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Submission: In reviewing the Blue Mountain City Council's Special Variation Application I appreciate the difficulties Blue Mountains City Council faces in funding local infrastructure and capital works over the forthcoming years. Given the current application, if granted in part or full, will be in effect a continuance of a previous rate variance application it merely highlights an alarming cultural trend that promotes reward for irresponsible management. Based on poor management outcomes by previously elected councils and the current incumbent council's ad hoc approach to using a local council platform for the purpose of promoting politically motivated agendas as opposed to adhering to the goals and objectives of traditional local council management; that is to maintain and develop local infrastructure within the budget as defined by the rates collected, my concern is that ongoing and indeed escalating requests by Blue Mountains City Council to variations of IPART recommendations regarding rate pegging is simply confirmation of the Council's inability to make not only wise decisions in relation to fiscal restraint but their ineptitude at effectively managing and maintaining the current infrastructure and capital works programs in a responsible manner. While it is indisputable that the variance application in this instance will be granted as an emergency measure, I feel that IPART should take into consideration the onerous burden that an increase totalling 40% over a four year period will have on ratepayers within the residential and business community, given that members of the residential and business communities in recent years have faced similar budgetary challenges as the Council with little or no access to increased income from a benevolent benefactor. Furthermore, I would suggest that should the variation application be approved in favour of the Blue Mountains City Council, an accountability process should be instigated to ensure that the Council uses the extra revenue raised to achieve their projected four year outcome without the need for further variance during the interim and that, should the Council fail to deliver satisfactory outcomes within the projected budgetary parameters, the Council should then be required by an independent regulatory body to show just cause as to why.