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Submission: I am writing to support Blue Mountains City Council's application for a rate variation. The Blue Mountains is a very special place. We need to take responsibility for the impact we have on the world heritage environment we live within. I understand this will come at additional expense. We have a relatively low population (creating the close knit communities and lifestyle we live here for) and therefore a low rates base for a large geographical area. This large area creates more infrastructure per person than more densely populated areas. Leading to higher expenses for Council and our community. I have young children. I work part time and my husband is currently out of work. While an increase in our rates won't be easy, I am willing to make it work within our budget so that we can continue enjoying the services we have, and perhaps see an increase of the things that are important. I know the work that has gone into identifying how the funds would be spent and I support that. The cost of living in the Blue Mountains may well be higher than other areas, but the value and benefits of living in the Blue Mountains is too, so I am willing to pay more to support this community.