

Council News

Updates | Information | Consultation | August 2022

COUNCIL ADOPTS 2042 CSP

Following a 28-day public exhibition period, Snowy Monaro Regional Council voted to adopt the 2042 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) at its June meeting in Cooma.

The CSP is a broad long-term overview of the Snowy Monaro community's aspirations for our region over the next 20 years. This plan belongs to our community and was developed in collaboration with them.

The CSP underpins Council's own long-term delivery program, which takes the broader goals and aspirations from the CSP to set out concrete projects and objectives that we will undertake into the future.

Council would like to thank all the community members that took the time to read through the draft CSP and provide their feedback during the exhibition period.

Thanks to your feedback, the plan was amended to add: a greater focus on the forestry industry, broader

community partnerships outside of government organisations, a stronger emphasis on innovation, changes to land use planning highlighting the environment, and an increase in the amount of land available for threatened species refuge.

The outcomes, objectives and strategies outlined in the CSP will be delivered through the development of Council's new resourcing strategy, four year delivery program, and yearly operational plan.

At the end of each term of Council a 'state of region' report will be prepared to report back to our community on the progress that has been made against the CSP.

Following significant community consultation throughout 2021, the draft that became the new CSP was completed. The draft was placed on public exhibition from March 2022 through April 2022.

eNEWSLETTER

We do our best to include the most important and relevant stories from the last three months in this rates newsletter, but we can't fit it all.

If you want to stay informed with all the latest news from Council, our fortnightly eNewsletter is the best way to keep up to date.

Launched late last year and growing quickly, this new initiative gives you inside access to everything from meetings to events to major projects.

Head to www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/News-and-Media/eNewsletter to sign up today!

SNOWY MONARO DISASTER DASHBOARD

Our Disaster Dashboard collates information on COVID-19 cases, fire incidents, flood incidents, road conditions, weather radar, power outages, emergency news, and has links to ABC Radio and Council.

This is a crucial resource in times of emergency and uncertainty and is funded by the State Government.

Visit <https://snowymonaro.disasterdashboards.com> and bookmark the page today.



Friday 8 July 2022

Another busy fortnight in our LGA with the long-awaited announcement of the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SAP) Masterplan launch. An enormous amount of work has gone into this 40 year future plan, aiming at supporting a year-round visitor economy for the region. More below...

For the latest news over these past few weeks, please read on:

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Masterplan Launch
- NAIDOC Week 2022
- Scrap Together - Food Organics Garden Organics
- Jindabyne Safe Community Meeting
- Get Ready Community Awards 2022 - Nominations Open



JINDABYNE SAFER COMMUNITY MEETING

A meeting was held in Jindabyne on Tuesday 5 July to discuss and determine actions to address safety concerns in the Jindabyne Community.

A robust discussion was held, with valuable input from key representatives of agencies and this focused on the opportunities for: earlier intervention (school ages) to prevent/reduce future incidents and minimise harm; improved / additional community education eg. available services, community expectations, reporting mechanisms, proactive outreach (Police, Health, NGO service providers); improved / additional communication programs eg. available services, crime statistics, reporting mechanisms, promoting what does work (linked to the concept that many supports exist, people just don't know about them or how to access them and misinformation breeds fear and discontent).

Facilitated by Council, the meeting involved representatives from NSW Police Force, Jindabyne Central School (JCS), Monaro Family Support Service, Wellways Australia, Office of Sport, Jindabyne Liquor Accord, Alpine Uniting Church, and Thredbo. Nichole Overall, Member for Monaro was also in attendance and joined by Mayor Narelle Davis and local Councillors.

Police addressed recent concerns and statistics being shared in the community - and clarified that these statistics are based on core year-round population only numbers so the quoted numbers appear as skewed and are not representative of the situation. While one sexual assault case is too many, the local number is currently very low and by no means the worst in the state.

Key themes and actions were developed from the meeting with working groups formed to ensure broad input to the solutions: Improve youth services and resources in Jindabyne; working group of Monaro Family Support Service, Jindabyne Central School, Office of Sport, NSW Police, SMGS, NSW Health, Council's Youth Services and Councillor Frolich.

Coordinate and improve communication and information sharing

Led by Council's Chief Communications Officer, a working group of Monaro Family Support Services,

Wellways, Council's Community Services, Resorts, Councillor Hanna, Liquor Accord, NSW Police and NSW Health.

Ensure coordinated messages from state to local level utilising all available mediums to provide community education on safety concerns, emerging issues, actions and solutions.

Responsive transport options

Working group of Council's Economic Development and Community Services representatives and Councillor Hanna.

Engage with Uber to understand recruitment / expansion opportunities, engage with Transport for NSW and work with Council's Local Traffic Committee.

Ensure accessible Sexual Health services

Working group of Council's Community Services, Monaro Family Support Services and Mayor Davis (NSW Health Board - local region).

Advocate to NSW Health, Coordinare, and private practices to re-establish the Wednesday Room as a minimum, noting its role in responding to a far broader set of issues than just sexual health eg. first contact for sexual assault, mental health crisis, domestic violence.

Streetscape safety / safer by design environments

Being addressed through the Snowy Mountains Special Activation (SAP) Masterplan and Council's Chief Operations Officer.

Understand which areas that would most benefit from infrastructure improvements to incorporate safety elements e.g. footpaths, lighting, CCTV and seek funding / lobby for support to deliver.

This was a valuable meeting of minds, and making connections with new and long-term stakeholders in the community. In gaining an understanding of each other's role and perspectives, there will be a greater collective approach to these challenges, with short and long term progress to be made. The strong presence of Councillors and the Member for Monaro demonstrates engaged leadership, willingness to listen to community, and a commitment to seeing genuine outcomes for the community.



NEW ARIC CHAIR APPOINTED

Snowy Monaro Regional Council welcomes the appointment of Michael Quirk as the new head of Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), following a comprehensive selection process and Councillor vote at May's ordinary Council meeting.

ARIC provides independent assurance and assistance to Council on risk management, our control framework, legislative compliance, internal audit and external accountability responsibilities.

Mayor Narelle Davis highlighted the importance of ARIC to Council at the meeting, saying that as a committee these independent professionals provide vital advice to Council on processes and practices. She further explained that she is looking forward to better utilising ARIC under the new chair to improve and strengthen Council's practices and processes.

Mr Quirk brings formidable experience and qualifications to ARIC:

- 25 years in management/ leadership positions with a high level of training in strategy, policy and relationship management.
- Former senior local government manager with responsibility for establishing,

resourcing and managing a shared internal audit service across a number of councils.

- Over 30 years in internal audit and assurance services across State and Local Government and the not-for-profit sector, specialising in strategic, operational and performance audit, technology audit, review and investigation.
- Active involvement in professional networks that lead and influence governance, risk and internal audit professions.
- Independent Member, Wingecarribee Shire Council Audit Risk & Improvement Committee
- Member, and Training and Quality Consultant to Institute of Internal Auditors (Aust)
- Past Chair and Executive, NSW Local Government Internal Auditors Network
- Past-Chair and Executive, NSW Corruption Prevention Network Inc.
- ICAC/ANU Scholarship Recipient – Executive Corruption Prevention Program (2007)

For more information about ARIC, please visit www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Council/Audit-Risk-and-Improvement-Committee

STAY ENGAGED

All current and future public consultations can be found on Council's 'Your Say' page: www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au



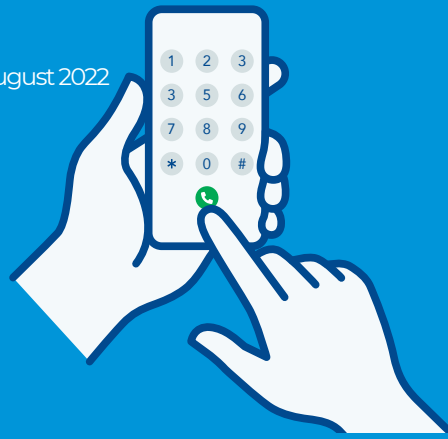
SCAN ME

WORK WITH US

Work for your community in an exciting role with Snowy Monaro Regional Council. New opportunities are regularly available. Scan the QR code or visit our website.



SCAN FOR JOBS



PAY RATES BY PHONE

A reminder to all ratepayers that Council has launched its fully-automated pay-by-phone rate payment system – call 1300 345 345 (available 24/7) and follow the prompts.

It is important to note that traditional over-the-counter payments are not going anywhere. Options available for payment are now:

- **pay in person** – cash, cheque or EFTPOS (VISA, Mastercard, or bank debit card)
- **pay over the phone** (automated) – (VISA or Mastercard)
- **BPAY** (direct through your bank using reference details from your rates or water notice)
- **direct debit** (application form on Council’s website)
- **by mail** (cheque or money order)

Anyone wanting to set up an instalment plan for their payments should email rates@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au or call Council and ask to talk to the rates team.

Council welcomes feedback from the community on this system and is always open to community ideas for further improvements to the rate payment process. Online payment facilities are being reviewed next.

For those ratepayers wishing to access the new payment option system please:

- Phone Council on their 24/7 line: **CALL 1300 345 345**
- Select 2 to pay your water or rates instalment by phone (press 0 to speak to a Customer Service Officer)
- You will then hear an automated message so please follow the prompts:
Press 1 for rates and 2 for water.
- You will need to have handy for reference your rates notice and credit card
- Please note, this automated council payment line accepts VISA and Mastercard only

DEBT RECOVERY

A reminder that Snowy Monaro Regional Council has resumed its regular debt recovery practices after pausing due to regional hardship.

All debt recovery was originally suspended in response to the Black Summer bushfires to grant relief to residents and ratepayers. This suspension was then extended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented effects on residents and businesses. Interest accrual on debts owed was also paused for some of this time. That interest free period has now ended and normal interest is accruing on outstanding amounts.

Debt recovery has now resumed across the Snowy Monaro and will impact all ratepayers with outstanding balances.

Council reminds residents and ratepayers that this return to normal debt recovery activities does not change the current hardship policy and Council will work with those with outstanding rates to help them get back on track.

If anyone with a debt owing to Council is experiencing financial hardship, for any reason, please contact Council on 1300 345 345 and ask for the rates department or visit any Council office to discuss options in person.

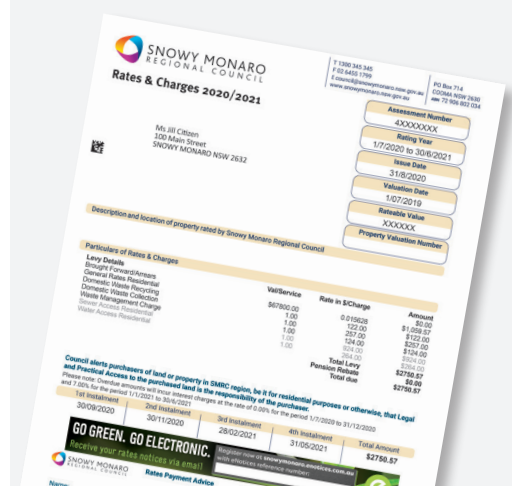
RESILIENCE BLUEPRINT PROJECT

Snowy Monaro Regional Council is announcing its membership of the Resilience Blueprint Project for South East NSW.

Coordinated through the Canberra Region Joint Organisation the Resilience Blueprint works with all levels of government, emergency services, researchers, risk analysts, businesses and communities to improve the way our region plans for, and responds to, natural disasters.

The Resilience Blueprint assesses threats and provides tools and better access to resources to protect them. This project will help make local organisations and institutions more resilient to disasters, build skills through training, and deliver high value regionally significant resilience projects.

“The Snowy Monaro has been through a lot and our community has demonstrated their resilience,” said Mayor Narelle Davis.





\$391.3M TO DELIVER SNOWY ALPINE POTENTIAL

The NSW Government has announced \$391.3m to deliver the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct master plan that will enable the region to become a year-round tourism destination and an economic powerhouse

The Snowy Mountains precinct covers 4,879 hectares across three distinct areas, primarily centred around Jindabyne but will also benefit the alpine resorts of Thredbo, Perisher and Charlotte Pass.

Work on the precinct's delivery planning will now commence and will include further scoping studies. Community consultation is expected later this year and early 2023. To view the final master plan visit: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/snowymountainssap

Special Activation Precincts are part of the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund, dedicated to long-term transformative infrastructure projects to benefit regional NSW.

EVENT FUNDING SUPPORT

Event organisers in the Snowy Monaro will benefit from a new policy adopted by Council at its May meeting, with major events able to apply for up to \$5000 in funding and smaller local events eligible for up to \$2000.

The adoption of this policy concludes a several month long process of discussion and amendment through Council meetings and briefings, to arrive at a policy that Councillors agreed will

provide flexible, appropriate, and equitable funding for local events of all kinds.

A particular problem the Funding Support for Events Policy will address is the inflexibility of the once-yearly application window for Donations and Sponsorships. This will allow event organisers to apply for funding at any time throughout the year, which is anticipated to improve the Snowy Monaro's ability to secure major events.

RECOVERY POD PROGRAM

At the May meeting of Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Councillors endorsed a policy to extend the program providing recovery pods to local victims of the Black Summer bushfires for public exhibition.

Five of the six local recipients of these temporary housing pods aren't expected to have completed the rebuilding of their homes by the program's original expiry date in September 2022.

This recovery pod program has proved vital to the wellbeing of residents hardest hit by one of our nation's worst disasters. Extending the program as requested will pose no cost to Council.

DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP

Snowy Monaro Regional Council is excited to announce the successful applicants for our 2022 Donations & Sponsorship funding.

We received applications totalling \$125,253 from 37 applicants across our region. Councillors awarded 28 applicants a total of \$48,222 to support a diverse range of projects and events from Michelago to Bombala. Council's Governance Team have contacted all the applicants to advise them of the results.

Applications for our Donations & Sponsorship program are open once a year between April and June. If you missed out this year, take the time to familiarise yourself with the requirements on our website and get ready for 2023!



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1. Recovery Pod in use in our region.
2. Tech Savvy Seniors session.
3. Jindabyne Library construction progress.
4. Citizenship Ceremony for Refugee Week held at Cooma Multicultural Centre.
5. Teddy Bear Sleepover at our libraries.
6. Weed spraying.
7. Mayor Narelle Davis, Deputy Premier Paul Toole, and MP for Monaro Nichole Overall at the SAP funding announcement event.
8. Cr Lynda Summers, Chief Strategy Officer David Rawlings, Mayor Narelle Davis, and Coordinator Strategy Development Gina McConkey at a pop-up stall during the Integrated Planning & Reporting consultation.