

# Council News

Updates | Information | Consultation | January 2022

## SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

It has been an incredibly difficult two years for the Snowy Monaro. Fires, floods and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have had a serious impact right across our region.

The information is constantly changing so here are some handy links to the latest COVID-19 information:

- NSW Health  
[www.health.nsw.gov.au/covid19](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/covid19)  
 or @NSWHealth on facebook
- National Coronavirus Helpline (24/7)  
**1800 020 080**

Local businesses are encouraged to seek support through State Government grants, tax deferrals and extended economic stimulus initiatives. Full details can be found at [www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/covid-19-help-small-businesses](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/covid-19-help-small-businesses)

Early last year, Snowy Monaro Regional Council and Business Australia opened the Snowy Monaro Business and Recovery Hub in Cooma, offering advice and support to businesses across the region.

Call **0498 855 515** or drop into 57 Vale St, Cooma if you need some help. This temporary facility was setup using funding from bushfire recovery grants.

Council can offer further advice and assistance to businesses and individuals, and has a hardship program for anyone experiencing difficulty paying their water, rates, or other Council bills.

Please call **1300 345 345** or email [council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au) to talk to us.



## 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.

## eNEWSLETTER

Your communication needs have changed in the past 18 months with the challenges of getting information during a pandemic and a need for new ways to do this.

We've listened to your feedback and from now on in the quarterly rates mailer we'll be including news and updates from Council, along with your rates notice. Not just a once a year bumper newsletter. We've also gone online and our new fortnightly eNewsletter was launched late last year.

If you want to stay in the know with all the latest news from Council, head to [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/1784](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/1784) to sign up for the newsletter today!





## NEW COUNCILLORS ELECTED

The votes have been counted and the results officially declared, so please join us in welcoming your new Councillors for the next Council term!

- Christopher Hanna
- Tanya Higgins
- Narelle Davis
- Tricia Hopkins
- Karlee Pateman
- Bob Stewart
- Lynda Summers
- John Last
- John Castellari
- Peter Beer
- Louise Frolich

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of Council look forward to working with the new team in 2022.

Given the postponement of the election, the pressure that is on any new Council is heightened for this new team of councillors as Council is required to complete the new integrated reporting and planning (IP&R) suite of documents by June 2022, including the following documents and all supporting strategies and policies:

- Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Four-year delivery program (DP)
- Long term financial plan (LTFP)
- 2022-2023 operational plan (OP) and budget
- Asset management plans (AMPs)
- Workforce management plan (WMP)

Council is bound under the Local Government Act 1993 to hold the inaugural Council meeting within three weeks of the election. The first Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 6 January 2022 which will be a full day meeting to swear in Councillors and commence inductions, plus elect Councillors to be Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

New Councillors will also undertake full-day inductions on Saturday 8 January with Council management, and the Local Government NSW (LGNWSW) Induction Program on 14-15 January 2022.

If you'd like to tune in and watch the first meeting, you can head to [webcast.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](http://webcast.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au) at 5pm on the night.

## STAY ENGAGED

All current and future public consultations are housed on Council's 'Your Say' page: [www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au](http://www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au)

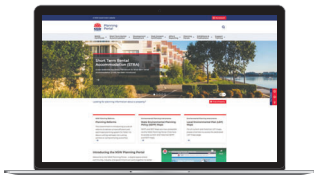


## WORK WITH US

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.





## DIGITAL PLANNING PORTAL

Snowy Monaro Regional Council transitioned to a new ePlanning platform for all development applications, post consent certificates and private certifier certificate lodgement, as of Thursday 1 July 2021.

The new system is a mandate of the NSW State Government and makes the entire development, approvals and tracking process quicker and easier for everyone. Moving to a fully integrated one-stop-shop means that community concerns about ease of access to planning information and decisions are addressed, and that the entire process will be faster and easier than ever before.

Over the last few months Council has been working with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and we are pleased to announce that this service will be available from this week in our region. Council can now receive the following application types through the portal:

- Development Applications
- Modifications Applications (s4.55)
- Review of Determination

- Construction Certificates
- Subdivision Works Certificates
- Occupation Certificates
- Subdivision Certificates
- Private Certifier issued certificates

Any applications or certificates lodged through the current process prior to Thursday 1 July 2021 will proceed through those outgoing processes. Members of the public with planning matters already submitted to Council are encouraged to reach out if they have any questions or concerns.

To access the new ePlanning portal, learn more about this new system, or to contact Service NSW for queries and assistance – please visit or call **1300 305 695**.

Anyone requiring any assistance with planning matters or the new system can also contact Council on **1300 345 345** or **planning@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au**

## REGIONAL TRAILS MASTERPLAN

The Regional Trails Masterplan is a long-term plan that sets out Council's priorities, goals and aspirations in building and sustaining a world class trail network for our region. Developed in consultation with leading sport and recreation firm Tredwell Management over the course of almost a year from November 2020, the plan will play a major role in securing a strong and healthy tourism industry in the Snowy Monaro into the future as well as providing locals with some great recreational opportunities in their own backyard.

There's a large amount of research to show that great trails help drive tourism and its many economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits to regional Australia.

The Regional Trails Masterplan was identified as a high priority within the Snowy Monaro Regional Council Destination Management Plan and is key to identifying trails with the greatest potential to create benefits for the community and the economy.

The draft masterplan consists of two volumes: Volume I – Regional Trails Masterplan – including walking, trail running, mountain biking, road cycling and equestrian trails; and Volume II – Lake Jindabyne 'Around the Lake' Trail Experience Feasibility Study. The Monaro Rail Trail is also featured.

The Draft Regional Trails Masterplan will be open for comments and feedback from the public until Friday 28 January 2022.

For information:  
<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/snowy-monaro-regional-trails-masterplan>



## PAY RATES BY PHONE

After an initial setup and testing period, 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](mailto:rates@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au) or call Council and ask to talk to the rates team.

Council welcomes feedback from the community on the new system and is always open to community ideas for further improvements to the rate payment process. With a new website planned, online payment facilities will also be reviewed.

**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

## RATES HARMONISATION

On Monday 28 June 2021, Snowy Monaro Regional Council voted to support the adoption of the 2021-22 Annual Rates and Charges.

The successful vote meant that Council met the state government deadline of 1 July 2021 to set a harmonised rating structure, concluding an extended period of public consultation and debate on the subject.

Community input once again proved invaluable to the process with the rating structure ultimately adopted by Council utilising some elements of a public submission. By adopting this model Council continued to demonstrate its commitment to community consultation and respecting the will of the people.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at: [council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au)

## DEBT RECOVERY

Snowy Monaro Regional Council resolved at its June meeting to endorse a motion to resume 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 their options in person.





## SNOWY MONARO YOUTH ADVENTURE SERIES

We've received funding through the NSW Government Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund to run a new series of youth events this summer.

- **The Snowy Monaro Skate Park Series:** This free skatepark event is a Skate, Scoot or BMX competition and is open for all styles and levels.
- **The Adventure Challenge Series:** This free adventure sports event is an action-packed challenge that sees participants racing as a pair in three

different disciplines; 1km kayak, 3km trail run, 8km mountain bike.

- **The Southern Region Skate Park Series:** Same format as our local Skate Park Series, running across the wider region with sessions in Queanbeyan, Bega, Tumut, Cooma and Jindabyne.
- Head to [https://the-shift.ac-page.com/Snowy\\_Monaro\\_Adventure\\_Series](https://the-shift.ac-page.com/Snowy_Monaro_Adventure_Series) today to register or learn more about these exciting events.

## CATCH UP ON OUR 'WEED OF THE WEEK' SERIES

Over spring and summer we've been putting out articles on our region's priority weeds. We encourage everyone in our community to get to know our region's weeds.

Knowing what to look for and how to help, we can work together protect the environment, help our farmers and support our community.

The impact of weeds on natural vegetation can be devastating and is

estimated to cost the NSW economy approximately \$1.8 billion annually (NSW Department of Industry, 2018).

To get caught up and help do your part, please visit [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/CivicAlerts.aspx](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/CivicAlerts.aspx) and use the search bar on the right to search for "Weed of the Week".

You can also download the free NSW WeedWise app on Android and iPhone for advice and

## AGED CARE UPDATE

The preferred candidate to work with Council to take over operations and ownership of Snowy Monaro Regional Council's aged care operations, Sapphire Coast Community Aged Care Ltd (SCCAC), was granted an extended 12-month due diligence period by Council to prepare their detailed divestment proposal.

SCCAC and Council's residential aged care team will work closely together during the 12-month period, and the collaboration will help build relationships between the two teams prior to SCCAC taking over operations. It will also provide residents and relatives and the wider Snowy Monaro Community an opportunity to become familiar with Sapphire Coast and the values that underpin their residential aged care service delivery.

## NEW LIBRARY FOR JINDABYNE

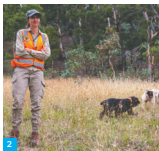
Snowy Monaro Regional Council has announced a partnership with Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp (fjmtstudio) and Built to design and deliver the new community library for Jindabyne.

The NSW Government funding for this project through the Regional Cultural Fund will allow a modular library to be installed and remain on site for at least five years. After this time, it may be moved and repurposed dependent on the newly designed civic area under the SAP (Special Activation Precinct - Snowy Mountains).

The Jindabyne community library is funded by the NSW Government through the Regional Cultural Fund.



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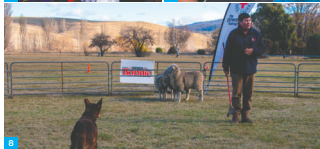
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1. SMRC Bioscience Officer at Dalgety Show
2. SMRC and NSW Hawkeed Eradication partners operation with NSW Hawkeed Detection Dogs.
3. Visit by Governor-General David Hurley
4. Mayor Peter Baer and new citizens reciting the pledge.
5. Council's Resource and Waste education team have been visiting schools across the region.
6. Encouragement Award for Community Connections Lake Light entry - Left to right Group participants Margy Cowling, Yvonne Gregory, Coral Williamson, Pam Smith
7. Lady Tradie Day - local women at Colinton RFS Shed for a day of learning and hands-on experience.
8. Working dog day for rural and regional residents in Bredbo.