

Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association

April 22, 2024

For Council Consideration Re: Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund

The Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association was interested to learn that the Town of the Blue Mountains had been named a recipient of a \$50,000 USD grant from the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund. Our community shares a desire to protect and enhance our natural environment, and the opportunity to engage the energy and creativity of TBM's younger generation in efforts to do so is very positive.

In giving thought to this initiative, there are some questions regarding how it will be structured and operated that the BMRA wanted to pose to TBM Council and Staff.

Specifically;

- 1) How will the selection process work in determining which proposals are to be accepted? It is likely that there may be more requests for funding than can be supported. Will the full Council and relevant members of Staff all be involved in evaluating the proposed initiatives?
- 2) Are there specified project criteria from the Bloomberg Foundation that must be met, and is there a need for reporting back to Bloomberg regarding TBM activity?
- 3) Engaging youth in efforts to support the environment is now common in many countries, eg New Zealand. Will the TBM website serve as a resource for those in our community who want to participate in this program, and would benefit from access to ideas from other jurisdictions?
- 4) For the initiatives that are funded and executed, will there be some form of mandatory reporting on the program's impact? While these will clearly be small scale activities, and any concept of "ROI" would be inappropriate, it would be constructive for the youth involved with the program to be exposed to the idea that all environmental programs should be viewed through the lenses of cost effectiveness and success in achieving the desired outcomes. As the BMRA has communicated previously, that is the expectation we have for all sustainability projects identified in TBM's Future Story.

We look forward to seeing the concepts developed by our youth, and future reporting on the impacts of their efforts.

Regards,

Jim Torrance, BMRA