



SNOWY MONARO
REGIONAL COUNCIL

LATE REPORT

PUBLIC EXHIBITION COPY

Ordinary Council Meeting
17 November 2022

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD IN JINDABYNE MEMORIAL HALL, THREDBO TERRACE, JINDABYNE NSW
2627**

**ON THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2022
COMMENCING AT 1:00PM**

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

12. MAYORAL MINUTES

12.1 Council Declaration of Road Emergency

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12.1 COUNCIL DECLARATION OF ROAD EMERGENCY

Record No: I22/816

Author: Mayor Narelle Davis - Narelle Davis, Mayor

Attachments: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report proposes that Snowy Monaro Regional Council joins Local Government NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW in declaring a State-wide Road Emergency.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- A. Join with Local Government NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW in declaring a State-wide Road Emergency.
- B. Along with these organisations support:
 - 1) an acceleration and significant increase in funding for the \$1.1 billion Fixing Local Roads and Fixing Country Bridges programs from the New South Wales Government;
 - 2) a boost to Road Block Grant funding to compensate for the damage to the regional road network from the Federal Government;
 - 3) new funding to provide councils with plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs from the Federal Government; and
 - 4) the writing of letters to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, and the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier of New South Wales.

BACKGROUND

We are all aware Snowy Monaro Regional Council has been hit by a seemingly relentless wave of heavy rain and flood events in the past two years.

We are not alone. A total of 126 of New South Wales' 128 local government areas have had natural disaster declarations within the last 12 months, according to the President of Local Government NSW, Darriea Turley.

On 3 November 2022, Local Government NSW declared a State-wide Roads Emergency. The declaration – and urgent call for the NSW and Federal governments to increase their existing road funding commitments in the wake of the floods – comes on the back of an estimated \$2.5 billion in road damages and a collapse of the local and regional road network.

I call on Snowy Monaro Regional Council to show our support for this move and whole-heartedly endorse the Local Government NSW declaration of State-wide Road Emergency.

The declaration has already been publicly supported by our peak regional body, the Country Mayors Association of New South Wales.

12.1 COUNCIL DECLARATION OF ROAD EMERGENCY

We have faced, and may continue to face, an unprecedented and unrelenting series of natural disasters that has seen residents and business owners cleaning up again and again, people isolated, workers unable to get to work, and students unable to get to training or school. Add to this our very real and immediate concern for our primary producers.

The local and regional road network is critically enabling infrastructure. It is vital to our primary producers, our visitor economy and the key to keeping affordable food on the table across New South Wales and beyond.

Our road network, and the road network of shires across the state, has disastrous damage. We are facing a task that is beyond the reasonable scope of any local government authority. We face an unprecedented disaster that requires an unprecedented response.

We need help. Our community needs help. Other regional and rural communities across the state and beyond need help. We desperately need our leaders to lead.

We need to support our peak bodies in their declaration of State-wide Road Emergency. This is an emergency, and it is time to seek help, and by supporting this Mayoral Minute you are endorsing that I write to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, and the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier of New South Wales, pleading for immediate action.
