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Submission: If you ask a question a certain way you can more often than not achieve the answer you're looking for. Discussions with fellow ratepayers support my feeling that Blue Mountains Council's claimed mandate to increase rates by 40 percent fits the above premise to a tee. I further propose that a complete review of the methodology by which the council achieved their result will compel any faired minded person to draw the same conclusion. As a rate paying resident, I accept within reason the need for occasional increases in rates, however I expect these to be in line with existing inflation. Most families already operating within limited budgets have little capacity to absorb the increase in rates sought by the Blue Mountains Council.