

**From:** Peter Glass  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 March 2015 8:43 AM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Blue Mountains City Council - Special Variation Application

Dear Sir/madam,

I write to convey my concerns regarding the above mentioned application that will potentially result in a rate rise in excess of 40% over the next 4 years. This will add significantly to my rates burden which for the current year is \$3,716, but projected forward to 2018/19 will be over \$5,200pa. As a couple with 3 dependent children, this represents a severe impost on our modest family resources. We currently live in a quaint old 3 bedroom home (in serious need of renovation) on a relatively high value parcel of land – but the land won't pay our rates!

Therefore as a struggling rate payer, I am quite disappointed in the philosophy adopted by BMCC to foist ever higher rates onto a relatively fixed residential population whilst maintaining an anti-development stance across the entire council region. This stance is always shrouded in the rhetoric of supposedly protecting the integrity of the “Blue Mountains world heritage national park,” however, if a more reasonable approach to development were entertained by BMCC, then there would be many more dollars available to address the “crumbling” built infrastructure – as well as many more people able to enjoy living in the beauty of the Blue Mountains area. It is no secret that BMCC has a reputation for stifling development within its control. A more pragmatic approach to sensible development would yield the necessary funds needed to maintain services and repair infrastructure. I would therefore encourage IPART to put the pressure back onto BMCC to operate in a sustainable fashion by supporting a more reasonable level of sustainable development.

As far as Council's community feedback is concerned, the numbers should be viewed in the light of the demographics of the local population. With a preponderance of generally older working couples or retirees - many of whom would be on rates concessions, the willingness of half the population to agree to maintain or increase services is either quite affordable or of minimal impact. For those of us with younger growing families, however - it will not be so easy...!

Yours sincerely,

*Peter & Anne Glass*

