

Sent: Sunday, 15 March 2015 5:23 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: 40% Rate Increase Blue Mountains

I wish to voice in the most strongest terms my opposition to the proposed 40% rate increase the Blue Mountains City Council wishes to impose on its rate payers. The councils claims it has a mandate from the rate payers to support the case for the 40% increase based on a 53% majority in favour of the proposal from its survey.

The truth is only a very small number of ratepayers responded to this survey and the 53% the council is using represents only a very small number of the total ratepayers. Newspaper articles are stating the 53% in favour is only about 12% of the total number of ratepayers.

I approached my local aldermen to voice concern about the increase and the reply was the 40% increase is only on the rate portion not the total amount, based on his statement, my rates will increase \$1,277.78 per year or \$24.57 a week.

Representatives of the council have made misleading statements in the local media claiming the average rate payers increase will be the equivalent to one cup of coffee per week. I urge you to inquire as to the total percentage of rate payers who will only see an increase of this amount.

I believe the push by the Blue Mountains City Council to impose an increase of this magnitude demonstrates they are totally out of touch with the local community. The fact they need an increase of this size to bring capital infrastructure back to a state of good condition demonstrates a long history of mismanagement on their behalf.

Regards

Les & Vena Cubitt

