



14 March 2015

IPART  
NSW Government.

Objection to Blue Mountains Council Application for Special Variation of Council Rates.

1. **I wish to remain anonymous in submitting this Objection.**
2. I object to Blue Mountains Council applying for a 40% increase in rates for the Blue Mountains. My rates at the moment for a residential house at Lapstone is **\$2072** per annum. I am a self-funded Retiree receiving a Pension from my Superannuation due to a work related injury, I receive no Government or Centrelink assistance.
3. My Pension is adjusted by the CPI each year.  
2011-2012 1.3%  
2012-2013 2.6%  
2013-2014 2.8%
4. Whenever Council seeks Community feedback on their Special Variations (which they seem to do every 2 years) they under quote the actual rates being paid. In 2012 application for extension they quoted rates in Lapstone as being \$1379 or \$26.52 per week. My actual Rates were \$1932 or \$37.15 per week. In their written response they stated it was an average and they didn't include Additional Emergency Services or Domestic Waste, and that my land was valued more than the average???
5. I am therefore sceptical of any figures put forward from Council as they do not represent the actual full Rate amounts being paid by residents. It has also been noted in local papers there are a number of Rate defaults in the Blue Mountains, which Council states is average, should the Variation be granted I would see these defaults increase.
6. Blue Mountains Council Rates far exceed those of adjoining Council Areas and probably would exceed the State average. I have to live within my means, which is becoming extremely frustrating with Council applying for Special Variations or extensions prior to the previous one expiring. I would like to see an independent true analysis of the Rates in the Blue Mountains and what Council gives in return, other than paying high wages for Executives.
7. I am sceptical of their application saying that 80% of residents want the maximum rise being applied for. There was only a small selection of the community sampled, the results of which were not independently gathered and assessed. From speaking with neighbours I do not know of anyone who wanted the maximum variation applied for.
8. If you require my letter to Council and their response in the 2012 Application for Extension, I am willing to provide it as proof of how they under quote the actual rates being paid by residents.

Yours sincerely

