

# Our Place Our Future

## OPTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Community Engagement Strategy  
Feedback report

26 July - 10 October 2022



*Lithgow*  
CITY COUNCIL



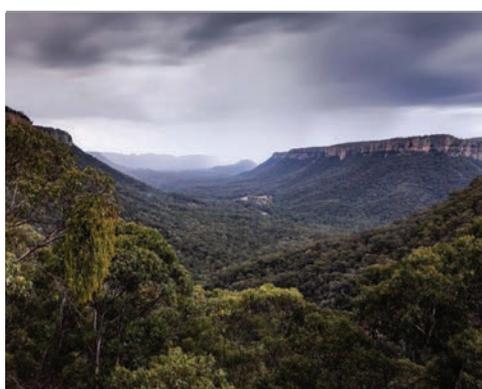
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Note: This document provides hyperlinks for online readers.



LITHGOW (Includes suburbs)  
Population - 11,596  
Dwellings - 5,666



WOLGAN, NEWNES & NEWNES PLATEAU  
Population - 75  
Dwellings - 20



WALLERAWANG  
Population - 1,978  
Dwellings - 801

Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/lithgow/locality-snapshots?WebID=10394100>

Note: Localities shown on this page may extend outside the boundaries of Lithgow City Council; the data given relates to the whole locality, not just the area inside Lithgow City Council.

Images of Kanimbla and Hartley courtesy of Wendy Hawkes.



DARK CORNER/SUNNY CORNER/UPPER TURON AND PALMERS OAKY  
Population - 161  
Dwellings - 117



CAPERTEE (inc. Running Stream & Round Swamp) AND CAPERTEE VALLEY  
Population - 625  
Dwellings - 394



CLARENCE/DARGAN  
Population - 291  
Dwellings - 151



CULLEN BULLEN/BEN BULLEN  
Population - 384  
Dwellings - 155



GOOD FOREST /HAMPTON AND LOWTHER  
Population - 215  
Dwellings - 128



HARTLEY/ LITTLE HARTLEY & HARTLEY VILLAGE  
Population - 989  
Dwelling - 432



BLACKMANS FLAT/LIDSDALE  
Population - 455  
Dwellings - 164



MARRANGAROO/SPRINGVALE  
Population - 956  
Dwellings - 194



MEADOW FLAT/MT LAMBE  
Population - 388  
Dwellings - 165



PORTLAND  
Population - 2,426  
Dwellings - 1,057



RYDAL/SODWALLS/TARANA  
Population - 166  
Dwellings - 87



KANIMBLA/MEGALONG VALLEY  
Population - 275  
Dwellings - 189

# TWO OPTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

**Council, at the Ordinary Meeting of 25 July 2022, resolved to consult with the community on a pathway to financial sustainability for the purpose of securing the future of the Lithgow local government area. The proposal provided the Community with two options for consideration:**

## **Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained - Council can:**

- Maintain roads, footpaths, town centres, villages and buildings to a level agreed with the community.
- Renew public infrastructure in a timely and planned way.
- Maintain all current services to the community, including playing fields, parks, aquatic centre, libraries, community facilities, disaster recovery, stormwater etc.,
- Improve its financial sustainability and performance, with special attention directed to expanding and diversifying the local economy – more jobs.

## **Option 2 Service Levels Reduced – Council will:**

- Present a plan that reduces the provision of infrastructure and services to align with existing Council revenues.
- Reduce services for community and recreation facilities and services and close unsafe facilities.
- Continue to reduce services over future years as short-term service level reductions will not be sufficient to ensure essential assets reach assumed asset lives.

# OUR ENGAGEMENT

Council values the communities views and opinions. Throughout this process Council has encouraged a two-way conversation with the community. We have listened to what you have been saying and taken on board your thoughts and opinions.

A large portion of our community joined the conversation on the two options for a sustainable Lithgow, with over 11,000 interactions across the engagement period including:

762 submissions received

Three pop-up cafe appointments held (6 bookings)

Six Community Information Sessions

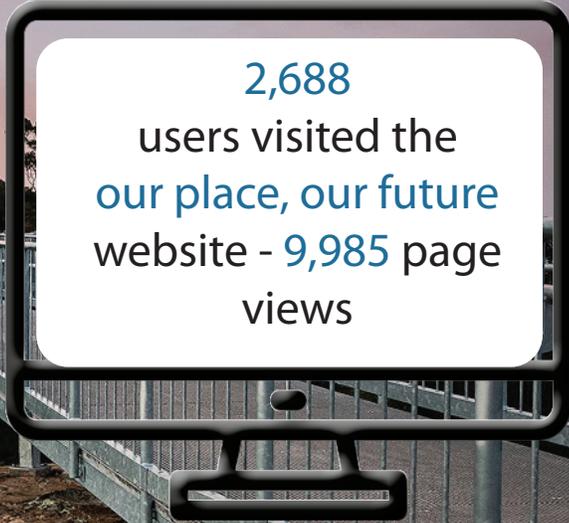
172 attendees

405 Telephone surveys

35 business representatives attended a meeting with the Lithgow District Chamber of Commerce

Industry meetings

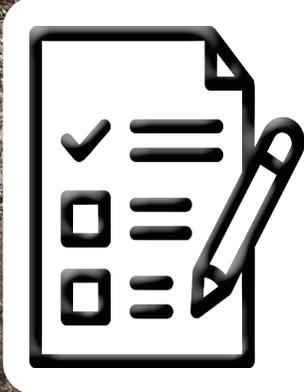
- Centennial
- Quarries
- Energy Australia



2,688 users visited the our place, our future website - 9,985 page views



8 full page advertorials in the Village Voice & Mercury



1167 survey responses / submissions

# OUR ENGAGEMENT

Ratepayer Information Pack -  
Sent to all ratepayers from Forms Express  
mailing house via Australia Post

1-5 August 2022

See Appendix B (p35)

[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

Home Special Rates Variation Integrated Planning & Reporting Stay Informed

## Special Rates Variation

Options for a sustainable Lithgow

- About the Special Rates Variation
- Technical Paper
- SRV Consultation
- SRV FAQs
- Why do you pay rates?
- Rates Calculator
- Fact Sheets
- Options for a sustainable Lithgow
- Document Library

There are some important decisions that Council must make about the future of our assets and services. We need your input. Over the last twelve months, Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of its finances, as well as the assets and services it provides to our community. Through our community surveys, Council has heard what is important to you. Residents want to see a greater focus on road maintenance, economic development and diversification and provision of services and facilities for our youth. Council's ability to maintain our local community's assets and deliver the outcomes residents want is constrained by our financial resources. Compared to very similar councils, Lithgow City Council collects considerably less rating income. An external review of our financial position assesses that Council requires an additional \$4.75 million annually to meet existing levels of service – mostly related to roads. Council also believes it requires a further \$1.25 million annually to provide additional economic and other services that will put our community in the strongest possible position to respond to local economic challenges and grasp local opportunities. There are two options for you to consider for Resourcing our Future. We encourage you to review the options detailed below and have your say on which option you prefer.

- Option 1 proposes a rate increase to MAINTAIN service levels.
- Option 2 proposes increasing rates ONLY by the annual rate peg increase set by IPART – which will REDUCE service levels.

See Appendix C -  
Website Summary  
Data

### Option 1

#### Service Levels Maintained

Under **OPTION 1**, we can continue to maintain the Council's services and \$530 million of infrastructure assets. We can also build capacity in Council's organisation to improve its financial sustainability and performance in future years.

If you prefer Option 1 'Maintained' We:

- **Maintain** roads, footpaths, town centres and buildings to a level agreed with the community
- **Address** Council's infrastructure renewal backlog over time
- **Maintain** services to the community, including playing fields, parks, Aquatic Centre, libraries and community facilities.
- **Improve** Council's financial sustainability and performance, including supporting local economic diversification.

### Option 2

#### Service Levels Reduced

Under **OPTION 2**, Council would develop a plan prioritising essential services and reduce more discretionary services. The focus would be managing risk, including closure or removal of unsafe infrastructure. This plan would be developed and finalised with extensive community consultation.

If you prefer Option 2 'Reduced' Council will:

- **Present** a plan that prioritises essential services, that scales back the provision of infrastructure and services to align with existing Council revenues.
- **Reduce** services for community and recreation facilities, less capacity to support and advocate for community services, closure of unsafe facilities.
- **Continue** to reduce services as service levels will not be sufficient to ensure assets reach the end of their assumed asset lives.

**Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update**

**REMEMBER - Only the Land Rates increase under OPTION 1**  
(see the sample rate notice below)

**Try our Online Rates Calculator**

**REMEMBER: Only enter your land value. Not the charges for water, sewer, stormwater or waste.**

**NEED HELP?**  
Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates team, 02 6354 9998

**How do I have my say?**

**Community Information Sessions**

- Waterbury Community & Sports Club, Saturday 27 Aug, 10am
- Caperton Memorial Hall, Saturday 3 Sept, 10am
- Hartley Old School Hall, Saturday 17 Sept, 10am
- Rydal Showground Hall

**Talk to a member of our team** who will answer your questions regarding the options for a sustainable future and assist you to calculate your rates and speak with Dali or Ernie. Or book your appointment at one of the following locations:

- Glen Davis Community Hall, Wednesday, 11 Aug
- Cookbrook School, Wedgum, Wednesday, 14 Sept
- Monkey Creek Cafe, Dargan, Wednesday, 21 Sept
- Mumma Swan's Cafe, Varona, Wednesday, 28 Sept

[www.ourplacemakefuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplacemakefuture.lithgow.com)

Contact Details: Administration Office, General Enquiries

**7** Community Updates placed on the website and as full page adverts in the Lithgow Mercury & the Village Voice

- [Community Update #1](#)
- [Community Update #2](#)
- [Community Update #3](#)
- [Community Update #4](#)
- [Community Update #5](#)
- [Community Update #6](#)
- [Community Update #7](#)

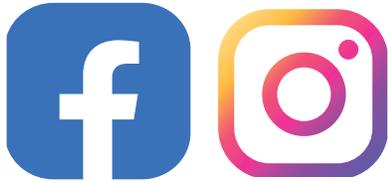
# Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Newsletter

**5** Throughout the engagement period, all email submissions were responded to with the Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Newsletter. This provided an opportunity to clarify misinformation and ensure all respondents were provided with a consistent response.

- [Newsletter - 12 August 2022](#)
- [Newsletter - 25 August 2022](#)
- [Newsletter - 1 September 2022](#)
- [Newsletter - 16 September 2022](#)
- [Newsletter - 27 September 2022](#)

**454**  
contacts receive Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Newsletter

# OUR ENGAGEMENT



46%

were informed by social media

## Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update

REMEMBER - Only the Land Rates increase under OPTION 1 (see the sample rate notice below)

**REMEMBER: Only enter your land value. Not the charges for water, sewer, stormwater or waste.**

**NEED HELP?** Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates Team, 02 6334 9999

34% were informed by "Other" sources

**HAVE YOUR SAY** on options for a sustainable LITHGOW

Consulting about proposed changes to commence on 1 July 2023

There are some important decisions that Council must make about the future of our assets and services. We need your input.

Over the last twelve months, Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of its finances, as well as the assets and services it provides to our community.

Through our community surveys, Council has heard what is important to you.

Residents want to see a greater focus on road maintenance, economic development and diversification and provision of services and facilities for our youth.

Council's ability to maintain our local community's assets and deliver the outcomes residents expect is constrained by our financial resources. Compared to very similar councils, Lithgow City Council collects considerably less rating income. An internal review of our financial position shows that Council requires an additional \$4.75 million annually to meet existing levels of service - mostly related to roads. Council also believes it requires a further \$1.22 million annually to provide additional economic and other services that will put our community in the strongest possible position to respond to local economic challenges and grasp local opportunities.

What is this brochure about?

This brochure provides two options for you to consider for financing our future. We encourage you to review the options detailed below and "Have Your Say" on which option you prefer.

- Option 1 proposes a rate increase to maintain service levels.
- Option 2 proposes increasing rates ONLY by the annual rate peg increase set by NSW - which will REDUCE service levels.

**Option 1 - Service Levels Maintained**

Under **OPTION 1**, we can continue to maintain the Council's services and \$330 million of infrastructure assets. We can also build capacity in Council's organisation to improve its financial sustainability and performance in future years.

**IF YOU PREFER OPTION 1 'MAINTAINED' WE:**

- Maintain roads, hospitals, town centres and buildings to a level agreed with the community.
- Address Council's infrastructure backlog over time.
- Maintain services to the community, including playing fields, parks, aquatic centres, libraries and community facilities.
- Improve Council's financial sustainability and performance, including supporting local economic development.

**How will OPTION 1 affect your rates?**

The total increase to residential, business and farmland rates under **OPTION 1** is 24% or 26.5% with the allowed increase (rate peg).

Annual Rate Increase (%)	2023/24
Rate peg (expected annual increase)	2.5%
Special Rate Variation (SRV)	24%
<b>Total Annual Increase</b>	<b>26.5%</b>

**For Residential Ratepayers**

Average Rate 2022/23	\$869.24	Average Rate 2023/24	\$1,709.50
Total Rate peg 2.5%	\$21.73	Rate Rate peg 2.5%	\$44.44
SRV 24%	\$206.62	SRV 24%	\$400.32
<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$1,097.61</b>	<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$1,157.45</b>
<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$230.37</b>	<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$415.96</b>
<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$4.42</b>	<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$8.69</b>

**For Farmland Ratepayers**

Average Rate 2022/23	\$4,314.67	Average Rate 2023/24	\$8,744.67
Total Rate peg 2.5%	\$109.12	Rate Rate peg 2.5%	\$109.12
SRV 24%	\$4,205.55	SRV 24%	\$8,635.55
<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$4,314.67</b>	<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$8,744.67</b>
<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**For Business Ratepayers**

Average Rate 2022/23	\$699.24	Average Rate 2023/23	\$1,709.50
Total Rate peg 2.5%	\$17.48	Rate Rate peg 2.5%	\$34.96
SRV 24%	\$681.76	SRV 24%	\$1,674.54
<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$701.24</b>	<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$1,714.54</b>
<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$102.00</b>	<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$105.30</b>
<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$1.96</b>	<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$2.04</b>

**How will OPTION 2 affect your rates?**

The total increase to residential, business and farmland rates under **OPTION 2** is 2.5% (rate peg only).

Annual Rate Increase (%)	2023/24
Rate peg (expected annual increase)	2.5%
Special Rate Variation (SRV)	0%
<b>Total Annual Increase</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

**For Residential Ratepayers**

Average Rate 2022/23	\$869.24	Average Rate 2023/23	\$1,709.50
Total Rate peg 2.5%	\$21.73	Rate Rate peg 2.5%	\$44.44
SRV 0%	\$0.00	SRV 0%	\$0.00
<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$890.97</b>	<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$1,753.94</b>
<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$21.73</b>	<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$44.44</b>
<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$4.27</b>	<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$8.52</b>

**For Farmland Ratepayers**

Average Rate 2022/23	\$4,314.67	Average Rate 2023/23	\$8,744.67
Total Rate peg 2.5%	\$109.12	Rate Rate peg 2.5%	\$109.12
SRV 0%	\$0.00	SRV 0%	\$0.00
<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$4,423.79</b>	<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$8,853.79</b>
<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$109.12</b>	<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$109.12</b>
<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$2.12</b>	<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$2.12</b>

**For Business Ratepayers**

Average Rate 2022/23	\$699.24	Average Rate 2023/23	\$1,709.50
Total Rate peg 2.5%	\$17.48	Rate Rate peg 2.5%	\$34.96
SRV 0%	\$0.00	SRV 0%	\$0.00
<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$716.72</b>	<b>Average Rate 2023/24</b>	<b>\$1,744.46</b>
<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$17.48</b>	<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>\$34.96</b>
<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$3.33</b>	<b>Weekly Change</b>	<b>\$6.75</b>

Option 1 raises an additional \$6.5 million (including rate peg) for our City and revenue is retained permanently.

Calculations are an estimate based on a typical rates notice using 2019 land values. The precise amount may vary depending on increases or falls in individual property values following 2022 valuations by the Valuer-General.

Option 2: An initial \$4.7m of service reductions will be required from 2023/24 for the City to live within its means. Annual revisions will be undertaken with further service reductions as service levels will not be sufficient to ensure assets reach their assumed asset lives.

**How do I have my say?**

**Community Information Sessions**

- Waterways Community & Sports Club - Saturday 27 Aug, 1pm
- Capeview Memorial Hall - Saturday 3 Sept, 10am
- Hartley Old School Hall - Saturday 13 Sept, 10am
- Rydal Showground Hall - Wednesday 14 Sept

**Talk to a member of our team** who will answer your questions regarding the options for a sustainable future and assist you to calculate your rates and speak with Deb or Emma. Or book your appointment at one of the following locations:

- Glenn Davis Community Hall - Wednesday, 27 Sept
- Monkey Creek Cafe, Dangson - Wednesday, 27 Sept
- Crabbrook School, Waglan - Wednesday, 14 Sept
- Mumukshu's Cafe, Tamara - Wednesday, 28 Sept

[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

Contact Details: 02 6334 9999, Administration Office, General Enquiries

Scan here

18%

were informed by Newspaper advertisement  
See Appendix D (pages 56-59)

46% were informed by mail out

An information pack was distributed to all ratepayers 1-5 August 2022 via Forms Express/Australia Post (see Appendix B (pages 35-40)).



# Options for a Sustainable Lithgow

Community Update



## 8%

were informed by council eNewsletter

See Appendix C page x

[www.ourplaceourfuture.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.com)



## 7%

were informed by council website

See Appendix C (pages 42- 44)

The screenshot shows the Lithgow City Council website with several sections:

- Next Ordinary Council Meeting:** Monday, 22 August at 7pm in the Council Chambers, 180 Mont Street, Lithgow. Includes a 'Watch Live Stream' button and QR code.
- Mayoral Message:** A message from the Mayor regarding the council's future and sustainability options.
- Notice of Public Exhibition:** Development Proposal DA137/22 - Burnings. Includes details about the proposal and a QR code for more information.
- Subscribe to our eNewsletters:** A section with QR codes for council newsletters.
- Join our team:** A section with QR codes for job opportunities.
- Scan here to Pay your rates online:** A QR code for online rate payments.

At the bottom, there is contact information for the Council and the website URL: [www.council.lithgow.com](http://www.council.lithgow.com)

## 3%

were informed by  
Mayoral Column  
See appendix D (pages 72-73)

Younger residents were more likely to have learnt of Council's exploration of the SRV via social media, while those aged over 65+ were more likely to have been informed via a mail out.

# OUR ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the Consultation period Council conducted an extensive media and social media campaign. It was not only important that we informed the community of the two Options for a Sustainable Future but, that we responded to their questions and clarified misinformation.

Our social media campaign included **27** posts to Facebook and Instagram - see Appendix C (pages 45 - 47) as well as monitoring and responding to comments on other Facebook pages by providing links to relevant information on the website.

## Presentation by General Manager

Council's General Manager, Craig Butler, presents a detailed discussion on the special rate variation.

# 156 views



Community Information Sessions were held on Saturdays at **6** locations across the Lithgow local government area to enable absentee ratepayers to attend.

The General Manager pre-recorded a video presentation which was available on [Lithgow City Council's YouTube Channel](#). This was accessible via a link from the the Our Place, Our Future website Special Rates Variation drop down menu - [Options for a Sustainable Lithgow](#)

**3** media releases were distributed

- [What's the real story!](#) - 10 August 2022
- [Let's talk about our future](#) - 17 August 2022
- [Wallerawang talks about its future](#) - 1 September 2022

## Responding to community submissions

Council received community submissions via email, Australia Post and over the counter at the Administration Centre and the Libraries. All Community Submissions were responded to throughout the consultation period.

Email addresses were captured and subscribed to the Our Place Our Future Options for a Sustainable Lithgow eNewsletter and Council Connections eNewsletter distribution lists.

**5** targeted Our Place Our Future emails were developed to respond to questions, misinformation and update respondents on the proposed Special Rate Variation.

**8** Full page ads were placed in the Lithgow Mercury (weekly) - includes 1 Rates Calculator overview.

**5** Full page ads were placed in the Village Voice (fortnightly)

**243** Information Packs which included copies of all fact sheets, full page advertisements and a copy of the Frequently Asked Questions was mailed recipient households at the end of the submission period & prior to the telephone survey.

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

6

Community  
information  
sessions

172 Attendees



Portland  
Saturday,  
13 August  
45 attendees

Lithgow  
Saturday,  
20 August  
60 attendees



Pop-up cafes  
(meetings by appointment)

Hampton - 2 bookings  
Cullen Bullen - 2 bookings  
Glen Davis - 1 booking  
Wolgan Valley - no bookings  
Dargan - 2 bookings  
Tarana - no bookings



Wallerawang  
Saturday, 13 August  
19 attendees

Capertee  
Saturday, 3 September  
20 attendees

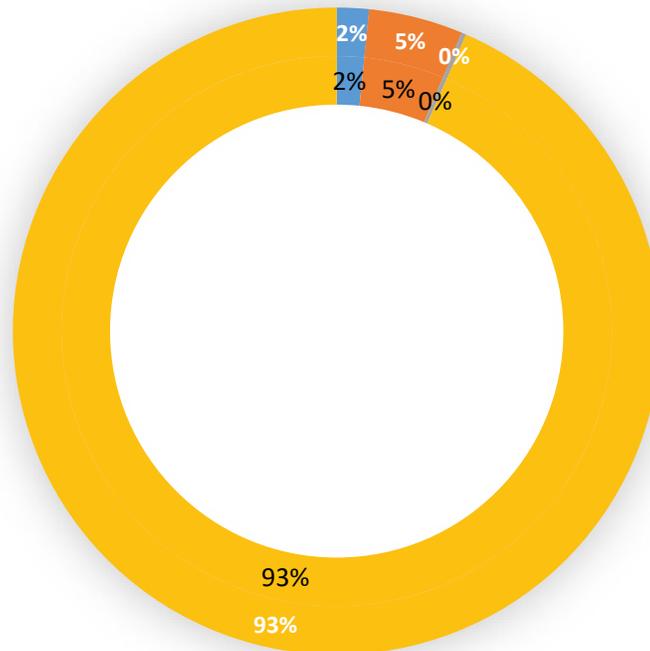
Hartley  
Saturday, 17 September  
28 attendees

Rydal  
Saturday 24 September  
16 attendees

# COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS



% of submissions v rateable properties



■ Submissions - Option 1   ■ Submissions - Option 2   ■ Written Submissions   ■ No submissions

Council, at the Ordinary Meeting of 25 July 2022, resolved to consult with the community on a pathway to financial sustainability for the purpose of securing the future of the Lithgow local government area from 1 August to 10 October 2022. The proposal provided the Community with two options for consideration:

- Option 1 - Service levels maintained
- Option 2 - Service levels reduced.

During this period 762 community submissions were received via:

- [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)
- email: [srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)
- Letters to council
- Information pack submission slips

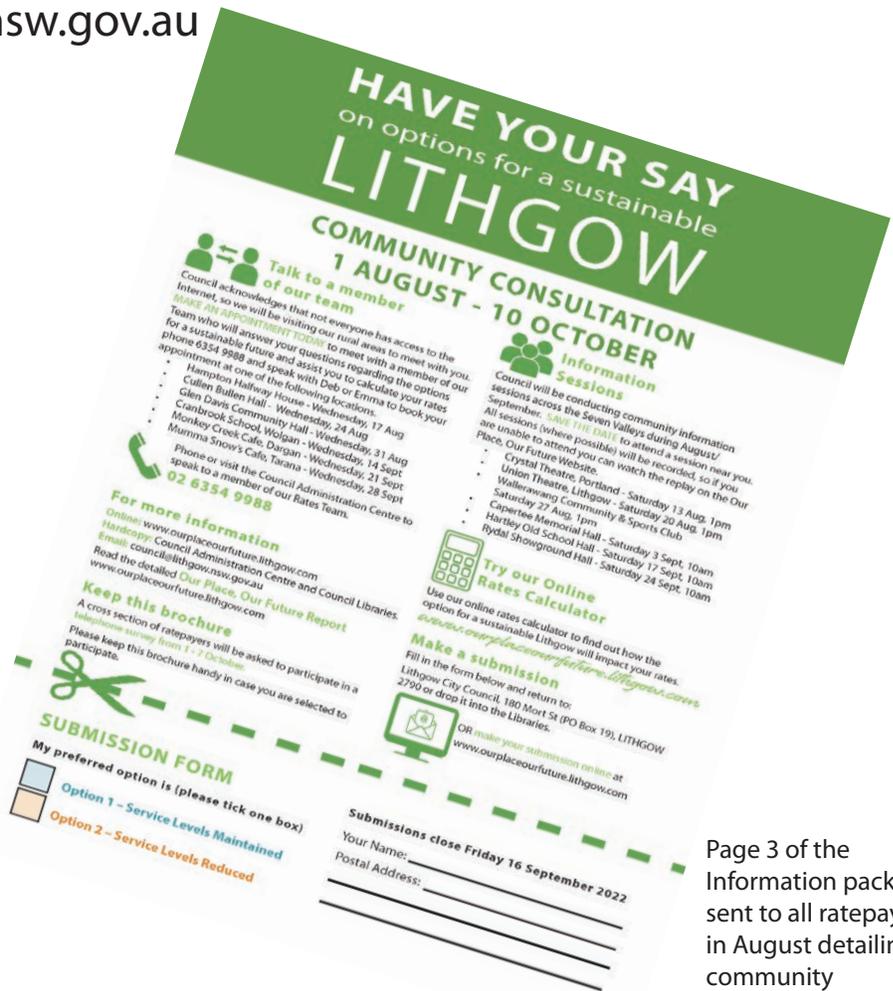
### Option 1

189  
Submissions

### Option 2

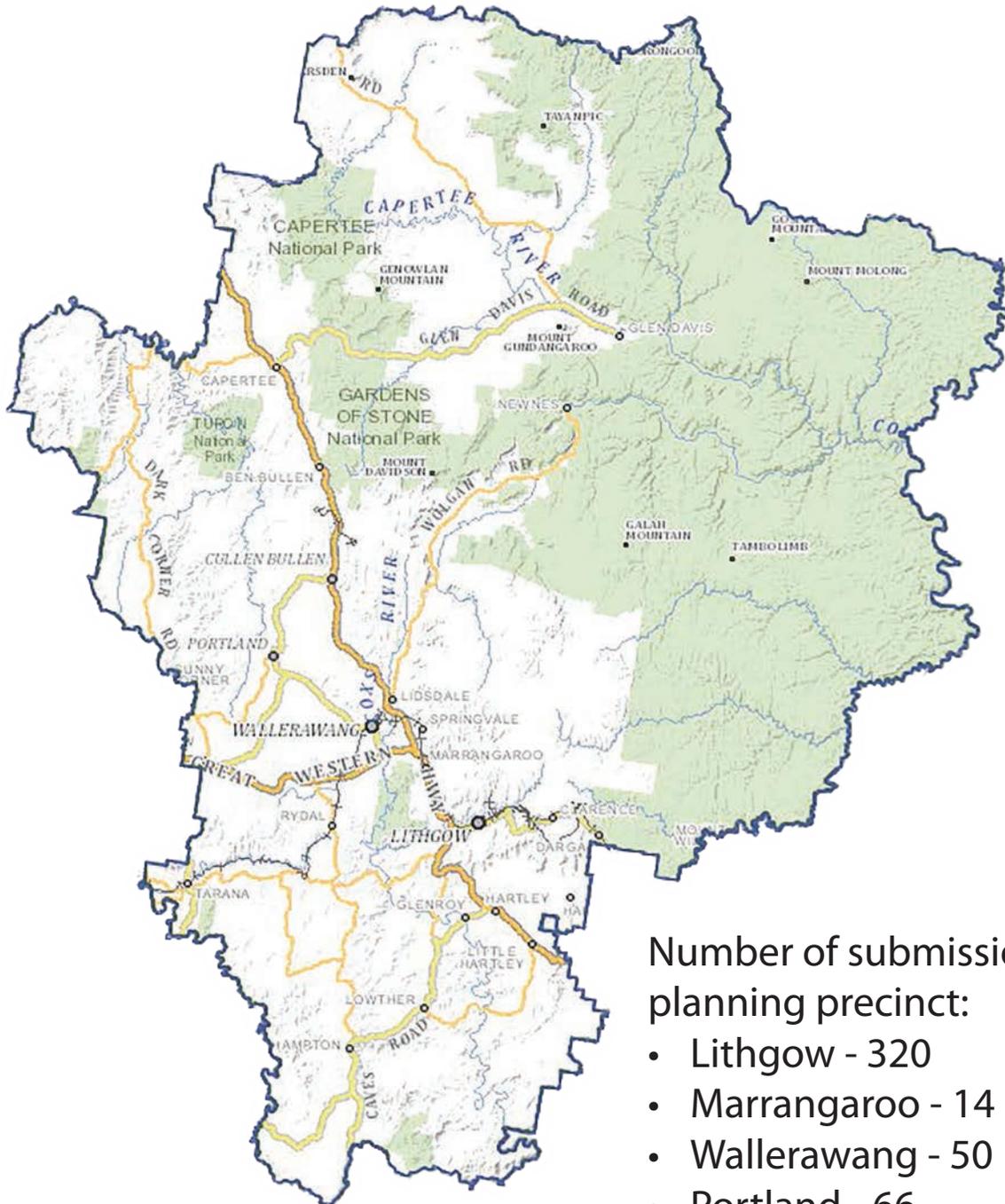
545  
Submissions

28  
Written submissions



Page 3 of the Information pack sent to all ratepayers in August detailing community consultation.

# COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

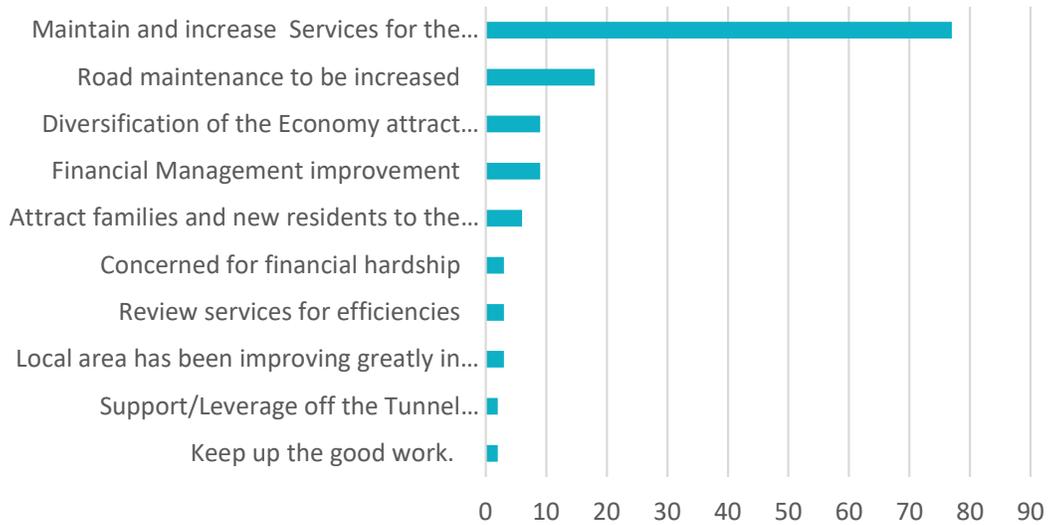


Number of submissions by planning precinct:

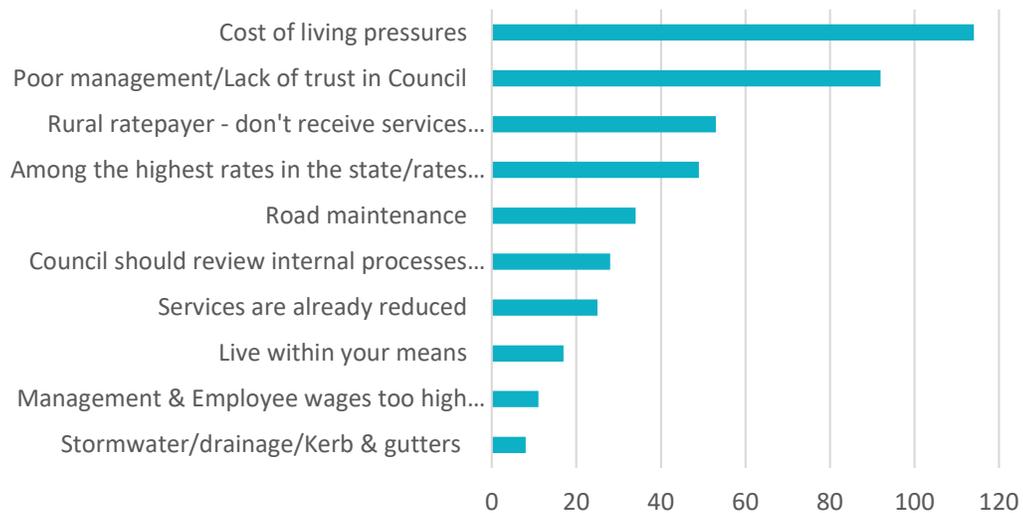
- Lithgow - 320
- Marrangaroo - 14
- Wallerawang - 50
- Portland - 66
- Rural North - 74
- Rural South - 66
- Non-resident ratepayer - 101
- Not identified - 10 \*

\* Submissions are listed by postal address. There were 10 respondents who did not provide a postal address. For a detailed list of the localities within each planning precinct see Appendix A (p30)

## Top responses - Option 1



## Top responses - Option 2



Full details of all responses are available under Appendix A (pages 32-34)

# TELEPHONE SURVEY

## SAMPLE PROFILE

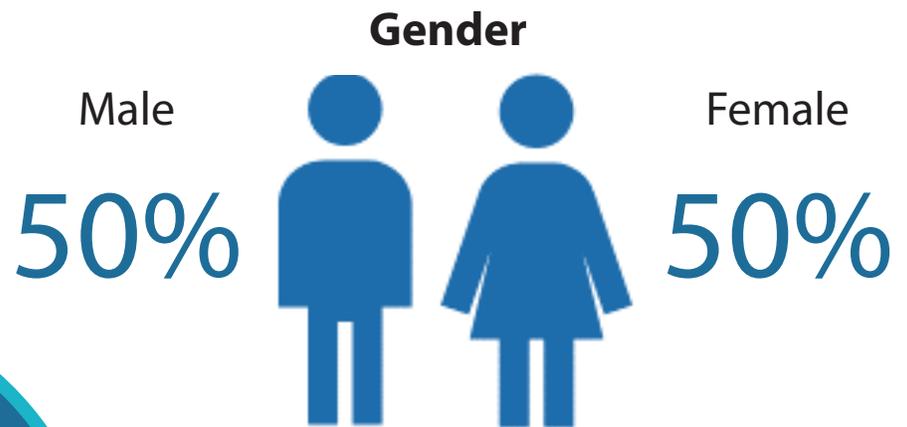
Council engaged Micromex Research to undertake a random telephone survey of residents and ratepayers in the Lithgow local government area between 5 - 11 October 2022.

### Objectives (Why?)

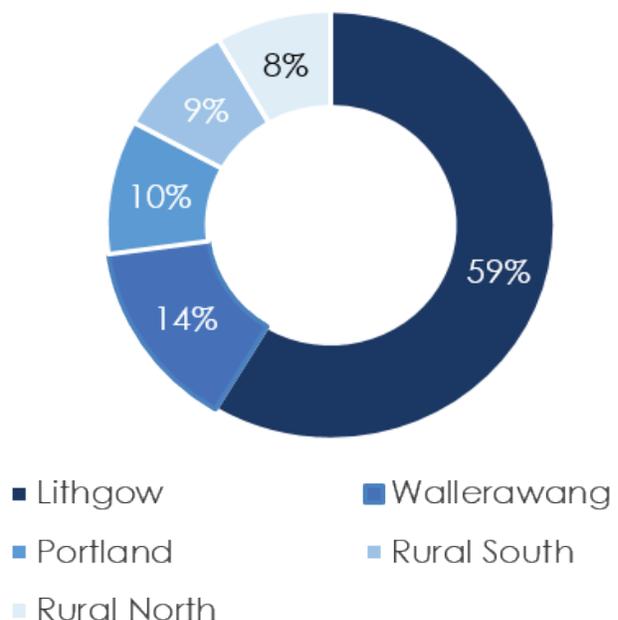
- Identify community awareness of Council's exploration of a Special Rate Variation
- Explore and understand resident support for a Special Rate Variation
- Identify the community's overall level of satisfaction with Council performance
- Understand and identify community priorities for the Lithgow City Council LGA

### Sample (How?)

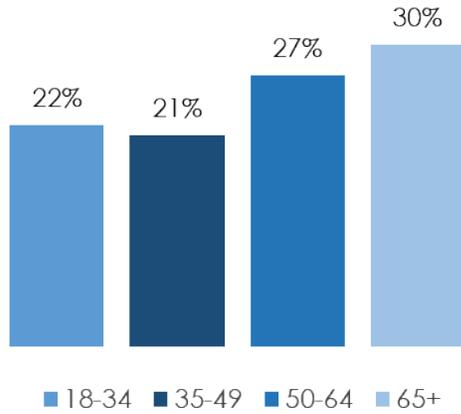
- Telephone survey to N = 405 residents (N=239 landlines, N=166 mobiles)
- We use a 5 point scale (e.g. 1 = not at all satisfied and not at all supportive, 5 = very satisfied and very supportive)
- Greatest margin of error +/- 4.9%



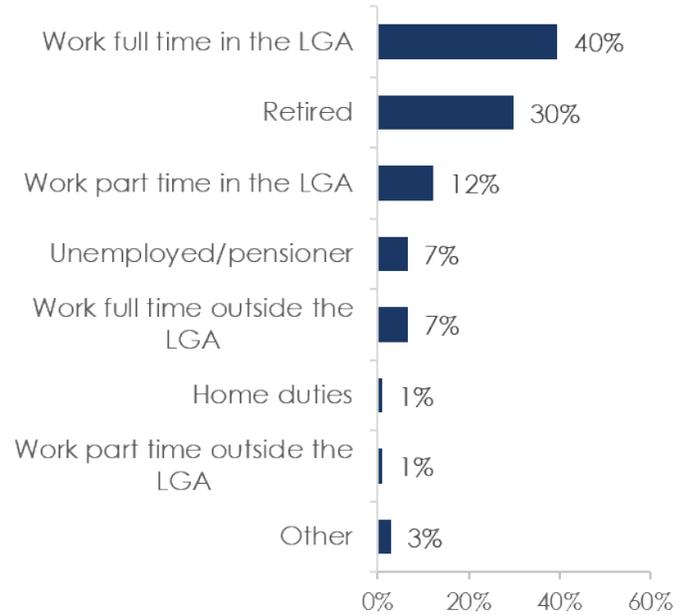
No. of respondents by Planning Precinct



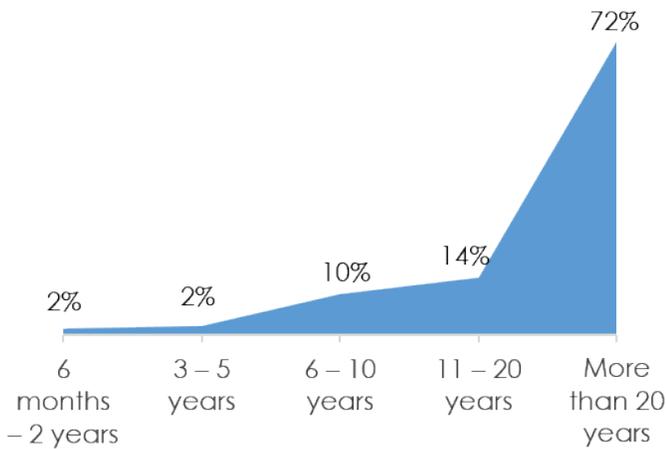
## Age



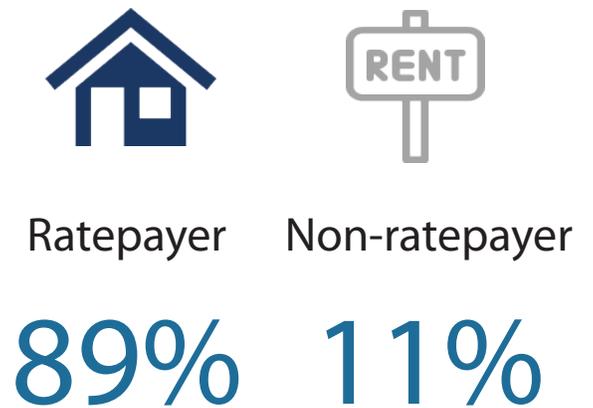
## Employment Status



## Time lived in the area



## Ratepayer status



See the full SRV Community Research Report prepared by Micromex Research October 2022

# TELEPHONE SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESULTS

## High Community Awareness

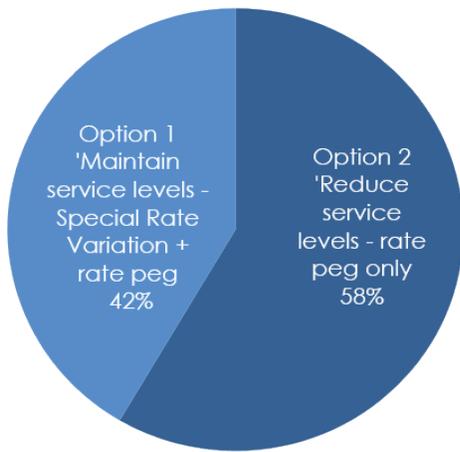
**85%** of residents were aware, prior to contact, of the SRV  
Primary modes of awareness were social media (46%) and mail out (46%)

## Satisfaction with Council

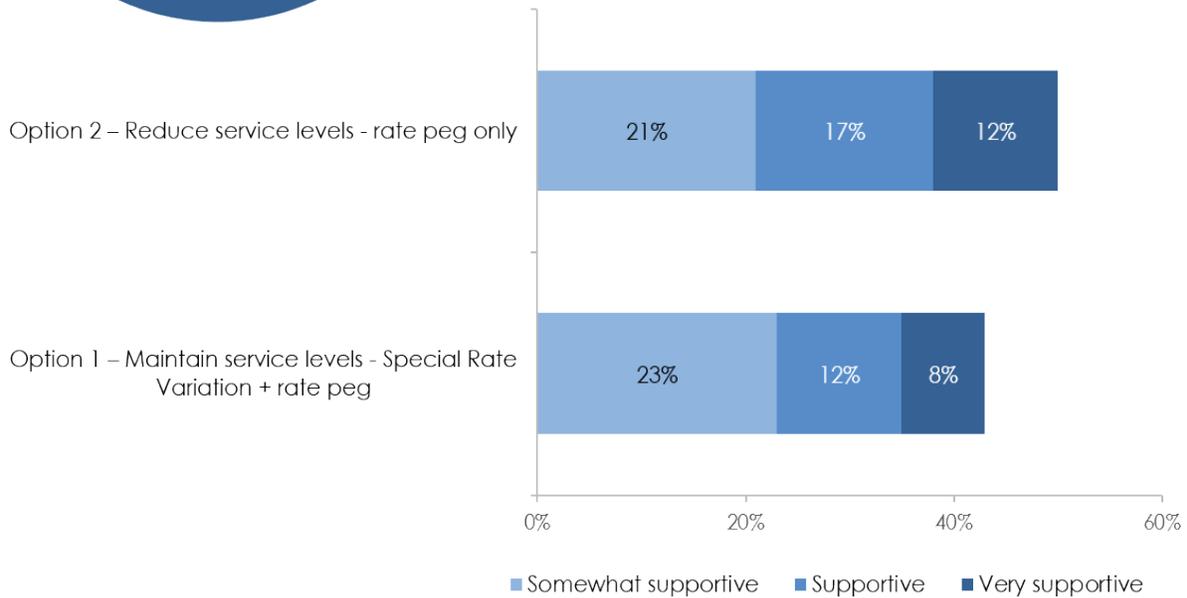
**49%** of residents are at least somewhat satisfied with the performance of Council over the last 12 months

## What do residents want prioritised?

The majority of residents (**80%**), believe improving/maintaining roads and kerb and guttering is a key priority for Council in the local area



There was a preference for Option 2 (Reduce service levels - rate peg only), with 58% of residents ranking this option as their first preference. Residents 65+ had significant preference towards a service reduction.



Neither reality is strongly supported.

# Preference for Option 2

Community preference was for Option 2 (Reduce service levels -

rate peg only), with **58%** of residents ranking this option as their first preference

Key reasons for the preference centred on **affordability/cost considerations (24%)** and a **lack of confidence in Council financial management (24%)**

See the full SRV Community Research Report prepared by Micromex Research October 2022

# TELEPHONE SURVEY

## 3 KEY PRIORITY AREAS

### Improving/Maintaining Roads/Kerb and Guttering (80%)

*"Maintaining and improved roads"*

*"To maintain the roads better, fix potholes"*

*"Sealed road resurfacing"*

*"Maintenance of roads, streets and guttering"*

*"Better quality grading of unsealed roads e.g. previous grading is poor quality"*

*"Fixing potholes in sealed streets and lanes within the city"*

*"Roads to be improved in the rural areas"*

*"road maintenance such as sealing and fixing pot holes"*

*"Road maintenance to ensure they are safe"*

Improve Service delivery of waste,  
sewerage and water  
(25%)

*"Stability of water infrastructure - they keep bursting, including drainage"*

*"Better, more durable water infrastructure e.g. to prevent mains pipe bursts resulting in length water outages"*

*"upgrade the water pipes as they are cracking"*

*"Better waste management facility options available locally to residents in rural areas".*

*"Sewerage needs to be addressed"*

*"Sewerage and water prioritisation"*

*"ensuring the maintenance of water and sewerage services"*

*"Improve sewerage services - currently leaking when it floods and rains"*

Improve Council Operations  
(23%)

*"Management of the Council finances needs to be improved"*

*"more community consultation about projects"*

*"Improve the management of Council itself"*

*"More staff to ensure Council works are being done e.g. Supervisors"*

*"Better management of Council finances. Look at different ways to bring money into the community e.g. events, concerts".*

*"Paying attention to the ratepayers' wants and needs"*

*"Making better financial decisions to benefit the entire community"*

*"Better customer service from Council staff to the community. Act upon community requests efficiently and appropriately."*

# KEY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

**Under Option 1 (Service Levels Maintained), the power generation, quarrying and mining industries would make a proportionally larger contribution to the proposed rating increase than the residential, farming and business categories after considering capacity to pay, inter-generational equity and other matters.**

Council undertook direct consultation with each ratepayer in the power generation, quarrying and mining rating categories. A summary of the consultation process is provided below:

- Specific ratepayer information letters for Business (Quarrying), Business (Power Generation) and Mining ratepayers were provided with the Rating Review Technical Paper on 15 August 2022.
- Meetings with the seven individual quarrying ratepayers were held between 17/8/22 and 9/9/22. Ratepayers were offered additional meetings and second meetings were held with 2 ratepayers.
- For the most affected quarrying ratepayer, a meeting with Valuer-General officers was facilitated to assist the ratepayer with their understanding of the land valuation.
- Regular meetings have been held since 24/8/22 with the two most affected power generation and mining ratepayers. The ongoing meetings have built consensus on Council's need for additional income to maintain service levels.



# INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK

26 April 2022

Council endorsed exhibition of draft Integrated Planning Framework  
<https://council.lithgow.com/business-papers-for-ordinary-meeting-of-council-26-april-2022/>

## Attachments

Item 11.5.1 - [Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023](#) (Min No. 22-83)

Item 11.5.2 [Community Strategic Plan 2035 & Community Engagement Strategy](#) (Min. No. 22-84)

Item 11.5.3 - Resourcing Strategy (Min. No. 22-85) - Draft [Strategic Asset Management Plan](#), [Draft Long Term Financial Plan](#) and [Draft Workforce Management Plan](#)

27 June 2022

Council noted the IP&R exhibition outcomes and adopted the Integrated Planning Framework document suite.  
<https://council.lithgow.com/business-papers-for-ordinary-meeting-of-council-27-june-2022/>

## Attachments

Item 10.1.2.2.1 - [Community Engagement Feedback Report \(Min. No. 22-114\)](#)

26 September 2022

Council endorsed exhibition of the Updated Integrated Planning Framework (Resourcing Strategy)  
<https://council.lithgow.com/business-papers-for-ordinary-meeting-of-council-26-september-2022/>

The Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) adopted by Council was regarded as interim as the pathway to financial sustainability was under development at the time of preparing the LTFP. Changes to the adopted LTFP have been integrated with updates to the other IP&R documents. (Min. No. 22-180)

## Attachments

Item 10.2.2.1.1 - [Community Strategic Plan 2035](#)

Item 10.2.2.1.2 - [Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023](#)

Item 10.2.2.1.3 - [Long Term Financial Plan 2022-2032](#)

Item 10.2.2.1.4 - [Strategic Asset Management Plan 2022](#)

Item 10.2.2.1.5 - [Workforce Management Strategy](#)

28 November 2022

Council adoption of the updated Integrated Planning Framework

Council  
Plans  
&  
Strategies



# APPENDIX A

## COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

Council received submissions from the community in a number of ways:

1. Submission form enclosed in the Ratepayer Mailout.
2. Emails to
  - [srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)
  - [council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)
3. Mailed to council or hand delivered to the Administration Centre and Libraries.
4. Online form submitted on [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com) (see over page)

## HAVE YOUR SAY

on options for a sustainable

# LITHGOW

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION  
1 AUGUST - 10 OCTOBER

 **Talk to a member of our team**

Council acknowledges that not everyone has access to the Internet, so we will be visiting our rural areas to meet with you. **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY** to meet with a member of our Team who will answer your questions regarding the options for a sustainable future and assist you to calculate your rates phone 6354 9988 and speak with Deb or Emma to book your appointment at one of the following locations.

- Hampton Halfway House - Wednesday, 17 Aug
- Cullen Bullen Hall - Wednesday, 24 Aug
- Glen Davis Community Hall - Wednesday, 31 Aug
- Cranbrook School, Wolgan - Wednesday, 14 Sept
- Monkey Creek Cafe, Dargan - Wednesday, 21 Sept
- Mumma Snow's Cafe, Tarana - Wednesday, 28 Sept

Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates Team.  
**02 6354 9988**

**For more information**  
Online: [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)  
Hardcopy: Council Administration Centre and Council Libraries.  
Email: [council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)  
Read the detailed **Our Place, Our Future Report** [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

**Keep this brochure**  
A cross section of ratepayers will be asked to participate in a telephone survey from 1 - 7 October.  
Please keep this brochure handy in case you are selected to participate.

 **Information Sessions**

Council will be conducting community information sessions across the Seven Valleys during August/September. **SAVE THE DATE** to attend a session near you. All sessions (where possible) will be recorded, so if you are unable to attend you can watch the replay on the Our Place, Our Future Website.

- Crystal Theatre, Portland - Saturday 13 Aug, 1pm
- Union Theatre, Lithgow - Saturday 20 Aug, 1pm
- Wallerawang Community & Sports Club - Saturday 27 Aug, 1pm
- Capertee Memorial Hall - Saturday 3 Sept, 10am
- Hartley Old School Hall - Saturday 17 Sept, 10am
- Rydal Showground Hall - Saturday 24 Sept, 10am

 **Try our Online Rates Calculator**

Use our online rates calculator to find out how the option for a sustainable Lithgow will impact your rates.  
[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

**Make a submission**  
Fill in the form below and return to:  
Lithgow City Council, 180 Mort St (PO Box 19), LITHGOW 2790 or drop it into the Libraries.

 **OR make your submission online at**  
[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

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 **SUBMISSION FORM**

**My preferred option is (please tick one box)**

**Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained**

**Option 2 – Service Levels Reduced**

**Submissions close Friday 16 September 2022**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Screenshots - Online Survey

**Your details**

Your name \*

Email \*

Postal Address \*

Property number \*

Can be found on rates notice

## Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

If you prefer Option 1 'Maintained', Council can:

- Maintain roads, footpaths, town centres, villages and buildings to a level agreed with the community.
- Renew public infrastructure in a timely and planned way.
- Maintain all current services to the community, including playing fields, parks, aquatic centre, libraries, community facilities, disaster recovery, stormwater etc.
- Improve its financial sustainability and performance, with special attention directed to expanding and diversifying the local economy – more jobs.

### AN EXPLANATION TO THE ABOVE OPTION

- An expert review, independent of Council, closely considered the cost of providing services to the whole of the Lithgow local government area – identifying a shortfall of \$6 million.
- Because costs exceed revenue by at least \$6 million there have been sustained deficit operating results in previous years.
- A consequence of the above is that Council has not been able to adequately fund necessary asset maintenance and on-time asset renewal, especially for the largest value asset of roads.
- This can be overcome by Option 1.
- To do nothing is not an option because in that case the size of the challenge (the funds required) increases each year.

Have you read the above information? \*

Yes, I have read about Option 1

## Option 2 – Service Levels Reduced

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

If you prefer Option 2 'Reduced', Council will:

- Present a plan that reduces the provision of infrastructure and services to align with existing Council revenues.
- Reduce services for community and recreation facilities and services and close unsafe facilities.
- Continue to reduce services over future years as short-term service level reductions will not be sufficient to ensure essential assets reach assumed asset lives.

### AN EXPLANATION TO THE ABOVE OPTION

- If Council chooses not to proceed with a rating increase or IPART determines not to approve Council's application, Council will undertake a comprehensive review of its services and present a plan to the community for a reduction in levels of service.
- The plan will prioritise the maintenance of essential services over more discretionary services.
- Council anticipates that this process would take approximately twelve months and will again involve extensive community engagement.
- To do nothing is not an option because in that case the size of the challenge (the funds required) increases each year.

Have you read the above information? \*

Yes I have read about Option 2

## Your Say

Which option do you support? \*

- Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained  
 Option 2 – Service Levels Reduced

Please provide a comment as to why you support Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained \*

Previous

Submit

# Number of submissions by Planning Precinct

## Rural North

• Ben Bullen	9
• Bogee	4
• Capertee	13
• Clarence	8
• Cullen Bullen	4
• Dargan	2
• Dark Corner	4
• Duckmaloi	2
• Glen Davis	13
• Glen Alice	5
• Kanimbla	6
• Mt Marsden	1
• Newnes / Wolgan Valley	2
• Palmers Oaky	1

## Rural South

Ganbenang	1
Hampton	10
Hartley/Hartley Vale/Little Hartley	33
Meadow Flat	3
Megalong Valley	2
Mt Lambie	2
Rydal	7
Sodwalls	5
Tarana	3

## Lithgow

Bowenfels	28
Hermitage Flat	2
Lithgow	241
Littleton/South Littleton	16
McKellars Park	3
Morts Estate	5
Oakey Park	3
Sheedys Gully	1
Vale of Clwydd	2
South Bowenfels	19

## Wallerawang

Lidsdale	7
Wallerawang	43
Portland	
Pipers Flat	3
Portland	63

## Marrangaroo

Marrangaroo	14
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Non-resident ratepayer	101
No postal address identified	10

# Summary of submissions

## Option 1

Number	Issue Summary
79	Maintain and increase Services for the future
19	Road maintenance to be increased
10	Financial Management improvement
9	Diversification of the Economy attract business and industry
6	Attract families and new residents to the area
3	Local area has been improving greatly in recent times don't want to go backwards
4	Review services for efficiencies
3	Concerned for financial hardship
2	Keep up the good work.
2	Support/Leverage off the Tunnel development
2	Rural ratepayer - don't receive services such as garbage collection, town water, sewer, street lighting
2	Greater transparency and communication with the community on where and how funds are spent
2	Streamlining of processes for individuals and businesses to build here
2	Increased community expectations for services from Council
2	ongoing improvements particularly Main Street in CBD area to attract new residents which would help increase property values
1	Review of funding events such as Halloween
1	Preserve the amenity of the area and enhance it.
1	Do not support wage increase to councilors - salaries should be reviewed.
1	Cost for independent review - disappointed ratepayers should have to foot that bill.
1	Need for strategic leadership in Council
1	Volunteers should maintain sporting grounds - e.g. golf club
1	Charge for camping at Lake Wallace, Wallerawang
1	Religious owned properties reduced to a minimum - more rates collected.
1	Consulting fees should only be paid for essential services not heritage or related issues
1	Would prefer increased investment in Council Services
1	Review potential for more rural subdivision
1	Review wages
1	Marrangaroo Urban Release Area - Council commissioned a plan to develop private land for someone else's benefit
1	Appalling drainage and sewer systems - already in need of an upgrade
1	Rates in this local area are a lot less than similar councils.
1	Council needs to be able to respond to extraordinary events and have resources to assist ratepayers when needed.
1	Services should be improved where possible - Council should commission a plan for improving not just maintaining services
1	Drought, fire and floods has tested infrastructure and other services.
1	We need these services
1	Maintain the status quo
1	As a community we need to move forward and not backwards - get on top of the deficit & move towards growth and not retraction
1	What plan does council have to increase external revenue in the future; tourism, development, industry
1	Open up land for development

1 I want Lithgow to grow. Become a place people want to go.  
1 Ratepayers deserve well planned, quality work and services - particularly road renewal  
1 A vibrant community needs libraries, sporting facilities and a fairly distributed maintenance program.  
1 After using the rates calculator to assess both options, it is clear to me that I can support Option 1.  
1 If my increased rates can help strengthen our local community and support the needs of my fellow  
residents, I'm all for it!  
1 Lithgow is a community. Council must provide services. It is unreasonable for a council to even think  
of reducing services like the Library and parks.  
1 I don't want services dropped as there is so many items to be fixed now.  
1 If we reduce services eventually, I suspect, services would fall to such a low level that rates will have  
to be increased anyway. But by then it will be too late.  
1 We need to pay our way and I would not like to see services reduced.  
1 I don't think there is any viable reason for reduction of services, nobody would be satisfied and  
Lithgow would suffer degradation overall.  
1 I appreciate the growth in governance, strategic planning, economic transition and capacity which a  
rates variation will enable.  
1 The NSW Government's push to put damaging industry such as Energy from Waste Incinerator,  
Nuclear Power Stations etc, should be firmly declined.  
1 Recycling options for Glen Davis and a swipe card or pin entry for the Waste Transfer Station.  
1 Fees & Charges - Lithgow Solid Waste Facility - Commercial  
1 Property prices will drop with no infrastructure maintenances  
1 Council should implement renewable and sustainable policies through the LGA  
1 Develop alliances with Council's committee to dealing with carbon reduction and climate adaptation  
in their communities  
1 Concerned about \$6m shortfall and hope how this happened is disclosed to ratepayers  
1 Another option is to cancel pension rebate  
1 Federal and State Government to provide adequate funding  
1 Option 1 will maintain employment of council staff, suppliers and contractors.  
1 We choose Option 1 on the provision that Council discontinue promoting/funding Halloween.  
1 Apply the mining, quarry and power generation rate increases  
1 Review opportunity to place a heavy vehicle toll on roads utilised by large trucks.

# Summary of submissions

## Option 2

Number	Issue Summary
114	Cost of living pressures
94	Poor management/Lack of trust in Council
53	Rural ratepayer - don't receive services such as garbage collection, town water, sewer, street lighting
49	Among the highest rates in the state/rates already too high
34	Road maintenance
32	Council should review internal processes and business structure. Better process management and identify efficiencies. Conduct Service Reviews
2 <sup>5</sup>	Services are already reduced
17	Live within your means
11	Management & Employee wages too high / reduce staff in office/ Freeze on employment for 12 months
8	Stormwater/drainage/Kerb & gutters
6	Consider selling Golf Club or it being run by volunteers/members (including ground maintenance)
6	Amalgamate/boundary realignments to reduce LGA size
5	Applied to IPART/ regularly raised rates
5	Sell buildings/low value assets
6	Personal reasons/Don't want increased rates
4	Reduce number of Councilors/reduce Councilor wages
4	Reduce spending on events like Halloween
4	Essential services to be prioritised over "desirable" services
3	Council should go into Administration
3	Review Fees & Charges/adopt a user pays system/Fines/ charge for camping Lake Wallace/Lyell
3	Staff standing around doing nothing
3	Need more staff to mow parks
3	Water issues
3	Not able to explain \$6m debt
2	Lithgow receives grants - are they being costed and managed properly
2	Water issues
2	Set performance targets
2	Reduce libraries to 1
2	Balance of both options - Increase by 5-10% and selectively review, remove, reduce and redesign service levels and projects.
3	Too many vehicles
2	Portland is not a priority for Lithgow - roads and parks are neglected now
2	Waste Management/Glen Davis Waste transfer Station
2	Overseas Trips and Sister Cities are a waste of ratepayers money
2	bungled infrastructure projects - Library façade hideous
2	Council does lots on non-essential services I don't use.
2	Option 1 increase too high - had it been reasonable I would have supported it.
2	No footpath - Musket parade/State Mine Gully Road
2	Some services, facilities and infrastructure can be reduced, or priorities in order of population needs and requirements.
2	No access to town water supply or town sewerage system - State Mine Gully
33 6	Council should approach the state/ federal government for financial assistance / more grant funding

2 Transition to a post-growth economy / generate revenue by seeking & promoting employment  
 2 Need to look at Eco-tourism and adventure tourism - Bike trails, walking tracks, fishing, cheap camp grounds, Indigenous history, rock climbing, development of Newnes  
 2 Council should apply for more grants to support infrastructure spending.  
 2 Land subdivision - residential, rural residential and industrial  
 1 Council should undertake better budget preparation and planning for aging infrastructure  
 1 Risk management  
 1 26.5% rate increase is ridiculous  
 1 Aquatic Centre  
 1 Installation of overpriced electronic toilets  
 1 Reduce the cemeteries and have once crematorium  
 1 Should focus on essential environmental and social issues.  
 1 High costs of services provided by Contractors  
 1 Assumed increase due to 2022 Land Valuations  
 1 Volunteers and corporate sponsorship to maintain recreational or non-essential services  
 1 Reduce - Services are minimal to Lidsdale anyway  
 1 Greater transparency and communication with the community on where and how funds are spent  
 1 Zoned residential but do not have town water, mail delivery, curb and guttering.  
 1 Just stick to the basics.  
 1 Own vacant land and do not use facilities provided by Council even though we are paying for them.  
 1 Provide arts through grants from State/Federal Governments - most people don't use those services so why are we paying for them.  
 1 Council members concern for state and federal issues rather than local issues.  
 1 Wasting money on litigation  
 1 Don't depend on council for services - house burnt down in 2019 bushfire - Dargan  
 1 Council is providing adequate, expected services under the current funds and I don't think increased rates would change current practices or level of service  
 1 Land sold to the Bretheran to cheap  
 1 Unnecessary changes to traffic management -Main St/Bridge St Intersection and Hassans Walls Road/Lithgow St Intersection  
 1 Council need to learn to work together; constant conflict and extreme legal costs  
 1 Better money management and appropriate investment - earn a better return to put back into the community  
 1 High number of pensioners in Lithgow - do not support pensioner discounts on rates  
 1 Rate payers/tax payers should not be forced to fund discretionary services  
 1 Town entrances need prettying up.  
 1 Industry is needed but not at the cost of liveability of Lithgow or the natural environment around us.  
 1 Its not my fault Council has a \$6m shortfall and I don't think I have to be out of pocket to help council rectify its error not mine.  
 1 Option 1 said nothing of Paris climate commitment or climate change or costs of reducing carbon footprint...hence if feel a reduction of services could be beneficial  
 2 Change collection of red waste bin to fortnightly pickup as they go out fortnight regardless of whether they are full/No greenwaste collection  
 1 Too many under utilised sporting fields  
 1 If we to raise them this time. They might just keep increasing them.  
 1 Jeopardise small businesses  
 1 Increase opportunity for s94 contributions  
 1 Lobby State Govt - value added tax from landholders to get 25%  
 1 Only 2 options - neither seem to benefit ratepayers.  
 1 Local Government Minister to explain lack of oversight of Lithgow Council.

# APPENDIX B RATEPAYER INFORMATION PACK



## HAVE YOUR SAY

on options for a sustainable

# LITHGOW

*Our place, Our future*



1 August 2022



Dear Sir/Madam

### **Consulting about proposed changes to commence on 1 July 2023**

I am writing to you in relation to important decisions that this Council must take about the city's future, including the levels to which community infrastructure is maintained and the services we are able to offer to the community.

The background is that, in preparing for this term of Council, the General Manager commissioned a significant piece of research about Council's financial capacity. This was undertaken by independent experts who are external to the Council. The research was necessary because, despite decisive action being taken to reduce costs and increase revenue, the Council has experienced a sustained period of deficits in its financial operating results for approximately two decades. Furthermore, it has been explained to the Council that these deficits will continue in the future unless even more significant actions are taken.

**Put simply, the Council has received clear advice that the current available funding received is insufficient to continue the existing service levels into the future.**

The research found that Council requires an additional \$4.75 million annually to meet existing levels of service – mostly related to roads. Council also believes it requires a further \$1.25 million annually to provide additional economic and other services that will put our community in the strongest possible position to respond to the local economic challenges and grasp other opportunities.

This means that there are some important decisions that Council must make about the future. We need your input.

Council is seeking your input on two options. The detail of the two options is explained in the attachments. To summarise, one option involves an increase in rates to address the abovementioned identified shortfall. The other option would require service levels to be reduced.

I emphasise that the Council has not chosen one of these options over the other. That decision will be informed by public opinion. Consultation on these proposals has commenced. It will be extensive and provide many opportunities for you to participate and offer your opinion.

26 July 2022

## **Consulting about proposed changes to commence on 1 July 2023**

### **Important decisions about our community assets and services**

*There are some important decisions that Council must make about the future of our assets and services.*

In 2021/22, an external review of our financial position assessed that Council requires an additional \$4.75 million annually to meet existing levels of service – mostly related to roads. Council also believes it requires a further \$1.25 million annually to provide additional economic and other services that will put our community in the strongest possible position to respond to the local economic challenges and grasp local economic opportunities.

***Council is seeking your input on two options about our future.***

### **What are the options?**

#### Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained

Council would apply for a permanent increase in our land rates income (a Special Rate Variation) above the peg rate set by IPART. Land rates excludes water, sewer and waste charges.

The external review identified a shortfall of \$6 million in Council's annual general revenues which equates to a 42% overall increase in rates.

Care has been taken to distribute the rating as fairly as possible amongst the various rating categories, and the impact on residential rating under this proposal would be 26.5% (including expected rate peg).

Water, sewer and waste charges are not included in a Special Rate Variation.

#### Option 2 Service Levels Reduced

Council understands that it is a difficult decision to substantially increase rates.

If Council chooses not to proceed with a rating increase or IPART determines not to approve Council's application, Council will undertake a comprehensive review of its services and present a plan to the community for a reduction in levels of service.

The plan will prioritise the maintenance of essential services over discretionary services.

Council anticipates that this process would take approximately twelve months and will again involve extensive community engagement.

## Why Now?

Council faces growing challenges to maintain community assets and services at existing levels. Rising costs have not kept pace with income. Council has experienced a decade of deficits in its financial operating results. As a result, decisive action has been taken to contain costs and increase revenue. Notwithstanding, deficits will continue if nothing changes into the future. Council has a responsibility to 'live within its means' over the long-term.

**Put simply, Council's available funding is insufficient to continue current service levels into the future.**

## How will a proposed Special Rates Variation affect my rates?

Council has developed a Rates Calculator which is available on the Our Place Our Future webpage - [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com).

To use the calculator, you will need to know the valuation of your property that is set by the Valuer General. This value is based on the land value only and does not include any improvements such as buildings. The valuation of your property can be found in the financial details section of your rate notice.

Council has a Hardship Policy to accommodate the special needs of those unable to pay their rates in full on time. Council is pleased to confirm that the pensioner rebate scheme will be maintained.

## How to Have Your Say

- Review the information in this pack. There is a more detailed Our Place Our Future report at - [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com).
- Complete the feedback form and return it to Council or use the website form at [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com).
- Attend a town hall session - these will be held throughout the area from early August to mid-September.
- Schedule a one-on-one meeting with a Council officer at a café pop-up stand.
- Alternatively, you can send Council an email – [svr@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:svr@lithgow.nsw.gov.au) or telephone 6354 9988.

Council will conduct a telephone survey of a sample of residents to assess views on the options. This will take place in October 2022.

I would like to assure you that Council is committed to both meeting the needs of our community and ensuring a successful future for the city. To help us to make the best decision for the Lithgow LGA, I encourage you to have your say on the options put forward.

Yours Sincerely



**Craig Butler**  
GENERAL MANAGER

# HAVE YOUR SAY on options for a sustainable LITHGOW

There are some important decisions that Council must make about the future of our assets and services. We need your input.

Over the last twelve months, Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of its finances, as well as the assets and services it provides to our community.

Through our community surveys, Council has heard what is important to you.

Residents want to see a greater focus on road maintenance, economic development and diversification and provision of services and facilities for our youth.

Council's ability to maintain our local community's assets and deliver the outcomes residents want is constrained by our financial resources. Compared to very similar councils, Lithgow City Council collects considerably less rating income. An external review of our financial position assesses that Council requires an additional \$4.75 million annually to meet existing levels of service - mostly related to roads. Council also believes it requires a further \$1.25 million annually to provide additional economic and other services that will put our community in the strongest possible position to respond to local economic challenges and grasp local opportunities.

## What is this brochure about?

This brochure provides two options for you to consider for Resourcing our Future. We encourage you to review the options detailed below and "Have Your Say" on which option you prefer.

- Option 1 proposes a rate increase to MAINTAIN service levels.
- Option 2 proposes increasing rates ONLY by the annual rate peg increase set by IPART - which will REDUCE service levels.

### Option 1

#### Option 1 - Service Levels Maintained

Under **OPTION 1**, we can continue to maintain the Council's services and \$530 million of infrastructure assets. We can also build capacity in Council's organisation to improve its financial sustainability and performance in future years.



##### IF YOU PREFER OPTION 1 'MAINTAINED' WE:

- Maintain roads, footpaths, town centres and buildings to a level agreed with the community.
- Address Council's infrastructure renewal backlog over time.
- Maintain services to the community, including playing fields, parks, Aquatic Centre, libraries and community facilities.
- Improve Council's financial sustainability and performance, including supporting local economic diversification.



### Option 2

#### Option 2 - Service Levels Reduced

Under **OPTION 2**, Council would develop a plan prioritising essential services and reduce more discretionary services. The focus would be managing risk, including closure or removal of unsafe infrastructure. This plan would be developed and finalised with extensive community consultation.



##### IF YOU PREFER OPTION 2 'REDUCED' COUNCIL WILL:

- Present a plan that prioritises essential services, that scales back the provision of infrastructure and services to align with a revised Council revenues.
- Reduce services for community and recreation facilities, less capacity to support and advocate for community services, closure of unsafe facilities.
- Continue to reduce services as service levels will not be sufficient to ensure assets reach the end of their assumed asset lives.



#### How will OPTION 1 affect your rates?

##### Residential, Farmland and Business

Annual Rate Increase (%)	2023/24
Rate peg (expected annual increase)	2.5%
Special Rate Variation (SRV)	24%
Total Annual Increase	26.5%

The total increase to residential, business and farmland rates under **OPTION 1** is 24% or 26.5% with the allowed increase (rate peg).

##### For Residential Ratepayers

Average Rates 2023/24	\$869.26	Average Rates 2022/23	\$1,705.50
Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$21.73	Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$42.64
Add SRV 24%	\$208.62	Add SRV 24%	\$400.32
Average Rates 2023/24	\$1,099.61	Average Rates 2023/24	\$2,157.45
Annual Change	\$230.35	Annual Change	\$451.06
Weekly Change	\$4.43	Weekly Change	\$8.69

##### For Farmland Ratepayers

Average Rates 2022/23	\$869.26	Average Rates 2022/23	\$4,214.67
Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$21.73	Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$105.37
Add SRV 24%	\$890.00	Add SRV 24%	\$1,011.52
Average Rates 2023/24	\$21.73	Average Rates 2023/24	\$5,331.56
Annual Change	\$0.42	Annual Change	\$1,116.89
Weekly Change	\$0.42	Weekly Change	\$21.48

##### For Business Ratepayers

Average Rates 2022/23	\$1,705.50	Average Rates 2022/23	\$4,214.67
Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$42.64	Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$105.37
Average Rates 2023/24	\$1,748.13	Average Rates 2023/24	\$4,320.04
Annual Change	\$42.64	Annual Change	\$105.37
Weekly Change	\$0.82	Weekly Change	\$2.03

#### How will OPTION 2 affect your rates?

##### Residential, Farmland and Business

Annual Rate Increase (%)	2023/24
Rate peg (expected annual increase)	2.5%
Total Annual Increase	2.5%

The total increase to rates under **OPTION 2** is 2.5% (rate peg only).

##### For Residential Ratepayers

Average Rates 2022/23	\$869.26	Average Rates 2022/23	\$1,705.50
Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$21.73	Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$42.64
Average Rates 2023/24	\$890.99	Average Rates 2023/24	\$1,748.13
Annual Change	\$21.73	Annual Change	\$42.64
Weekly Change	\$0.42	Weekly Change	\$0.82

##### For Farmland Ratepayers

Average Rates 2022/23	\$869.26	Average Rates 2022/23	\$1,705.50
Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$21.73	Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$42.64
Average Rates 2023/24	\$890.99	Average Rates 2023/24	\$1,748.13
Annual Change	\$21.73	Annual Change	\$42.64
Weekly Change	\$0.42	Weekly Change	\$0.82

##### For Business Ratepayers

Average Rates 2022/23	\$1,705.50	Average Rates 2022/23	\$4,214.67
Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$42.64	Add Rate peg 2.5%	\$105.37
Average Rates 2023/24	\$1,748.13	Average Rates 2023/24	\$4,320.04
Annual Change	\$42.64	Annual Change	\$105.37
Weekly Change	\$0.82	Weekly Change	\$2.03

Read the detailed **Our Place, Our Future Report** [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

Option 1 raises an additional \$6.5 million (including rate peg) for our City and revenue is retained permanently.

Calculations are an estimate based on a typical rates notice using 2019 land values. The precise amount may vary depending on increases or falls in individual property values following 2022 valuations by the Valuer-General.

Option 2 - An initial \$4.7m of service reductions will be required from 2023/24 for the City to live within its means. Annual revisions will be undertaken with further service reductions as service levels will not be sufficient to ensure assets reached their assumed asset lives.

# HAVE YOUR SAY

on options for a sustainable

# LITHGOW

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

### 1 AUGUST - 10 OCTOBER



#### Talk to a member of our team

Council acknowledges that not everyone has access to the Internet, so we will be visiting our rural areas to meet with you. **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY** to meet with a member of our Team who will answer your questions regarding the options for a sustainable future and assist you to calculate your rates phone 6354 9988 and speak with Deb or Emma to book your appointment at one of the following locations.

- Hampton Halfway House - Wednesday, 17 Aug
- Cullen Bullen Hall - Wednesday, 24 Aug
- Glen Davis Community Hall - Wednesday, 31 Aug
- Cranbrook School, Wolgan - Wednesday, 14 Sept
- Monkey Creek Cafe, Dargan - Wednesday, 21 Sept
- Mumma Snow's Cafe, Tarana - Wednesday, 28 Sept



Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates Team.

**02 6354 9988**

#### For more information

**Online:** [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

**Hardcopy:** Council Administration Centre and Council Libraries.

**Email:** [council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

Read the detailed **Our Place, Our Future Report**

[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

#### Keep this brochure

A cross section of ratepayers will be asked to participate in a telephone survey from 1 - 7 October.

Please keep this brochure handy in case you are selected to participate.



## SUBMISSION FORM

**My preferred option is (please tick one box)**

**Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained**

**Option 2 – Service Levels Reduced**



#### Information Sessions

Council will be conducting community information sessions across the Seven Valleys during August/September. **SAVE THE DATE** to attend a session near you. All sessions (where possible) will be recorded, so if you are unable to attend you can watch the replay on the Our Place, Our Future Website.

- Crystal Theatre, Portland - Saturday 13 Aug, 1pm
- Union Theatre, Lithgow - Saturday 20 Aug, 1pm
- Wallerawang Community & Sports Club  
Saturday 27 Aug, 1pm
- Capertee Memorial Hall - Saturday 3 Sept, 10am
- Hartley Old School Hall - Saturday 17 Sept, 10am
- Rydal Showground Hall - Saturday 24 Sept, 10am



#### Try our Online Rates Calculator

Use our online rates calculator to find out how the option for a sustainable Lithgow will impact your rates.

[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

#### Make a submission

Fill in the form below and return to:

Lithgow City Council, 180 Mort St (PO Box 19), LITHGOW 2790 or drop it into the Libraries.



OR **make your submission online** at [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

**Submissions close Friday 16 September 2022**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**11**  
Sports fields

**1**  
Administration Centre

**1**  
Animal Shelter

**1**  
Visitor Information Centre

**1**  
Golf Course  
**332ha**

**14**  
Cemeteries

**2**  
Depots

**304**  
Buildings & Structures

**1**  
Lithgow Blast Furnace Heritage site

**55**  
Parks & Reserves

**1**  
Aquatic Centre

**3**  
Libraries

**1**  
Museum

**130km**  
Footpaths

**60km**  
Stormwater Pipes

**279km**  
Kerb & Gutter

**48**  
Bridges

**5**  
Waste Transfer Stations

**975km**  
Roads

**8,236**  
Consumers connected to potable water

**1669**  
Drainage Pits

**2**  
Prescribed Dams

**1**  
Solid Waste Facility

**3**  
Garbage Depots

**372km**  
Water Mains

**1**  
Water Treatment Plant

**3**  
Water Pump Stations

**14**  
Reservoirs

**3**  
Sewerage Treatment

**148km**  
Gravity Sewer

**39**  
Sewerage Pump Stations

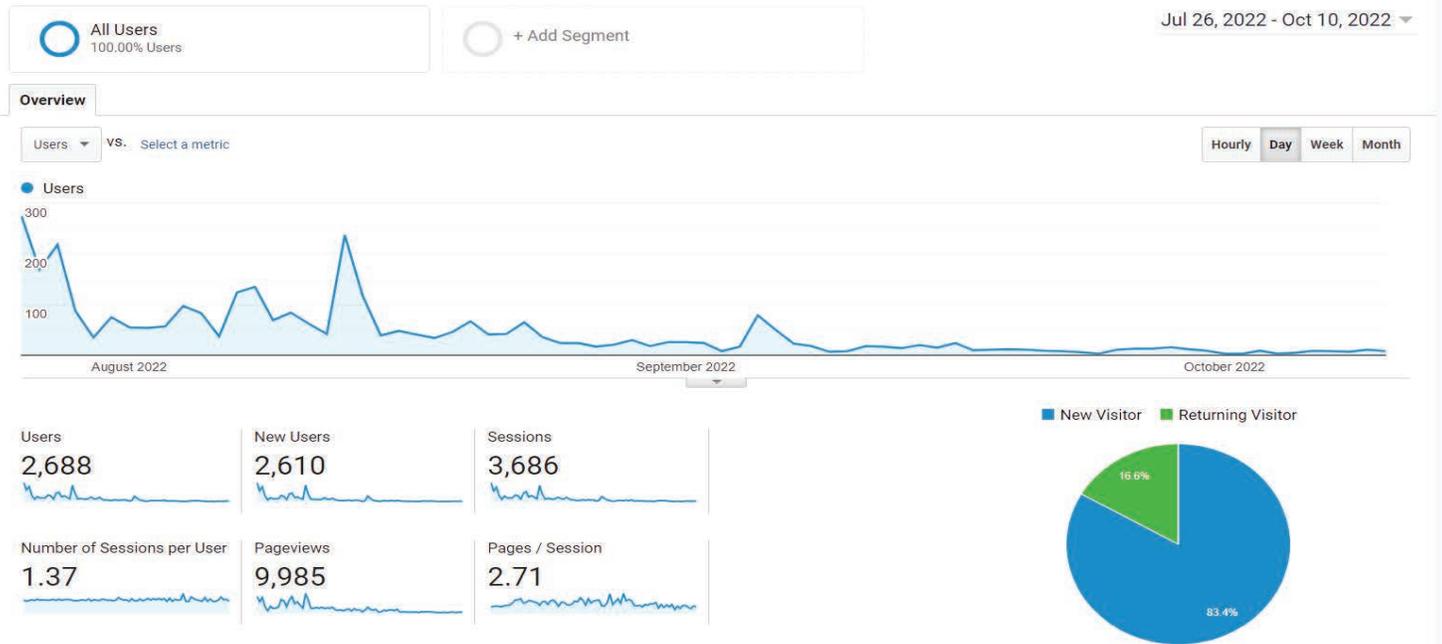
**32**  
Rising Sewer Mains

**14km**  
Sewer Trunk Mains

# APPENDIX C

## ENGAGEMENT DATA

Webpage	Page Views
<a href="#">SRV Have your say</a>	2,989
<a href="#">Special Rates Variation</a>	2,153
<a href="#">Our Place, Our Future - a sustainable future for Lithgow</a>	1,407
<a href="#">Rates Calculator</a>	864
<a href="#">SRV Consultation</a>	192
<a href="#">Options for a Sustainable Lithgow</a>	159
<a href="#">Document Library</a>	140
<a href="#">SRV FAQs</a>	122



## Downloads - [Rates Calculator](#) Fact Sheets

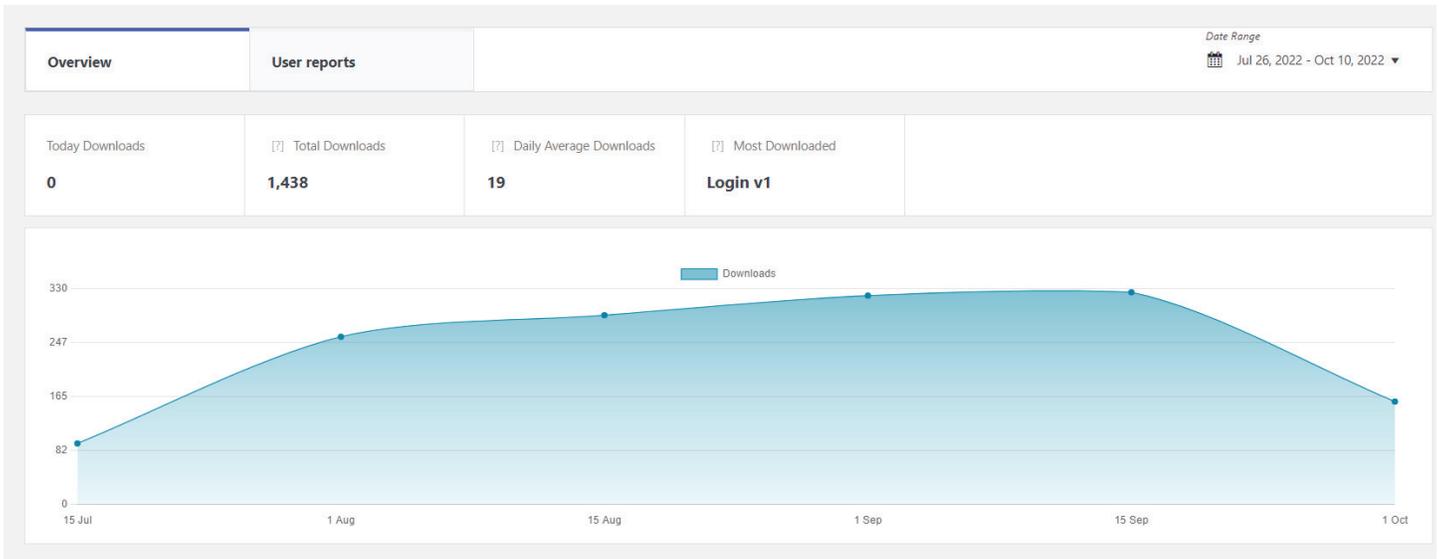
Document/Fact Sheet	Downloads
<a href="#">Fact Sheet - Rates Calculator - Lithgow</a>	23
<a href="#">Fact Sheet - Rates Calculator - Wallerawang</a>	19
<a href="#">Fact Sheet - Rates Calculator - Portland</a>	19

# Downloads from the [Document Library](#), [Fact Sheets](#) & [Integrated Planning & Reporting](#) Webpages

Document/Fact Sheet	Downloads
<a href="#">Lithgow City Council Rating Review - Technical Paper</a>	375
<a href="#">Resourcing Our Future</a>	141
<a href="#">Integrated Planning &amp; Reporting Community Engagement Strategy Feedback Report</a>	65
<a href="#">2022/23 Statement of Ordinary &amp; Special Rates</a>	60
<a href="#">Your Land Value - Fact Sheet from Office of the Valuer General</a>	50
<a href="#">Community Visioning Survey online report</a>	46
<a href="#">Council's Top Recurrent Costs</a>	38
<a href="#">Community Vision Survey Telephone Report</a>	36
<a href="#">Councilor Visioning Workshop Report</a>	37
<a href="#">Services funded from land rates</a>	36
<a href="#">Council Income v Expenditure</a>	36
<a href="#">What do we do?</a>	35
<a href="#">Fact Sheet - Capertee Valley</a>	34
<a href="#">Community Strategic Plan 2035: Our Place, Our Future</a>	32
<a href="#">Length of Council Roads</a>	30
<a href="#">SRV Expenditure for Option 1</a>	30
<a href="#">Comparison with ACT</a>	25
<a href="#">Comparisons to other similar size councils</a>	23
<a href="#">Fact Sheet - Road Comparison v Expenditure</a>	22
<a href="#">Strategic Asset Management Plan 2022-2032</a>	12
<a href="#">Delivery Program 2022/23-2025/26 Operational Plan 2022/23</a>	10
<a href="#">Long Term Financial Plan 2023-2036</a>	7
<a href="#">Revenue Policy 2022-2023</a>	6
<a href="#">Fees &amp; Charges 2022-2023</a>	6
<a href="#">SRV Frequently Asked Question</a>	4

# Downloads - Stay Informed

Document/Fact Sheet	Downloads
<a href="#">Community Update #1</a>	23
<a href="#">Community Update #2</a>	22
<a href="#">Community Update #3</a>	22
<a href="#">Community Update #4</a>	20
<a href="#">Community Update #5</a>	14
<a href="#">Community Update #6</a>	13
<a href="#">Community Update #7</a>	7



# Community Newsletters & Media Releases

<b>Options for a Sustainable Future Community eNewsletter</b> - sent to all email submissions (All newsletters are shared to Council's Facebook page and linked to the <a href="#">Our Place Our Future Website</a> )	Opens	Total Opens
<a href="#">Friday 12 August</a> - Recipients n = 184	134	242
<a href="#">Thursday 25 August</a> - Recipients n = 315	216	341
<a href="#">Thursday 1 September</a> - Recipients n = 352	215	348
<a href="#">Friday 16 September</a> - Recipients n = 422	255	443
<a href="#">Tuesday 27 September</a> - Recipients n = 443	263	425

<b>Council Connections Community eNewsletter</b> (All newsletters are shared to Council's Facebook page)	Opens	Total Opens
<a href="#">Friday 22 July - Important announcement from the Office of the Mayor</a> Recipients n = 763	356	649
<a href="#">Friday 29 July - Our Place, Our Future - Options for a Sustainable Lithgow</a> - Recipients n = 765 <a href="#">Link to Media Release on Council Website</a>	357	626
<a href="#">Friday 5 August</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Message from the office of the Mayor</li> <li>Our Place, Our Future - Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow</li> </ul> Recipients n = 765	370	678
<a href="#">Friday 19 August 2022</a> - Recipients n = 1,028 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join the Conversation - Union Theatre Information Session</li> <li><a href="#">Let's talk about our future - Media Release</a></li> </ul>	567	957
<a href="#">Friday 26 August 2022</a> - Recipients n = 1,065 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join the Conversation - Wallerawang Sports Club Community Information Session</li> </ul>	528	952
<a href="#">Friday 1 September 2022</a> - Recipients n = 1,088 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Wallerawang talks about its future</a> - Media Release</li> <li>Join the Conversation - Capertee Community Information Session</li> </ul>	439	814
<a href="#">Friday 23 September 2022</a> Recipients n = 1,162 Join the conversation - Rydal Community Information Session	550	1,124

<b>Lithgow Business &amp; Tourism Matters Monthly eNewsletter</b> Sent to Business & Tourism Operators across the Seven Valleys.	Opens	Total Opens
<a href="#">Friday 12 August</a> - Recipients n = 1,342 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Message from the office of the Mayor</li> <li>Our Place, Our Future - Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow</li> </ul>	451	840
<a href="#">Wednesday 28 September - The Seven Valleys Lithgow Business &amp; Tourism Matters Two Options for a Sustainable Future edition</a> - Recipients 1,334	444	729

# Social Media Posts

Facebook Post <a href="#">@LithgowCityCouncil</a>	Reach	Engagements (Reactions)	Comments	Shares
26 July 2022 - Our Place, Our Future - Options for a Sustainable Lithgow	4,902	47	187	17
29 July 2022 - Have Your Say on options for a sustainable Lithgow	1,556	6	16	3
1 August 2022 - My Rates are already \$2,350....	3,549	23	34	4
3 August 2022 - The difference between Land Values for rating and Land Tax	5,877	18	34	8
4 August 2022 - Community Information Session - Portland (Facebook Event) (Reminder)	480 327	1 0	5 0	0 0
4 August 2022 - Community Information Session - Lithgow (Facebook Event) (Reminder)	359 249	4 1	1 0	0 0
4 August 2022 - Community Information Session - Wallerawang (Facebook Event) (Reminder)	555 0	1 1	4 1	0 0
4 August 2022 - Community Information Session - Capertee (Facebook Event)	0	3	2	0
4 August 2022 - Community Information Session - Hartley (Facebook Event)	310	1	0	0
4 August 2022 - Community Information Session - Rydal (Facebook Event)	371	2	1	0
4 August 2022 - Council invest in arts and culture...	99	7	31	2
8 August 2022 - What are the choices that need to be made - General Manager's video presentation	2,784	8	50	3
10 August 2022 - what's the real story! what does it take to maintain a city like Lithgow	2,531	19	141	3
13 August 2022 - People are rolling up for today's community information session at Portland	2,011	10	0	2
17 August 2022 - Let's talk about our future	1,432	4	0	0
20 August 2022 - People are starting to arrive at the Union Theatre	2,363	14	6	0
20 August 2022 - Thank you to everyone who attended the Union Theatre	3,131	25	44	3
23 August 2022 - Remember - only the land rates increase under Option 1	5,299	30	81	6
24 August 2022 - Through our community Surveys...	2,014	14	72	0
27 August 2022 - Community Information Session at Wallerawang	2,234	8	16	0
1 September 2022 - Wallerawang talks about its future	565	1	1	0
3 September 2022 - Community Information Session at Capertee	966	7	1	0

<b>Facebook Post</b> <a href="#">@LithgowCityCouncil</a>	Reach	Engagements (Reactions)	Comments	Shares
Telephone Survey - Two Options for a Sustainable Future	583	5	1	0

<b>Instagram Post</b> @lithgow.council	Reach	Engagements (Reactions)	Comments	Shares
26 July 2022 - Our Place, Our Future - Options for a Sustainable Lithgow	164	4	1	-
1 August 2022 - Have Your Say on options for a sustainable Lithgow	108	4	-	-
1 August 2022 - My Rates are already \$2,350...	218	-	-	-
3 August 2022 - The difference between Land Values for rating and Land Tax	152	3	-	-

## Full page advertising - Village Voice

Village Voice Full Page advertising week endings

- 5 August
- 19 August
- 2 September
- 16 September
- 30 September

Readership	
Lithgow	Bathurst
4,000 newspapers delivered to 34 locations	5000 newspapers delivered to 28 locations
2500+ online through social media and subscriber list	3500+ online through social media and subscriber list

# Lithgow Mercury - Print & Digital Campaign

Lithgow Mercury Full Page advertising week endings

- 5 August
- 12 August
- 19 August
- 26 August
- 2 September
- 9 September
- 16 September
- 30 September

Lithgow Readership
Tuesday & Friday read by 8,500 in Lithgow and surrounding districts.
73,401 Monthly digital reach



Join the conversation on options for a Sustainable Lithgow

[Learn More](#)

Lithgow City Council  
63549999



Our Future

## Lithgow City Council to receive \$5 million through resources for regions NSW government initiative



By Reidun Berntsen

Updated August 11 2022 - 12:15pm, first published August 5 2022 - 12:00pm



ADVERTISEMENT



Join the conversation on options for a Sustainable Lithgow

[Learn More](#)

Mercury website header banner and sidebar advertising linked to webpage – flow through to [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)



# Lithgow City Council - Have your Say

## Campaign Performance Report

Report Date - 17 October



Campaign Name: Lithgow City Council - Have your Say  
Masthead: Lithgow Mercury  
Type: Print & digital  
Objective: Awareness  
Start date: 12/08/2022

## Digital

Performance based on engagement across Digital Channels

**252,476**  
Impressions

**1,803**  
Clicks

**0.71%**  
Click Through Rate

Campaign Name: Lithgow City Council - Have your Say  
Masthead: Lithgow Mercury  
Type: Print & digital  
Objective: Awareness  
Start date: 12/08/2022

## Audience

Analytics based on user engagement with Landing Page

**46**  
Actions On Page

**858**  
Users

**998**  
Page Views

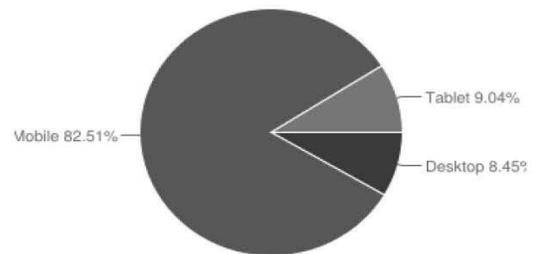
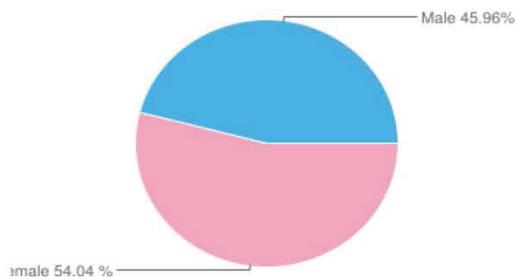
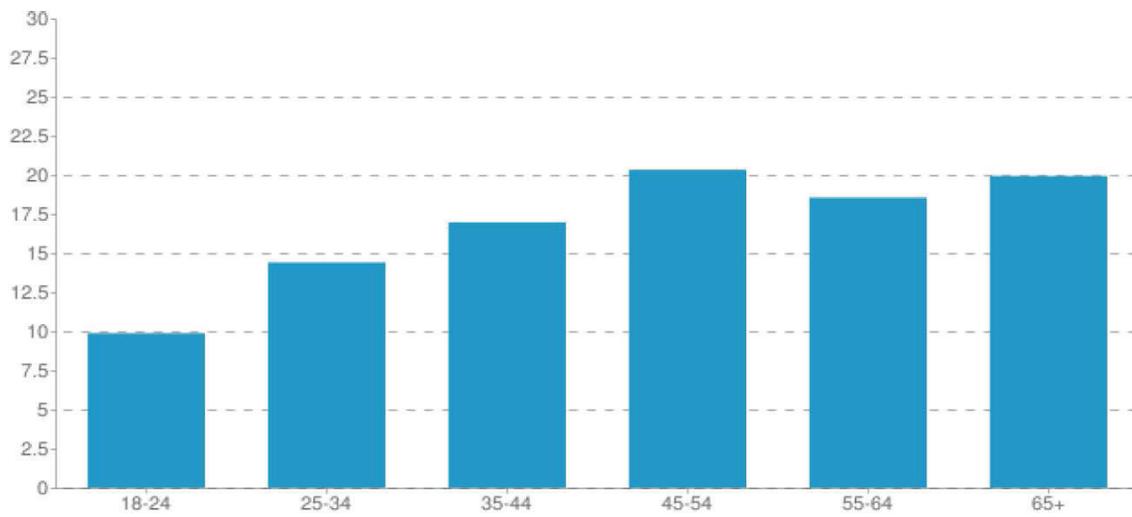
**0**  
Form Submit

**5**  
Click to Call

**41**  
External Link

Campaign Name: Lithgow City Council - Have your Say  
Masthead: Lithgow Mercury  
Type: Print & digital  
Objective: Awareness  
Start date: 12/08/2022

## Age, Gender and Device



Campaign Name: Lithgow City Council - Have your Say  
Masthead: Lithgow Mercury  
Type: Print & digital  
Objective: Awareness  
Start date: 12/08/2022

## Glossary

### Impressions

The number of times your ads were shown for all completed campaigns

### Clicks

The number of times your ads were clicked for all completed campaigns

### Click Through Rate

The percentage of people who saw your ads and clicked on them for all completed campaigns

### Actions On Page

All actions to date from landing page interactions including leads, click to

### Users

All Users to date from landing page traffic

### Page Views

All page views to date from landing page traffic

# APPENDIX D

## **ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS**

- Full page advertisements
- Fact Sheets (corflute signs)
- Mayoral Message - Council Column



# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update 1

Lithgow Council has commenced an extensive process of community engagement on two options to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the council.

**Option 1 – Service levels are able to be maintained. Council can:**

- Maintain roads, footpaths, town centres, villages and buildings to a level agreed with the community.
- Renew public infrastructure in a timely and planned way.
- Maintain all current services to the community, including playing fields, parks, aquatic centre, libraries, community facilities, disaster recovery, stormwater etc.,
- Improve its financial sustainability and performance, with special attention directed to expanding and diversifying the local economy – more jobs.

**Option 2 – Service levels are reduced. Council will**

- Present a plan that reduces the provision of infrastructure and services to align with existing Council revenues.
- Reduce services for community and recreation facilities and services and close unsafe facilities.
- Continue to reduce services over future years as short-term service level reductions will not be sufficient to ensure essential assets reach assumed asset lives.

## What we've heard from you

### What will Council do to support people who can't afford a rate increase?

Council understands that it is a difficult decision to substantially increase rates and has carefully considered rating increases across all rate categories.

Council has a Hardship Policy to accommodate the special needs of those unable to pay their rates in full on time and will support those who request assistance.

Council is also very pleased to maintain the Pensioner Rebate Scheme, which financially supports this important cohort in our community.

### It looks like the financial situation has been bad for years, why did you wait so long to think about how to fix it?

Over recent years, Council has taken decisive action to contain costs and increase its own-source revenue.

Rising costs have not kept pace with income that is set by IPART and challenged Council's ability to maintain our local community's assets and deliver the outcomes residents want.

Council has carefully assessed all options and considers seeking a Special Rate Variation to be in the best interests for community.

### Is Council \$6M in debt? Or is there a shortfall in funding?

The rating review identified an **annual shortfall** in Council's General Revenues of \$6.018 million at existing levels of service before adopting available productivity, savings and other measures. Lithgow's land rating Income (excluding water, sewer and domestic waste) is very low compared with Comparable Councils. This comparison explains why there is a shortfall of funds needed to deliver the diverse range of services we provide.

Comparative Council Information 2019/20 - Office of Local Government NSW

Local Government Area	Rating Income	Population	Road Length (kms)
Lithgow City	\$13.2m	21,090	886.2
Mid-Western	\$29.8m	24,076	1,922.7
Muswellbrook	\$19.1m	16,086	575.3
Singleton	\$22.3m	22,987	809.1

Source: www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Council's road maintenance budget allocation is approximately \$500,000 p.a. less than that required to meet the associated level of service expense. Additionally, most of the \$5.518m remaining shortfall relates to infrastructure (mostly road) renewal.

Council has around \$12.7M of outstanding long-term loans for infrastructure projects. Loan repayments are planned and paid as they fall due. The planned borrowings have not impacted Council's current financial position.

### Will there be an independent person involved so that we know our money is going to the right things?

Council is both independently internally and externally audited. Additionally, Council is regulated by the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment which has a mandate to assist councils with continual improvement and to monitor council performance. IPART also requires Council to report on the expenditure of any Special Rate Variation (SRV) annually to its community.



**Try our Online Rates Calculator**



Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates Team.  
**02 6354 9999**

## How do I have my say?



### Information Sessions

Council will be conducting community information sessions across the Seven Valleys during August/September. **SAVE THE DATE** to attend a session near you.

- **Crystal Theatre, Portland**  
Saturday 13 Aug, 1pm
- **Union Theatre, Lithgow**  
Saturday 20 Aug, 1pm
- **Wallerawang Community & Sports Club -Saturday 27 Aug, 1pm**
- **Capertee Memorial Hall**  
Saturday 3 Sept, 10am
- **Hartley Old School Hall**  
Saturday 17 Sept, 10am
- **Rydal Showground Hall**  
Saturday 24 Sept, 10am



### Talk to a member of our team

Council acknowledges that not everyone has access to the Internet, so we will be visiting our rural areas to meet with you. **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY** to meet with a member of our Team who will answer your questions regarding the options for a sustainable future and assist you to calculate your rates **phone 6354 9988** and speak with Deb or Emma to book your appointment at one of the following locations.

- **Hampton Halfway House**  
Wednesday, 17 Aug
- **Cullen Bullen Hall - Wednesday, 24 Aug**
- **Glen Davis Community Hall**  
Wednesday, 31 Aug
- **Cranbrook School, Wolgan**  
Wednesday, 14 Sept
- **Monkey Creek Cafe, Dargan**  
Wednesday, 21 Sept
- **Mumma Snow's Cafe, Tarana**  
Wednesday, 28 Sept

### Find more detail at



[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)  
or email [srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

*Throughout this process we will be listening and responding to your concerns.*

[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

Contact Details  
PO Box 19, Lithgow NSW 2790  
180 Mort Street,  
Lithgow NSW 2790

Administration Office  
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.15pm  
Cashier 8.30am - 4.00pm

General Enquiries  
Telephone: (02) 6354 9999  
Facsimile: (02) 6351 4259  
Email: [council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

Scan here





# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update 2

Lithgow Council is inviting the community to join the conversation on two options to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the council.

## If you prefer Option 1 'Maintained', Council can:

- Maintain roads, footpaths, town centres, villages and buildings to a level agreed with the community.
- Renew public infrastructure in a timely and planned way.
- Maintain all current services to the community, including playing fields, parks, aquatic centre, libraries, community facilities, disaster recovery, stormwater etc.
- Improve its financial sustainability and performance, with special attention directed to expanding and diversifying the local economy – more jobs.

## An explanation to the above option:

- An expert review, independent of Council, closely considered the cost of providing services to the whole of the Lithgow local government area – identifying a shortfall of \$6 million.
- Because costs exceed revenue by at least \$6 million there have been sustained deficit operating results in previous years.
- A consequence of the above is that Council has not been able to adequately fund necessary asset maintenance and on-time asset renewal, especially for the largest value asset of roads. Option 1 maintains service levels and significantly increases funding for road maintenance and renewal.
- To do nothing is not an option because in that case the size of the challenge (the funds required) increases each year.

## If you prefer Option 2 'Reduced', Council will:

- Present a plan that reduces the provision of infrastructure and services to align with existing Council revenues.
- Reduce services for community and recreation facilities and services and close unsafe facilities.
- Continue to reduce services over future years as short-term service level reductions will not be sufficient to ensure essential assets reach assumed asset lives.

## An explanation to the above option:

- If Council chooses not to proceed with a rating increase or IPART determines not to approve Council's application, Council will undertake a comprehensive review of its services and present a plan to the community for a reduction in levels of service.
- The plan will prioritise the maintenance of essential services over more discretionary services.
- Council anticipates that this process would take approximately twelve months and will again involve extensive community engagement.
- To do nothing is not an option because in that case the size of the challenge (the funds required) increases each year.

## What do we get for our rates?

Some people in the community, particularly in our rural communities, feel that they do not have access to services and that everything is centred around the town centres of Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland. So, what are some of the services we get for our rates?

- Across our Seven Valleys, Council maintains 975km of roads which is the equivalent of driving from Lithgow to the Gold Coast.
- We manage weeds and mow roadsides.
- We maintain community halls and provide assistance to progress associations and community groups.
- We maintain sporting fields, parks and reserves.
- We maintain rural landfills and provide waste transfer stations.
- We provide business services such as economic development and tourism programs, permits for busking, footpath trading and home-based businesses as well as registration of food premises.
- We provide emergency management for our community including:
  - Servicing the Rural Fire Service Fleet.
  - Undertaking fire prevention activities including issuing fire prevention notices and working with fire agencies to reduce fire risks.
  - Planning overlay controls to address risks to properties such as fire and flood
  - Operating relief and recovery centres during/after an emergency
  - Coordinating emergency shelter for displaced people and animals
- We provide disaster recovery services:
  - Coordinating clean-up activities
  - Assessing occupancy of damaged buildings, safety of sites after an emergency, and overseeing rebuilding (permits/inspections).



**Try our Online Rates Calculator**



Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates Team.  
**02 6354 9999**

## How do I have my say?



### Information Sessions

Council will be conducting community information sessions across the Seven Valleys during August/September. **SAVE THE DATE** to attend a session near you.

- **Crystal Theatre, Portland**  
Saturday 13 Aug, 1pm
- **Union Theatre, Lithgow**  
Saturday 20 Aug, 1pm
- **Wallerawang Community & Sports Club -Saturday 27 Aug, 1pm**
- **Capertee Memorial Hall**  
Saturday 3 Sept, 10am
- **Hartley Old School Hall**  
Saturday 17 Sept, 10am
- **Rydal Showground Hall**  
Saturday 24 Sept, 10am



### Talk to a member of our team

Council acknowledges that not everyone has access to the Internet, so we will be visiting our rural areas to meet with you. **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY** to meet with a member of our Team who will answer your questions regarding the options for a sustainable future and assist you to calculate your rates **phone 6354 9988** and speak with Deb or Emma to book your appointment at one of the following locations.

- **Hampton Halfway House**  
Wednesday, 17 Aug
- **Cullen Bullen Hall** - Wednesday, 24 Aug
- **Glen Davis Community Hall**  
Wednesday, 31 Aug
- **Cranbrook School, Wolgan**  
Wednesday, 14 Sept
- **Monkey Creek Cafe, Dargan**  
Wednesday, 21 Sept
- **Mumma Snow's Cafe, Tarana**  
Wednesday, 28 Sept

### Find more detail at



[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)  
or email [srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

*Throughout this process we will be listening and responding to your concerns.*

**REMEMBER: only enter your land value. Not the charges for water, sewer, stormwater or waste.**

[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)

Contact Details  
PO Box 19, Lithgow NSW 2790  
180 Mort Street,  
Lithgow NSW 2790

Administration Office  
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Cashier 8.30am - 4.00pm

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# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update 3

## Option 1 Explained



### Option 1 – Service Levels Maintained

The average increase to residential, business and farmland rates under OPTION 1 is 24% or 26.5% with the allowed increase (rate peg).

Through our community surveys, Council has heard what is important to you. Residents want to see a greater focus on road maintenance, economic development and provision of services and facilities for youth. Council's ability to maintain our local community's assets and deliver the outcomes residents want as we go forward is constrained by our current financial resources.

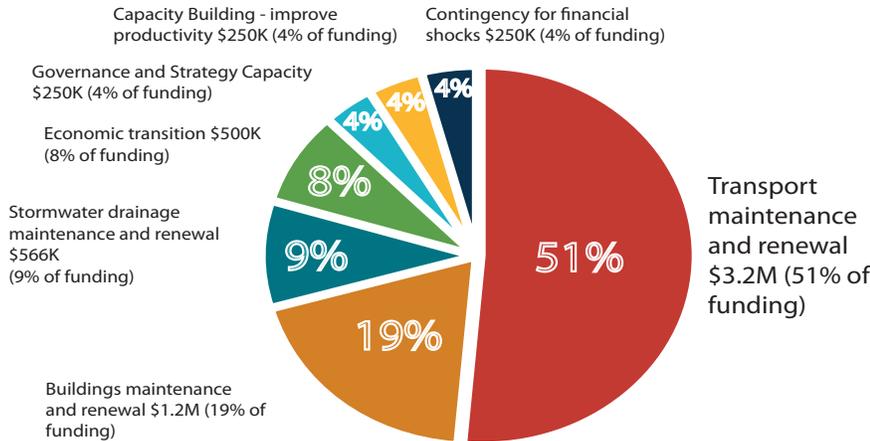
An external review of our financial position assesses that Council requires an additional \$4.75 million annually to maintain the necessary levels of service – mostly related to roads. This funding will allow us to do more than the current short term or responsive maintenance. Council also requires \$1.25 million annually to provide additional economic and other services that will put the community in the strongest possible position to respond to local economic challenges and grasp opportunities

Under OPTION 1, we can continue to maintain the Council's services and \$530 million of infrastructure assets. Just as important, we can also ready the city for the future with increased investment in maintenance ensuring the underlying cost of major maintenance does not grow to an unaffordable level. Most important, we can diversify the local economy, bringing more quality jobs for people as coal mining and power generation reduce in activity

#### The outcomes from Option 1 'Maintained' are:

- Maintain roads, footpaths, business centres and buildings to a level agreed with the community
- Maintain services to the community, including playing fields, parks, aquatic centre, libraries and community facilities.
- Ensure Council's infrastructure renewal backlog does not become unaffordable in the future.
- Enhance local economic activity and job opportunities.

Option 1 will provide for the future as we transition from a coal and power producing economy. We will address the structural deficit - allocations to maintain services, build capacity and facilitate economic resilience



**Note: Proposed allocations to be confirmed following assessment of community consultation.**

If Option 1 is voted in, will we get a say on the 'future focused new services'?

Yes. Council engages with the community and residents to understand how they see Council performing, and what services can be improved. Council is committed to engaging further with the community on how it can improve Council's financial sustainability and performance, including supporting local economic diversification.

An explanation of Option 2 will be in the next edition or visit our website.



### Try our Online Rates Calculator



Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates Team.  
**02 6354 9999**

### How do I have my say?



#### Information Sessions

Council will be conducting community information sessions across the Seven Valleys during August/September. **SAVE THE DATE** to attend a session near you.

- **Union Theatre, Lithgow**  
Saturday 20 Aug, 1pm
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Saturday 17 Sept, 10am
- **Rydal Showground Hall**  
Saturday 24 Sept, 10am



#### Talk to a member of our team

Council acknowledges that not everyone has access to the Internet, so we will be visiting our rural areas to meet with you. **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY** to meet with a member of our Team who will answer your questions regarding the options for a sustainable future and assist you to calculate your rates **phone 6354 9988** and speak with Deb or Emma to book your appointment at one of the following locations.

- **Cullen Bullen Hall** - Wednesday, 24 Aug
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- **Cranbrook School, Wolgan**  
Wednesday, 14 Sept
- **Monkey Creek Cafe, Dargan**  
Wednesday, 21 Sept
- **Mumma Snow's Cafe, Tarana**  
Wednesday, 28 Sept

#### Find more detail at



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or email [srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srv@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

Throughout this process we will be listening and responding to your concerns.



Follow us  
[@LithgowCityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/LithgowCityCouncil)

**REMEMBER: only enter your land value. Not the charges for water, sewer, stormwater or waste.**

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# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update 4

**REMEMBER - Only the Land Rates increase under OPTION 1**  
(see the sample rate notice below)

**LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL**  
ABN 59 986 092 492  
CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
PO Box 19, LITHGOW NSW 2790  
ADMINISTRATION:  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow Tel: (02) 6354 9999  
Cashier: Mon to Fri 8.30am to 4:00pm Fax: (02) 6351 4259

**RATE NOTICE**  
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023  
TAX INVOICE

Mr John Smith  
123 Wonderland Street  
PORTLAND NSW 2847

PROPERTY NUMBER: 12345  
DATE OF POSTING: 27/07/2022  
DATE PAYMENT DUE: 31/08/2022  
PAYMENT REFERENCE No.: 09876543

*If postal address shown on notice is incorrect please complete change of address form on back of notice and forward to Council. PLEASE READ IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE*

PROPERTY DETAILS	FINANCIAL DETAILS			
Location Description:	CHARGE TYPE	VAL/QTY	RATE IN \$	AMOUNT
123 Wonderland Street	Residential Base Portland			\$281.25
Locality: LITHGOW NSW 2847	Residential Portland	57100	0.42097	\$243.60
Legal Description: Lot 500 X DP 122456	Sewerage Residential	1		\$896.00
	Stormwater Residential Dw	1		\$25.00
	Water Access 20mm Connect	1		\$390.00
	Garbage Residential	1		\$474.00



Try our Online Rates Calculator

**REMEMBER:**  
Only enter your land value. Not the charges for water, sewer, stormwater or waste.

**NEED HELP?**



Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates Team.  
**02 6354 9999**

### The cost of living is going up. How has this been addressed?

While the total rates income would increase by 42%, Council has wound back the increase for residential, business & farmland. These would increase by 26.5% (24% plus 2.5%); the average rate peg.

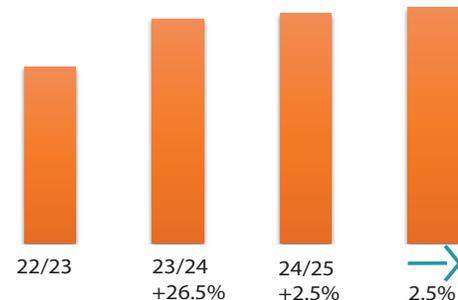
Council offers the Pensioner Rebate Scheme, which financially supports this important cohort in our community. If, an application for a Special Rate Variation is submitted to IPART and approved, the Pensioner Rebate will increase by 20% from \$250 to \$300. In addition, Council also has a Hardship Policy to accommodate the special needs of those unable to pay their rates in full on time.

### If an increase of 26.5% for residential and other rate categories happens, what amount will be asked for the following year?

Option 1 is for a total increase of 24% plus the expected rate peg of 2.5% to residential, business and farmland rates starting from 1 July 2023. In future years, rates would only increase over your 23/24 land rate by the amount approved by the NSW Government. Council has forecast a figure of around 2.5% for this. But, this is not a council decision.

### If my land value has increased, does it mean my rates will definitely go up?

No, it depends on how an individual land valuation changes when compared with the average valuation change for the local government area. Generally, properties whose land valuation increase is lower than the average increase may see a reduction in rates. However, properties whose valuation increase is higher than the average for the LGA may see a rise to rates.



## How do I have my say?

### Community Information Sessions

- **Wallerawang Community & Sports Club** -Saturday 27 Aug, 1pm
- **Capertee Memorial Hall**  
Saturday 3 Sept, 10am
- **Hartley Old School Hall**  
Saturday 17 Sept, 10am
- **Rydal Showground Hall**

### Talk to a member of our team

who will answer your questions regarding the options for a sustainable future and assist you to calculate your rates and speak with Deb or Emma. Or book your appointment at one of the following locations.

- **Glen Davis Community Hall**  
Wednesday, 31 Aug
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# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update

## Easy Rates Calculator

### Option1: Maintain Services - Residential Lithgow

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
Estimated increase on previous year		26.5% overall		
65,700	\$702.45	\$855.85	\$153.40	\$2.95
89,200	\$831.80	\$1,054.67	\$222.87	\$4.29
108,000	\$935.29	\$1,213.72	\$278.44	\$5.35
151,000	\$1,171.98	\$1,577.52	\$405.54	\$7.80

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
107,000	\$929.78	\$1,205.26	\$275.48	\$5.30

### Option1: Maintain Services - Residential Other

Median Land Value for each Quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
Estimated increase on previous year		26.5% overall		
54,600	\$388.04	\$494.97	\$106.93	\$2.06
200,000	\$783.75	\$1,014.18	\$230.43	\$4.43
302,000	\$1,061.34	\$1,378.41	\$317.07	\$6.10
409,000	\$1,352.54	\$1,760.50	\$407.95	\$7.85

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
249,000	\$917.10	\$1,189.15	\$272.05	\$5.23

### Option1: Maintain Services - Residential Portland

Median Land Value for each Quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
Estimated increase on previous year		26.5% overall		
43,900	\$468.69	\$584.08	\$115.39	\$2.22
64,000	\$554.51	\$714.15	\$159.64	\$3.07
72,100	\$589.10	\$766.57	\$177.47	\$3.41
82,800	\$634.78	\$835.81	\$201.03	\$3.87

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
69,400	\$577.57	\$749.09	\$171.53	\$3.30

### Option1: Maintain Services - Residential Wallerawang

Median Land Value for each Quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
Estimated increase on previous year		26.5% overall		
68,000	\$573.46	\$720.64	\$147.18	\$2.83
83,000	\$634.47	\$813.43	\$178.96	\$3.44
95,300	\$684.49	\$889.52	\$205.02	\$3.94
121,000	\$789.02	\$1,048.49	\$259.47	\$4.99

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
93,300	\$676.36	\$877.14	\$200.78	\$3.86

### Option2: Reduce Services - Residential Lithgow

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
Estimated increase on previous year		26.5% overall		
65,700	\$702.45	\$720.37	\$17.93	\$0.34
89,200	\$831.80	\$853.10	\$21.30	\$0.41
108,000	\$935.29	\$959.28	\$24.00	\$0.46
151,000	\$1,171.98	\$1,202.15	\$30.17	\$0.58

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
107,000	\$929.78	\$953.64	\$23.85	\$0.46

### Option2: Reduce Services - Residential Other

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
Estimated increase on previous year		26.5% overall		
54,600	\$388.04	\$402.91	\$14.87	\$0.29
200,000	\$783.75	\$822.23	\$38.48	\$0.74
302,000	\$1,061.34	\$1,116.39	\$55.04	\$1.06
409,000	\$1,352.54	\$1,424.97	\$72.42	\$1.39

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
249,000	\$917.10	\$963.54	\$46.44	\$0.89

### Option2: Reduce Services - Residential Portland

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
Estimated increase on previous year		26.5% overall		
43,900	\$468.69	\$489.79	\$21.10	\$0.41
64,000	\$554.51	\$582.05	\$27.54	\$0.53
72,100	\$589.10	\$619.22	\$30.13	\$0.58
82,800	\$634.78	\$668.34	\$33.55	\$0.65

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
69,400	\$577.57	\$606.83	\$29.26	\$0.56

### Option2: Reduce Services - Residential Wallerawang

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
Estimated increase on previous year		26.5% overall		
68,000	\$573.46	\$600.43	\$26.97	\$0.52
83,000	\$634.47	\$665.76	\$31.29	\$0.60
95,300	\$684.49	\$719.32	\$34.83	\$0.67
121,000	\$789.02	\$831.24	\$42.22	\$0.81

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week
93,300	\$676.36	\$710.61	\$34.25	\$0.66

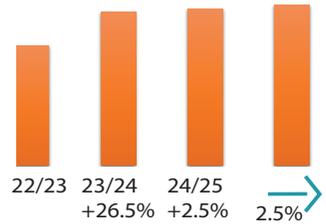
### How much will it cost me?

This will vary depending on where you live and the value of your land as determined by the NSW Valuer General.

The options apply only to land rates and do not include Council's domestic waste charge, stormwater levy, water or sewer charges. An average increase for each option is outlined in the tables below.

**Please note** the calculations below are an estimated average increase and may vary slightly due to the basis of the rates calculator.

**Under option 1, the pensioner rebate will be increased from \$250 to \$300.**



**If an increase of 26.5% for residential and other rate categories happens, what amount will be asked for the following year?**

Option 1 is for a total increase of 24% plus the expected rate peg of 2.5% to residential, business and farmland rates starting from 1 July 2023. In future years, rates would only increase over your 23/24 land rate by the amount approved by the NSW Government. Council has forecast a figure of around 2.5% for this. But, this is not a council decision.



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Want to know more?

[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)



# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update No. 6 Option 1 - Maintained

Through our community surveys, Council has heard what is important to you. Residents want to see a greater focus on road maintenance, economic development and provision of services and facilities for youth. Council's ability to maintain our local community's assets and deliver the outcomes residents want as we go forward is constrained by our current financial resources.

An external review of our financial position assessed that Council requires an additional \$4.75 million annually to maintain the necessary levels of service – mostly related to roads. This funding will allow us to do more than the current short term or responsive maintenance.

Council also requires \$1.25 million annually to provide additional economic and other services that will put the community in the strongest possible position to respond to local economic challenges and grasp opportunities

Under **OPTION 1**, we can continue to maintain the Council's services and \$530 million of infrastructure assets. Just as important, we can also ready the LGA for the future with increased investment in maintenance ensuring the underlying cost of major maintenance does not grow to an unaffordable level. Most important, we can diversify the local economy, bringing more quality jobs for people as coal mining and power generation reduce in activity

The outcomes from Option 1 'Maintained' are:

- Maintain roads, footpaths, business centres and buildings to a level agreed with the community
- Maintain services to the community, including playing fields, parks, aquatic centre, libraries and community facilities.
- Ensure Council's infrastructure renewal backlog does not become unaffordable in the future.
- Enhance local economic activity and job opportunities.

**Option 1** will provide for the future as we transition from a coal and power producing economy. We will address the structural deficit allocations to maintain services, build capacity and facilitate economic resilience.

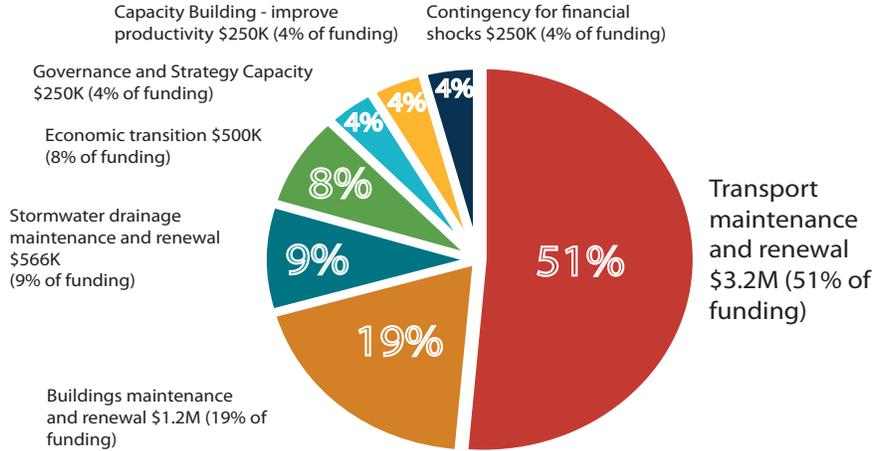
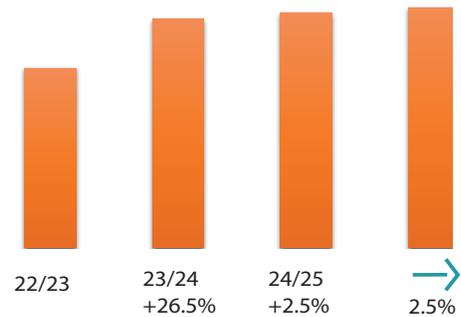
### If an increase of 26.5% for residential and other rate categories happens, what amount will be asked for the following year?

**Option 1** is for a total increase of 24% plus the expected rate peg of 2.5% to residential, business and farmland rates starting from 1 July 2023. In future years, rates would only increase over your 23/24 land rate by the amount approved by the NSW Government. Council has forecast a figure of around 2.5% for this. But, this is not a council decision.

### The cost of living is going up. How has this been addressed?

While the total rates income would increase by 42%, Council has wound back the increase for residential, business & farmland. These would increase by 26.5% (24% plus 2.5%; the average rate peg).

Council offers the Pensioner Rebate Scheme, which financially supports this important cohort in our community. **If**, an application for a Special Rate Variation is submitted to IPART and approved, the Pensioner Rebate will increase by 20% from \$250 to \$300. In addition, Council also has a Hardship Policy to accommodate the special needs of those unable to pay their rates in full on time.



## How do I find out more?

### Community Information Sessions

- **Hartley Old School Hall**  
Saturday 17 Sept, 10am
- **Rydal Showground Hall**  
Saturday 24 Sept, 10am



Phone or visit the Council Administration Centre to speak to a member of our Rates Team.  
**02 6354 9999**

### Talk to a member of our team

Book your appointment at one of the following locations - phone 6354 9988.

- **Monkey Creek Cafe, Dargan**  
Wednesday, 21 Sept
- **Mumma Snow's Cafe, Tarana**  
Wednesday, 28 Sept



Try our **Online Rates Calculator**

Scan here





# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Community Update

## Thank you for your submissions to the proposed Special Rate Variation

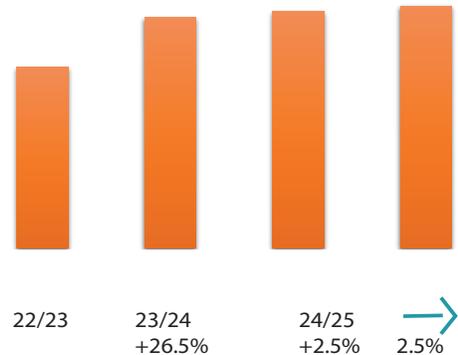
Council understands that it is a difficult consideration to increase land rates. The impact has been carefully studied and guided the proposal for rating increases across all rate categories.

### OPTION 1 - Maintain service levels - Special Rate Variation + rate peg

COUNCIL is considering applying for a **single year permanent overall increase** to its land rating revenue of 44.5%, including an assumed rate peg of 2.5%. Council is committed to limiting the land rates increase, however, to 26.5% for the residential, business and farm rating categories. Mines, quarries and power generators would have rates increases above 26.5%. Any additional rating would apply from 1 July 2023.

This Option would provide \$6m additional revenue annually and would be allocated to addressing modelled and anticipated future deficits as follows:

- Transport maintenance and renewal - \$3.2m
- Buildings maintenance and renewal - \$1.2m
- Stormwater drainage maintenance and renewal - \$566,000
- Economic transition - \$500,000
- Governance and strategy capacity - \$250,000
- Capacity building - improve productivity - \$250,000
- Contingency for financial shocks - \$250,000.



### OPTION 2 - Reduce service levels - rate peg only

Another option being considered would see Council develop a plan to reduce funding of non-essential services. This option involves no increase beyond the amount permitted each year to preserve Council's overall rating in real terms. Council anticipates this increase will be around 2.5%.

As this option does not deliver the additional funding required to meet existing service levels, including overcoming future modeled deficits AND addressing an infrastructure backlog to maintain / renew roads and other infrastructure sustainably into the future, there will be the need to REDUCE service levels. A current gap of approximately \$4.7M per year will grow in future periods. This option will require extensive community consultation to shape how to reduce infrastructure and services to match available revenues.

Under this option Council will recommend the maintenance of essential services over more discretionary services. The reductions would occur for non-essential services. This plan would be developed and finalised with extensive community consultation.

## SURVEY

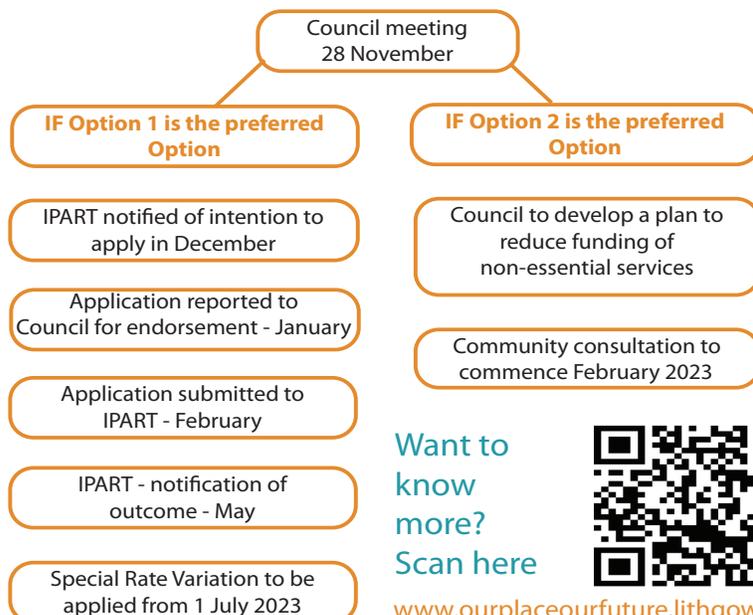
In early October, **Micromex Consulting** will be conducting a random telephone survey of a broad cross section of the community. We encourage you to take the time to tell us your thoughts on the two options for a sustainable future.

**Have you Tried our Online Rates Calculator? REMEMBER its on your land value only.**

Scan here



## What are the next steps?



Want to know more? Scan here



[www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com)



# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Rates Calculator

## How much will it cost me?

This will vary depending on where you live and the value of your land as determined by the NSW Valuer General. The options apply only to land rates and does not include Council's domestic waste charge, stormwater levy, water or sewer charges. An average increase for reach option is outlined the tables below.

**Please note** the calculations below are an estimated average increase and may vary slightly due to the basis of the rates calculator.

**Under option 1, the pensioner rebate will be increased from \$250 to \$300.**

## Option1: Maintain Services - Residential Lithgow

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24 Estimated increase on previous year	Option 1 26.5% overall	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25 Assumed 2.5%	2025/26 Assumed 2.5%	2026/27 Assumed 2.5%
65,700	\$702.45	\$855.85	\$153.40	\$2.95	\$877.24	\$899.18	\$921.65
89,200	\$831.80	\$1,054.67	\$222.87	\$4.29	\$1,081.03	\$1,108.06	\$1,135.76
108,000	\$935.29	\$1,213.72	\$278.44	\$5.35	\$1,244.07	\$1,275.17	\$1,307.05
151,000	\$1,171.98	\$1,577.52	\$405.54	\$7.80	\$1,616.96	\$1,657.38	\$1,698.82

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
107,000	\$929.78	\$1,205.26	\$275.48	\$5.30	\$1,235.39	\$1,266.28	\$1,297.94

## Option2: Reduce Services - Residential Lithgow

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24 Estimated increase on previous year	Option 1 26.5% overall	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25 Assumed 2.5%	2025/26 Assumed 2.5%	2026/27 Assumed 2.5%
65,700	\$702.45	\$720.37	\$17.93	\$0.34	\$738.38	\$756.84	\$775.76
89,200	\$831.80	\$853.10	\$21.30	\$0.41	\$874.43	\$896.29	\$918.70
108,000	\$935.29	\$959.28	\$24.00	\$0.46	\$983.27	\$1,007.85	\$1,033.04
151,000	\$1,171.98	\$1,202.15	\$30.17	\$0.58	\$1,232.20	\$1,263.01	\$1,294.58

Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
107,000	\$929.78	\$953.64	\$23.85	\$0.46	\$977.48	\$1,001.91	\$1,026.96



Try our Online Rates Calculator

### REMEMBER:

**Only enter your land value. Not the charges for water, sewer, stormwater or waste.**

### NEED HELP?



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# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Rates Calculator

## How much will it cost me?

This will vary depending on where you live and the value of your land as determined by the NSW Valuer General. The options apply only to land rates and does not include Council's domestic waste charge, stormwater levy, water or sewer charges. An average increase for reach option is outlined the tables below.

**Please note** the calculations below are an estimated average increase and may vary slightly due to the basis of the rates calculator.

**Under option 1, the pensioner rebate will be increased from \$250 to \$300.**

## Option 1: Maintain Services - Residential Other

Median Land Value for each Quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Estimated increase on previous year	26.5% overall				Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%
54,600	\$388.04	\$494.97	\$106.93	\$2.06	\$507.35	\$520.03	\$533.03
200,000	\$783.75	\$1,014.18	\$230.43	\$4.43	\$1,039.53	\$1,065.52	\$1,092.16
302,000	\$1,061.34	\$1,378.41	\$317.07	\$6.10	\$1,412.87	\$1,448.19	\$1,484.40
409,000	\$1,352.54	\$1,760.50	\$407.95	\$7.85	\$1,804.51	\$1,849.62	\$1,895.86
Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
249,000	\$917.10	\$1,189.15	\$272.05	\$5.23	\$1,218.88	\$1,249.36	\$1,280.59

## Option 2: Reduce Services - Residential Other

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Estimated increase on previous year	26.5% overall				Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%
54,600	\$388.04	\$402.91	\$14.87	\$0.29	\$412.98	\$423.31	\$433.89
200,000	\$783.75	\$822.23	\$38.48	\$0.74	\$842.79	\$863.86	\$885.45
302,000	\$1,061.34	\$1,116.39	\$55.04	\$1.06	\$1,144.30	\$1,172.90	\$1,202.23
409,000	\$1,352.54	\$1,424.97	\$72.42	\$1.39	\$1,460.59	\$1,497.10	\$1,534.53
Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
249,000	\$917.10	\$963.54	\$46.44	\$0.89	\$987.63	\$1,012.32	\$1,037.63



Try our Online Rates Calculator

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### NEED HELP?



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# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Rates Calculator

## How much will it cost me?

This will vary depending on where you live and the value of your land as determined by the NSW Valuer General. The options apply only to land rates and does not include Council's domestic waste charge, stormwater levy, water or sewer charges. An average increase for reach option is outlined the tables below.

**Please note** the calculations below are an estimated average increase and may vary slightly due to the basis of the rates calculator.

**Under option 1, the pensioner rebate will be increased from \$250 to \$300.**

## Option 1: Maintain Services - Residential Portland

Median Land Value for each Quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Estimated increase on previous year	26.5% overall				Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%
43,900	\$468.69	\$584.08	\$115.39	\$2.22	\$598.68	\$613.65	\$628.99
64,000	\$554.51	\$714.15	\$159.64	\$3.07	\$732.00	\$750.30	\$769.06
72,100	\$589.10	\$766.57	\$177.47	\$3.41	\$785.73	\$805.37	\$825.51
82,800	\$634.78	\$835.81	\$201.03	\$3.87	\$856.70	\$878.12	\$900.07
Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
69,400	\$577.57	\$749.09	\$171.53	\$3.30	\$767.82	\$787.02	\$806.69

## Option 2: Reduce Services - Residential Portland

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Estimated increase on previous year	26.5% overall				Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%
43,900	\$468.69	\$489.79	\$21.10	\$0.41	\$502.04	\$514.59	\$527.45
64,000	\$554.51	\$582.05	\$27.54	\$0.53	\$596.60	\$611.51	\$626.80
72,100	\$589.10	\$619.22	\$30.13	\$0.58	\$634.71	\$650.57	\$666.84
82,800	\$634.78	\$668.34	\$33.55	\$0.65	\$685.04	\$702.17	\$719.72
Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
69,400	\$577.57	\$606.83	\$29.26	\$0.56	\$622.00	\$637.55	\$653.49



Try our Online Rates Calculator

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### NEED HELP?

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# Two Options for a Sustainable Lithgow Rates Calculator

## How much will it cost me?

This will vary depending on where you live and the value of your land as determined by the NSW Valuer General. The options apply only to land rates and does not include Council's domestic waste charge, stormwater levy, water or sewer charges. An average increase for each option is outlined in the tables below.

**Please note** the calculations below are an estimated average increase and may vary slightly due to the basis of the rates calculator.

**Under option 1, the pensioner rebate will be increased from \$250 to \$300.**

## Option 1: Maintain Services - Residential Wallerawang

Median Land Value for each Quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Estimated increase on previous year	26.5% overall				Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%
68,000	\$573.46	\$720.64	\$147.18	\$2.83	\$738.66	\$757.12	\$776.05
83,000	\$634.47	\$813.43	\$178.96	\$3.44	\$833.77	\$854.61	\$875.97
95,300	\$684.49	\$889.52	\$205.02	\$3.94	\$911.75	\$934.55	\$957.91
121,000	\$789.02	\$1,048.49	\$259.47	\$4.99	\$1,074.71	\$1,101.57	\$1,129.11
Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
93,300	\$676.36	\$877.14	\$200.78	\$3.86	\$899.07	\$921.55	\$944.59

## Option 2: Reduce Services - Residential Wallerawang

Median Land Value for each quartile	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Estimated increase on previous year	26.5% overall				Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%	Assumed 2.5%
68,000	\$573.46	\$600.43	\$26.97	\$0.52	\$615.44	\$630.83	\$646.60
83,000	\$634.47	\$665.76	\$31.29	\$0.60	\$682.40	\$699.46	\$716.95
95,300	\$684.49	\$719.32	\$34.83	\$0.67	\$737.31	\$755.74	\$774.63
121,000	\$789.02	\$831.24	\$42.22	\$0.81	\$852.02	\$873.32	\$895.16
Average Land Value	2023/24	Option 1	Option 1 Increase \$ per annum	Option 1 Increase \$ per week	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
93,300	\$676.36	\$710.61	\$34.25	\$0.66	\$728.38	\$746.59	\$765.25



Try our Online Rates Calculator

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Roads  
975  
km

## Population

20,854  
ABS ERP 2021

Land area  
4,567  
square km

## Population density

4.57  
persons per square km

## Locality Snapshots

Locality	Population	No. of dwellings
Bogee	78	45
Dunville Loop	14	3
Glen Alice	52	44
Glen Davis	117	73
Mount Marsden	60	32
Upper Nile	8	3

Locality snapshots are summary profiles of all populated localities in Lithgow City Council area for the latest Census year only. These are based on ABS "State Suburb" boundaries, which are close approximations to official gazetted locality boundaries in 2016.

Localities identified may extend outside the boundaries of Lithgow City Council; the data given relates to the whole locality, not just the area inside Lithgow City Council.

Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/lithgow/locality-snapshots>

ABS Census data 2016

### Did you know?

Current research establishes that funding maintenance at a rate of \$50,000 per km over the life of a road extends the life of that asset from 10 to 15 years to over 30 years.

But, If the above maintenance funding is not provided the life of a road can decline and more significant repair will cost approximately \$1.2m per km.

Lithgow City Council has a backlog of road renewal and reconstructions. What does this mean?

- All our maintenance funding is spent keeping rapidly deteriorating roads in a serviceable state.
- But a backlog of more significant works is building. Without intervention, this backlog will become unaffordable.
- Sufficient funding is required to close the backlog. Once this is achieved we can incrementally increase preventative maintenance year on year.

## Transport Expenditure Capital Works 2016/17 - 2021/22

Year	Project	\$
2022/23	Airlie Creek Bridge, Coco Creek Bridge & Crown Creek Bridge (Grant)	\$4,601,442
2021/22	Airlie Creek Bridge, Coco Creek Bridge & Crown Creek Bridge - design (Grant)	\$238,511
	Glen Davis Village - Maintenance	\$14,270
2020/21	Glen Davis Road/Glen Alice Road	\$2,534,008
	Glen Davis Village & Gullies Road (Natural Disaster)	\$64,854
	Upper Nile Road, Glen Alice (Natural Disaster)	\$25,126
	Glen Davis Village - Maintenance & resheet	\$141,709
2019/20	Glen Davis Road	\$346,174
2018/29	Sealed Roads Renewal - Glen Alice Road, Bogee	\$179,289
2017/18	Roads to Recovery Program - Glen Davis Road	\$233,404
	Roads to Recovery Program - Glen Alice Road	\$372,270
	Sealed Roads Renewal - Glen Alice Road	\$21,680
2016/17	Roads to Recovery - Glen Alice Road, Bogee	\$346,674

## 2022/23 Income Bogee, Glen Alice and Glen Davis

Farmland Base Rate	\$99,978.75
Farmland Ad Valorem	\$223,518.59
Residential Other Base Rate	\$21,071.60
Residential Ad Valorem	\$18,213.82

General Rate  
Income  
Total  
2022/23  
\$362,782

## Other Services

Living or owning property in rural communities, it is easy to feel that you do not have access to services and that everything is centred around the town centres of Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland. Lithgow City Council provides over 100 services to its community. These services are what make our community unique, they attract visitors and new residents to our area.

### So, what are some of the services we get for our rates?

- Across our Seven Valleys Council maintains 975km of roads (including 604km of sealed roads and 324km of unsealed roads) in addition to seeking grant funding for major projects.
- We manage weeds and mow roadsides.
- We maintain community halls, sporting fields, parks and reserves and cemeteries.
- We work with progress associations and community groups to provide community projects and programs that promote quality of life in rural communities
- We maintain rural landfills and provide waste transfer stations.
- We provide business services such as economic development and tourism programs, permits for home-based businesses as well as registration of food premises.
- We provide planning and development services for building and subdivisions
- We provide emergency management for our community including:
  - Servicing the Rural Fire Service Fleet.
  - Undertaking fire prevention activities including issuing fire prevention notices and working with fire agencies to reduce fire risks.
  - Planning overlay controls to address risks to properties such as fire and flood
  - Operating relief and recovery centres during/after an emergency
  - Coordinating emergency shelter for displaced people and animals
- We provide disaster recovery services:
  - Coordinating clean-up activities
  - Assessing occupancy of damaged buildings, safety of sites after an emergency, and overseeing rebuilding (permits/inspections).

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## 975.7km Roads

- 604.2km Sealed
- 324.9km Unsealed
- 43.9km Unformed
- 2.7km Unmaintained

## 130km Footpaths

- 82km Concrete
- 221km Grass
- 27km Gravel/unformed

## 48 Bridges

- 27 Vehicle
- 10 Pedestrian
- 1 Other

## 279.7km Kerb & Gutter

- 11.4km Regional
- 1.7km Rural
- 266.5 Urban

### Population

**20,854**  
ABS ERP 2021

### Land area

**4,567**  
square km

### Population density

**4.57**  
persons per square km

**Total 2021/22 Transport expenditure of \$17.1M is greater than Council's total land rates revenue. Without grant funding, Council could not have achieved the 2021/22 program, let alone delivered 120 other services!**

#### Breakdown of 2021/22 Transport Operational Expenditure

- Urban Sealed Roads - includes linemarking, natural disaster repairs - \$3,730,308
- Sealed Roads - includes kerb & gutter repairs, natural disaster emergency works - \$5,285,810
- Urban Unsealed Roads - \$147,552
- Unsealed Roads - includes natural disaster emergency works - \$3,323,314
- Rural Sealed Roads - includes RFS hazard reduction - \$147,743
- Carparks - \$225
- Rural Unsealed Roads - includes Upper Turon Rd, Dark Corner Rd - \$209,041
- Traffic Facilities - includes street cleaning, street lighting - \$687,419
- Bridge Maintenance - \$440,533
- Footpaths Maintenance - \$421,983

**Total \$14,393,928**

#### Breakdown of 2021/22 Transport Capital Expenditure

- Urban Sealed Roads - includes Petra Ave, Ray Cr, Sodwalls Tarana Rd, Thompsons Creek Rd - \$1,778,357
- Sealed Roads - Marjorie Jackson Carpark - \$6,036
- Urban Unsealed Roads - Hassans Walls Rd - \$19,358
- Rural Sealed Roads - includes Hartley Vale Rd - \$288,122
- Rural Unsealed Roads - includes Cullenbenbong Rd, Wolgan Rd - \$459,643
- Bridge Capital Works - includes Rydal footbridge, Palmers Oakey bridge - \$129,537
- Footpaths Capital Works - \$20,423

**Total \$2,701,476**

**51% (\$3.2m) of the proposed Special Rated Variation would be applied to Transport this would be additional to current expenditure.**

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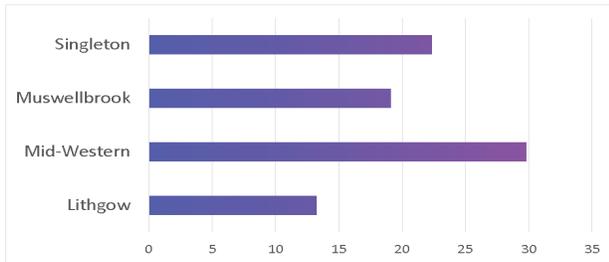
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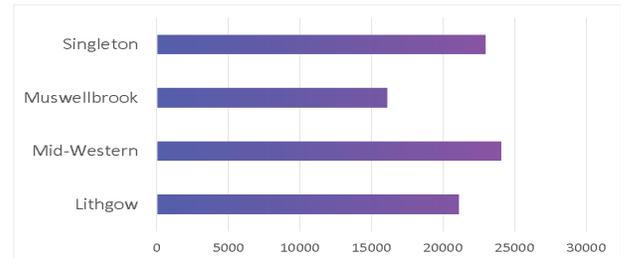


## COMPARISONS TO OTHER SIMILAR SIZE COUNCILS

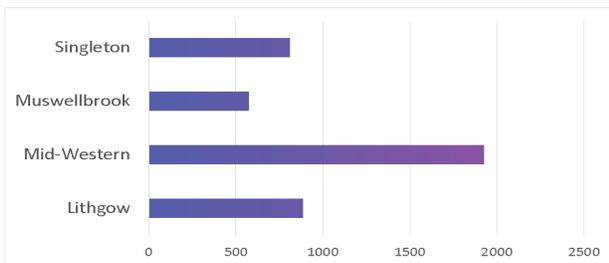
RATING INCOME



POPULATION

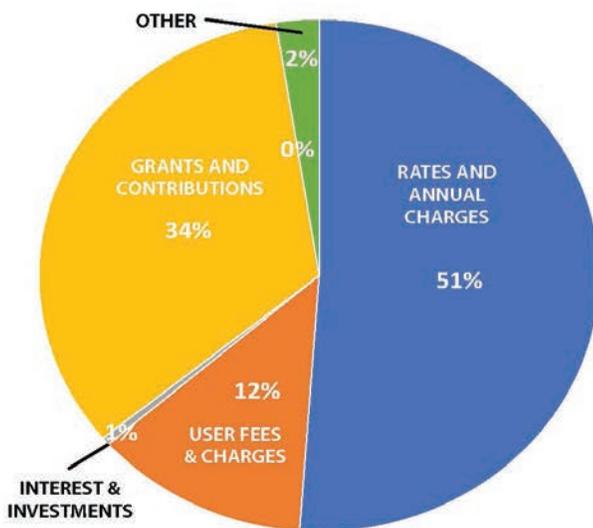


ROAD LENGTHS

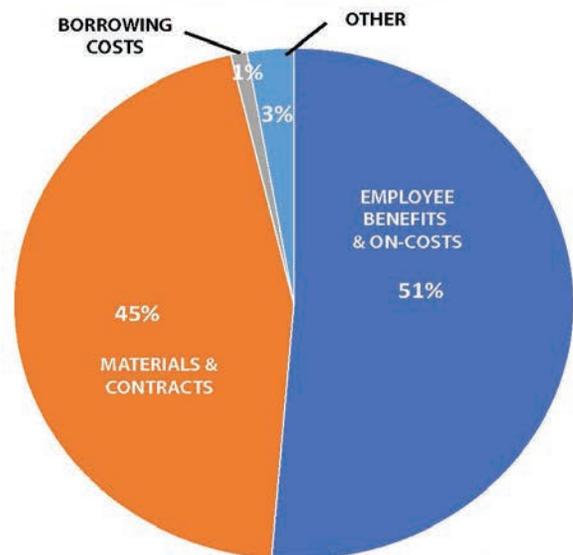


## COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2022/23 BUDGET

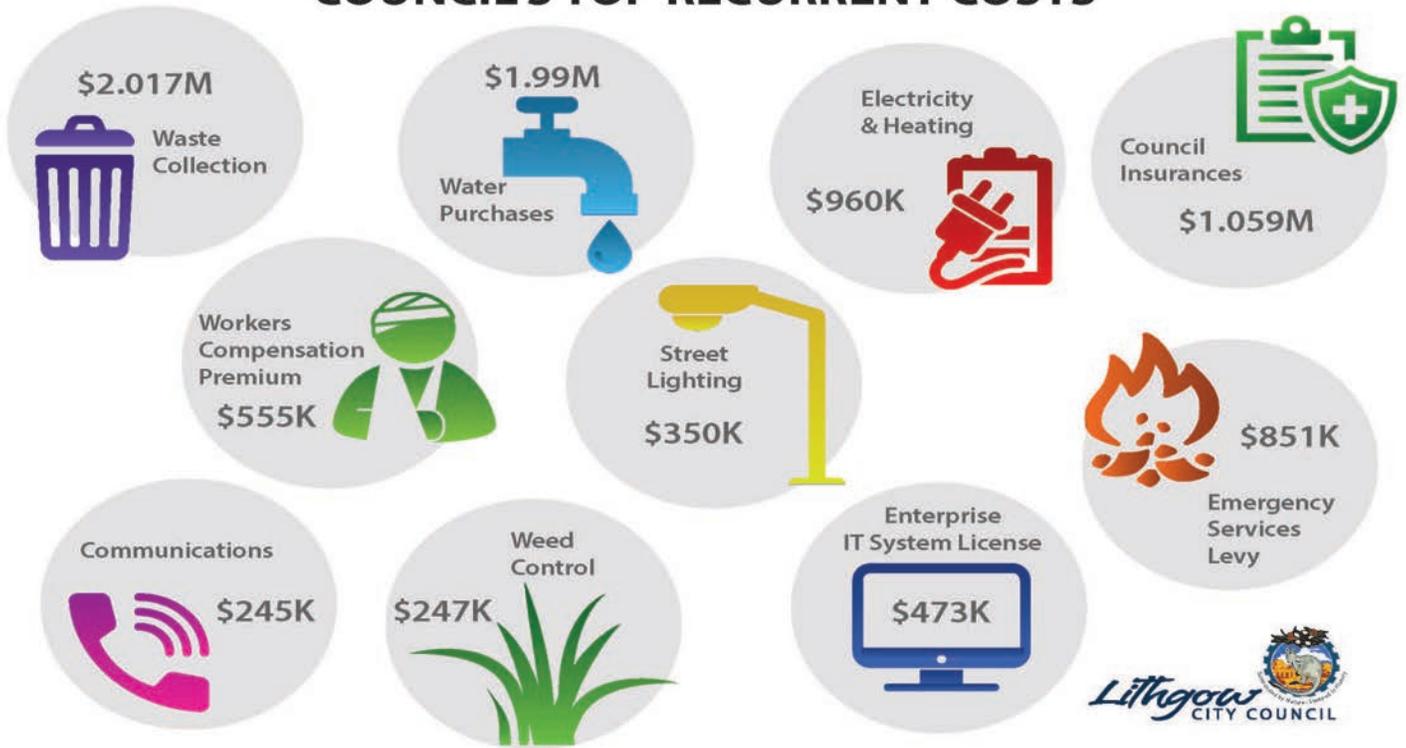
INCOME



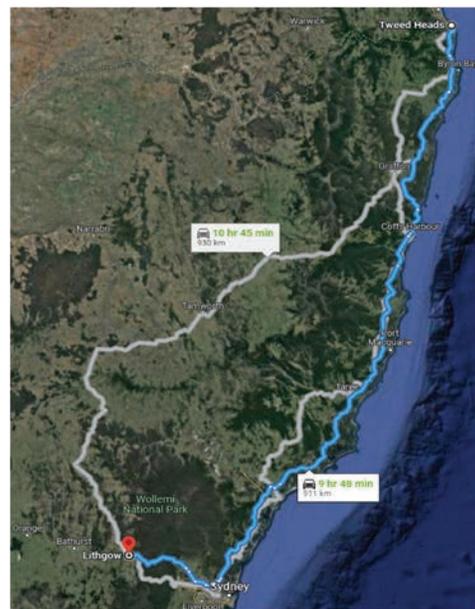
EXPENDITURE



## COUNCIL'S TOP RECURRENT COSTS



COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 975 KM OF ROADS  
(That`s like driving from Lithgow to the Gold Coast!)



# REMEMBER - Only the Land Rates increase under OPTION 1 (see the sample rate notice below)

**LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL**  
ABN 59 986 092 492

CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
PO Box 19, LITHGOW 2790

ADMINISTRATION:  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow Tel: (02) 6354 9999  
Cashier: Mon to Fri 8.30am to 4:00pm Fax: (02) 6351 4259



**RATE NOTICE**  
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023  
**TAX INVOICE**

Mr John Smith  
123 Wonderland Street  
PORTLAND NSW 2847

PROPERTY NUMBER	
12345	
DATE OF POSTING	
27/07/2022	
DATE PAYMENT DUE	
31/08/2022	
PAYMENT REFERENCE No.	
09876543	

If postal address shown on notice is incorrect please complete change of address form on back of notice and forward to Council.  
**PLEASE READ IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE**

PROPERTY DETAILS	FINANCIAL DETAILS			
Location Description:	CHARGE TYPE	VAL/QTY	RATE IN \$	AMOUNT
123 Wonderland Street	Residential Base Portland			\$281.25
	Residential Portland	57100	0.42097	\$243.90
	Sewerage Residential	1		\$896.00
	Stormwater Residential Dw	1		\$25.00
	Water Access 20mm Connect	1		\$380.00
	Garbage Residential	1		\$474.00



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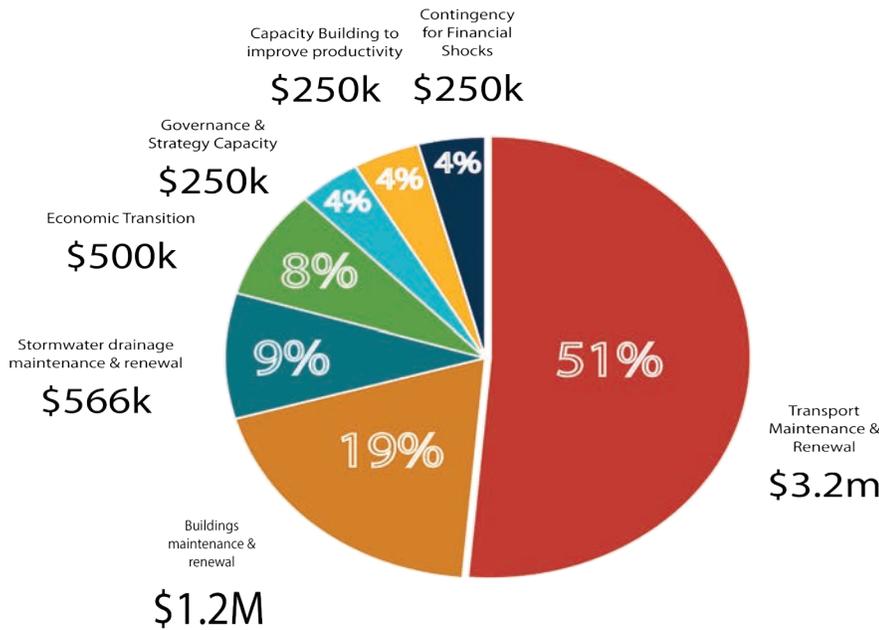
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## SERVICES FUNDED FROM LAND RATES





**Option 1**  
 Average increase to residential, business and farmland rates 24% or 26.5% with the allowed increase (rate peg)

- The outcomes from **Option 1 'Maintained'** are:
- **Maintain** roads, footpaths, business centres and buildings to a level agreed with the community.
  - **Maintain** services to the community, including playing fields, parks, aquatic centre, libraries and community facilities.
  - **Ensure** Council's infrastructure renewal backlog does not become unaffordable in the future.
  - **Enhance** local economic activity and job opportunities.



# What we do

We provide & maintain facilities such as:

- Parks and sports grounds
- Playgrounds and skateparks
- JM Robson Aquatic Centre
- Libraries in Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland
- Community buildings and facilities.

We create a safer place to live by:

- Maintaining and improving roads, footpaths and stormwater drains.
- Working with emergency organisations such as the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service and NSW Police.
- Managing the keeping of companion animals.
- Treating and supplying drinking water to our community.
- Treating sewage to a high standard to protect human health.

We plan for the future by:

- Planning and managing the urban and rural environment
- Preserving heritage sites
- Consulting with the community about its needs.
- Developing long term strategic plans for Council and the LGA.

We enhance our community by:

- Listening to our community's views
- Holding citizenship ceremonies, Australia Day Celebrations, Seniors Week Celebrations, Halloween and more.
- Offsetting service for seniors, young people, new migrants and people with a disability. Providing financial assistance to community organisations.
- Supporting local community groups such as sporting clubs, arts and charities.
- Encouraging and promoting volunteering in our communities.

We care for the environment by:

- Managing and enhancing bushland areas.
- Providing environmental and waste education and recycling services
- Responding to pollution incidents and prosecuting polluters.
- Monitoring the water quality of local waterways.





**Mayoral Message**



My objective as Mayor is to position this wonderful city for a successful future. Because I know of the broad range of services that the Council delivers, every day, I appreciate that this will require a strong, resilient and future focused Council. The Council will need the capacity to manage today, while planning for tomorrow.

This is why Council endorsed to go out to the community and present two options about the future sustainability of Lithgow City Council. The options include either an increase to rates or a reduction in services.

I wish to emphasise that we are just starting consultation. Before we take any decision we want to explain the facts behind these two options and we want to hear the community's views. The consultation will be extensive and I urge you to attend community information sessions and ask questions, get all the facts and make an informed decision.

I also clarify that we are only referring to a potential increase in land rates, which does not include water, sewer or waste charges.

Our goal is to ensure we continue to meet community expectations of maintaining assets and providing local services. We must also expand and grow the local employment opportunities for a period of reduced levels of coal mining and power generation in this city.

I conclude by confirming, very clearly, that the Council is very alert to the cost of living challenges facing people. The manner in which any proposed increase would be distributed has had regard for this challenge for the ordinary person. If you would like to know more visit [www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com](http://www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com).

**Notice of Public Exhibition**

**Development Proposal DA137/22 – Bunnings**

Council is in receipt of a development application on Lot 26 DP 1244557, 21 Willowbank Avenue Lithgow NSW 2790 (off Valley Drive, Lithgow)

The proposal is for Commercial Premises – (Bunnings)

The application and plans are available for public inspection at Council's Administration Centre, as well as Council's website until 5 August 2022.

During this period any person may inspect the plans and make a written submission on the proposal quoting Council's file reference, Development Application No. DA137/22.

All submissions received during this period will be taken into consideration prior to Council's determination of the application.

**Subscribe to our eNewsletters**

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Council is dedicated to working with our local business and industry. If you are a local business owner and would like to be kept informed of opportunities scan the QR Code to subscribe to our Monthly Lithgow Business and Tourism Matters eNewsletter.

**Join our team**

Council is currently seeking applications for the following position/s:

- **Casual Learn to Swim Instructors Closes 30 September**

Applications must be received by the advertised close date. For further information on any of these positions and to apply, go to the Council's website.

Scan here to Pay your rates online



**Contact Details**  
PO Box 19, Lithgow NSW 2790  
180 Mort Street,  
Lithgow NSW 2790

**Administration Office**  
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.15pm  
Cashier 8.30am - 4.00pm

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**Council Column 2 August 2022 - The Village Voice**



**Mayoral Message**



On Saturday Lithgow City Council held its first community information session for the special rate variation at the Crystal Theatre in Portland. This event was well attended and provided an opportunity for the community to discuss the matter and be provided with more information. Those present appreciated the objective behind the proposal – a strong and resilient city there is ready for the future. The next community information session

will be held at the Union Theatre in Lithgow this Saturday 20 August.

I had the pleasure of attending the RFS medal presentation which recognised long service and other outstanding contributions by many of our local volunteers. This was a wonderful event. Congratulations to David Dallaway who is not only an RFS Volunteer but a valued Council employee. Kevin Mays was recognised for an incredible 55 years of service as an RFS volunteer. What a wonderful contribution these volunteers make to this city.

Congratulations to the Lithgow Basketball athletes who received recognition at the Western Region Academy of Sports Dinner on Saturday night and to Adam Marjoram on coaching and mentoring these fantastic young stars.

I was pleased to attend the CWA International Day Morning Tea which was held at the Portland RSL in the newly decorated function room. It was great that students from Portland Central and St Joseph's School attended. Well done to the Portland CWA ladies for organising such an outstanding morning tea.

**Notice of Public Exhibition**

**Draft Policy 7.10 Contaminated Land Policy**

At the ordinary meeting of Council held on 27 June 2022 Council resolved to exhibit the Draft Contaminated Land Policy.

The management of contaminated land is the responsibility of the Council or the EPA. Council's must consider land contamination for every development application (DA). A Contaminated Land Policy helps Council to provide a considered approach to identifying potentially contaminated land, providing relevant information (to landholders, developers and purchasers), for assessing contamination and monitoring any remediation.

The Draft Policy will be publicly exhibited from Friday 5 August 2022 to Friday 2 September 2022 (inclusive).

The Draft Policy will be available on Council's website and at the Council Administration Building during the exhibition period.

Written submissions marked "Submission – Draft Policy 7.10 – Contaminated Land Policy" must be received by Council no later than 4pm on Friday 2 September 2022.

Submissions can be made either by letter or via email to [council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be forwarded to:

**General Manager  
Lithgow City Council  
PO Box 19  
LITHGOW NSW 2790**

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Council on 6354 9999.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 25 July 2022, Council resolved to publicly exhibit the following policy for 28 days:

- **Policy 10.5 Footpath Reservations – Works Requirements**

The community is invited to make written submissions on these proposals by 4pm Monday 12th September 2022.

Copies of the policies are available for download from Council's website.

Following the exhibition period and the receipt of public comments, these policies will be returned to Council for final adoption.

**Join our team**

Council is currently seeking applications for the following position/s:

- **Casual Learn to Swim Instructors Closes 30 Sept**
- **Directorate Management Accountant Closes 29 Aug**
- **Financial Accountant - Re-advertised Closes 29 Aug**
- **Labourer Rural - Multiple Vacancies Closes 29 Aug**
- **Plant and Pump Station Supervisor Closes 29 Aug**
- **Unlicensed Plumber Closes 29 Aug**

Applications must be received by the advertised close date. For further information on any of these positions and to apply, go to the Council's website.

Scan here to view the council website



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[www.council.lithgow.com](http://www.council.lithgow.com)

**Council Column 16 August 2022 - The Village Voice**

### Next Ordinary Council Meeting

Monday, 26 September at 7pm  
In the Council Chambers, 180 Mort Street, Lithgow

Members of the community wishing to address the Council meeting are required to register by midday on the day of the meeting. Register online at: [www.council.lithgow.com/addressing-council](http://www.council.lithgow.com/addressing-council). Copies of the agenda can be found on the website.

Watch Live Stream



### Mayoral Message



Great news for Lithgow, the 6km footpath at Farmers Creek is officially open. This pathway starts at Chivers Close and links up to the Sporting Fields, Eskbank house, The Blast Furnace and Lake Pillans providing a beautiful path meandering through the heart of Lithgow. The shared footpath is a great space for walking, running or cycling and benefits the health and wellbeing of locals and visitors.

I had the pleasure of joining the Bell, Clarence and Dargan community gathering recently. The Community Hall was destroyed in the 2019/20 fires & the community secured funding from Rotary allowing for the construction of a new building to successfully go ahead.

Deputy Mayor Cassandra Coleman and I attended Book Week at the Library last week and presented Book week competition prizes to the winners and runners. Congratulations to all the students who entered the competition. It's wonderful to see our young people with a passion for reading.

The timber bridge on the Upper Turon Road has been upgraded and is finally open. Turon Gates is a popular destination for campers and tourists in our local area, thanks to a \$65,000 grant through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program this has allowed for a safer river crossing for local residents and visitors too.

Council is continuing our conversation with the community regarding the options for a sustainable future. This weekend we will be visiting Capertee and meeting at 10.30 in the Community Hall. These community sessions offer an opportunity for people to ask questions and to find out what the impact will be.

### On Exhibition

Council is inviting you to have your say on the Following:

- **Draft Policy 7.10 Contaminated Land Policy Closes 2 September**
- **Draft Lithgow Community Cultural Protocol Closes 27 October**
- **Draft Encroachment Management Policy Closes 26 September**
- **Policy 10.5 Footpath Reservations - Works Required Closes 12 September**

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Council on 6354 9999.

The Draft Policies will be available on Council's website and at the Council Administration Building during the exhibition period.

Submissions can be made either by letter or via email to [council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be forwarded to:

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

To view these policies scan here



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Council is dedicated to working with our local business and industry. If you are a local business owner and would like to be kept informed of opportunities scan the QR Code to subscribe to our Monthly Lithgow Business and Tourism Matters eNewsletter.

### Join our team

Council is currently seeking applications for the following position/s:

- **Casual Learn to Swim Instructors Closes 30 Sept**
- **Mechanic Closes 9 Sept**

Applications must be received by the advertised close date. For further information on any of these positions and to apply, go to the Council's website.

Scan here for more information or to apply



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[www.council.lithgow.com](http://www.council.lithgow.com)

## Council Column 30 August 2022 - The Village Voice

### Next Ordinary Council Meeting

Monday, 31 October at 7pm  
In the Council Chambers, 180 Mort Street, Lithgow

Members of the community wishing to address the Council meeting are required to register by midday on the day of the meeting. Register online at: [www.council.lithgow.com/addressing-council](http://www.council.lithgow.com/addressing-council). Copies of the agenda can be found on the website.

Watch Live Stream



### Mayoral Message



Over the past eight weeks Council has been consulting on the two options for a sustainable future. We have conducted a number of community information sessions across the local government area and had many conversations with residents and ratepayers wanting to know more about Council and the proposed special rate variation.

During the first week of October, Micromex will be contacting a random selection of residents across the local government area (LGA). This survey will seek your level of support for the proposed special rate variation and validate your priorities for the future of the LGA.

Micromex is a respected research and consulting firm who has undertaken a number of telephone surveys for Council previously. The most recent being a Community Visioning Survey in December for the Community Strategic Plan. This survey identified economic development, upgrading/maintaining roads and services for children/youth as the community's priority issues for the next 10 years. To meet your expectations, Council is planning for the future development of the Lithgow region.

All of your submissions will be collated and the results of the telephone survey will be reported to Council in November. Throughout this process my fellow councillors and I have listened and will consider your thoughts and concerns carefully when making our decision on the proposal to apply for a special rate variation.

During the consultation process, Council's Rates and Revenue Team have met many ratepayers who are eligible for a Pensioner Concession on their Ordinary Rates, Domestic Waste Management Service and Water & Sewer Charges but have not applied. If you are a holder of one of the following cards, I encourage you to apply for the rebate concessions:

- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC).
- Gold card embossed with 'TPI' (Totally Permanently Incapacitated).
- Gold card embossed with MRCA (Military Rehabilitation Compensation Act).
- Gold card embossed with 'EDA' (Extreme Disabling Adjustment).
- War widow or widower or wholly dependent partner entitled to the DVA income support supplement.

- Phone council on 6354 9999 for more information.

### Proposed road naming Martindale Place, Portland

Council has received a submission on the proposed naming of "Martindale Place" for the new road created as part of DA162/18, off Portland / Cullen Bullen Road, Portland.

The proposed name complies with the Geographical Names Board criteria for road naming, and is acceptable for gazettal by the Geographical Names Board if approved by Council.

**Location** – Lot 22 DP 1275269, off Portland / Cullen Bullen Road, Portland.

**Proposed Road Name** – This name has been proposed to reflect the original name of the property being subdivided, Martindale, which has resulted in the creation of the new road. Council will accept written submissions on the proposed name up until 4.00pm on Friday, 14th October 2022. Further information may be obtained by contacting Miss Leanne Kearney on (02) 6354 9999.

### On Exhibition

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 22 August 2022, Council resolved to publicly exhibit the following protocol for 60 days:

- **Draft Lithgow Community Cultural Protocol**

Copies of the protocol are available for download from Council's website.

### Join our team

Council is currently seeking applications for the following position/s:

- **Casual Learn to Swim Instructors closes 30 Sept**
- **Community & Cultural Development Coordinator closes 30 Sept**
- **Team Leader Development closes 30 Sept**
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator closes 7 Oct**
- **Apprentice Plumber closes 7 Oct**
- **Cleaner - Hygiene Truck Operator closes 7 Oct**

Applications must be received by the advertised close date. For further information on any of these positions and to apply, go to the Council's website.

### School Holiday Activities

Lithgow City Council has organised a range of diverse activities during the spring school holidays for teens. Find out more about the events on council's website - Scan here



The Libraries also have a great program of activities for young ones. There are some fun projects with a space them, halloween craft and retro games. Find out more about the events on the Library website - Scan here



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