



**SNOWY MONARO**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# **Minutes**

**Extraordinary Council Meeting**

**24 May 2021**



**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 81 COMMISSIONER STREET, COOMA NSW 2630  
ON MONDAY 24 MAY 2021**

<b>MINUTES</b>
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Notes:

- 1. OPENING MEETING ..... 2**
- 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY ..... 2**
- 3. APPROVING COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK..... 2**
- 4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS ..... 3**
- 5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST..... 3**
- 6. OTHER REPORTS TO COUNCIL ..... 3**
- 6.1 KEY THEME 4. LEADERSHIP ..... 3**
  - 6.1.1 Development of Rate Structure .....3**
- 7. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS..... 5**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 81 COMMISSIONER STREET, COOMA NSW 2630**

**ON MONDAY, 24 MAY 2021  
COMMENCING AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Beer  
Deputy Mayor Lynley Miners  
Councillor John Rooney – Via Audio-Visual Link  
Councillor John Castellari  
Councillor Rogan Corbett  
Councillor Sue Haslingden – Via Audio-Visual Link  
Councillor John Last  
Councillor Anne Maslin – Via Audio-Visual Link  
Councillor Brian Old  
Councillor Bob Stewart – Via Audio-Visual Link

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor James Ewart

**Staff:** Peter Bascomb, Chief Executive Officer  
Beth Barratt-Browne, Chief Workforce Officer  
Nick Byrne, Chief Financial Officer  
Jeff Morgan, Chief Operating Officer  
Gina Woodward, Chief Communications Officer  
David Rawlings, Chief Strategy Officer

**1. OPENING MEETING**

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.05PM

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**3. APPROVING COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK**

The amended local government regulations require Council to authorise the attendance of Councillors via audio-visual link.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**125/21**

That Council, consistent with Council's adopted procedures for attendance by councillors at meetings by audio-visual link approve the attendance of Councillors Sue Haslingden, Anne Maslin, John Rooney and Bob Stewart via remote audio-visual link.

**Moved Councillor Castellari**

**Seconded Councillor Corbett**

**CARRIED**

**Record of Voting**

<i>Councillors For:</i>	<i>Mayor Beer, Councillor Castellari, Councillor Corbett, Councillor Last and Deputy Mayor Miners.</i>
<i>Councillors Against:</i>	<i>Nil.</i>

#### **4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS**

Nil

#### **5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil.

#### **6. OTHER REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

##### **6.1 KEY THEME 4. LEADERSHIP**

###### **6.1.1 DEVELOPMENT OF RATE STRUCTURE**

Record No:

Responsible Officer:	Chief Strategy Officer
Author:	Chief Strategy Officer
Key Theme:	4. Leadership Outcomes
CSP Community Strategy:	11.2 Council utilises sound fiscal management practices, pursues and attracts other sources of income
Delivery Program Objectives:	11.2.1 Council has best practice management for financial sustainability
Attachments:	Nil
Cost Centre	
Project	
Further Operational Plan Actions:	

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Three options are discussed following previous discussions with the councillors on paths forward.

There are three main options:

- 1) Reduce the level of rates revenue to maintain an increase below a certain percentage and retain as many existing rates as possible to minimise change. (Opt 1B)
- 2) Raise the same level of revenue but retain as many existing rates as possible to minimise change. (Opt 1C)
- 3) Implement a new rating structure. (Opt 2)

If it is planned to implement a new system the principles that are considered important (in order of importance from the survey responses) is:

- Impact of changes are minimised where possible.
- Rates should reflect who benefits from the services.

- Rates should align with people's capacity to pay.

The various rate structures have been assessed against the criteria based on scoring each model against those factors and providing a score where one model is seen to provide an advantage over the other. Based on the relative advantage a higher score is received. This allow a comparison of the multiple principles that need to apply and can conflict with each other.

The previous reports can be used for further information on the relative impacts and benefits of the various models that have been developed. While changes occur as the underlying data is updated the information at the higher strategic level remains materially the same.

The following officer's recommendation is submitted for Council's consideration.

### **LOST MOTION**

That Council set its rates policy as follows:

- A. There will only be one subcategory, which is for the centre of activity being electricity generation.
- B. The business, farmland, mining and residential categories of rates will pay a base rate and an ad valorem rate.
- C. That rate will be the same for the business, farmland and residential categories.
- D. The subcategory of electricity generation will be set at 2.5 times the rate set for the business category, to reflect the increased capacity to pay of this business type.
- E. The category of mining will be set to 2.5 times the rate set for the business category, to reflect the increased capacity to pay of this business type.
- F. The base rate will be determined by calculating the maximum level that can be applied to not breach the requirement for only 50% of the rates levied to come from the base rate.
- G. The ad valorem will then be calculated to raise the maximum permissible yield.
- H. As part of developing the delivery plan following a Council election the Council will determine the proposed cost of delivering services to the different localities across the region and determine whether the rate structures align reasonably with the cost of providing services to the various landowners based on the rating categories and potential sub categories.

### **Record of Voting**

*Councillors For: Councillor Castellari, Councillor Corbett and Councillor Rooney.*

*Councillors Against: Mayor Beer, Councillor Haslingden, Councillor Last, Councillor Maslin, Deputy Mayor Miners and Councillor Stewart.*

**Moved Councillor Castellari**

**Seconded Councillor Corbett**

### **LOST MOTION**

That Council set its rates policy as follows:

- A. The former base rates and minimum rates are to be retained where possible. Where this was not possible the decision on the use of minimum and base rates is determined by which previous rate structure leads to the lowest maximum percentage increase.
- B. Farmland is to be sub categorized by localities and grouped with other localities that were in the same former local government area.

- C. Where a locality covers more than one local government area it will be placed in its own sub category.
- D. New rating categories and sub categories will be based on the equivalent base rate and ad valorem structure previously in place.
- E. Where farmland properties within a locality cover more than one former council area the locality will be included in the sub category that creates the lowest maximum percentage increase for any individual rate parcel as a result of the changed rate structure.

**Moved Councillor Maslin**

**Seconded Councillor Last**

**Record of Voting**

*Councillors For: Mayor Beer, Councillor Last, Councillor Maslin and Deputy Mayor Miners.*

*Councillors Against: Councillor Castellari, Councillor Corbett, Councillor Haslingden, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Stewart.*

**MAYORAL MINUTE**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**126/21**

That Council hold an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 26 May at 5:00pm in the Cooma Council Chambers.

**Moved Mayor Beer**

**CARRIED**

**7. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Nil

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.36pm



CHAIRPERSON

The above minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Snowy Monaro Regional Council held on 24 May 2021 were confirmed by Council at a duly convened meeting on 17 June 2021 at which meeting the signature hereon was subscribed.