

# 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**  
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**

