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Date of submission: Wednesday, 11 March 2015

Submission: Dear IPART Team, Having only just seen a flyer yesterday, 10.3.15, regarding the proposed increase to BMCC Rates I am a little concerned at the amounts the BMCC would like to have approved, especially as we have had heavy increases only recently. Reasons/Concerns; My background first :I have lived in Leura since 1988 and taught at Leura Public School for many years. At my age every increase to pricing for any service/bill soon adds up. Over the years some BMCC decisions of where they should use the Ratepayers money have been more for political/minority agendas and not for the broader Community. There are definite and very important areas that should receive funding ,such as Bush Fire Support, and these are special considerations. There is too much PR and too many politically-motivated individuals/Groups that seem to overpower and dilute all the general needs, such as Maintenance/Care in the Community and other normal expectations by most Ratepayers. This current Council appear to be concerned with their image and self-promotion...this of course is not in any way to say that most staff at BMCC are in any way linked to these decisions as most are very helpful and work within these constraints...Less PR Talk and back to what most Residents want which is cover all the important basics and vital Services, then see what spare money is left for the 'extras'. Finally ,having looked at this wonderful Survey...I am very surprised to see such a high satisfaction rate...as locally most people do not express this..especially if you go to Katoomba which has been sidelined and is in a very sad state. Increase in Rates need to be for very good reasons and outside, independent 'bodies', such as yours are so important in monitoring BMCC's expenditure and beneficial outcomes to Residents. Kind Regards, Mary Latimer