DEC 2020?

blue mountains City Council

Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Reference File: F01151

Dear Ratepayer

The increase in rates to some properties this year relates to a recent general revaluation determined by the NSW Valuer General, for all land in the Blue Mountains local government area. Blue Mountains City Council did not have a role in the change and does not receive any extra revenue as a consequence of the revaluation.

Land values are revalued, independent of Council, by the NSW Valuer General on a three yearly cycle. Some ratepayers pay more, while other ratepayers pay less, as the rates for individual properties are reapportioned across the City in proportion to the new valuations determined by the NSW Valuer General.

Council is legally required to levy rates based predominantly on these land valuations (under the Local Government Act 1993 and the Valuations of Land Act 1916) and unfortunately Council is unable to waive rates. However, where ratepayers are unable to pay rates due to financial hardship Council will approve extended instalment payment plans and interest penalties can be put on hold during the period of the arrangement.

The Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill, has previously written to the state government and asked that it subsidise those households faced with an increase, given the difficult year it has been following summer bush fires, flooding and now the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to these challenging times, Council extended the 1st instalment due date by one month to 30 September 2020 and continues to offer an interest free period for overdue rates to 31 December 2020.

Council remains committed to supporting our community through COVID-19, and following bush fires and flooding, and is working with other levels of government and key agencies to address the significant impacts on the City following multiple crises. For more information go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/residents/Rates-and-charges.

Yours faithfully

R. Dillon

ROSEMARY DILLON
Chief Executive Officer

the city ~~within~~ subsidising a World Heritage National Park

Locked Bag 1005 2 Civic Place Katoomba NSW 2780 | T 02 4780 5000 | F 02 4780 5555
E council@bmcc.nsw.org.au | **www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au** | ABN 52 699 520 223