRV – say 7% increase – Council can operate successfully
- base case with 2 SRVs – say a 11.7% increase – Council has enough funds to enable rates to reduce or not increase in the long term

7. I have completed the on-line survey which to me is quite basic – all it says is which Scenario you support and why. A rather lacklustre survey.

8. While the community expects its Council to be proactive and profitable, this does not **mean that Council has to 'do everything'**. **Council can't do everything and it shouldn't** - any non-core activities should be spun off or ceased.

9. **I don't believe the 11.7% rate increase is justified; I'm happy to** consider say a 7% increase as a short term measure (say 4 years) but that Council focus on taking costs out of

running the organisation. It is clear that over 50% of the cost of running Council activities are related to salaries and overheads plus purchases/materials. I would like to see better procurement practices introduced where savings are derived year on year and, a short-term freeze on salaries rather than a 2% plus annual rise (not too many people have been given pay rises in recent years). Unless Council can demonstrate to ratepayers how it is endeavouring to reign in costs and keep the cost structure as low as possible, then ratepayers, like me, will be suspicious of any rate rise proposal.

Happy to discuss any of the above with you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ph: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 19 December 2018 3:45 PM

To: Lithgow City Council

Subject: Rate rise

18/12/18

Dear Sir / Madam,

As a resident of Lithgow for the past 5 years I would ask you what the reasoning is for raising rates and further, raising them beyond the cap for Lithgow only?

I have read the reasoning on your website and I would argue that this is not good enough.

Throwing money at a problem is not addressing the root cause of the problem and will in all probability only exacerbate the problem further.

Lithgow is almost one of the highest rated municipalities in NSW which seems out of all kilter to the infrastructure provided and the culture of the town.

There has been a fortune spent on the salaries in Lithgow Council.

Paying someone \$160k as a town planner for a small town like Lithgow seems ludicrous.

Oh wait, we now have a new town square to show for it. This is a concrete slab.

Is this what our rates pay for? If so, it is a travesty.

When you first drive into Lithgow it looks like a slum. Why not plant rows of blossom trees **similar to Leura at each entrance? It's not rocket science to make things more attractive!**

The pubs here are painted black and grey and look about as inviting as a slaughterhouse. Why not declare the area national trust and paint the main street in heritage colours?

Once more these ideas are simple yet practical. I cannot understand why the money spent on salaries is not reflecting any simple value. If you can point out this value to me, please do.

The existing roads and footpaths infrastructure is disgusting however, pouring more money into a problem without looking into the root cause is no solution. The infrastructure has **been left to run down over a substantial period of time and something that didn't just occur overnight.**

Where were the checks and balances when this was happening?

Has there been benchmarking done against other similar size councils?

Has there been a justification for the return on investment undertaken?

And the more important question; do these balances exist now? My thinking is that if it does then this rate rise would not be happening.

Why not instead reduce staff and salaries and invest the money wisely to attract more industry to Lithgow? Look at how Mudgee has gone ahead, with industry in place there is a tax base to actually start improving things instead of taxing the poor and elderly. Set up a subsidised business park.

In speaking with many businesses today they find it cheaper and easier to set up in Bathurst rather than Lithgow. This is a sad indictment.

Raising rates appears to be **completely out of touch with people's expectations and is an anathema to promoting Lithgow as a go ahead town.** The only thing this will encourage people to do is leave.

This decision to raise rates will make council more irrelevant to people than it already is.

If you are serious about developing Lithgow you need to change you priorities and start thinking about the future and what could be. It's not hard and it doesn't cost a lot of money.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 January 2019 2:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: special rate variation

Hello Lithgow City Council

As a rate payer in the Lithgow City Council region I wish to provide some strong feedback to Councils proposal to apply for a special rate variation and subsequent rate increase for the ratepayers.

I am strongly against this proposal and wish to register my displeasure with this suggestion

The Lithgow City council rates are already excessively high and amongst the highest in the state of NSW. Any further increase will put the rates into a bracket where we cannot afford to pay and will be forced to sell up and move to a different location with a more reasonable rate system.

You cannot simply continue to put up rates to a level where they are unaffordable. Alternate approaches to the issue need to be explored.

If as claimed the councils financial position is not sustainable due to ageing infrastructure which needs replacing then council needs to look seriously at its long term future. Options such as take over by another council, forced merger and / or totally dissolving the Lithgow City Council region need to be explored and implemented.

Thank you for considering this feedback.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 January 2019 11:08 AM
To: Lithgow City Council
Subject: reference no. SRV19-20

I am writing with regards to reference no. SRV19-20

I am a Lithgow rate payer, and I do not believe that we need to pick up the tab from all of the money wasted by Lithgow City Council, if they were more responsible with the money, there would be funds for the projects that they say will be covered by the rate rise.

I don't believe that the entire rate rise will go to these projects anyway, because Lithgow City Council have been known to blow out costs on projects, and get themselves into situations where they just need more and more money.

We have higher rates than Bathurst, our water costs more than Bathurst, but our services are less and our water is often of lesser quality than Bathurst. I wish we amalgamated when we had the chance so we could have some real leadership and direction in this town.

As a rate payer, I am voting NO to the rate rise special variance.

But, this is Lithgow City Council, and they do whatever the heck they want anyway, that's what got them into this mess! I hope some of the councillors take note of what the people are saying, and act, so they can keep their jobs as councillors after the next election!

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 December 2018 6:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Council Feedback Form Submission

Title [REDACTED]

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Address Line 1

[REDACTED]

Contact Phone
Number

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Specific details
of incident

Re proposed special rate variation 2019/20

Recd your info re this subject and would OBJECT to such a proposal.

If the council has failed to adequately provide for ageing infrastructure then why should current rates payers cope the increase.

I do not want to endorse a policy of incompetent management which this levy seems to support. Please Council lift your game and stop slugging rate payers for you past mistakes.

Stick to the basics,,,,rates ,roads and rubbish ,,,,and stop wanting to hit the rate payers for extras that cover past errors. Very disappointed ratepayer.

-----Original Message-----

From:

[REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 7 January 2019 3:38 PM

To: Lithgow City Council

Subject: attention Graeme Faulkner, haveyoursay

Dear Mr Faulkner

As I have been unable to access thehaveyoursay website , I am emailing you to register that my vote is for scenario 1.

My address is

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

with thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 January 2019 8:44 AM
To: Lithgow City Council
Subject: Special Rate Variation

No!!

There should be no revision of rates upwards.

Council needs to focus on finding more efficient ways to provide better services at less cost like everyone else in private enterprise has to rather than just reaching further into rate payers' pockets.

Council does not need more money to spend unwisely.

This is a grubby & greedy move by council that demonstrates a lack of imagination and lack of focus on efficiency.

I do not support the application.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 January 2019 6:01 AM
To: Deborah McGrath
Subject: Draft 2019/20 Operational Plan submission

Name [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

What activities, capital works and new initiatives would you like to be considered in the Draft 2019/20	Stop harassing land owners and spending 3000 chasing 800 dollars debt that was being paid off anyway. Council should be lowering rates in the area as in the last 15 years no improvement near my property have been made and rates are too high. Council also needs to calculate rates by property prices correctly instead of random prices that do not reflect current land prices.
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Operational Plan? Council is being miss managed and have even wasted police time sending them to my property which I have been inform is not part of their duties and responsibilities. Once council stops wasting tax payers money and time on things that are not legal they may have more money to spend on actually doing some infrastructure.

IP Address [REDACTED]

User-Agent Google Chrome 34.0.1847.76 / Android
(Browser/OS)

Referrer <http://www.haveyoursay.lithgow.com/draft-operational-plan-2019-20/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 January 2019 2:35 PM
To: Lithgow City Council
Subject: special rate variation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please note that the IPart website is not active and could not be reached.

I object to any increase in my rates as I receive no benefits from Council.

The rates are now [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 January 2019 11:22 AM
To: Lithgow City Council
Subject: Rates Increase

I, [REDACTED] Don't agree with council increasing our rates ,for the simple reason Council has enough funds to waste now . We only have to look back at the Main St and how that went absolutely discussed with that waste of rate payers funds . Then on top of that the business's that it put out of business.

Iam thinking very much like Mr Kerry Packer told the government a few years back (I don't like the way that the government spends my tax so I pay as least I can) I don't like the way Lithgow Council wastes rate payers money . So why give them more .

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 10 January 2019 1:50 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Gravel roads

Hi [REDACTED]

The roads in question are Vulcan rd which comes to three properties The other is Macdonalds Hole rd Which also goes to properties this road I asked council to grade two years ago so as to save the gravel that council put on being washed away

Regard [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

The Council doesn't want to care for a gravel road that they have been doing so for fifty years that goes to the back of my property . My access road to my house is far from being good ,so they need to show us how giving more funds is going to improve anything .

Concerned rate payer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 11 January 2019 9:57 PM

To: Lithgow City Council

Subject: Special Rate Variation submission: reference no. SRV19-20

Dear Lithgow City Council,

Special Rate Variation reference no. SRV19-20

This submission is private and confidential - not for publication

My submission is against the the implementation of the special rate variation proposed by Lithgow City Council.

My reasons are listed below:

1. The current economic situation of LCC combined with the deteriorating state of assets has evolved over a long period of systemic neglect and poor management. *A long succession of Councillors and General Managers are at fault and responsible for this NOT the residents of the Lithgow community.*

2. It is abhorrent that the community is given only 2 options to choose from - acceptance of the SRV or the option of managing risk and possible closures of the unsafe assets and a reduction of services. (One could say the choice we are given equates to a Trumpism).

The action you wish to take with the SRV is too little too late and I believe it will not provide enough funding to achieve the desired result.

Two options only, also gives the impression to the community that acceptance of the SRV proposal is the only way to fix our roads.

3. There is a general lack of confidence in Lithgow City Council by the community in general and a sense that mismanagement financially by LCC is a major contributor to the current situation - how could it be otherwise?

Other concerns include:

- lack of transparency with all Council expenditure including Councillor expenditures
- out of date Councillors creating divisions in the town by supporting coal mining and neglecting the environment and health issues associated with the production of coal powered energy
- former General Managers suing LCC or receiving big payouts when they leave their position

4. Lithgow City and the LGA are deemed to be a very high disadvantage socio economic region per the SIEFA index of socio economic disadvantage. It is unreasonable to increase rates beyond the rate peg as it significantly impacts on those with low incomes who are barely making ends meet.

5. The period of consultation over December - January is not the best time for community consultation regarding this issue with holiday closures of LCC, IPART and with the general community on holidays. It made it difficult for community members to consult with the relevant offices and disrupts research required and many may forget dates pending with family commitments I believe some people will miss this deadline.

6. There was a lot of confusion understanding the SRV in principle. The "permanent / one off increase" is a description that is very hard to comprehend as a concept. I had difficulty and needed to read Facebook posts, phone a friend and ring LCC. It is not hard to misunderstand that this is not just a one off increase. I

Dear Councillors

Re submission for proposed special rate variation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rate increase.

I am a Lithgow rate payer and I object to the proposed rate increase. I DO agree that roads and basic infrastructure are the top priority but believe that the money needs to come from elsewhere.

I wasn't aware of the proposed increase until 7 December 2018 and given that given that council was closed from 21 December to 7 January and people (rate payers) were also on a Christmas break, I don't think that we have been given enough time to make an informed decision. That gave us three weeks to navigate the vast and confusing amount of information on the have your say link. I also didn't receive a letter in the mail until 12 December 2019. I was informed via the councils Facebook page that media releases are sent out to local media however, I don't recall seeing anything highlighting the rate increase in any media.

There's a lack of trust in the council's ability to manage funds that they already have and the ability to effectively implement and prioritise plans within the community. I would like to highlight the CBD revitalisation as a glaring example. I believe that this was supposed to fulfil one of the objectives in the community strategy plan toward 2030 - to attract business and tourism. I think it is obvious that this a complete fail and has in fact has had the polar opposite effect. Businesses have suffered and many closed down leaving the CBD even less appealing than before the 'revitalisation'. I find it disgraceful. I would like to see Council earn back the trust of the community before we commit to a permanent rate increase. Again I would have appreciated more time and perhaps community meetings to get a better understanding how council planned to move forward.

There is a high level of economic disadvantage in the Lithgow community. The costs of living keeps going up and is becoming a considerable burden. I already dread the bills coming in and struggle to juggle our finances. As a result our family has progressively reduced our spending to mostly essentials. I believe that I am not alone in this and this means reduced spending locally thus hurting business further. I'm aware that there is a hardship policy but believe that is for extreme circumstances. I have finally applied for a pensioner discount that until now was too proud to ask for.

It is unlikely that council has an accurate understanding of the community's willingness to pay higher rates. The have your say survey was complex and confusing. I did fill one out online and found some of the terms misleading or confusing. I can only imagine how difficult it would have been over the phone. Of particular concern are the words 'one off (permanent)' in the option to

increase rates. The councils Facebook page comments indicated that this was confusing to at least one person who was then given the incorrect information from the surveyor.

"So I just got rung up by the consultancy firm. After a very long spiel most of which immediately went out of my head, it all boiled down to 2 questions, i.e. are you for or against a rate rise? To my question 'will this be for just one year?' the reply was 'I don't know but yes I think so'. In this smoke and mirrors survey, I now read in the other comments that the rise is to be PERMANENT. This survey needs to be hugely simplified or no one will understand it and the results will be false." Comment sourced from council's Facebook page.

The two options presented in the survey were limited. I would not be happy with either option and believe it was a poor choice of options. The option of not accepting the rate rise came with the implication that if chosen it would mean people's roads would not be repaired and the town would fall into disrepair. I find this to be a rather threatening option. Instead there could have been the option to cut spending on non essentials. It would have been interesting to know the community's thoughts on reduced spending on Halloween and Lithglow etc. Perhaps the community would have accepted less spending in Libraries and town revitalisation? These are things that I enjoy and are excellent but don't see as a priority. Perhaps the council could charge more for camping at Wallarang and other services. Again, I haven't had enough time to properly look at all the information and options but common sense says there are other places where there is non essential spending and other avenues to raise revenue.

I would be interested to know the results of and council's response to the online survey and would also appreciate a reply to this submission.

Yours sincerely

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████████████████████

████████████████

██████████

████████████████

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 11 January 2019 7:12 PM

To: Lithgow City Council

Subject: SRV19-20

To whom it may concern,

I wish to write today to advise i totally disagree with the proposed rate rise in the LGA. In my opinion Lithgow City Council has mismanaged funding and squandered opportunity. LCC has not maintained infrastructure for at least 20-30 years. In the time I have lived in Lithgow I have observed that if it was not for State and Federal Funding this council would be in administration, my question is when will this happen. I was against amalgamation or administration however Lithgow needs to go down one of these roads.

Our children have to move away to gain work or education, LCC has mismanaged the LEP which has stopped investment in the area. The LCC has wasted at least up to 5 million dollars in the past 5 years, some examples are the CBD Revitalisation Project and the sacking of the previous General Manager.

If the LCC was a business it would have closed long ago. When will those who can change our current situation going to stand up and do what is right for the ratepayers of the LGA?

Thank you for your time.

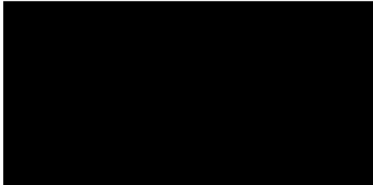
Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



21 DEC 2018

Doc Set ID

GA Ref

Years

The Mayor
Mr Ray Thompson
Lithgow Council

Dear Mr Thompson.

We write in response to your letter regarding the Proposed Special Rate Variation 2019/2020.

Having lived here for a short period of 7 years, we have observed some changes which occurred in Lithgow, namely work done by Lithgow council. A recent addition to the walking path along Farmers' Creek is a great improvement however during our walks we noticed that weeds are slowly creeping over the edge and the railing is being overcome with long grass and weeds too. Another noticeable improvement is the set of lights at the Great Western Highway. It was a long time coming but the area near the Post Office is now tidier.

As pensioners we can barely afford to pay the current council rates of \$2256 every year. With the projected increases we will be struggling to pay the required increases.

It seems that the increase of 2.7% is added to our rates yearly regardless of our opinion and that amount should be enough without further rises.

We can fully understand the need to maintain all community assets and our rates are specifically used for this purpose. So if these assets are regularly maintained and upgraded, why are they deteriorating? They should be in fairly good condition as expected if they were looked after.

At a guess, we estimated that Council receives about \$20 000 000 - \$30 000 000 per year through rates. This is a huge amount and if properly budgeted, it should be more than sufficient to support any work that need to be done by Council.

We agree that we should encourage and support business improvement initiatives but why should we have to pay for them.

We don't understand why there is a loss of rates revenue because of the expiry of the current SRV on 1 July 2019. Can this be explained in layman's terms.

There have been no mention of any State or Federal grants applied by Lithgow Council to help support the upgrading of our assets such as roads, pavements etc.

As with all organizations and particularly where public money is concerned, there must be accountability. Just from casual observations, we notice that as we pass an area where council workers are supposed to be engaged in performing a task, many are standing watching one or maybe two actually doing a job.

Another observation is that the pavement sweeper who operates the cleaning machine is often missing from his machine which is often parked outside the Tatts Hotel. We estimate that it would perhaps take him an hour to sweep each side of Main St so what does he do with the rest of his day while the machine is parked outside the hotel.

During trips to town, we noticed that there is a lot of pigeon mess at the Tatts hotel and pavement outside as well as further up in the lane beside Barratt and Smith.

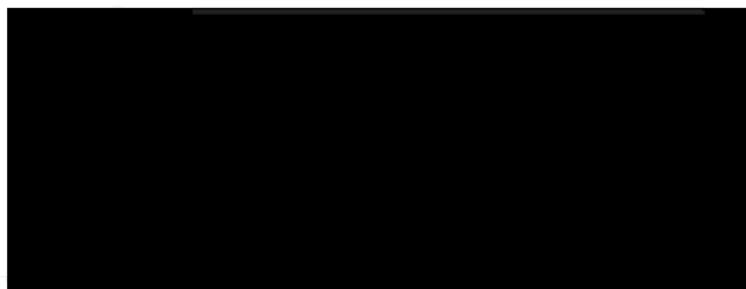
The plane trees along the swimming pool road are dangerous. Large branches often falling creating trip hazards on the path. Severe pruning is needed and dead branches cut off. Pavement and kerb stones have lifted in Main Street opposite Lean and Bennett thus making it another trip hazard. Also there is a lot of debris from falling twigs along the footpath stretching from Lean & Bennett to nearly MacDonald's. This is the main thoroughfare through town and is an eyesore to the many motorists passing through. What an embarrassment .

How can Lithgow boast of a Tidy Town Award when people do not even mow the kerbside outside their properties. Those who make an excuse of an effort leave their grass cutting in the road and expect the rain to wash it away thus messing up the road and congesting the drains.

Main Street pavement outside the banks area is a disgrace. Why were the paving bricks not restored to their original condition when they were removed for work to be done underneath. Instead an unsightly and unprofessional mess of tar have been left in its place. What we want to know is, will the pavements be properly renewed but not at our expense. At present it is yet another trip hazard for Lithgow residents.

These are only some of our opinions and observations. There is a lot more we could write about but we'll leave that for next time.

Sincerely,



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
17th December, 2018

Cr Ray Thompson,
Mayor,
Lithgow City Council,
P.O. Box 19,
LITHGOW. N.S.W. 2790

Lithgow City Council

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07 JAN 2019

Dear Sir,

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Reference: SRV19-20

I wish to register my objection to the proposed Rate Increase for 2019/20.

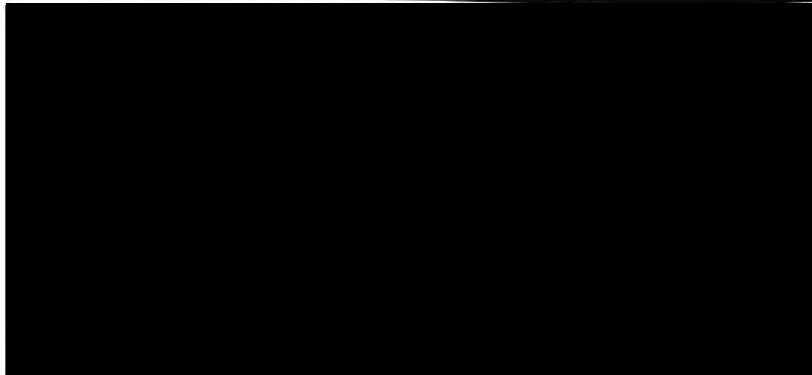
I am 83 and a pensioner who is already forced to pay for a Garbage Service I cannot use.

My house at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is on a sloping 5 acre block that is closer to the Highway than [REDACTED], so that my drive is long and fairly steep, so dragging those garbage bins up and down is impossible for me. Nor is there a place where I can leave them by the gate as the slope makes that also impractical. I would have to leave the bins on the road which would impede traffic and would probably be unlawful.

My rubbish is mainly cardboard and paper, which I can dispose of in my AGA type stove, green waste I compost, so I find Council's "One Size Fits All" policy unfair, an imposition and undemocratic.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

27.12.2018



Lithgow City Council
Mort St.
Lithgow 2790

Lithgow City C
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07 JAN 2019
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Re: Proposed Special Rate Variation 2019/20

Dear Sir,

We strongly oppose any variation in our rates, they are already excessive. If you cannot balance the budget, then cut services, starting with wages at the top!

Faithfull yours,



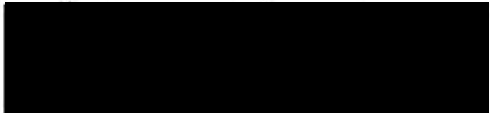


TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AT COUNCIL.

DEAR SIR/MADAM.

I AM NOT IN FAVOUR OF ANY RATE INCREASE. THE PROPERTY I HAVE IN CAPERTEE VALLEY IS UNECONOMICAL FARM LAND AND IS USED FOR PASSIVE RECREATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. I DON'T REQUIRE OR RECEIVE COUNCIL SERVICES. I REGARD THE CURRENT LAND VALUATION AS BEING EXCESSIVE. MY RATES ARE HIGH ENOUGH AS IS.

YOURS FAITHFULLY



Lithgow City Council

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9-1-2019.

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Ref. S.R.V. 19-20.

Lithgow City Council.

In regard to the proposed special rate variation.

I hope that it can be avoided.

The last 12/12 have been particularly hard financially for residents on rural blocks due to cost of water cartage & a high increase in cost of fodder.

Your solution to budget pressure appears to be -

- Same rate + normal increase = less services.
- Increased rate ++ = Same services

There is a 3rd approach that could be considered by your managers.

- Same rate + normal increase + more efficient use of funds, resources & human resources + minimal waste of same = better services.

While saying more money is needed, council appears to be keen to hire (at cost) consultants, researchers & outside firms instead of using available staff or unemployed Lithgow citizens or Lithgow companies. e.g. One would think that a letter to rate payers & local area publicity would have negated the need (especially when money is short) to hire outside assistance to communicate to rate payers. Outsourcing might be trendy but it is costly.

What.

10 JAN 2019

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23-11-2018

Dear Lithgow City Council,

I'm a reply to your recent letter putting up Rates to beautify Lithgow Area, Lithgow Councillors.

This idea was not mentioned when you stood for election, and to bring it on over the holiday period. When a lot of people are very busy or or holiday is a sneaky way to go.

My road comes through Mudgee Shire and meets Lithgow City Council Area at my boundary.

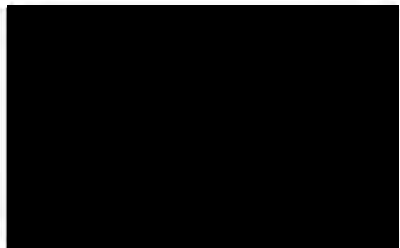
I probably have to maintain approx 400 metres of road in the Council of Lithgow. My road has not been graded by Lithgow Council for 30 or more years or a shovel full of gravel put on it.

How about some thought for me & others like me who always pay their rates on time. I certainly do.

I ask that you read this letter at next Council Meeting

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



Lithgow City Council.

P.O.Box 19,

Lithgow, 2790

Re: Special Rate Variation 2019/20 Re SRV 19/20

The General Manager,

Lithgow City Council,

Lithgow 2790

Dear Sir,

As a ratepayer of Lithgow City council at Round Swamp, I wish to strongly oppose the proposed rate variation for 2019/2020.

I am a farmer and have experienced the worst drought in the 43 years I have lived in the area. During the past year I have spent \$170,000 on hay and cottonseed to feed stock and have been forced to sell all of my stock except 200 breeders for little money because of their poor condition and the proceeds have all been spent to keep the breeders alive. Currently I have zero income and as I have only 51 calves. I will have little income for over twelve months. I have NO capacity to pay any increase in rates. In fact I believe that there should be a redistribution of rates among the rating categories so farmers experience NO increase in rate, not even the rate cap for 2019/20.

As a substantial ratepayer of Mid Western Regional Council I have examined for that shire the effect of rate increases for the various rating categories. Because residential valuations are less than farmland valuations a rate increase has far less effect on residential properties than larger farms.

What is needed before any decision is made are several rate models to be prepared and considered by Council before any decision is made. One of these models should be with no rate increase for 2019/20 for farmers.

Also on a comparative basis Mid Western Regional Council has not sought a rate variation and has remained within the rate cap as set by Government. MWRC has a much larger area and only slightly more population and more roads.

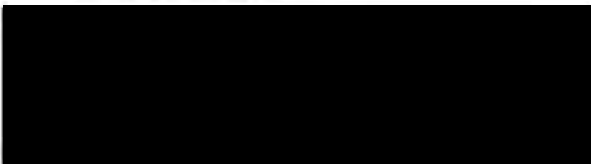
That Council has been very proactive in obtaining revenue streams from other than rates, This has included revision of fees and charges, investment resulting in substantial rental from a shopping centre complex, tendering for RMS and other VPA works, revision of Council policies re road maintenance, no further sealing till backlog of assets brought up to scratch, possibility of town improvement rate for stormwater drainage and buildings.

A rate rise above the cap should only be contemplated once the above issues have been researched and/or implemented.

Many farmers who own land in two council areas do not use the facilities in both areas but are rated as if they do which is unfair.

I hope you will give serious consideration to my submission. I am happy to discuss should you desire.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

10 JAN 2019

Doc Set ID.....

GA Ref.....

Years.....

Wednesday
Jan 9th

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Thank you for the letter about the Proposed Special Rate Variation for 2019-20, which I received on the 10th December. I also got the survey call from Micromex the very next day. I have written to Mr. Neil Derwent, with some pretty obvious questions (on December 13th or 20th) - but so far no reply.

Now regarding your letter. That list on page 1 of the many and varied Council responsibilities in modern days, does look impressive. And I for one would be very sorry if there had to be any cuts to the Library services, for example.

By the way, I have never understood "Fit For the Future", how ~~it~~ the concept was

defined, or how the assessment² worked for us (or any L.G.A.). At an early stage after it was announced, it sounded as if Lithgow made the grades; then after some months it seemed we hadn't.

My main problem with Scenario 2, Page 2, is the confusing language, and meaningless percentages (what are they percentages of?) And for goodness' sake, is the increase being applied for really a One-off, or isn't it? If it's permanent, does that mean it will keep being applied, year after year, in fact cumulatively? (the 2.7% is hardly a rate peg at all, merely a token increase allowed between Valuer General's 3-yearly updates. But, that takes the whole rate hike closer to 11% or 12%, rather than the quoted 9%).

Also on page 2, when you focus on where the additional expenditure

is most urgently needed, it's very 3
much the physical conditions of 3 or 4
main categories. Probably just as
well - what on earth is a "business
improvement initiative" after all.

Currently I am paying \$85-00
per fortnight; cunningly aligned with
Pension pay days. My total annual
Rates charge for this financial year
is \$1,789.17 (I've forgotten what it
was, the previous year; but I used to
pay \$76-00 a fortnight, so that's al-
ready a \$9 rise on each instalment.
The rates in recent years have been
successively going up, and seemingly
by bigger amounts.)

all right, when can I expect a
reply to my request for an estimate,
not an exact quote, of my future
Rates obligation - broken down into
manageable payments that I'm now
accustomed to, and appreciative of.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Ray Thompson
Mayor
Lithgow City Council
Via email: council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Thompson

Proposed Special Rate Variation 2019/20

I am writing regarding your correspondence of 4 December 2018 regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation.

This is not a “rant against the proposed changes” – I can see the issues outlined in your letter and understand that at times there is only so much that can be done given available resources. Hence, in completing the survey I was “mildly supportive”.

However, there are a few points that need consideration.

I do find it manipulative that there is no “**Scenario 3 – Maintain the current SRV + 2.7%**”. Obviously the council officers wanted to push for an “all or nothing play” with the second SRV added, with the only other choice for ratepayers being the “no SRV scenario one” with a poor likely outcome. “10% increase or the sky falls in”.

Perhaps the right answer is my Scenario 3 where the Council maintains the current SRV and looks closely at where expenditure can be saved. It is always easier to simply raise more revenue than take hard expense saving decisions. The limited two Scenario choice offered is cynical at best.

One suggestion I do have is considering **different charges for property owners running heavy vehicle businesses** from their property. In Banners Lane and tributary streets there are a number (five or six?) property owners running heavy vehicle businesses. B Doubles and earthmoving – not smaller rigids. Large potholes open and the driveway entrances are usually potholed and broken from the weight and friction of non-steering wheels being “dragged” over the bitumen. These vehicles do the majority of road damage, perhaps they should pay proportionately?

On the subject of transparency, your letter provides comprehensive details of the risk of the current or future shortfall in revenue to services. Shortfalls come about from either/or inadequate revenue and excessive expenditure. Particularly in light of recent revelations in both the public and private sector, and in order to present all the data, I request council publish on their website:

- The total value of salary, bonuses, benefits, superannuation, expense reimbursement and any other compensation paid to the five highest paid executives on the Council payroll

- The total value of all payments to councillors, be it for expenses, home office costs, internet and phone, motor vehicle use, travel and any other items
- The total value of all costs incurred at council meetings for catering, beverages and any other costs
- The total value of all payments by council to external consultants and advisers in any field, be they lawyers, accountants, engineers, marketing firms or any other external service provider.

Such data will provide ratepayers with greater transparency to gauge their support for the rate variation proposal – surely a good thing.

The final issue I have is the ongoing “Lithgow-Centric” nature of Council. Our home is in Little Hartley, with unformed gutters in the street and a significant erosion problem on the street side. The erosion is so deep in spots I believe it would cause a vehicle that ran off the side of the bitumen to potentially roll over. I will leave it to the council to determine potential liability if such a situation were to occur.

After a request, Council merely dropped some gravel into the problem area, which in turn created a greater erosion problem next time it rained. To call it an “ill-suited” fix is an understatement. I haven’t complained again for one simple reason – I don’t think it would change anything.

While a section of Banners’ Lane was resurfaced recently, “folklore” says the Moyne Farm developer paid for it. Unfortunately and as already mentioned, the heavy vehicle businesses are already cutting the road up again, especially in the driveway turn-ins.

I frequently see Council vehicles all over Lithgow – the only council vehicle I see in Little Hartley is the garbage trucks, and they are contractors and outside the scope of the SRV in any case.

So, for me to support the proposal on rates, I would need some commitment that Little Hartley residents are more than simply “\$1,500 a year each to support Lithgow”. We have poor roads too, no gutters and erosion problems.

Perhaps cynical, if the SRV application is successful, my concerns are

- Too much of it will go to Council “managing itself”
- We will see no change in service provision or road quality in Little Hartley
- Living here will simply cost more for no visible benefit

A commitment from the Council on those matters will ease concerns and strengthen my support.

I am happy to wait for a response to this letter before taking any further action. As I said at the outset, I am empathic to the difficulties of a large LGA with small-ish population.

Thanks and regards

██████████
██████████
████████████████████

To whom it may concern.

Reference SRV 19/20

Please accept this submission regarding the additional rate increase above the Peg for Lithgow City Council.

I write in connection with the above notice of special rate variation increase. I have examined the plan and I wish to object strongly, to the additional increase of rates above the peg tare for the Lithgow LGA. The reasons for objection to the rate increase are base around the Lithgow City Council (LCC) allocation and undertaking of works funded by the Lithgow LGA.

In the Draft Transport, Stormwater Drainage and Buildings Program for 2019/20 it is stated, **“The assets in their current state are deteriorating and require ongoing and costly maintenance. To improve our public assets we need to spend more money on maintain and renewing these assets to ensure they meet the needs of the community”**.

This statement I can agree with and the assets are in need of maintenance, this however is a common issue for all councils within NSW; So why is LCC different and require the rate payers to provide additional revenue?

In relation to maintenance of assets I cannot agree to providing council with more revenue to carry out maintenance works which begin to show signs of failure not long after completion. I also have to question the logic behind the allocation processes, planning, cost, quality of end product and timeframes which it takes to complete the works.

Below I have listed some questions and areas of concern that council should address prior to asking the Lithgow LGA to provide additional funding.

Planning

- Has the LCC questioned and carried out investigations as to why the assets are deteriorating at a rate that requires the rate payers of the LGA to provide additional revenue to maintain and renew assets. In relation to the road network there is no denying that traffic volumes have increased which have attributed to the increased rate of deterioration for the network.

This is the same for every council in NSW and Australia, but they are not asking for additional funds to maintain their networks. So why are you?

- How did council reach the decision to request the rate variation? What Information, investigation and evidence was this decision based on? Is this information going to be provided to the public?
- I also have concerns regarding the maintenance decisions made by LCC which have resulted in mismanagement and wasting of council funds through recent and past completed works in the LGA.

For example 1: Hot Mix Asphaltting of Methven street Lithgow. It was not that long ago that these works were carried out, yet the pavement is already showing sign of distress and failure. It was noted prior to the works there were areas in Methven Street where water was seeping through the pavement. What measures were taken to ensure the water was

controlled and drained from the sub base pavement before placing new pavement layers over the base? Or was this a mill and re-sheet with no drainage treatment or foundation treatment? Has the area of distress been identified and picked up by the LCC council asset inspectors? If so what is the reason behind the failures happening so soon? What was the planned/expected pavement life prior to the works being undertaken? What investigation and pavement design was completed to determine the suitability of hot mix asphalt resurfacing?

Example 2: Wallerawang Main Street is showing signs of significant pavement distress in a number of locations. These works would be around 2 years old and already have significant sections of block cracking and signs of pavement failure. Again have these areas of distress and failure been identified and picked up by the LCC council asset inspectors? If so what is the reason behind the failure? What was the planned/expected pavement life prior to the works being undertaken? Will the planned pavement life be achieved? What investigation and pavement design was completed to determine the suitability of hot mix asphalt resurfacing? Was the subbase inspected prior to placing the asphalt and if required, treated? What quality system does council have in place to ensure that the LGA receives a quality end product? What Australian Standard or industry code of best practice did this work conform to? Is there a maintenance standard that council are using?

At an estimated cost of \$300,000.00 to completed the asphalt works, this was a significant outlay for the LGA that has performed poorly and will require significant maintenance cost in the future.

In the Draft Transport, Stormwater Drainage and Buildings Program for 2019/20 it is stated, **“Increasing the funding for these assets will allow council to renew those that are currently in a poor condition. It will also ensure that the number of assets in poor condition will not continue to grow”**. The examples outlined in the above paragraph are a contradiction of this statement and are proof that the planning decisions, processes and work methods by council need to be questioned as the supposed renewal works are creating more areas for future maintenance with very little value for money to the LGA.

So the questions are:

Does council believe that this was an appropriate use of public money?

Does council believe that the LGA would be happy with spending a significant amount of revenue on a repair to be back there in two years' time to carry out maintenance work?

Does Council believe that the community would agree that the LGA have got value for money with these repairs?

Is council content with the performance of these pavement repairs?

Can council see a trend here?

As a rate payer of the Lithgow LGA, I don't believe that there is any value in having to repair costly works within such a short timeframe from completion. If this is the planned intention then council need to seriously review this approach.

I also have to question how council plan and identify areas that require maintenance works and logic behind the decisions for the treatment for the areas that have been identified.

- Example 1: How did the council maintenance planners reach the determination that Elizabeth Street Wallerawang required a full pavement treatment and reseal? What was the logic behind this decision when Elizabeth Street services around 20 houses, Yet Burnett Street which services Elizabeth Street and also caters for Mountain View estate (50+ Homes only receives an intersection pavement repair and an overlay reseal of the existing sealed pavement which was in the same condition as Elizabeth Street.

Wouldn't logic state that Burnett Street which has a higher traffic volume as it is servicing Elizabeth Street and the Mountain View estate should receive the full pavement treatment and Elizabeth Street would receive the reseal?

It makes no logical sense to complete a full pavement repair for a street that services 20 homes, and complete a patch job on a street that has double the traffic volume, more pot hole repairs and pavement failures.

How did council determine that this was the correct treatment for these two areas? What investigation and assessments were completed to determine the pavement treatment? E.g Average daily vehicle count.

This is an example of a decision by council that may have maintenance and cost repercussions because all of the factors were not fully considered and a logical decision reached.

With the above information as examples I have to question how council has determined and reached a decision that in 2019/20 operation plan First Street in Lithgow is scheduled to have hot mix asphalt reseal at a cost of \$140,000. Based on the performance of previous hot mix reseals there is little evidence that the LGA will receive a quality product that will provide performance and longevity to the rate payers of Lithgow. Is this the right approach? Does this area of pavement require a full asphalt reseal?

From previous asphalt works and information provided above what lessons have been learnt to ensure that the previous mistakes will not re occur? What quality systems and checks will be incorporated to ensure that the pavement performs as planned? How can the LGA have confidence that they will receive a quality product once the work is completed? These are key question that council needs to be address prior to undertaking of the works.

Processes/cost

- Questions have to be answered regarding the processes and timeframe for works to be completed.
During the full pavement repair at the intersection of Henrietta Street and Burnett Street Wallerawang it had taken council 7 working days to complete the pavement works for an area of around 462m². The works involved removing the base pavement to the subbase level and replacing the base layer with a granular road base material.

This intersection was then left as a trafficked granular surface for around 5 weeks until the sealing was completed. During that time a water cart and operator watered the pavement once or twice a day including weekends and public holidays.

It was great to see that council were actively preventing dust from the granular pavement bothering the local residents as per environmental plans. It is unfortunate that during this time there were rain events which resulted in sediment laden material running from the granular pavement and entering the clean storm water system which was due to a lack of sediment controls. What would happen if this sediment laden material had come from a residential site? Council would investigate and potentially fine the land owner.

The issue with leaving a trafficked granular surface in a high stress area for so long is that the pavement begun to ravel and segregate which caused the aggregate material to be plucked out due to turning traffic. Minor pot holes that developed during the rain events were not reworked and just filled. It was also noted that the area was not reworked to ensure the road base was homogenous prior to sealing. Will this have an impact on the performance of the placed engineered material?

Also noted during the 5 week period was the interface joint to the asphalt on Henrietta Street developed a depression. This was not rectified and now has district bump at the transition that ponds water after rain.

Leaving open granular pavement seems to be a common occurrence for the LCC with the Rydal/ Wallerawang Road heavy patching being left as a granular surface for a significant period. Portland road Wallerawang (east of the railway crossing WB lane) pavement repair being left for a considerable amount of time (weeks). The patch on the Portland road completed in the last 12 months has consolidated and corrugated showing signs of pavement distress.

How long until it requires repairs? More money wasted.

Leaving these granular surfaces open to the elements for such a long time also has implication for the longevity of the repair works and cost associated, as the area may require to be reworked as the pavement can develop pot holes, corrugation and segregation prior to sealing.

So the questions are:

Why did it take so long to complete the intersection work at Henrietta Street? Every time you drive past there was nothing happening- No work. There were a lot of inefficiencies observed.

Why does LCC wait so long to complete the sealing of the granular pavements? What is the reason/purpose for this?

With Granular pavement is use of stabilisation agents considered as a treatment option for patching works? If not why?

What was the cost of having a water cart operate for 5 weeks including weekend and public holidays to wet the pavement?

Does council consider having the water cart operating for 5 weeks an efficient use of finances and resources?

What checks, testing and inspection were carried out prior to sealing these works?

The information and list of examples above could go on and on if the public checked past works. These are some of the reasons for objection to the additional rate rise proposed by Lithgow City Council. How can LCC expect the rate payers of the Lithgow LGA to provide more money and have it wasted through inefficiencies, poor quality products, flawed process and repeated failure of new works and repairs that result in the same poor performance and longevity issues?

Throwing more money at the deteriorating assets without reviewing the reasons why they are deteriorating and repeating the same process over and over again whilst expecting a different result is a definition of stupidity.

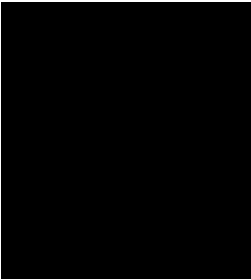
This is the reason why the assets are in such a dilapidated state. Years of poor practices, mismanagement and a failure to keep up with industry best practice have resulted in the current position for the LCC LGA. By asking the LGA to provide more money council is taking the easiest option available.

Council should first conduct a review of its procedures, processes, planning and decision making to identify the inefficiencies within the organisation in order to improve the productivity of the organisation and improve the use and efficiency of the rate payers' money.

Once council have completed the review and the community can see that council is operating efficiently, only then can the application of rate increase be explored.

Let's face it, if council were using the money efficiently and the community could see the improvements and benefits of that use, then you would have very little objection to a rate increase.

At this stage and based on the above information I cannot see that council are spending the money in a competent manner that would make me want to give more and for that I strongly oppose the rate increase above the peg.



The Mayor,
Lithgow Council,
PO Box 19,
Lithgow,
NSW 2790.

Reference no. SRV19-20

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you firstly to say I agree totally with Option 2 of the proposed Special Rate Variation 2019/20. The maintenance of any Local Government Area assets is an essential priority of the respective governments.

The proposal options clearly highlight that only one has any merit in ensuring the assets of roads, drainage and buildings meet the immediate needs of the community and those persons that transition the LGA on daily business or pleasure. In particular, the LGA's future asset needs are an essential goal of this proposal. There is organic asset growth in all parts of regional Australia and the LGA of Lithgow is no exception in this growth. With regard, to the revenue rate breakout of the proposal, I feel that the council is doing its self a disservice in not extracting greater revenue from the mining sector.

The Lithgow LGA has a number of mines operating and let's not kid ourselves the wealth they generate comes from resources which are the sovereign assets of the Australian people. It is my belief that the council should be seeking to retrieve a greater part of this wealth for the LGA community. The option 2 rate increase is miniscule for the mining sector. The new SRV should be double the proposed new SRV.

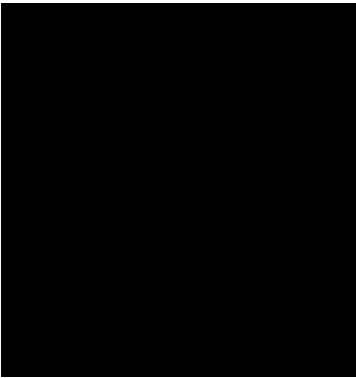
The mining sector benefits greatly from any infrastructure asset improvement or replacement. They are the users of roads. The mining sector gets a free ride from numerous Federal and State tax breaks to supposedly assist it in starting up and operating. The assets they sell, which seems predominately to be to overseas markets, are a 'one shot' event, in that they are not replenished and once it is depleted and becomes uneconomical it shuts down. The LGA then loses the advantage of the revenue.

The wealth they create for share holders is significant, yet in comparison governments get only a small percentage. You have indicated that there needs to be an SRV in 2019/20 to keep the programme of asset repair, upgrades and replacements just ahead of the game. Any less will see it literally become a negative retreat of these activities with dire consequences in the future. It would be a dereliction of the council's duty to go with Option 1.

Option 2 is the viable option, but I recommend that the rates for the mining sector is established at the current rate SRV of 4.77% plus a new SRV of 10.23%, as well as the rate peg of 2.7%. The mining sector should be doing the heavy lifting across Australia to ensure this country has sufficient wealth generated to create a viable future and it is not only the Federal and State governments that should

benefit, but also the LGA's such as Lithgow where they have such an opportunity. As a citizen of the LGA I expect to do my bit in assisting in financing the assets which benefit all of the community, but I will not stand by and let wealth produced from mining, which belongs to all Australians be lost because governments do not have the mettle to seek an equitable and commensurate share.

Yours Sincerely



Summary of community submissions received between 27 November 2018 – 11 January 2019

Summary of Submissions received 'Against' the proposed Special Rate Variation

Summary of community submission	Officer Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Special Rate Variation • I am opposed to any increase, special or otherwise. Particularly I do not see why rates should normally increase at a rate greater than the CPI. • I do not support the rate variation as presented. • Raising rates appears to be completely out of touch with people's expectations and is an anathema to promoting Lithgow as a go ahead town. The only thing this will encourage people to do is leave. • I am strongly against this proposal and wish to register my displeasure with this suggestion. • As a rate payer, I am voting NO to the rate rise special variance. • I wish to register my object to the proposed Rate Increase for 2019/20. • We strongly oppose any variation in our rates, they are already expensive. • I am not in favour of any rate increase. The property I have in the Capertee Valley is uneconomical farmland and is used for passive recreational purposes only. • Read your info re: this subject and would OBJECT to such a proposal. If the Council has failed to adequately provide for ageing infrastructure then why should current rate payers cop the increase? • I am emailing you to register that my vote is for Scenario 1 (SRV expires + Rates peg). • NO! There should be no revision of rates upwards. • Council should be lowering rates in the area as in the last 15 years no improvement near my property have been made and rates are too high. • I object to any increase in my rates as I receive no benefits from Council. • Don't agree with council increasing our rates ,for the simple reason Council has enough funds to waste now • I wish to write today to advise I totally disagree with the proposed rate rise in the LGA. • I am a Lithgow rate payer and I object to the proposed rate increase. • My submission is against the implementation of the special rate variation proposed by Council. • I have examined the plan and I wish to object strongly to the additional increase of rates above the peg tare for the Lithgow LGA. The reasons for objection to the rate increased are based around the LCC allocation and undertaking of works funded by the Lithgow LGA. • In regard to the proposed special rate variation – I hope that it can be avoided. 	<p>The submissions are noted.</p> <p>As it stands, Council's infrastructure assets are depreciating at a rate faster than they can be renewed, while providing the other services expected by the community such as libraries, events attraction etc. The proposed SRV is specifically target at increasing Council's ability to renew infrastructure while maintaining these other types of services.</p> <p>All works are scheduled according to their priority. Priority is assessed by condition, road hierarchy, traffic counts, tourist routes and heavy vehicle routes. Community submissions are requested on a yearly basis (in April/May), for consideration for inclusion in the draft Operational Plan, subject to the above priorities being thoroughly considered.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithgow is almost one of the highest rated municipalities in NSW which seems out of all kilter to the infrastructure provided and the culture of the town. • The Lithgow City Council rates are already excessively high and amongst the highest in the state of NSW. Any further increase will put the rates into a bracket where we cannot afford to pay and will be forced to sell up and move to a different location with a more reasonable rate system. • We have higher rates than Bathurst <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ our water costs more than Bathurst 	<p>Average residential rates in NSW vary from \$104 p.a. to \$1,743 p.a. (Office of Local Government Time Series Data 2016/17). The average residential rate for Lithgow LGA for 2017/18 was \$697 p.a. (excluding domestic waste, water and sewer charges). The average residential rate for Bathurst Regional Council for the 2016/17 year was \$992 p.a. (Office of Local Government Time Series Data 2016/17 https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/my-local-council/yourcouncil-website).</p> <p>When new infrastructure is designed, all efforts are made to incorporate the culture of Lithgow and its heritage. However, times change and so must the focus of Lithgow when considering the design of new</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our services are less ○ Our water is often of lesser quality than Bathurst. 	<p>infrastructure. There is a much greater focus on community events and the spaces required to facilitate such events. Vandalism is also an issue that requires design consideration. Lastly, standards are vastly different to those in years past which requires infrastructure be designed in accordance with disability access guidelines and traffic / parking restrictions. All of the above considerations must be included in the design process in addition to Lithgow's heritage in order to ensure cultural fit as well as an operational fit.</p>
<p>On a comparative basis MID Western Regional Council has not sought a rate variation and has remained within the rate cap as set by Government. MWRC has a much larger area and only slightly more population and more roads. That council has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive in obtaining revenue streams from other than rates • Has included revision of fees and charges • Investment resulting in substantial rental from a shopping centre complex • Tendering for RMS and other VPA works 	<p>All Councils are required and/or expected to provide a range of services to their communities, however, it is very difficult to directly compare rates between Councils as different Councils can have vastly different rating and revenue bases.</p> <p>The average residential rate for Mid-Western Regional Council for the 2016/17 year was \$822 p.a. (Office of Local Government Time Series Data 2016/17 https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/my-local-council/yourcouncil-website).</p> <p>The average residential rate for Lithgow LGA for 2017/18 was \$697 p.a. (excluding domestic waste, water and sewer charges).</p> <p>Lithgow Council initiated a thorough annual review of fees and charges from the 2018/19 year to ensure that the complete costs of providing services are recovered, where appropriate.</p> <p>In the past, Council has trialled working with the RMS on the maintenance of RMS-maintained assets. There is a significant administrative cost and burden on Council resources however. At this time, It is believed that Council's focus must be on improving the condition of its own assets versus those of other authorities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Pensioners we can barely afford to pay the current council rates of \$2256 every year. With the projected increased we will be struggling to pay the required increases. • There is a high level of economic disadvantage in the Lithgow community. • Lithgow City and the LGA are deemed to be a very high disadvantage socio economic region per the SIEFA index of socio economic disadvantage. It is unreasonable to increase rates beyond the rate peg as it significantly impacts on those with low incomes who are barely making ends meet. • The last 12 months have been particularly hard financially for residents on rural blocks due to cost of water cartage and a high increase in cost of fodder. • I am a farmer and have experienced the worst drought in 43 years. I will have little income for over twelve months. I have NO capacity to pay any increase in rates. 	<p>Lithgow Council recognises that ratepayers in the Lithgow local government area may, at times, experience difficulty paying rates and annual charges, irrespective of their income. Council has a Hardship Policy (http://council.lithgow.com/download/9458/) in place to assist and support to community members who are experiencing financial stress and are unable pay their rates and charges on time.</p> <p>In considering the community's capacity to pay a Special Rate Variation, Council has thoroughly researched its community's level of socio-economic disadvantage, its rating structure compared with neighbouring Councils, ratepayer income levels and changes in land values.</p> <p>Council has recognised its relative socio-economic disadvantage by limiting the proposal to retain the current 4.77% SRV plus an additional Special Rate Variation of 4.23% increase (plus rate peg) thereby seeking only a one-off, single year increase of 9% which does not expire.</p>
<p>If assets are regularly maintained and upgraded, - why are they deteriorating?</p>	<p>Maintenance does not extend the lifespan of an asset. Put simply, maintenance works (patching, potholing, crack sealing) helps an asset reach the typical end of its useable life. Without intervention, an asset will degrade far quicker than expected. Even with regular maintenance, assets will always require renewal.</p> <p>Council currently spends around \$19 million on the maintenance and renewal of community assets each year; however, we have a funding gap and need to invest an additional \$1.1 million per year. This additional investment will ensure that the number of assets in poor condition does not continue to grow.</p>
<p>Estimate – council received \$20,000,000 - \$30,000,000 per annum – should be sufficient to support work needed to be done.</p>	<p>Council's revenue from ordinary rates was \$12.19M in 2017/18 and total revenue was \$46.6M. Funds are fully allocated to provide services to the community, including renewal and maintenance of assets.</p>

<p>We agree we should encourage and support business improvement initiatives but, why should we have to pay for them?</p>	<p>The aims of business improvement initiatives are to reduce long-term costs and / increase revenue. Quite often, business improvement initiatives required an upfront investment to achieve long-term cost savings. An example is LED street lighting which has an upfront cost of \$405K but will save an ongoing \$90K p.a. in energy costs.</p>
<p>No mention of state or federal grants applied for by LCC to upgrade assets such as roads, pavements, etc.</p>	<p>In 2017/18, Lithgow Council received \$3.43M of capital grants, including \$1.015M for transport projects. Council thoroughly assesses the potential for success in all grant programs it is notified of. This calendar year engineers have been working towards the application of funds for Fixing Country Roads Round 3 requesting contributory funding at a value of almost \$2mil.</p>
<p>Laughable at the least raising the rates a bit like the banks fees for no service.</p>	<p>The submission is noted.</p>
<p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No details of the planned use of the extra funds sought. This letter seeks to indicate a wish list of non-specific areas of expenditure that you could fly a jumbo jet through. <p>You do not specify which assets are at risk nor indicate the budget for any maintenance or renewal which should be outlined at least for the major items.</p> </p>	<p>The projected total SRV income (from maintaining the current SRV plus adding the new SRV) is estimated at \$1.178 million for the 2019/20 year.</p> <p>It is proposed to spend the SRV income on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * \$725,000 on Transport (sealed roads, unsealed roads, footpaths, cycleways, bridges and road drainage) * \$100,000 on stormwater drainage * \$250,000 on buildings <p>The proposed 2019/20 Transport, Stormwater Drainage and Buildings Program available for downloading on http://www.haveyoursay.lithgow.com/srv/ Hard copies of the program were also made available at the Council Administration Centre and Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland Libraries.</p>
<p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenarios are poorly structure and given to be not able to be verified. Second case has a pea and thimble trick in it as you carefully ignore adding the 2.7% to the combined 9% to indicate the true increase of potentially 11.7%. </p>	<p>The SRV scenarios are drawn from Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The scenarios are developed through detailed modelling based on a variety of assumptions outlined in the LTFP.</p>
<p>Your rates calculator is meaningless for other than the specific cases shown.</p>	<p>The rates calculator uses the valuation of your property that is set by the Valuer General. Any ratepayer can enter their rates category, land valuation and locality (from the rates notice) to calculate the impact of the scenarios on their individual rates.</p>
<p>Council also has the responsibility to outline in detail the effect of not getting approval.</p>	<p>The only alternative to an SRV application is to make further cuts to services to deliver a balanced operating result (before capital), consistent with 'Fit for the Future' requirements.</p>
<p>Volume of data is too much for a ratepayer to read through and interpret. Should have summarised the position covering all relevant documents and made it clear.</p>	<p>Fact sheets have been added to the 'Lithgow Have Your Say' website - http://www.haveyoursay.lithgow.com/fact-sheets/</p>
<p>The Scenario 2 worst case is a nightmare – in 2019/20, a householder could pay rates which are 11.7% higher than today. And they could well be paying this high rate each year thereafter. There is no sunset clause mentioned. Even if the current SRV is jettisoned but the new permanent SRV is accepted, the rate increase (with the rate peg) is still 6.9% per year (more than double the inflation rate). But the intent by Council is to have two SRVS plus the rate peg – a gigantic rate increase relative to CPI (Each year) – where's the value in all of this – this is not explained fully.</p>	<p>The actual increase on 2018/19 rates would be the additional SRV of 4.23% plus the rate peg of 2.7%. The proposed SRV is a one-off increase that will remain permanently in the rate base. Only the rate peg will be added in future years.</p>

How will households/business be impacted in subsequent years?	The proposed SRV is a one-off increase that will remain permanently in the rate base. Only the rate peg will be added in future years.
What is the reason for raising rates beyond the cap for Lithgow only?	The proposed Special Rate Variation is an important step to help maintain and manage our current assets to ensure that we deliver services in line with community expectations and remain financially sustainable into the future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where were the checks and balances when this was happening? • Has there been benchmarking against other similar sized councils? • Has there been a justification for the return on investment undertaken? • Do these balances exist now? 	The Council reports its results on key performance measures in its annual financial statements. The performance measures are set by the NSW Office of Local Government and include performance benchmarks. The SRV will enable Council to meet all performance measure benchmarks over the term of the Long Term Financial Plan.
I don't believe that the entire rate rise will go to these projects anyway.	<p>Where a special variation is approved, the Council is issued with an Instrument of Approval, which sets out the conditions of that approval, including minimum annual reporting requirements.</p> <p>Council would include expenditure plans in its annual Operational Plan. In addition, Council's Annual Report would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the projects or activities funded from the variation, • details of any changes to the projects or activities funded from the variation compared with the council's initial proposal (any such changes must be consistent with the terms of the Instrument of Approval), and • The outcomes achieved as a result of the projects or activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I regard the current land valuation as being excessive. My rates are high enough as is. • Council also needs to calculate rates by property prices correctly instead of random prices that do not reflect current land prices. 	Land valuations are set by the NSW Valuer General.
Council needs to focus on finding more efficient ways to provide better services at less cost like everyone else in private enterprise has to rather than just reaching further into rate payers' pockets.	Council has been implementing a Fit for the Future Improvement Plan which includes implementation of a range of initiatives to generate operational efficiencies.
I do agree that roads and basic infrastructure are the top priority, but believe that the money needs to come from elsewhere.	The submission is noted.
Three submissions referred to the wording "one-off, permanent increase" stating it was confusing and very hard to comprehend as a concept.	The proposed SRV is a one-off increase that will remain permanently in the rate base.
The current economic situation of LCC combined with the deteriorating state of assets has evolved over a long period of systemic neglect and poor management.	<p>With regard to their current condition, cause is irrelevant. What matters for the future is to ensure that Council has the ability and resources to best manage assets and achieve the level of infrastructure renewal expected by the needs of the Lithgow community.</p> <p>Council has been implementing a Performance Improvement Plan to position Council for a sustainable future by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing and developing Council's Long Term Financial Plan to incorporate a Fit for the Future Improvement Plan and strategies. • Reviewing Council's Asset Management Plan and Financial Statements Assets Special Schedule 7. • Preparing a Financial Management Maturity Assessment to understand Council's Financial Management Maturity Status and developing an Improvement Plan with specific priority actions. 32 of 37 actions have now been implemented.

<p>It is abhorrent that the community is given only 2 options to choose from...The action you wish to take with the SRV is too little too late and I believe it will not provide enough funding to achieve the desired result.</p> <p>How did Council reach the decision to request the rate variation? What information, investigation and evidence was this decision based on? Is this information going to be provided to the public?</p>	<p>The 2017-2027 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFFP) identified the need for a new permanent SRV to commence upon the expiry of the existing SRV on 1 July 2019 (2017 LTFFP Scenario 3). The 2019-2029 LTFFP Scenario 3 reiterated the need for a continuing SRV.</p> <p>The LTFFP SRV scenario also includes significant, additional, asset renewal expenditure over ten years to ensure that the asset benchmarks are met or trending toward meeting the ratios during the term of the LTFFP.</p>
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Summary of submissions received – General Complaints

Summary of community submission	Officer Response
<p>Council workers do not appear to be fully engaged – when we pass one or two are often standing around watching.</p>	<p>This is a common public perception in every local government area. Often, tasks are being performed wherein it is more efficient for staff to wait on-site versus leave and come back.</p> <p>For example, should we receive notification of a water main burst, staff attend the site and isolate the network. A backhoe arrives and uncovers the site while staff wait 5 – 10 minutes. Once uncovered, staff patch the failure while the backhoe waits. Once complete, the backhoe refills the hole while staff wait. Then the backhoe leaves while staff asphalt patch the road surface. In such a scenario, it would be to the detriment of efficiency if staff were to leave and return on numerous occasions rather than wait and complete the works as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Pavement Sweeper is often parked outside the Tatts Hotel – How long does it take to do this job and what is operator doing when not on the machine.</p>	<p>All avenues to improve efficiency are currently being investigated. As part of the CBD Revitalisation, improvements in the management of Council's footpath cleaning program are in progress, identifying better machines to complete this work and more efficient scheduling of employee labour in this area.</p>
<p>Pigeon Mess – at the Tatts and lane beside Barratt & Smith</p>	<p>Council is currently encouraging private shop owners to improve their storefront facades to remove the ability for pigeons to roost in this area.</p> <p>An education campaign is also currently taking place to inform the community of the issues with feeding and encouraging pigeons in the CBD area</p>
<p>Plane Trees in George Coates Avenue are dangerous – need pruning.</p>	<p>The submission is noted.</p>
<p>Pavement opposite Lean & Bennett has lifted and is a trip hazard.</p>	<p>Council has noted this issue and incorporated the required renewal works into the draft operational Plan for 2019/20, subject to Council consideration and approval. The draft 2019/20 Operational Plan will be on exhibition for public comment in May on www.haveyoursay.lithgow.com</p>
<p>Debris from falling twigs on footpath between Lean & Bennett and Dunns Corner.</p>	<p>The submission is noted.</p>
<p>People do not mow the kerbside outside their properties.</p>	<p>A media release was published on 16 January to educate the community on their responsibility in respect to this matter.</p>

<p>Main Street Pavers outside banks – bricks not restored to their original condition when work done underneath.</p>	<p>NBN restorations have not yet commenced in Main Street, Lithgow. Council engineers are in contact with NBNCo to arrange this work which will commence once the physical NBN infrastructure installation is complete. This will occur in late-February / early-March.</p>
<p>So far this year, Council has diverted money away from the Capertee-Glen Davis Road sealing and has failed to keep up with the deterioration of the existing section. That is about the only place I see results for my rates and there have been none. I remind Council that we were promised that this road would be fully sealed by 2000 – over 18 years ago now!</p>	<p>There has been no reduction in the scope of the resealing of Glen Alice Road as part of the 2018/19 Operational Plan. As agreed and resolved by Council, 2.5km will be resealed by the end of February 2019. From 2019/20, Council has previously resolved to allocate \$350,000 per year to seal the remaining 7.51km of unsealed road between Capertee and Rylstone progressively at a rate of 2.5km per year.</p>
<p>Jamieson Street, Portland – unusable back lane not touched in 20 years.</p> <p>Jamieson Street itself – a disgrace after the last fix up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created problems with power lines being taken out frequently • Stormwater entering properties • Loose gravel on sides causing window damage during mowing by owners because council staff are seldom seen. 	<p>Noted – resident was against the sealing of an asset that was a significant drain on Council resources as a result of ongoing maintenance.</p>
<p>Baaners Lane and tributary streets – The erosion is so deep in spots I believe it would cause a vehicle that ran off the side of the bitumen to potentially roll over.</p> <p>So for me to support the proposal on rates, I would need some commitment that Little Hartley residents are more than simply “\$1,500 a year each to support Lithgow”. We have poor roads too, no gutters and erosion problems.</p>	<p>Noted – register in Council’s Customer Request System for repair.</p>
<p>Council needs to accept responsibility for specific budget and delivery of projects not some amorphous bucket of niceties. For example the resurfacing of Cox’s River Road, Kanimbla Drive and Megalong Place at Kanimbla (as well as other roads in the area).</p>	<p>Coxs River Road and Kanimbla Drive have both been resurfaced at significant cost in the last 5 years. All works are scheduled according to their priority. Priority is assessed by condition, road hierarchy, traffic counts, tourist routes and heavy vehicle routes.</p> <p>Community submissions are requested on a yearly basis, for consideration for inclusion in the draft Operational Plan, subject to the above priorities being thoroughly considered. The draft 2019/20 Operational Plan will be on exhibition and open for public submissions in May on www.haveyoursay.lithgow.com</p>
<p>The Council doesn’t want to care for a gravel road that they have been doing so for fifty years that goes to the back of my property (McDonalds Hole Road).</p>	<p>Council maintains 800 lineal metres of McDonalds Hole Road, Round Swamp. Some sections are outside the Lithgow LGA boundary and are not subject to Council maintenance. When requests are received, the condition of the road asset is assessed and programmed into Council’s maintenance schedule in accordance with its priority with regard to all other Council road assets within the region.</p>
<p>My Access road to my house is far from being good (Vulcan Road, Running Stream) so they need to show us how giving more funds is going to improve anything.</p>	<p>Vulcan Road, Running Stream was previously a Crown Road that was not under the care and control of Lithgow City Council. Council is currently in the process of transferring ownership from the Crown to Council in order to continue maintaining this asset.</p>

<p>In relation to maintenance of assets I cannot agree to providing council with more revenue to carry out maintenance works which begin to show signs of failure not long after completion. I also have to question the logic behind the allocation processes, planning, cost, quality of end product and timeframes which it takes to complete the works.</p>	<p>All works are scheduled according to their priority. Priority is assessed by condition, road hierarchy, traffic counts, tourist routes and heavy vehicle routes. Community submissions are requested on a yearly basis, for consideration for inclusion in the draft Operational Plan, subject to the above priorities being thoroughly considered. The draft 2019/20 Operational Plan will be on exhibition and open for public submissions in May on www.haveyoursay.lithgow.com</p> <p>With regard to timeframes, Council must schedule work in line with the limited resources at its disposal. In many instances, it must spend many weeks preparing a number of assets for sealing and rely on contracted labour to complete this work. This does introduce lead times however this is unavoidable as all contractors have their own priorities and workloads also.</p>
<p>Has the LCC questioned and carried out investigations as to why the assets are deteriorating at a rate that requires the rate payers of the LGA to provide additional revenue to maintain and renew assets. In relation to the road network there is no denying that traffic volumes have increased which have attributed to the increased rate of deterioration for the network.</p> <p>This is the same for every council in NSW and Australia, but they are not asking for additional funds to maintain their networks. So why are you?</p>	<p>Councils in NSW are subject to rate pegging. This means the NSW Government only allows councils to increase rates by a set percentage every year which constrains Councils' ability to generate revenue.</p> <p>Council assets deteriorate at varying rates dependent on their use and construction type. If assets are not renewed in a timely manner we are faced with increased maintenance expenditure and the service level we provide to the community can also decrease. Council currently has annual budgets for the renewal of assets but unfortunately the rate of renewal is proving to be insufficient to allow Council to maintain or improve current standards. The additional revenue from the special rate variation will help us to maintain current standards and improve those standards over time.</p> <p>Council maintains a road network of approximately 1,000km which varies in condition, rate of decay and proposed lifespan. Council has recently reviewed the baseline information upon which it values and depreciates its assets to better align these assumptions with best practice engineering guidelines. From these values, it has been determined that Council is unable to provide the current level of service with its current income, while sustaining the other services that Council is rightly obligated to provide. Hence, the two options are to increase income or reduce the level of service.</p>
<p>I also have concerns regarding the maintenance decisions made by LCC which have resulted in mismanagement and wasting of Council funds through recent and wasting of council funds through recent and past completed works in the LGA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example 1 – Hot Mix Asphaltting of Methven Street, Lithgow. It was not that long ago that these works were carried out, yet the pavement is already showing sign of distress and failure. • Wallerawang Main Street is showing signs of significant pavement distress in a number of locations. <p>The examples above are a contradiction to the statement “Increasing the funding for these assets will allow council to renew those that are currently in a poor condition. It will also ensure that the number of assets in poor condition will not continue to grow” and are proof that the planning decisions, processes and work methods by council need to be questioned as the supposed renewal works are creating more areas for future maintenance with very little value for money to the LGA. So the questions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does Council believe that this was an appropriate use of public money? • Does council believe that the LGA would be happy spending a significant amount of revenue on a repair to be back there in two years' time to carry out maintenance work? 	<p>Firstly, both assets have been assessed and no outward signs of significant failure warranting intervention are noted.</p> <p>Secondly, it is common and expected that defects will occur a number of years after roads are sealed, within reason. Council's maintenance responsibility is required to ensure that roads reach the end of their useable life. It is not feasible or cost effective to design a road such that there are no maintenance requirements for the 20+ year lifespan.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does Council believe that the community would agree that the LGA have got value for money with these repairs? • Is council content with the performance of these pavement repairs? • Can council see a trend here? 	
<p>I also question how council plan and identify areas that require maintenance works and logic behind the decisions for the treatment for the areas that have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example 1 – How did the Council maintenance planners reach the determination that Elizabeth Street Wallerawang required a full pavement Treatment and reseal? Elizabeth Street services around 20 houses, yet Burnett Street which services Elizabeth Street and also cater s for Mountain View Estate (50+ homes) only receives and intersection pavement repair and an overly reseal. 	<p>Upon assessment, Burnett Street presented an aged seal and highly compacted pavement with minimal defects. From this, it was determined to be more cost effective to reseal rather than arrange for a complete pavement reconstruction. However, Elizabeth Street was not only presenting surface seal defects but also significant pavement defects resulting in consistently deep and hazardous failures. Hence, the decision was made to perform more intensive repairs to Elizabeth Street, to better ensure asset longevity.</p>
<p>I have to question how Council has determined and reached a decision that in the draft 2019/20 Operational Plan First Street, Lithgow is scheduled to have hot mix asphalt reseal at a cost of \$140,000.</p>	<p>Community request and engineering assessment. First Street from West Street to East Street is rated at condition 4 in Council’s asset management system.</p>
<p>Concerns are expressed regarding the process (including trafficked granular surface) and timeframe for works to be completed at the intersection of Henrietta Street and Burnett Street, Wallerawang and Rydal/Wallerawang Road. The following questions are asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did it take so long to complete the intersection work at Henrietta Street? Every time you drive past there was nothing happening – no work. There were a lot of inefficiencies observed. • Why does LCC wait so long to complete the sealing of granular pavements? What is the reason/purpose for this? • With granular pavement is use of stabilisation agents considered as a treatment option for patching works? If not why? • What was the cost of having a water cart operate for 5 weeks including weekend and public holidays to wet the pavement? • Does council consider having the water cart operating for 5 weeks and efficient use of finances and resources? • What checks, testing and inspection were carried out prior to sealing these works? 	<p>With regard to timeframes, Council must schedule work in line with the limited resources at its disposal. In many instances, it must spend many weeks preparing a number of assets for sealing and rely on contracted labour to complete this work. This does introduce lead times however this is unavoidable as all contractors have their own priorities and workloads also. With 31 resealing projects in Council’s operational plan, it would be inappropriate financially and unreasonable from a scheduling perspective to expect Council’s sealing contractor to come from Sydney each time a surface is prepared. As such, this is done in batches to reduce cost.</p> <p>Where there is the potential for failure, stabilisation is considered. Council spent over \$70,000 in 2018/19 on stabilised pavement reseals where such additional cost is warranted.</p> <p>During warm, dry periods, unsealed roads in residential areas can create excessive dust if residents use excessive speed and do not drive considerably. Sporadically, Council does what it can to assist with this issue by wetting the pavement and reducing dust, if only temporarily. Council receives significant appreciation from residents for this work.</p>
<p>Lilleys Lane (which is partly in Mid Western Council with about 400m in Lithgow LGA has not been graded by Council in 30 or more years.</p>	<p>Having checked Council’s GIS data and asset database, it has been confirmed that Lilleys Road falls entirely within the Mid Western LGA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook Street Plaza – A new towns square – This is a concrete slab – is this what our rates pay for? If so, it is a travesty. • We only have to look back at the Main St and how that went absolutely discussed with that waste of rate payers funds. Then on top of that the business's that it put out of business. I would like to highlight the CBD revitalisation as a glaring example. I believe that this was supposed to fulfil one of the objectives in the CSP 2030 – to attract business and tourism. I think it is obvious that this is a complete fail and has in fact had the polar opposite effect. Businesses have suffered and many closed down leaving the CBD even less appealing than before the ‘revitalisation’. 	<p>This submission has been noted.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the inconvenience caused during this work to residents and businesses. The work undertaken at Cook Street Plaza and the Eskbank Street Intersection is Stage 1 of a multi-stage project details of which are available online at http://www.revitalisation.lithgow.com/.</p> <p>In 2018, Council convened a volunteer working party made up of interested members of the community to research the factors underlying the decline in retail based on global, local and regional trends. The working party found a number of underlying factors with digital technology; generational change and consumer preference being common themes. A report detailing possible solutions to assist current and future retail growth in Lithgow was prepared and presented to Council. The recommendations from this report are being implemented by Council’s Economic Development and Tourism Department.</p>

LCC has wasted at least \$5m in the past 5 years – eg CBD Revitalisation Project and sacking of previous General Manager.	This submission has been noted.
When you first drive into Lithgow it looks like a slum – why not plant rows of blossom trees similar to Leura at each entrance...make things more attractive!	As it stands, there is significant cost associated with the maintenance of the grassed centre median as it requires lane closures of the Great Western Highway. At this time, Council does not have the resources to create additional maintenance requirements in this area.
The pubs here are painted black and grey and look about as inviting as a slaughterhouse – why not declare the area national trust and paint the Main Street in heritage colours?	Maintenance of shopfronts is the responsibility of the building owner. Council offers free heritage advice to owners.
The existing roads and footpaths infrastructure is disgusting...The infrastructure has been left to run down over a substantial period of time.	Council acknowledges that there is a maintenance backlog which requires immediate action. That is the overall purpose of the SRV – improved asset and infrastructure renewal.
Many businesses find it cheaper and easier to set up in Bathurst rather than Lithgow.	The submission is noted.
I am 83 and a pensioner who is already forced to pay for a Garbage Service I cannot use.	<p>Council is required by law to charge residential ratepayers a Domestic Waste Management Charge to pay for the removal of waste from residential properties to maintain a clean local environment. The Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) requires councils to levy a charge to fund the domestic waste management service. Under the Act, Council 'must make and levy an annual charge for the provision of domestic waste management services for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available' (s496(1)).</p> <p>Council's Waste and Recycling Coordinator has visited the respondent on 14/1/19 to investigate the matter. The Waste & recycling service occurs at front of property and the house is located <1000m from collection point and therefore exemption not applicable under Council policy 11.1. However, in this case he has looked at ways to assist the respondent with locating her bins and made suggestions as to how this may be made easier.</p>
<p>I request Council publish on their website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total value of salary, bonuses, benefits, superannuation, expense reimbursement and any other compensation paid to the five highest paid executives on the Council payroll. • The total value of all payments to councillors be it for expenses, home office costs, internet and phone, motor vehicle use, travel and any other items. • The total value of all costs incurred at Council meetings for catering, beverages and any other costs. • The total value of all payments by council to external consultants and advisers in any field, be they lawyers, accountants, engineers, marketing firms or any other external service provider. 	<p>Council's reporting is undertaken within the guidelines of the Local Government Act 1993. This information is published in Council's Annual Report and also in the Combined Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2018/19. These documents are available for viewing on Council's website http://council.lithgow.com/ipr/</p>
Take a cut from the payments to Councillors.	Under the NSW Local Government Act, The NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal decides each year what councillors' annual fees will be, in accordance with the Act.
<p>LCC staff and Councillors need to be made accountable for all financial expenditure and for it to be transparent and available for the community to see.</p> <p>There is a general lack of confidence in LCC by the community in general and a sense that mismanagement financially by LCC is a major contributor to the current situation – concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of transparency with all Council expenditure including Councillor Expenditures. 	<p>Council's financial performance is regularly reported to the community – in Quarterly Budget Reviews and the Annual Financial Statements, all of which are available on Council's website. http://council.lithgow.com/ipr/</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former General Managers suing LCC or receiving big payouts when they leave their position. 	
Our children have to move away for work or education.	The submission is noted. We are doing all in our scope and power to employ young people with additional apprenticeships and traineeships. Education facilities have improved in Lithgow (eg WSU and TAFE)
LCC has mismanaged the LEP which has stopped investment in the area.	The submission is noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I wasn't aware of the proposed increase until 7 December 2018 and given that council was closed from 21 December to 7 January and people (rate payers) were also on a Christmas break, I don't think that we have been given enough time to make an informed decision. The period of consultation over December – January is not the best time for community consultation regarding this issue with holiday closures of LCC, IPART and with general community holidays. This idea was not mentioned when you stood for election, and to bring it on over the holiday period when a lot of people are very busy or holiday is a sneaky way to go. 	The timeframes for SRV applications are set by the NSW Office of Local Government. Council is required to submit an SRV application by 11 February 2019.
Out of date Councillors creating division in the town by supporting coal mining and neglecting the environment and health issues association with the production of coal powered energy.	The submission is noted.
While saying more money is needed, council appears to be keen to hire (at ? cost) consultants, researchers of outside firms instead of using available staff or unemployed Lithgow citizens or Lithgow companies. One would think that a letter to rate payers and local area publicity would have negated the need (especially when money is short) to hire outside assistance to communicate to rate payers. Outsourcing might be trendy but it is costly	The submission is noted. We hire people with the skills and expertise to undertake a particular project. With respect to contractors and consultants, local companies with the skills to fulfil the contract are able tender for work as advertised.

Summary of submissions received 'In Favour Of' the Proposed Special Rate Variation

Summary of community submission	Officer Response
I agree totally with option 2... The proposal options clearly highlight that only one has any merit in ensuring the assets of roads drainage & buildings meet the immediate needs of the community and those persons that transition the LGA on daily business or pleasure.	The submission is noted.
<p>I can see the issues outlined in your letter and understand that at times there is only so much than can be done given available resources. Hence, in completing the survey I was "mildly supportive".</p> <p>Perhaps cynical, if the SRV application is successful, my concerns are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much of it will go to Council "managing itself" We will see no change in service provision or road quality in Little Hartley Living here will simply cost more for no visible benefit. <p>A commitment from the Council on those matters will ease concerns and strengthen my support.</p>	<p>The SRV funds will be allocated to asset maintenance and specific asset renewal projects. A small amount will be used for specific business improvement projects.</p> <p>Plans for the use of SRV will be included in Council's annual Operational Plan. Council will also include in each annual report (for at least 10 years) the outcomes achieved as a result of the projects or activities.</p>

Summary of submissions received which offer an alternative to the Proposed Special Rate Variation

Summary of community submission	Officer Response
Option 2, is the viable option, but I recommend that the rates for the mining sector is established at the current rate SRV of 4.77% plus a new SRV of 10.23%, as well as the rate peg of 2.7%.	The submission is noted. The proposed SRV will apply to all rating categories, including mining.
<p>I believe Council should have included 4 options not just; they being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base case (do nothing other than the rate peg increase (to me this is unsustainable at 2.7%) • Base case with ongoing improvements – Council can ‘survive’ along with taking ongoing business measures. • Base case with one SRV – say 7% increase – Council can operate successfully. • Base case with 2 SRVS – say, an 11.7% increase – Council has enough funds to enable rates to reduce or not increase in the long term. 	The submission is noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the community expects its Council to be proactive and profitable, this does not mean that Council has to ‘do everything’. Council can’t do everything and it shouldn’t – any non-core activities should be spun off or ceased. • Alternate approaches need to be explored. 	Council’s Performance Improvement Plan (currently being implemented) includes a service review program, with a minimum of three service reviews per year.
<p>I don’t believe the 11.7% rate increase is justified; I am happy to consider say a 7% increase as a short term measure (say 4 years) but that Council focus on taking costs out of running the organisation. It is clear that 50% of the costs of running Council activities related to salaries and overheads plus purchases/materials. I would like to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better procurement practices. • A short-term freeze on salaries rather than a 2% plus annual rise. • Cut salaries in senior management....jut a teeny bit. No fringe benefits. 	<p><u>Procurement Practices</u></p> <p>Council has procedures in place that require staff to seek a number of quotes from suppliers, with the number of quotes dependent on the value of the goods / service. Council also uses a large number of supply contracts, including those developed internally, through regional organisations, the Office of Local Government and the NSW Government to achieve cost savings. Council is also required by legislation to invite open tenders for purchases above \$150,000 (except where exempt in Section 55 of the Local Government Act 1993).</p> <p><u>Council wages</u></p> <p>We can’t lawfully freeze wages. We are bound by the NSW Industrial Relations Act, the Fairwork Act, Common Law contracts of employment, and the NSW Local Government (State) Award.</p>
There has been a fortune spent on the salaries in Lithgow Council – Paying someone \$160k as a town planner.	This reference to \$160,000 possibly relates to a temporary casual appointment. The author has extrapolated a full-time salary based on an hourly rate being paid to secure a qualified Planner because Council has been unable to recruit suitably qualified staff despite advertising multiple times.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not instead reduce staff and salaries and invest the money wisely to attract more industry to Lithgow? • If you cannot balance the budget, then cut services, starting with wages at the top! 	<p>Reductions in staff and/or the recruitment of unqualified staff will result in fewer/substandard services and potential civil liability claims, financial penalties, & legal action against Council.</p> <p>Alternatively we could contract out more services and pay commercial contract rates that would be an order of magnitude higher than salaries.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council needs to look at its long term future. Options such as take-over by another council, forced merger and/or totally dissolving the Lithgow city Council regional need to be explored and implemented. • I wish we amalgamated [with Bathurst] when we had the chance so we could have some real leadership and direction in this town. • I was against amalgamation or administration however Lithgow needs to go down one of these roads. 	<p>The submissions are noted.</p>
<p>I do find it manipulative that there is no "Scenario 3 – Maintain the current SRV + 2.7%...and look closely at where expenditure can be saved.</p>	<p>Council has an ongoing program of business improvement, including review of fees & charges and cost constraint. Council has used a 'zero based' approach to budgeting from the 2018/19 year.</p>
<p>Consider different charges for property owners running heavy vehicle businesses from their property; B Doubles and Earthmoving – not small rigid - cause large potholes to open and driveway entrance are usually potholed and broken. These vehicles do the majority of road damage, perhaps they should pay proportionately.</p>	<p>The submission is noted.</p> <p>Noted, however If you commence charging people for damage to roads, arguments arise regarding the frequency of truck movements, truck weights and design of access roads, all of which effect the relative level of damage done to Council assets.</p>
<p>The two options presented in the survey were limited. It would have been interesting to know the community's thoughts on reduced spending on Halloween and Lithglow etc. Perhaps the community would have accepted less pending in Libraries and town revitalisation? These are things that I enjoy and are excellent but don't see as a priority. Perhaps the Council could charge more for camping at Wallerawang and other services.</p> <p>I for one would be very sorry if there had to be any cuts to the Library Services for example.</p>	<p>Council is currently conducting services reviews which will help to determine affordable levels of service.</p>
<p>Make some significant cutbacks from within the operations of LCC. No Halloween, no Lithglow and more internal cut backs where possible – put things on hold for 2 or 3 years and then review the state of play.</p>	<p>The submission is noted.</p>
<p>Council should first conduct a review of its procedures, processes, planning and decision making to identify the inefficiencies within the organisation in order to improve the productivity of the organisation and improve the use and efficiency of the rate payers' money.</p>	<p>Council has been implementing a Performance Improvement Plan which includes review of key procedures, processes, planning and decision making to improve efficiency. Council is also implementing technological solutions, including an Asset Management System and online facility booking software.</p>
<p>There is a 3rd approach that could be considered by your managers – same rate + normal increase + more efficient use of funds, resources & human resources + minimal waste of same = better services.</p>	<p>Council developed a 'base case with improvements' Long Term Financial Plan scenario based on identified improvement opportunities. This scenario did not include a Special Rate Variation. With the improvements proposed, Council would be able to meet the balanced operating result benchmark but does not have sufficient funds for asset renewal nor to clear the infrastructure backlog. This means that Council is not Fit for the Future in this scenario.</p>
<p>I believe that there should be a redistribution of rates among the rating categories so farmers experience NO increase in rate, not even the rate cap for 2019/20. This model should be prepared and considered by Council before any decision is made.</p>	<p>The submission is noted.</p>
<p>A rate rise above the cap should only be contemplated once the following issues have been researched and/or implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive in obtaining revenue streams from other than rates • Has included revision of fees and charges • Investment resulting in substantial rental from a shopping centre complex 	<p>Lithgow Council initiated a thorough annual review of fees and charges from the 2018/19 year to ensure that the complete costs of providing services are recovered, where appropriate. Fees and Charges are reviewed annually and also as part of the Service Review process.</p> <p>In the past, Council has trialled working with the RMS on the maintenance of RMS-maintained assets. There is a significant administrative cost and burden on Council resources however. At this time, It is believed that</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tendering for RMS and other VPA works • a revision of Council policies re: road maintenance, no further sealing till backlog of assets brought up to scratch • Possibility of town improvement rate for stormwater drainage and buildings. 	<p>Council's focus must be on improving the condition of its own assets versus those of other authorities.</p> <p>This is occurring currently. With the exception of assets that have been identified as placing a particular drain on Council's maintenance resources as a result of their inherent nature, renewal projects are being prioritised in order to improve asset renewal ratios.</p>
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Community Feedback received after
11 January 2019

Monday, 7th January, 2019.

General Manager,
Lithgow City Council,
PO Box 19, Mort Street,
LITHGOW. NSW. 2790.

Scanned

13 JAN 2019

Doc Set ID

GA Ref

Years

Dear Sir / Madam,

Reference: SRV19-20

LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL (Mayor) *proposed* Special Rate Variation (SRV)
===== "only one-off permanent" Variation! =====

As 'Dear Ratepayer', I received by post on Thursday 13th December, 2018, a letter under Lithgow City Council (LCC) letterhead dated 4/12/2018. Signed by Cr. Ray. Thompson, Mayor, I was advised under reference "Proposed Special Rate Variation 2019/20" (PSRV) what I thought related to the otherwise previously undisclosed recent Rate (only 30-day) Notice of an annual increase like that on my property @ 1 Silcock cnr 69 Bent Streets for financial year (F/Y) 2018-19 @ \$5,402.76.....

from 2017-18 ... \$5,260.....
current increase = \$242.76 @ 2.745%

Upon reading LCC Mayoral letter just referred to above, I was confronted by the realization that the proposed SRV19-20 referred not to the new Australian French designed submarine; nor the latest Super Recreational Vehicle to hit the motor-market; but a complicated proposal to confuse rate payers enticed into a further 'squeeze' for additional funding. Based on two (2) only possible alternative/options put to rate payers inviting them to want to unlikely penalize themselves @ more that the current deprivation of already mandated accountability to compliant service provision entitlement duly paid in the 'one off' current base rate assessment but not fully delivered in 'permanent' postponement it seems ~~were~~ to be nonetheless supplemented rather than complemented, triggered by an additional 'one off' increase.

Thereafter permanent fetterment of a proposed single 4.23% impost to thereafter continue by targeting the already increased earlier 4.77% Mayoral move on rate payers without their previous participation (that I can recall), augmented on-going rate increases on the current 2018-19 @ 4.77% to thereafter be replaced by a slight reduction of - 0.54% to 4.23% either including (@ 9%) or excluding the former initial 4.77% if discontinued for provision of services **already mandated under the pre-existing base rate** (b/rate). Complicated in this way by *extra "Special" Rate funding "Variation"* (SRV) proposed by this greedy grab of all of the above: That is, BOTH base rate @ annual CPI adjustment and 'more money' on already b/rate paid provision non-enactment by LCC as delegated local level executive agent of government that nonetheless remains non-accountably not fully implemented non-compliantly regardless, so this fundamental contravention now requires 'more money' to prop up the breach in Council compliance to **continue enshrouded paradoxically in "one-off" "permanent" rises.**

Protected neverthe-less by only ever-the-more money proposal(s) in this way via *only a "one off" singular* introductory imposition of at least three (3) variations continuing/replaced PSRV in the Scenarios proposed would thereafter automatically roll over annually in what I understand to constitute "permanent" perpetuity @ increased rate(s) variation(s) proposed as either:

Scenario I: beginning 1 July 2018/19 4.77% expires replaced by 2.7% rate peg only..... = 2.7%
Scenario II " " " " " retained + " + one-off permanent 4.23% = 11.7%
Council 'limited' conciliatory proposal **TOTAL Discrepant 'Variation' = +9%**

Having hopefully encompassed in the previous only two (2) + (i.) Scenarios, the inherent contradiction of a "one off" tricky trigger of thereafter repeated palpable *permanent* continuing **target cumulative** incremental payments in perpetuity burden (proposal @ + 4.23% as set out above correctly I hope as a **net increase of 9%**) had been proposed to be instituted, initiated or instigated by 'one off' inauguration augmentation in 2019/20 to endure ('not expire') thereafter added onto the base rate as (I understand) a recurring **levy**: *raising or collecting as of money or troops, by authority of force*

as: 1. income; 2. insistence; 3. obligation; 4. tax; 5. beg; 6. charge; 7. impose; 8. insist on; 9. take
 [The Macquarie Dictionary & Thesaurus. 198. pp.232; 755].

The notion of *continuing* "one-off" repetition after its initial 'imposition; exacting; insist' [Oxford English Reference Dictionary. 1996,p.824] of the Proposal(s) described as a 'one-off' permanent 4.23% **annual roll-over continuing 'burden' on the continuing base rate thereafter is not in any way diminished by the fact of its initial "one off" discrete introductory establishment**: It could have been described just as appropriately, still correctly but no more clearly as a "*permanent one off*" payment.

But even so, in either case, the expression is **ambivalent** if not completely **contradictory in depicting** a "one off" permanent arrangement as compared in the following list of contrasting opposite meanings (antonyms) that co-exist concurrently side by side in the Mayoral formal explicit proposal as stated which if so, *comprehensively* cancell each other out in respect of their **contrary** meanings set out here:

"(only) a one-off"	irreconcilable with:	'permanent'
<p>one <i>adj.</i> United, whole, undivided, entire, integral, complete, integrated, intact, unitary, total [The Doubleday Roget's Thesaurus in Dictionary Form. Doubleday & Co.,Inc.,New York p.466]</p> <p>--- Being a single unit or individual; temporary; of a single kind or nature (distinct); unique or specially remarkable.</p> <p>One-off <i>adj.</i> Individual, unique; As e.g. book published in one print run. [Macquarie Dictionary. Second edn. 1991. p.1242-3. Published by Macquarie Library Pty Ltd, Macquarie University, NSW 2109 Aust.</p> <p>--- , -, <i>n. & pron.</i> Single and integral in number; a single person or thing; particular but undefined; <i>colloq.</i> emphatic a noteworthy example; a unit, unity; a good representation, example.</p> <p>One-off <i>colloq.</i> made or done as the only one, not repeated; the only example; something not repeated [Oxford English Reference Dictionary. 1996. Second edn. Oxford University Press, p.1015].</p>		<p><i>adj.</i> Durable, stable, fixed, lasting, irremovable, ...enduring, continuing, unchanging, perpetual, persistent, abiding steadfast. [D'day Roget's ,p.497]</p> <p><i>adj.</i> Lasting,or intended to last indefinitely remaining unchanged; not temporary; Enduring, abiding as water...throughout all seasons. As of: ---loan; magnet; press, way. [Macquarie,p.1320].</p> <p>---<i>adj.</i> Lasting or intended to last or function indefinitely[L.per-manere by-hand]. [Oxford, p.1081]</p>

Comprehending the juxtaposition of words in close proximity together in the sentence/expression "one-off (permanent) 4.23% SRV" "proposal" (uncertain outcome between two (2) + (i) options with CPI annual peg change(s)); comprising "one-off" settlement **once only completed** final transaction);

but contradictorily thereafter *continuing* "permanent" *continuous* impacting "Variation" (alteration) **changing** hike in rates @ either +2.7%; 6.93%; 9% or 11.7% that doesn't vary as "permanent" 'levy'.

depending on the potential of whether the current 2018-19 4.77% SRV either.....

continues

or

discontinues, elapsing differently on expiry!

without compromising comprehension..... implying 'only' a one-off proposed **increase** to in some way **diminish** consequential 'permanent' re-payment without variation is confusing at least; ambivalent at best.

Notwithstanding the f-actual 'material substance' (meaning) of the proposed SRV as 'permanent' to be saddled with no possible variation in a time of demonstrated volatile political within a proven economic climate more immediately exemplified by the property market 'correction' under imminent threat of an even more uncertain future on the outcomes of both up-coming Commonwealth and State elections would put pay to any prospect of a stable socio-economic future for the nation. In regard more specifically to the detailed ambiguity in the Mayoral proposal as stated in this uncertain time, the 'relativity' of the terms 'one-off' to in some way denote 'permanent' unchanging fetterment to an unvariable debt burden in contempt of the embeddedness of these issues determined ultimately in its community context which indifference has been aptly demonstrated by LCC essential non-compliant non-enactment of its mandate thereto more than adequately demonstrate not only in the situation currently caused to require the Mayoral bald simplistic unqualified 'more money' approach'.

Reflected in the situation caused by the exploitation of rates rather than accountability thereto seems to have been (inadvertently?) encapsulated in the bureaucratic cloistered wording thereof. Since Einstein's Theory of Relativity was settled by dropping the Atom Bomb, 'relative socio-economic disadvantage' of the Mayoral stated proposal can similarly be felt from the **positivity** of the contradictory dictionary meanings contrasted in the previous analysis of antonyms above to now challenged the relativity of Post-Modern deconstruction from attendant assumed colloquial cultural baggage essential to a first-time reading understanding in common everyday useage. Packed up in the long tradition of adaptive communication to meet variable circumstances becomes complicated by additional nuances and implications developed in relation to cultural contexts of use not often adequately represented to this extent in abstract 'dictionary' meaning looked at very much after-the-fact as it were, subsequently analytically described to make up for lost contexts of possible variable suggestive meanings in word use application 'relativity' of communicative (or not) explicit internal sentence syntax adaptability.

Close syntactical analysis of "once" along with considerations from "one" in differently arranged sentences undertaken by Fowler according to resulting determinative contexts of variable meaning in usage situations illustrated how a word normally used as an adverb descriptor of the verb action as in 'once a year, annually' in the Mayoral proposal (as distinct from other dictionary meanings of 'one person or thing') was identified according to many noun 'types' construction which led to the astute observation that:

It will be observed that acceptable sentences are produced in each case by a simple re-arrangement of the elements (of the aberrant ones)

[The New Fowler's Modern English Usage. 3rd ed., 1996. Oxford Uni.Press, pp.549-50].

It might be coincidentally recalled at this juncture how the arrangement of two contrasting Mayoral expression were juxtaposed next to each other in order to clarify automatically assumed alternate (opposite) meaning(s) in the expressions: **one-off** (permanent) 4.23% SRV; **permanent one-off**. The difference in emphasis availed by the collocation swap suggesting (to my mind) that the first rendition favoured Mayoral preference in forefronting the 'one-off' aspect to emphasize its singular impact in order to **alternately diminish** its impact which might then operate to that extent as a "puff": the focus on its singularity might **induce** rate payers to perhaps accept be unaware of an otherwise unwelcome burden of extended 'permanent' effect of signing up to the proposal. By contrast, its "one off" impact is not diminished in any way in the second alternative rendition that would obviously not be preferred by rate payers on realisation of the permanent burden they were to endure well into the future without any relief. That is to suggest or imply overall that the "One-off" permanent SRV has been promoted as *only* a 'one-off' burden: To this extent, the impication of its modification as diminishing the full effect (as permanent) is conveyed by the 'one-off' notion of "only" 'solely, merely, exclusively, uniquely, singly, alone, just, but no more' [Rogets,p.467]. If so, the Mayoral expressions together in the one sentence arrangement is an apparent attempt to diminish full disclosure transparency (part concealment as 'only one-off') for what is, in fact, a "permanent" prospect of on-going persistent undiminished payments not fully disclosed.

Whether this would constitute out and out MISREPRESENTATION under the tort of deceit may not be the primary issue if there is still enough doubt and uncertainty (ambivalence) to **suggest this strategy as inducement as (I contend) is clearly conveyed in the Mayoral word arrangement in the stated "Scenario 2"** that therefore has rendered it as implication *sufficiency* under:

The elements of misrepresentation....to establish actionable...., the representation made to the representee, directly or indirectly must comprise:

* a **false statement of fact past or present** in respect of *partial disclosure*;
becomes false later;

parties are in a fiduciary relationship consideration 'uberrimae fidei'.

* that was **intended to induce** the representee (into agreement);
did in fact **operate** as an inducement

[Carvan,J.C., J.V.Gooley, E.L.McRae1997. *A Guide to Business Law*. 12th edn.
LBC Information Services. Sydney.p.183].

Even so, under *any* circumstance where the lesser party has been disadvantaged in any way by inequity in bargaining power on the allegoric 'flat playing field' if resorted to by a significantly stronger more advantaged party deriving directly from LCC Mayoral Statutory mandate unquestionably but even more by a duty to transparently disclose pertinent pivotal information without ambivalence and to correct any likely implication or statement later discovered not to be true or clearly evident as so.

Consequently, classification as misrepresentation has been legally possible in relation to 'various types of false, deceptive and misleading statements' (under *Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth)* [Carvan et al,p.187] which can then be determined as 'innocent, fraudulent or negligent to prescribe the remedy available for the benefit obtained by the particular deception caused [Baird, Ainslie, Costa Avgoustinos & Penelope McCann. 2014. *Make Decisions in a Legal Context*. 3rd edn, Better teams Publications, Maroubra, NSW.p.75]. Any comparative advantage gained therefrom directly would occur:

when a party makes false claims or representations about something in an attempt to induce someone into a contract from which the person suffers damage. A misrepresentation can be established....'. But is not limited to the primary falsity of the 'material substance' or the 'state of mind' of the representator (intention), but is sufficient to suggest possible misrepresentaion even if:

Misrepresentation suggestive 'sufficiency'

...there may have been any number of inaccuracies in unimportant details...(but even) ...if the general impression conveyed is false, the most punctilious and scrupulous accuracy in immaterial minutiae will not avail to render the representation true

*In my opinion any behaviour, by words or conduct, is sufficient to be a misrepresentation if it is such as to **mislead** the other party about the existence or extent of the exemption. If it conveys a false **impression**, that is enough. If the false impression is created knowingly, it is fraudulent misrepresentation; if it is created unwittingly, it is an innocent misrepresentation;*

*but either is **sufficient** to disentitle the creator of it to the benefit of the exemption.*

(Curtis v Chemical Cleaning & Dyeing Co. Ltd (1951) 1 K.B. 805, C.A., per Denning, L.J., at pp.808,809) quoted in Saunders,John B. 1968. Words and Phrases Legally Defined. Vol 3, 2nd ed. Butterworths, London. Misrepresentation pp.274-5].

Alternately, the innocent party can void the potential agreement (Carvan p.184) considered to be 'non est factum' if (considered as) resulting from a mistaken (mis-)understanding as to the fundamental nature of the agreement on grounds of the term which:

*translates as 'not my doing', and occurs where a party without carelessness, signs a document fundamentally different to what the person **believed** the document to be.*

As in the circumstance of the Mayoral statement presented to rate payers on LCC letter head derives authoritative advantage of LCC legislated mandate as government instrumentality at local level and additionally from the advantaged status as Mayor under that delegated privilege in such a way as to (presume to...) take **unfair advantage** of the weaker party UNCONSCIONABLY as legally defined (Australian Consumer Law (ACL) ss.21-22 if conduct between the parties is deemed unequal under which a situation may arise '...when one party has more bargaining power then the other...which is resorted to...in order to induce a desired outcome of benefit or even by duress to impose 'illegitimate pressure brought to bear through threats or actual physical violence or deprivation' [Carvan p.184].

Pendleton et al. (pp.217-8) described "Unconscionable conduct under statute law" *Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) s. 51AB (previously s. 52A)* as prohibited under Commonwealth and State legislation *Contracts Review Act 1980 (NSW)* because of 'factors such as unequal power relationship in the bargaining process, infirmity (illness), other incapacity, or unfair pressure, undue influence or unfair tactics on the basis of a "Constitutional basis" to protect 'basic consumer rights' (pp.449-451] if it was shown to '...engage in conduct that is misleading ~~to~~ deceptive or likely to **mislead or deceive**;

to 'pressure' acceptance of any agreement on 'unreasonable terms" deemed' harsh, oppressive or unconscionable' (p.217). In such situations the courts would likely consider determinative factors to include:

In exercising these (advantaged) powers,...takes into account the public interest ...(by) such questions as *Was there inequality of bargaining power in regard to:

.. in real opportunity to negotiate?

.. in their property use if not outright ownership (only tenure at best);

and having paid rates & charges accordingly as prescribed, exemplified in this instance;

*without accountability to either the council mandate or its contextual validity determined by agreed independently assessed community cost-price indexes not only ignored but beligerently contradicted @ about at least 17%+ (up to 40% overall (Sydney) property price fall) to potential 57% unsustainability. In the LCC circumstance, the local press reported that they had been advised by LCC representative 'spit-the-dummy' approach resort to 'undue influence' in **threatening** by reference to 'unfair pressure' of a possible **Scenario III perhaps?** *An alternative to a Special Rate Variation application is to reduce services to deliver a balanced operating result, consistent with 't-it for f-uture' requirements* [Village Voice "News" Issue 241 – 14 December, 2018,p.6]*

Prioritization of LCC un-'balanced operating result...Fit for Future' by disadvantaged deprivation on biased Scenario scales of Mayoral manipulated Justice in view of which threat by Council as stronger party to withhold legislated service provision mandate **contravention** already paid for by rates as consideration non-accountably to previous formal Notification disclosure MISREPRESENTATION would seem to constitute 'sufficient' grounds to be deemed **unconscionable** based on:

an **imbalance** (to deliver a *balanced* operating result) in bargaining power between the parties; by which the weaker (vulnerable rate payer) party was attempted to be **influenced by an enticement** ('only a one-off' but *partially* disclosed "permanent" levy) to entice them into acceptance of LCC VICTIMIZED-INTIM(id)ATION by a Mayoral proposal based on contradictory **ambivalence, import and suggestiveness (threat)**. Its (ambiguity) might be misconstrued by many in fully understanding the proposal as "one-off permanent" arrangement in particular by which *unfair* pressure has been presumed under advantaged privileged authority delegated to LCC precisely to enact its executive role at local level implementation instead evaded through recourse to overall MISREPRESENTATION (Carvan et al, pp.188-93) promoted under **pressure** of statutory advantage presumed by naïve rate payers felt, not unreasonably **intimidated** under council mandate as executive authorised government instrumentality 'undue influence'.

If so, then the parameter principles of **unconscionability** deduced in *Commercial Bank of Australia v Amadio* (1983) 141 CLR 447 by the High Court would be applicable in relation to the Ruling on the presence of certain factors as legal criteria making it unconscionable for the bank in that instance to rely on security of the parents in their son's application for a loan on grounds specified more generally as applicable to the legal notion of:

Unconscionable dealing looks to the conduct of the stronger party in attempting to enforce, or retain the benefit of a dealing with a person under a special disability in circumstances where it is not consistent with equity of good conscience that he should do so. The adverse circumstances which may constitute a special disability.....may take a wide variety of forms and are not susceptible to being comprehensibly catalogued. [Carvan et .al.,pp.193-4]

In addition to the 'material substance' meaning of the sentence conveyed in context of its intended impact suggested by the internal **relativity** of words adapted interrelationship to each other in the immediate sentence contextual arrangement can also be conceptualised in broader environmental analysis through sociological considerations of communicative exchange exposed by Post Modern (Sociological) critical analysis. A more universal combined approach was exemplified in contextual considerations of the question "Does Santa Claus really exist?". Rationalised from different ages of a child caught up in this cultural illusion from positions of infantile gullibility extends from questioning doubt to outright opportunism, but no matter which strategy was adopted, all were merely to placate his parents in order to ensure delivery of his presents on the pretext that he did not wish to 'disillusion his parents' by resort to a 'functional belief enabling him to identify himself as a more mature and sophisticated figure' as: *one who can accept the symbolic meaning of gifts in the manner of an adult. Contrary to the beliefs of Clauseologists and Positivists, the meaning of Santa Claus does not depend solely in his existence or non-existence. The question "Does Santa Claus exist?" may be misleading as George Herbert Mead said: "Reality is itself a social process" [Warren O.Hagstrom. "What is the meaning of Santa Claus?" In Lewis A.Coser(ed.)1980. *The Pleasures of Sociology.Sociological Whimsy*. p.511].* In contrast to Santa's pregnant plausibility just outlined, rate payers are left in no doubt as to the reality of LCC Mayor: So rate payers are in complete sympathy with all these misgivings left in no doubt as to the significance of this Mayoral montage in view of the very real proposal put to them in the Mayoral disguise *alter ego* pretensions as Santa with his seasonal sack of formal statutory sentences ("one off" proposal propositions and permanent penurious 'life' sentences served out @ excessive rates).

Alleged as rate payer goodies and services gratuitously strewn about dispensed among service-starved rate payers on a "one off" reckless Christmas sleigh ride of preposterous shiny coruscate proposals. Christmas wrapped hidden in gratuitous gifts concealed in gaudy ambivalent obfuscation attempts by this camoufflage to conceal permanent in-debt-edness in perpetuity pulled out of the seasonal "one off" Santa sack of "puff" inducements to consign rate payers to their own incarceration in 'permanent' unrelenting debt to LCC. Such positivist pretense all-purpose proposal ab-solutions as if absolutes to cure Santa's conscience through absolution apparently. Presented in such p(r)etty parcel packaging to hide their *true* predatory purpose and **imperious** impact have been more than readily recognised in marketing manipulative M.O. (*Modus Operandi* (mis-) representation as "puffs" to entice the unwary (presumed *caveat emptor*) by such 'hot air' smoke-and-mirrors' concealment as 'mere **puffery**':

deception used in advertising and selling to *exaggerate* the attributes of a product or service beyond its true value to **entice** the gullible *entrapped by potential misrepresentation* inducement of the naïve reader into contractual agreement *denied total transparency* [Pendelton, Wayne and Roger Vickery. 1995. *Australian Business Law*. Principles and applications. Prentice Hall Australia. p.210].

In view of Mayoral manipulation of the formal proposal syntax 'collocation' by forefronting its "(only) one off" instance prioritized in this way reduces the initial impact of its following permanent debt burden repayment accumulation by the sophistry of suggesting its repayment relates to only a "one off" seasonal seducement. Exemplified by the once-a-year Christmas delusion illustrated above, no longer can a straight forward uncomplicated abstracted dedicated dictionary meaning be attributed to words *in abstracto*, nor facetiously be discarded either as mere vexacious obscurantism, nit-picking literalism or didactic dilatantism that this analysis may well invite but to which government bureaucracy is certainly no stranger either according to use of their own bureaucrateeze as the Mayoral expression illustrates in this instance. Based on formalised contradictory EQUIVOCATION of a "one off" permanent many annual payments in perpetuity stretches the notion of "one-off" singularity if incorporating its many "permanent" plural manifestations into the future without any foreseeable end in sight.

Conclusively precluded by Mayoral stated 'permanent' enduring fixture proposed as beyond any 'one off' once-for-all settlement, the artifice of language arrangement in this curious seemingly contradictory sentence construction and its consequent potential **obfuscation** to dispell the factual effect of attached inescapable following permanent (re-)payment burden, subordinated to the "one off" imposition of the strategy. Incidental forefronted by the suggestive *syn-tactical* word arrangement was not helped by the statement reported in *Village Voice* which reached the pinnacle of bureaucratclimatic ambivalence.

As conveyed in the even more curious reflexive **convoluted ambivalence** of the additional expression intermixed by considerations the reader was told derive from Council alleged overwhelming concern for the 'community's capacity to pay'. Such a comment as to its f-actual substantive sincerity goes to the nature of its 'material substance' not unreasonably doubted since rate payers have, in fact, already paid in 'good faith' (*uberrimae fidei*) for service delivery mandated in the base rate assessment disclosed at financial year (f/y) end by the previous annual Rate Notice. So it is little wonder that rate payer scepticism of the Article contextualised apparent common '*relative socio-economic disadvantage*' in recognition of the rate payer perspective as it may concern some rate payers who '...may at times experience difficulty paying rates and annual charges, irrespective to their income'. But shedding these crocodile tears is then claimed to have been not only ameliorated by Council's 'financial hardship policy' AND its all-consuming community-considerate "one-off permanent arrangement" then further obfuscated by Council claim to its own 'limited' cost/return foregone by this adjusted proposal whilst ignoring its 'relative socio-economic (dis-)advantage' correspondingly on rate payers (in-)equitably.

LCC Mayoral BIAS on selectively (mis-)representing LCC claim to disadvantage whilst conveniently ignoring the permanent 'pound of flesh' extorted from rate payers to pay a greedy grab as the many supplementary rises double-dip each other – the PSRV into b/rate and vice versa apparently then also adding the rate peg as the final stab in the back for the only statutory legitimate authorisation for cost of living adjustments leverage anticipated for delivery of 'services in line with community expectations'. 'Though clearly NOT with LCC generally and its Mayor in particular, LCC Mayor claimed proposed rate increases were justified as necessary '...to ensure that they meet the needs of our community' which '...places high value on these assets'. This glib acknowledged nod to the community good implicated thereby as reason to justify their exploitation by the 'permanent' Mayoral P/SRV 'one off' permanent continuing rate increase(s) to follow is as good a wavering wink in its patronizing obfuscating nod to its constituents 'front' on the one hand to on the other, backhandedly obscure rate **nobbling** thereby.

LCC Mayoral obfuscatory M.O. to legitimate ambivalent concealment of such 'permanent' increases deviously imposed 'only' on a 'one off' basis ambivalently by reference to the ostensible word choice as arranged in the sentence proposal previously described immediate context of accompanying implied generous; considerate; but 'relative' "limited" SRV formal proposal in recognition of a yet further protracted claimed ambivalence can be formally verified as fully contextualised in this quote:

"relative socio-economic disadvantage by limiting the proposal to retain the current 4.77% SRV...". Already doubting nervous rate payers must shudder to think what LCC *un-limited* proposal might amass in having to dodge this rapid fire of 'one-off' shots bombardment targeting their understanding as well as their money if this is proposed as a 'limited' 'one off/permanent' scenario(s) confusion of the plurality of its singularity claimed! In this regard alone – even before considering fundamental f-actual material misrepresentation, rate payers have a genuine concern to be suspicious whilst they patiently wait for LCC compliant service provision '*permanently*' paid for but *pro-vocatively postponed*.

Even 'though already paid for in the 'one off' b/rate coincidental arrangement only to be lambasted in the interim by this DOUBLE Disadvantaging equivocation by confusion as 'only a one off' in order to evade ultimate permanent NON-accountability to not only the initial service provision itself under legislated mandate but its subsequent *obfuscatory* evasion prevaricated in this way by reference to formal proposal ambivalence in BOTH word and deed. The resulted *de*-levelling of the playing field by a 'limited' proposal (of a yet to be authorised legitimacy assumed preemptorily) justified 'to retain' the 4.77% only authorised until f/y end 2019 yet presumed by LCC Mayor to provide the (unauthorised basis for) an overall increase of 11.7%! In view of such claimed self-righteousness by LCC generous 'limited' proposal written *one-off* as collateral damage of little consequence in view of the 9% overall benefit to be gained was gratuitously granted from LCC imperious privileged statutory authorisation.

But ironically, all presumed under an unfulfilled mandate in as to take the notion of 'discretionary' legitimacy into the realms of fictitious fantasy: As the huge painted snow-white elephant in the regulatory room when so precociously presumed legitimacy under statutory privilege is yet without the prescribed authorisation, what likelihood is there that the PSRV increase albeit only initiated by 'one off' permanent proposal in the Mayoral statement prioritized arrangement of words simplistically forefronting its 'only one-off' aspect: How will this Mayoral mock concern be any more forthcoming in compliant delivery of corresponding INCREASED service provision? Other than simply *servicing as a convenient MISAPPROPRIATION* to merely mask Mayoral masquerade at delivering the community those additional 'highly valued' services required of councils now *even before they have compliantly delivered services already mandated* which yet remain still non-accountably in "one-off" anticipation instead, in 'permanent' abeyance leaves rate payers left in the legislated mandated non-enacted lurch.

Mock-Mayoral motivation masking permanence of its impact in actual realised f-act either imposed or not already paid for but 'threatened' withholding whilst promising the additional New Age expectations seems overly disingenuous: Fostered by coigning claims for 'more money' left without any indication that service delivery of any of these services will ever become a "one-off" reality is not unrealistic given the "permanent" proven track record of this Council already a matter of public record that has left deprived rate payers not only of their entitled services paid for but of rates money already paid too.

Waiting for service delivery still to be compliantly implemented short-fall even 'though already paid for in utmost good faith but not possible so apparently motivating this desperate cry "Wolf" in damage control emergency clothed so cunningly in sheepish community concern (yet not provided) conceived by LCC Mayoral desperate cry simply for 'more money' to enable **community's priorities to be met according to the base rate already paid!** Having already paid our dues, our not unreasonable rate payer apprehension – although admittedly stretched *compre*-hension by not only the ambivalence of the Mayoral 'relative' alternative(s) but more so in view our direct personal experience of LCC well established 'permanent' record in *apprehended* non-compliant non-provision demonstrated.

LCC fundamental non-accountability to rate payers genuine high value concerns to meet their needs duly conceded in fawning acknowledgement by the Mayor seems to be suffering under some considerable credibility gap whilst claiming considerate degree of guilty conscience: Acknowledging the community high-value needs and priorities which have nonetheless been deprived them; caught out in current non-compliance perhaps so now requiring 'more money' to meet these already paid for compliant enacted legislated provision full entitlement implementation(?), Mayoral awareness of our plight as rate payers common concern claimed was not assisted either by additional information conveyed in the *Village Voice* Article in Mayoral latest shots fired over the already elevated stern of the sinking Titanic on its trajectory of rate payers last p(r)ayers before consigned to the everlasting 'permanent' deep to drown down into eternal damnation in the depths of ambiguity of The Proposed SRV for their 'relative' but very real S-elect R-ate-payer Victimisation.

Depicted in "Has Council considered the community's capacity to pay?" (News Issue 241, 14 December, 2018, page 6), The Article stated presumably to offer some re-assurance of its supposed good will by not only imposing the current 4.77% without any community participatory discussion (for which reason, no doubt, Council has been careful to attempt to soften this beligerent blow by appearing so consolate to its impact since caused by Council itself!). So disingenuously it would appear, LCC has then claimed some 'relative limitation' of its own to attempt to discount any individual impact on residential rate payer households as insignificant by comparison if merely to include this increase estimated at \$1 per residential household per week. Relegated into 'relative' obscurity by comparison with the millions LCC has quoted which, 'relatively' it must be compared, it stands to gain, not loose from this proposal extorted @ 'relative' rate payer 'permanent' additional expense clearly stated by The Mayoral Scenarios for what they have already paid for in absolute good faith for no provision.

Already re-iterated throughout this Appeal along with the proposed 4.23% just to prove its genuine concern not for the community's but Council's own claimed 'socio-economic disadvantage' is at least LCC *disingenuous advantage* at reaping only a 9% harvest on a potential right to claim 4.77 + 4.23 + 2.7% peg as well *hypothetically!* So rate payers ought to consider themselves lucky that Council has not pushed the envelope completely as it seems to be claiming a right to do @ a potential total claim of 11.7% to Council's spurious 'relative' disadvantage (of only 2.7%) diverted onto rate payers already conceded "socio-economic disadvantage" currently included in the present rates! How genuine is that?

By 'relative' comparison, LCC has been reaping higher 'relative' proportional rate returns on land valuation sales boom of up to 40% reflected in increase rates up to July 2017 carried over from Valuer General calculation on 3-year estimates. Used to calculate current "one-off" values combined together in one tri-annually thereafter permanent for the next three-year period, these values for tri-accual 2016-19 will eventually expose the subsequent cooling of the property market experienced by rate payer 'socio-economic disadvantage' of steadily reducing returns on property capital invested whilst having to hurdle inverse excessive jumps well above CPI and inflation indexes claimed by LCC to 'limit' it to increases of at least 9 to at most 11.7%:

that is, at least 4 x to 5 x CPI indexes – not to mention flat wage growth over that time; nonetheless impacted by expenses like those engineered by LCC @ between 9 to 11.7%.

LCC chameleon (shameless) claim to 'relative' socio-economic disadvantage self-imposed 'limited' response to suggest LCC attempted containment of its initial preferred proposal to impose ALL rises totalling 11.7% reduced to only 9% out of consideration for the affected rate payer community is suspect from at least two (2) perspectives:

overall LCC gain of at least 9% comparative bargaining benefit gleaned for advantaged statutory status; contrasted to: times when the community is suffering the 'relative socio-economic disadvantage' of: degenerating cost pressures on capital deflation reflected in house sales 'correction'; additionally impacted by rising energy and living costs which LCC can simply re-coup by rate-raising.

Detailed below which in view of the inverse ratios just calculated must seriously question LCC Math. let alone its claimed philanthropy sacrificed in the concern for the community beguiling hoodwink set out in its advice relayed in the local press which in other Articles has painted a completely different "Scenario" to that envisaged by LCC Mayor.....:

In considering the community's capacity to pay a Special Rate Variation Council has thoroughly researched its community's level of socio-economic disadvantage, its rating structure compared with neighbouring councils, ratepayer income levels and changes in land values. Council has recognised its relative socio-economic disadvantage by limiting the proposal to retain the current 4.77% SRV plus an additional Special Rate Variation of 4.23% increase (plus rate peg) thereby seeking only a one-off, single year increase of 9% which does not expire. In 2019-29, the total SRV increase will be 11.7% (inclusive of the 2.7% rate peg.)

According to LCC characteristic *inverse il*-logic with LCC claim to its considerate 'limited' logic, the sting is in the tail: That LCC Mayor has proposed a "only a one-off permanent increase as any sort of 'limited' sacrifice of 2.7% presumed right to any increase nonetheless gleaned @ between 'limited' gain as any sort of 'dis-advantage' + 4 to x 5 times CPI in LCC characteristic **contradiction of 'relative' rate payer socio-economic disadvantage** still to be given at least equal consideration whilst differentially denied mandated services already paid for during severe 'limitation' (@ 2.7% INCLUDED) by contrast to LCC reaping 'more money' in contempt of evidence from the dire local community economics amply reflected by the vacant Main Street shops clearly not visible from Mort Street LCCloistered Chamber.

LCC claimed obliviousness to the almost free fall in property prices since the 2017 peak confirmed in descriptions in the following completely diametrically contrasting extracts: All clearly portray the aberration between the 'material substance' of the grounds offered to justify let alone legitimate the Mayoral MISREPRESENTATION by:

Realestate.com.au chief economist Nerida Conisbee said owners who struggled to sell often priced them too high when they were initially released to market.....

This made it difficult to attract buyers and the long listing periods often further discouraged buyers, who often assumed the failure to sell was the result of a major defect, Ms Conisbee said.

The median price of a Sydney home dropped 8.1 per cent. over the past year and is now at the same level it was at the end of 2016, CoreLogic data showed.

The median price has also dropped a total of 9.5 per cent. Since July 2017 – which is now recognised as the market peak. [“Homes first listed when Kevin Rudd was PM”. Exclusive.

Aidian Devine. Sunday Telegraph Sunday. December 16, 2018. Page 31].

The community catastrophe from which LCC Mayor has inequitably immunised himself from by claim to 'relative' advantaged statutory status bargaining authority power on this score is at least irrefutably concluded from the consistent contrary f-actual evidence detailed herein from all other various sources – admittedly outside the closed-door cloister of LCC Mort Street Council Chambers without exception corroborates the down-turn in viability just verified by the data referenced above elsewhere throughout this Appeal for its transparent not least responsible if not responsive LCC recognition.

This more recent material trend in the Sydney market correlated from factual data referenced therein corroborates actual contrary data conveyed earlier in the local Lithgow press Article “Property Market Update”. It depicted a seemingly perilous plunge into the prospect of a depressing doldrum as no mere 'one-off' occurrence but a 'prolonged' “permanent” dive into the depths of unsustainability based on:

National dwelling values decreased again in September, making twelve consecutive months of falling values. The result firmly marks the end of the boom in the Australian housing market and what may be a prolonged housing price correction.

Although this current 'correction' was driven primarily by the startlingly outcomes seen in the capital cities of Sydney/Melbourne, the clear trend nonetheless disapated down the line into local 'markets within markets' corresponding festooning catch-up falls that generally followed the wider trend where values had dropped overall by 6.1 per cent trickle-down now heading for a deluging flood impacting:

Buyers had experienced remarkable double digit growth in many of the years preceding this period.

While people who bought over the preceding year will certainly not be overly happy with where values are, a large pool of owners are still sitting on large capital gains.

[Charles Tarby, Chairman and Owner of Century 21. Reported in *Village Voice* Issue 232 – 12 October 2018. News. p.]

With wider more extreme impact in Regional Areas already suffering from a prolonged drought and excessive energy and associated transport costs:

Regional NSW is home to 2.9 million people, comprising 412 % of NSW population making it the largest most diverse regional economy in Australia. According to our drought survey, 84 per cent of businesses in regional NSW have been negatively affected by the state's crippling drought with cash flow impacted adversely.

Our local small businesses are a vital part of the economy as a whole, and their success is essential to economic growth and prosperity.

A recent international study found that for every dollar spent at a small business, 68 percent funnels back into the local community, compared with just 46 percent from major retailers.

[*Village Voice* Issue 228 – “News” 14 September, 2018. p.8].

'Relative' more to LCC own lackidazical legacy of non-compliant non-accountability to provision according to rates already paid in good faith for dissimilarly deprived DISadvantage 'relative' LCC advantage of ~~rate~~ increases envisaged by the Mayor in denial of the community catastrophe colapsing just outside Council Chambers Ivory Tower Mort-ifying isolation ~~by promoting~~ even further inequality.

Now reflected so obviously – that is to say, EXPOSED by the material substance of the legacy of LCC non-accountability to its statutory mandate impacting to the re-conciliatory 'limited' 'relative socio-economic dis-(?)advantage' (tongue-in-cheeky *pro tem/ad hoc* provisional (certainly NOT provisioned as mandated!) conciliatory adjustment. MISCHIEVOUSLY claimed by LCC Mayor BIAS without equitable consideration for that imposed on already disadvantaged rate payers is soon to be hit by the proposed Mayoral money DOUBLE WHAMMY on top of capital depreciation not accounted for in rate increases well above State living cost indexes by which double hit, *disadvantaged* rate payers VICTIMIZATION in this biased way from which LCC has sought not only to isolate itself but to which it is contemptuously **non-accountable to the socio-economic morass to which it is itself still concurrently contributing.**

Mayoral proposal(s) to exacerbate even more by indifference to the community compromised circumstance exacerbated by raising rates so indiscriminately to burden those already 'relatively limited' by LCC own imposed 'relative socio-economic DISadvantage' of long suffering patient rate payers still awaiting their mandated entitlement to service provision with impartiality without bias currently being so considerably (?) exercised against them because of LCC's own default. By direct comparison with LCC 'Mayoral heartless 'more money' mantra extortion of the community catastrophic situation in a time of drought and demonstrated down-turn in land values but rising cost of living, LCC previous nonchallant non-accountability to its rate payer mandate has seemingly come back to bite itself as it were, now by the denigrating list of ageing and decaying infrastructure, etc. highlighted by the Mayor himself in his detailed list paradoxically used by him to support "one-off/permanent" Scenario proposal(s) for SRV increases made necessary ironically by LCC own non-compliant non-accountancy under cover of BIASED-balanced 'Fit-for-Future' funding junket fixation.

So the 'relative disadvantage' claimed *mischievous myopia* by LCC Mayor misrepresentation of the community's capacity to pay' conjecture is suspect whilst made in denial of a more comprehensive community economic context of the overall national context and New South Wales in particular. The Mayoral biased myopia from only LCC bureaucratic conscience from its own perspective of fundamental culpability in non-compliant non-accountability to its legislated mandate, let alone its community constituency only acknowledged in reference to LCC claim to motivation to fulfill rate payers' high value New Age pretensions must by contrast be understood as bureaucratic comparatively Mort Street oriented myopic conceptualisation. To that extent, 'relatively' potentially mis-representative of the local Lithgow community 'relative socio-economic disadvantage' is in complete diametric contrast to LCC statutory advantaged authority accessed to promote the Mayoral 'more money' drive allegedly for more 'high value' community services differently recognised and to this degree MISREPRESENTED in expectations and values differently specified in the Mayoralist.

Elsewhere in this comparative short-sighted 'limited' BIAS claimed by imposition of only a 'one off' 4.23% ON AN ALREADY LEVERAGED 4.77% contemptuous expungement in the threatened formal context of the Mayoral statement. Reported in the Article as following on from the mention of 'relative socio-economic disadvantage' in the previous paragraph consideration of 'the community's capacity to pay' perspective but ONLY from the Mayoral manipulative 'more money' mantra BIAS alleged research findings according only to 'Council's own 'relative socio-economic *advantage' (*for more money) was **piggy-backed** on the bent backs of the overstressed community demonstrated good faith 'relative socio-economic DISadvantage' still to be given any equitable fair unbiased consideration as providing the assumed bottomless pit of already rate-payer funded "Piggy Bank" pre-emptorily banked on to bank roll Mayoral funding 'Fit-for-Future' big Whitephantasy banking up unviably into unsustainability.

Despite r/payer PREJUDICED @ least 16+% for loyalty, LCC has claimed to insulate itself from its mandate (ie. constitutncy and constitution) in ways that derive from the broader overall encompassing community context in which the Mayoral proposed scenarios are at least 4 x to at most up to 9 x (@ 17% if including PSRV @ 9 + land value depreciation @ 6/7%, either of which is outrageous in the circumstantial contempt shown by LCC for the supporting wider economy in which it is exploiting its ADVANTAGE LEVERAGING to disadvantage r/payers whilst assisting in causing the resulting unsustainability inflicted thereon by their advantaged insulation from the surrounding economy which is sustaining the damage caused by such unfair inconsistency in cost blow outs inflating values for service provision already costed and paid @ rates under LCC mandate to now out of all 'relative' proportion to those documented elsewhere in the economy to wit. The recent drop in fuel price by about 7% in crude oil per barrel; wages bottoming out to remain flat whilst profits have increased @ about 2% bolstered by about 1.5% productivity gains retained within companies instead of shared with employees apparently; but more generally reflected in the Aussie Dollar around \$0.72 US slide of 8% recently dropped even further to \$0.67 then flattened out @ \$0.69 US as at 1/1/19.

So a prosperous New Year has been ensured for LCC at least by capitalising on our disadvantage and their comparative inequitabl~~ly~~ bargaining leveraging @ about 20-30% in local land valuation increases up to July 2017. But rate payers tied to their declining property value additionally impacted by drought and LCC rate rises are **entrapped in the converse *surrupicious silent slide* down ^{a very} slippery slope.**

Mayoral manipulation into unsustainability brings the prospect of foreclosure of mortgages secured earlier but now limited by the credit "crunch" leaving rate payers much more vulneable to the very real prospect of seeing any potential 'one off' sale, left as the most and possible only option at the dead end of the chain of culpability which has left them in limbo of seemingly unrelenting *permanent* ennuï of the perpetual only even more infliction of rate rises as the most vulnerable in the community to become enmeshed in the spiralling down cycle of personal anxiety and frustration. So often leading to serious depression more acutely felt in regional NSW by farmers in particular struggling at the same time with "permanent" drought forced into irreversible liquidation of their capital by Mayoral fund-farming

Along with LCC Mayoral distortion of its community 'relative socio-economic disadvantage' compared to that of Council's enjoyed privileged statutory advantage enabling it to impose additional hardship @ 17% ~~out~~ of kilter with the surrounding 'socio-economis disadvantage' of its community exploited thereby are no longer limited to 'relatively' 'one' off infrequency of previous times nonetheless part-and-parcel of living with hardships in regional areas that could only be weathered by recourse to the capital of the family farm now no longer able to be relied upon as permanent security. Necessarily liquidated in time of hardship to solve rate payer "one-off" solution by even more devastating "one-off" sale without recourse to future security has been demolished in this PREJUDICIAL way in one fell swoop.

Nonetheless, still having to meet rising costs in what they feel incriminates them for the burden imposed so inconsiderately but even more concering, unnecessary and indeed, caused by LCC previous non-compliant non-accountability to its rate payers and in particular their paid consideration for duly entitled mandated service provision. Thereafter only envisaged in promoting permanent disadvantage by such one-off/permanent inventiveness of the Mayor "more money" mantra into eternal penury, rate payers are now threatened by imminent images of LCC Mayoral manificent marketing manipulation in manifesting the 'mysteries' of legislation described in Farrier, when even more mysteriously, enacted implementation is missing in already seriously deprived service provision documented in the Mayor's own list helpfully provided to rate payers as if to rub salt into this assault on our proven verisimilitude.

Set out in the list helpfully provided by the Mayoral letter presumed protected authorisation as local government instrumentality claiming immunity under civil proceedings brought against a council but not equitably if resorted to by a council through the court system in exacting over-due rates to enforce its regulatory role against wayward rate payers and land 'owners' inevitably experienced by all rate payers who have noted the exactitude with which even the slightest arrears are added surrepticiously onto the next rates bill!

Outside the main area of legal practice, under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the law has not been explored by the courts to any extent. Much of it is hidden from view behind the doors of government departments. It is unlikely that this will always be the case.

Farrier, David. 1993. *The Environmental Law Handbook Planning and Land Use in New South Wales*. Second edn. Redfern Legal Publishing,, Redfern NSW. 2016. Introduction p.XIII.

Similarly, in setting up situations to relieve rate payers and land owners their losses in order to impose if not blatantly enforce conformity to a council Local Environment Plan (LEP), Farrier has described how a council determination is set up to prevail over any perceived 'non-conformity' such as a land owner merely presuming to continue 'pre-existing' use of land as formerly fully approved by surrepticious "squeezed" disadvantaging in the many ways available to a council under its executive agency as demonstrated on my property at issue in regard to its withheld Heritage Listing entitlement and present continuing trespass of LCC storm water drain arrangements across my private property without either transparent DA disclosure or any formal authorisation of any consensual agreement.

Not even acknowledged by LCC since its State Listing in 1981; and even after Action through the Land & Environment Court (LEC) Ruling, compliant concessional entitlement since then, already included in LCC 2004 LEP, was subsequently increased to 18% from 2014 but only complied with since 2015! As explained by Farrier in regard to "Environmental Planning Control", the contentious issue was the problem of a council proposal in changing fully approved continuing unchanged pre-existing "heritage" use such as farming say in order to surrepticiously obtain more revenue from higher rates, involved:

The general approach has been to favour the former by construing nonconforming use provision liberally (North Sydney Municipal Council v Boyts Radio and Electrical Pty Ltd (1989) 67 LGRA 344. This is despite the fact that the version of nonconforming use protection introduced by the EPAA in 1979, and n subsequent amendments, suggests that the underlying objective of the legislature has been to "squeeze" existing uses in the public interest. This objective has recently been acknowledged by the Court of Appeal in Vaughan-Taylor v David Mitchell Melcann Pty Ltd (1991) 73 LGRA 366.

Even where the High Court has 'adopted a very generous approach to existing use rights' to continue inevitable "pressure" is more usually anticipated:

If zoning provisions under the new plan allow the site to be used for purposes which actually increase its value, then this will usually be sufficient incentive for the occupant to give up the current use. But where the site is zoned for purposes which result in the value....being reduced, the current use is likely to continue. In these circumstances, the question is how far can the law go in bringing pressure to bear upon the current use with a view to seeing that the aims of the EPI are ultimately achieved! [Farrier,p.118-9; 121-2].

The ingenuity resorted to by councils (and legal counsellors!) in 'bringing pressure to bear' on land holders' to conform created a loophole escape capability to get around (non-)compliance to the exact letter of the law until 1985 on one qualification that permitted previously unlawfull use to continue even 'though outlawed under the new provision' conveniently resourced in *Vumbaca v Baulkham Hills Shire Council* (1979) 141 CLR 614; *Sydney City Council v Ke-Su Investments Pty Ltd* (1983) 48 LGRA 381. Explained in Farrier(pp.119-121):

This loophole existed in situations where the new plan was a deemed environmental planning instrument (see p.64), and the zoning tables restricted the purposes for which DEVELOPMENT could take place, rather than purposes for which land could be used, or buildings or works erected or carried out.... (Canterbury Municipal Council v Tannous (1984) 52 I.GRA 308....confined to interim development orders.

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Yet again, inevitably inequitably frustrated statutorily "Squeezed" rate payers long for the proposed implemented enactment of the legislation as they do for their corresponding associated service provision entitlement already secured by the "one off" payment of rates required by LCC (differently, ie. Without accountability) which has proven to be no guarantee of compliant provision for what has already been paid for in this devious way. Hopefully then, and only then, will the 'demystification' of the alleged until then, 'integrity' of the planning system claimed under EPAA s.84 coupled with provisions of the Regulations 37 to 40 identified in Farrier [Preface p.IX;X] will either or all be forthcoming in duly implementing:

*'...statutory requirements to serve the public interest inherent in the objective contained in section 5(c) of the Act', '...to provide increased opportunity for public involvement and participation in environmental planning'; where longstanding rate payers documented 'uberrimae fidei' given in this respect to monopoly provision **mandated** under statutory privilege, has unfairly under that same INEQUITABLE privilege been instead **withheld** unconscionably.*

Unfit-to-future narrow fiduciary funnelling web of intrigue fun-ding-dong

From what we understand has been contextualised by Farrier [p.X] in 'the traditionally narrow focus on planning law' which we contend has been bureaucraticconceptualised 'participation' which we have personally experienced as only restricted to financing the fanciful nature of these "one off" claims whilst still remaining unfulfilled non-provision with an reprehensible bureaucraticcentriccircular permanence rather than anthropomorphocentred 'delegated powers' precisely to implement LCC mandate to its rate payers who have paid for the privilege in enactment 'with impartiality, without bias' in which participatory predation instead by LCC Mayoral cash grab, the coercion of rate payers is not conceived in this way as the principal players at least principled by said stewardship for entitled privileges already paid for more usually imposed by the imperious establishment of former bureaucraticcolonial times now commuted to surreptitious and subverted "dominance and control" identified by the Court in *Simmons v Gattore* (1997) 74 I.GRA 320 (see p. 2/3) whereby, it assumed that causing someone to do something required proof of "dominance or control", but that this did not mean that precise instruction had to be given, or withheld

On the facts, evidence of control was present' on which grounds Stein J upheld the decision that mere presence of control was sufficient. The Daling seems to indicate a role for inducement and possible recourse to unarranged control.

instrumentality of government at local level is now imbued with considerable 'discretionary' powers to adjust legislation that was brokered over a long period of interaction between independence of local conformity to State governing agencies that eventually reached a state of relative stability as described by Larcombe by particular reference to the period 1858-1906 which resulted from the following historical developments [Larcombe.F.A. 1976.*The Stabilization of Local Government in*

New South Wales A History of Local Government in New South Wales volume 2. Sydney Uni. Press].

Included:

The general Municipal System of Reform leading to the *Municipalities Act of 1867* and 'stability' of the Municipal System up to 1906 more particularly in respect of:

Financial development via select parliamentary committees;

proposals; special endowment grants (... in the Depression).

Libraries;
Gas;
Electricity;
Water Supply and sewerage (Boards);
Stock Markets;
Produce Markets;
Baths and beaches;
Wharves and Road Ferries;
Parks.

.....Special Authorities: Drainage trusts;
Water " " ;
Irrigation.....;
Stock & Pasture Protection.....;
Harbour Trusts;
(Hunter District Water & Sewerage Board.

Local Council compulsory Incorporation;
Origin of the Shire;
Reform of the general Municipal System of 1906;
Local Government System of 1906...STABILIZATION.

Historical precedent of problems resolved in 'progressive' practice

In reviewing the 'considerable achievement in New South Wales local government' between the pivotal period 1858-1906 portrayed by Larcome in the many and varied areas encompassed by the above lists subsequently discussed in his book, he described the many difficulties and hurdles that were confronted by focusing primarily on Sydney City Council as trail-blazer in this adventure which although having its fair degree of complicated compromises. Nonetheless he foreshadowed in the "Introduction" that it and other '...municipalities achieved a stable system of local government during those years, and had important achievements to their credit' as the extensive list indicates [p.2]; although not without its 'darker side' by the growth within overall conformity, ad hoc' cowboy vigilantism of a sort which (I suggest) is currently represented by LCC Mayor as a **DE-stabilizing effect on that commendable establishment which enduring ("permanent" difficulties were not denied nor diminished by...)** Larcombe's circumspet warts-n'-all account freely admitted many of the issues still complicating municipal governance clearly instanced by LCC Mayoral "more money' mantra as the silver bullet single "one-off" all-purpose solution indicating.....:

But there is also a darker side to the picture. Local

Government legislation was not only defective as regards structure, function and finance, but it failed to extend any form of local government at all to vast areas of New South Wales, where public works were the gift of roads and bridges' members of the colonial legislature'

(But....)At last, in 1905-6, the decision of Joseph Carruthers succeeded in establishing the basis for a viable and progressive local government system.....

One development of this period is especially significant in revealing the weakness of local government – the growth of ... ad hoc authority. A new phase in the history of 'special authorities' began with the creation in 1873 of the Board of Transit Commissioners and two years later, of the Sewerage and Health Board. Neither ... legislation nor local statutes provided for co-operation or amalgamation, and this led to local governments not only losing important functions but also being kept out of newly developing fields. In this...development of the twentieth century (was) foreshadowed in the nineteenth ...great utility services,...housing...local government was to play little part...in metropolitan areas.

But inherent problems of centralised administrative control aside (p.94), the overall focus of individual-ised local municipal government on 'nuisances' was to have a de-centralizing effect on Public Health, for instance in dealing with festering issues of what we recognise today as pollution which has been to some degree, at least, ameliorated by the 'good natural climate' rather than any preventative measures to contain epidemics more prevalent in England that had necessitated stringent public health legislation thereafter emulated in NSW (by Governor Fitzroy in 1854 for example. p.117). The Sydney City and Suburban Sewerage and Health Board 1873-6 was instituted to differentiate between widespread disease arising from the use of city water and contamination by various 'flagrant and intolerable nuisances' from sources arising mainly from treatment of sewerage and waste; adequate drainage and sources of drinking water in vicinity of Blackwattle Swamp and the Bourke Street 'bog' instanced for special attention requiring municipal action by local councils under direction of the Board (pp.124-6; 135).

Difficulties in resolving the historical animosity between local administration and state control by legislation described by Larcombe (overviewed above) provide the historical context in which those differences have subsequently been worked out to such an extent that LCC current Mayor can approach the State Government for financial assistance which in earlier times had been regarded as causing unnecessary expenses in support of this 'division' of administration since 'wherever double organisation exists it costs a larger percentage of the revenue' [p.38]: In recouping costing on rate payers there had always been a very vocal and vociferous concern expressed in the local "*Sydney Morning Herald*" complaining at the need to regain 'any reasonable expenditure incurred' from liable owners [p.131].

'Municipalists' hopes anticipating an active role of their local council were rendered nigh impossible by the limited authority of councils 'power to compel' in the General Municipal System of 1867 because 'the financial basis was too meagre to meet the costs involved' and where any power to make by-laws had become 'a fertile source of litigation, particularly where rate levies were concerned' and made a 'mockery out of the first degenerate system of local government' which suffered accordingly from related 'animosity' between irascible argument between John Dunmore Land and Alexander Berry, much of it personal [pp.133; 137]! Landowners in general had always regarded local government ascendant as reflected in the Shoalhaven local press in regard to 'municipalization' no more than a blazen 'system of plundering' that rang out in the press elsewhere as the example of (Alexander Berry's properties) 'extortion prove 'infectious', it could be expected that a similar 'animus' would be awakened elsewhere as foretold by the *Herald* on 25 August, 1862:

no self-government is perfect', concluded the Herald. '...which does no enlist the cordial sympathy and approval of those who are subject to it, nor are free institutions worthy of the name when they are simply designed and adapted for the purpose of exercising a tyranny [p.141].

This informed historical record has much to offer LCC Mayor should he care to take the time to acquaint himself with the struggles with problems that he is still embedded in without the astute knowledge of those that went before him with what we are told, considerable 'relative' success it must be admitted in view of the difficulties that have yet to be resolved as recorded in the precedent of previous workable solutions which it appears that **LCC incumbent Mayor is bound to blythely repeat the problems of the past recorded in the history of the Municipalities Act Amendment Bill of March 1865** proposed by James Byrnes as Mayor of Parramatta that was regarded at the time as:

in fact a retrograde step because he returned to piecemeal adjustments when it was urgent that a comprehensive measure should replace the defective 1858 Act. (But) Byrnes simply proposed to extend municipal borrowing powers [p.142].

The 'simple' solution bears such resemblance to the current Mayoral proposal some one hundred and sixty (160) years later its pertinence must be raised in face of the current circumstance as if nothing has been learnt in the interim despite the clear recognition at the time that:

From the inception of the 1858 system, there had been criticism of municipalities as a means of plundering landowners for rates. The apparent injustice of the rating system made wealthier owners reluctant to co-operate in municipal affairs. ['Herald, 21 February, 1866] Quoted in Larcombe, p. 1512] ...Where a system of cumulative voting would remove the plea that a municipality was an 'organised agency for plunder' [ibid., 28 November, 1866] Larcombe, p. 153].

Not much has changed in some municipalities since 1858 it would appear! Even in changes made in the 1867 Act, 'inadequate financial basis on which the municipal system rested' was still singled out as a 'major defect' along with 'the most glaring omission....failure to provide for a general system of joint action [p. 163]. Many such constraints continued as recorded until 1887 when Joseph Hector Carruthers entered parliament as member for Canterbury to hold several ministerial posts before becoming Premier. So the record of resolving the inherent contradicting forces impinging on the independence of a local agency focussed primarily on local issues under the overall control and regulation of a broader inclusive institution incorporated on common grounds. This "permanent" problem returns the story to his quote given at the introduction to this historical overview in the hope that some of the 'permanent' problems in municipal governance can be contextualised in their "one-off" inception that Carruthers believed could be dealt with - if not completely solved altogether - that 'local government should be treated as 'a growing child' as it was in fostering his extensive municipal reform program [p. 276-7].

Carruthers concluded in the following observations that have enduring relevance to any and all councillors with pretension to the Mayoral office in regard to Carruthers' advice to dealing with 'problems of central control' in 'central-local relationships' on one hand balanced against the cavalier cowboy corrupting influence of the overriding bargaining inequity whereby 'government employees could interfere in local administration' that no doubt will encourage LCC Mayor in his financial quest:

There can be no local government system worthy of the name which gives power to politicians to use pressure and influence in the declaration of a national workthere should be a spirit of self-reliance and self-help, and that, with this power to govern yourselves, you will rise to the occasion; that you will accept the opportunity; that you will ask the government for power to govern yourselves and finance yourselves, and that... central government shall intermeddle with you as little as possible
[Proceedings of Conference of Mayors of Municipalities, pp. 101; 104; 50-1].

To which wise words, Larcombe claimed a place for Carruthers in the annals of local government in recognition of his enduring work for those who wish to follow in his footsteps along the winding and often very wistful path through the local community:

Under Carruthers' wise and inspiring guidance the stabilization of the New South Wales system of local government was achieved. It has now been stabilized on a solid basis. There were wider avenues for future development. The need for regional and metropolitan authorities had already become evident to Carruthers, but their implementation was also a task for the future....

Inevitably, Larcombe admitted that even the 'breadth of vision of faith in local government' was to become under even greater stresses from 'extenuating circumstances; two world wars and severe economic depression between. The wonder is that the system has survived at all raises the further question as to its inherent resilience to survive the onslaught of vigilante Mayors whose values are confined only to the opportunism of fiduciary fetterment measures rather than betterment of inherent community mandate deeply embedded cultural 'values' of our allegedly capitalist system. *of democracy -*

marked

Motivated by a truly vibrant incentive to development availed by surplus to the good of all rather than seek to exploit through leveraging disadvantage by recourse to flagrant partiality by bias with menaces:

By 'value' there is meant an implicit or explicit judgement that the fact is good or bad, desirable or undesirable' worthwhile of not..... In this respect it can be said that the whole of social life consists of value systems which are inherited, learned and passed on to future generations, with the proviso of course that they are never static and undergo, frequently or infrequently, some modification. These value systems comprise the culture of society, using 'culture' in a very broad sense to mean ... general attitudes, thoughts, aspirations, norms, all of which distinguish that society as a living unit of action.

Thus a human society is a society which is culturally determined by virtue of the value systems which prevail, and the organisation of society is a reflection and expression of these value systems.

[J.H.Abraham. 1973. *Origins and Growth of Sociology*. Penguin Books Ltd,England. Introduction p.20]

Anyone who has been so sadly seduced into the deception that these inherent cultural values fought for and championed over centuries to become the particular DNA of our cultural existence as a community in its many and varied local derivations wherein these crucial motivating forces have inherited a 'permancy'. As the usually normal unquestioned accepted way of doing things learnt from history have become so petulantly reduced only to instant "one-off" gratification seen in insatiable cries for 'more money' that can never be fully satisfied are clearly misplaced as the current short-sighted but 'limited' Scenarios described in the Mayoral proposals have shown by comparison with the rich history of local municipal options developed through history to which LCC as local instrumentality of government is bound to not only uphold, but stringently enact in accountable full implementation in its community which anxiously awaits the provision of its legislated mandated entitlement....

But instead, LCC along with more recent agencies and their parties have become masters in the delicate art of manipulation of the sort instanced by Bob. Browning as evidence of 'bad governance' and thereby could be 'vicariously liable' for their acts as 'employees' as found in *Gatacre v Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales* (1992) 78 LGREA 379 [cited in Farrier,p.444] as under the *Clean Waters Act 1970*:

*The Court of Appeal has recently placed significant responsibilities on employers to supervise their employees adequately, by holding that employers are criminally liable for the acts of employees which cause waters to be polluted (CWA s.16(1)), provided that these acts are carried out in the course of their employment (vicarious liability). This is even true where employees' actions amount to a quite improper way of doing their jobs (**Tiger Nominees PtyLtd v SPCC** (1992) 75 LGRA 71: **SPCC v Australian Iron and Steel Ltd** (1992) 74 I.GRA 387) [Farrier p.190].*

What sort of accountability is assured by councils (representatives such as councillors and Mayor) as '...the trustee and custodian of public assets and facilitate the involvement of the community in local government under LGA 1993 s.8' reported in Farrier (p.434) (paid for by rate payers)? Wherein such councils (representatives) have now been given a broad **discretion** in areas previously 'narrowly described' as specific 'adjoining' properties to exclude land across the road (LGA 1993 s.114(4) now extended to all properties that might be 'considered detrimentally effected':

(Hornsby Shire Council v Porter (1990) 70 LGRA 175;

Parks and Spencer vRastogi and Newcastle City Council (1992) 78 LGERA 71

[Farrier,p,435;161]

Albeit triggered by only "one-off" instances targetting duped rate payers once a year to hold them to the inevitability fo permanent desbt to beb met by each quarterly payment due that roll around within the annual "one off" hit like Christmas Eve merely as the scarce occasion for Santa to delve into his scack of promisory presents to us funnelled through this eye-of-the-needle "squeeze". Promoted by the Mayoral Santa *alter ego* "I" to stitch up rate payers 'needled' into permanent penury more like some sordid one-night stand offering immediate pleasure of only "one-off" instant gratification, or the one-off proposal of marriage in the enduring insatiable hunger of the inevitable 'permanent' after-effect of regretted consequences to be lived with after the factual depiction of the fiction.

Like the sad story of some Barabara Cartland novel approach adopted by the Mayor in resorting to induced duplicit deceit offering hopes of alleviating rate payer stretched credit (no less credibility in this yet another proposed "scenario" still to be represented as succulent carrot used to goad the naïve but still *uberrimae fidei* ("Uber." for short!) trusty donkey not correspondingly faithfully rewarded but instead, *mercilessly* fiddled into co-ercion lured by such lurid "puffs". Well known in the spidery sticky funnelling web of the marketing world to lure gullible 'good faith' genuine buyers to their ill-fated debt doom goaded thereby as the true cost becomes due eventually in their 'permanent' entrapment as so many religious adherents eventually find out to the discredit of their institutional decoys paraded in the exciting "one-off" sacramental service that deceived them into a life of "permanent" penal servitude od penitence forever thereafter. Amen!

Like the Mayoral Grim Reaper apparition in the characteristically ill-fitting LCC only assumed costume disguise of Santa Claus *alter ego* only tinged at the edges with the purity of the driven snow marginalised trappings more reminiscent of the hidden white elephantasy still concealed hiding in the cupblaopard of skeletons in the Mayoral room of responsibility in which the consequences of the real price of the "puff" then drag on permanently in the to an otherwise red warning outfit hinting at inevitable danger to be accountably met differently by rate payers settlement in quarterly installments. Whilst left still waiting for the Mayor's magical "Puff" service provision that "permanently" drags on, and on, and on, endlessly. Paid for in this way otherwise incurred the mandatory late payment penalties irrespective to non-accountable provision thereto contemptuously by LCC differentially exonerating itself from any similar penalty or even responsible provision already paid for as previously re-itterated!

Discriminatingly spreading the base rate load in this differential way divested onto rate payers directly from which contractual arrangement LCC has bureaucraticonveniently excused itself then differentially availed itself of the statutory Santa sack of goodies (already paid for in rates anyway...as previously stated,...many times throughout this Review!). Yet unfortunately, the 'relative socio-economic disadvantage' reality of rate payers by comparison to the alleged 'limited' restraint to sacrifice only 2.7% of a potential 4.77% otherwise non-participatory imposition on rate payers without their input in 2018-19 f/y imperioulsy used by the Mayor proposed 'permanent' PSRV applied across the year are only ever set to drag on relentlessly after their "one-off" inception into perpetuity without responsible regard to the rates paid for service provision nonetheless not fully provided.

Any corresponding (non-)accountability in (non-)responsive (non-)adjustment for compromised circumstances like that described in all the newspapers to all and sundry ~~w~~ere yet again, apparently not delivered to Council Mort Street Chambers. Nonetheless, even without Mayoral or Council prescribed participation in the degraded ageing crumbling community assets that they have themselves created (for obvious reasons!) but about which they incessantly keep crowing about in ~~g~~the alleged interests ~~fo~~ the community good whilst those who pay for it in rates go wanting.

of

Mayoral only proposed 'one off' presence or absence one way or another, will not obliterate the overall cost burden and psychological stress like that perpetrated by any genuine Mayoral mandate in his momentary visit inviting us all to his Christmas Party-cipation (very much after the fact of the reindeer escape from the stable story of the 2018 4.77% levy still yet to be transparently compliantly 'reign'-ed in); all of which fiduciary flights of phantasy through this rarefied hallucinatory atmosphere 'high' on the 'relative' bureaucratic concocted socio-economic disadvantage' diatribe so creatively misrepresented. Not unreasonably, such exclusive high-mindedness limitations to the real world of the rate payer by relative contract would challenge the imagination let alone the proven business acumen of even a very rich Richard Branson: Naïvely enticed by this promisory hypnotic wild Uber sleigh-ht of hand very dear reindeer ride through the dizzying heights of the rarefied atmosphere of Mort Street light headedness unreality beyond the confines of Council Chambers bureaucratic customs border control leads into the morass of the LCC created world for its constituency thrust down into the reality of permanent credit incredulity.

Any "one-off" Mayoral fit 'pay off' for future inequitably gain @ considerable continuing permanent rate payer prejudicedisadvantaging rangin^g from at least 2.7% to 17% unsustainability cannot simplistically be reassured by any endless re-iteration of still to be realised re-assurances 'to meet the needs of our community'; 'delivery ... in line with community expectations'; on assets upon which '...the community places high value' – but not as much as LCC apparently @ 11/7% above that already paid for in expectation that provision will be compliantly enacted as previously legislatively prescribed @ 17. % unsustainability but perhaps not unattainable if the Mayor is permitted to continue on his manipulative way to prop up LCC previous non-compliant non-accountability already paid for but not delivered despite his singular awareness of its crucial importance to rate payers and even after the [redacted] short-sightedly and inconsiderately focussed only on LCC "one-off" alleged 'limited' fine tuning tweaked to merely comply to responsible if not yet responsive managed statutory mandate with corresponding "permanent" disaster pushes us all into that sinking Titanic feeling of unsustainability as generally felt across the nation clearly evident in New South Wales according to the ubiquitous "socio-economic disadvantage".

As if in preparation for eternal damnation, the "one-off" nature of the Mayoral proposal(s) currently being experienced across the board to which LCC could not possibly be unaware no doubt through its allegedly generous consideration supposedly provided by its 'safety-net' Hardship which no matter how it is labelled is still a net available to ENTRAP ratepayers. But to which LCC seems oblivious to the Mayoral proposal for yet even more inconsiderate increases which have ONLY become necessary merely to ensure due delivery of those already paid base rate provisions, or if not, then transparent disclosure of why mandated services already paid for have not been provided compliantly.

Clearly not possible for some reason still to be exposed : That is, not only why the mandated services have not been provided accountably but why Council remains unaccountable to its legislated mandate to such an extent that it now requires authorisation outside the normal 'democraticcommunity' of rate payers as not only disgruntled consumers as disenfranchised citizens of the century! [redacted] fulfill the not unreasonable expectations of patient frustrated anxious rate payers faced with the Mayoral list of ageing and crumbling infrastructure has quite blatantly been proposed under the threat of information conveyed through the local press that unless the SRV is agreed, service provision will be withheld – and this despite having been mandated under the terms and conditions of the base rate: This is a clear violation of a council mandate and must be dealt accordingly along with deprivation of rate payer entitlements specified under the Mayoral list.

More appropriately listed in court as reviewed hereunder in relation to the Mayoral justification given in his letter to "Dear Ratepayers" based on the introverted Mort-Street myopia of LCC internal accounts has become the resulting public relation debacle. Caught out to the extent that public relations serves as the opportunity to '...communicate an institution's point of view to the public and communicates the public's point of view to the institution' which bi-polarity 'balances' not on the Mayoral 'Fit-for Future' deprivation of service provision merely to balance LCC books but on the critical 'credibility' fulcrum that:

unless the public understands and approves of what an institution is and does, the institution will eventually cease to exist no matter how formally legal'.

[Cantor, Bill. 1989. *Experts in Action*. Inside Public Relations. Ed. By Chester Burger. 2nd ed. Longman. New York & London, 25].

What is critical is that public relations communicates credibility....founded on truth...if what we communicate is believed and is credible....in ways that maintain and enhance it, ...chances of communicating successfully, of being understood, of mobilizing others to act on their understanding are enhanced enormously.

And that, to its essence and at its best, is what public relations does. [ibid. Overview,p.27]

Now it may be that LCC and its Mayor feel that they are somehow immune from this threat to their own security by resort to their characteristic statutory 'advantage'. If so, then it might be opportune to point out the clearly evident fact that

"All business in democratic society begins with public permission and exists by public approval. If that be true, it follows that business should be cheerfully willing to tell the public what its policies are, what it is doing, and what it hopes to do. This seems to be practically a duty."

The words of Arthur W. Page, the first public relations vice president of A.T.& T, written more than forty years ago' (quoted ibid., Part IV Chapter 39: Public Relations in the Twenty-first Century. Chester Burger, p.483 conclusion).

Including financial accountability in all its connotations now re-oriented from the perspective of r/payer needs, community expectations and values acknowledged at least formally in LCC letter that still remain to be compliantly delivered to the 'disadvantaged' community is due, in consequence of LCC own non-compliant non-accountability! Described by the Mayor as 'this process is called a Special Rate Variation (SRV) application' now re-viewed hereunder from the alternative Squeezed Rate-payer Version (SRV) for 'one off' paid service provision still 'permanently' hanging over rate payers' heads like the agony of a long and twisted histrionic history of a convoluted convicting "Dear John" Mayoral letter above undisputed in relation to:

Comparative 'relative' service provision funding

Costly Maintenance 'high value' community assets to ensure they meet these needs repair & replacement for: ageing roads especially;

upgrading footpaths, buildings, drainage, other community assets required renewal; service delivery ensured to meet community needs and expectations and many more services:

parks, recreation and sports grounds;

disabilities, Aboriginal & Torres St. Islanders; community development services (children, youth, aged,

public & environmental health;

transport – roads, footpaths, car parks, safety and traffic facilities;

business development : events and tourism;

Development services;

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Land use and nature (environmental) planning;
stormwater & flood management;

Emergency services;

Community/strategic planning;

Executive communication*(See "Public Relations" above) and services.

As previously stated throughout this Appeal, all mandated provision is fully addressed in the base rate calculation assessment. **It only remains therefore that LCC accountably finally fulfills that mandate compliantly** which would then not necessitate any additional funding accountancy to prop up LCC proven non-accountability thereto.

This fundamental **contravention** by LCC (Mayor) must be dealt with in the usual way even before the M.O. resorted to is examined correspondingly: If together ignored, the combined fraud certainly provides no legitimate justification for the **imposition of additional one-off single Scenario(s) that 'do not expire' contradictorily continuing as permanent rate rises of any sort to make up for the short-fall in provision already paid for in the base rate assessment** by rate payers *uberrimae fidei*. So the mandated outcomes is not unreasonably anticipated on that *council-contractual* basis to which terms and conditions Council has undertaken *under its own prerogative*.

So yet again, not unreasonably, LCC must be held to account accordingly in order to restore not only the credibility of its own 'integrity' but the very legal system under which it presumes to operate according to aspects of the well-established bureaucraticulture of accountability and compliance 'stabilization' thereto that have been so brazenly challenged by this renegade Council shonky de-stabilization. Detailed from the seemingly insignificant ambiguities in the Mayoral formal letter to rate payers that expose the manipulative hidden agenda as patently proven grounds for this Appeal to compliant accountable transparency to the base rate provisions both in terms of their physical fruition with impartiality, without bias, as legislated as is the not unreasonable expectation of rate payers in respect of the contract that already exists between Council and ourselves to be honoured according to its imperative legislated force; if not, then its enforcement thereof.

Date :

9/1/19

16 JAN 2019

Doc ID.....

GPRF.....

Year.....

Dear Sir

I am in receipt of your letter concerning the Proposed Special Rates Variation 2019/20, and I am absolutely flabbergasted at your proposal. Do you not think that our rates are already too high - this area has a high unemployment rate, and quite substantial pensioners. The council has no idea on the impact this will have on ratepayers, it never bothers them before so why would it now, as rates just keep going up and up and up. While council has done nothing wrong, I feel you have a moral obligation to keep the rate reasonable.

I think the council have a long history of investing in include enterprises and maybe too many fingers in the pie that do not pay dividends.

What's transport, - what's likely impact, what's average rates, what's the real impact to each and every ratepayer. What are our rates paying for as of now. It would seem to me that maintenance, roads, footpaths, bridges, stormwater drains would be included in the rates currently being paid, that this is council's mantra. I would like to see more competent councillors, and I suppose this is where my vote will count in the next election.

Regards

Dear Council,

RE; your reference SRV 19-20.

I refer to your letter applying for a permanent increase over and above the usual annual increase.

I was told I would be contacted by the Council Consultants, but I was not contacted.

Unlike Council I don't have the luxury of an annual increase.

Your letter has indicated that Council now funds many more services than in the past, however this has been done without my knowledge or consent.

It has now become a struggle for me to afford the annual Council Rates. I am on a low income. I have spoken to Council about this matter, and have made reasonable requests, but my reasonable requests have been met with Council opposition.

Therefore, I am opposed to your application for a proposed special Rate Variation 2019/20.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED] 21/1/2019.

Lithgow City Council

Scanned

21 JAN 2019

Doc Set ID.....

GA Ref.....

Years.....

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 6:41 AM
To: Lithgow City Council
Subject: Portland Says NO to Rate Increase Proposal 2019!
Importance: High

Dear Council and General Manager of Lithgow Council,

I realise that this is late but Portland was in a state of shock and did not know what to do with the information that came through and most people in Portland were away from the 23rd December to the 7th January 2019, we had to find a way to express our very clear NO to this suggestion of rate increase for Portland NSW.

The people find that with the moneys we pay already, we have not seen any services over the years and find it very hard to say YES to an increase in the current economic state of the markets and job conditions. Where do we go to find the extra money to pay for something we are not guaranteed we will get?

I hope you will notice that in a short time with no duress there are a few pages and a fair few signatures. These petitions were placed in the local business area and we will oppose this Increase if it goes through. We do not want to have our rates increased at all as it is already too high for a low socio-economic area in NSW. We have done a comparative and found that our rates are higher than in the inner city and that is ridiculous. This is minus the water rates.

If the Council does not have enough money to pay for everything, then cut back what needs to be done and start doing the basic things again well. Instead of trying to be everything for everyone, you could look at talking to the communities about fund raising and requesting participation from the community, instead you are alienating the community in attempting to sort things out without the communities total involvement. This is what we are not for anymore.

Thank you for reading this.

Kind Regards

People of Portland NSW 2847

PORTLAND SAYS NO TO RATE INCREASES PROPOSED AND OPTION 2!
WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN INCREASING OUR RATES AS WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY UPGRADE TO SERVICES FOR THE LOCAL AREA OF PORTLAND. OUR ROADS ARE DAMAGED, AND MOST SERVICES ARE BASED IN LITHGOW, WHICH IS 25.9 KILOMETRES BY CAR. WHY THE INCREASE? IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

WE SAY NO!



NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

We, the undersigned eligible voters of Portland NSW, petition the City Council of Lithgow to recognise that concerned citizens are against the increasing of the rates that have been currently proposed.

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Portmoreshead High St
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	21/3/19	[Redacted]	WILK, WAGS
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31/12/18	[Redacted]	RANGE ST.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	1/1/19	[Redacted]	HIGH ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	1-1-19	[Redacted]	ALL OFF THEM
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	1/1/19	[Redacted]	"
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	1/1/19	[Redacted]	"
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	1-1-19	[Redacted]	No Street
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	1/1/19	[Redacted]	All of them.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	1/1/19	[Redacted]	All of them.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	1/1/19	[Redacted]	you have to be jobless

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	Yes Yeah!!!
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-1-19	[REDACTED]	All Roads
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-1-15	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES PLEASE. (R/L).
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-1-19	[REDACTED]	Yes All
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2/1/19	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES BALL
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES PLEASE ALL
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2/1/19	[REDACTED]	yes

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	2-1-19	[Redacted]	All of them !!!
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	2-1-19	[Redacted]	one of them.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	2-1-19	[Redacted]	Ridge St
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	2-1-19	[Redacted]	all of them.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	2-1-19	[Redacted]	All of them's
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	2-1-19	[Redacted]	1st 11
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	2-1-19	[Redacted]	Ridge St - all of them
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	2-1-19	[Redacted]	All of them
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	All of them
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	Ridge Street.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	Windy bully Rd

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3.1.19	[Redacted]	✓ parks, gardens, cemetery.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	Roads:
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4-1-19	[Redacted]	HLV
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4-1-19	[Redacted]	People just can't afford it!!
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4/1/19.	[Redacted]	cannot stretch the budget
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4-1-19	[Redacted]	ABSOLUTELY DISGUSTING. Further
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4.1.19	[Redacted]	all the above
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	24/1/19	[Redacted]	
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4.1.19	[Redacted]	Roads
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4-1-19	[Redacted]	Roads Depreciated
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4-1-19	[Redacted]	Yes.

0

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
[Redacted Names and Addresses]				Sunny corner Road
				Kaneaway
				LOTS.
				YES
				YES
				YES
				YES
				YES
				YES
				YES
				YES
				YES
				YES
				YES

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]				
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES
[Redacted]				YES

②

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
[REDACTED]		6-1-19	[REDACTED]	Yes we DO.
		6/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES
		6/1/19	[REDACTED]	Yes.
		6/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES!
		6/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES
		6/1/19	[REDACTED]	NO
		6/1/19	[REDACTED]	Yes
		6/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES.
		6/1/19	[REDACTED]	yes
		6.1.19	[REDACTED]	no
7-1-19	[REDACTED]	Sunny Lomer Road / Many More		
7-1-19	[REDACTED]	yes		
7.1.19	[REDACTED]	ALL ROADS		
7.1.19	[REDACTED]	ALL ROADS		
7.1.19	[REDACTED]			

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	7.11.19	[Redacted]	All roads
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	8-1-19	[Redacted]	Rousseau St.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	8-1-19	[Redacted]	ALL ROADS & LANES ^{BACK}
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	8-1-19	[Redacted]	All Roads & Bull Lanes
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	8-1-19	[Redacted]	Ilford St
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	8-1-19	[Redacted]	Main Rd, Boulder Rd
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	8.1.19	[Redacted]	VALE ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	8.1.19	[Redacted]	Cullen Bullen
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	9-1-19	[Redacted]	
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	9-1-19	[Redacted]	Every Road

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
		10.1.19		all ROAD.
		10.1.19		Tompsons Cnk Rd
		10.1.19		Percival st
		10.1.19		all Roads.
		10.1.19		High St
		10.01.19		Williers.
		10/1/19		Samieson st
		10/1/19		Aug and all
		10/1/19		Ridge RT
		10/1/19		Hazel St
		10/1/19		Hazel St
		10/1/19		cox St
		11/1/19		all roads
		11/1/19		all roads
		11/1/19		all roads
		11.01.19		Samieson st / High St

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11-1-19	[Redacted]	
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11-1-19	[Redacted]	YES - PURCELL ST - Potholes potholes
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11.1.19	[Redacted]	Cullen Boulton - Portland Rd
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11-1-19	[Redacted]	Yes. RIDGE - WATERLOO RD
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11.1.19	[Redacted]	Willie's St
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	12-1-19	[Redacted]	4 Reserve, VOR ST Port Harb
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	12-7-19	[Redacted]	Reservoir st, and lanes
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14-01-19	[Redacted]	HIGH ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14.1.19	[Redacted]	Are Roads.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14-1-19	[Redacted]	ALL

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	14-1-19	[REDACTED]	everywhere !!!
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	14-1-19	[REDACTED]	one of many.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	14-1-19	[REDACTED]	all of them
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	15-1-19	[REDACTED]	ALL.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	15/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES I DO!! + grass to be mowed
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	15/1/19	[REDACTED]	" " "
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	15/1/19	[REDACTED]	yes - 150 m
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	15/1/19	[REDACTED]	Not even sealed but graded
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	15/1/19	[REDACTED]	BACK LINES GALORE
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	15/1/19	[REDACTED]	All of them.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	17/1/19	[REDACTED]	Many around town!
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	21-1-19	[REDACTED]	yes - Very weeds cutting!
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	21-1-19	[REDACTED]	yes
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	21-1-19	[REDACTED]	11 Reservoir St, Pontland Park
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	21-1-19	[REDACTED]	Yes

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Yes - Willivada St
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31/12/18	[Redacted]	PEDISTRAN CROSSING AB AB AB VANCE ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31/12/18	[Redacted]	Yes Willivada st.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31-12-18	[Redacted]	Yes sunny car ld.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31-12-18	[Redacted]	Yes ALL WAYS
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Yes.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Trommsary Ave.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Yes
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31-12-18	[Redacted]	YES.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31-12-18	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	YES - ALL the AVE

E

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES - Lime + Ridge
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	yes - Jamison St. Limestone St. Quarry Rd.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1/1/19	[REDACTED]	yes.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1/1/19	[REDACTED]	yes
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	yes.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	YEC
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES YES YES
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	Yes for last 4 years
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES!
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-11-19	[REDACTED]	YES
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-11-19	[REDACTED]	YES!!!
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2-11-19	[REDACTED]	yes yes!!!
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3-11-19	[REDACTED]	YES.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Roxburgh St, High St, Church & Villiers St
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	MAH ST.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31-12-18	[Redacted]	SAVILL ST.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31-12-18	[Redacted]	
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	7 PARIS ST.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Belshroaf.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	PARK AVE SIDE ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Villiers St.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	31.12.18	[Redacted]	Villiers St

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
[REDACTED]		3-12-18	[REDACTED]	BURTON ST.
		3-1-12-18.	[REDACTED]	YES NO DRIVEWAY
		3-1-12-18.	[REDACTED]	
		3-1-12-18	[REDACTED]	OWSELL
		3-1-12-18	[REDACTED]	OWSELL
		3-1-12-18	[REDACTED]	
		3-1-12-18	[REDACTED]	
		3-1-12-18	[REDACTED]	
		3-1-12-18	[REDACTED]	
		3-1-12-18	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]		3-2-19	[REDACTED]	
		3-1-1-18	[REDACTED]	Wallerawang Road.
		3-1-1-19	[REDACTED]	Squill at 11. propose
		4-1-19	[REDACTED]	disgusting. I propose
[REDACTED]		4-1-19	[REDACTED]	EVERYWHERE.
		4-1-19	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]		4-1-19	[REDACTED]	Wolgan Street.
		4-1-19	[REDACTED]	

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4-1-19	[Redacted]	HIGH ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4-1-19	[Redacted]	HIGH ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4/1/19	[Redacted]	Green st
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4.1.19	[Redacted]	Green st
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4/1/19	[Redacted]	Yes over.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	5-1-19	[Redacted]	Cook st
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	5-1-19	[Redacted]	Panic Ave.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	5/1/19	[Redacted]	William St
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	5-1-19	[Redacted]	SARICEN
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	6-1-19	[Redacted]	Yes.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	6-1-19	[Redacted]	Yes

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]		6/11/19	[Redacted]	Everywhere
[Redacted]		6/11/19	[Redacted]	UNSAFE TO WALK
[Redacted]		6/11/19	[Redacted]	EVERYWHERE
[Redacted]		6-1-19	[Redacted]	COOK ST PORTLAND for notes
[Redacted]		6.1.19	[Redacted]	No foot Paths, everywhere
[Redacted]		6-1-19	[Redacted]	POSSIBLES EVERYWHERE
[Redacted]		6-1-19	[Redacted]	ON EAST SIDE OF PORTLAND
[Redacted]		6.1.19	[Redacted]	As Drivers Close, Fullagar Rd
[Redacted]		6.1.19	[Redacted]	Everywhere
[Redacted]		6/1/19	[Redacted]	Everywhere

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]		21/1/19	[Redacted]	
[Redacted]		21/1/19	[Redacted]	
[Redacted]		21/1/19.	[Redacted]	WHOLE OF PORTLAND
[Redacted]		21/1/19	[Redacted]	" "
[Redacted]		21/1/19	[Redacted]	" "
[Redacted]		21/1/19	[Redacted]	" "
[Redacted]		21/1/19	[Redacted]	" "
[Redacted]		7/1/19	[Redacted]	Yes.
[Redacted]		7/1/19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]		7.1.19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]		8-1-19	[Redacted]	YES

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
[Redacted]		8/1/19	[Redacted]	Dire need - fix the roads!
		9/1/19		
		9/1/19		
		9/1/19		
		9/1/19		
		10/11/19		
		17/1/19		
22/1/19	U			

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	Lockburgh St
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	Mossburn/Coak St.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	Buryst Lane
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	All roads and streets
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	3-1-19	[Redacted]	All Rds & Streets
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4-1-19	[Redacted]	SunnyCar Rd.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4/1/19	[Redacted]	Coak St.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4/1/19	[Redacted]	Thompson's Creek Rd, 1111 Speedumpst sanding
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4/1/19	[Redacted]	Reservoir St Portland
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	4/1/19	[Redacted]	G/GRYWHITE

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
		4/1/19		
		4/1/19		
		5/12/19		
		5/11/19		
		6/1/19		all need down -my lister.
		6/1/19		
		6/1/19		lines & reflectors between Railroad & Wellbourn
		6/1/19		all roads around car own are displaying.
		7.1.19		ALL ROADS
		7.1.19		ALL ROADS MENDHAM PLAZA
		7-1-19		Parkview Ave.
		7-1-19		Flooded house steps under house
		7-1-19		Back Central Rd Nass Point School.
		8-1-19		All roads.

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

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Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	8/1/19	[REDACTED]	Live near a road that needs repair
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	9/1/19	[REDACTED]	Old Western Rd / Pipes have
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	9-1-19	[REDACTED]	ALL ROADS NEED REPAIR
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	9.1.19	[REDACTED]	DRAINAGE ISSUES
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	14/1/19	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	14/1/19	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	21/1/19	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	20.09.19	[REDACTED]	DRAINAGE, LOOSE CURB, MOVED TR. NO DRAINAGE

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
		8/1/19		Poplar St. Fort Meade Rd.
		9/11/19		
		9/14/19		LAURENCE ST
		9/11/19		Ridge st
		9/11/19		THOMPSON ST
		10-1-19		THOMPSON ST
		10-1-19		Rombroge st. / Dale st
		10-1-19		GIGANTIC POT HOLES OUTSIDE MY FRONT GATE
		11.1.19		523 BACK CUREN RD
		11.1.19		Ridge St
		14.1.19		
		14.1.19		Vale St !!!
		14.1.19		Most !!!
		14.1.19		Range Rd.
		14.1.19		Car. Railway Ave +
		14.1.19		Most of them

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that need repair
[REDACTED]		14/01/19	[REDACTED]	YES
		15/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES!
		15/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES!
		15/1/19	[REDACTED]	Yes!!
		15/1/19	[REDACTED]	yes.
		16/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES.
		16/1/19	[REDACTED]	yes!!
		16/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES! ALSO WATER
		17/1/19	[REDACTED]	YES YES
		17-1-19	[REDACTED]	yes.
		17-1-19	[REDACTED]	YES
18-1-19	[REDACTED]	Yes water roads		
18-1-19	[REDACTED]	Yes. Don't everyone!!		
18-1-19	[REDACTED]	yes They all do		
18-1-19	[REDACTED]	Mostly all of them!!		
21-1-19	[REDACTED]	They all need repairs!!		
21-1-19	[REDACTED]	Yes!!!		

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

We, the undersigned eligible voters of Portland NSW, petition the City Council of Lithgow to recognise that concerned citizens are against the increasing of the rates that have been currently proposed.

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11/1/19	[Redacted]	Yes High st
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11/1/19	[Redacted]	Yes High St.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11.11.2019	[Redacted]	FRASER ROAD MOUNTAIN
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	11/1/19	[Redacted]	LIME ST / WIND ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	12/1/15	[Redacted]	ARUNAS.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	13/1/19	[Redacted]	Forest st
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	12/1/19	[Redacted]	YES HIGH ST
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	12/1/19	[Redacted]	Main st.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	17/1/19	[Redacted]	Yes -
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14/1/19	[Redacted]	Yes
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14/1/19	[Redacted]	yes.

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

We, the undersigned eligible voters of Portland NSW, petition the City Council of Lithgow to recognise that concerned citizens are against the increasing of the rates that have been currently proposed.

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]		3/11/19	[Redacted]	can't print pot holes!
[Redacted]		7/11/19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]		7-1-19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]		7.1.19	[Redacted]	yes.
[Redacted]		7-1-19	[Redacted]	yes
[Redacted]		8-1-19	[Redacted]	yes
[Redacted]		8-1-19	[Redacted]	yes
[Redacted]		8-1-19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]		8-1-19	[Redacted]	yes
[Redacted]		8/1/19	[Redacted]	yes

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

We, the undersigned eligible voters of Portland NSW, petition the City Council of Lithgow to recognise that concerned citizens are against the increasing of the rates that have been currently proposed.

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	8/11/19	[Redacted]	Thomson St Lane
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	9/1/19	[Redacted]	Sully Bowen Rd ✓
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	9/1/19	[Redacted]	Reserve street Lane
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	9/1/19	[Redacted]	lane behind Riper st.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	9/1/19	[Redacted]	Colleen Balby
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	9/1/19	[Redacted]	Vickers St Portland
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	10-1-19	[Redacted]	Thomson/Parbury ave.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	10-1-19	[Redacted]	's above
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	10-1-2019	[Redacted]	SUNNY CORNER ROAD
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	10/1/19	[Redacted]	POAKWOOD
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	10/1/19	[Redacted]	THOMSON/RAILWAY AVES

NO TO RATES INCREASE IN PORTLAND NSW 2847

We, the undersigned eligible voters of Portland NSW, petition the City Council of Lithgow to recognise that concerned citizens are against the increasing of the rates that have been currently proposed.

Printed Name	Address	Date	Signature	Live near a road that needs repair
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14/1/19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14/1/19	[Redacted]	Yes
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14/1/19	[Redacted]	Yes
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14/1/19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14-1-19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	15-1-19	[Redacted]	YES
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	15/1/19	[Redacted]	RESERVEIN ST REPAIR
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	15/1/19	[Redacted]	YES TO MAINTENANCE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	16/1/19	[Redacted]	YES

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

27 January 2019

The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP
Minister for Local Government

RE: Lithgow City Council proposed Special Rate Variation

Dear Ms Upton,

This letter is being sent to you regarding Lithgow City Council's proposal to increase the rates effective from the 2019/2020 financial year.

I am expressing my rights as a both a ratepayer and a resident of the Lithgow City Council LGA to oppose the proposal to the two options as itemised in the letter, dated 4 December 2018, sent to the ratepayers (attached).

The letter states that ratepayers can complete a survey online at www.haveyoursay.lithgow.com from 14 December 2018 to 11 January 2019. I went online to do this survey and I was disheartened and frustrated for the following reasons:

- No Acknowledgement for residents / ratepayers from Meadow Flat, even though localities such as Rydal, Cullen Bullen, Hartley had been mentioned.
- There were only two options that one could vote for (as per the letter)
- There was no section where **one could really have their say**

I felt that the survey, possibly a consultative process between Lithgow City Council and the Micromex Consulting group, was flawed, biased, selective and possibly ignorant especially regarding no acknowledgement of the properties and ratepayers in Meadow Flat that are in the Lithgow LGA.

I am totally opposed to the way how Lithgow City Council has gone about this process regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation, which includes:

- The online survey (as itemised above)
- Lack of community consultation nights e.g. at venues in Lithgow, Portland, Wallerawang, as what had previously been done in the past
- Inability for a public forum to be held at the Extraordinary Meeting to be conducted on Tuesday 29 January to discuss the one and only item – Special Rate Variation

The letter to ratepayers is flawed as the costings are based on the 2016 Land Valuation set by the Valuer General. The costings are NOT based on the Land valuations effective at 1 July 2018 which will come into effect for the 2019/2020 financial year. As per the article in the Village Voice Issue 243 – 18 January 2019 (attached) – there has been a significant increase averaging 7.5% in the residential land values and in particular 13.9% increase in Lithgow commercial land values. If Lithgow City Council had provided a third Option of just retaining the 4.77% I have estimated (using the 7.5% land valuation increase effective from the 1 July 2018) that just with my property alone, there would be an approximate annual increase of \$120 - \$150 in my residential rates.

Whilst there has been a 13.9% increase in commercial land values in Lithgow, it is to be noted that the lack of performance by most of the current Lithgow City councillors is not an attraction for new business(es) to invest in Lithgow. A further disincentive for potential business(es) would be the proposed Option / Scenario 2. Within the last two years many residents (including ratepayers) have verbalised their concern regarding the closure of many businesses in Lithgow and surrounding towns within the Lithgow LGA.

It is apparent that Lithgow City Council is pushing for Option / Scenario 2 – a permanent 9% SRV. It would be a timely reminder to Lithgow City Council a snapshot of Lithgow LGA as per the results of the 2016 Census.

- The median age of the 21,090 people in Lithgow LGA was 45 years
- Private dwellings – median weekly household income was \$984 (approx.. \$51168) – well below the NSW and Australian annual average income
- Permanent employment – fulltime of 54.8 % – below both NSW and Australian averages
- Median Personal Weekly income of \$510 – below both NSW and Australian averages
- Household Gross weekly income below \$650 is 31.2% which is significantly HIGHER than that in NSW and Australia
- Household Gross weekly income above \$3000 is 9.5% which is significantly LOWER than that of NSW and Australia

It is quite apparent, using the 2016 ABS Census statistics, that ratepayers of Lithgow LGA cannot afford the permanent 9% SRV. Lithgow LGA has an aging population whose annual income is below both the NSW and Australian averages.

It is of interest to myself and many other ratepayers that if the proposed Option 2/ Scenario 2 was implemented would there be an increase in revenue to pay for **new services** as itemised in point 2 of 'How has the Council considered the capacity of the community to pay?' It is also disconcerting to read of bullish tactics being publicised (see attached article from Village Voice – Issue 243 – 18 January 2019) that Lithgow City Council will adopt to raise revenue. Whilst there is no source from Lithgow City Council being quoted / referred to in the article it has raised ire and questions from residents (including ratepayers) regarding the validity of Council taking such actions including fines.

It is also of interest that the letter from Lithgow City Council – 'Why can't my current rates pay for the additional maintenance and renewal works' itemises Executive, communication and support services as one of the many services being funded. My proposal to reduce costs in this area includes:

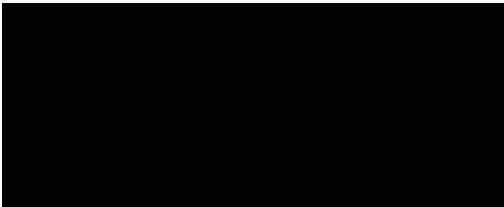
- Stop the annual performance-based payment to the General Manager whose annual income would be between 4 to 5 times more than the average annual income of the residents (many of them being ratepayers) of the Lithgow LGA

- Reduce the number of councillors from 9 to 7, especially when they are 'supposedly' representing only 21,090 people. This in turn would weed out the non-performing councillors who just got in due preferences from other candidates.

To summarise, I am OPPOSED to the two options / scenarios provided by the Lithgow City Council regarding Special Rate Variation. I suggest an alternative option of retaining just the current 4.77%, which in line with new land valuation rates will provide a suitable revenue, along with cutting the performance based pay rise for the General Manager and reducing the councillor numbers from 9 to 7.

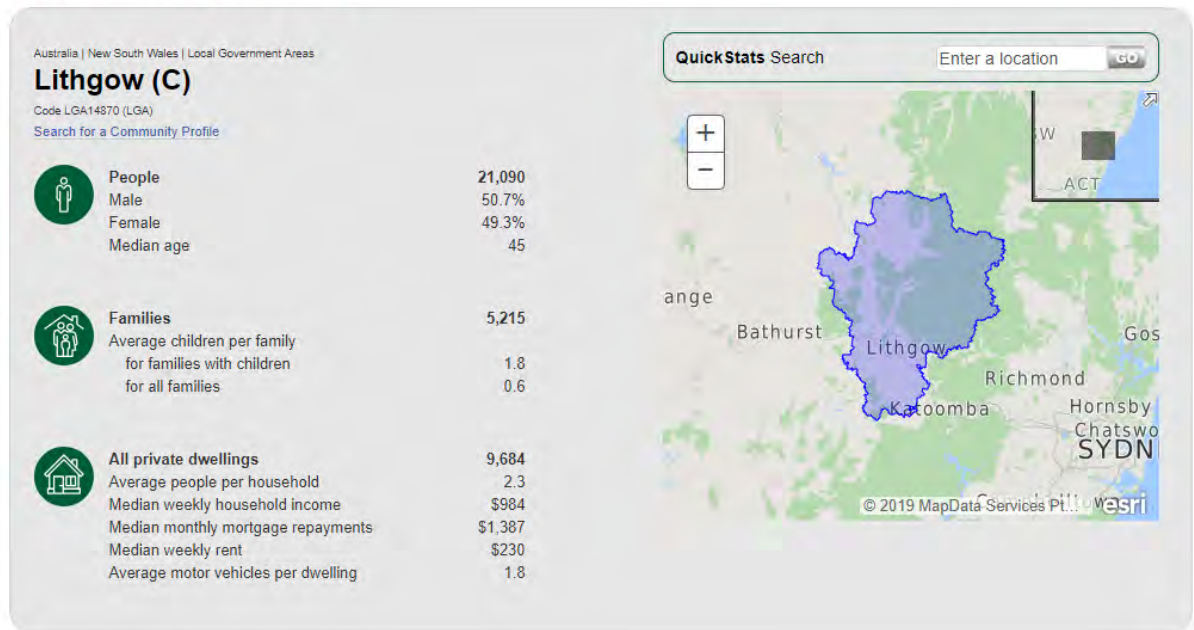
I would like my letter with my opposition and proposal be presented to IPART to reject Lithgow City Council's decision which most probably will be the proposed Option 2.

Yours Sincerely



cc. Mr Paul Toole (State Member for Bathurst)
Mr Graeme Faulkner (General Manager – Lithgow City Council)

2016 Census QuickStats



Level of highest educational attainment <i>People aged 15 years and over</i>	Lithgow (C)	%	New South Wales	%	Australia	%
Bachelor Degree level and above	1,522	8.7	1,424,716	23.4	4,181,406	22.0
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	1,153	6.6	543,142	8.9	1,687,893	8.9
Certificate level IV	540	3.1	167,947	2.8	551,767	2.9
Certificate level III	3,066	17.5	730,498	12.0	2,442,203	12.8
Year 12	1,695	9.7	930,654	15.3	2,994,097	15.7
Year 11	646	3.7	203,574	3.3	941,531	4.9
Year 10	3,113	17.8	702,178	11.5	2,054,331	10.8
Certificate level II	27	0.2	4,849	0.1	13,454	0.1
Certificate level I	3	0.0	625	0.0	2,176	0.0
Year 9 or below	2,170	12.4	513,209	8.4	1,529,897	8.0
No educational attainment	45	0.3	54,870	0.9	145,844	0.8
Not stated	3,016	17.2	627,465	10.3	1,974,794	10.4

Of people aged 15 and over in Lithgow (C) (Local Government Areas), 9.7% reported having completed Year 12 as their highest level of educational attainment, 20.6% had completed a Certificate III or IV and 6.6% had completed an Advanced Diploma or Diploma.

People — employment

[demographics & education](#) | [cultural & language diversity](#) | [employment](#)

Employment <i>People who reported being in the labour force, aged 15 years and over</i>	Lithgow (C)	%	New South Wales	%	Australia	%
Worked full-time	4,627	54.8	2,134,521	59.2	6,623,065	57.7
Worked part-time	2,678	31.7	1,071,151	29.7	3,491,503	30.4
Away from work	489	5.8	174,654	4.8	569,276	5.0
Unemployed	651	7.7	225,546	6.3	787,452	6.9

There were 8,445 people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in Lithgow (C) (Local Government Areas). Of these 54.8% were employed full time, 31.7% were employed part-time and 7.7% were unemployed.

The ABS Labour Force Survey provides the official estimates of Australia's unemployment rate. More information about Census and labour force status is provided in [Understanding the Census and Census Data](#).

[View the data quality statement for Labour force status \(LFSP\)](#)

Median weekly incomes <i>People aged 15 years and over</i>	Lithgow (C)	%	New South Wales	%	Australia	%
Personal	510	--	664	--	662	--
Family	1,328	--	1,780	--	1,734	--
Household	984	--	1,486	--	1,438	--

The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in Lithgow (C) (Local Government Areas) was \$510.

[View the data quality statements for: Total personal income \(INCP\) Total family income \(FINF\) Total household income \(HIND\)](#)

Dwellings — household composition

[dwelling structure](#) | [household composition](#) | [mortgage & rent](#) | [number of motor vehicles](#) | [internet connection](#)

Household composition	Lithgow (C)	%	New South Wales	%	Australia	%
Family households	5,114	65.0	1,874,524	72.0	5,907,625	71.3
Single (or lone) person households	2,561	32.6	620,778	23.8	2,023,542	24.4
Group households	188	2.4	109,004	4.2	354,917	4.3

In Lithgow (C) (Local Government Areas), of all households, 65.0% were family households, 32.6% were single person households and 2.4% were group households.

[View the data quality statement for Household composition \(HHCD\)](#)

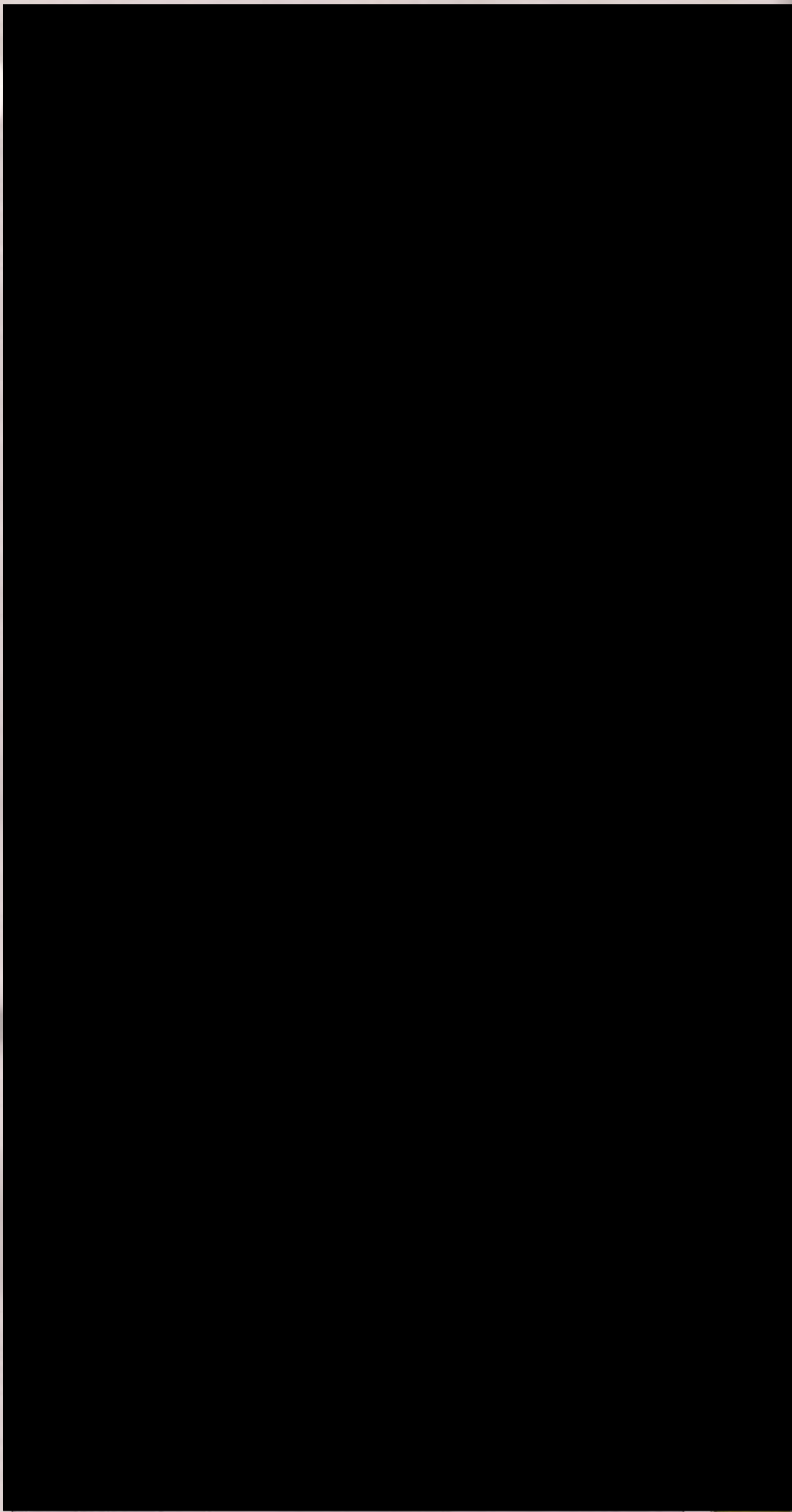
Household income	Lithgow (C)	%	New South Wales	%	Australia	%
Less than \$650 gross weekly income	--	31.2	--	19.7	--	20.0
More than \$3000 gross weekly income	--	9.5	--	18.7	--	16.4

In Lithgow (C) (Local Government Areas), 31.2% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 and 9.5% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000.

[View the data quality statement for Household income, total weekly \(HIND\)](#)

Source: http://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA14870?Opendocument - accessed 27 January 2019 at 3.52pm





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