

Author name: W. Purdy

Date of submission: Thursday, 12 March 2015

Submission: The rates for mountains residents are already well above other councils and mine are over twice those in residential areas in the blue mountains despite the fact that 80% of my property is zoned environmental protection. I don't believe that council has considered any logical measures of reducing expenditure such as closing swimming pools that are losing in excess of \$1 million per year, cultural centres which are losing a similar amount and community halls in every village. This is an unsustainable situation and rationalisation is desperately required. There has been overly strict controls on development and red tape relating to development resulting in little or no development in the blue mountains. This option to increase the rate base and reduce the burden on existing rate payers has never been considered by the council. The budget could be balanced by reduction in expenditure and increase in development rather than council putting their long arms into already over burdened rate payers pockets. I do not support any rate rise for blue mountains city council.