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Date of submission: Sunday, 15 March 2015

Submission: As a resident of the Blue Mountains for 24 years and an Environmental Scientist I strongly urge that the Blue Mountain Council's special variation application to IPART be approved. The Blue Mountains Council provides a wide range of services to its residents, from funding local roads, maintaining local facilities like pools, supporting less-advantaged residents to protecting the fragile Blue Mountains environment. Given the high demand on Council services and the limited tax base BMCC has gone into debt. In order to improve its services and slowly retire its debt BMCC is attempting to secure the funding the City requires to be financially sustainable in the long run. BMCC's comprehensive Six Point Strategy for Financial Sustainability and the successful approval of this application to IPART will enable the Council to Avoid future financial shocks, balance its budget, manage its borrowings in a responsible manner, increase Income, review and adjust its services (in consultation with community concerns and increase Advocacy and Partnerships with disadvantaged residents. Without IPART's approval these goals will not be achieved . I am not alone in urging this approval. A large number of residents have been extensively consulted in 2010, 2012 and 2014 on how best we believe the Council can achieve acceptable and affordable levels of service in the future. A majority of those residents who responded are willing to pay higher rates in order to improve Council services and reverse the decline in Council's built infrastructure. To reiterate I urge IPART to approve Blue Mountain Council's special variation application. Sincerely, Martin Wolterding, Ph.D