



**SNOWY MONARO**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# **Minutes**

**Extraordinary Council Meeting**

**4 March 2021**



**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 81 COMMISSIONER STREET, COOMA NSW 2630  
ON THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2021**

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

**ON THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2021  
COMMENCING AT 6.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Beer  
Deputy Mayor Lynley Miners  
Councillor John Rooney  
Councillor John Castellari  
Councillor James Ewart  
Councillor Sue Haslingden  
Councillor Anne Maslin  
Councillor Brian Old  
Councillor Bob Stewart

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Rogan Corbett  
Councillor John Last

**Staff:** Peter Bascomb, Chief Executive Officer  
David Rawlings, Chief Strategy Officer  
Jeff Morgan, Chief Operations Officer  
Glen Hines, Manager Corporate Projects  
Cherie McNair, Senior Project Manager

**Notes:** *The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.00PM, Cllr Old was absent from the meeting from 6.30PM during item 5.1.1 To determine whether Council will lodge an application for funding with the Commonwealth Building Better Regions funding program for the Monaro Rail Trail returning at 6.41PM during the same item, There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.09PM.*

## 1. OPENING MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.00PM.

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

## 3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	<b>33/21</b>
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That the apology from Cllr Corbett and Cllr Last be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

<b>Moved Councillor Ewart</b>	<b>Seconded Deputy Mayor Miners</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
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### Note 1: Record of Voting

*Councillors For: Mayor Beer, Councillor Castellari, Councillor Ewart, Councillor Haslingden, Councillor Maslin, Deputy Mayor Miners, Councillor Old, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Stewart.*

*Councillors Against: Nil.*

## 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

## 5.1 KEY THEME 2. ECONOMY

### Note 2: Attendance of Councillor

Cllr Old was absent from the meeting from 6.30PM during item 5.1.1 To determine whether Council will lodge an application for funding with the Commonwealth Building Better Regions funding program for the Monaro Rail Trail returning at 6.41PM during the same item.

### Procedural Motion

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	<b>34/21</b>
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That Council move into Committee of the Whole.

<b>Moved Councillor Stewart</b>	<b>Seconded Councillor Haslingden</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
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### Note 3: Record of Voting

*Councillors For: Councillor Castellari, Councillor Ewart, Councillor Haslingden, Councillor Maslin, Deputy Mayor Miners, Councillor Old and Councillor Stewart.*

*Councillors Against: Mayor Beer and Councillor Rooney.*

### Procedural Motion

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

35/21

That Council move out of Committee of the Whole.

Moved Councillor Ewart

Seconded Deputy Mayor Miners

CARRIED

#### Note 4: Record of Voting

Councillors For: Mayor Beer, Councillor Castellari, Councillor Ewart, Councillor Haslingden, Councillor Maslin, Deputy Mayor Miners, Councillor Old, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Stewart.

Councillors Against: Nil.

### Procedural Motion

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

36/21

That the motion be put.

Moved Councillor Ewart

CARRIED

#### Note 5: Record of Voting

Councillors For: Mayor Beer, Councillor Ewart and Deputy Mayor Miners.

Councillors Against: Councillor Castellari, Councillor Haslingden, Councillor Maslin, Councillor Old, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Stewart.

### 5.1.1 TO DETERMINE WHETHER COUNCIL WILL LODGE AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING WITH THE COMMONWEALTH BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUNDING PROGRAM FOR THE MONARO RAIL TRAIL.

Record No:

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Author: Chief Strategy Officer

Key Theme: 2. Economy Outcomes

CSP Community Strategy: 4.1 Attract diverse businesses and industries to the region, supporting their establishment and retention

Delivery Program Objectives: 4.1.4 Strategic projects undertaken that grow the local economy

Attachments: Nil

Cost Centre

Project

Further Operational Plan Actions:

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Monaro Rail Trail covers a 214 kilometre line between Queanbeyan, via Cooma and ending in Bombala. The total expected capital cost of the Monaro Rail Trail is estimated at approximately \$70million to deliver. Monaro Rail Trail Inc. has requested Council submit an application to the Building Better Regions Fund (Cwth) on their behalf to provide funds for stage 1.

While the project is seen as beneficial to the community, it is not at the stage it needs to be to be eligible under this grant scheme. More detailed information and approvals need to be in place.

At the time of writing this report Council Executive have not seen the application as drafted by MRT Inc. Council is being asked to take responsibility for a grant application that it has not developed. There is a significant level of risk involved in taking on a project of this scale due to unknown costs, the incomplete nature of the planning phase and lack of clear community consultation relating to ongoing costs to Council and community. Council has limited understanding of what it is being obliged to do under this application and will have very limited time to review the information or determine the true extent of the obligations it is taking on.

It is known that the stage 1 costs are \$19.8million and the maximum funding under this scheme is \$10million. To meet the eligibility criteria the Council will have to provide evidence of the co-contribution from a third party or assurance that it has the funds available for the project. Council does not have this level of available funds to commit to the project.

The estimated annual maintenance cost is between \$250,000-\$300,000 per annum for the corridor alone, pre-development. The net cost of the trail maintenance in operation is currently estimated at up to \$500,000 per annum. There is a high risk that the costs could exceed this as the current costing is based heavily on unit rates, without accurate information on important aspects, such as the total area to be managed. Council does not have the financial capacity to absorb such costs neither has it had the discussions with the community to gain agreement to fund this new service.

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**37/21**

That Council:

- A. Not lodge an application under the current Building Better Regions Fund due to:
  - (a) The project not being at sufficiently developed to meet the grant criteria.
  - (b) The Council not having in place the required consultations with the community on the willingness to fund the service.
- B. Establish a Section 355 Management Committee to oversight the development the Monaro Rail Trail and invite representatives from MRT Inc. and Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council to participate.
- C. Enter into negotiations with the NSW Government on the proposed lease of the rail corridor.
- D. Ensure the Monaro Rail Trail is included as part of the Regional Trails Masterplan and the recommendations of the Regional Trails Masterplan are communicated to MRT Inc. in a timely fashion.
- E. Establish a management framework for all trails in the SMRC area, as recommended by the Regional Trails Masterplan, which will incorporate the Monaro Rail Trail.
- F. Continue to review grant funding opportunities to support the progression of the Monaro Rail Trail through the detailed design stage.

**Moved Councillor Rooney    Seconded Councillor Ewart**

**CARRIED**

**Note 6:    Record of Voting**

*Councillors For: Mayor Beer, Councillor Castellari, Councillor Ewart, Deputy Mayor Miners and Councillor Rooney.*

*Councillors Against: Councillor Haslingden, Councillor Maslin, Councillor Old and Councillor Stewart.*

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.09PM.

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CHAIRPERSON

The above minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Snowy Monaro Regional Council held on 4 March 2021 were confirmed by Council at a duly convened meeting on 18 March 2021 at which meeting the signature hereon was subscribed.