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Submission: It appears that the Blue Mtns City Council did not reply to the IPART Productivity Assessment letter of 2011. At a recent community "consultation meeting" in Blaxland productivity discussion was a no-go zone and was waved aside while we pored over glossy presentation docs presented 5 min before the meeting commenced. With no bench-marks available I later compared BMCC with neighbouring Councils - Wollondilly and Hawkesbury - and was disturbed at the poor level of productivity in BMCC on a raw cost/employee basis. I object to the Council's proposed rate increases on the basis that it seems ratepayers are expected to cover ALL the Council's cost increases while the Council is in a "business as usual" mode. The word "Productivity" in the search box on the website draws a blank. Cost "creep" is well under way at the expense of general rate-payers - Yesterday I paid \$26.50 to tip 20kg of garden waste at the tip. The minimum charge is now based on the per tonne rate. It was a reasonable \$12.50 last time. Compare \$26.50 with Hawkebury where the per tonne rate is higher but there is a min. of \$10 for <20kg. I respectfully rest my case. Geoff Vallance