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Submission: It appears that Blue Mountains Council need more money or need to reduce their expenses. It is a very difficult part of the world to maintain, very few ratepayers for such a huge area, bushfires etc. What I object to is the fact that people cannot approach retirement and stay on their property. We have acreage but because of the very restrictive use of properties in the BMCC area we cannot make any money from the land area. At present our rates are more than \$790 per quarter. With the proposed increases we would be looking at over \$4000 per year in rate payments. How many people can afford that? The council needs to increase their income or reduce their expenses. I see advertisements for a variety of weird employment positions, staff in parks who seem to be carrying out strange twig trimming etc. I would prefer to see a review of expenses and a committee to assist them with raising funds for the council rather than use a system where the rates are pushed to the limit of people's affordability.