

G Clisby & J Bateson


13 March 2015

Local Government Team
IPART
PO Box K35
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NSW 1240

Blue Mountains Council Rate Increase

We write to oppose the BMCC's proposed rate increase of up to 40% for Blue Mountains ratepayers.

BMCC is basing its proposal to increase rates on a survey of ratepayers. Yet less than 12% of ratepayers responded to what was a biased and confusing survey. BMCC is a bloated, inept organization which has consistently refused to look for cost savings in its organization, in terms of staff reductions or containing wages. Yet services to ratepayers are continually being reduced.

In our situation, we have a large block of 5 acres. Most of the block is unusable bush land, it is zoned as unsubdividable and has no access to the block apart from the normal sized street entry. Yet our current rates, based on the Valuer General valuation, to which we unsuccessfully objected, are nearly \$4000 per annum. This is more than a ratepayer in a harbourside mansion would pay, but ours is a modest two bedroom home, albeit on a large bush block.

This proposed increase is unsubstantiated, unjust, unpopular and totally unwarranted. IPART should NOT approve this increase without further scrutiny of the BMCC financials.

Sincerely

G Clisby & J Bateson