

Sent: Monday, 16 March 2015 2:11 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Proposed Blue Mountains Rate Increase

I am writing to you regarding the proposed rate increase of 40% by The Blue Mountains City Council.

The Blue Mountains City Council, in my opinion, do not deserve an increase of this size as I do not believe it to be well run. They sent out a pamphlet some time ago regarding this increase with various degrees of services asking for opinions, to which I replied asking for the lowest increase. According to the Mayor only about 4,000 replies were received out of a total of 35,000 ratepayers, and 80% of these voted in favour of the largest increase. I find this extremely hard to believe that only 4,000 out of 35,000 ratepayers replied and that 80% voted for an increase.

This is a Labour Party controlled Council and we know they are not good at managing money. Kurrajong Council is as big as Blue Mountains City Council and their rates are not as expensive as ours.

I have been paying rates to the Blue Mountains City Council for more than forty years and I still do not have kerb and guttering.

At present my rates after a pensioner discount amount to \$1457.43 if the 40% increase is applied to this amount the increase will be \$582.97 = \$11.21 per week or \$48.58 per month making my rates \$2040.40 per year, however if 10% is added per year the compound effect will be \$13.00 per week or \$56.36 per month making my rates \$2133.80 per year. Knowing the BMCC the latter scenario will be their choice.

The BMCC have no idea what the state of the economy will be over the next four years and have no right asking for rate increases four years in advance. I don't think pensions are going to increase very much in the next four years and people will have great difficulty paying these increases.

As I stated previously I do not believe the BMCC to be well run. The only time we were run efficiently was when an administrator was appointed, perhaps that what is needed now.

I am very much in favour of amalgamation of councils and perhaps we could amalgamate with Penrith, it was suggested some time ago that the Lower Mountains be taken over by them, they have not applied for any increase in Council Rates.

Yours sincerely,

Beatrice Love