

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021







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## The 2020-2021 Annual Report

The Annual Report is one of the key components of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework and is aligned to the requirements of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005*.

The 2020-2021 Annual Report provides an overview of the operations, activities and major projects undertaken by Council for the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

## The 2020-2021 Annual Report has three components:



### PART A – ABOUT COUNCIL AND 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

A summary of the key achievements against the Operational Plan actions and Delivery Program objectives and an overview of the financial status.



### PART B – STATUTORY REPORTING

Council is required to report each year on a list of responsibilities in accordance with Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.



### PART C – AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The independently audited statements give a detailed insight into the financial management of Council.



# Acknowledgement of Country

Snowy Monaro Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the region's land and water, the Ngarigo, Walgalu, Southern Ngunnawal and Bidawal Peoples.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The Snowy Monaro is, and always will be, Aboriginal Country.

## Thank you to our Volunteers

Snowy Monaro Regional Council sincerely thanks our community volunteers who freely give their time to help make the region a better place to live. Volunteers from all walks of life lend their time, friendship, passion and skills at various locations across the region. Our volunteers contribute in many ways, including assisting in libraries, aged care, community transport and Landcare to name a few. They also sit on multiple management and advisory committees to help manage the region's community halls and recreation grounds.

Thank you.



# Community Vision

The Snowy Monaro Region is a welcoming community offering a quality lifestyle, beautiful natural environment and is a place of opportunity.

## Council Vision

‘A trusted community partner’.

Council continually strives to uphold its vision of being a “trusted community partner” through providing a transparent, honest and hardworking organisation. Council has fostered important links with the community to establish itself as a trusted partner.

## Council Values

### SOLUTIONARY

We inspire others by best practice and inventive problem resolution that delivers revolutionary changes and quality outcomes for our customers and our community

### TOGETHER

We collaborate and work together in a harmonious and well organised way to support organisational initiatives

### ACCOUNTABLE

We own and take responsibility for our decisions and actions that are evidence based and justifiable, and we do what we say

### INNOVATIVE

We constantly seek continuous improvement and use creative thinking to look for new ways of doing things, embracing and introducing new and advanced and original ideas, products, methods and systems

### CARING

Our service culture is based on caring, displaying kindness and concern for each other and our community and being proud of what we deliver



# Message from the Mayor



Welcome to our Annual Report for 2020-2021. If you're taking the time to read this report, thank you. It is only with a politically engaged and conscientious community that we as a Council can be held properly accountable to the people we represent. As with any legislatively required government report, this is a long and comprehensive read, as we cover in detail the services and projects we have delivered to and for the community over the last year (July 2020 through July 2021).

Throughout the twelve-month reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic and the many hardships it has brought have been an ever-present challenge. The difficulty for our region in navigating this global crisis has been compounded by our ongoing recovery from years of drought, a devastating fire season and incidents of flooding throughout the region.

It goes without saying, but bears repeating, that in a region like the Snowy Monaro that is so heavily dependent on the free flow of goods and people for its livelihood, that this period has been supremely difficult for the Snowy Monaro.

So too has it been for us here at Council. Faced with lockdowns and the responsibility to protect the health and safety of our community, whilst ensuring continuation of service delivery, we have had to make big changes to how we deliver our projects, initiatives and services and how we engage with you all, our community and constituents.

We quickly had to embrace and expand our use of videoconferencing software for everything from Council meetings through to community

consultations. We have worked hard to further expand our efforts to engage with the community through our online YourSay platform, to be more responsive to enquiries through social media, and redouble our efforts in getting important information out through local media outlets.

Every part of our organisation, from our libraries, to our health inspectors, through to the customer service team, have had to make significant and constant changes to how they work and deliver services to the community.

With the end of the worst of the pandemic now in sight, I would like to thank all of our employees for their efforts and flexibility in the face of real adversity. Thank you as well to our community for their patience, their understanding and their support. We are all part of this community and it is only by working together that we can achieve a better future for the Snowy Monaro.

Our business community have been particularly hard hit, from farmers to tourism operators and everyone in between. Thank you for sticking it out and making it through. Your bravery and perseverance is commendable. The launch of the Business Support Hub in partnership with Business Australia in 2021, working with our Community Recovery team to support our businesses, is a particularly proud achievement for us.

The local government election has finally been rescheduled for December 2021 and this twice-extended Council term is coming to an end. It has been a privilege and honour to serve as a Councillor and your Mayor during this incredibly difficult time. We have achieved a great deal together and I am excited for the future of our region.

**Mayor Peter Beer**



# Message from the Chief Executive Officer



In my opening remarks to last year's annual report I stated that 2019-2020 was arguably the most challenging period in my more than 20 years working in local government. Neither I nor anyone else could have predicted the innumerable difficulties our Council and our community were yet to face.

The Snowy Monaro local government area is a large and diverse place with equally diverse needs in terms of program and service delivery. Our infrastructure, both physical and digital, has undergone significant upgrade and reviews during this reporting period. Through both our planned program of works, and in being responsive to the needs of the community, our Council has achieved a great deal through 2020-2021.

This Annual Report will attest to our successes and highlight the challenges that our organisation faces. I thank you for taking the time to review it.

Our focus during this reporting period has been on maintaining our program of works and service delivery responsibilities in the face of the unprecedented circumstances that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented.

Despite these obstacles, 2020-2021 has been a period of significant progress and achievement for our Council. The unenviable budgetary position inherited by our Council following amalgamation has once again been a major organisation priority during the preceding year. With the approval of our Councillors, we made the difficult but necessary decision to divest Council from its aged care services. Not only will the sale of these services and facilities provide

the organisation with enormous savings, but it will see aged care in the hands of specialist providers who can provide surety of employment, provision of excellent services and expansion of aged care in the region. This divestment of aged care is just one element in securing a sustainable financial future for our Council.

We have also engaged in extensive consultation as a part of our rural land use, settlements, and waste strategies – as well as with rates, operational plans and a significant number of major infrastructure projects. These projects and initiatives serve the dual purposes of further improving our financial position and rationalising our service delivery.

Further, we have continued to work closely with the NSW State Government in the development and execution of the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct, a regional investment program based on tourism as the premise of return on investment.

Our organisation has made significant progress towards a sustainable and modern future this year, both for our Council and for our region.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions of public health orders once again saw Council embracing and building upon our digital and remote engagement and service delivery capabilities. Working within our pandemic plan, developed last year in alignment with the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, we have been successful in maintaining essential service delivery and engagement with the community.

I thank all of our employees for their ongoing commitment and tenacity in the face of such exceptional challenges.

On behalf of Snowy Monaro Regional Council, I thank the community for their support and understanding over the last twelve months. We look forward to continuing to work with our community over the next year.

**CEO Peter Bascomb**



# Community Profile

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council local Government Area (LGA) has an estimated Resident Population for 2019 of 20,795, with a population density of 0.01 persons per hectare, with the area experiencing a modest population growth over previous years.

The Snowy Monaro Region Local Government Area (LGA) covers 1,515,815 ha or (15,158 km<sup>2</sup>) and is located in south-eastern NSW, about 100 km south of the Canberra CBD, and about 400 kms south-west of the Sydney CBD.

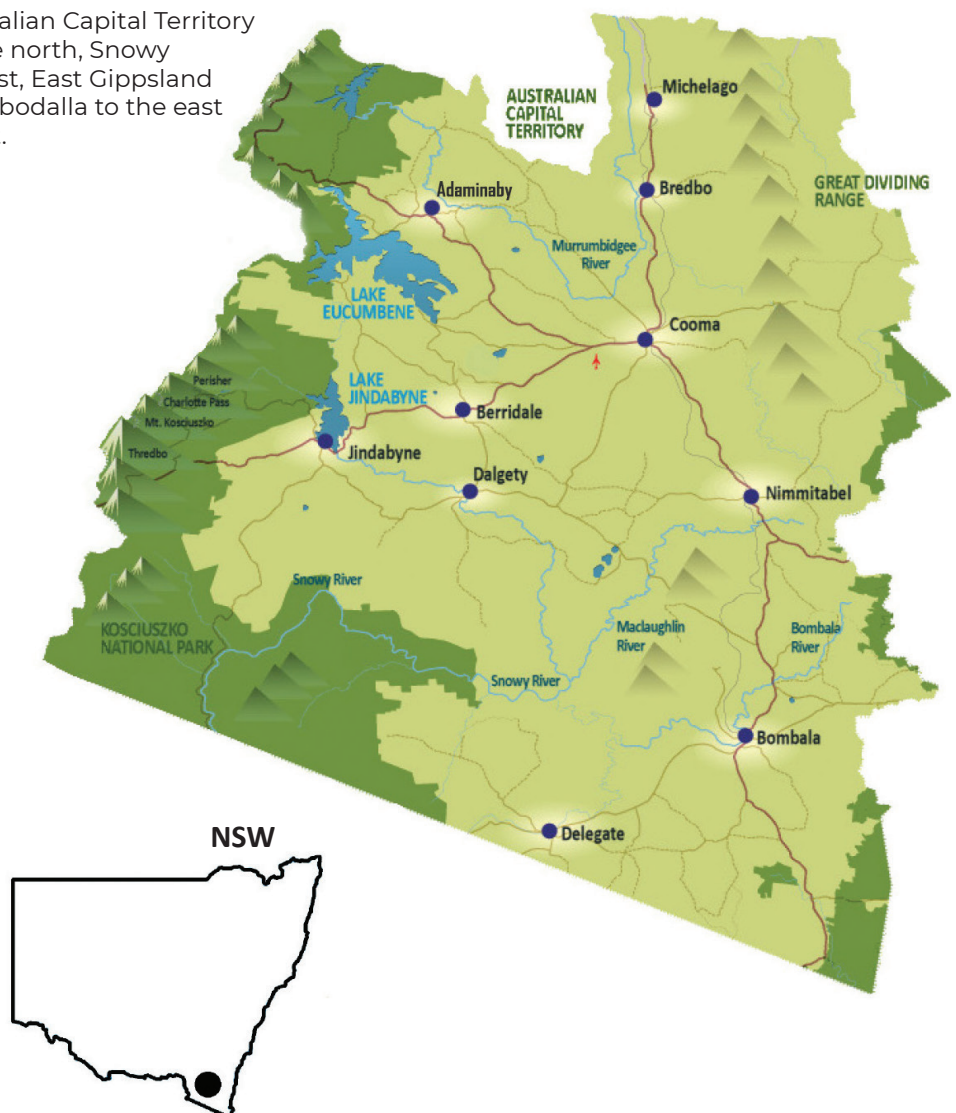
The Snowy Monaro region is surrounded by rolling plains and mountain ranges, with 28% of the region consisting of national parks or reserves. The region sits at the top of both the Snowy and Murrumbidgee River Catchments. Along with their major tributaries, they offer significant environmental values, as well as a source of fresh water for urban, recreational, irrigation and energy uses.

The LGA is bordered by the Australian Capital Territory and Queanbeyan-Palerang in the north, Snowy Valleys to the north and northwest, East Gippsland to the South and southeast, Eurobodalla to the east and Bega valley to the south east.

The connection that the LGA has with its neighbouring councils and adjoining State and Territory areas requires ongoing consideration of its partnerships, especially in the area of infrastructure delivery planning.

Cooma is considered the regional centre however, each of the primary towns and smaller villages have unique characteristics and offer destination experiences.

In November 2018, then-Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro and then-Minister for Planning and Housing Anthony Roberts announced a major planning initiative in the form of a masterplan called Jindabyne SAP, a new plan to revitalise Jindabyne to become known as Australia's premier alpine destination.



# Our Community

Estimated 2019  
resident population

## 20,997

51.7%



(Regional NSW 49.2%)

48.3%



(Regional NSW 50.8%)



**86.6%**

of residents are  
Australian citizens  
(Regional NSW 82.7%)

**2.2%**

of residents are  
Indigenous Australians  
(Regional NSW 5.5%)



**14.8%**

of residents were  
born overseas  
(Regional NSW 11.2%)

## Age Groups



Babies, Preschool, Primary  
(0 to 11 years)

**Snowy Monaro**

(Regional NSW)

**13.6%**

14.7%



Secondary Schooler, Tertiary  
Education and Independence  
(12 to 24 years)

**14.6%**

15.2%



Young Workforce, Parents and  
Home Builders, Older Workers  
and Pre-retirees  
(25 to 59 years)

**45.9%**

42.8%



Empty Nesters and Retirees,  
Seniors, Elderly, Aged  
(60 to 85+ years)

**25.9%**

27.2%

## Family Structure



Couples  
with children



Couples  
without children



One parent  
families



One person  
household

**Snowy Monaro**

(Regional NSW)

**21.3%**

25.4%

**24.6%**

27.0%

**7.4%**

11.0%

**24.9%**

25.5%

## Highest Level of Schooling



Year 10

**25.9%**

3.1%

Year 12

**43.1%**

21.6%

Advanced  
Diploma

**8.4%**

8.2%

Bachelor  
or Masters

**14.9%**

14.5%

## Employment



Full time  
employment

**61.0%**

55.2%

Part time  
employment

**33.5%**

36.3%

Unemployed

**3.4%**

6.6%

**Snowy Monaro**

(Regional NSW)

## Median Age

**43**

(Regional NSW 43)



**Need for assistance  
with core activities**

**4.4%**

(Regional NSW 6.3%)



**Major  
employment sector**

(Accommodation & Food  
Services) FTE

**18.4%**

(Regional NSW 7.9%)

Persons aged 15+  
who volunteer

**25.8%**

(Regional NSW 20.8%)







# Our Councillors

Our Councillors were elected in September 2017 to run a Term of three years which was extended a further one year. During this time Councillor John Rooney was elected as Mayor and served from 2017 to 2019. Councillor Peter Beer was then elected as Mayor and served till the end of the Term in 2021. Councillor Lynley Miners was declared Deputy Mayor for an initial Term of two years, and re-elected in 2019 for a further two years.



Mayor  
Peter Beer



Councillor  
James Ewart



Councillor  
Sue Haslingden



Deputy Mayor  
Councillor  
Lynley Miners



Councillor  
John Last



Councillor  
Anne Maslin



Councillor  
John Rooney



Councillor  
Brian Old



Councillor  
Bob Stewart



Councillor  
John Castellari



Councillor  
Rogan Corbett



# About our Council

The Local Government Act 1993 prescribes the role of individual Councillors as follows:

- to be an active and contributing member of the governing body
- to make considered and well informed decisions as a member of the governing body
- to participate in the development of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework
- to represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community
- to facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body
- to uphold and represent accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body
- to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor.

## Councillor Training and Professional Development

In accordance with Section 232 of the Local Government Act 1993 a councillor is “to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor”.

Councils are to provide Councillor Induction and Professional Development programs that address three elements:

- Pre-election Candidate Sessions – these are to ensure prospective candidates are aware of what will be expected of them if elected (these are not mandatory but are encouraged)
- Induction Program – this aims to equip Mayors and Councillors with the information they need to perform their role effectively over the first few months and has a particular focus on building positive, collaborative relationships between Councillors and with staff
- Professional Development Program – this is to be developed in consultation with all Councillors and delivered over the term of the council to build the skills, knowledge and personal attributes necessary to be an effective Mayor or Councillor

**In 2020-21 year Council facilitated a range of programs to support ongoing Councillor development:**

### Pre-Election Candidate Sessions

Not applicable for 2020-21 as Councillor elections were not held.

### Induction Program

Not applicable for 2020-21 as Councillor elections were not held.

### Professional Development

Councillors attended regular development workshops facilitated both by internal and external trainers.

- LGNSW conference
- Councillor briefing sessions
- LGNSW conference dinner & workshops at Countrywide conference
- Councillor workshops
- CUC symposium
- LGNSW planning webinar

**Council adopted a new Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice in 2019.**

In addition, monthly Councillor briefings were held on topical issues in relation to:

- A range of land use planning, asset utilisation, community development programs and projects
- Aged care update and the new aged care quality standards
- Roadside weed care program
- Youth Council and youth strategy presentation
- Records management
- Recreational fishing
- Economic development

## Conference Attendance

### Mayor Beer

Meetings other than Council Meetings = 136

Presentations = 38

Radio/TV interviews = 21

Local Government conferences = 3

Opening of facilities with State/Federal representatives and at least one Council representative = 11

## Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held once a month, on the third Thursday of the month. Eleven ordinary Council Meetings and three extra-ordinary Council Meetings have been held in the 2020-21 year.

Ordinary Council meetings were held in regional locations to provide access to all members of the public to speak. Council extended its webcasting capabilities during the reporting period. Council meetings were webcast from all meeting locations. Recordings of meeting webcasts are accessible through Council's website.

Council introduced a trial program to enable disabled access to its meetings in the Cooma office building by providing an additional room on the ground floor with a live audio-visual link to the meetings conducted in Cooma chambers. Despite public notification of this facility, it was not utilised.

As of 26 March 2021 Councils were required, under s10 of the Local Government Act 1993, to hold meetings of the Council and committees comprising of councillor's in physical venues and permit members of the public to attend meetings.

The Local Government Regulation was amended in April 2021 to allow remote attendance at Council meetings with a temporary exemption in place until 31 December 2021. The amendment included procedures for the management of Councillors attendance at meetings via audio-visual link which Council adopted at it's April meeting.

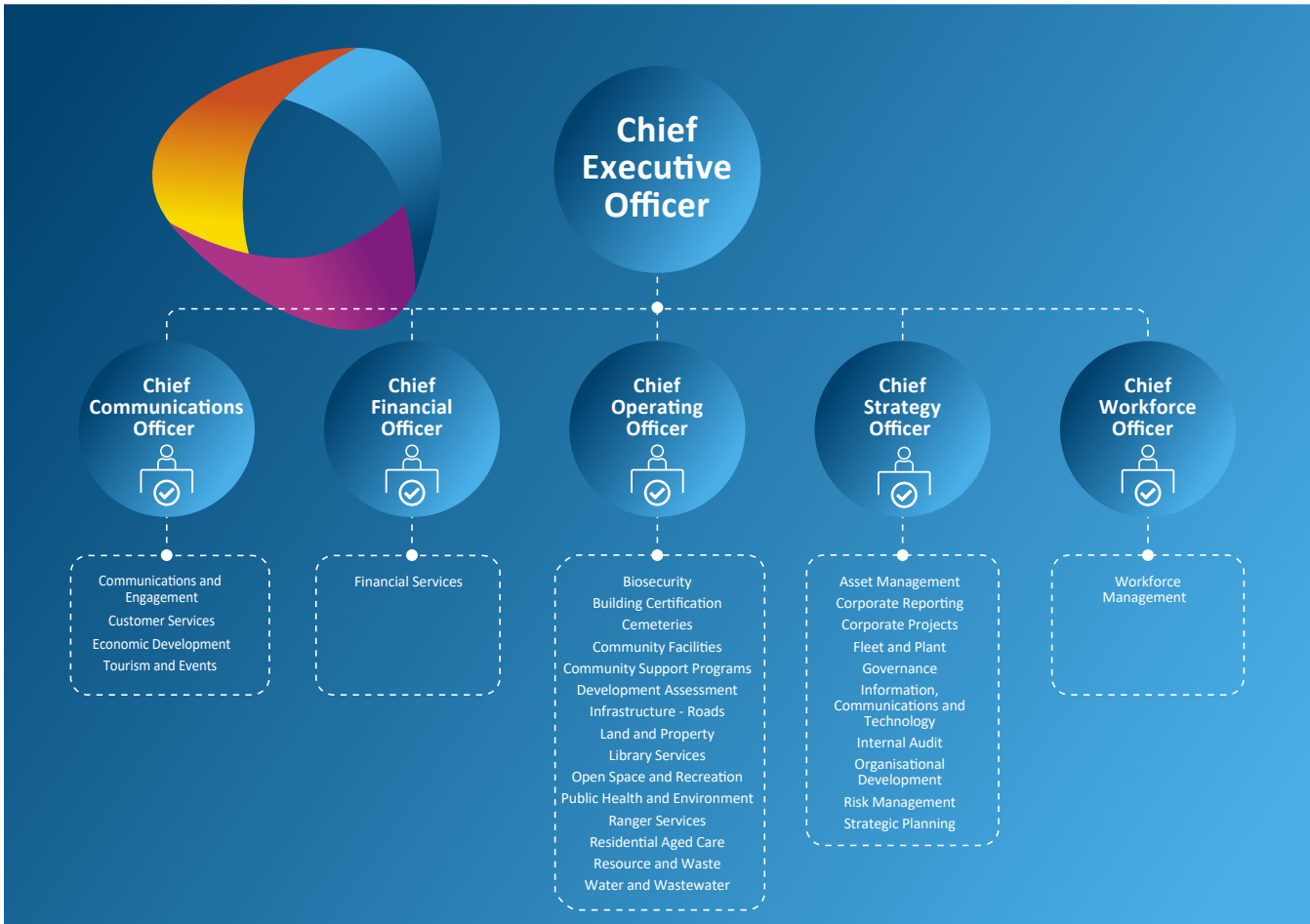
Councillor Names	Attended	Apology	Absent	Extra-Ordinary	Audio-Visually
Clr Peter Beer (Mayor)	11	0	0	3	
Clr Lynley Miners (Deputy Mayor)	10	1			
Clr John Rooney	2			3	5
Clr John Castallari	11				
Clr Rogan Corbett	11				
Clr James Ewart	7	4		3	
Clr Sue Haslingden	11				
Clr John Last	10	1			
Clr Anne Maslin	10	1		3	4
Clr Brian Old	9	2		1	3
Clr Bob Stewart	11			1	1

*The table above details the attendance of Councillors at Council meetings during the 2020-21 financial year.*



# Organisational Structure

Council’s staff and services are aligned under five portfolios. In this report, each service is linked to a responsible officer. The following diagram shows how those services fit within the overall organisational structure.



# Functions, services and facilities of Council

Council provides a range of functions and services to the community, and provides and maintains a range of community assets. Many of these are regulated and while may be provided by the Council, are delivered on behalf of State Government. For example, the administration of the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998, which controls the management of animal registration and offences under this Act.

The provision of these ongoing functions and services, such as those detailed below, form the considerable basis of what Council delivers to the community, and contributes to the achievement of the desired outcomes expressed in the Snowy Monaro 2040 Community Strategic Plan.

## Facilities General

Council Offices	4
Works Depots	5
Visitor Centres	2
Libraries	2
Mobile Library	1

## Waste Management

Landfills	3
Transfer Stations	6

## Water and Wastewater

Water Treatment Plants	2
Water Pump Station Intakes	12
Water Distribution Pump Stations	11
Water Reticulation Pipe	330 km
Supply Reservoirs	39
Supply Dams	1
Wastewater Treatment Facilities	8
Wastewater Pump Stations	28
Wastewater Drainage Pipe	280 km

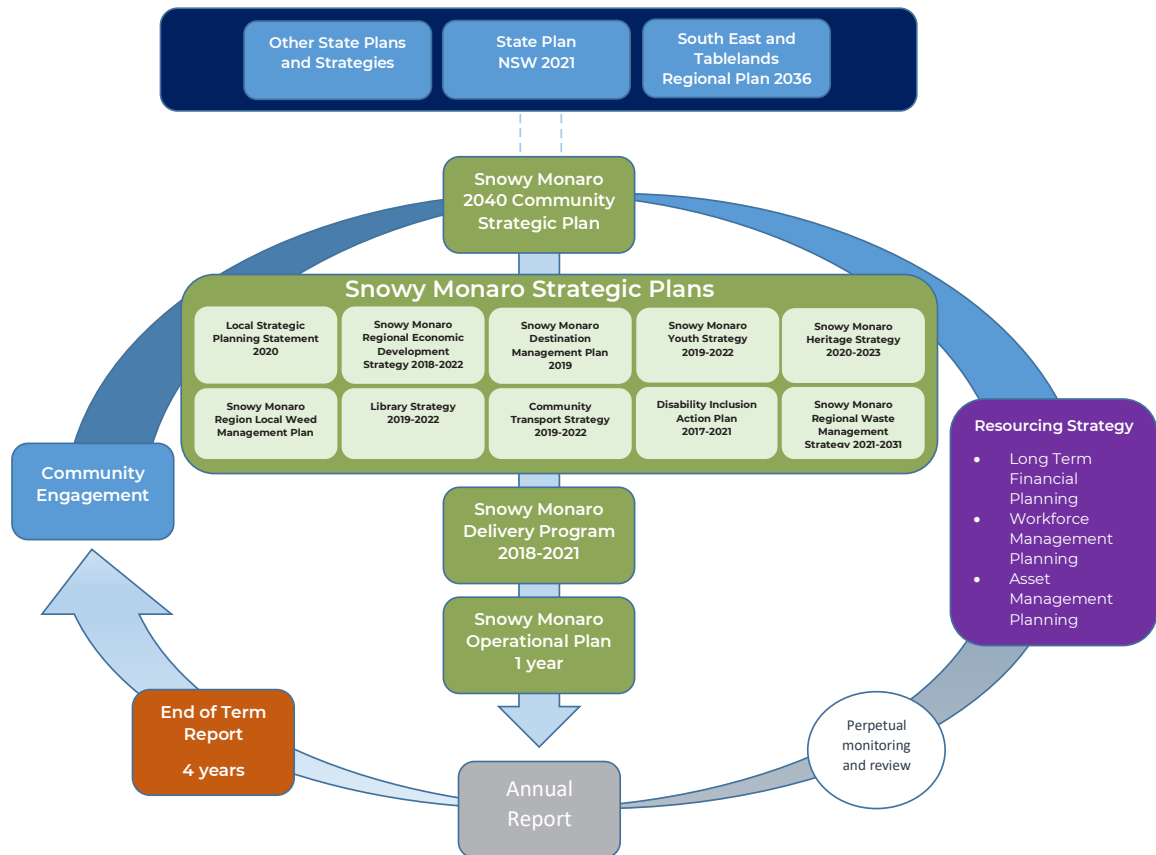
## Community and Recreation

Aged Care Facilities	2
Doctors / Health Centres	3
Childcare	2
Halls	15
Showgrounds	7
Sporting / Recreation Fields	19
Swimming Pools	5
Holiday / Caravan Parks	5
Public Toilets	21
Airport	1
Saleyards	2
Community Centres	2

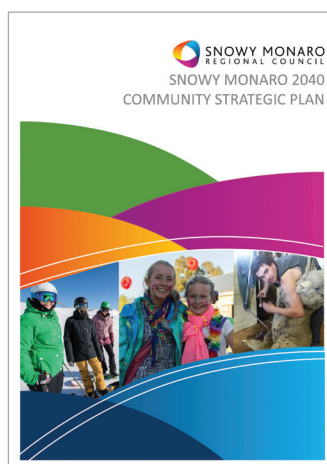


# Integrated Planning and Reporting

Recognising the important role the community plays in guiding Council in its service delivery, extensive community engagement was undertaken in 2017 as a key part of the 2040 Community Strategic Plan development. The key planning and reporting documents that form part of Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework are aligned to the overarching community aspirations.



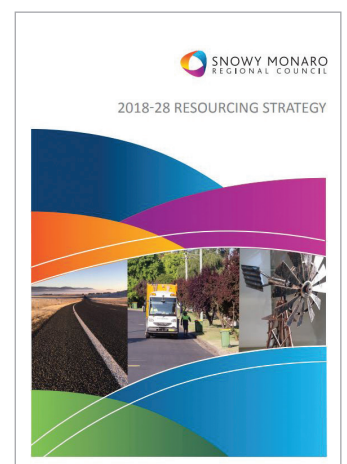
## Council's Integrated Suite of Planning Documents



Community Strategic Plan



Delivery Program incorporating Operational Plan



Resourcing Strategy

# Our Achievements and Objectives

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan are organised according to the key themes below and align to the following Key Themes and Outcomes identified in the Snowy Monaro 2040 Community Strategic Plan. The four themes articulate the 20+ year vision we have for our community, and were developed from community feedback when developing the Community Strategic Plan.

## Key Theme 1: Community



- Our health and wellbeing needs are met.
- Our region's diverse cultural identity is preserved, and we foster creative expression and spaces.
- We are a safe and caring community.

## Key Theme 2: Economy



- Our region is prosperous with diverse industry and opportunities.
- Our community has access to a range of diverse lifelong learning opportunities.
- Our residents and visitors connect with our region's welcoming and iconic attractions.

## Key Theme 3: Environment



- Our natural environment is protected and sustainable.
- Our built infrastructure is attractive and fit for purpose.
- Our community is connected through efficient transportation networks, technology and telecommunication services.

## Key Theme 4: Leadership



- Our Council is strategic in their planning, decision making and resource allocation.
- Our Council delivers best value to the community
- Our Community is informed and engaged in decision making

# Asset Management

With the corporate system going live at the beginning of the financial year, all of Council's assets are now listed in a single assets register. This register serves as a source of truth for all Council infrastructure assets. With the assets register now being consolidated, the assets team has commenced the creation and implementation of inspection and maintenance schedules.

On completion of these activities, their associated costs will be recorded against the actual asset. This will assist operational teams with their analysis and planning. We are currently collaborating with the Infrastructure (Roads) and Water & Wastewater teams in putting these schedules together. Due to the quantity and complex nature of the assets as well as the range of activities that are carried out, the creation of these schedules is a large body of work that will require a significant time investment.

Early in the year the revaluation of roads assets was completed and presented to Council's auditors for sign off. The asset categories scheduled for revaluation in the current year are other structures, other open spaces, swimming pools and community land. Considerable effort was expended in gathering the data required for revaluation of these assets – a challenging task given the physical size of our local government area, but greatly assisted by having a single asset register ready to receive the gathered data.

Traffic counts on Council's road network continue, with counters being set up at various locations as required. It is anticipated that traffic counts for the next financial year will be impacted by the lockdowns in the LGA as well as the ACT.

Our survey team has been busy assisting operational crews with set-outs for works being carried out. We have also assisted with estimating volumes for Council's quarries and landfills. An interesting project that our survey team got involved in was to assist researchers and botanists from Charles Sturt University with mapping African Lovegrass infestations in the Snowy Monaro region. This project uses low-pass satellites from the European Sentinel network to carry out the mapping, and our role in the project was to set up accurate ground-control points at identified ALG sites. These control points assist the researchers to ground-truth the algorithms used in their work – fairly esoteric concepts, but well within the skillset of our one-man survey team. This project was facilitated by our colleagues in the Biosecurity team, and it is gratifying that the skills that reside within Council are recognised and sought after by external bodies.



# Built and Natural Environment

Council's Built and Natural Environment group continues to see strong development growth in the region with an increase of 22% in the number of development applications lodged with Council over the last 12 months. This growth has demonstrated a variety of developments with strong demand for residential developments leading the way and outlines the area's strong construction industry in general.

## Provision of new services

In line with the Council's commitment to streamline our service, several new initiatives have been implemented to meet the needs of our customers. These include:

- A new application tracker has been developed, implemented and well-received by our community.
- The introduction of an online digital lodgement platform for all development applications.
- Grant success with \$50,000 allocated by the NSW Government to Council for the development and implementation of the NSW Planning Portal roll-out.

Snowy Monaro received the highest number of development applications lodged with the Council over the last twelve months, with five hundred and fifty five development applications being assessed, one thousand two hundred and fifty site inspections and more than two thousand development related certificates being processed.

## Protecting and preserving our historical heritage assets

Council has continued its active heritage preservation program for our community through successful grant applications through the NSW Heritage Office. The grants awarded also Council to allocate resources to owners through the program to enhance and protect heritage items within the region. In addition to assisting heritage item owners, Council will be able to continue to program an advisory service free of charge for our community.

## Weeds Management

- Snowy Monaro Regional Council adopts an education and compliance program throughout the region which considers the biosecurity risk posed by widespread weeds, the cost and effectiveness of treatment, the likelihood of control and the treatment measures that may be reasonably implemented. Some of the important programs and milestones of this program are:
- Snowy Monaro Regional Council performed 1,613 targeted property inspections during the 2020-21 financial year, covering an area of 308,968 hectares equating to approximately 47.5% of the Snowy Monaro's grazing lands. Only one State priority weed, Orange Hawkweed, was identified as a result of the Council's biosecurity (weeds) surveillance program. At the two sites known to occur within the Council's area of jurisdiction, nine plants were identified and destroyed at one site, while the second site has remained dormant for the past two years.
- Council staff investigated thirteen potential new weed incursions in response to community reports. On investigation, the weeds were identified as low impact introduced species or uncommon native species, none of which required an emergency response.
- Two staff members participated in the Kiama Parthenium Weed Response. The response program, coordinated by NSW DPI aimed to delimit and eradicate Parthenium Weed from private properties at Kiama where the weed had been inadvertently introduced with organic chicken feed.

- During the 2020-2021 financial year, Council invested \$851,469 into managing weeds on Council assets, 85% of which was invested into managing roadsides weeds. Roadsides are identified as high-risk pathways where the risk of weed spread is significant. Council prioritises weed control on roadsides to protect the region's valued agricultural and environmental assets.
- In response to the 2019-20 bushfires, Council successfully obtained \$195,321 for its "A Helping Hand" program. This program, initiated in 2020-21, recognised the devastation caused by the bushfires on the local community and the inability to respond to routine management activities, like weed control. The program engaged licensed, qualified contractors, to treat priority weed infestations on private lands to enable impacted landowners to focus on their bushfire recovery efforts.
- During 2020-21 Council successfully obtained \$182,123 for the management of weeds on vacant Crown lands throughout the region. This program was supported by the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Program and is specifically aimed at minimising the spread of weeds from vacant Crown lands to ensure the protection of the region's agricultural and environmental assets.



*Left: Serrated Tussock - Casey's Road, Bredbo*

*Right: Chilean Needle Grass - Cooma Racecourse*





## Public Health and Environment

The Public Health and Environment team provides a range of functions that make the Snowy Monaro region a great place to live through equitable access to parking, responsible pet ownership, food safety, cemeteries management, water quality monitoring programs, liquid trade waste management and protecting our natural environment.

### Companion Animals

#### Benefits of Responsible Pet Ownership

Responsible pet ownership benefits all residents and the community. Council's Ranger Services team are dedicated to pet welfare, protection of our environment, and the safe enjoyment of our community.

A major highlight this year is the high percentage of companion animals which are either returned to their owners or rehomed. The following photographs are of dogs rehomed which were rehomed by Council this financial year.





## **Cemeteries Rabbit Eradication Program**

Council undertook a program to eradicate rabbits and the places where they shelter at the Christ Church, Gegedzerick and Moonbah Cemeteries.

These works include:

- removing the ivy growing over and within the rock walls, graves, and fencing
- removing the mounds of soil from the cemeteries where the animals are presently harbouring
- the appointment of a contractor to eradicate the rabbits from these cemeteries

The program of works was designed to improve safety of visitors to our cemeteries and ensure the graves of our loved ones will be protected and preserved for generations to come.



## **Fencing Old Adaminaby Cemetery**

Council undertook a program to repair the deteriorated fencing, main gate and pedestrian access to the Old Adaminaby Cemetery.

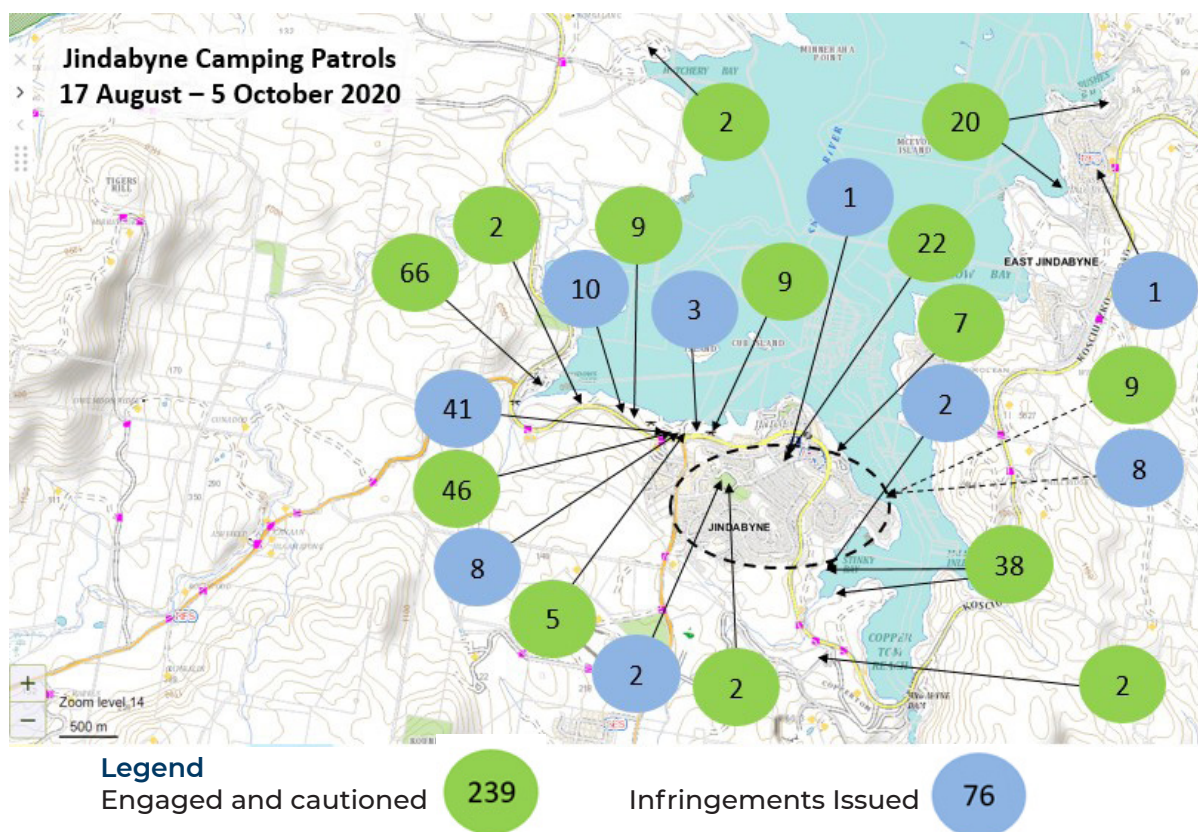


## Jindabyne Winter Camping Campaign

The number of winter freedom camping visitors to Jindabyne has been increasing each year. This has caused an increase in the number of complaints received by Council relating to anti-social behaviour, littering and rubbish dumping. Council's Ranger Services undertake regular patrols and regulation of foreshore areas around Lake Jindabyne and the wider area.

A short term strategy was developed in August 2020 to address the increased concerns of residents about the number of people camping in Jindabyne, with a particular concern about the Claypits Carpark. The concerns were widely reported in both social and printed media. Council installed no stopping zones to cover the Claypits Carpark and no camping signs to cover the entire township of Jindabyne and East Jindabyne. These signs were in addition to the ones installed along Lake Jindabyne's foreshore.

Following the installation of the new signs an education campaign was implemented to ensure all potential campers were made aware of the new restrictions. Both educational and punitive measures (penalty infringement notices) were used to bring about compliance. Figure 1 illustrates the number of people spoken to and the infringements issued after the new signs were installed.



**Figure 1: Jindabyne Camping Patrols 2020 Statistics**

Additionally, Council undertook a study into the feasibility of using paid parking as a strategy to manage freedom camping in the Claypits (see attachment 2). The report does not support the use of paid parking as a strategy to manage camping in the Claypits. However, it does support further studies into the use of paid parking in the broader township of Jindabyne as one part of a wide-ranging strategy to manage freedom camping.

This report provides a brief update on the 2020 winter campaign, and seeks approval to implement a similar campaign implemented in August 2020, to note the findings of the feasibility study undertaken and note work is continuing to develop a long term wide-ranging strategy to manage freedom camping.

Council has been working closely with the Jindabyne Chamber of Commerce on the problem and is in receipt of two development applications focused on alternative accommodation options.



### **Tackling Illegal Dumping**

The Environmental Services team continues to increase its activity to prevent, investigate and prosecute those who would damage our beautiful landscape, including joint patrol and enforcement programs with Environmental Protection Authorities and Police.

### **Ambitious Safety Inspection Program**

Council undertook seven hundred drinking water samples from thirteen supplies which were inspected this year, to ensure the quality and safety of our drinking water.

In addition, over five hundred properties had septic and liquid trade waste sewer inspections conducted to enforce standards and to educate owners/occupiers on preventing effluent runoff into our waterways, protect public health and prevent sewer blockages/overflows.

Due to COVID restrictions and concerns Council implemented a six month sabbatical from undertaking full food premises inspections to focus on ensuring compliance with the Public Health Orders. In the six months from December 2021 to the end of the financial year, Council conducted one hundred and twenty two food premises assessments. During the financial year, Council undertook over five hundred COVID-19 assessments.



*Above: Asbestos pipe*



# Communications

## Engagement and Recovery

For financial year 2021, Council brought our digital, media, customer service and education roles together as a single team. The newly-created Engagement Team, under the Communications Portfolio, was created with the goal of bringing about significant improvements in how Council communicates, engages and interacts with the Snowy Monaro community.

Our team's work is governed by Council's Community Engagement Framework. This document sets out our primary role as working to ensure the community is aware of Council's priorities, initiatives and projects – and most importantly, to enable the public to have their say.

In our short time as a team, we have concentrated on:

- further developing the Community Engagement Framework
- building and maintaining strong relationships internally across Council
- improving and building upon our communications and relationships with residents, community groups, agencies and other relevant organisations

COVID-19 has caused significant disruptions for the team and planned activities. Due to lockdowns and the gathering restrictions, we haven't been able to get out in the community with public pop-up stands, public meetings and events as often as we would have liked. But we've found other ways.

An increased focus on better utilising our digital communications channels has helped to bridge this gap. We have made significant changes to our social media presence, closing inactive and rarely used accounts, increasing the frequency and relevancy of posts through Facebook and Instagram, and ensuring prompt responses to questions from the community across all platforms.

The utilisation of videoconferencing tools and Council's online engagement platform Your Say have further widened our ability to engage with people during this difficult period.

Looking to the future, work is underway to introduce a new newsletter platform, a new website, and complete overhaul of the customer service phone system. It's all about taking inherited and often old systems and ensuring that what we do from here is streamlined, efficient and simple to use for all. The improvements will make it as quick and easy as possible to speak to us when you need to.

Some key highlights, throughout a chaotic year, were the National Bush Summit held in Cooma with the PM, Deputy PM and Premier attending, plus hosting a visit from the Governor-General and his wife.

We look forward to sharing new and improved communications and engagement ideas and wins with our community next year.

## Recovery

In July 2020, Resilience NSW funded and appointed Community Recovery Officers in bushfire impacted LGAs, allowing us to provide strong support services to the community fulltime.

Bushfire recovery continues across our LGA with residents at varying stages of rebuilding and recovery. In July, the recovery team returned to face to face engagement in line with COVID-19 restrictions, including outreach, activities, events and programs. In the last twelve months the team has facilitated thirty-seven engagement events and programs across our region.

The appointed Resilience NSW Recovery Support Service (Monaro Family Support Services) works closely with Council through their two Assistant Recovery Officers and Community Recovery Officer in the outreach program, with fifty two residents requiring ongoing support. The team collaborate with various agencies including RFS, Police, BlazeAid and community groups.

Following a resolution of support from Council, our Recovery and Economic Development Teams opened the Snowy Monaro Business and Recovery Hub in Cooma as a pilot program to support the region for twelve months.

The physical impact of the Black Summer 2020 bushfires covered 2053km<sup>2</sup>, approximately 14% of the entire functioning economic region (FER) per the REDS (Regional Economic Development Strategy). 287km<sup>2</sup> of forestry land is in burn scar – 45% in total (634km<sup>2</sup>).

Property damage was assessed at eighty-five buildings damaged or destroyed (this includes homes, sheds, out buildings). In our region, three lives were lost in the Peak View plane crash. Council's Recovery team was heavily involved with the RFS and community in coordinating a memorial event one year to the day, to honour those US firefighters.





# Community Services

## Camping Grounds and Caravan Parks

The last twelve months COVID-19 has continued to present significant challenges in our camping grounds and caravan parks. While there has been a greater emphasis placed on national and regional travel, a considerable portion of the year has seen many parts of Australia under restrictions at different times. These restrictions have unfortunately had an impact on these facilities with lower than normal visitor rates. Council looks forward to following the roadmap out of restrictions and welcoming visitors to our camping grounds and caravan parks.

Bombala Caravan Park camp kitchen has had a minor makeover this year with the following additions:

- New electric BBQs
- All-inclusive seating
- Stainless steel benches
- LED lighting
- Infrared heating
- Wall mounted flat screen TV
- Community library
- Additional gardens

## Swimming Pools

The 2020-2021 swimming season saw stronger restrictions within swimming programs, particularly school programs. Council staff worked closely with the schools to ensure all Council and Department of Education protocols were adhered to, and these programs and others were successfully delivered.

It is anticipated that major projects at both Cooma and Bombala Pools will commence at the end of the 2021-2022 seasons. We look forward to seeing these projects evolve.

## Saleyards

The saleyards have again been quieter than normal this year, this is mostly due to farmers restocking following the drought rather than selling. COVID-19 threatened to cease saleyard operations, however, through collaboration with key stakeholders this essential service continued operating.

The Cooma truck wash project is nearing completion this year with only a handful of tasks left to do. This is an exciting asset for our local government area where b-double and larger trucks can access truck washing facilities safely.





## Residential Aged Care

Our residential aged care facilities received positive news, that Yallambee Lodge was accredited against all Aged Care Standards until May 2023. Snowy River Hostel is currently undergoing the process of re-accreditation.

The conclusion of the Royal Commission into aged care in October 2020 delivered one hundred and forty eight recommendations to reform the aged care sector significantly. As part of these reforms, we have already observed changes to the Aged Care Principles, including the introduction of the Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS) to more effectively manage incidents in a residential aged care setting.

Further, with the introduction of the reforms came the appointment of an Infection Prevention and Control Lead (IPC) position at each residential aged care facility across Australia. Our team completed the mandated education in time, and we appointed a new IPC Lead. This position aims at coordinating the response for all matters relating to infection prevention and control. The changes delivered to the sector are significant and require reforms of policies, procedures, practices and education on the changes. The teams at Yallambee Lodge and Snowy River hostel continue to drive the implementation of the changes efficiently.

Throughout the year, our team across both facilities introduced reviews and reforms associated with infection prevention and control management as a response to the COVID-19 situation. Our team worked in partnership with the Southern NSW Local Health District, the local Public Health Unit and local GPs to nurture a collaborative approach for a response to a potential outbreak. Despite all the challenges faced by the sector, our facilities continue to strive to deliver high-quality aged care and services to our community.

## Community Transport Services

A total of 9,810 passengers were transported some 380,762 kilometres this year, and again we could not have operated without our amazing volunteers contributing valuable services to our community, who have volunteered some 4,730 hours of their time and travelled over 207,240 kilometres, even after a number of our volunteers standing-down due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A number of Community Transport's vehicles have been upgraded, replacing two of our wheelchair accessible vehicles, and adding a hybrid vehicle to our fleet.

With COVID-19 restrictions easing over the summer months we were able to provide extra bus outings within the ACT region, and also facilitate outings and overnight-tours with community groups such as Community Connections, Cooma Probus Clubs (Mens & Ladies) and Cooma Craft Group.



### 2020-2021 Community Transport Statistics

Community Transport Trips taken	9357
Passengers using Community Transport	9810
Kilometres travelled	380,762
No. of Volunteer Hours	4730

## Community Support Packages

Community Support Packages consist of Home Care Packages, NDIS and Compacts. Overall, we have had an increase in the number of individuals requiring services, as the Australian Government continues to commit to the support of ageing in place, allowing individuals to remain at home for as long as possible. We provide services to the entire local government area.

### Home Care Packages

At the start of the financial year, we had a total of fifty-two Home Care Packages which grew to a total of sixty throughout the course of the year. It has been observed that the individuals coming onto Home Care Packages are requiring more and more support than in previous times, which is evidenced by an increase in service hours provided – from 8,800 last financial year to over 10,500 this year.

Throughout the year, we have purchased a total of \$56,000 worth of mobility equipment for our support recipients from their individual packages, and have paid for \$25,000 worth of allied health appointments from their individual packages. Other services that we have provided over the duration of the year include personal care, domestic support, social support, gardening support, meal preparation, medication assistance, transport and have purchased many other items to ensure our support recipients are remaining safe and independent at home.

We have continued to overcome the challenges associated with COVID-19, and have been continuing to promote wellness and re-enablement among our support recipients in these trying times.

We have continued to accept new packages from new support recipients, and have continued to accept packages from support recipients transitioning over from Commonwealth Home Support Programs. That being said, the wait periods which we were experiencing this time last year have reduced greatly, as the Australian Government moves more towards providing more individual based and funded programs.

Home Care Packages	Number of support recipients
Level 1	4
Level 2	32
Level 3	17
Level 4	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

## NDIS

New service requests through NDIS remain consistent and demonstrate the varied needs of the community. We have provided support to thirty-seven participants at its peak during the twelve month period via a variety of means including in home care, group activities, plan management, support coordination and transport.

We continue to work collaboratively with the growing number of service providers in the region, who at times, broker our staff to fulfil the growing number of NDIS participants.

## Compacts

We have had a total of forty-five support recipients receiving services through Compacts, Healthy at Home and Safe and Supported at Home (packages which can be repeated awaiting transition to NDIS). A new service has been offered through Community Options Australia, which is an End of Life package. This is a six week program which can be repeated. This program allows us to provide palliative care services to terminally ill support recipients who wish to pass away at home. It is a tremendous honour to be able to care for individuals during this time.

The age demographic data of our Compacts service recipients:

Age Group	Compacts
Under 50	3
50-60	8
61-70	6
71-80	15
81-90	5
91-100	5

## Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

Services provided under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), including Domestic Assistance, Personal Care, Social Support Individual and Flexible Respite continued to be in demand over the past year. A wetter summer than usual saw an increase in requests for lawn mowing across the region under the Home Maintenance Program. Meals on Wheels continued to provide hot meals, frozen meals and sandwich packs utilising our team of volunteers to assist in delivery.

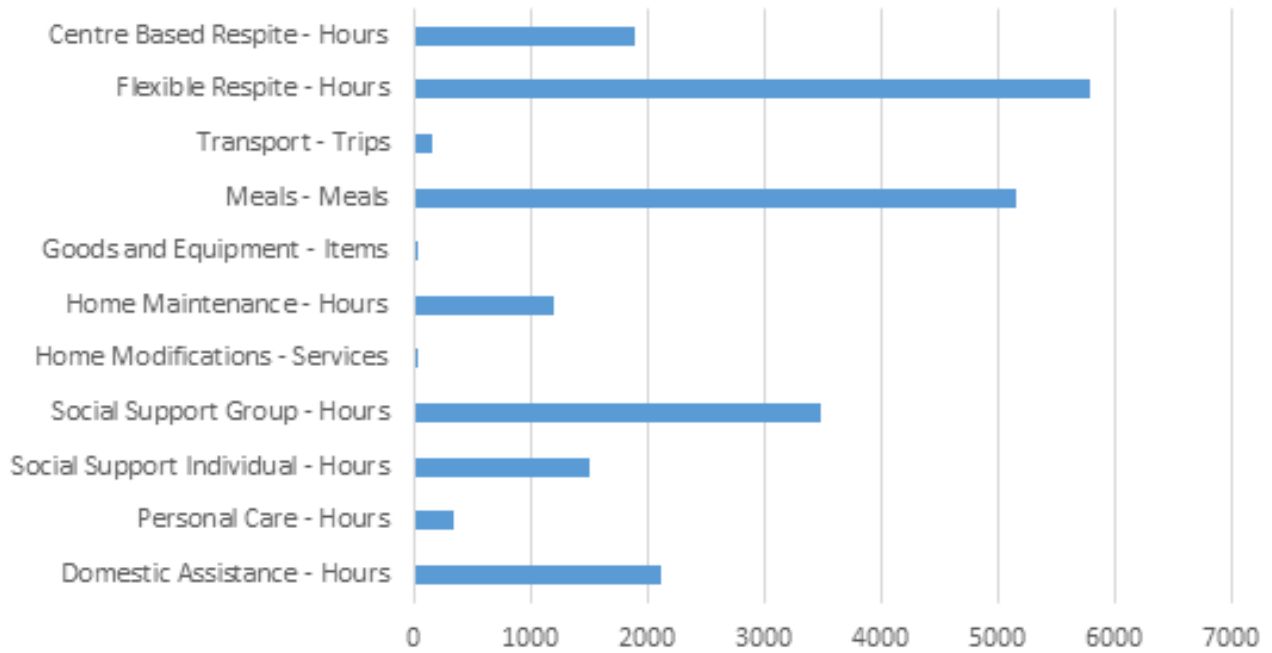
With COVID-19 restrictions easing, Centre Based Groups including art & craft, lunch clubs and movie afternoons were able to recommence in June 2020. Lunch Clubs, previously held in various restaurants, pubs and clubs across our region were adapted to be held at the Werri-Nina Centre and Bombala Community Centre with games days and guest speakers in attendance. Meals were purchased from local eateries, ensuring that local business continued to be supported.

By early 2021, things had returned to a 'new normal' for Community Connections groups with Social Support Outings and Lunch Clubs recommencing across our region and beyond, with various outings to Canberra and an overnight stay in Tumut during autumn.

A highlight for Community Connections Groups was our prize winning entry in the Jindabyne Lakelight Sculpture Exhibition. Yarn Bombing was initially designed as a community project to help keep everyone busy while staying at home during COVID-19 in early 2020. Due to its popularity and feedback from the participants, the project was developed further to create the installation entered in the exhibition. Group members were delighted to receive the Encouragement Award for their entry, a fantastic achievement for all involved and a lovely conclusion to our yarn bombing project.



## CHSP Service Provision



# Library Services



VISITS TO OUR LIBRARIES

**7,389**



ITEMS LOANED

**65,435**



KMS TRAVELLED BY  
THE MOBILE LIBRARY

**28,800**

## Community Enablement

Five local women's oral histories were recorded as a tribute to the photographic exhibition 'Celebrating the Snowy Scheme Community 1949-2019' which was launched in October. The permanent display of photos was created in partnership with Snowy Hydro and the National Archives of Australia, and depict community life during construction.

## Lifelong Learning

We ran book launches, presentations from Dementia Australia as well as for National Stroke week. We continued our very successful Digital Seniors Program, running 'Reading Challenges', providing spinning and weaving workshops and creative crafts for adults.

## Places and Spaces

The Libraries provided many programs for school children before COVID shutdowns. Book Club, Lego Club and Games Club were created with high attendance after school. Special events for Book Week created spaces for a photo booth with dress-ups and for Science Week making 'Slime' and 'Ice cream in a bag' were a big hit. Seeing the creative minds at work was fantastic!

## Digital Connection

Seven Tech Savvy Senior sessions were run each week, highlighting a different device or online skill. Participants received a proficiency certificate for their learning and were shown how to access the website to utilise other skills.

## CONTINUED SERVICE DELIVERY DURING LOCKDOWNS

The libraries continued to provide access to physical collections during lockdowns with a Click and Collect service available at Cooma and Bombala libraries. Storytimes and other programs were delivered online to continue access to the community.



## AUTHOR TALKS

Planned author talks continued, with a shift to online delivery and included Dr. Nick Fuller, one of Australia's leading experts on weight loss, Heather Ellis, travel author and, Nicole Warner (Virtual Author Launch) and Children's Author talks, Australia Day Ambassador Susanne Gervay, children's author, Corinne Fenton.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Library stalls at the local Harmony Week Multicultural Festival and the Steampunk Festival at Nimmitabel were held, with Library staff promoting services and programmes.



## TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

The Red & Yellow Exhibition from the National Gallery was displayed at Cooma, Bombala and toured with the Mobile Library.

MEMBERS  
REGISTERED



**5,657**



**144**

LIBRARY  
PROGRAMS  
HELD



ITEMS IN OUR LIBRARIES

**51,836**



**2,670**

PEOPLE ATTENDED  
LIBRARY EVENTS



E-RESOURCES  
DOWNLOADED

**12,537**



WI-FI  
LOGINS

**7,052**



COMPUTER  
BOOKINGS

**4,619**

The 2019-2022 Library Strategy led the direction of this year's library activities, including the focus areas of Lifelong Learning, Community Enablement, Digital Connection and Place and Spaces.

# Corporate Projects

The Corporate Projects team has had a busy year with a plethora of projects under various stages of development, from project initiation and planning, through to delivery and completion.

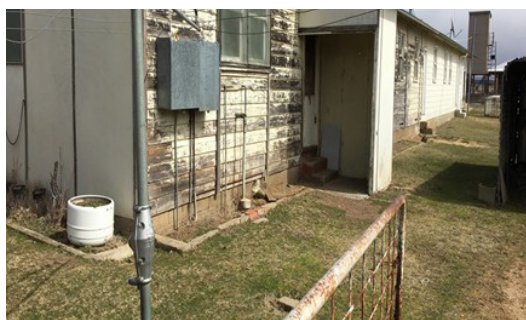
**Below are key projects under delivery throughout the 2020-21 financial year.**

- Project Management Framework development and implementation
- Development of Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) documentation
- Enterprise Risk Management frameworks review
- Snowy Monaro Regional Council Waste Strategy
- Yallambee Lodge New Section of Facility
- Cowbed Creek Bridge Replacement
- Bobeyan Road Upgrade Sealing Adaminaby to ACT Border
- Mt Gladstone Toilets
- Bombala Council Depot Female and Accessible Amenities
- Lions Park Yallakool Road Cooma Upgrade
- Bombala Showground Sports Facility Upgrade Install Cricket
- Dalgety Showground Sports Facility Upgrade Refurbish Tennis Courts
- Delegate Showground - Installation of irrigation system and seating
- Cooma Creek Beautification Upgrade -bike path surface, lighting and seating
- Bombala Arts & Innovation Centre Building Upgrade
- Delegate School of Arts Toilets
- Cooma Sale Yards New Truck Wash
- Snowy Oval Amenities Building
- Dalgety Showground Equipment
- Cooma Multifunction Centre Upgrades
- Bombala Racecourse Amenity Improvement Works
- Jindabyne Holiday Park Drainage for Annual Vans
- Jindabyne Holiday Park Fire Reticulation
- Cooma Swimming Pool
- Ryrie Street Michelago Extension
- Bombala Platypus Reserve Upgrade
- Stella Reid Bequest - Stella Salon - Yallambee
- Craigie Little Plains River Bridge
- Adaminaby Truck Parking Area Design
- Bombala Caravan Park Electrical Upgrade
- Adaminaby School of Arts - Upgrade existing Toilet Entry and Signage
- Bombala Showground Electrical Upgrades
- Jindabyne Shared Trail Project
- Nimmitabel Showground Luncheon and Bar Upgrades



- Cooma Showground Electrical Upgrades to External Electrical Infrastructure
- Cooma Footpath Pavers CBD Streetscape Beautification
- Jindabyne Memorial Hall Upgrade Heating and Cooling
- Public Art Installation Take Flight Sculpture NPWS Jindabyne
- Peak Creek Bridge, The Snowy River Way, Bungarby Replacement
- Deep Creek Bridge, Mila Road, Craigie Replacement
- Jindabyne Community Library

*Right: Lions Park, Cooma.  
Councils Project Manager and  
Members of The Lions Club who  
were instrumental through the  
planning and delivery of upgrade  
works*



*Bombala Racecourse Amenities –  
Before and After project completion*



*Below: Dalgety Drop-in Cricket Pitch*





*Above: Cooma Sale Yards Truck Wash*

The Corporate Projects Team has also had a busy year in securing a significant amount of grant funding through State and Federal sources for projects and programs across the Region. Some of the successful applications include:

**Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund Stage 2 - \$5,457,232.00**

- Refurbish Jindabyne Skate Park - \$1,258,380
- Upgrade Bombala Sporting Facilities - \$796,505
- Upgrade the Delegate School of Arts Hall - \$720,362
- Improve streets in Adaminaby - \$812,340
- Bombala Arts & Innovation Centre - \$869,645
- Supporting tourism infrastructure in Adaminaby - \$1000,000

**Transport for NSW Fixing Country Bridges Program - \$1,667,953.80**

- Peak Creek Bridge, The Snowy River Way - \$1,148,700
- Deep Creek Bridge, Mila Road, Craigie - \$519,253.80

**Resilience NSW BCRRF – Stream 2 - \$299,256**

- Youth Adventure Series - \$299,256

**Fixing Local Roads - \$11,429,427.52**

- Mila Rd Sealing 100% - \$3,712,792.02
- Avonside Road Sealing 75% / Maffra Rd Sealing/Rehab 50%- \$4,322,264.50
- Dry Plains Rd and Shannons Flat Road (Sealing 25% each) - \$3,394,371.00

**Drought Communities Program - \$998,200**

- Cooma Sale Yards Truck Wash additional funding - \$350,000
- Ginger Leigh Playground Stage 2 Works - \$538,200
- Bombala Caravan Park Dump Point - \$110,000

# Economic Development

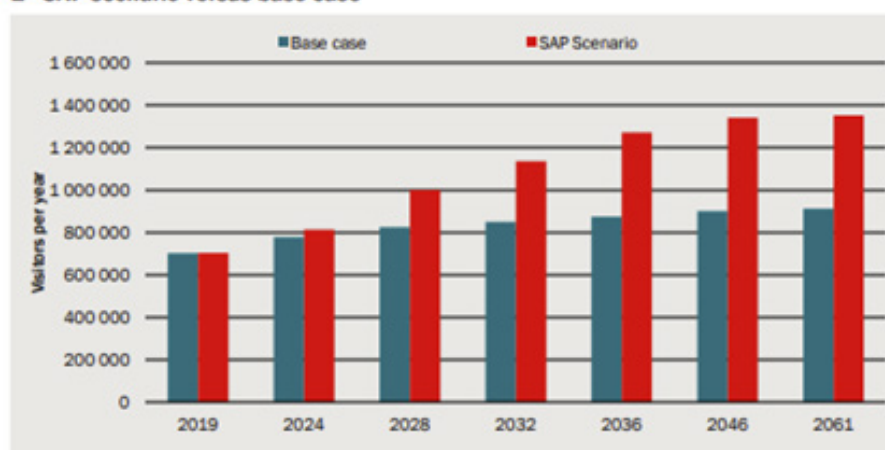
The 2020-21 year was a strange one for the Economic Development team as the impacts of the bushfires and COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions continued to reverberate throughout the year. However, the main theme for the year was recovery and building resilience, and significant progress was made on both these fronts as our local business and tourism bounced back. Visitor spending in our local government area in June 2021 was over 30% higher than in June 2019 (Spendmapp by Geografia) back when life was 'normal'. Some highlights of the year are below:

## Operational and Delivery Plan

### Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Master Plan

Through the 2020-21 year the Economic Development team has been heavily involved in the development of the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Masterplan. A series of Enquiry by Design workshops were held in the latter half of 2020 to assist in developing the master plan and the Economic Development team has been coordinating Council responses and feedback to the various iterations of technical studies as well as the draft master plan itself as it has been developing. The team has also been assisting the Department of Regional NSW as it continues to develop the business case to support the government spend to implement the master plan once it's complete.

**2 SAP scenario versus base case**



Data source: The CIE.

### Liaison with cycling groups - Monaro Rail Trail

Regular fortnightly meetings with MRT Inc. have been established with the objective of working towards making the Monaro Rail Trail a reality. Important relationships with the Department of Regional NSW, Transport for NSW and Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council have also been established with this same broad objective in mind.

### Cooma Sports Hub

Overall Project Budget: \$15,000,000

Funding body: NSW Office of Sport – Election Commitment Funding

2020-21 spend: \$166,312

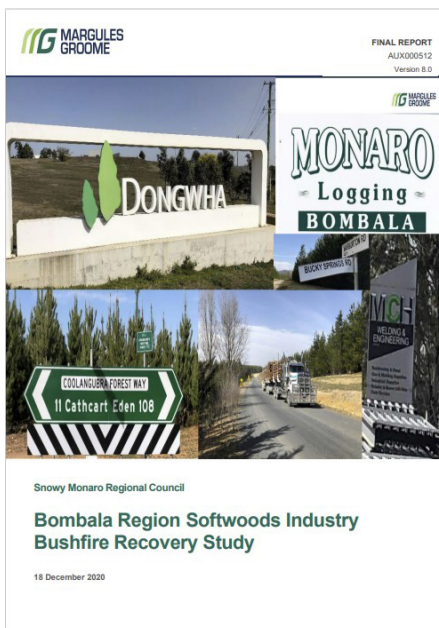
The development of the detailed design for the Cooma Sports Hub has been progressing, following on from the completion of a concept design in 2020. The Sports Hub Project is looking to provide a regional level three court indoor sports facility, a new synthetic athletics track and upgrades to Snowy Oval and involves a shared use arrangement with Monaro High School for the indoor sports facility.



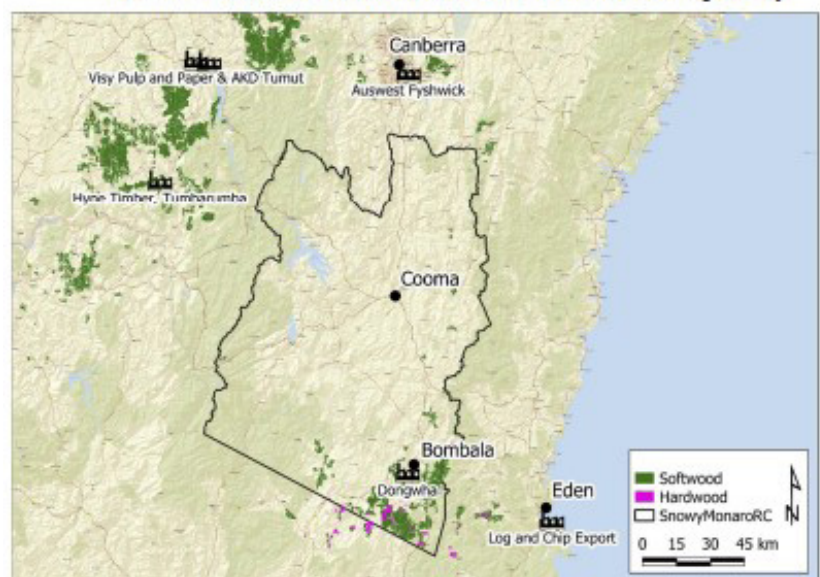


## Economic Development Softwoods Study

In response to the Black Summer bushfire impacts on plantations in the south east of the Snowy Monaro local government area, the Economic Development team engaged Margules Groome to prepare the Bombala Region Softwoods Industry Bushfire Recovery Study. This unprecedented study has provided valuable insights into the challenges facing the softwoods industry around Bombala for years to come as a result of the bushfires. Council wishes to thank local industry representatives for their input into the study and looks forward to continuing to work together to support the forestry industry into the future.



**Figure 3-1:**  
Location of the Bombala and Tumut Softwood Plantations & Processing Industry



Source: ABARES, ESRI, Margules Groome

## Snowy Monaro Business Awards

The annual Snowy Monaro Business Awards resumed in May after missing 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown. This event was the biggest yet with over one hundred and fifty people attending on the night and a series of Awards being presented, many to businesses that had not won awards in previous years. The keynote address was provided by Member for Eden Monaro Kristy McBain. Council's Economic Development team works with the Chambers of Commerce in our region to deliver the Business Awards.



*Award presented by Member for Eden Monaro - Kristy McBain*

## Pat Callinan

Council was able to secure and sponsor an episode of Pat Callinan in the region, which aired in December 2020 on Southern Cross Ten. The exposure for the region was excellent and is sure to have motivated many viewers across Australia to come and experience the Snowy Monaro when they can.



## Business Surveys and e-Newsletters

The economic development team has also been continuing its biannual business and industry surveys and maintaining broader contact with the business community through quarterly e-newsletters. This is proving an important way to keep the Snowy Monaro business community informed of relevant issues, initiatives and opportunities from Council's perspective.

## Snowy Trout Challenge

Council supported local chambers as they initiated the Snowy Trout Challenge to try and tempt more recreational fishers to the region. A report commissioned by the Economic Development team in 2019 found that recreational fishing increased Snowy Monaro business profits by an estimated \$12.2m per year.



*Snowy Trout Challenge participant*

## Tourism and Events

### Tourism data stage 1

Since the Black Summer bushfires and the resulting tourist evacuation order which was implemented at the time to key parts of the region the Tourism team have been working on ways to improve the accuracy and reliability of local tourism data for Snowy Monaro. Stage 1 of the project was completed in February which involved creation of a tourism data dashboard which brought together data from various sources into the one place for easy access and analysis. The second stage is due to be completed in the coming year and will add new and closer to real time data into an upgraded dashboard.



## Helping tourism and events happen

Despite the difficulties for tourism over the last year the Tourism and Events team have been quietly working behind the scenes to assist in preparations for some big events that have happened or are coming up in the not too distant future, including:

- Supported the establishment of a major new annual event in the region in coordination with DNSW – Snowies Classic, cycling race (to run in 2022)
- Supported the establishment of a new annual cycling event in the region in December 2021 – Drops & Hoods
- Supporting the establishment of 'It's just a Tribute' music festival for Easter 2022, including Grant funding assistance and support
- Supporting the establishment of the feature film 'Drovers Wife' in the Snowy–Monaro. Coordinated location for filming, local contacts and logistical arrangements for a major feature filmshoot. Film release date scheduled for October 2021. Local event being organised (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) around this release
- Provided Grant Funding to Lake Light Sculpture Event for Easter 2021. Very successful event
- Provided Grant funding to Snowy Mountains Museum, Adaminaby for upgrades and collection piece purchases
- Provided Grant funding to Numeralla Folk Festival event for their January 2022 event
- Provided event assistance and grant funding assistance to 'Roll On In' motorcycle rally, Jindabyne for their 2022 event

## Australia Day Funding

The Tourism & Event team successfully applied for a \$20,000 COVID-19 safe Australia Day grant through the National Australia Day Council in January 2021. This enabled additional funding to be provided to smaller community events held at Nimmitabel, Dalgety, Michelago, Adaminaby, Berridale (Cooma, Jindabyne & Bombala were supported in their individual grants applications received for each event) and local purchase of COVID-19 safety equipment and activities with free access to local attractions such as the Cooma Gaol Museum and Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Museum, ambassador and community sessions, media promotion and audio/recording equipment which was used to livestream the award ceremonies.

The COVID-19 safety equipment (COVID-19 safety signage, sanitiser stations and high-vis COVID-19 marshal vests) were initially shared among Australia Day events in the Snowy Monaro and are now reused with subsequent events held in the area, offering support to local events facing financial difficulty by alleviating the additional equipment costs incurred for compliance with NSW COVID-19 safe regulations. The items have been loaned to numerous event organisers including the Dalgety show, Nimmitabel Steampunk Festival, Jindabyne Lake Light Sculpture, Cooma ANZAC service, Combined Car Club charity day in Bombala, Cooma Rotary Markets and Jindabyne Snow Sports Sale.



# Fleet Services

## \$3.49M New Assets Supports Council Service Delivery

Council purchased \$3,494,992 of new assets this year consisting of minor ground care to heavy earthmoving plant and equipment.

Council manage approximately 1,280 plant items with a current estimated value of \$16,863,758 comprising;

- Light vehicles
- Heavy vehicles
- Earthmoving plant
- Ground care plant and equipment
- Minor plant

Council has been introducing hybrid vehicles into their fleet and is increasing this technology where suitable with identified replacements. Hybrid passenger vehicles currently represent 13% of Council's passenger vehicle fleet.

Hybrid vehicles are paving the way for Council to gradually transition to electric vehicles, and are the logical transition to a low emission fleet with no EV charging infrastructure in place at Council sites. Hybrid vehicles currently in Council's fleet have averaged carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of 100g/km compared to 164g/km for the non hybrid equivalent. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are a direct reflection of fuel usage.

The year has been challenging for Council fleet services with COVID-19 and an internal staff restructure. COVID-19 is having a significant impact on parts supply resulting in an increase with equipment downtime greater than repair time. During 2020-21 downtime was 35.9% greater than actual repair time compared to 13.6% in 2019-20.



Left: Case Backhoe



Right: Iveco Chassis

Below: Toyota Rav 4



Below: Compactor body



# Governance

## Community Sponsorship and Funding programs

The Boco Wind Farm funding program, was a condition of approval of the Boco Wind Farm prior to the Council's merger. As such, the community sponsorship program relates to the former Cooma-Monaro and Bombala local government areas.

Boco Rock Committee 2021	
Mayor Beer	Chairperson
Councillor Corbett	SMRC Councillor Representative
Councillor Stewart	SMRC Councillor Representative
Peter Bascomb	SMRC Chief Executive Officer
Adam West	CWP Renewables Representative (Boco Rock Wind Farm)
Merrita Coombe	Community Representative (Former Bombala LGA)
David Wicks	Community Representative (Former Cooma-Monaro LGA)
Kathy Kelly	Community Representative (Former Cooma-Monaro LGA)
Coleen McCoy	Community Representative (Former Bombala LGA)

Council received applications for funding to support various ongoing and one off events and projects. Funding was approved for:

- Shows
- School Presentation Days
- Race Days
- Australia Day

## Government Information Public Access Act GIPA increases workload

Council received thirteen formal applications, of which, eight were determined under the GIPA Act and Regulations for the 2020-21 financial year. The remaining five were processed as informal applications. In addition to the formal applications, Council facilitated two hundred and fifty one, out of a total of two hundred and fifty six informal GIPA requests during the 2020-21 financial year. This is an increase of eighty-three applications, (67%) from the previous fiscal year.

## Section 355 Committees

Ongoing support for various s355 Committees was provided through the year. Council received minutes from meetings of the following s355 Committees; Adaminaby School of Arts, Bibbenluke Hall and Sportsground, Bombala Exhibition Ground, Bombala Racecourse and Recreation Ground, Bredbo Hall, Bungarby Memorial Hall, Cathcart School of Arts, Michelago Hall, Nimmitabel Showground, Northridge Reserve, Smiths Road, Arts and Culture, Community Services, Cooma Recreational Facilities, Snowy Monaro Cemeteries and Snowy Monaro Tourism.



# Infrastructure

## Strategic Outcomes

The 2020-21 reporting period introduced the Infrastructure Group in its current form and now consists of:

- Road Construction
- Road Maintenance
- Reactive Maintenance
- Civic Maintenance
- Land & Property
- Projects & Technical Support.

As a group, Infrastructure totals one hundred and five staff positions and delivers a range of services across an even wider range of public infrastructure.

Following the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) Strategic Network Review of the Snowy Monaro Transport Infrastructure, presented to Council in June 2020, a structure review was undertaken and completed in May 2021.

## Construction

Our construction teams have been involved in:

- Nijong Sporting Precinct Privacy screen Installed
- Widows Bay Inlet Toilet Block completed
- Cooma CBD Pavers – Construction has started and forms part of a \$1M upgrade to CBD pavers through to the end of 2022.
- Kosciuszko Road – Completed – Contracted works from Transport NSW under the RMCC agreement.

*Right: Works being completed on Kosciuszko Road*



- Jerrara Drive Driveway – Construction works for Water/Waste Water completed by 20/05/2021
- Gippsland Street Footpath – Concrete pour 13/05/2021 – Works completed by 20/05/2021
- Lott Café Pavers – works completed 26/05/2021

## Land & Property

The Raglan Gallery has benefited from structural improvements to the northern gable wall. Wind and drainage issues, combined with the wall material reaching its life span is the root cause of the issues.

Underpinning of the gable wall was conducted in 2019. A broader assessment, to determine options for a permanent solution will be undertaken. The Raglan Gallery board have been kept abreast of the safety considerations and work progress.

## Projects & Technical Support

Work in this area has been extensive, a summary of the work during 2020-2021 is as follows:

- Tinderry road Shoulder Reconstruction has commenced
- Tinderry Road Upgrade (Fixing Local Roads Round 1)  
Approval for final design has been completed
- Springfield Road Reconstruction  
Estimate received and under review
- Delegate Road Box Culvert Replacement  
Planning complete. Construction to start 5 July 2021
- Leesville Estate Subdivision 3 lot Access  
Plans are with the contractor for revised costings  
Stage 3D drawing have been completed  
Construction Certificate has been applied for
- Berridale Carpark (Highdale)  
Report submitted to Council in December 2020  
Work Scheduled to commence in October 2021
- Maffra Road (Fixing Local Roads Round 2)  
Funding approval has been received  
Preliminary planning is underway
- Avonside Road (Fixing Local Roads Round 2)  
Funding approval has been received  
Preliminary planning is underway

## Bridge Projects

- Delegate Bridge Repair  
Repair to the road approaching the bridge has been subject to contract and weather constraints.
- Scotts Creek Bridge (Old Bombala Rd)  
Design completed & works commenced
- Palarang Bridge  
Planning completed  
Work to recommence 2 July 2021



*Above: Scotts Creek Bridge (Old Bombala Road)*

## Roads Maintenance Council Contract

Council are signatories to the Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) between Transport for NSW and Snowy Monaro Regional Council. The contract requires development of Council Safety Management Plans and Project Specific Plans to ensure maintenance and construction work along State Road corridors across the Snowy Monaro region are completed to appropriate standards.

Council Safety Management Plans and Project Specific Plans, have finally been accepted by Transport for NSW, and Council are in the process of submitting an application for G Registration and R2 Pre-Qualification. Once these have been accepted, ordered works through the RMCC agreement will ensure our construction and project planning team are kept busy on state road projects.

Maintenance of state roads through the existing RMCC agreement is valued at approximately \$500,000 per annum. However, the ordered works contract opportunities are valued around \$1M and provide additional work opportunities for our construction crews. The 2021-22 financial year has the potential to create in excess of \$3M for projects on state roads throughout the Snowy Monaro region.



## Externally Funded Projects

Infrastructure has been extremely fortunate with grant applications funded by NSW State Government through Transport for NSW with the following projects to be delivered before June 2023:

- Fixing Local Roads Funding Round 1 and 2 provides funding for upgrades to sections of:
  - Smiths Road Upgrade - \$1,197,608
  - Springfield Road Upgrade - \$3,868,743
  - Tinderry Road Upgrade - \$1,102,510
  - Avonside Road Upgrade - \$3,049,500
  - Maffra Road Upgrade - \$1,272,764

## Safer Roads Program:

- The Snowy River Way Road Improvements - \$2,200,000
- Barry Way Road Improvements - \$1,600,000
- Numeralla Road Improvements - \$900,000
- Countegany Road Improvements - \$600,000
- Black Spot Funding: Barry Way (Bungarra Lane to Snowy River Way) \$867,972

## Road Reclassification & Transfer

At the Council meeting of September 2020, a report in relation to the NSW Road Reclassification and Transfer initiative was considered. The resolution from that meeting was:

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

177/20

That Council makes a submission under the NSW Transport Round 1 Road Classification and Transfer Initiative for transfer or all Regional Roads and reclassification to regional road status and transfer of Jerangle Road, Bobeyan Road and the Barry Way.

In November 2020, Transport for NSW informed Snowy Monaro Regional Council, that a number of roads submitted under the first step submission process had been selected for priority submission. Those roads and bridges submitted to Transport for NSW under the Road Reclassification and Transfer Initiative were:

The Snowy River Way	Barry Way	The Barry Way
Delegate Road	Black Lake Road	Bobeyan Road
Middlingbank Road	Cathcart Road	Eden Street
Bombala Street	Campbell Street	Badja Road
Polo Flat Road	Dalgety Road	Tantawangalo Road

If successful, Council will transfer maintenance of regional road and bridges, reducing Council's road maintenance burden by approximately 300kms and thirty-two bridges.

# Resource and Waste Management

Over the past twelve months we have continued to face natural disasters, COVID-19 and staffing changes. Resource and Waste Services strive to provide our region and our community with excellent waste management services, including education programs, continual improvements to our facilities and collections services.

Resource and waste collection teams continue to provide our community with kerbside collection services for both domestic and commercial, in all types of climatic conditions.



Staff continue to ensure that our community have a clean and safe environment in which to live. Illegally dumped waste, recyclable items and hazardous materials are picked up by Council's Waste team in an efficient manner.



## Community Education

The resource and waste education team continue to advance with virtual media platforms to engage with our communities. Council's education officer, albeit for a short period due to COVID-19, was able to restart face to face education programs to our regional schools and community groups.

The education team continue to investigate future education plans and opportunities. This enables Council to implement educational changes to assist future strategic planning, and implementing new initiatives in the reduction of resources going to landfill.

## Moving Forward

Resource and Waste Services will continue to plan for positive strategic outcomes. Future strategic and facility planning will continue to be investigated and implement, to ensure, improved facilities and services as we move towards less waste to landfill.



*Above: Michelago enclosed Bank of Bins (BOB)*



*Above: Snowy River Way Bank of Bins (BOB)*



*Above: New weather awning for Bombala Landfill site office*



# Strategic Planning

The strategic planning team has been working hard over the past twelve months to deliver significant projects, including the Regional Trails Master Plan, Michelago Master Plan, Rural Land Use Strategy (RLUS), and Settlements Strategy. The past year has seen a significant change in the Snowy Monaro Region, and strategic planning for the future has never been so important.

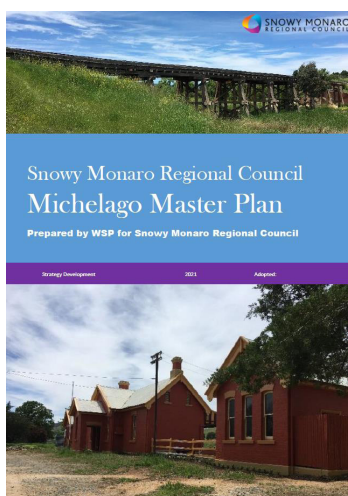
## Land Use Planning

The Rural Land Use Strategy and Settlements Strategy have been prepared to guide land use planning for over twenty years. The strategy will guide and inform the preparation of a consolidated Local Environmental Plan (LEP) for the amalgamated local government areas of Bombala, Cooma-Monaro and Snowy River.



The Draft Rural Land Use Strategy and Settlements Strategy were out on public exhibition for over two months and received over three hundred written pieces of feedback.

The team also developed a Master Plan for Michelago to provide a community-focused vision for the village's growth and development over the next twenty years. Council staff have worked closely with the Michelago community to ensure the Master Plan represents the desired future character.



The Master Plan sets out the principles, spatial arrangement and implementation measures to guide the sustainable development of Michelago. It references residents and Council's aspirations for the village and is intended to guide the delivery of Council's planning and decision making for Michelago in the short and medium terms. LEP and DCP provisions will promote the appropriate scale of development in Michelago.

## Recreation Planning

In recreation planning, staff have been working with Tredwell to develop a regional trails master plan, and this will provide a clear plan and vision for trails infrastructure in the region. The Regional Trails Master Plan will help prioritise projects to ensure the projects most important to the community are delivered in a timely manner. It will also assist in providing a diversified tourism offering to the region. The project aims are to:

- Create a positive & collaborative culture for all users
- Strengthen the perception of the Snowy Mountains region as a destination of choice for mountain biking, cycling, trail running and walking
- Determine the optimal visitor trail experiences & iconic tourism opportunities
- Increase visitation that contributes positively to the local economy
- Enhance the sustainability & liveability for local communities



The team has also been assisting in planning and delivering the Cooma Sports Hub and the Lake Jindabyne Shared Trail to ensure the timely delivery of this significant community infrastructure.

## Community Development

In community development, the team assisted in developing an Arts and Culture discussion paper and a draft Reconciliation action plan, which is a significant milestone. Council has continued implementing recommendations from the Disability Inclusion action plan, including related outcomes and activities.



## Combined Cooma Schools NAIDOC Week event

Council participated and supported many annual events, including but not limited to International Day of People with Disabilities, Seniors Week, NAIDOC and Mental Health Month. In addition, staff continued to facilitate the Monaro Regional Interagency, Local Health and Wellbeing Recovery Subcommittee, Arts and Culture s355 Committee and the Monaro Regional Housing Forum. These committees play a significant role in delivering tangible outcomes to the local community.

In addition, Council made submissions to the Regional Housing Taskforce and the Tax and Revenue Standing Committee inquiry into housing affordability. These submissions highlighted unique challenges in housing affordability and availability across the Snowy Monaro Region.

# Water and Wastewater Services

Council's Water and Wastewater team have continued to deliver a 24 hour a day service throughout another very challenging year of floods and COVID-19. In addition to our usual comprehensive program of maintenance, we have also made significant progress on infrastructure upgrades in the region.

## Infrastructure works

The augmentation of Bombala Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) has progressed well with an expected completion date of December 2021. The new plant began treating all of Bombala sewage in April 2021 and successfully met the EPA licensing requirements within weeks. Some of the civil works such as roads, the office and sludge lagoons are still being constructed but are on track to be completed shortly.

In addition to the Bombala STP augmentation, the sewerage system in Bombala also received an upgrade. Three new pump stations were constructed as well as a new rising main. These upgrades ensure that the Bombala sewerage infrastructure will provide the town with a good level of service now and into the future.

Construction work at the Adaminaby Sewage Treatment plant is now underway. This project replaces aging infrastructure and will deliver better environmental outcomes and service the needs of Adaminaby into the future.

Kalkite Sewage Treatment Plant has also seen significant construction work taking place. The existing evaporation pond is being upgraded to be significantly larger which will ensure improved performance of the pond. The pond will also be fully lined which will help reduce environmental impacts as a result of leaks from the pond. This work is due to be completed in 2021.

Design work for the Cooma Weir is now underway. The designers are working closely with the relevant state departments so that the reinstatement of the fish passageway is done effectively and meets all requirements. Construction of the weir and fish passageway is due to commence in May 2022.

## Maintenance and upgrade works to deliver cleaner water, better services and protection of our environment

Council's maintenance and upgrade program is part of an overall plan to achieve Council's services and environmental objectives and continual maintenance and upgrades ensures the Water and Wastewater team can provide a service that meets all the community needs.

In addition to regular maintenance, improvement highlights for the year included:

- Relining of the entire sewer network in Bombala North
- Construction of East Street, Cooma water main extension
- Delegate Sewage Pump Station platform upgrades
- Adaminaby reservoir platform upgrades
- Servicing and cleaning of sewage pump stations

All of these works delivered real improvements to water quality, reliability and performance.





Figure 1: New platform for Delegate Sewage Pump Station



Figure 2: Construction work making food progress on the upgraded evaporation pond at Kalkite Sewage Treatment Plant





*Figure 3: The water team working hard to construct the East Street water main extension in Cooma*



*Figure 4: Construction work at Bombala STP in February 2021*

# Workforce Management

The Workforce Management team has been trialling a new service delivery model for the provision of human resource and work health and safety support. This model enables the team to deliver specialised services where required. Part of the trial has seen the implementation of a business partner model, with workforce (HR) business partners focused on supporting dedicated areas of the organisation and align their day-to-day work with organisational outcomes. This model has been well received so far.

A new Employee Assistance Program was rolled out to the organisation to provide employees with confidential counselling services and a workplace bullying hotline for employees to report inappropriate behaviour in the workplace. The Workforce Management team also worked with our new provider to deliver Workplace Behaviour/Mentally Healthy Workplace Training to all employees. The training is designed ensure consistent understanding of expected standards of behaviour our workplaces.

In the 2020-21 year the team successfully worked with the Manager Community Services and Chief Operating Officer to restructure the Aged Care portfolio. The structure review addressed some of the significant issues that impacted on care of the residents and resulting in the conversion of several casual roles into permanent positions offering stability in working arrangements.

## Work Health and Safety

Council implemented a new WHS online management system - Vault, to track key WHS functions including:

- Workers compensation and injury management
- Incident management
- Workplace inspection
- Compliance training management

This system also has the ability to monitor workplace inspections and capture incidents logged out in the field via Vault applications (Vault Check and Vault Notify).

The Work Health and Safety Policy was renewed, accepted and implemented across Council including a Work Health and Safety Policy Statement.

## Talent Management

There were one hundred and thirty jobs posted throughout the financial year, averaging fourteen applications per job.

The recruitment process averaged eight weeks including two weeks of advertising.

Sixty-nine percent of clicks on job ads are from mobile devices and forty three percent of applications are started from a mobile device.

Adapting to COVID-19 restrictions interviewing throughout the year has increasingly transitioned to ZOOM utilising Council's access to digital technology.

Workforce Management engaged SHL to access psychometric assessments for both recruitment and team building workshops. These assessments were the base of both executive leadership team and senior leadership team team building workshops.

## Payroll

Payroll management has been transitioned to Council's Civica platform, with ongoing enhancements. A new Payroll Officer has been recruited and identified early productivity improvements to processing. Timesheet refresher training in department groups commenced December 2020 and one on one training for new starters commenced February 2020 on request.



## Organisational Development

Council has made good progress in its efforts towards improving knowledge capture, performance and service delivery by fully embracing a learning organisation and innovative mindset as demonstrated through the below activities.

- Implementation of the Australian Business Excellence Framework:
  - SMRC Business Excellence Strategy 2022 endorsed
  - Completion of business excellence self-assessment:
- Two hundred and twenty-two responses to the survey which resulted in a maturity score of two hundred and eighty four out of one thousand – this placed us at the compliant level of the business excellence pyramid
- Six workshops with sixty-one staff from across SMRC to validate the data that came out of the survey
- Current State of the Business Report produced from the self-assessment results, which determined six key recommendations and thirty areas for improvement
- The Executive Leadership Team endorsed five initial major improvement actions, these projects are currently underway

## Service Reviews:

- One of the areas for improvement identified in the Current State of the Business Report
- Internal Governance service review currently underway, expected completion with recommendations by August 2021
- Service review program endorsed and initiated, including comprehensive project plans. The Governance review will be followed by Fleet, ICT, Building Certification and Development
- System Views and System Thinking training commenced

## Process Improvement:

- Promapp endorsed and implemented to enable process improvement strategies for SMRC (another improvement area identified from the self-assessment)
- Promapp configured to Snowy Monaro Regional Council's requirements
- Process groups, process group owners, process owners and process experts identified and/or nominated across the majority of business areas
- Promapp training program initiated







# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

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2020-2021

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## Introduction

Section 428A of the Local Government Act mandates that a State of the Environment Report must be prepared once every four years. It is to be included in the Annual Report in the year of the ordinary election and must report on the environmental objectives in the Community Strategic Plan.

Councils are required to report on environmental indicators they have established, enabling them to identify if they have achieved the environmental objectives in their Community Strategic Plan.

State of the Environment Reports would allow trends to be monitored over time. It should be integrated and relevant to the Council's long-term environmental objectives and enables informed planning for the future.

Reporting is tied to whether or not strategic objectives are achieved.

In determining whether Council achieved the desired outcomes of the Snowy Monaro Community Strategic Plan 2040, Council has undertaken some environmental monitoring for some basic environmental themes over the past four years.

## Snowy Monaro Community Strategic Plan 2040 (CSP 2040)

The Snowy Monaro 2040 Plan aligns with the Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements of the NSW Local Government Act 1993. Integrated planning and reporting provides local government with a framework for translating community priorities and aspirations into operational objectives and tracking progress.

Legislation requires that planning is balanced across a complex set of needs for the Snowy Monaro Region and the community. To deliver this, Council aligns to the business planning principles of the quadruple bottom line, Community, Economy, Environment and Leadership. The Plan's key themes are influenced by a range of factors, including state government legislation and regional priorities, as well as community conversations, the availability of resources and project affordability.

## Snowy Monaro CSP 2040 - Environment Theme

**Statement** - Our iconic natural environment and heritage are preserved and enhanced for future generations while balancing the needs for regional development and growth.

**Objective 1 - Our natural environment is protected and sustainable**

**Strategies**

- Protect, value, and enhance the existing natural environment
- Water, waste, sewer and stormwater management practices are contemporary and efficient

**Objective 2 - Our built infrastructure is attractive and fit for purpose**

**Strategies**

- Planning for rural, urban and industrial development is sensitive to the region's natural environment and heritage
- Improve and maintain our publicly owned infrastructure, assets, and facilities to a high standard
- Advocate for a range of suitable housing and accommodation to suit the changing needs of our community

**Objective 3 - Our community is connected through efficient transportation networks, technology, and telecommunication services**

**Strategies**

- Transportation corridors throughout the region are improved and maintained
- Transportation initiatives are aligned to state and neighbouring local government area plans
- Our region has access to effective telecommunication infrastructure and services



In recognition of the data that Snowy Monaro Regional Council owns and manages, and external datasets available, the following themes are considered reasonable to include within the State of the Environment Report:

- Air
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Waste
- Land





## Air

### Snowy Monaro Community Strategic Plan 2040

#### Theme - Environment

#### Objective 1 - Our natural environment is protected and sustainable Strategies

- Protect, value, and enhance the existing natural environment

## Air Emissions

### Air Quality - Outdoor

Air quality monitoring was not undertaken in the Snowy Monaro region by Council during the reporting period. The region generally enjoys clean air; a lack of heavy industry and concentration of vehicles ensures that pollutant levels are relatively low.

Woodsmoke from domestic fireplaces continues to create problems in winter, particularly in the Cooma area where temperature inversions trap gaseous elements close to ground level on winter nights. This has also been reported in previous State of the Environment Reports for the former Cooma-Monaro Shire Council.

There are several facilities in the Snowy Monaro region that report air emissions to the national pollutant inventory.

For comprehensive details of air emission reported in the Snowy Monaro Regional Council region, the types and quantities of substances emitted, see the National Pollutant website [www.npi.gov.au](http://www.npi.gov.au)

A list of all reporting facilities included in the search results. Click on a facility name to view the facility's annual report.

Registered Business Name	Facility Name	Year			
Ocwen Energy Pty Ltd	Cooma Depot	<a href="#">2019-2020</a>	<a href="#">2018-2019</a>	<a href="#">2017-2018</a>	<a href="#">2016-2017</a>
Snowy Hydro Ltd	Snowy Hydro	<a href="#">2019-2020</a>	<a href="#">2018-2019</a>	NA	NA
Jemena Eastern Gas Pipeline (I) Pty Ltd	Michelago Compressor Station	<a href="#">2019-2021</a>	<a href="#">2018-2019</a>	<a href="#">2017-2018</a>	<a href="#">2016-2017</a>
Jemena Eastern Gas Pipeline (I) Pty Ltd	Cooma Main Line Valve and Meter Station	<a href="#">2019-2021</a>	<a href="#">2018-2019</a>	<a href="#">2017-2018</a>	<a href="#">2016-2017</a>
Elgas Limited	Elgas Cooma Au015	<a href="#">2019-2020</a>	<a href="#">2018-2019</a>	<a href="#">2017-2018</a>	<a href="#">2016-2017</a>
Dongwha Australia Pty Ltd	Dongwha Timber Bombala	<a href="#">2019-2020</a>	NA	NA	NA
Jemena Eastern Gas Pipeline (I) Pty Ltd	Bombala Meter Station	<a href="#">2019-2020</a>	<a href="#">2018-2019</a>	<a href="#">2017-2018</a>	<a href="#">2016-2017</a>
Jemena Eastern Gas Pipeline (I) Pty Ltd	Mila Compressor Station	<a href="#">2019-2020</a>	<a href="#">2018-2019</a>	<a href="#">2017-2018</a>	<a href="#">2016-2017</a>
Kel Campbell Pty Ltd	Bombala Petroleum Depot	<a href="#">2019-2020</a>	<a href="#">2018-2019</a>	<a href="#">2017-2018</a>	<a href="#">2016-2017</a>

## Complaints

Over the last four years, Council has received on average five complaints per year regarding excessive smoke from wood heaters.



## Biodiversity

Snowy Monaro Community Strategic Plan 2040

Theme - Environment

Objective 1 - Our natural environment is protected and sustainable  
Strategies

- Protect, value, and enhance the existing natural environment

Objective 2 - Our built infrastructure is attractive and fit for purpose  
Strategies

- Improve and maintain our publicly owned infrastructure, assets, and facilities to a high standard

Objective 3 - Our community is connected through efficient transportation networks, technology, and telecommunication services  
Strategies

- Transportation corridors throughout the region are improved and maintained

Theme - Economy

Objective 1 - Our region is prosperous, with diverse industries and opportunities

- Foster and support adaptive, sustainable industries.

Objective 2 - Our community has access to a range of lifelong learning opportunities

- Advocate for and promote education and lifelong learning opportunities.
- Promote and provide access and spaces where people can learn and connect.

## Biosecurity – Weed Control Management

On 1 July 2017, the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 (the Act) became the primary legislation dealing with weed management in NSW. The Act supersedes the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and operates on a risk management framework, providing flexibility in the development and implementation of weed management programs at a local level based on the level of risk that a weed poses to the local economy, environment and/or community.

The Snowy Monaro Region - [Local Weed Management Plan](#) was prepared and adopted by Council on 19 April 2018. This plan identifies the priority weeds with which Snowy Monaro Regional Council maintains an active management and compliance program. It also specifies the extent to which land managers within the Snowy Monaro Region must manage these priority weeds in the absence of State legislated requirements.

### Priority Weeds within the Snowy Monaro Region

Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)  
African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)  
St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)  
Gorse (*Ulex Europaeus*)  
Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*)  
Fireweed (*Senecio Madagascariensis*)  
Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*)  
Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)  
Sweet Briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*)  
Nodding Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)  
Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*)  
Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg)

Council relies heavily on recurrent grant funding from the South East Weeds Action Program (SEWAP) and administered by NSW DPI Agriculture. Funding opportunities are also provided by NSW Department of Lands through the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) for maintaining selected Crown reserves each year. A significant portion of salaries and also Council's roadside weed spraying program is fully funded by Council

Measurable activities over the last four years pertain to the activities of the number of private property inspections, extension activities and the consolidation of a harmonised roadside weed spraying program.

### Private Property Inspections

Council's Biosecurity Officers undertake private property inspections throughout the year on a six year cyclic program to ensure that priority weeds are managed in accordance with Council's Local Weed Management Plans. Over the past four years the number of inspections has been on a steady increase ensuring that our funding is maintained through the South East Weeds Action Program. It should be noted that the 2020/2021 financial year saw a number of bushfire recovery activities undertaken. This meant that private property inspections were suspended due to other assistance activities being undertaken.

#### Number of Private Property Inspections

2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
971	1061	1666	1207



*Private property aerial spraying program facilitated by Council*



## Extension Activities

The capacity building within our rural communities to ensure that continued education and support networks are available is extremely important. Council's Biosecurity Extension Officer undertakes several events and workshops throughout the year. These range from attendance at the rural shows to organised field days with guest speakers in attendance.

Number of capacity building events

2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
14	37	9	17



*Bus tour of the Mulloon Institute Braidwood*





*Field day at Peter and Narelle Davis' farm*

### Roadside weed spraying program

Council investment in the control of biosecurity weeds along Council roadsides is significant compared to other Local Government areas within our region. Over the last four years detailed scoping and planning has been undertaken to develop a comprehensive Snowy Monaro Roadside Weed Spraying Program.

2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
\$410,000	\$467,000	\$650,000	\$743,000



## Water

Snowy Monaro Community Strategic Plan 2040

Theme - Environment

Objective 1 - Our natural environment is protected and sustainable  
Strategies

- Protect, value, and enhance the existing natural environment

### Cooma Region – Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch

Waterwatch is a national citizen science program, involving landholders, community groups and schools, and aims to engage communities in monitoring and protecting the health of local waterways.

Small waterways make up three-quarters of the total waterway network within any given catchment and they are of great interest to local communities. NSW Waterwatch participants can take an active role in monitoring the health of their local catchments by conducting monthly water quality testing and optional seasonal surveys of aquatic macroinvertebrates, to understand and monitor the health of their rivers, and provide quality assured data. With the data they collect, communities can influence the management of their local waterways and take direct action.

In the Snowy Monaro region there is one Waterwatch program known as the Cooma Region Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Program (The program), and it is affiliated with Icon Water, ACT Government, and NSW South East Local Land Services. The program covers the Cooma region and includes Cooma, Numeralla, Bredbo, Michelago and the northern section of Kosciuszko National.

There are three current active monitoring programs in place with an extensive library of data collected over the last four years.

### Water Quality Monitoring

Monthly monitoring of a common range of physical and chemical water quality parameters.

### Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition – RARC

Assessment of the condition of the stream banks and riparian zone in the vicinity of monitoring points.

### Water Bug Sampling

Sampling of aquatic macro-invertebrates (water bugs) [Waterwatch Project Data](#)

### NSW Department Planning Industry and Environment – Water

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water (The department) is Australia's largest water monitoring agency. Over 5,000 monitoring stations measure the quality and quantity of water in rivers, streams, groundwater and dams across New South Wales. About 900 of these stations continuously monitor water sources delivering real-time data through digital electronic technology.

Real-time data from the department and other NSW agencies for the Snowy Monaro region can be found at the real-time data website. Real-time data reports on:

- River levels and flows
- Storage elevations, volumes and discharges
- Salinity, temperature and turbidity
- Bore water levels

## NSW Health - Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Program

Snowy Monaro Regional Council is a Local Water Utility (LWU) that supplies reticulated drinking water to a number of our towns and villages across the Council region. NSW Health administers a comprehensive monitoring program to ensure that the quality of the water meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. Weekly sampling is carried out by Council and the testing is undertaken at the NSW Forensic and Analytical Service laboratories at Lidcombe in Sydney.

Results from the last four years of monitoring for all supplies can be found in the table below:

Analysis Type	Characteristic	Guideline Value	Units	Median	Min	Max	Sample Count	Exception Count	% meeting guideline values
Chemistry	Aluminium	0.2000	mg/L	0.0500	0.005	0.84	69	6	91.30
	Antimony	0.0030	mg/L	0.0001	0	0.0005	69	0	100.00
	Arsenic	0.0100	mg/L	0.0005	0.0003	0.001	69	0	100.00
	Barium	2.0000	mg/L	0.0050	0.0023	0.0398	69	0	100.00
	Boron	4.0000	mg/L	0.0052	0.0004	0.05	69	0	100.00
	Cadmium	0.0020	mg/L	0.0001	0	0.00025	69	0	100.00
	Calcium	10000.0000	mg/L	4.6000	1.9	42.9	69	0	100.00
	Chloride	250.0000	mg/L	5.0000	1	82	69	0	100.00
	Chromium	0.0500	mg/L	0.0005	0.0004	0.0025	69	0	100.00
	Copper	2.0000	mg/L	0.0150	0.0005	1.11	69	0	100.00
	Fluoride	1.5000	mg/L	0.1000	0.05	1.16	69	0	100.00
	Fluoride (WU result)	1.5000	mg/L	0.9900	0.94	1.08	13	0	100.00
	Fluoride Ratio	0.8 - 1.2		1.0350	0	1.26	14	4	71.43
	Iodine	0.5000	mg/L	0.0100	0.01	0.03	69	0	100.00
	Iron	0.3000	mg/L	0.0300	0.005	0.99	69	9	86.96
	Lead	0.0100	mg/L	0.0006	0.0001	0.0072	69	0	100.00
	Magnesium	10000.0000	mg/L	1.9600	0.14	18.74	69	0	100.00
	Manganese	0.5000	mg/L	0.0089	0.00015	0.0928	69	0	100.00
	Mercury	0.0010	mg/L	0.0004	0.00005	0.0004	69	0	100.00
	Molybdenum	0.0500	mg/L	0.0001	0.00005	0.003	69	0	100.00
	Nickel	0.0200	mg/L	0.0004	0	0.0066	69	0	100.00
	Nitrate	50.0000	mg/L	0.5000	0.5	6	69	0	100.00
	Nitrite	3.0000	mg/L	0.0500	0.05	0.05	69	0	100.00
	pH	6.5 - 8.5		7.8000	6	9.5	69	5	92.75
	Selenium	0.0100	mg/L	0.0035	0	0.0035	69	0	100.00
	Silver	0.1000	mg/L	0.0001	0	0.001	69	0	100.00
	Sodium	180.0000	mg/L	11.0000	1	39	69	0	100.00
	Sulfate	500.0000	mg/L	4.0000	0.5	49	69	0	100.00
	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	600.0000	mg/L	49.0000	10	226	69	0	100.00
	Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	200.0000	mg/L	19.4000	6	184.3	69	0	100.00
	True Colour	15.0000	Hazen Units (HU)	2.0000	0.5	31	69	4	94.20



Analysis Type	Characteristic	Guideline Value	Units	Median	Min	Max	Sample Count	Exception Count	% meeting guideline values
	Turbidity	5.0000	NTU	1.1000	0.05	8.8	69	3	95.65
	Uranium	0.0170	mg/L	0.0001	0.00005	0.0101	69	0	100.00
	Zinc	3.0000	mg/L	0.0300	0.005	0.13	69	0	100.00
Fluoride Barcode									
	Fluoride	1.5000	mg/L	0.9050	0.87	0.96	4	0	100.00
	Fluoride (WU result)	1.5000	mg/L	0.9800	0.94	1	4	0	100.00
	Fluoride Ratio	0.8 - 1.2		1.0750	1.02	1.12	4	0	100.00
Microbiology									
	E. coli	0.0000	mpn/100 mL	0.0000	0	6	885	4	99.55
	Free Chlorine	0.2 - 5	mg/L	0.6000	0	7.29	869	163	81.24
	pH	6.5 - 8.5		7.2400	0.06	9	835	153	81.68
	Temperature	30.0000	C	15.1500	5	27.1	878	0	100.00
	Total Chlorine	5.0000	mg/L	0.7750	0	8.87	878	4	99.54
	Total Coliforms	0.0000	mpn/100 mL	0.0000	0	202	885	17	98.08
	Turbidity	5.0000	NTU	1.2700	0	40	885	42	95.25
Operational Monitoring									
	Fluoride (daily WU)	0.9 - 1.5	mg/L	1.0200	0.032	1.21	796	81	89.82
	Fluoride (weekly WU)	0.9 - 1.5	mg/L	1.0100	0.55	1.15	194	12	93.81

## Waste

### Snowy Monaro Community Strategic Plan 2040

#### Theme - Environment

#### Objective 1 - Our natural environment is protected and sustainable Strategies

- Protect, value, and enhance the existing natural environment
- Water, waste, sewer and stormwater management practices are contemporary and efficient

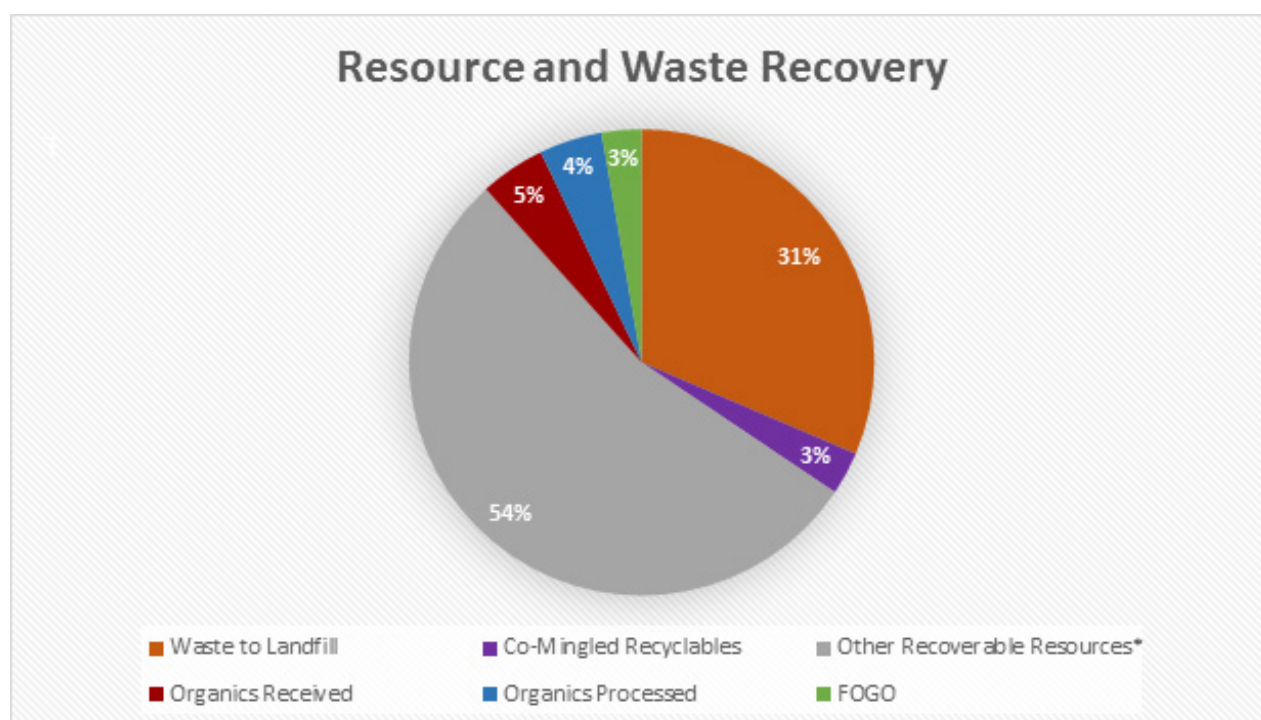
#### Resource and Waste Activity

##### Waste and Resource Recovery

Council operates three landfills and six transfer stations across the region. The service is delivered through a combination of Council workforce and external contractors. Council operates a domestic service of waste and recycling, and commercial services are delivered by Council and private commercial operators.

Since the merger, extensive consolidation of services has taken place along with the development of the Snowy Monaro Waste Strategy that represents the long term strategic direction of waste management for Snowy Monaro Regional Council aligning with the 20 year Waste Strategy for NSW.

The following statistics represent the activity from the last four years of Council's Resource and Waste Recovery Operations.



\*2020-2021 increase is a stockpile of VENM material from Polo Flat Snowy Project at Cooma Landfill  
The increased tonnages for organics throughout the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 years is attributed to the increased green waste from household clean-up activities during the 2019-2020 bushfire season.

## Waste Education

Snowy Monaro Regional Council offers and supports a variety of waste education events and campaigns, with the main goal to inform and educate the community in reducing waste going to landfill and living more sustainably.

Council's Resource and Waste Education team offer a range of activities and learning strategies to improve awareness and engagement on local sustainability issues and waste diversion.

Learning about waste diversion from any age helps reinforce sustainable behaviours and the younger generation in particular can take home the information and get their whole household involved.

If you are a business, community group or school that would like to host an information session based on recycling, home composting, worm farming, waste diversion/waste avoidance, please contact Council's Education team to arrange an education presentation.



*Pop-up stall at Nuggets Crossing Jindabyne*



*Education at The Alpine School Cooma*



## Educational Activities from 2017-2021

Year	Primary Schools	High Schools	Preschools	Pop up stalls	Agricultural Shows	Community/ Business Sessions
July 2017 – Dec 2017	4			3		3
Jan 2018 – June 2018	3		7	4	2	2
July 2018 - Dec 2018	5		3	3		3
Jan 2019 – June 2019	5	2	8	2	2	3
July 2019 – Dec 2019	4		3	3		3
Jan 2020 – June 2020			1		1	
July 2020 – Dec 2020				3		
Jan 2021 – June 2021	6	3	2	2	2	2

## Illegal Dumping Statistics

Illegal dumping is not only a financial cost to the community but it is also a threat to human health and the environment. Council works with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and participates in the statewide initiative of recording illegal dumping through the online platform of RIDonline. The database enables members of the community to report illegal dumping by uploading photographs, pinpointing location through Google Maps and describing the types of materials and volume dumped. The database also allows for both the state government and Council to manage the investigation through the platform, ultimately contributing to the overall statewide landscape data collected by NSW EPA.

Data collected over the past four years has recorded one hundred and twenty nine illegal dumping incidents across the Council region. Not only does this cost Council for the clean-up and disposal of the dumped waste, but the ongoing investigation and compliance work adds significantly to the costs. The types of materials dumped ranges from asbestos, tyres, to general household wastes like whitegoods and furniture.

*Below: Waste dumped in bushland*



## Land

### Snowy Monaro Community Strategic Plan 2040 Theme - Environment

#### Objective 1 - Our natural environment is protected and sustainable Strategies

- Protect, value, and enhance the existing natural environment

#### Objective 2 - Our built infrastructure is attractive and fit for purpose

- Planning for rural, urban and industrial development is sensitive to the region's natural environment and heritage.

## Built Environment

The Snowy Monaro region is experiencing significant growth. Over the last four years the number of determined development applications and the value of approved development is steadily increasing. The following table represents consistent growth.

Financial Year	Number of DA/MOD Determined	Value of DA/MOD Determined (\$)
2017-2018	445	\$52,549,756
2018-2019	477	\$68,042,917
2019-2020	457	\$85,952,477
2020-2021	497	\$109,821,686

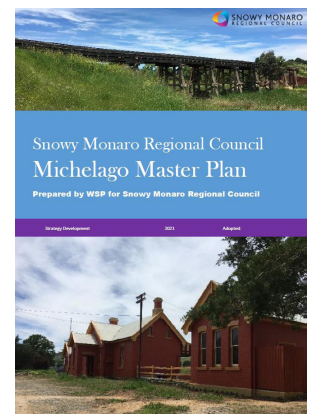
## Strategic Land Use Planning

Since the merger in 2016, Council has operated under three separate Local Environment Plans (LEP) representing the three former Councils. Over the last four years, the planning pathway towards a single consolidated LEP has commenced.

In May 2020, Council adopted its first-ever Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). The LSPS is the highest order strategic planning plan within Council. It sets the strategic direction for the next 20 years and captures the community's aspirations at a high level of how our region will grow and develop.

An action of the LSPS was to develop a Rural Land Use Strategy and Settlements Strategy to inform the drafting of Council's new LEP. Throughout 2020 and 2021, the draft strategies have been placed on public exhibition with feedback sought, and a community reference group developed to progress the draft documents. It is anticipated that in early 2022 a further draft will be ready to be placed on public exhibition.

The drafting of a Michelago Masterplan has also been a significant project of the Strategic Planning team commencing in 2020. The community has been heavily involved in the formulation of this plan, and it is hoped to be adopted by the end of 2021.



## Landcare

Landcare NSW is the representative body of the Landcare movement in NSW and the voice of community Landcare across the state and is active across the Snowy Monaro Council region. Landcarers work across farmland, bushland, parkland, beaches, national parks, rivers, dunes, creeks, Crown Land, public land, private land, forests, and travelling stock routes.

Landcare is a grassroots movement organised into groups and organisations – some are purely voluntary with half a dozen members while others are substantial organisations that employ paid staff and have significant budgets.

The Snowy Monaro Region falls within the South East region of the state. Within the South East region there are three main Landcare networks of Upper Snowy Landcare Network, Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee, and Snowy River Interstate Landcare.

All three consist of several community volunteers passionately working together to deal with environmental, agricultural and social challenges facing our region.

### Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare

The Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee (UMLC) was formed in 1995 as an umbrella group for the Landcare groups located within the upper part of the catchment. The UMLC covers an area of 6,500 square kilometres, from Nimmitabel in the south to Queanbeyan in the north and Adaminaby in the west to Numeralla in the east. The Committee comprises of representatives from Landcare groups and other regionally affiliated associations, with the primary goal of encouraging strategies that improve the land and overall environment of the Upper Murrumbidgee.

Within the last four years, the region has been impacted by the bushfires of 2019-2020. The fires damaged landscapes and destroyed native habitat for the various native flora and fauna across the region. While there have been several fantastic projects undertaken by all the Landcare groups, two post bushfire case studies are worthy to report.

### Michelago Landcare - protecting people and wildlife in dealing with bushfire damaged landscapes

#### The issue

The 2020 Orroral fire burnt through many areas along the Upper Murrumbidgee corridor, where many landholders manage their properties for conservation. The fire severely damaged extensive areas of natural bushland, with substantial tree death and a complete loss of understorey and ground cover. Without understorey an important habitat component is missing and a lack of ground cover is a risk for erosion and weed invasion. African lovegrass is of particular concern in the Michelago region and can rapidly outcompete native ground cover. To assist in recovery, strategic planting and weed control activities by landholders are needed. However, within the affected areas, trees damaged by fire pose a risk and until the area is made safe revegetation activities must be put on hold.

#### The solution

Unless suitably experienced, tree felling can be a dangerous activity and it often requires a professional. With support from the Landcare Australia Bushfire Recovery Grants 2020, Michelago Landcare engaged an arborist to assess safety across priority areas for revegetation. Trees posing a threat were identified and pruned or felled to provide safe access for landcarers. It was recognised that the felled trees were still important habitat and provided other ecological functions. Therefore, all felled trees were left in situ to provide a woody debris ground layer for habitat and to help reduce erosion. With the dangerous trees removed, planting of understorey species began and targeted weed control is now possible. Addressing post-bushfire threats in a recovering landscape was the first step in assisting native recovery.





*NSW Landcare – Tree felling*

### The impact

By bringing in a professional arborist to assess and fell dangerous trees, Michelago landcarers were able to safely undertake activities in priority areas. Revegetation is helping to provide habitat for the remaining wildlife and giving natives a competitive advantage over weeds. Weed control is also removing weeds before they can take over and promote recovery of a native understorey.

The problem trees are also providing urgent habitat on the bare ground and helping to slow rain water and reduce erosion.

### Learnings

Collaboration between the Landcare group, impacted landholders and arborist ensured success. Post fire predator control to assist in koala recovery.

### The issue

The Badja Forest Road fires burnt large areas around Numeralla in early 2020. Over 4 weeks this fire burnt more than 300,000ha of forest and was particularly devastating around Countegany and Numeralla. The area around Numeralla supports a range of tall eucalyptus forests that in turn supports a number of threatened species, such as the spotted-tail quoll and greater glider.

The area is also recognised as containing the most stable koala population in the region. The intensity of the Badja Forest Road fire was such that along with the understorey, much of the eucalypt crown was also burnt. The result of this for the surviving koala population is that food is scarce and patchily distributed. During such situations, koalas spend more time on the ground and are more susceptible to predation. Through support from Local Land Services (LLS) South East Bushfire Recovery Funding the project aimed to control feral predators within areas directly affected by the fire and the interface with the remaining remnant vegetation near Numeralla.

This project looked to reduce pest predation pressure through a targeted trapping campaign across known koala habitat and facilitate faster recovery for the remaining koala population and other surviving native animals.



*NSW Landcare – Koala identified as part of the case study*

### The solution

Pest control was undertaken along 25km of the fire scar boundary and adjacent properties. A cat-detection dog was used to survey the area to help identify trap positions. Qualified trappers were contracted to remove vertebrate pests using a combination of soft jaw and cage traps. Two trapping sessions were undertaken, each over 20 days and were conducted three months apart. Trail cameras were also used to monitor pest presence and abundance, as well as other species in the area.

Any feral cat or fox that was caught was sampled to conduct dietary analysis to identify any prey animals.

### The impact

Thirty properties within the Numeralla area joined the control programs which covered approximately 5.5ha. The two trapping periods caught similar numbers of cats and foxes and overall a total of eight cats and five foxes were trapped. These numbers identify that there was at least one pest predator present per hectare. The diet of these predators identified 6 different native species had been consumed, as well as rabbit. Results from the trail cameras detected rabbit, eastern grey kangaroo and wombats as the most numerous mammals.

Other mammals detected included koala, brush-tail possum, red-necked wallaby, swamp wallaby and echidnas. Despite similar levels of trapping success, detections from the trail cameras found that foxes were identified more frequently than feral cats and both pest species were detected at higher levels in the first trapping session. The consistent trapping success between the two sessions identified the dispersal capacity of pest predators and highlights the need for continual control if any long-term benefit is to be achieved. Landcare will continue to work with the community and Local Land Services to maximise pest control effectiveness within our communities.

## Upper Snowy River Landcare

Upper Snowy Landcare covers the towns of Jindabyne, Dalgety, Berridale, Nimmitabel & Cooma, a highly productive agricultural region that also encompasses some of the most valuable native grasslands in Australia.

Upper Snowy Landcare is working on a range of environmental and natural resource management issues. These include tackling the environmentally devastating tree dieback episode on the Monaro, maintaining and restoring biodiversity in our native grasslands; sustainable grazing; managing weeds and pest animals; erosion control; rehabilitating rivers and riparian zones; revegetation and drought management.

The Upper Snowy Landcare is a very active group that has four active groups under its wings; MacLaughlin River Landcare, East Jindabyne Residents Committee and Snowy River Landcare as well as the Jindabyne Community Garden.

While there were several projects and case studies undertaken over the last four years, two significant case studies are reported:

- Tree Dieback Project in just four years
- Fourteen biodiversity plots in the ground and funding in place for a further fourteen

### The issue

The Monaro region of NSW is suffering a eucalyptus (predominantly *Eucalyptus viminalis*, Ribbon Gum) dieback event over an area of >2000km<sup>2</sup> (the size of the ACT). This dieback has severely fractured a habitat classified as endangered by both the NSW and Federal Governments ('Tablelands Snow Gum, Black Sallee, Candlebark and Ribbon Gum Grassy Woodland in the South Eastern Highlands').

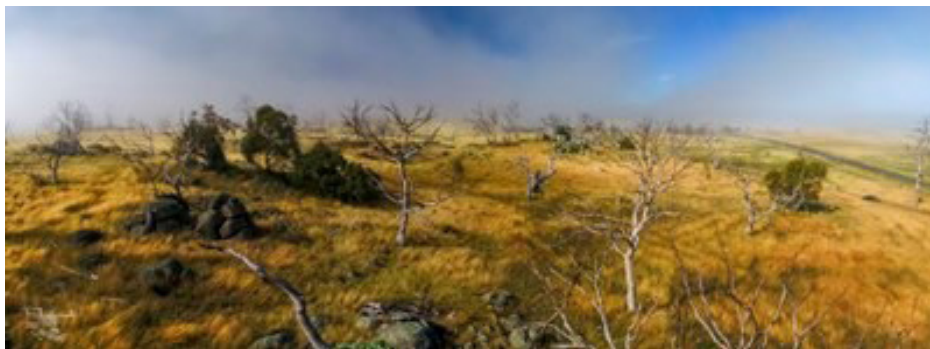
The lost habitat (e.g. mainly *Eucalyptus viminalis* trees) provide considerable values in the landscape including: habitat for small bush birds, reptiles and terrestrial and arboreal wildlife that make use of a dense and broad canopy cover, ribbony bark strips for bird (eagle) nest building; erosion control and shade/wind protection for stock in an area of relatively few trees.

### The solution

Restoration on as many properties as physically possible will be required as an earnest response to replace lost biodiversity and tackle the extensive tree dieback phenomenon.

Upper Snowy River Landcare's ultimate goal is to restore vegetation to dieback affected areas across the Monaro by inspiring landholders to follow their example. The specific goals of this project are to (a) kick-start this process by establishing revegetation plots that are highly visible to the whole community, (b) determine the best ways to ensure survival of newly planted trees through trialling of planting strategies, and (c) widely promote our activities among the landholder community to motivate them to take on the role of restoration in the future.

While there are many theories on why the trees have perished, Upper Snowy River Landcare is working with scientists to try and isolate the cause.



*NSW Landcare – Dieback*



## The impact

Planted in 2016, the four earliest plots, situated in the visual corridor between Cooma and Berridale, and in the dieback epicentre, have fared remarkably well with a 60% survival rate which is considered good for the extreme climate variations typical of the Monaro. In 2017 and 2018 another ten biodiversity plots were planted, eight on landholder properties and two on Travelling Stock Reserves. These plots are being monitored and so far with a similar survival percentage as above. Funding is in place for another 14 biodiversity plots to go in across the dieback region over the next three years. Greening Australia, Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Ministers Conservation Trust, National Landcare Project Environmental Trust are the key funders to date. Greening Australia has been a key partner as they roll out a Bush Connect Project over 10 years.

## Life After Death - What to do with the dieback trees?

### The issue

Dieback of ribbon gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) on the Monaro has left thousands of dead trees scattered across an area the size of the ACT. Although dead, these trees still play a vital role in the landscape. There was a need to educate the landholders and residents about this. Upper Snowy River Landcare embarked on a field day to count hollows in a Travelling Stock Reserve badly affected by tree dieback. It was determined that about 30% of the dead trees did contain a hollow. A small flyer was distributed throughout the affected area, put in the local newspaper and sent out to members and supporters.

### The solution

The brochure had two themes, *Let them stand* and *Let them lie*.

The brochure listed all the information that could be gathered on this important subject. Below is a snapshot of what was included:

Standing dead trees, especially those with hollows provide key habitat for birds, mammals such as gliders, possums, bats, reptiles and frogs. A third of the threatened animal species found on the Monaro rely on dead trees for their survival. Fauna species have become threatened due to loss of hollow-bearing trees leaving fallen branches where they drop rather than piling them up creates a good nursery environment for new trees to establish, fallen branches also provide habitat for ground-dwelling native animals. Burning dead wood sends carbon back into the atmosphere instead of where it most needs to be locked away in trees, grasses and soils.

### The impact

The flyer was received very well; however, this sort of knowledge seeps into the community slowly. Upper Snowy River Landcare have met landholders who have felt a need to 'clean up' and remove the dead trees but once dialogue begins this can lead to a very quick change of plan. When landholders understand the rationale for leaving the trees it can be a great relief for them. The flyer will continue to be distributed within the area.



NSW Landcare – Galahs nesting in dead trees

## Snowy River Interstate Landcare

The Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee (SRILC) represents nine rural landcare groups across two states – NSW and Victoria, in the south-east of Australia. The region stretches from the Monaro in southern NSW to the northern reaches of Far East Gippsland in Victoria.

SRILC is a volunteer organisation, managed independently by a Committee of volunteer landholders, that supports groups and individuals who are collectively working towards improving environmental outcomes and sustainability of our resources in the Snowy River Catchment.

There are nine member groups that have been formed along sub-catchment boundaries and they meet to discuss and address natural resource management issues and the challenges affecting agriculture.

In addition to the nine landcare groups represented by SRILC, we have forged strong working partnerships with local councils and regularly engage with State and Federal Government departments as well as local and regional community groups.

A majority of SRILC Landcare members are livestock graziers with some opportunistic cropping, however membership also includes smaller landholders with an interest in being more productive.

Topsoils is an initiative of the East Gippsland CMA and is a collaboration between delivery partners, Southern Farming Systems, Agriculture Victoria, East Gippsland Landcare Network, Far East Victoria Landcare, Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee.

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Agriculture Victoria. The project allows for landholders to have soil tested and analysed by experts enabling support resources to be identified to ensure soil health is maintained.







# STATUTORY REPORTING

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The information in this section of the annual report addresses the reporting requirements detailed in the *Local Government Act 1993* as per section 428 and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* as per clause 217 (1) and other relevant legislation.

It services to complement the information provided in other sections of this report as well as provide increased transparency and accountability to the community.

## Audited Financial Statements

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council 2020-21 Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Report are located in Part C of the 2020-21 Annual Report.

## Rates and Charges Written Off for the Year

In accordance with Clause 132 of the repealed Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council is required to report on rates and charges that were written off in the 2020-21 financial year.

During the 2020-21 financial year the following bad and doubtful debts were written off:

Expense Type	Amount \$
Movement in Provision for Bad Debts	\$303,456.61
Bad Debts Written Off	\$92,938.74
Interest Written Off	\$7,416.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$403,811.53</b>

## Report on Special Variation

Under the Special Rate Variation Guidelines, 7.1, Council is required to report any activities funded via a special rate variation of general income.

Council did not apply for any Special Rate Variations during the 2020-21 financial year, as such there are no activities to report.

## Legal Proceedings

During the 2020-21 financial year, Council was involved in three legal proceedings exceeding \$10,000.

Of the three proceedings all are on-going as at 30 June 2021.

A summary of all legal costs incurred by Council for the financial year include:

Category	Amount Incurred to 30 June 2021 \$
Planning and Development	\$216,188.20
Human Resource Management	\$5,730
Debt Recovery	\$210,650.93
Land and Property	\$44,991.95
Public Health & Environment	\$549.61
Other*	\$ 3,252.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$481,362.76</b>

*\*Other includes matters pertaining to Water and Sewer Operations, Corporate Governance and Executive Support*

## Councillor Representation on Committees

Council maintains links with a range of community based and other organisations via representation on relevant committees. Such representation is usually by appointment of either members or members of staff as delegates.

### External Committees

Name of Committee	Councillor Representative	Alternate Councillor Nominated
ANU Medical School - Community Advisory Committee Board	Clr Corbett	No alternate nominated
Boco Rock Community Enhancement Fund Committee	Mayor Clr Corbett Clr Stewart	No alternate nominated
Boco Rock Community Enhancement Fund – Sub Committee	Mayor Clr Corbett Clr Stewart	No alternate nominated
Bundian Way Advisory Committee	Clr Castellari	Clr Maslin Clr Stewart
Canberra Region Joint Organisation of Councils (CBRJO)	Mayor CEO	N/A
Community Safety Precinct Committee	Clr Beer	Clr Corbett
Cooma Correctional Centre Community Consultative Committee	Mayor	N/A
Cooma Universities Centre	Clr Maslin	Clr Rooney
District Bush Fire Management Committee	Clr Ewart	No alternate nominated
Delegate Progress Association	Clr Haslingden	Clr Stewart
Jindabyne Liquor Accord	Clr Beer	Clr Old
Local Traffic Committee	Clr Miners	Clr Haslingden
Monaro Regional Housing Forum	Clr Haslingden	No alternate nominated
Monaro Regional Interagency	Clr Castellari	No alternate nominated
Southern Monaro Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)	Clr Corbett	No alternate nominated
Snowy Monaro Neighbourhood Centre	Clr Old	No alternate nominated
South East Arts	Clr Haslingden	No alternate nominated
South East Australian Transport Study Group (SEATS)	Clr Miners	Clr Stewart
Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel	Mayor CEO	N/A
Southern Monaro Local Emergency Rescue Committee	CEO	N/A
Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee	Planning staff	N/A
Granite Hills Windfarm Community Consultative Committee	Clr Stewart	No alternate nominated

*\*Where N/A is listed an alternate is not required for a quorum*



## Section 355 Committees

In accordance with s355 of the Local Government Act, 1993 Council is able to delegate some of its functions to a committee of Council. Council uses this delegation and appoints members of the community to manage its facilities or functions through a committee or board of management.

Snowy Monaro Regional Council fully acknowledges and appreciates the valuable contribution made by those of the community who serve as members of Council's Community Committees. This is an important role providing a valuable contribution to the respective local communities that we serve.

## Section 355 Advisory Committees

Section 355 Advisory committees provide advice and make recommendations for Council's consideration.

Committee	Councillor Representative	Alternate Councillor Nominated
Cemeteries Committee	Clr Haslingden	No alternate nominated
Community Services	Clr Castellari	Clr Haslingden
Cooma Sale Yards	Clr Miners	No alternate nominated
Recreational Facilities	Clr Corbett	Clr Haslingden Clr Ewart
Snowy Monaro Arts and Cultural Committee	Clr Haslingden	Clr Maslin
Snowy Monaro Tourism	Clr Beer	Clr Corbett Clr Maslin
Yamaga Sister City	Clr Rooney	Clr Old
Snowy Monaro Weeds	Clr Stewart	Clr Haslingden
Yamaga Sister City	Mayor	Clr Rooney Clr Old

## Section 355 Management Committees

Section 355 Management Committees are comprised of community volunteers and manage facilities on behalf of Council. The following committees were active during the reporting period:

- Adaminaby School of Arts Hall
- Bibbenluke Hall and Sportsground
- Bombala Exhibition Ground Management
- Bombala Racecourse and Recreation Ground
- Bombala Railway Land Development
- Bombala Tennis Club
- Bredbo Cemetery
- Bredbo Hall
- Bungarby Memorial Hall Preservation
- Cathcart School of Arts
- Craigie Hall
- Dalgety Hall Management Committee
- Dalgety Showground (interface)
- Delegate & District Pre-School
- Delegate Early Settlers Hut
- Delegate School of Arts
- Delegate Sportsground
- Jindabyne Memorial Hall
- Jindabyne Shared Trails
- Jindabyne Sportsground and Recreation Areas Management Committee
- Kybeyan Hall
- Michelago Hall
- Mila Country Club
- Nimmitabel Cemetery
- Nimmitabel Hall
- Nimmitabel Showground Management
- North Ridge Reserve
- Numeralla Hall
- Numeralla Cemetery
- Old Cooma Grasslands Reserve
- Peakview Hall
- Shannons Flat Hall
- Smith's Road Hall

## Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities

Payments of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for the Mayor and Councillors are made under the guidance of Council's SMRC2 - Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Mayor and Councillors' Policy, located on Council's website.

## Money Expended on Mayor and Councillor Fees

Council incurred the following fees during the 2020-21 financial year:

## Provision of Facilities

Council incurred the following fees and expenses for the provision of facilities during the 2020-21 financial year:

Expense Type	Amount \$
Mayoral Fees	\$44,440.90
Councillor Fees	\$225,177.71
Total Amount Expended for Provision of Facilities	\$40,297.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$309,916.22</b>

## Statement of Total Remuneration of Chief Executive Officer

During the 2020-21 Council employed a Chief Executive Officer. Following is a statement of the total remuneration.

Section	Expense Type	Amount \$
(i)	Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors	\$0
(ii)	Telephone	\$6,877.70
(iii)	Conferences and seminars	\$5,986.47
(iv)	Training and development from prior year	\$0
(v)	Interstate visits	\$0
(vi)	Overseas visits	\$0
(viii)	Child or Family Member Care	\$0
	Travel (excluding overseas & interstate visits)	\$12,000.30
	Food and Catering	\$4,827.54
	Vehicle Allowance	\$6,987.86
	Other	\$3,617.74
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$40,297.61</b>

Section LGR 217(B)	Remuneration Component	Amount \$
(i)	Salary	\$292,237.40
(ii)	Additional payment*	\$3,000
(iii)	Contribution to superannuation	\$27,762.55
(iv)	Non cash benefits	NIL
(v)	Fringe Benefits Tax on Non-Cash Benefits	NIL
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$322,999.95</b>

\* Additional payment - Unused leave payments on termination

### Statement of Total Remuneration of Senior Staff

During the 2020-21 Council employed three Directors as Senior Staff. Following is a statement of the combined total remuneration.

Section LGR 217 (C)	Remuneration Component	Amount \$
(i)	Salary	\$496,139.45
(ii)	Additional payment*	\$206,924.60
(iii)	Contribution to superannuation	\$47,133.25
(iv)	Non cash benefits	NIL
(v)	Fringe Benefits Tax on Non-Cash Benefits	NIL
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$750,197.30</b>

\* Additional Payments relate to Eligible Termination Payments (ETPs)

### Overseas Visits by Staff, Councillors or Other Persons

No overseas visits by staff, Councillors or other persons occurred during the 2020-21 financial year.

### Statement of External Bodies

In accordance with the Clause 217 of the repealed *Local Government (general) Regulation 2005*, an annual report must include a statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the Council (whether alone or in conjunction with other Councils) where SMRC either held a controlling interest; delegated functions, or participated in during the year.

#### External Bodies (controlling interest)

Council held no controlling interest during the 2020-21 year.

#### External Bodies (participated in)

Council was a member of the following:

- Canberra Region Joint Organisation of Councils
- Rural Fire Service
- Statewide Mutual Liability Scheme, and
- StateCover - Workers Compensation Scheme



## External Bodies (delegated functions)

- Aboriginal Liaison Committee
- ANU Medical School - Community Advisory Committee Board
- Boco Rock Community Fund Committee
- Bundian Way Advisory Committee
- Canberra Region Joint Organisation of Councils (CRJO)
- Community Safety Precinct Committee
- Cooma Correctional Centre Community Consultative Committee
- Cooma Universities Centre
- Delegate Progress Association
- District Bush Fire Management Committee
- Jindabyne Liquor Accord
- Joint Regional Planning Panel
- Local Traffic Committee
- Monaro Housing Taskforce
- Monaro Regional Interagency
- Rural Fire Service
- Snowy Mountains Neighbourhood Centre
- South East Arts
- Southern Monaro Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)
- Southern Monaro Local Emergency Rescue Committee
- Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee

## Contracts Awarded

Details of Contracts awarded during 2020-21 financial year under the repealed *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* - Clause 217(1)(a2).

Details of each contract awarded by Council during 2020-21 (whether as a result of tender or otherwise) other than contracts for less than \$150,000 or such other amount as may be prescribed by the regulations, including the name of the contractor, the nature of the goods or services supplied by the contractor and the total amount payable to the contractor under the contract.

Name of Contractor	Goods or Services Provided	Total Contract Value (\$)
Bucher Municipal Pty Ltd	Supply and delivery of two mobile garbage compactors 29m <sup>3</sup> side load	\$910,336.00
Buckley's Rural Services	Weed control services	\$240,000.00
Buckleys Weedspraying & Contract Fencing	Weed control services	\$185,000.00
Byrne Rural contracting	Weed control services	\$150,000.00
Cardno Pty Ltd	Tender coordination, Contract and Project Management for the Adaminaby STP augmentation	\$720,720.00
Cardno Pty Ltd	Bombala & Delegate WTP - Design & Construction tender development - Contract & Project Management	\$821,700.00
Davone Construction	Construction activities	\$528,107.80
Earthmoving Equipment Australia	Supply and delivery of class 4.5 backhoe	\$169,708.00
Fewster Bros. Contracting Pty Ltd	Construction of Gravity/Risings mains and wastewater pump stations	\$3,609,883.78
Hartwigs Trucks Pty Ltd	Supply and delivery of one 4x2 road maintenance truck	\$269,134.00
McMahons Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Earthworks - wombat mesh	\$151,875.00
Pebblecrete Insitu PTY LTD	Supply of concrete pavers matching the colour and style of existing pavers previously laid in the Cooma CBD	\$375,862.00
RangeDale	Bombala & Delegate sewer main projects	\$208,410.00
Snowy Valleys Council	"Sealing road from Adaminaby to ACT border (see related contract 029/2021)"	\$375,000.00
Snowy Valleys Council	"Construction of separable portion 1A Back Creek as part of Bobeyan Road Upgrade Sealing Adaminaby to ACT Border Project (see contract 021/2021)"	\$350,000.00
Titanium	Traffic control	\$250,000.00
Wagga Trucks	Supply and delivery 6 x 4 tipper	\$226,896.00

## Financial Assistance Provided Under Section 356

In accordance with the *repealed Local Government Regulation 2005 c/217 (1)(a5)*, an annual report must include details of the total amount contributed or otherwise to financially assist others, in accordance with *section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993*. During the 2020-21 financial year Council facilitated cash and in-kind donations and sponsorships to 75 organisations, schools and community groups across the region.

Name / Organisation Council	Council Approved Amount (\$)
Adaminaby P & C Association Events Committee	\$1,155
Adaminaby Pony Club	\$4,000
Australian Breastfeeding Association	\$2,700
Australian National Busking Championship Inc	\$5,178
Berridale OOSHC	\$1,050
Bombala Historic Engine and Machinery Society Inc	\$3,000
Cooma & District Kennel & Obedience Club	\$1,000
Cooma Australian Football Club Incorporated	\$1,159
Cooma Bombala Legacy - Welfare	\$3,000
Cooma Chamber of Commerce & Industry Incorporated	\$1,047
Cooma Gymnastics Club Inc	\$450
Cooma Monaro Race Club Inc	\$2,000
CWA - Adaminaby Branch	\$338
Delegate Presbyterian Church Committee	\$1,204
Delegate Progress Association	\$860
Delegate Rodeo Campdraft Inc	\$1,500
Delegate Tennis Club Inc	\$450
Grand Pacific Health	\$1,500
Jindabyne Trail Stewardship Incorporated	\$5,024
Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club Inc	\$200
Lions Club of Nimmitabel Inc	\$200
MAGIC - Multicultural Activity Group in Cooma	\$2,228
Michelago Region Community Association	\$2,715
Michelago Rural Fire Brigade	\$4,000
Mila Bushfire Brigade	\$5,650
Monaro Air Rifle Club Ltd	\$730
Monaro Art Group	\$1,000
Monaro Community Access Service	\$2,000
Monaro Community Radio Inc. 2MNO	\$1,500
Monaro District Cricket Association	\$1,000
Monaro Early Intervention Service Inc	\$6,215
Nimmitabel Advancement Group Inc	\$1,000
Nimmitabel Men's Shed	\$1,553
Old Post Office Arts and Craft	\$411
Enjo Clean Up Jindy Volunteer Group	\$1,200
Pioneers Memorial Hall Committee	\$3,245



Radio Snowy Mountains Pty Ltd - XLFM & SnowFM	\$480
Raglan Gallery & Cultural Centre Inc	\$1,500
Rotary Club of Bombala Inc	\$1,500
Rotary Club of Cooma Inc	\$2,000
Snowy Mountains Motorbike Club	\$600
Snowy River RSL Sub-Branch	\$1,000
Snowy's Place Inc	\$5,000
St Andrews Uniting Church Cooma-UCA Monaro Parish	\$2,000
The Bombala Street Surgery - Accreditation	\$19,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$104,544</b>

### Recurring Donations

Name / Organisation Council	Council Approved Amount (\$)
Adaminaby Public School	\$100
Ando Public Hall	\$759
Berridale Public School	\$100
Bombala Exhibition Society Inc - Australia Day Committee	\$2,000
Bombala High School	\$100
Bombala Public School	\$100
Bredbo Public School	\$100
Cooma Lambie Street Preschool	\$1,232
Cooma North Public School	\$100
Cooma Pastoral and Agricultural Association	\$1,066
Cooma Public School	\$100
Dalgety Public School	\$100
Dalgety Public School	\$715
Delegate Public School	\$3,100
Jerangle Progress Association	\$200
Jerangle Public School	\$100
Jindabyne Central School	\$200
Lions Club Of Jindabyne	\$6,133
Michelago Primary School	\$100
Monaro High School	\$100
Monaro Mobile Preschool Inc	\$5,769
Nimmitabel Public School	\$595
Snowy Mountains Christian School Ltd	\$200
Snowy Mountains Grammar School	\$200
St Joseph's Primary School	\$100
St Patrick's Parish School	\$200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,569</b>

\* Rounded to the nearest dollar

## Statement of Activities to Implement our Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan underpins Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and, as required under the *Local Government Act, 1993*, outlines the programs by which the principles are to be achieved:

- EEO Management Plan 2012-2021 completed and published on Internet and Intranet
- EEO references are contained within Recruitment Advertising, Position Descriptions and performance review activities and reflected in Council's Vision and Values and induction training.

## Report on Compliance with the Carer Recognition Act, 2010

Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan refers to a workplace that promotes equity referring specifically to Carers.

Council's obligations under the *Local Government (State) Award*, with regard to carers' leave and flexible arrangements for staff, who are carers, is in accordance with the guidelines of the *Carer Recognition Act, 2010*.

## Government Information Public Access

The statement outlined below as Council's reporting requirements under *section 125(1) of Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009* (GIPA Act) and clause 7 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation (GIPA Regulation)*.

Council received thirteen formal applications of which eight were determined under the GIPA Act and the GIPA Regulation for the reporting period. The remaining five were processed as informal applications.

In addition to the formal applications, Council facilitated two hundred and fifty one informal GIPA requests during the reporting period. This represents an increase of eighty-three applications from the previous reporting period.

### Clause 7B: Total Number of Applications Received

Council received a total number of two hundred and sixty four applications, including any withdrawn applications but not including invalid applications.

### Clause 7C: Refused Applications

Council did not refuse any applications during the 2020-21 financial year.

## Schedule 2 Statistical Information

**Table A: Number of Applications by Type of Applicant and Outcome\***

	Access Granted in Full	Access Granted in Part	Access Refused in Full	Information not Held	Information Already Available	Refuse to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/ Deny whether Information is Held	Application Withdrawn	Total	% of Total
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Private Sector Business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Not for Profit Organisations or Community Groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Members of the public (by legal representative)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	25%
Members of the Public (other)	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	6	75%
Total	4	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	8	100%

\* More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

**Table B: Number of Applications by Type of Application and Outcome**

	Access Granted in Full	Access Granted in Part	Access Refused in Full	Information not Held	Information Already Available	Refuse to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/ Deny whether Information is Held	Application Withdrawn	Total	% of Total
Personal Information Applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	12%
Access Applications (Other than personal Information Applica- tions)	3	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	7	88%
Access Applica- tions that are Partly Personal Information Applications and Partly Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	3	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	8	100%

\* A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

**Table C: Invalid Applications**

	Number of Applications	% of Total
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	1	12%
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0	0%
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0	0%
Total number of invalid applications received	1	12%
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	2	25%



**Table D: Conclusive Presumption of Overriding Public Interest against Disclosure**

	Number of Times Consideration Used*	% of Total
Overriding secrecy laws	0	0%
Cabinet information	0	0%
Executive Council information	0	0%
Contempt	0	0%
Legal professional privilege	0	0%
Excluded information	0	0%
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0	0%
Transport safety	0	0%
Adoption	0	0%
Care and protection of children	0	0%
Ministerial code of conduct	0	0%
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

*\*More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.*

**Table E: Other Public Interest Considerations against Disclosure**

	Number of Times Consideration Used	% of Total
Responsible and effective government	0	0%
Law enforcement and security	0	0%
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	0	0%
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0	0%
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0	0%
Secrecy provisions	0	0%
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**Table F: Timeliness**

	Number of Applications	% of Total
Decided within the Statutory Timeframe (20 Days plus any extensions)	4	50%
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	4	50%
Not Decided within time (deemed refusal)	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table G: Number of Applications Reviewed under Part 5 of the Act by Type of Review and Outcome**

	Decision Varied	Decision Upheld	Total	% of Total
Internal review	0	0	0	0%
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0	0%
Internal review following recommendation under Section 93 of Act	0	0	0	0%
Review by NCAT	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0%
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>		

\*The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.

**Table H: Applications for Review under Part 5 of the Act by Type of Applicant**

	Number of Applications for Review	% of Total
Applications by access applicants	0	0%
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see Section 54 of the Act)	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	

**Table I: Applications Transferred to Other Agencies**

	Number of Applications Transferred	% of Total
Agency-Initiated Transfers	0	0%
Applicant-Initiated Transfers	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	

### Public Interest Disclosures

The following information is provided in accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act, 1994 and Regulation 2017*.

1. Council Policy SMRC 338 – Public Interest Disclosures (PID) Internal Reporting Policy meets the requirements of internal reporting as required under the Act.
2. Staff are made aware through information distribution via the executive management team.

	Made by public officials performing their day to day functions	Under a statutory or other legal obligation	All other PIDs
Number of public officials who made PIDs directly	0	0	0
Number of PIDs received	0	0	0
Of PIDs received, number primarily about:	0	0	0
- Corrupt conduct	0	0	0
- Maladministration	0	0	0
- Serious and substantial waste	0	0	0
- Government information contravention	0	0	0
- Local government pecuniary interest contravention	0	0	0
<b>Number of PIDs finalised</b>	<b>0</b>		

## Stormwater Management Services

A stormwater levy exists for the Bombala area that was imposed by the former Bombala Shire Council and inherited by Snowy Monaro Regional Council on amalgamation. However, there isn't a stormwater levy across the whole of Snowy Monaro Regional Council's local government area.

Work to create Developer Service Plans (DSP) for stormwater remains ongoing. This will calculate the developer contributions required for future stormwater infrastructure along with what levy can be applied to maintain existing stormwater infrastructure.

Once stormwater service plans have been received, staff will consult with both Council and the community to discuss any Stormwater Levy prior to implementation.

## Summary of Private Work

Council undertook access road maintenance for ratepayers including road grading, gravelling and ramp cleaning. All work was undertaken at commercial plant hire rates and not subsidised. All works were undertaken on private land not under the control of Council.

## Fisheries Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans

In accordance with section 220ZT of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* Council was not referenced in any Fisheries Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans during the 2020-21 financial year.

## Environmental Upgrade Agreements

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* Act and Section 54P General Regulation there were no Environmental Upgrade Agreements entered into during the 2020-21 year.

## Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans

Council was not referenced in any Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans during the 2020-21 financial year.

## Inspections of Private Swimming Pools

Council officers completed inspections of private swimming pools in the Region in accordance with the *Swimming Pools Act, 1992* and *Swimming Pools Regulation, 2008*.

Category	Number of
Inspection of Tourist & Visitor Accommodation	0
Inspections with more than two dwellings	0
Inspections that resulted in issuance of certificate of compliance under Section 22D of the Act	6
Inspections that resulted in issuance of certificate of non-compliance under Clause 18BA of Regulation	1

## Coastal Protection Service Provided

Council does not have any coastal areas, as such there are no levied services to report.



## Companion Animals Act 1998 and Regulation Companion Animals Statement on Activities

### Lodgement of Data Relating to Dog Attacks

Pound data has been entered in Companion Animals Register with the Division by Council Rangers. For the 2020-21 financial year:

- 85 dogs were impounded
- 35 were released to their owners
- 3 sold
- 18 released and rehomed with the Cooma Branch RSPCA
- 6 dogs declared as restricted were euthanised

### Lodgement of Data Relating to Dog Attacks

All dog attacks have been entered into the OLG Companion Animal Register with either menacing or dangerous dog declarations issued.

### Companion Animal Community Education Programs

On a regular basis, Council posts information on social media and provides guides, factsheets and general information on Council's website.

### Strategies to Promote and Assist the De-Sexing of Dogs and Cats

On a regular basis Council posts information on social media and provides guides, factsheets and general information on Council's website.

### Strategies to Seek Alternatives to Euthanasia for Unclaimed Animals

Only restricted dogs that cannot be rehomed are euthanised. All other dogs are rescued by the Cooma RSPCA or other rescue groups such as the Golden Oldies.

### Amount of Funding Spent on Companion Animal Management and Activities

Under Section 85 (1A) of the Companion Animals Act, 1998, the following table details the use of fund money used for managing and controlling companion animals across the region for the 2020-21 financial year.

Expense	Amount \$
Employment Costs	\$319,129
Materials and Contracts	\$17,400
Other Operating Expenses	\$200
Depreciation	\$1,530
General Asset Expenses	\$3,500
Internal Plant Charges	\$48,000
Internal Charges	\$0
Internal Payroll Charges	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$391,759</b>

## Snowy Monaro Regional Council off Leash Areas



### **Bombala**

Along the reserve of the Bombala River



### **Berridale**

Myack Creek Reserve – on Myack Creek Reserve near Ivy Cottage Estate



### **Jindabyne**

Along the Foreshore, west of the toilet block at the clay pits, to the east of the sailing club



### **Jindabyne**

Pooh Bay – Along Pooh Bay Foreshore, off Cabbon Crescent



### **Cooma**

Yallakool Road – Fenced off area within the Lions Park



### **Cooma**

Church Road - the grassed area which extends along Church Road and is bound on the far side by Cooma Creek. Signs showing boundaries and bins for waste are provided

## **Disability Inclusion Action Plan Progress**

In accordance with section 13 of the Disability Inclusion Act, 2014 Council must report on the implementation of its Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP).

### **Outcome Area 1: Building positive attitudes**

- Continued direct service provision of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) services
- No large gathering event held for International Day of People with a Disability (IDPWD) in 2020 however a small media campaign was supported to showcase and celebrate ability
- Presentation of Excellence in Inclusive Employment Award and Fletcher Lee Shield as part of Snowy Monaro Business Awards (including follow up media)

### **Outcome Area 2: Creating liveable communities**

- Accessibility upgrades to pedestrian infrastructure during maintenance and as business as usual (BAU)
- Improved accessibility to Council facilities as part of asset upgrades
- Ongoing advocacy to relevant State and Commonwealth departments to support accessible service delivery e.g. public transport, accessing health and telehealth services

### **Outcome Area 3: Supporting access to meaningful employment**

- Information on inclusion and Inclusive Communities made available on Council website
- Ongoing relationships with TAFE NSW and specialist Disability Employment Services providers

### **Outcome Area 4: Accessible systems, information or processes**

- Increased engagement with local emergency services and disability support providers to ensure the needs of vulnerable people are met during challenging times
- Continued development of service delivery models which are adaptable to online/virtual offering
- Move to new online platforms that are inclusive of accessibility considerations from the early planning stages

### **How have you determined that you're meeting the needs of people with disability?**

- Continued engagement with community groups and networks that include people with a disability and service providers
- Consultation with service recipients and their families/carers



**Describe your successes in delivering on the DIAP:**

- Partnerships with service-providing organisations
- Increase in event planning which is inclusive

**Describe your challenges in delivering on the DIAP:**

- Staff capacity
- Cost, in particular retrospective accessibility upgrades
- Challenges posed by COVID-19 e.g. different communication methods, less face to face engagement, increased vulnerability profiles
- Organisational awareness of the DIAP and its objectives

