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# Area to vote on its future life-style

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By JOHN McISAAC.

Residents of the Blue Mountains will be asked to decide whether they want maximum preservation with minimum population for their area, or vice versa.

The choice will be offered to them in five plans prepared on an Australian Government grant of \$50,000 and released yesterday.

Urban Systems Corporation, which prepared the City of Sydney strategic plan, has prepared the five plans for the Blue Mountains Council.

To achieve maximum preservation of the area, the population must not exceed 47,000, the plans show.

But a population of 275,000 can be achieved if development is permitted to the edge of valleys and steep terrain.

In their researches, the planners discovered the Blue Mountains has a much greater proportion of elderly people and very young children in its population than other parts of the State.

## Commuters

"There is a great drift of younger people from the Blue Mountains to the city," the planners report.

Diagrams show the proportion of people up to 10 years of age and over 50 to be much greater than elsewhere in the State.

They also show the proportion of people between 15 and 50 years to be much less than elsewhere in the State.

The plans also show most of the Blue Mountains work force has to commute to the metropolitan area for jobs.