



SNOWY MONARO
REGIONAL COUNCIL

BUSINESS PAPER

PUBLIC EXHIBITION COPY

**Extraordinary Council Meeting
30 January 2023**

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

Councillors are reminded of their oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993 and their obligations under the Council's code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest arises when the Mayor or Council staff are influenced, or are seen to be influenced, in carrying out their duties by personal interests. Conflicts of interest can be pecuniary or non-pecuniary in nature.

A pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of a financial gain or loss.

A non-pecuniary interest can arise as a result of a private or personal interest, which does not relate to money. Examples include friendship, membership of an association or involvement or interest in an activity.

The Mayor or staff member who considers they may have a conflict of interest should read Council Policy.

The responsibility of determining whether or not the Mayor or Council employee has a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in a matter, is the responsibility of that individual. It is not the role of the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer, or another Council employee to determine whether or not a person may have a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council Code of Conduct is a requirement of Section 440 of the Local Government Act 1993, which requires all councils to have a code of conduct to be observed by the Mayor and Council employees attending a Council meeting or a meeting of a committee of Council.

The code of conduct sets out the responsibilities of the Mayor and Council employees attending a Council meeting or a meeting of a committee of Council. The code also sets out how complaints against a Council employee, the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer are to be made.

COUNCIL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

The Council Code of Meeting Practice is a requirement of Part 2, Division 1 of the Local Government Act 1993, which requires all councils to have a code of meeting practice. The code of meeting practice is to be observed by the Mayor, members of staff, delegates of the Council and members of the public attending a Council or a meeting of a committee of Council.

Acknowledgement of Country

Council wishes to show our respect to the First Custodians of this land the Ngarigo, Walgalu, Ngunnawal and Bidjahal people and their Ancestors past and present.

Webcasting

Council meetings are recorded and live streamed to the internet for public viewing. By entering the Chambers during an open session of Council, you consent to your attendance and participation being recorded and streamed on Council's website www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 81 COMMISSIONER STREET, COOMA NSW
2630**

**ON MONDAY 30 JANUARY 2023
COMMENCING AT 1:00PM**

BUSINESS PAPER

- 1. OPENING MEETING**
- 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
- 3. COUNCILLOR REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE VIA AUDIO-VISUAL**
- 4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS**
- 5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**
(Declarations also to be made prior to discussions on each item)
- 6. OTHER REPORTS TO COUNCIL**
 - 6.1 FINANCE**
 - 6.1.1 Resourcing Strategy Documents 2
 - 6.1.2 Application to Lodge a Special Rate Variation 6
- 7. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**
Nil

6.1.1 RESOURCING STRATEGY DOCUMENTS

Record No: I23/29

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the following resourcing strategy documents:

- Asset Management Strategy
- Workforce Strategy
- Long Term Financial Plan

ISSUES

Council's delivery plan needs to be supported by adequate resourcing to achieve the objectives and actions identified by Council as needing to be achieved. This is set out through the workforce and asset management strategies, which then lead into the long term financial plan.

These documents have been reassessed following the receipt of the financial sustainability review, with recommendations from this review incorporated into these resourcing plans.

The financial sustainability review identified the need for a significantly varied financial plan. Out of the recommendations also has come changes to other resourcing strategies. These strategies underpin the need for increased revenue as well as allocating resources to allow the Council to move towards a more programmed approach to asset management.

The long term financial plan (LTFP) varies from the plans adopted previously by Council and the plans in the financial sustainability review. The reasons for this are as follows:

- 1) Unit rates: The financial sustainability review (FSR) calculated a significantly lower need for a rate increase than the Council preferred scenario, this was due to two factors:
 - a. A much lower rate for road reconstruction. The initial plans used a rate derived from the cost of construction of new road and discounted for what was considered a sufficient portion to allow for the works being renewal, not new. AEC indicated that the rates they were seeing at other councils were lower for this type of works. This lower rate is also used by the Western Australian Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for assessing the distribution of financial assistance grants. It was decided to adopt this unit rate.
 - b. The FSR identified there was a need for increased maintenance, but no provision was made in the SRV proposed for an increase to cover those costs in the proposal as AEC could not gain sufficient certainty as to the level of need.

Most other changes from the Council's LTFP and the FSR forecast are set out in the financial sustainability review report.

- 2) Building and other structures maintenance: Since the FSR reached the stage that the outcomes were clear a project was commenced to develop a new LTFP that embodied the changes identified by the FSR as being required. The extent of funding needed for asset renewal already reasonably aligned with the initial modelling undertaken by Council. The FSR did not allow for additional maintenance. One significant asset class was identified as still being significantly underfunded. This was buildings. The Council holds approximately \$100million of buildings and other structures. Industry standards for planned maintenance

as a percentage of the asset value ranges between 2% and 3%. This year's budget allowed for 0.476% of the asset value. \$1.4million has been added to the budget to bring the percentage up to 1.88% of the asset value. This still remains low compared to the benchmark. Consideration was given to the reported condition of the assets. Only visual inspections have been carried out, but the available information indicates overall the buildings are suffering for age and lack of preventative maintenance. Working though these maintenance issues will not free up cash, but will avoid the 3.5 times cost that comes with reactive maintenance or 5 times cost that come with breakdown. This will substantially reduce the future costs to the ratepayers and begin to improve service satisfaction. While a proper program is yet to be developed there are clear areas where benefits can be realised, such as:

- a. Public amenities: These are not only used by the community, but also heavily used by visitors to the area. Rejuvenation of many of the aging facilities will reduce maintenance and cleaning costs as well as providing a good impression to users.
 - b. Multifunction/Exhibition centres: Both the Cooma and Bombala facilities have grant funded projects that are stalled due to the requirement to upgrade electricity lead-in infrastructure. The funding would allow these projects to get underway.
 - c. Community Halls: Council gained funding to assess for compliance 14 halls considered emergency refuge areas. The assessed compliance requirements total \$3.5million, of which only \$700,000 is available. Using funds from the building maintenance fund could assist with the shortfall. We also have a range of halls that have not been assessed that will undoubtedly have issues that need resolving. Council funds in a number of cases could be used to target grant funding.
 - d. A number of operational buildings are in need of renewal to ensure that they do not have a reduced lifespan, thus creating a greater funding burden.
- 3) Increasing resourcing to allow for better asset management practices to be put into place:
- a. Inclusion of a technical resource to supplement the asset management team: the level of engineering resource in the organisation is below where it needs to be. This prevents the development of strategic asset management. The asset management service review recommended the addition of three technical resources. It is not considered that this level of resources can be supported. Additional consultancies will potentially be required to supplement the team.
 - b. Scheduler – Property: The management of property is spread over several functions. It was identified by AEC that there is no resource managing the scheduling of the various works, leading to more inefficient use of the available resources and most likely higher costs to undertake a range of works. The critical need for a scheduler resource was also identified in the service review in the roads section. It was considered that effective planning of the organisations efforts would not be able to be achieved without this role in place. That role was able to be funded through restructuring.
 - c. GIS Officer To achieve effective strategic asset management Council will need to have graphical information systems working at a high level, so that the information is accurate and all asset management information is feeding though the system. At this stage the Council has 1 full time resource, which is well below what is required
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for the additional work needed to capture the information that is currently missing and improve the mapping data.

- 4) Organisational excellence support: Council's current allocation of funds to employee training is below the benchmark from the 2019 PWC local government benchmarking survey. Without adequate funds to upskill our workforce it will not be possible to provide good service or become an employer of choice. A small allocation of \$200,000 has been incorporated to allow for improved employee support.
- 5) Changes to escalation factors: Since the FSR was developed new forecasts have been issued by the federal government. The assumed future cost have been changed to reflect the more recent forecasts. These indicators of inflation are now higher than previously forecast, impacting on expenses and widening the projected gap between revenue and expenses.

At its extraordinary meeting of 24 November 2022 Council resolved to place the documents on public exhibition. They were on exhibition from 28 November 2022 to 22 January 2023. They are recommended for adoption without variation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Type	Current Risk	Expected Risk	Within Accepted
Asset Management	Extreme	Medium	No
Economic Activity	High	Medium	No
Financial Sustainability	Extreme	Medium	No
Health and Safety	Medium	Low	Yes
Legislative Governance and Compliance	High	Low	Yes
Reputation and Image	High	Low	Yes
Service Delivery	High	Medium	No

This assessment is made based on scenario 2. For details on the risk assessment refer to the report on the financial sustainability review.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Refer to the long term financial plan.

The long term financial plan has been developed to achieve the targets of having sufficient cash funds as well as a neutral or positive operating result within the ten year financial plan. To achieve this has required a 53% increase in rates, inclusive of the rate peg.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Chief Financial Officer

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The main options considered are in the long term financial plan. Consideration was given to the backlog of infrastructure that is in place. The cost of upgrading the backlog is currently estimated at \$143million. The extent of funding required to significantly change in the short term this is considered beyond what is affordable.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

The resourcing strategies will be used to develop the 2023/24 budget, taking into consideration Council's decision on which option, as outlined in the LTFP, to pursue.

EXISTING POLICY/DECISIONS

BACKGROUND

The Financial Sustainability Review undertaken by AEC Group identified the need to review the resourcing strategies to incorporate the recommendations provided in the FSR to secure Council's ongoing financial sustainability.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Asset Management Strategy (*Under Separate Cover*)
 2. Workforce Strategy (*Under Separate Cover*)
 3. Long Term Financial Plan (*Under Separate Cover*)
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6.1.2 APPLICATION TO LODGE A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Record No: I23/15

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council lodge an application with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a Special Variation as outlined in Option 1 in the Long Term Financial Plan, namely a one-off permanent 53%, including 4% rate peg, increase in total rates.

ISSUES

Council commissioned an independent financial sustainability review which made the following findings (Attachment 1):

- Financial forecasts indicate a significantly deteriorating operating performance. Without intervention, the Council will continue to generate operating deficits over the next ten years. The average forecast deficit over the coming ten years is \$12.3million.
- There is an underlying structural deficit of \$4.5-\$5million. A structural deficit existed prior to merger. The structural deficit is forecast to increase, impacted heavily by depreciation and asset maintenance. The impact of inflation on expenses and relatively flat (or negative) revenue growth will only continue to increase the structural deficit.
- This structural deficit results in the assets not being replaced at the rate required.
- The large majority of asset renewals is funded by external grants and this is not sustainable.

The above information confirms the previously identified position, that the Council is not financially sustainable in its current state. Recommendations are made for revenue, expenditure, financial governance, cash and asset management. Overall the recommendations align with the previously recommended path, that:

- The revenue needs to be increased
- There is a need for increased investment in the renewal of assets

It was identified that the focus of the funds raised from the Special Rate Variation (SRV) be:

- The sealed road network, with a focus on interventions to reduce the lifecycle costs of the assets and to provide the maximum benefit to the broader community
- The unsealed road network, with a focus on restoring the gravel wearing courses to provide the maximum benefits to the broader community
- To raise the level of maintenance/renewal funding for buildings and other infrastructure to the appropriate level to begin a program of restoration
- A project to review opportunities to rationalise the land and facilities assets that are used to deliver Council's services, including the rationalisation of the number of locations services are provided, considering a regional approach to service delivery rather than service in each location

At the council meeting held on 24 November 2022, Council resolved to consult the community on a possible Special Rate Variation with 3 options to consider, namely:

Option 1 – 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24.

Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result, ie financial sustainability. This is the recommendation from staff.

Option 2 – 55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from 2023/24.

Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million in asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Over time, current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result, ie financial sustainability.

If Councillors wish to adopt option 2, the suggested motion is:

That Council lodge an application with IPART for a Special Rate Variation as outlined in Option 2 in the Long Term Financial Plan, namely 55.25%% (including the rate-peg increase of 4% in 2023/24 and an assumed rate-peg of 2.5% in the following 4 years) over a period of 5 years between 2023/24 and 2028/29.

Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only.

Assets and service levels will deteriorate, and the current infrastructure backlog will continue to grow as additional assets deteriorate below satisfactory condition. Council will be required to reduce services and close unsafe facilities.

If council wishes to not proceed with a special rate variation, then the suggested motion is:

That Council:

- A. Not proceed with a special variation.
- B. Request the CEO prepare a report for Council's consideration of service changes that would achieve financial sustainability as defined by the financial sustainability review.

One of the common concerns raised during the consultation period (see consultation report Attachment 2) was the affordability of any rate rise above the IPART determined rate peg of 4% for the 2023-2024 financial year. The impact on rates of the two special variation options are shown in Attachment 3.

The consequences of the different options (scenarios) can be seen in the following table from the Asset Management Strategy:

6.1.2 APPLICATION TO LODGE A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

ASSET MANAGEMENT FUNCTION	SCENARIO ONE STRATEGY OUTCOMES	SCENARIO TWO STRATEGY OUTCOMES	SCENARIO THREE STRATEGY OUTCOMES
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced operations due to less emphasis upon inspection and mitigation of risks associated with deteriorating assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the short term, higher emphasis upon inspection and mitigation of risk of deteriorated assets while funding is increased in a staged approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to lack of funding, a higher emphasis will need to be placed upon risk mitigation and higher frequency of inspections for early detection of asset failure (especially critical assets). Operations on deteriorating assets likely to result in higher operating costs and breaks in services due to asset failures.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance is adequate to maintain assets at an acceptable level of service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance is constrained in the short term while additional funding is gradually realised. Unsealed road maintenance is significantly reduced in the short term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance is significantly constrained, resulting in further deterioration of assets requiring earlier intervention to renew or replace assets. Unsealed road maintenance is significantly reduced with half of the kilometres able to be graded.
Renewal/Replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets will be renewed or replaced according to the planned useful life of assets. \$113 million will be invested on roads over 10 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenario two will result in road treatments being halved initially (compared to Scenario One) with staged improvements until 2027/28 when the necessary treatments outlined above will be able to be fully funded. \$109 million will be invested on roads over 10 years. Scenario two will delay until 2027/28 the allocation of \$1,400,000 to the renewal of building assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewals and replacement of assets is significantly constrained. \$73 million will be invested on roads over 10 years (\$40.4 million less than Scenario One). This is not a sustainable approach to maintaining assets. Only 24km of unsealed roads to be resheeted a year. Reseal program limited to a reseal every 25 years (or 30km a year). Heavy patching limited to 4,300m² per year. Council will rely almost entirely on grants to replace bridges. Renewal of building assets reduced by \$450,000 per year compared to Scenario One.
Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No asset disposal is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No asset disposal is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset rationalisation will need to be considered to reduce the funding burden on asset maintenance and renewals and to mitigate the risk of assets that will deteriorate to an unacceptable condition.

The key differences in service levels between the three options identified in the LTFP are outlined in attachment 4.

Community Engagement

The Community engagement was undertaken during the period 28 November 2022 to 22 January 2023. The community was invited to complete a survey and ask questions via the Have Your Say section on Council's website.

Drop in sessions were held at the following times and locations:

- Jindabyne Library – 4pm to 7 pm on 8 December 2022
- Cooma Post Office – 9am to 11am on 9 December 2022
- Bombala Library/Community Centre – 1pm to 3pm on 9 December 2022
- Market stall – Rotary Market, Cooma on 15 January 2023

Online information sessions were held at 5.30pm on 10 January 2023 and 7pm on 18 January 2022.

The results of the community consultation is provided as Attached 2.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Type	Current Risk	Expected Risk	Within Accepted
Asset Management	Extreme	High	No
Economic Activity	High	Medium	No
Financial Sustainability	Extreme	Medium	No
Health and Safety	Medium	Low	Yes
Legislative Governance and Compliance	High	Low	Yes
Reputation and Image	High	Low	Yes
Service Delivery	High	Medium	No

Asset management: the ongoing lack of investment into assets under Council's control will lead to the deterioration and eventual need to remove assets as the risk of use of those assets grows. The backlog is of such a magnitude that the resourcing needed to resolve all asset issues means that the Council will still be exposed to some degree of risk of loss of assets. The financial sustainability review uses the control of retaining \$5million in unrestricted cash as a risk control for any premature failure of assets. The review also recommends identifying critical assets. This will allow a focus on areas where the main risk exists to ensure those risks are managed. It is recommended that this is the best strategy for managing the risk, taking into account the resources available and the impact on the broader community.

Economic activity: continuing to allow the deterioration of the various asset classes and removal of services once the funding and risk no longer allows them to be provided will create an increasingly low quality of life. This is expected to result in people seeking to move to areas with better quality infrastructure and services, resulting in a long-term decrease in employment levels. Increasing revenue to the effective cost of providing services and continuing to provide services is seen as mitigating that risk. Improved services would make the area more attractive, but that would take increased investment and need to come following broader community consultation on the willingness to invest into higher service levels.

Financial Sustainability: The financial sustainability review has outlined the projected financial position. The recommended actions will move the Council on a path towards financial sustainability, but there will remain considerable risks to the sustainability as the Council needs to transition through the backlog of infrastructure over time. The proposed finances does not include provision to actively deal with the backlog, only to adequately fund asset renewal going forward.

Health and Safety: As the infrastructure deteriorates the risk this posed to the public will also increase as the likelihood of failure of infrastructure increases. Increasing the funding to infrastructure renewal and focusing on critical infrastructure and general risk management will allow the infrastructure to be managed to minimise the risks.

Legislative, Governance and Compliance: Council has been advised that the Office of Local government is monitoring the actions of the Council and is expecting that the Council makes the hard decisions to place the Council on a sustainable path. If action is not taken to resolve the issue it is likely that the Council will be subject to a performance order and have either a financial controller or an advisor appointed. An example of what might happen can be seen in the order issues against Kiama Council: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Kiama-Municipal-Council-Performance-Improvement-Order-8-November-2022.pdf>. Note this is not an indication that the Council's situation is the same as Kiama, just providing an example what

performance orders generally contain. Invariably this will require the diversion of funds to fund a financial controller.

Reputation and Image: Council reaching the point where it has to take drastic actions in a reactive manner is likely to result in state wide media attention as seen with other councils in recent times. Also, as the condition of assets continues to deteriorate and funding needs to be diverted to increased reactive maintenance, the community will have a worse experience from poorer quality infrastructure and reduced services over time. An injection of funds as proposed will still lead to some deterioration in infrastructure, due to the backlog, but will improve the situation significantly. It will take some time to get to the standards expected by the community, but the quantum of funds required to significantly deal with the backlog is large. Poor reputation not only affects council and its current employees, but the future workforce and the ability to attract good applicants to work with council and see it as a solid career path to stay in the Snowy Monaro region.

Service delivery: As noted above the current strategy is to deteriorate assets, which is not sustainable and provides for an increasingly lowering of service supplied through infrastructure. Once the council reaches a certain point funds will need to be removed from providing entire services, rather than just a poorer experience.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The full financial impacts have been modelled in the Long Term Financial Plan.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Chief Finance Officer

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Council identified 3 potential options as an outcome from the financial sustainability review.

Option 1 – **53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24.** This is the option recommended by staff.

Option 2 – **55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from 2023/24.**

Option 3 – **No SRV, Rate Peg Only.** This is not recommended as it does not address the significant financial situation that exists. It would not take long for Council's financial reserves to be drained, risks would escalate and services would start to need to be cut.

Council could choose to reduce the service levels. Community consultation showed that while there was a preference to avoid a rate increase, there was a very high objection to reductions in services. This was not the previously preferred position of the Council. The services and infrastructure that the Council provides play a significant part in the lifestyles of the community, and reduction in those services and facilities is seen as more detrimental than the financial impact of increased rates, particularly when average rates are currently substantially lower than average for similar areas.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

Implementation will be through:

- Lodging an application with IPART for the preferred SRV option by 3 February 2023.
- The adoption of a set of resourcing strategies that achieve the recommendations. This is the subject of the other report for this meeting.

If an application is lodged with IPART for a special rate variation, IPART will undertake their own community consultation during February and March 2023. IPART will provide a final report and outcome of their assessment of Council's application in May 2023. At the June Council meeting, Council will then need to determine whether to go ahead with any approved special rate variation, or not.

If an application for a special rate variation is not lodged with IPART, the process ends here. The CEO will prepare a report for Council outlining what actions will be recommended to be taken to ensure the financial sustainability of Council without additional rate revenue.

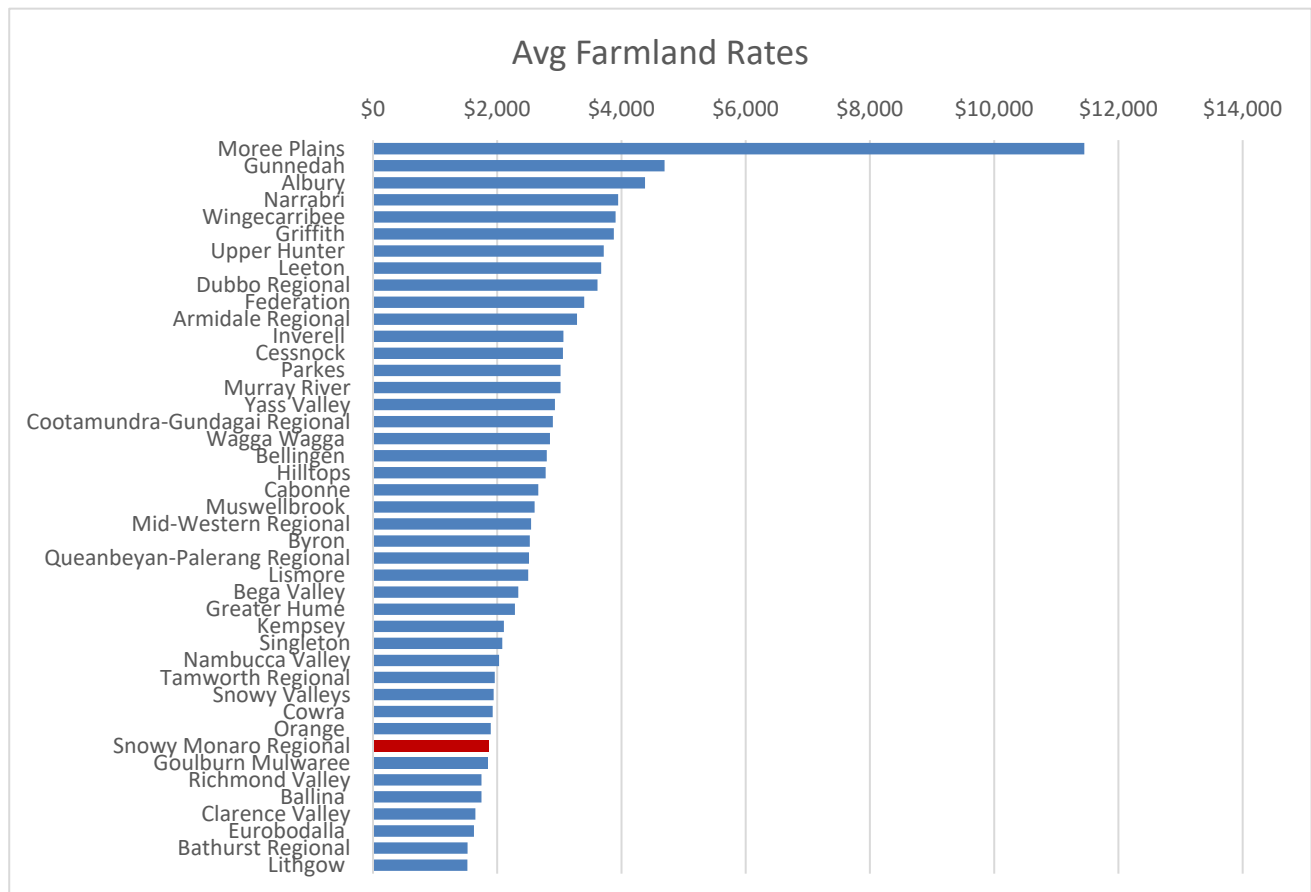
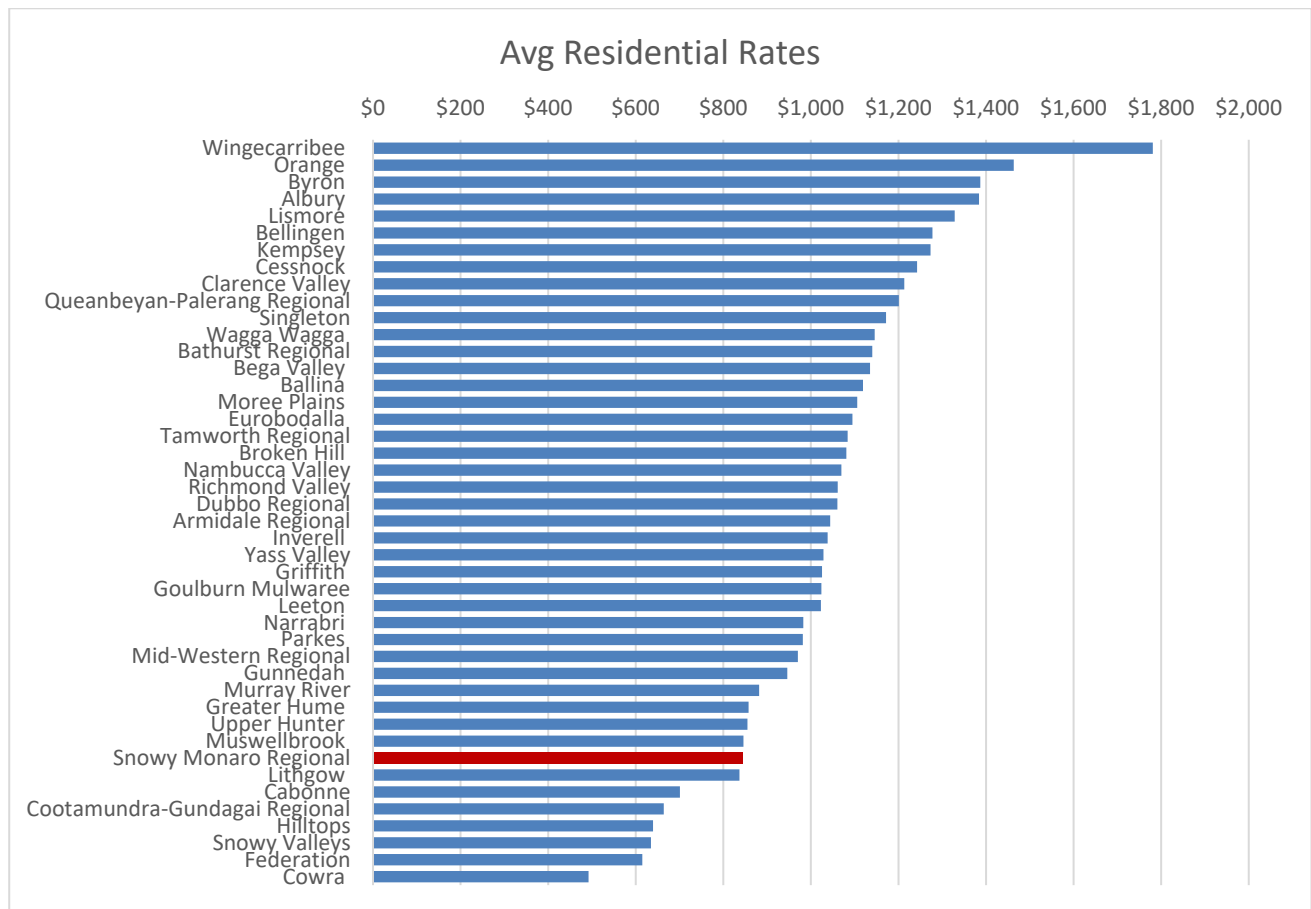
BACKGROUND

Revenue Measures

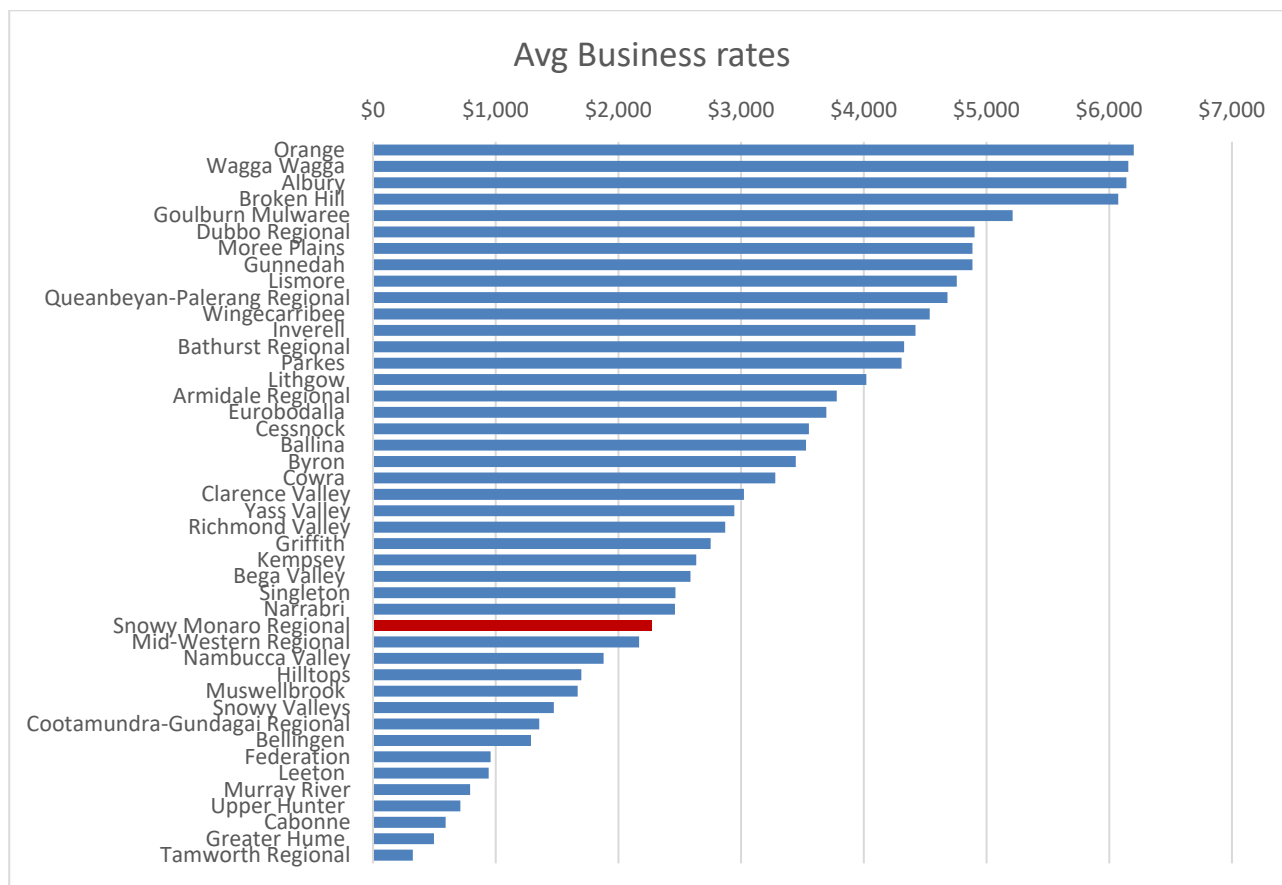
There is a clear need for increased revenue and this has been identified on multiple occasions. Prior to merger, the councils had already identified the need for increased rate revenue. Bombala Shire Council identified the need for a 23% increase. Cooma-Monaro Shire Council identified 40.1% and Snowy River Shire Council intended to apply for a 67.8% increase. In 2018 the Council identified that deficits would continue over the ten years and there would be a need for four years of compounding 10% increases above the rate peg. This issue was revisited following the period during which Council had to retain its pre-merger rate path (2020). This was just following the Black Summer fires and during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was not recommended to look at a special rate variation due to the financial impacts of the bushfires and COVID on the community.

Discussion on the need for increased revenue as part of the financial solution recommenced as part of the development of the integrated planning framework development following the local government elections in December 2021. Council placed models on public exhibition including a special rate variation of 9.375% per annum each year for eight years. It was identified that the council is a relatively low rating Council compared to other councils in its group.

6.1.2 APPLICATION TO LODGE A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION



6.1.2 APPLICATION TO LODGE A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION



When combined with the fact that the Council provides a much higher level of roads, halls, libraries and swimming pools it is hard to deny that there is not a revenue problem.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Financial Sustainability Review (*Under Separate Cover*)
2. SMRC Community Engagement Report - Proposed SRV
3. Impact on rates of the two Special Variation options
4. Service Impacts of the three LTFP Options



Community Engagement Report Proposed SRV from 2023/24



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SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

1 Introduction

The SRV Community Engagement Plan provided the framework within which Council engaged with the community and key stakeholders regarding a decision whether to submit an application to IPART for a Special Rate Variation (SRV). The purpose of this report is to outline the engagement methods used by Council, to provide a summary of the responses from the community and to identify key issues for the Council to consider in making a decision regarding an application to IPART for an SRV.

Prior to considering an SRV Application, Council undertook intensive Community Engagement during the preparation of the Snowy Monaro 2042 Community Strategic Plan (CSP), Delivery Program 2022-2026 and the Operational Plan 2022/2023 and the Resourcing Strategy 2022 - 2032. Consideration of financial sustainability and resource planning was a key component in preparing the corporate planning documents. Council further engaged with the community through the Community Satisfaction survey, and more recently through a Financial Sustainability Review survey.

Over the last few months Council has been carefully reviewing its current financial settings and strategies, as well as reviewing operations with a view to understanding the financial sustainability of the Council and to consider options to improve the financial performance of the Council.

Council commissioned an independent review of its financial sustainability – completed by AEC Group Pty Ltd (AEC Group). The assessment of Council's financial sustainability concluded that without intervention the operating position of the Council would continue to deteriorate, producing insufficient cash from operations to maintain and replace/renew assets when needed.

The review identified key performance issues for the Council's consideration and provided a list of recommendations to improve the financial sustainability of the Council. In response to the issues identified and recommendations made by AEC Group, the Council reviewed the Resourcing Strategy 2022-2032, including:

- Long-Term Financial Plan
- Workforce Management Strategy and
- Asset Management Strategy

At the Extraordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 24 November 2022, the Council decided to adopt the draft Resourcing Strategy for public exhibition and to proceed with notifying the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) that Council intends to apply for a permanent special rate variation.

The three plans that make up the Resourcing Strategy 2022-2032 are integrated with the financial impacts detailed in the Long-Term Financial Plan. The Long-Term Financial Plan outlines three different scenarios regarding Council's financial sustainability, including varying levels of rating revenue and the associated operating result, cash availability, and investment in assets. Each scenario presented represents a different outcome in terms of service levels provided to the Snowy Monaro community.

Each scenario refers to the rate increase inclusive of rate-pegging. Rate-pegging for 2023/24 is 4%. A rate-pegging increase of 2.5% is assumed for each year thereafter. The Long-Term Financial Plan considers the following three case scenarios:

Scenario One (requires a SRV Application) – Rating revenue is increased by 53% via a permanent Special Rate Variation Application to IPART for 2023/24 and then by the rate-peg each year after that. The total rating revenue increase under this scenario is an additional \$97.9 million compared to Scenario Three (no SRV) over a 10-year period. This increase in revenue will enable an additional investment of \$66.3 million in asset renewal, and current service levels in other areas to be maintained. This case scenario enables Council to maintain current service levels (including assets) and allows for investment in resources and capability with a focus on asset management.

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SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Scenario Two (requires a SRV Application) – Rating revenue is increased by 12.25% in 2023/24 and then 10.75% in each of the following 4 years – via a permanent Special Rate Variation application to IPART. The total rating revenue increase under this scenario is an additional \$76.7 million compared to Scenario 1 over a 10-year period. This increase in revenue will enable an additional investment of \$53.1 million in asset renewal when compared to Scenario 1 but will require current service levels in other service areas to be reduced. The staged introduction of an SRV over 5 years will enable a staged introduction of increased expenditure on asset renewals to maintain current service levels over time and allows for investment in resources and capability with a focus on asset management capability.

Scenario Three (no SRV Application) – Rating revenue is limited to the rate-peg increase as determined by IPART. This case scenario results in a deterioration in service levels, as revenue generated is not sufficient to generate the cash required for investment in infrastructure.

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SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

2 Why was Community Engagement Required?

Council has expressed interest to apply to IPART for an SRV to commence from 2023/24. An expression of interest is not a decision to proceed with the SRV – Council still needs to make a resolution to submit the application to IPART.

A criterion used by IPART when considering an application is whether the Council can demonstrate that it has taken the necessary steps to ensure community awareness and engagement regarding the SRV.

Council needs to ensure that the community has adequate opportunities to consider the proposed SRV increase, to provide feedback to the Council and for the Council to consider this feedback. The nature and extent of consultation should be appropriate, proportionate, and tailored to the purpose, extent and magnitude of the proposed increase, and the ratepayers who will primarily be affected.

Council needs to demonstrate it has:

- clearly communicated the full impact of the proposed rate increases to ratepayers;
- clearly articulated whether the SRV will result in either a temporary or permanent increase in the council's total income;
- clearly communicated what the SRV would fund;
- used an appropriate variety of engagement methods to ensure community awareness and input into the SRV process; and
- the community is aware of the need for and extent of the rate rise.

IPART will assess whether Council's consultation with ratepayers has been effective based on:

- the process the Council used to consult with and engage with the community about;
- the proposed SRV, including its timeliness;
- the content of the material used for consultation and its clarity;
- whether an effective variety of engagement methods were used to reach as many ratepayers as possible across all relevant rating categories in order to ensure the community is aware of the need for, and extent of, the proposed rate increases;
- whether the opportunities for input and feedback on the proposal made available to the community were effective;
- the outcomes from consultation and any Council response to community feedback; and
- how the IP&R documents set out the extent of the requested rate increases.

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3 What is Community Engagement?

Council is committed to our engagement practices of delivering communication aligned to the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) principles of the Public Participation Spectrum.

The Table below outlines the different levels of input and influence the community may have over a particular project. It is our goal to give the people of the Snowy Monaro as much say as the legislation, regulation, and practical realities of a given project allow. For the purpose of the SRV Community Engagement Plan, Council will Inform, Consult and Involve the identified stakeholders.

Table 3-1 – IAP 2 Framework

Increasing impact on the decision					
	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public Participation Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives opportunities and/ or solutions	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution	To place final decision making in the hands of the public
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced decision	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible	We will implement what you decide

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4 What are the Roles and Responsibilities?

The community engagement was based on the roles and responsibilities outlined in the Table below:

Table 4-1 – Roles and Responsibilities

Roles	Responsibility
Mayor and Councillors	Demonstrate commitment to community through effective engagement including liaison with community, collaboration and contribution to engagement. Establish partnerships while representing and advocating for the best interests of the community.
Chief Executive Officer	Ensure compliance with legislative obligations in implementing the Councils decisions, oversee adequate delegation and endorse initiatives that are appropriate and inclusive.
Employees	Ensure planned processes are consistent, aligned with relevant regional, state and federal equivalents and delivered in alignment with Council's values. Report back on how data collected through engagement has influenced the decision. Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of processes.
Community	Openly and actively participate in a variety of engagement opportunities. Provide respectful contributions through various means to ensure the community's voice is heard in decision-making activities. Deliver feedback on practices or process where improvements are identified.

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5 Who did Council engage with?

IAP2 considers the community to be any individual or group of individuals, organisation or political entity with an interest in the outcome of a decision – they are often referred to as stakeholders. They may be, or perceive that they may be, affected directly or indirectly by the outcome of the decision. Internal Stakeholders (individuals who work for or with the decision-making organisation) are also part of the community and the community participation process should reflect their needs as well.

The Community, the Elected Representatives and Employees were identified as stakeholders for the SRV Community Engagement Plan.

Table 5-1 – Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholder identification	
Community	The proposed SRV is a community wide issue and will impact the community directly. The impact may be through increased rates and/or changes to service levels.
Elected Representatives	Councillors are an important connection point/source with our community.
Employees	Employees in most instances are also residents of the Snowy Monaro Region and as such, are an important connection with our community.

6 How and When Did Council Engage With the Community?

Table 6-1 – SRV Community Engagement Plan

Technique	Engagement Method	Timeframe
Inform the Community	A. Council website – homepage slider with link, news page	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	B. Your Say website – featured consultation with documents and links	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	C. Internal Communications - SAM (intranet) for staff with links, CEO updates weekly (email), online sessions with CEO and CFO for staff	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	D. Fact sheets	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	E. Pop-up sessions - two-hour sessions each at Jindabyne, Cooma and Bombala	8 December 2022 – 9 December 2022
	F. Media releases	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	G. Online community consultation sessions (presentation and Q&A)	10 and 18 January 2023
	H. Printed promotional material available as customer contact points (fact sheets)	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	I. Mayor's letter to all ratepayers (printed mailout and email)	
	J. Newsletter	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	K. Social Media	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	L. eNewsletter	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	M. Newspaper advertisements	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	N. Community noticeboards throughout region – printed poster displayed	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
O. Dedicated Council stand and staff at Cooma Market 9am – 2pm	Market – 15 January 2023	
Consult	A. Pop-Up Sessions - two-hour session each at Jindabyne, Cooma and Bombala plus joint sessions with RLUS/LEP at additional locations	8 December 2022 – 9 December 2022
	B. Online Community Consultation Sessions (Presentation and Q&A)	10 and 18 January 2023
	C. Council Website and links to YourSay website – Online Survey	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	D. Written submissions accepted and compiled	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	E. Hard copy survey at key Council locations printed on request	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	F. Dedicated Council stand and staff at Cooma Market 9am – 2pm	Market – 15 January 2023
Involve	G. Pop-Up Sessions - two-hour session each at Jindabyne, Cooma and Bombala plus joint sessions with RLUS/LEP at additional locations	8 December 2022 – 9 December 2022
	H. Online Community Consultation Sessions (Presentation and Q&A)	10 and 18 January 2023
	I. Council Website and links to YourSay website – Online Survey	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	J. Written submissions accepted and compiled	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	K. Hard copy survey at key Council locations printed on request	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	A. Dedicated Council stand and staff at Cooma Market 9am – 2pm	Market – 15 January 2023
Collaborate	A. Pop-Up Sessions - two-hour session each at Jindabyne, Cooma and Bombala plus joint sessions with RLUS/LEP at additional locations	8 December 2022 – 9 December 2022

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	B. Council Website and links to YourSay website – Online Survey	10 and 18 January 2023
	C. Written submissions accepted and compiled	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023
	D. Hard copy survey at key Council locations printed on request	28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023

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7 How many visitors were there to Council's SRV website (www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au)?

The Your Say website for Snowy Monaro was used by Council to communicate and inform community members of the SRV Application was visited approximately 5,200 times (up to 22 January 2023).

Of the total visits 3,706 are considered to be "Aware" – defined by taking further action on the website (for example, downloading a document, visiting FAQs, or visited multiple pages. In total, 136 visitors to the Your Say website were considered to be "Engaged" – defined by asking a question of Council through the website.

Visitors Summary



Aware Participants		3,706	Engaged Participants				136
Aware Actions Performed		Participants	Engaged Actions Performed		Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Visited a Project or Tool Page		3,706	Contributed on Forums		0	0	0
Informed Participants		755	Participated in Surveys		0	0	0
Informed Actions Performed		Participants	Contributed to Newsfeeds		0	0	0
Viewed a video		0	Participated in Quick Polls		0	0	0
Viewed a photo		0	Posted on Guestbooks		0	0	0
Downloaded a document		439	Contributed to Stories		0	0	0
Visited the Key Dates page		21	Asked Questions		50	86	0
Visited an FAQ list Page		205	Placed Pins on Places		0	0	0
Visited Instagram Page		0	Contributed to Ideas		0	0	0
Visited Multiple Project Pages		453					
Contributed to a tool (engaged)		136					

The fact sheets on Council's website recorded the highest views/downloads (329), followed by the SRV Rates Calculator (257) and Frequently Asked Questions (233).

The AEC Report (Financial Sustainability Review) was viewed/downloaded by 120 visitors.

A smaller number of visitors viewed/downloaded the Resourcing Strategy documents:

- Long Term Financial Plan (75 views/downloads)
- Workforce Management Strategy (50 views/downloads)
- Asset Management Strategy (39 views/downloads).

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Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Faqs	faqs	205	233
Document	Special Rate Variation Fact Sheets (with tables)	192	329
Document	SRV Rates Calculator	171	257
Document	2022 AEC Report Snowy Monaro Financial Sustainability Review	85	120
Document	SMRC Long Term Financial Plan	51	75
Document	SMRC Workforce Management Strategy 2022-2026	36	50
Document	SMRC Asset Management Strategy 2022-2032	32	39
Document	SMRC Community Engagement Strategy SRV 2022-23	10	10
Document	deleted document from	1	1
Key Dates	Key Date	21	26

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8 What are the common issues raised by the community on Council's website?

In total there were 136 responders who asked a question using the "QandA" section of the Council's website. Council has responded to all questions raised and made available the response on the website.

The most common issues raised in the questions (or comments) on Council's website related to the affordability of increased rates when there is perceived cost of living concerns, including high interest rates and inflation on household goods and services.

The second most common issue raised in the questions seeks information about productivity savings, efficiencies and perceived waste in current expenditure that in the responders' view should be addressed rather than increasing the rates.

The third most common issue seeks further information about the proposed schedule of expenditure funded by the additional rate revenue.

A final most common issue in the written submissions was from respondents objecting to only three options to choose from (indicating that they abstained from completing the online survey), and seeking Council to enable community to propose alternative options outside of the three options proposed by Council.

Other issues raised include:

- Concerns with impact of increased rates on pensioners
- Request to clarify or further explain the proposed SRV
- Concern regarding the design and integrity of the survey
- Request to clarify if Council will continue to raise 50% of revenue through the fixed base rate
- Request to harmonise the equity across rating categories
- Seeking response to why the Council is in a poor financial position
- Requesting information about efficiencies and productivity improvements Council has achieved prior to seeking additional rate revenue
- Requesting if Council received income from visitors to the region and the tourism related industries
- Request to outline the acceptable levels of service as referred to in the Asset Management Strategy
- Concern with having to pass on increased rates to tenants
- Requests for information about where the additional revenue will be used
- Expressing views that Council should reduce expenditure rather than rely on increasing rates
- Concern with Option 1 regarding Council capacity to implement projects from the increased funds collected
- Concern about increased rates through SRV and increased valuations
- Concern with increased rates and a perceived lack of service provided
- Suggestion that Council should rationalise the number of Council office buildings and number of pools provided
- Requesting whether Council has applied to State and Federal Government for grant funding
- Suggestion that Council should increase rates on Air BnB properties or a bed tax.

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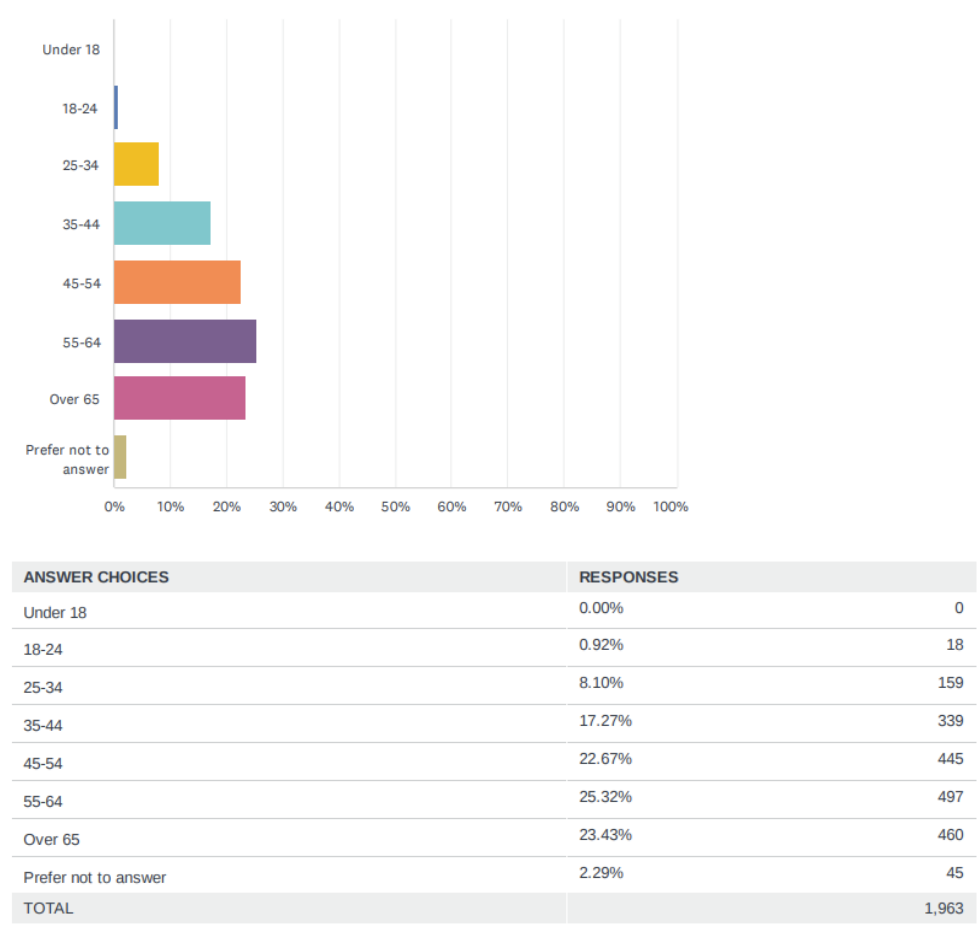
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9 What was the outcome of the Online Survey?

9.1 Online Survey – number of responses received

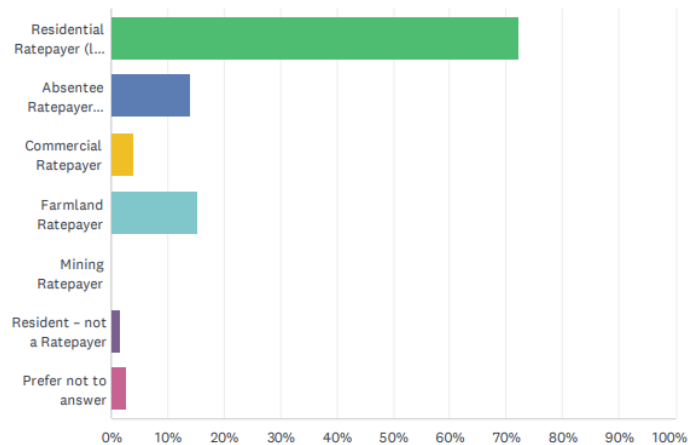
Council received 1,963 completed online surveys during the period 28 November 2022 – 22 January 2023. The responses are not from a random sample of the population and therefore caution should be made in extrapolating the results of the survey to the broader community. The responses reflect the views of a small sector of the community motivated to respond to the survey, however this is a high response rate for a community consultation survey in terms of percentage of ratepayers who answered.

See below for the distribution of responses from different age brackets:



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Of the total 1,963 completed surveys online, a 72% majority of the responses were from residential ratepayers, 15% from farmland ratepayers and only 14% from absentee ratepayers (primary dwelling is outside of the Snowy Monaro region), also showing the motivation of people to respond. It is normal for at least 85% of an audience not to provide feedback as they 'do not care' or are happy with the changes so prefer not to make a feedback contribution.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Residential Ratepayer (live full-time in region)	72.19%	1,417
Absentee Ratepayer (primary dwelling is outside of region)	14.01%	275
Commercial Ratepayer	4.08%	80
Farmland Ratepayer	15.28%	300
Mining Ratepayer	0.20%	4
Resident – not a Ratepayer	1.63%	32
Prefer not to answer	2.85%	56
Total Respondents: 1,963		

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9.2 Online Survey – preferred option

Of the total 1,963 responses from a ratepayer base of 15,000 people the breakdown was:

- 63% selected Option 3 (no SRV) as their highest preference
- 23% selected Option 2 (permanent SRV spread over 5 years) as their highest preference
- 14% selected Option 1 (permanent SRV in 2023/24) as their highest preference

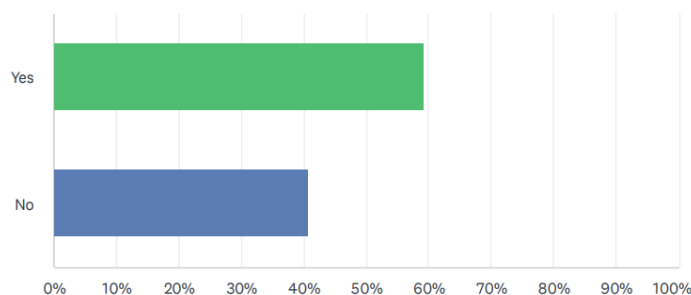
The results below provide a score for each option. The score is the weighted average of the option. The option with the largest average ranking is the most preferred choice. While Option Three has the highest score at 2.38, the score for Option Two is lightly lower at a score of 2.12. Option 1 has a much lower score at 1.5



	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Option 1 – an increase in rates of 53% in 2023/24 maintaining service levels	13.96% 274	21.91% 430	64.14% 1,259	1,963	1.50
Option 2 - an increase in rates applied over five years - 12.25% in 2023/24, and 10.75% in each of the four years after with some service reductions in the first five years	23.18% 455	65.66% 1,289	11.16% 219	1,963	2.12
Option 3 – no SRV - an increase in rates of rate-peg only (4%) with significant service level reductions	62.86% 1,234	12.43% 244	24.71% 485	1,963	2.38

9.3 Online Survey – were responders aware that Council was exploring an SRV prior to completing the survey?

A majority of responders (59%) indicated they were aware that Council was exploring an SRV prior to completing the survey.

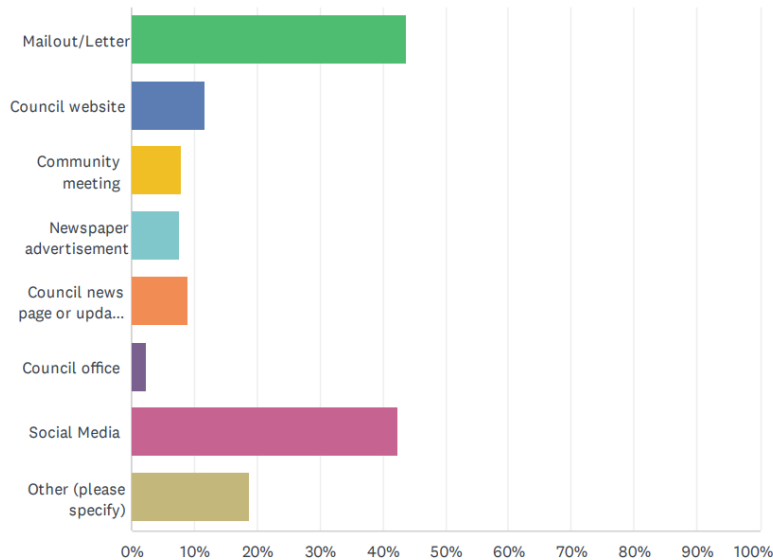


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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	59.20%	1,162
No	40.80%	801
TOTAL		1,963

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Mailout/letter to all ratepayers from the Council (44%) and Social Media (42%) were the most common ways the responders were made aware that Council was exploring an SRV Application.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mailout/Letter	43.71%	858
Council website	11.67%	229
Community meeting	7.79%	153
Newspaper advertisement	7.69%	151
Council news page or update column	8.91%	175
Council office	2.45%	48
Social Media	42.33%	831
Other (please specify)	18.70%	367
Total Respondents: 1,963		

9.4 Written Submissions

In total, 54 submissions were received by hard copy or sent as email. See attached for the full report of collated individual submissions.

9.5 Petition

Council received a petition submitted by Kate Ringe with 387 electronic signatures – see Appendix. Please note, not all of these noted their suburb of residence which means they do not meet the requirements of a petition.

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10 Reporting Back and Closing the Loop

Council committed, following completion of the engagement, to:

- Collate and analyse what the community told us (this report);
- Report back with results to the community;
- Inform the decision makers (Councillors);
- Inform the community of the decision;
- Explain how the decision was made and the influence of community input; and
- Evaluate the engagement process.

The outcome of the community engagement and subsequent relevant decisions will be communicated through a variety of methods including:


- Councillor briefings;
- Facebook updates and information posted on Council's social media;
- Website updates;
- Media releases; and
- Reports to Council, including seeking endorsement for lodging an SRV application.
- Printed updates in newspaper (Monaro Post) on council full page weekly ad

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Appendix A – Petition submitted by Kate Ringe

Say NO To Rate Rises, Say YES To An Audit



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Say NO to Rate Rises Say YES to an Audit

>>>> For more information:  Snowy Monaro Community Advocates

WHO IS IMPACTED?
Everyone who lives, works, **and** visits the Snowy Monaro region will be impacted by this rate rise. Locally we have witnessed the mismanagement of money by the Snowy Monaro Regional Council with complete immunity from state government oversight. The council **now** publicly admits that they have not been doing proper maintenance to public assets, public roads, and public buildings. Additionally, much of the money which was allegedly allocated for such maintenance is simply unaccounted for.

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council has rejected the public voice calling for a forensic audit into the council operation and instead have proposed a 53% rate rise - in a single jump on July 1st, 2023 - for home-owners, commercial property-owners, farmers and land-owners. The impact to the public is magnified by the wear and tear on our vehicles as well as the observable deterioration of our pools, libraries, and other public buildings.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?
If the Snowy Monaro Regional Council has its way, ratepayers will suffer with the 53% rate rise, and the council will not be held accountable for the money that has disappeared over the past few years. The council will continue to neglect our public roads and buildings and there will be no inquiry into where the money has gone.

Ratepayers stand to lose their properties if they cannot afford to pay this dramatic increase in rates. The local economy will suffer from the reduced capacity to spend which reduces income for businesses - who are also subject to large rate increases.

WHY IS NOW THE TIME TO ACT?
The Snowy Monaro Regional Council are in the process of applying to IPART for a Special Rate Variance (SRV) of 53% as **THEIR** preferred option. We need a strong community outcry to signal our continued rejection of this unfair, unnecessary, and unsubstantiated rate rise.

Please **Sign and Share** this petition **NOW** and voice both your disagreement with the rate rise and call for a forensic audit into the misuse of our public money.

Let's show Mayor Davis that we DO have a voice!!!

388 have signed. Let's get to 500!

At 500 signatures, this petition is more likely to be featured in recommendations!

Sign this petition


First name

Last name

Email

Townsville, 4814
Australia

☒ Display my name and comment on this petition

 Sign this petition

By signing, you accept Change.org's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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BACKGROUND:
Snowy Monaro council is a 2017 merger of three former council areas, namely Bombala Council, Cooma-Monaro Council and Snowy River Council.

Cooma-Monaro previously benefitted from a boundary adjustment because of the Yarralumla Council being absorbed - and extinguished - by Queanbeyan and Cooma. And prior to that, Cooma Municipality was merged with Monaro Regional.

The continual merging of council areas has led to a mismatch of planning laws and rules and a significant warping of community strategy.

The current merged council has not realized any of the proposed savings from the 2017 merge.

[Report a policy violation](#)



Start a petition of your own
This petition starter stood up and took action. Will you do the same?

Start a petition

Updates

- 250 supporters

1 month ago
- Kate Ringe started this petition

1 month ago

Name	City	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
			Australia	16/12/2022
	Winnifred	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	NSW	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Brisbane	4069	Australia	16/12/2022
	Melbourne	3004	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	East Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	East Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Civic	2601	Australia	16/12/2022
	Michelago	2620	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Brisbane	4000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Gundagai	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Bredbo	2626	Australia	16/12/2022
	Brisbane	4000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Illawong	2234	Australia	16/12/2022
	Kalkite	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Avonside	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Delegate	2633	Australia	16/12/2022

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Delegate	2633	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2602	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2602	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	16/12/2022
Delegate	2633	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2622	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2156	Australia	16/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	16/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
Hill Top	2628	Australia	16/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2600	Australia	16/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	2631	Australia	16/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
Bombala	2633	Australia	16/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
LAKE ILLAWARRA	2528	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	16/12/2022
	2226	Australia	16/12/2022
Melbourne	3766	Australia	16/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
Delegate	2600	Australia	16/12/2022
Kingaroy	4610	Australia	16/12/2022
Glenola	2620	Australia	16/12/2022
	2620	Australia	16/12/2022
Melbourne	3806	Australia	16/12/2022
NIMMITABEL	2631	Australia	16/12/2022
Warragul	3820	Australia	16/12/2022
Melbourne	3001	Australia	16/12/2022
Logan City.	4132	Australia	16/12/2022
Inala	4077	Australia	16/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	16/12/2022
Bendoc	3888	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2606	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	16/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	2550	Australia	16/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	17/12/2022
	2632	Australia	17/12/2022
Bombala	22632	Australia	17/12/2022
Moonbah	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
	4124	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Canberra	2611	Australia	17/12/2022
Chiswick	3806	Australia	17/12/2022
Araluen	2622	Australia	17/12/2022
Tweed Heads	2485	Australia	17/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
	2620	Australia	17/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
	2756	Australia	17/12/2022
Dalgety	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
	3451	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022

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Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
Quirindi	2343	Australia	17/12/2022
Lyneham	2602	Australia	17/12/2022
	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
Capel Sound.	3940	Australia	17/12/2022
Adelaide	5033	Australia	17/12/2022
Numbla Vale. Dalgety	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Flagstaff Hill	5159	Australia	17/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Perth	6000	Australia	17/12/2022
Colinton	2626	Australia	17/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	17/12/2022
NSW	2631	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2727	Australia	17/12/2022
		Australia	17/12/2022
	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Delegate	2633	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
	2170	Australia	17/12/2022
Canberra	2905	Australia	17/12/2022
	2076	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Melbourne	3000	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Melbourne	3000	Australia	17/12/2022
Perth	6000	Australia	17/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Adelaide	5001	Australia	17/12/2022
	2620	Australia	17/12/2022
Woodend	3442	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Wodonga	3690	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Hoxton Park	2171	Australia	17/12/2022
	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Burleigh	4220	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	17/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
Glenwood	2768	Australia	17/12/2022
East Burwood	3151	Australia	17/12/2022
Brisbane	4001	Australia	17/12/2022
Jerrabomberra	2619	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Melbourne	3978	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2611	Australia	18/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2611	Australia	18/12/2022
Maffra	2630	Australia	18/12/2022
	2088	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2902	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2611	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
Delegate	2633	Australia	18/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	18/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
Queanbeyan East	2620	Australia	18/12/2022
	2639	Australia	18/12/2022
Bundaberg	4670	Australia	18/12/2022
Brisbane	4000	Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	18/12/2022

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SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
		Samoa	18/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	18/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	18/12/2022
jinjera	2622	Australia	18/12/2022
Bredbo	2626	Australia	18/12/2022
Padstow	2211	Australia	18/12/2022
	2632	Australia	18/12/2022
	3168	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Dalgety	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
Bredbo	2626	Australia	18/12/2022
Auburn	2144	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
St Georges Basin	2218	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2630	Australia	18/12/2022
Anembo	2621	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	18/12/2022
Brisbane	4000	Australia	18/12/2022
Melbourne	3003	Australia	18/12/2022
Bredbo	2626	Australia	18/12/2022
Jerrabomberra	2619	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Drummoynes	1470	Australia	18/12/2022
Brisbane	4000	Australia	18/12/2022
Valley View, Adelaide, SA	5093	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2600	Australia	18/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	18/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
	3136	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	18/12/2022
	2176	Australia	18/12/2022
Avonside	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
Minnamurra	2533	Australia	18/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2600	Australia	18/12/2022
Adaminaby	2629	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Wilton	2571	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Cessnock	2325	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Reservoir	3073	Australia	18/12/2022
	2627	Australia	18/12/2022
Maffra	2630	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	19/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	19/12/2022
	3156	Australia	19/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	19/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	19/12/2022
WEST END	4101	Australia	19/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	19/12/2022
	2101	Australia	19/12/2022
	4703	Australia	19/12/2022
Karalee	4306	Australia	19/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	19/12/2022

SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Cooma	2630	Australia	19/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	19/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	19/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	19/12/2022
	6151	Australia	19/12/2022
Cooma	2030	Australia	19/12/2022
Glenola	2620	Australia	19/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	19/12/2022
Melbourne	3000	Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	19/12/2022
	5560	Australia	19/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	19/12/2022
Canberra	2602	Australia	19/12/2022
BERRIDALE	2628	Australia	19/12/2022
	3049	Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	19/12/2022
Adaminagy	2629	Australia	19/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	20/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	20/12/2022
Coolangatta	4225	Australia	20/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	20/12/2022
Yowrie	2550	Australia	20/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	20/12/2022
Kalkite	2627	Australia	20/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	20/12/2022
Moonbah	2627	Australia	20/12/2022
brisbane	4021	Australia	20/12/2022
Jindabyne	2539	Australia	20/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	20/12/2022
	2099	Australia	20/12/2022
jindabyne	2627	Australia	20/12/2022
	3139	Australia	20/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	20/12/2022
Melbourne	3000	Australia	20/12/2022
Healesville	3777	Australia	20/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	20/12/2022
	6148	Australia	20/12/2022
Russell island	4165	Australia	20/12/2022
MICHELAGO	2620	Australia	20/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	20/12/2022
Woree	4868	Australia	20/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	20/12/2022
Marshalltown	50158	Australia	20/12/2022
45-47 Bombala St, Nimmitabel, NSW	2631	Australia	20/12/2022
Rocky plan	2628	Australia	20/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	20/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	20/12/2022
Hazelwood	3840	Australia	20/12/2022
	2480	Australia	20/12/2022
		Australia	20/12/2022
Adelaide	5000	Australia	20/12/2022
Dalgety	2628	Australia	21/12/2022
	2632	Australia	21/12/2022
Elwood	3184	Australia	21/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	21/12/2022
	2628	Australia	21/12/2022
Canberra	2906	Australia	21/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	21/12/2022
Cardiff South	2285	Australia	21/12/2022
Canberra	2604	Australia	21/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	21/12/2022
	2630	Australia	21/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	21/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	21/12/2022
Canberra	2550	Australia	21/12/2022
Kurrajong	2758	Australia	22/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	22/12/2022
	3444	Australia	22/12/2022
BERRIDALE	2628	Australia	22/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	23/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	23/12/2022

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SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Blakehurst	2221	Australia	23/12/2022
Lavington nsw	2641	Australia	23/12/2022
	5163	Australia	23/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	24/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	24/12/2022
Yaouk	2629	Australia	25/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	25/12/2022
Bathurst	2795	Australia	26/12/2022
Moonbah	2627	Australia	26/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	26/12/2022
	2632	Australia	26/12/2022
	264	Australia	26/12/2022
Jerangle	2630	Australia	27/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	27/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	27/12/2022
Karabar	2620	Australia	28/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	28/12/2022
	2131	Australia	29/12/2022
NSW	2620	Australia	29/12/2022
	2548	Australia	29/12/2022
Bredbo	2626	Australia	30/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	2/01/2023
Sydney	2330	Australia	2/01/2023
	2000	Australia	2/01/2023
Melbourne	3001	Australia	2/01/2023
Ropes Crossing	2760	Australia	2/01/2023
Perth	6060	Australia	2/01/2023
	2905	Australia	2/01/2023
Delegate	2632	Australia	3/01/2023
Andergrove Queensland	4740	Australia	3/01/2023
Bombala	2632	Australia	3/01/2023
	2633	Australia	3/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	3/01/2023
Canberra	2600	Australia	3/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	3/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	3/01/2023
Delegate	2633	Australia	3/01/2023
Brisbane	4000	Australia	3/01/2023
Maffra	3860	Australia	3/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	3/01/2023
bayswater	6053	Australia	3/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	4/01/2023
Sydney	2001	Australia	5/01/2023
cooma	2630	Australia	5/01/2023
	1500-000	Portugal	5/01/2023
Canberra	2617	Australia	6/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	6/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	8/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	8/01/2023
Cooma	2630	Australia	8/01/2023
Cooma	2630	Australia	8/01/2023
Cooma	2630	Australia	9/01/2023
Dalton	2581	Australia	9/01/2023
Dalgety	2628	Australia	11/01/2023
Sydney	2000	Australia	12/01/2023
NIMMITABEL	2631	Australia	12/01/2023
Canberra	2611	Australia	13/01/2023
Steeple Flat	2631	Australia	15/01/2023
Bombala	2632	Australia	16/01/2023
Cooma	2630	Australia	16/01/2023

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SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Appendix B – Written submissions received

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate rise
Date: 28.11.2022 10:52:43 (+01:00)

If the council intends to raise rates then I would suggest that they start doing something about all that needs to be done around town. There are a lot of people who are not happy with this current council and their dealings. I would like to give this council the benefit of the doubt but from what we see around town and hear the council doesn't seem to have any concern about the people or the area. Please take a hard look at yourselves and what you've been doing.

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website
Date: 08.12.2022 06:32:55 (+01:00)

The "your say" address provided was not accessible. See my concerns below. You have also published my personal email address without my consent. Please delete this personal information

Thanks,

Begin forwarded message:

From
Date: December 8, 2022 at 5:12:24 PM GMT+11
To: Yoursay@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Sorry but this does not adequately address the concern. Anyone could type in a post code from publicly available information, and an IP address does not uniquely identify a ratepayer or a resident regardless if it is unique or not. Anyone can change their IP address and it's possible multiple respondents could share an IP address.

On Dec 8, 2022, at 4:49 PM, Your Say Snowy Monaro
<notifications@engagementhq.com> wrote:

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'How does council validate that responses for this survey are representative of bona fide ratepayers or residents of the LGA?'

Our response has now been posted on the site.

Our response:

Council has requested that each respondent include their post code and each survey is linked to a unique IP address.

Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject:
Date: 08.12.2022 08:33:32 (+01:00)

Good morning.

I am wondering by what means the Council will be informing ALL ratepayers of the important issues that are being considered by Council at this time.

Especially the rate rise and LEP issues.

I personally have received a flyer concerning the LEP in the mail which then directs me to a website.

My main concern is that there would be a substantial part of our aging community that are relatively computer illiterate, don't have a computer or even a smart phone let alone know how to use it.

How does Council inform this sector of their upcoming decisions which could impact them severely financially.

Regards

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate rise
Date: 07.12.2022 12:06:44 (+01:00)

Please email me the details of the proposed rate rise.

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Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation - Feedback
Date: 12.12.2022 10:25:37 (+01:00)

Hi Council

I don't feel that the information you provided has enough details about how you plan on spending the additional funds. At this point in time from a ratepayers perspective and a person who grew up in the area, the district has been neglected for decades, one clear example is the disappearance of the footpaths on Orana Ave and other streets in the Cooma North area, lack of direction on the future of the snowy mountains area, tourism, sustainability, the environment and a plan on how to draw new businesses to the area to attract young people, create jobs and keep them here.

I fear likely many other residents that once the Snowy 2 scheme has been completed the current demand and income from these workers will leave the area and the result will be lower rents, no jobs and the area reverting back to its state prior to the scheme commencing.

The Snowy Mountains council needs to develop a roadmap and a plan to reinvigorate the entire Snowy region and make it attractive for businesses and young people to move into to build on the region's economy and appeal.

The Brumby distillery and Dalgety Brewery are great examples of what visitors want to experience in the local area and these are the types of experiences in addition to what is already on offer and support these visionaries to help bring about change to the area. The snowy should wish to be a Hunter Valley, Bowral, The Barossa type of destination. Watch Narooma transform now that Justin Hemmes has purchased all the local pubs, he has a vision with an extensive track record in turning poor performing venues into funky unique food, and dining experiences promoting the best of the local area and its produce.

The Snowy region has a lot to offer and the council is not promoting or open to new ideas or providing incentives to bring it back to life. If you want us, ratepayers, to fork out more money we want to see more value for it.

Regards

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed Rate increase and rezoning
Date: 12.12.2022 20:43:42 (+01:00)

Dear Snowy Monaro council

I received a proposed rate increase email. A month ago, I also received a letter propose to change zoning of my land from rural to environmental protection, for better environmental protections apparently.

I'm a land owner of a block of rural land at Road, Michaelago. I receive no water, road access, electricity or rubbish collection. And I have been paying council rates for the past 10 years.

If the council is willing to rezone the property to low density residential areas, I will be more than happy to pay the proposed 53% council fee increase. You can increase the rates 100% if I can build on the property. Otherwise its really unfair having any fee increase without any council services offered to me or to my property, especially when the council is looking to make it even more impossible for me to build by rezoning the property to environmental protection areas. If the council wants a Park for environmental protections, buy it from us rates-payers and build a national park. It's daylight robbery to ask rates-payers to pay rates and rate increases, and meanwhile use their lands as environmental protection zone.

Regards

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation Survey
Date: 15.12.2022 10:26:03 (+01:00)

Good morning SMRC

On 13/12/22 I completed and submitted your SRV Survey Monkey.

As you probably realise I could not cc a copy of my response to myself for my records nor was it possible to copy/print the doc' before I sent it.

As such could you please forward a copy of my submission to me in order I can pursue some of the matters I have raised as I have no record of the comments I made.

My response can be identified by the inclusion of " , Gullies Road" in the single free text question.

Thanks.

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation
Date: 14.12.2022 15:16:01 (+01:00)
Attachments: Council rate variation.docx (1 page)

Hi can you please forward the attached Letter to relevant councillors.
Kind Regards

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Confidential Draft

Monday 12th December, 2022

To Whom it may concern

I am writing regarding Snowy Monaro Regional Council proposed special rate variation.

Table 1 in your information sheet shows an average residential rate going up from (roughly) \$1000 to \$1500 per annum. Considering the services provided by council such as waste removal, sewerage, water supplies, paved roads and foot paths, this is probably not an unreasonable increase and affordable to most house or business owners.

Table one States that the average farm is paying \$2026.30 in rates. (I find this figure highly questionable are you able to clarify what council deems as farmland). I consider the farm that I am lease/ purchasing to be an average size farm. The income from this farm combined with the income from my wife's full-time job in town is enough to support a family.

I am paying over \$16000 a year in rates, a %53 increase to me would mean an extra \$8000 a year. I would remind council that we already pay a waste disposal fee for each rateable block although we do not have a rubbish collection service supplied by the council. We pay for our own sewage treatment and removal and pay for our own water supply. We are lucky if we have our road graded on average once every 12 to 18 months. When a tree falls in the road easement onto the road or onto our fence we must remove and repair at our own cost. If our driveway entrance washes out because of poor road drainage and maintenance, we must repair it at our own cost.

My point is we already receive sub standard services that we are paying through the nose for.

Councils LEP and land zoning policies state that they are trying to protect productive agricultural land. The proposed 53% increase in rates will make a lot of family sized farms unsustainable, which would mean family farms would have to split into minimum lot sizes and be sold. This is not protecting farmland; it is achieving the opposite by turning viable agricultural enterprises into unproductive and sometimes vacant hobby farms.

As council know farmland rates are calculated by valuations from the valuer general. One of my blocks unexplainably increased in value from \$60000 to \$100000. Council receives a rate increase every 3 years when land is valued. Councils' rates are also increased by being adjusted to CPI.

Our Local and State governments claimed that the forced amalgamation of the Shires was necessary to create savings and efficiencies that would make the shires remain sustainable. It seems to have had the exact opposite effect, more cost, more consultants, more contractors and more waste.

I would beg the powers that be to reconsider the 53% increase to farmland rates. It unfairly penalizes the rate payers that can least afford it. It places more financial burden on rate payers that are already paying more than their fair share for services that they do not receive.

Yours sincerely

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposal for special rate increase
Date: 17.12.2022 21:27:41 (+01:00)

ALL COUNCILLORS I write concerning the Special Rate increases proposed . None of the options should be necessary we've now been amalgamated which we were told ;MAKE US ALL BETTER OFF. This came from our Administrator via the State government (. Dean LYNCH) Within weeks water rose 40% , a dramatic rise in itself . Another example , sewage access rose 100% and general rates have risen . The question needs be asked , Where has the money gone? We were told that the new recycle contract saved us a minimum of \$ 5 million and maybe \$ 10 million . State government put in another \$ 14 million . Have all inefficiencies been addressed? Perhaps not . Has private enterprise been considered ? This council has some of the most expensive charges already . Its a cold climate and many struggle with energy , so at the very least hold off until energy returns to normal.

And given the increase in cost of living many renters and owners cannot keep absorbing increase after increase . Maybe some things will need to be delayed . Three levels of government has always looked unsustainable and looks even more so now . A WHOLE NEW DEBATE .

Regards

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: have my say re the SVR
Date: 16.12.2022 17:58:06 (+01:00)

HI There

I have owned a block of land for over 20yrs on Bucky Springs Rd Rosemeath lots DP and I would like to have my say. But when I go to the site I find I don't have a sign in nor can I register as I am unable to enter my post code and have it return a suburb, essentially blocking me.

My property is classed farm land and yet I have never farmed, only camped. Over the last 20 years I have paid rates covering sewage, water, electricity, and garbage collection to name a few that are not actually offered to me as they are not available, and yet I keep paying.

When I think about this SVR subject, I feel I am already paying more than my share and find it offensive to hear we have a degrading service that requires propping up by all constituents of this area including those already overpaying.

I am more than happy to pay an SVR to get the council back on its feet if I start from a position where my rates are reduced to reflect the services I do not get or want.

Please let me know what my new rate is, minus the unavailable and unrequired service. In addition, how do I access the site to lodge my option.

Kind regards

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Bullshit survey monkey, reverts to yr preferred option, if not careful
Date: 20.12.2022 09:39:43 (+01:00)

Please explain why there is no option for comments, also, if people aren't careful yr survey monkey reverts to your preferred option.

Why should we the ratepayer have to foot the bill for yr executive and councils fiscal incompetence.

This survey monkey, should be invalidated due to a glitch, if you touch the screen incorrectly it reverts to councils preferred option council needs to have more extensive public interaction, that is extremely well advertised.

Considering the amount of unemployed and pensioners in this area, who struggle in normal circumstances, this is a ridiculous rates rise, because of incompetence.

If one of the higher options gets through, I will be approaching the appropriate body, to inform them of the issues with the survey monkey

Regards

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Draft LEP** <DraftLEP@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**

CC:

Subject: Snowy Monaro Regional Council letter of 6 December 2022, Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Date: 19.12.2022 17:48:50 (+01:00)

Attention Councillor Narelle Davis, Mayor

Dear Councillor Davis

I refer to your letter to ratepayers dated 6 December 2022.

I am one of the owners of Lot in Deposited Plan known as Road, Kalkite NSW 2627.

I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed increase in rates set out in your letter. I have submitted the form attached to the link in your letter but the form was extremely simple and did not make any provision for the further representations I wish to make.

Table 1 of your letter shows the average residential rate is \$980.29 and the average farmland rate is \$2,026.30. For our land we already pay nearly 4 times the residential rate and nearly 25% more than the average "farmland" rate. Plus we pay approx. \$150.00 per year to NSW Land Services for the privilege of owning no stock.

If SMRC succeeds in its application to IPART our rates will increase by nearly \$2,000 per year. That's eye watering and unacceptable.

I looked at the colourful SMRC list of current Council Services set out in the Special Rate Variation, Proposed Options 2023/24 document attached to your letter and thought about our usage. I comment as follows:

1. Waste/recycling collection – This service only commenced at Kalkite in recent years and we make minimal use of it. We are happy to revert to taking our own rubbish away as we did in the past. In that case we pay on a "user pays" basis at the tip;
2. Water and sewerage – we have no water and sewerage services supplied by SMRC;
3. Libraries – we do not use the libraries and question the justification in circumstances where Council is running a deficit and the on-line world can provide all;
4. Pools – we do not use. When we swim it's in Lake Jindabyne. There are plenty of lakes and rivers in the district. Heated pools, if any, should be "user pays" and not a cost to general ratepayers;
5. Customer Services and Communications. I understand that is necessary but is not a major cost and should be easily funded from Council revenues;
6. Shared trails, parks and playgrounds. Our use of such facilities is minimal. I do not believe those costs should be large either;
7. Tourism and economic development services. These should be fully funded by local businesses through their rates which I note average only 50% of the average "farmland" rate (see 10 below);
8. Development assessments and planning. These services should be an SMRC "profit centre" not a "cost centre". The considerable development in the Snowy Mountains over many years should provide a steady stream of income to Council. On a personal note I believe planning has been appalling. Jindabyne is an ugly mess and getting worse. Berridale looks like following suit;

9. Biosecurity. We also pay rates to NSW Land Services. Further, we have always paid to manage our own land, improving our land and eradicating plant and animal pests at our own cost;
10. Governance/finance. Clearly this should be SMRC's No. 1 priority, not hidden in the middle row of services;
11. Rangers. We have no need. Nearly all such services can be automated;
12. Community Halls. We do not use and most of the halls sit vacant most of the time. They are "stranded assets" and should be sold off;
13. Sports, ovals, recreation and natural spaces. We do not use. These facilities should not be a major drain on Council finance;
14. Roads/bridges. This should be a priority, not in the bottom row;
15. Saleyards. Surely should be funded by users not ratepayers (see 10 above);
16. Street, toilet and park cleaning. Agreed a priority;
17. Cemeteries. We do not use. This service should be privatised;
18. Community and youth services. I don't know what that means but clearly must be matched to Council's ability to pay.

Considering the considerable number of property developments that have taken place in Jindabyne, Berridale and Cooma (to mention the ones we see) Council should be drowning in money. All those extra ratepayers and developer contributions/application fees. Where has the money gone? Council seems to have failed dismally in completing or managing grant funded projects. The whole point of State Govt rates caps is to force councils to manage their finances. Clearly SMRC has failed its ratepayers in that regard (see 10 above). This problem has not just "suddenly appeared". Council should consider resigning and having an administrator appointed. We (at Kalkite) already pay extremely high rates for nearly zero services.

The AEC Financial Sustainability Review is 174 pages of gobbledygook. Council risks "paralysis by analysis". The recommendations in the Executive Summary nearly all recommend further strategic reviews and planning. I assume the total of \$2,000,000 (yes that's right \$2mil!!) budgeted for strategic planning in 2022/23 has gone to AEC? I also assume AEC is tendering for the further reviews and strategic planning? Council needs a good general manager and financial controller to bring things under control – that's their job.

Council seems to have revenue (ongoing) of approx \$85mil with roughly similar expenses. It's not large and should not be difficult. My guess is there are good people amongst Council employees who know exactly what needs to be done. A 50% increase in rates will return about \$15mil to Council and bail it out of its poor management – for a while. But without structural change Council is just "kicking the can down the road".

The AEC review appears to accept the Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River council merger will remain. I understood mergers were intended to provide benefits to ratepayers through less duplication of services. The SMRC merger seems to have produced the opposite result. A demerger should be an option in any planning.

Council website shows the list of councillors elected at the recent elections. Not one councillor appears to be on the audit and finance committee. Is there such a committee? With finances in such a parlous state that should be Council's top priority. [Councillors | Snowy Monaro Regional Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.snowy-monaro.nsw.gov.au/councillors)

I would be grateful if you could take this feedback to Council.

Kind regards,

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Incorrect response to the survey
Date: 22.12.2022 08:47:03 (+01:00)

Good morning,

In responding to the survey for the special rate rise, I have incorrectly placed the options in the order I wish.

I would hate for this to be a factor for incorrect outcome of the survey.

I am uncertain however, how to correct this error.

Kind regards,

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Peter Bascomb** ; **Records Snowy**
Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC: **Luke Williamson**
Subject: SMRC Financial Statements 2021-22 - "Have Your Say" Feedback Submission
Date: 22.12.2022 14:04:17 (+01:00)
Attachments: Submission_SMRC 2022 Financial Statements .doc (3 pages)

Dear Mr Bascomb,

Attached is a submission providing feedback on Council's Financial Statements 2021-22. My submission asks a number of questions and I would be grateful if you would provide replies to my questions following the 2022 Xmas/New Year Council closure period.

Merry Xmas and a safe, happy 2023 to you, Council staff and your families.

Confidential Draft

SUBMISSION

SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL'S 2022 GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022 (Financial Statements 2021-22)

I wish to lodge a submission regarding Snowy Monaro Regional Council's 2022 audited General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022. My submission covers two important aspects of the Statements:

1. the Qualified Opinion of the 2022 Financial Statements by the Auditor-General for New South Wales and other significant audit issues and observations of the Auditor, and;
2. the significant and opaque reduction in Council's operating result for FY 2021-22 compared to the result for FY 2020-21.

Qualified Opinion of the Statements by the Auditor-General for New South Wales

2. The NSW Auditor-General's qualified opinion of Council's 2022 Audit Financial Statements notes that: "The Council has not recognised rural fire-fighting equipment as assets within 'Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment' in the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2022. In the Auditors opinion, these assets are controlled by the Council and should be recognised as assets in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB 116) - Property, Plant and Equipment.

3. The NSW Government had confirmed that the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) "Red Fleet" is not recognised by the State nor is it controlled by the NSW RFS. The NSW *Rural Fires Act 1997* vests rural fire-fighting equipment in Councils. Also, the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* defines the functions conferred or imposed on Councils. I understand the Auditor's opinion is consistent with the view of the NSW Government.

4. I am a life-time volunteer member of the NSW Rural Fire Service, with first-hand experience in the devastating 2003 ACT fires, the 2009 Tea Tree Creek in the Tinderry Mountain region, where 3 of my neighbours lost their homes, the 2019/20 Snowy Monaro Fires in the Tinderry Mountain and Bredbo regions and other numerous fires in the Snowy Monaro region since the early 1990s. I am, therefore, acutely aware of the importance of having a serviceable and safe fleet of NSW fire-fighting vehicles available on stand-by for use by volunteer members of the NSW RFS to defend lives, homes, and properties from bushfires, and also to attend motor vehicle accidents on our many regional and rural roads.

5. The continued non-recording of rural firefighting equipment in financial management systems of Councils increases the risk that these assets are not properly maintained and managed.

6. SMRC's decision not to recognise NSW rural fire-fighting equipment as assets raises serious doubts in my mind, and I believe the Snowy Monaro rural community generally, about how Council ensures that the NSW RFS "Red Fleet" in the Snowy Monaro region is fit for purpose to defend lives, homes and properties during bushfires in the region. It also raises doubts about how and whether Council keeps the fleet to a high safety standard to provide the necessary protection for RFS volunteer crews operating the fleet in dangerous and life-threatening situations.

2.

7. I understand that Council has joined other NSW Council's and written to the NSW Treasurer and other NSW Ministers objecting to the Government's position on Councils' ownership of the NSW RFS "Red Fleet" and its accounting treatment as an asset. A solution to this issue needs to be found as a matter of urgency, particularly as the Snowy Monaro community and communities across NSW face increasing threat of bushfires this year and into the future.

8. A solution will need to address a range of legislative, policy and AASB accounting standards matters, and I am confident this can be addressed satisfactorily by all the parties working together on a solution. Council should work constructively with the State Government, the NSW Rural Fire Service, the NSW Office of Local Government and the NSW Auditor-General and other local Councils to develop a legislative and policy framework to resolve the matter and ensure NSW RFS "Red Fleet" vehicles and equipment are fit for purpose and provide the necessary high level of fire-fighting protection for RFS volunteer crews.

9. I would be grateful if you would confirm that the NSW RFS "Red Fleet" assets in the Snowy Monaro Regional Council local government area are fit for purpose and maintained by Council to the necessary operational and safety standards?

Council's Financial Sustainability

10. The Auditor noted that Council continued to face financial sustainability pressure in 2021-22. Furthermore, the Auditor noted that, in prior years, Council may have been utilising internally restricted funds to meet its day-to-day operational requirements.

11. Council's use of internally restricted funds to meet its day-to-day operational requirements is deeply concerning. I am particularly concerned that the use by Council of internally restricted funds may have contravened the provisions of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

12. I would be grateful if you would:

- a) confirm that Council's use of internally restricted funds to meet its day-to-day operational requirements in past years was consistent with requirements of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, and;
 - had the approval of Councillors or the relevant NSW Minister when the funds were utilised, and;
- b) advise what policy and accounting measures Council has in place to ensure that in the future, internally restricted funds to meet its day-to-day operational requirements are approved by Councillors or the relevant NSW Minister in accordance with the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*?

Reduction in Council's operating result for FY 2021-22 compared to the result for FY 2020-21

13. The 2022 audited Financial Statements note that Council's net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes amounted to a deficit of \$1.22 million. This is a marked change from the previous 12 financial months where Council's net operating result was minus \$24.86 million (rounded).

3.

14. Council's operating performance ratio (OPR) for FY 2021-22 was minus 0.34%. This remains lower than the benchmark set by the NSW Office of Local Government however, it is a significant change from the OPR of Council for FY 2020-21 which was minus 30.27%.

15. These large changes in Council's operating performance, both in dollar terms and a percentage of expenditure over operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments and reversal of evaluation decrements), are difficult to reconcile from the audited Financial Statements.

16. In particular, the 2021 Statements included under "Expenses from continuing operations" an amount of \$11.1 million (rounded) for council amalgamation legacy landfill remediation costs under "Other Expenses". The 2022 Statements under "Expenses from continuing operations" show a reduction in liabilities under "Other Expenses" from \$13.95 million in 2021 to \$1.625 million.

17. I would be grateful if you would confirm that Council has remediated the legacy Council landfill sites and advise where/how the cost of the works is accounted for in the 2022 annual financial statements?

18. I would also be grateful for advice on the other areas where Council has achieved financial efficiencies or savings to improve Council's net operating result for the 2022 financial year to minus \$1.22 million (rounded) from minus \$24.85 million (rounded) in 2021?

19. And finally, Council has improved its net operating result and OPR to a significant extent over the period covered by the 2022 financial statements without, in my experience as a SMR resident and ratepayer, a significant reduction in the delivery of Council services to the community. In fact, during the period, Council has increased the delivery of services, such as new library services, and kept the delivery of other services across the local government area at a similar standard.

20. This begs the question, if Council was able to turn around its financial operating performance so dramatically in 12 months without reducing the delivery of services to the community, does Council need to pursue a Special Rate Variation application with the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)?

21. I thank Snowy Monaro Regional Council for the opportunity to lodge a submission and provide feedback on Council's audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022. I look forward to Council's reply to the questions raised in my submission.

22 December 2022

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
David Rawlings
Subject: FW:
Date: 28.12.2022 15:09:01 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 28 December 2022 2:12 PM
To: 'council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au'
Cc:

Subject:

Dear Council Members,

Could you please present this letter to your next Council meeting.

Obviously, some "very well off" Snowy Monaro Council members have completely lost touch with the average rate payer in the Snowy Monaro region, particularly those living rurally who receive close to ZERO services from Council as it is!

Are you not aware Councillors, that the cost of living has risen dramatically in 2022? Petrol, food and power bills in particular have skyrocketed in price. Many of us are already cutting back on food and trying to ration the amount of petrol we use. Petrol, food and electricity are a priority for ordinary rate

payers in Snowy Monaro, not the "extra services" that Council are supposed to provide.

We are all used to the cost of living continually going up but the **53% rate hike that you propose in Option 1 and Option 2 is obscene!** It is nothing short of an **outrage and an affront to the average rate payer**. I can only assume that you are **trying to force many Snowy Monaro rate payers from their homes**

because there are many of us who **cannot afford a 53% rate increase**, not even close!!!

If Council is broke and spent money that they don't have, that is poor and irresponsible budgeting on their behalf. It is NOT the rate payers' responsibility to gift Council an extra 53% in rates to bail them out (even if we could afford to which we can't!)

If the alternative is to reduce services (which living rurally I mostly don't get anyway), so be it. **Reduce the services you can't pay for!**

There are many services that I have to provide for myself (living rurally) which Council **don't** provide. These include: Waste/recycling collection services and facilities (the Bredbo Transfer Station is too expensive); Water and Sewerage; accessible libraries; accessible pools; accessible shared trails, parks and

playgrounds; Tourism and Economic Development Services; Community Halls; Sports ovals, Recreation and Natural Spaces; Street, Toilet and Park Cleaning; Cemeteries; Community and Youth Services etc etc

I am **not complaining about the above** but simply pointing out that **if required**, we can all **live with a down scaled version of these luxuries** rather than pricing people out of their homes, particularly rural and farmland!!!

Councillors, can you please take this into consideration at your next Council meeting. The only realistic and in any way affordable option for the **average rate payer** in Snowy Monaro is Option 3.

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: (NO SRV)
Date: 23.12.2022 22:20:01 (+01:00)

Is there any statistical data showing council income to spending. Hard to make a decision when we don't know how much revenue council takes in as a whole in relation to which services they fund. Cheers

Confidential Draft

From: **Gina Woodward**
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Peter Bascomb ; **David Rawlings**
CC: ; **Cherie McNair**
Subject: Fwd: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website
Date: 23.12.2022 08:03:27 (+01:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Gina Woodward
Chief Communications Officer



PO Box 714
COOMA NSW 2630

Direct (02) 6451 1331
Phone 1300 345 345
Fax (02) 6456 3337

snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

<P style="FONT-SIZE: 9pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial" Think of the environment, please don't print this email unless you really need to

<P style="FONT-SIZE: 9pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial"

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Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 22 December 2022 at 6:00:04 pm AEDT
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

It doesn't address the depletion of funds provided to you and your finance section! Where has it all gone?

I haven't just aired these issues now, I'm going back at least seven years ago I brought up the bad roads problem.

It would appear that there is a severe lack of priority allocation within this council. Making the town look pretty with poppies and pansies in the round-about is rather a waste of time and costs!

I choose option C and re-examine salaries of the council members!

An increase of over 50% in rates will Not amount to anything noticeable! Watch this space!

On Thu, 22 Dec 2022 at 13:39, Your Say Snowy Monaro
<notifications@engagemthq.com> wrote:

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'From what I've seen over the last ten years in this region our rates haven't improved anything! Regardless of how many elections there have been for council members! Maybe we should be looking at the salaries of council members first and weather or not these council positions are required in this region? Trying to justify a 50% increase won't do anything at all other than advertising more positions on the Council! Or putting more workers on planting pansies in the Cooma round-about! I wrote to the Council years ago about the bad roads outside the Cooma swimming pool and for my enquire was bombarded with emails explaining reasons for the inability to fix them. Just my thoughts on this matter and NO, I don't want a heap of emails explains items to me!'

Our response has now been posted on the site.

Our response:

The current level of rates only funds a deterioration of the infrastructure, which is exactly what has been occurring. While we appreciate that you want the problems you have identified fixed now, that requires the community to be willing to invest the funds to deal with your and all the other people's issues. Our deteriorated roads are not limited to one or two areas. Currently the backlog of works required to bring the road infrastructure back to the acceptable level is in the order of \$100million. This is the result of the ongoing deficit leading to inadequate investment into renewals and maintenance.

Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

--
Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: **Gina Woodward**
Peter Bascomb
To: **David Rawlings**
; Cherie McNair
CC: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Patrick Dunn**
; Tracy Sligar
Subject: FW: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website
Date: 22.12.2022 15:16:44 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Thursday, 22 December 2022 3:12 PM
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Sorry but it smells!

From: Your Say Snowy Monaro <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Thursday, 22 December 2022 1:39 PM
To:
Subject: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Hi there,
Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.
You asked:
'I would like to see a numbers counter in real time, telling us what options people are voting for.'
Our response has now been posted on the site.
Our response:
We are utilising this platform at lowest cost and do not have the capacity for real time counters. A full report will be provided to Council for the January Report.
Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.
Regards
Snowy Monaro Regional Council
|

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Jindabyne
Date: 23.12.2022 17:04:16 (+01:00)

Hello,

We received your notification of the need to increase the rates payable by ratepayers in the region.

Our place till before the Covid was used as Holiday accommodation. When the special restrictions came into force due to the Covid, we stopped renting out our townhouse.'

What is our townhouse classified as? It is not used as a business, most of the time it is empty. It is and will be used as holiday accommodation.

We hope you don't classify it as "Business" with a higher rate as it is only occupied - if we put it up for Holiday rental - during winter time, at most for two months. It would be very unfair if it was classified as "Business".

Please inform us of your classification.

Kind regards,

Confidential Draft

From: >
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
David Rawlings ; **Narelle Davis**
CC: ; **Luke Williamson**
Subject:
Date: 28.12.2022 14:12:23 (+01:00)

Dear Council Members,

Could you please present this letter to your next Council meeting.

Obviously, some "very well off" Snowy Monaro Council members have completely lost touch with the average rate payer in the Snowy Monaro region, particularly those living rurally who receive close to ZERO services from Council as it is!

Are you not aware Councillors, that the cost of living has risen dramatically in 2022? Petrol, food and power bills in particular have skyrocketed in price. Many of us are already cutting back on food and trying to ration the amount of petrol we use. Petrol, food and electricity are a priority for ordinary rate

payers in Snowy Monaro, not the "extra services" that Council are supposed to provide.

We are all used to the cost of living continually going up but the **53% rate hike that you propose in Option 1 and Option 2 is obscene!** It is nothing short of an **outrage and an affront to the average rate payer**. I can only assume that you are **trying to force many Snowy Monaro rate payers from their homes**

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playgrounds; Tourism and Economic Development Services; Community Halls; Sports ovals, Recreation and Natural Spaces; Street, Toilet and Park Cleaning; Cemeteries; Community and Youth Services etc etc

I am **not complaining about the above** but simply pointing out that **if required**, we can all **live with a down scaled version of these luxuries** rather than pricing people out of their homes, particularly rural and farmland!!!

Councillors, can you please take this into consideration at your next Council meeting. The only realistic and in any way affordable option for the **average rate payer** in Snowy Monaro is Option 3.

Thank-you,

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed rate increase
Date: 04.01.2023 15:18:21 (+01:00)

As a long time owner of a property in Jindabyne (over 20 years) I would like to raise my concern as to councils communications re their proposed increase in rates for necessary expenditure.

I not with some interest that the Rate PEG only option is that established by independent consultants.

The proposed increase options relate to councils own estimates of funds required to cover a "list" of future much needed expenses.

I would politely suggest to council that communications to rate payers should include some form of explanation / justification as to their proposed allocation.

This would make the increased rate concept significantly more palatable.

My personal experience saw Wingecarribee Shire Council rate over \$300,000 (working from memory here) in council fees – placed into a foreign investment fund with a planned intention to use these funds over a period of time. The money was lost due the US market melt down. Result increased council rates. Option 2 could replicate this experience.

A clearly displayed financial proposal would really make it easy to accept an increase.

You would not invest your money without seeing a plan for its use. Would you?

Council has listed examples for the SRV

- Resealing roads - OK identify them or at least the major roads, provide a scope of works including costs and proposed start and completion dates.
- Gravel Roads – as above.
- Stormwater infrastructure – explain, expense and timing.
- Replace failing bridges – Identify them and expense.
- What community buildings or "other" buildings are in poor condition – Expense and timing.
- Investment in asset management capability – what exactly are we talking about? People, buildings, equipment, training – expense.

I would hope that the above is considered to be a considered contribution and not a criticism of council.

Yours Faithfully.

Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council
To: <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Date: 04.01.2023 08:49:04 (+01:00)

Cheers

> Dear

- > I encourage your participation in providing feedback on the proposed
- > Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented in the 2023/24 Budget
- > for Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC).

- > At a recent meeting, your Council decided to lodge an Expression of
- > Interest to IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW)
- > for a permanent Special Rate Variation. This will impact the
- > percentage increase to Council's total rates revenue, not how much
- > your individual rates will change.

> Following a detailed and independent analysis of our financial

- > position, plus ongoing service reviews, it is clear that an increase
 - > in rates is a long overdue and critical step to ensure we can become
 - > financially sustainable while maintaining service levels over the
 - > long-term, as expected by our community.
 - >
 - > The rate increases set by the NSW State Government have not kept pace
 - > with cost escalations faced by Council in providing services to our
 - > community. Like many other NSW councils, SMRC has not generated
 - > revenue sufficient to undertake enough investment in community assets.
 - >
 - > The independent analysis showed that Council's financial position will
 - > deteriorate to an average operating deficit of \$8.5million a year
 - > which is not sustainable. The impact of the deficit is that we are
 - > unable to invest enough money each year in necessary maintenance and
 - > renewal. Therefore, our roads, parks and gardens, and buildings will
 - > continue to deteriorate. Services and associated service levels will
 - > also need to be reduced.
 - >
 - > You, the community, have consistently indicated that you do not wish
 - > to see Council's infrastructure assets deteriorate and service levels
 - > reduced.
 - >
 - > The proposed SRV will generate the necessary revenue that will be used
 - > to fund our existing services and provide required funding for the
 - > following:
 - >
 - > * Resealing bitumen roads
 - > * Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
 - > * Improve our stormwater infrastructure
 - > * Replacement of bridges that are failing
 - > * Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition
 - > * Investment in asset management capability
 - >
 - > If implemented, the SRV will apply to your general rates only. Revenue
 - > raised from a SRV must be accounted for each year in our annual
 - > report, showing where the money has been spent.
 - >
 - > The SRV does not apply to your waste management, water and sewerage
 - > charges.
 - >
 - > If the SRV is not approved, Council will need to implement service
 - > level reductions totalling \$28.8 million over the next ten years.
 - > Services will need to be discontinued, roads and buildings will
 - > continue to deteriorate, and unsafe facilities will be closed so that
 - > necessary funds can be redirected to keep essential infrastructure
 - > safe and functional for our community.
 - >
 - > I encourage you to read the fact sheet enclosed with this letter and
 - > access further information on our Your Say website, where you can also
 - > select your preferred SRV option in the online survey by Sunday 22
-

-
- > January 2023.
 - >
 - > There are three options for your consideration:
 - >
 - > * Option 1 - 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24. Enables an
 - > additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise
 - > the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal
 - > and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current
 - > service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving
 - > the operating result ie. financial sustainability.
 - >
 - > * Option 2 - 55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting
 - > from 2023/24. Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million
 - > in asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current infrastructure
 - > backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our
 - > roads and other community assets. Over time, current service levels
 - > will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating
 - > result ie. financial sustainability.
 - > * Option 3 - No SRV, Rate Peg Only. Assets and service levels will
 - > deteriorate, and the current infrastructure backlog will continue to
 - > grow as additional assets deteriorate below satisfactory condition.
 - > Council will be required to reduce services and close unsafe
 - > facilities.
 - >
 - > We are engaging with our community to ensure all interested people are
 - > informed and that you are provided an opportunity to provide feedback
 - > on the options presented for the SRV application proposal. The details
 - > of our various community engagement activities are on our Your Say
 - > website. Please visit
 - > <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation> [2] to have
 - > your say, read the documents, consider the options and complete the
 - > survey.
 - >
 - > I look forward to working together with you to ensure that we are able
 - > to continue to provide services and the community over the long-term,
 - > and in line with expectations.
 - >
 - > Councillor Narelle Davis
 - > Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council
 - >
 - > Option 1 - _53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24_
 - > Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to
 - > stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake
 - > additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community
 - > assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also
 - > progressively improving the operating result i.e. financial
 - > sustainability.
 - > Option 2 - _55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from
 - > 2023/24_ Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million in
 - > asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current infrastructure
-

- > backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our
- > roads and other community assets.
- >
- > OVER TIME, CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS WILL BE MAINTAINED WHILE ALSO
- > PROGRESSIVELY IMPROVING THE OPERATING RESULT IE. FINANCIAL
- > SUSTAINABILITY.
- >
- > Option 3 - _No SRV, Rate Peg Only_
- > Assets and service levels will deteriorate, and the current
- > infrastructure backlog will continue to grow as additional assets
- > deteriorate below satisfactory condition. Council will be required to
- > reduce services and close unsafe facilities.
- >
- > [Click here to view the Special Rate Variation Fact Sheets \[3\]](#)
- >
- > What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV) and Rate-Pegging?
- > Rates increase each year in line with an amount set by the State
- > Government. This amount is calculated every year and is called the
- > 'rate peg'. This is decided by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory
- > Tribunal (IPART). For the 2023/24 financial year the rate peg applied
- > to Snowy Monaro Regional Council, will be 4.0%.
- >
- > IF A COUNCIL'S RATE REVENUE IS NOT ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN SERVICE
- > LEVELS, IT CAN APPLY TO IPART TO INCREASE OVERALL RATE REVENUE BY MORE
- > THAN THE RATE PEG. THIS IS KNOWN AS A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV). IN
- > ORDER TO APPLY FOR AN SRV, COUNCILS MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE COMMUNITY
- > AND IPART THAT THEY NEED THE MONEY AND HAVE IMPLEMENTED IMPROVEMENTS
- > TO BE MORE EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE.
- >
- > What is the impact of the Special Rate Variation (SRV) on my rates?
- > Table 1 shows the impact of implementing the SRV on the average rates
- > by each rate category.
- >
- > Table 1 - Increase in 2023/24 Average Rate
- >
- > WHAT WILL SRV FUNDS BE USED FOR?
- >
- > Three options are provided for consideration based on rate increases;
- >
- > * two SRV options
- > * one limited to the rate-peg
- >
- > The proposed SRV will generate the necessary revenue that will be used
- > to fund our existing services and provide required funding for the
- > following:
- >
- > * Resealing bitumen roads
- > * Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
- > * Improve our stormwater infrastructure
- > * Replacement of bridges that are failing

- > * Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition
- > * Investment in asset management capability
- >
- > Option 1 will enable for the above service levels to commence from
- > 2023/24, whereas Option 2 will allow for a staged increase in asset
- > renewals and maintenance of current service levels over a number of
- > years.
- >
- > The Resourcing Strategy is on public exhibition, and can be accessed
- > on Council's Your Say website or at any Council office. Residents are
- > being asked for their views on the three options.
- >
- > Current Council services
- >
- > Have your say today [4]
- >
- > WHY HAVE I RECEIVED THIS EMAIL?
- >
- > We are sending you this email as a ratepayer in the Snowy Monaro, as
- > any potential Special Rate Variation (SRV) would effect how much you
- > pay in rates.
- >
- > WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?
- >
- > Visit www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au [5] for all the information on the
- > proposed Special Rate Variation.
- >
- > Call us on 1300 345 345 to speak with our team, or email
- > council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
- >
- > [6] [7] [8] [9] [10]
- >
- > [11]
- >
- > Forward [12]
- >
- > SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL
- > Head Office 81 Commissioner Street COOMA NSW 2630
- > PO Box 714 COOMA NSW 2630
- >
- > Preferences [13] | Unsubscribe [14]
- >
- >
- >
- > Links:
- > -----
- > [1] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t/t-e-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-b/>
- > [2] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-r/>
- > [3] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-y/>
- > [4] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-j/>

- > [5] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-t/>
- > [6] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-i/>
- > [7] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-d/>
- > [8] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-h/>
- > [9] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-k/>
- > [10] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-u/>
- > [11] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t-l-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-o/>
- > [12]
- > <https://snowymonaroregionalcouncil.forwardtomyfriend.com/t-jtjuuykrq-C046E2F4-fnllky-l-c>
- > [13]
- > <https://snowymonaroregionalcouncil.updatemyprofile.com/t-fnllky-C046E2F4-jtjuuykrq-q>
- > [14] <http://smrc.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/t-u-fnllky-jtjuuykrq-a/>

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject:
Date: 05.01.2023 09:25:57 (+01:00)

Hi,

I'm sure that no one on the SMRC will take any notice of this email but here we go. Re: your edict about usurious rate rises I quote from a recent email from the Jindabyne Action Group about the claims you have made to justify this:

'Reduced services in Jindabyne, you would have to look closely to see what services we have. Of the services cited: Waste collection, water and sewage are separate charges. If we look at these services in Jindabyne with high dual occupancies this means extra charges per bin/ water rates. Town water has been unfit to drink on numerous occasions over the last few years. Trails, parks and playgrounds, in Jindabyne the grass along our shared trails are waist high and as far as biosecurity, the weeds grow as high as the grass. Roads, try driving to Leadsville or the Clay Pits. Community Halls, ours, is in need of repair. Community and youth services, what services? Libraries, our library, paid for by the state is nothing more than a peace offering, but they could close it. Pools, oh yes, the council could close the Jindabyne pool.

What happened to the sales pitch we were sold that amalgamation of our Snowy Council, which was always in the black, would give financial stability to Jindabyne. Since amalgamation we have had at best three representatives from our area on the council, at present we have two.'

To this I'd add the plague of permanent graffiti all over Jindabyne (solution: install security cameras at key locations and ensure that the little buggers who do this and/or their parents pay for the clean ups); broken road signs that are not replaced for months and the growing number of potholes that can be found all over Jindabyne (the consequence of the SMRC failing to repair local roads properly for years long. There may have been short term 'savings' by filling these with useless slurry, but greater costs over the long term). These problems existed long before the recent council amalgamation.

The so-called 'sustainable** economic development of Jindabyne' and environs is primarily for the benefit of two highly profitable, privately owned ski resorts, builders and developers, local real estate agents and many local businesses. They should be making a greater \$ contribution to SMRC coffers. Oh, but you recently reduced their council rates didn't you? How about a small bed charge levy on the tourists who visit Jindabyne, Thredbo, Perisher etc - proceeds to go directly to cleaning up Jindabyne's graffiti, repairing potholed roads in the town, and removing grass and weeds on median strips and sidewalks?

Regards,

(** Taking anthropogenic climate change into account, this is not sustainable over the long term, something that the SMRC does not appear to understand. If you don't agree with that claim, what specific steps are being taken now to cope with the next bushfire conflagration that will inevitably occur some time within the next two decades? That will be even worse than the fires of 2019-2020 when Thredbo and Perisher Blue came within days of being destroyed)

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: in regards to the exorbitant hike in rates we as pensioners can not afford this hike
as our pensions have not increased to cover this hike and as such we will
eventually fall into arrears which means that we will at some time in the future
lose our hou...
Date: 06.01.2023 07:55:24 (+01:00)

also as we have lost services in bombala and you expect us to pay more for less also why do you send
people from other areas to service bombala area when we had the personnel haer to start with
amalgamation has not worked and a lot of areas are reverting back to the way it was before
amalgamation this area is way to big for the council to manage and as such should be abolished yours
sincerely

street bombala

Confidential Draft

From: **Gina Woodward**
To: **Regional Council** <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC: **Records Snowy Monaro communications**
Subject: RE:
Date: 06.01.2023 12:48:49 (+01:00)

Hi

All ratepayers received a flyer, via hard copy (or email if they had opted for that as their preference).

On both the subjects you note, for those who don't use computers:

- we have advertised in the local paper every week
- sent media releases to local media (including radio) and community groups to share with their members
- hard copies available for review at all council offices and libraries
- hard copy flyers sent to ratepayers (who have not asked for email only correspondence)
- run stories in the local paper – Monaro Post
- hard copy surveys being printed on request (in person and via mail)
- held community meetings in person throughout the region in December attended by staff and councillors

Many thanks, Gina.

From:
Sent: Thursday, 8 December 2022 8:34 AM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject:

Good morning.

I am wondering by what means the Council will be informing ALL ratepayers of the important issues that are being considered by Council at this time.

Especially the rate rise and LEP issues.

I personally have received a flyer concerning the LEP in the mail which then directs me to a website.

My main concern is that there would be a substantial part of our aging community that are relatively computer illiterate, don't have a computer or even a smart phone let alone know how to use it. How does Council inform this sector of their upcoming decisions which could impact them severely financially.

Regards

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation
Date: 06.01.2023 10:13:38 (+01:00)

Good Morning,

I am the owner of St., Jindabyne.
I am in favour of Option 1.

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Nicole Overall**
<monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>; **Kristy.McBain**
CC:
Subject: Outrageous rate increase in Snowy Monaro and inadequate servicing of the region
Date: 07.01.2023 16:35:12 (+01:00)

Councillor Narelle Davis
Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Dear Narelle Davis, Nicole Overall and Kristy Mc Bain,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed 53% rate increase by the Monaro Regional Council for the upcoming year. Even worse is using that increase to peg subsequent increases to it rather than reducing the percentage once efficiencies have been achieved. That is simply incompetent and a waste of increased resourcing and engenders a complete lack of faith in Council's capacity to invest in the region strategically for the long term.

I visit the younger members of my family living in the region on a regular basis, although I have now had to make special arrangements to be met at Cooma as my sedan cannot any longer navigate Avonside Road safely. As my family has several young children I am deeply concerned about the impact this increase will have on their household budget and the budgets of other community members.

Furthermore, I am disappointed to learn that the funds reserved for sealing Avonside road are no longer being fully allocated to this task. I have written to you previously on this matter and have received a holding response from Ms Overall and disappointingly no response from Ms Mc Bain.

This road is a vital thoroughfare for many members of the local community and its Canberra visitors and it is essential that it be properly maintained and improved. The decision to divert funds away from this project is unacceptable, especially in light of the evident mismanagement and incapacity to effectively roll out the project. It is unacceptable that Avonside will now only receive half of the previously proposed allocation of funds. It is in fact dangerous to anyone driving on it, even an ambulance can't get to the section where this young family lives. Having young children makes this epic in its potential for life threatening accidents.

I accept that you have recently graded this as a temporary fix but that is only as good as the next strong rainfall which will again render it unusable.

I am also disheartened by the lack of progress on addressing the mobile blackspots and improving road infrastructure more generally in the region, despite the Federal Labor Party's election promises to do so. *After great initial optimism, my faith in Labor representation is quickly diminishing.*

In effect the State member is trying but the Federal Labor MP has been unresponsive-highly disillusioning.

Additionally, communication is woeful, inadequate and inconsistent at best. The quality of internet service particularly for those working from home, is unacceptable. Despite having line of sight to the tower and paying \$75 a month for the best NBN plan they can get, they are receiving internet speeds that are slower than dial-up or at inoperable levels.

When inquiring about this issue with an NBN representative, it was suggested we consider getting Elon Musk's "Starlink" service, which is an acceptable solution if you have \$150 a month to spend, but is out of reach for many people. It is simply unacceptable to be paying such extortionate high prices for poor quality, inadequate service.

As members of parliament, I am writing to ask for your assistance in addressing the issues outlined above. I hope that you will consider advocating on behalf of your constituents and urging the Monaro Regional Council to reconsider their proposed rate increase and also to prioritize the full allocation of funds for the proper long term sealing of Avonside road. I also hope that you will work to address the lack of progress on improving mobile blackspots and road infrastructure, and to improve internet service in our region.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPad

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rates-Option 3
Date: 10.01.2023 09:18:24 (+01:00)

Dear Snowy Monaro Regional Council,

We have a holiday house at Rd, Anglers Reach and we have decided on Option 3 for the Rates.

Yours faithfully,

Sent from my iPhone

Confidential Draft

From:

Bob Stewart

; Craig Mitchell

; Chris Hanna
; Karlee Johnson
; Lynda Summers
; Narelle Davis
; Peter Beer
; Tanya Higgins
; Louise Frolich
; Tricia Hopkins
; Luke Williamson
; Draft LEP

To:

<DraftLEP@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

CC: **Nicole Overall** <monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Snowy Monaro Regional Council - LEP/Special Rate Variation feedback/Submission

Date: 12.01.2023 13:18:17 (+01:00)

Dear All,

The letters received late last year by ratepayers from Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC) are without doubt indicative of the failed political and governance policies of the NSW government which have directly fostered a bureaucratisation of service provision the cost of which must now be faced by the ratepayers of this region. The failure by SMRC to prioritise and implement affordable governance and equitable service provision for all ratepayer groups has resulted in what may become an unsustainable financial and social crisis for the SMRC ratepayer base.

Any serious analysis of the possible benefits of the regionalisation of local government (both the SMRC and SE Local Land Services) would now undoubtedly be able to measure the loss of capacity and economic benefit to the respective ratepayers of both of these regionalised organisations. The *locally* based organisations they replaced had served with a modicum of accountability and equity for more than a century for their constituent groups without inflicting unsustainable costs and "out of touch" decision making.

The centralising and bureaucratising by the NSW government of the previously locally based and service focused organisations (local councils and Rural Lands Protection Boards) has resulted in a critical loss of accountability to ratepayers. This loss of accountability has seen the growth in unsustainable and self focused regional bureaucracies that are politically biased towards "majority" communities and their respective vested interests. Specifically it has been the tourism growth areas of the Monaro electorate along the Cooma to Jindabyne corridor that have most benefited from this political bias at both state and regional levels.

It is now incumbent on the NSW government and in particular the Member for Monaro to call for an investigation into the financial problems that have surfaced at the SMRC and to report the findings to SMRC ratepayers and the electorate of Monaro. In particular the rural ratepayer constituents of the eastern side of the SMRC whose interests have been most affected by regionalisation will look forward to both a reset and an equitable solution to the very obvious inequities presented by the costs of regionalisation.

Any report resulting from a review of SMRC financial management must address how the present financial situation has arisen and must also include what the state government intends to do about it. Both the NSW government and SMRC management are directly accountable to all ratepayers for the present situation and especially accountable to those ratepayers who have seen a serious decline in both services and representation but who are apparently still expected to pay the same high costs of the decisions that have not delivered equitable outcomes.

LEP

May I take this opportunity to express my total support for the submission from Grantley Ingram which very adequately clarifies the specific issues raised by the 25 November 2022 letter re the draft LEP and confirm that I would prefer that the process is discontinued until this draft LEP is reassessed and re presented to rural ratepayers.

RATE VARIATION

All rate variation proposals must be set aside until SMRC financial management is thoroughly investigated and audited and any inequities across ratepayer groups are reported upon by the NSW government. It is also incumbent on both SMRC and the Member for Monaro to engage with the Bombala community and SMR Councillors to discuss and redress the financial and social impacts that specific regionalisation policies have imposed on this area.

Yours sincerely,

Confidential Draft

From:

Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>;

To:

CC:

Chris Hanna

; Karlee Johnson
; Lynda Summers
; Narelle Davis
; Peter Beer
; Tanya Higgins
; Louise Frolich
; Bob Stewart
; Craig Mitchell
; Tricia Hopkins
; Luke Williamson

Subject: Submission to Council on Rates and Landuse planning
Date: 11.01.2023 07:35:29 (+01:00)

Dear All,

To avoid online submissions on the rate rises and land use strategy from being manipulated by the back office at council it is strongly recommended that submission be also made directly to the councillors by email. I have included the councillor's email addresses in this message for your information as well as a copy of my submission. Please feel free to distribute this widely.

Regards

Dear SMRC Councillors.

Please accept the following as my submission on the Special Rate Variation and Rural Landuse Strategy

Rate Variation.

I reject totally the need to increase the rates by any more than CPI. Council have not demonstrated they are efficient and effective service providers. Productivity must be increased through restructuring management, staff performance improvement and sound financial management including an assessment of demerging. It is not acceptable to continue to ask for more money from the community until the underperformance of the organisation is addressed. I do not accept that services have to decrease if rates don't rise.

Rural Land Use Strategy.

The process must be stopped and all documents referred back to council's reference group for assessment. The process has major failings including:

Proper strategic planning on all rural lands is fatally compromised by the Plantations and Reafforestation Act. This act, as council's strategic planners well know, completely overrides all provisions of council's planning documents. Until the plantations act is repealed there is no case other than to maintain the status quo.

Once the plantation act is repealed the landuse strategy should then focus on:

Increasing the population of rural areas through allowing limited dwelling allotments of around 2 Ha distributed throughout rural localities similar to the concessional holdings provision of the previous Bombala LEP.

Expanding the opportunities for niche agricultural enterprises with an associated dwelling entitlement in rural lands.

Ensuring new development does not burden council with ongoing maintenance costs eg provision of roads.

In general I am concerned that the elected councillors appear to have lost control of the council and that the agenda is being driven increasingly from council's management and state government agencies and mostly to the disadvantage of our communities.

Regards

From: **Gina Woodward**
To: **Cherie McNair**
CC: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT) communications**
Subject: Fwd: Rate proposal
Date: 12.01.2023 09:05:40 (+01:00)

Hi Cherie

One thru your say
Just a statement for files not a question
Ta g

Sent from my iPhone

Gina Woodward
Chief Communications Officer



PO Box 714
COOMA NSW 2630

Direct (02) 6451 1331
Phone 1300 345 345
Fax (02) 6456 3337

snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

<P style="FONT-SIZE: 9pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial" Think of the environment, please don't print this email unless you really need to

<P style="FONT-SIZE: 9pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial"

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Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 11 January 2023 at 8:41:22 pm AEDT
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Rate proposal

Dear Council, I strongly object to any proposed rate rises in the Snowy Monaro region. There is no justification for raising rates, As a resident and ratepayer for 33 years I feel that we are overcharged for the services provided and that our rates are not going towards essential services such as road repair and general maintenance. The roads are a disgrace. There are dangerous holes on the roads, the grass at road edges is not cut, we have no green waste service, the patrol of illegal campers is inadequate, there is no safety fire check on properties where people have excessively huge trees which are a hazard and dog owners are not sufficiently monitored. Ratepayers should not have to complain to council for these things to be done as we already pay our rates.

Yours sincerely

Confidential Draft

From:

Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council

To:

<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **David Rawlings**
; **Tracy Sligar**

Subject: Fwd: Special Rate Variation Survey

Date: 13.01.2023 10:53:20 (+01:00)

Good morning SMRC

One month ago I sent my original request for a copy of my SRV survey response but, unfortunately, have not had either an acknowledgement or reply to my enquiry.

Advice from Mayor, Narelle Davis, confirms feed back closes in less than 6 working days therefore your immediate attention to this matter would be appreciated.

Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From:

Date: Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 10:26 AM

Subject: Special Rate Variation Survey

To: <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Good morning SMRC

On 13/12/22 I completed and submitted your SRV Survey Monkey.

As you probably realise I could not cc a copy of my response to myself for my records nor was it possible to copy/print the doc' before I sent it.

As such could you please forward a copy of my submission to me in order I can pursue some of the matters I have raised as I have no record of the comments I made.

My response can be identified by the inclusion of " Gullies Road" in the single free text question.

Thanks.

--

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Monaro Post**
<editor@monaropost.com.au>
Subject: Rates rise
Date: 14.01.2023 03:01:49 (+01:00)

To the Councillors,

Having asked, and having had answered, the question just prior to the announcement of our "choices" concerning rate rises as to whether the rise could be in the vicinity of 50% and having been told NO, I have difficulties with the proposed rate rises.

Questions:

- 1) Why should rate payers believe Council?
- 2) How, or why, should rate payers believe that the funds raised by an increase will be spent any more responsibly than past funds?

The misuse, or inefficient use, of rates in the past is not the fault of the present Councillors. However, trust has been broken.

Call a regional meeting and face your rate payers. Answer our questions. Give us reason to believe that we can have more faith in you than in your predecessors.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council** <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Date: 12.01.2023 19:50:00 (+01:00)
To the Mayor Narelle Davis

In regard to the recent Council request to complete the below Survey, I wish to make the below comments. The Survey alternatives seem to fail to provide a decent option and actually seem to have very little reference to the issues. I have completed a reply below which addresses many issues and since I wrote this reply the Government has acknowledged the Road repair issues and has announced they will be contributing more, to the Councils to help address this problem.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HL5G6NR>

Please see below comments on behalf of _____ of _____ street
Jindabyne.

"In regard to the Councils request for comments, as to the 3 proposed possible Options to increase rates, these comments follow.

Firstly, two of the Options seem so extreme, that they can only be considered as a type of Ambit claim. The size of the increases recommended in option 1 and 2 seem to be oblivious to the recent upheavals' residents and rate payers have been exposed to!! Given the size of the Council area, many Residents and rate payers have been exposed to:-

-Bush Fires

-Floods

-Covid

-51% increase in Energy bills as explained by the Government. This means our Electricity bill could exceed \$14000 a year.

-5 increase in mortgage rates over 6 months. This has increased repayments significantly, causing hardship for many and reducing disposable income, without hardly any wage increases for several years.

-up to 25% increase in fuel depending on which week applies.

-Although inflation is claimed to be 7.8 %, possibly living costs actually exceed about a 18%, in overall living costs.

- For example, as at 22nd December 2022 some cost increases were: cooking oil 19.2%, vegetables 17.6%, milk 16.4%, poultry 8.6%, bread 10.4%, beef 9%. For the 12 months to 2021 petrol increased by 41.4 cents or 34%. A simple tank of petrol can go up \$40 depending on the pump price and the type of car.

Countless businesses have gone into Bankruptcy and employees have been terminated. How can council possibly consider asking for 53% or 55.25% increases in rates when residents have been absolutely hammered with surging costs in countless areas!!

A review of IPART appeals, show 86 councils successfully appealed to have a Variation increase and the highest increase granted was 2.5%.. Snowy Mountains council received such an increase. Plus, the latest Snowy Mountains council increase is, 4% which is higher than any wage rises this year.

Council 3 Options, seem to be disingenuous, or maybe misleading, by providing 2 excessive options and the third option, which will have no increase. This is supported by the argument; the Council will lag behind and residents will suffer.

Why isn't there a more reasonable fourth option, which might be affordable and will not exacerbate the hardship many people are experiencing?? Has anyone considered that many of these premises are weekenders, holiday houses etc and many people are already paying rates on other premises.

Council has many projects in progress and is receiving significant funds from the State Government and other Authorities. Many of your rate payers are Businesses and they understand the need to work within a Budget, Maybe Council needs to consider this, as Council, actually according to your Balance sheet, is paying more wages than Rates received. Spending needs to be reduced. This can be reduced by reducing the number of employees or by spending less. Over a Million dollars can be saved by reducing employee numbers by about 10 people. More discretion can be applied to reducing non urgent projects or even Grants.

Council complains about road repair cost being a big problem and one reason why more rates are necessary. I note Council has expressed in your own documentation that the State Government is providing over \$912 k, towards road repair and \$391 million dollars to deliver the Snowy Mountains potential. If the Amalgamation of 3 Councils has failed, causing a cost blow out, then maybe Council should be arguing for more support from the Government, that forced the amalgamation, to assist more with the road repair, due to the ratio of rate payers compared to the increased length of roads, created by the amalgamation.

In conclusion Council seems to have ignored the soaring cost of Goods, leading to a record number of people seeking aid from charities over this Xmas. Many of these people are people who have been laid off or who have had failed Businesses. The people seeking aid, has also increased by 4 % for people who are actually working.""

Cheers

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 27 December 2022 11:21 AM

To:

Subject: Fw: [EXT] Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

From:

Sent: Monday, 19 December 2022 8:58 PM

To:

Subject: Fw: [EXT] Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 8:27 AM
To:

Subject: FW: [EXT] Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

FYI – please read and provide feedback to me, and I can send feedback as one group.

Option 1 – it isn't clear if it's a one off hit and then rates go back.

From: Snowy Monaro Regional Council <news@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2022 6:35 PM
To:
Subject: [EXT] Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

No images? [Click here](#)

Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Dear
I encourage your participation in providing feedback on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented in the 2023/24 Budget for Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC).

At a recent meeting, your Council decided to lodge an Expression of Interest to IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW) for a permanent Special Rate Variation. This will impact the percentage increase to Council's total rates revenue, not how much your individual rates will change.

Following a detailed and independent analysis of our financial position, plus ongoing service reviews, it is clear that an increase in rates is a long overdue and critical step to ensure we can become financially sustainable while maintaining service levels over the long-term, as expected by our community.

The rate increases set by the NSW State Government have not kept pace with cost escalations faced by Council in providing services to our community. Like many other NSW councils, SMRC has not generated revenue sufficient to undertake enough investment in community assets.

The independent analysis showed that Council's financial position will deteriorate to an average operating deficit of \$8.5million a year which is not sustainable. The impact of the deficit is that we are unable to invest enough money each year in necessary maintenance and renewal. Therefore, our roads, parks and gardens, and buildings will continue to deteriorate. Services and associated service levels will also need to be reduced.

You, the community, have consistently indicated that you do not wish to see Council's infrastructure assets deteriorate and service levels reduced.

The proposed SRV will generate the necessary revenue that will be used to fund our existing services and provide required funding for the following:

- Resealing bitumen roads
- Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
- Improve our stormwater infrastructure
- Replacement of bridges that are failing
- Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition
- Investment in asset management capability

If implemented, the SRV will apply to your general rates only. Revenue raised from a SRV must be accounted for each year in our annual report, showing where the money has been spent.

The SRV does not apply to your waste management, water and sewerage charges.

If the SRV is not approved, Council will need to implement service level reductions totalling \$28.8 million over the next ten years. Services will need to be discontinued, roads and buildings will continue to deteriorate, and unsafe facilities will be closed so that necessary funds can be redirected to keep essential infrastructure safe and functional for our community.

I encourage you to read the fact sheet enclosed with this letter and access further information on our Your Say website, where you can also select your preferred SRV option in the online survey by Sunday 22 January 2023.

There are three options for your consideration:

- Option 1 – 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24. Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.
- Option 2 – 55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from 2023/24. Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million in asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Over time, current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.
- Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only. Assets and service levels will deteriorate, and the current infrastructure backlog will continue to grow as additional assets deteriorate below satisfactory condition. Council will be required to reduce services and close unsafe facilities.

We are engaging with our community to ensure all interested people are informed and that you are provided an opportunity to provide feedback

on the options presented for the SRV application proposal. The details of our various community engagement activities are on our Your Say website. Please visit

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation> to have your say, read the documents, consider the options and complete the survey.

I look forward to working together with you to ensure that we are able to continue to provide services and the community over the long-term, and in line with expectations.

Councillor Narelle Davis

Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Option 1 – 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24

Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result i.e. financial sustainability.

Option 2 – 55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from 2023/24 Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million in asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets.

Over time, current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.

Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only

Assets and service levels will deteriorate, and the current infrastructure backlog will continue to grow as additional assets deteriorate below satisfactory condition. Council will be required to reduce services and close unsafe facilities.

[Click here to view the Special Rate Variation Fact Sheets](#)

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV) and Rate-Pegging?

Rates increase each year in line with an amount set by the State Government. This amount is calculated every year and is called the 'rate peg'. This is decided by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). For the 2023/24 financial year the rate peg applied to Snowy Monaro Regional Council, will be 4.0%.

If a council's rate revenue is not enough to maintain service levels, it can apply to IPART to increase overall rate revenue by more than the rate peg. This is known as a Special Rate Variation (SRV). In order to apply for an SRV, councils must demonstrate to the community and IPART that they need the money and have implemented improvements to be more efficient and productive.

What is the impact of the Special Rate Variation (SRV) on my rates?

Table 1 shows the impact of implementing the SRV on the average rates by each rate category.

Table 1 - Increase in 2023/24 Average Rate

--

What will SRV funds be used for?

Three options are provided for consideration based on rate increases;

- two SRV options
- one limited to the rate-peg

The proposed SRV will generate the necessary revenue that will be used to fund our existing services and provide required funding for the following:

- Resealing bitumen roads
- Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
- Improve our stormwater infrastructure
- Replacement of bridges that are failing
- Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition
- Investment in asset management capability

Option 1 will enable for the above service levels to commence from 2023/24, whereas Option 2 will allow for a staged increase in asset renewals and maintenance of current service levels over a number of years.

The Resourcing Strategy is on public exhibition, and can be accessed on Council's Your Say website or at any Council office. Residents are being asked for their views on the three options.

Current Council services

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

From:

Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council

To:

<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Nicole Overall**
<monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>; **kristy mcbain**

CC:

Anthony Albanese <a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au>

Subject:

Snowy Monaro Regional Council - Special Rate Variation

Date:

14.01.2023 15:40:28 (+01:00)

Councillor Narelle Davis

Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Dear Narelle Davis, Nicole Overall and Kristy Mc Bain,

I am writing to express my absolute objection to the proposed 53% rate increase by the Monaro Regional Council for the upcoming year. My understanding is that the proposed increase will be used to peg subsequent increases.

Well, as a Dalgety landholder and ratepayer, I am absolutely appalled by the suggestion and impertinence of Council when I and many others on the land are on the brink of survival.

There are many people out there on the breadline and doing it tough. Do I need to remind you that we are currently in a period of very high inflation, high interest rates, record diesel fuel prices, record farm materials and pesticides costs, record shearers costs etc etc. Coupled with more regular and extreme weather events, as well as low wool prices (mainly influenced by Asian markets) it is any wonder that primary production is getting much more difficult for the average farmer?

Council needs a reality check. There are a lot of people struggling to put food on the table out there and I hazard a guess that the Special Rate Increase strategy was not thought up by any of them. As a result I have a complete lack of faith in Council's capacity to manage and invest in the region for the long term.

I believe the Council has been incompetent in their management of ratepayers money to date. One example that comes immediately to mind is a local road/excavation contractor that has been engaged by Council for several years to maintain Avonside Road. This road becomes riddled with potholes after heavy rain and becomes dangerous and almost impassable after heavy rain. As a result it needs to be regraded several times a year however the job has never been done properly as it should with the addition and compaction of new road base material, instead, it is always just recut deeper with a grader which also brings vegetable matter from the gutters back into the road making slippery and a stop gap measure at best. Even worse, the now deeper gutters make driveway crossings extremely difficult with many locals having to grade their road gutters/crossings with tractors themselves.

The other item I take issue with is the lack of adequate communication in the area. The mobile phone and internet services are woeful, inadequate and inconsistent. As a farmer, I hope I never need to make an emergency 000 call while on my own in the paddock because I have very little hope or confidence there would be any phone reception (I know farmers that have had life threatening injuries, snakebite or pinned by their machinery and not been discovered till the following day, even though they had mobile phones). On a farm, a working mobile phone is a basic essential survival tool. No reception can mean death.

As members of parliament, I am writing to ask for your assistance in addressing the issues outlined above. I hope that you will consider advocating on behalf of your constituents and urging the Monaro Regional Council to reconsider their proposed rate increase.

I also hope that you will work to address the lack of progress on improving mobile blackspots and road infrastructure, and to improve internet service in our region.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: 2023/01/16 - Special Rate Variation - Letter of Objection from &
Date: 16.01.2023 14:51:21 (+01:00)
Attachments: 16012023144901-0001.pdf (1 page)

Kirsten Jackson
Customer Service Officer (Cooma)

Snowy Monaro Regional Council
PO Box 714
COOMA NSW 2630
Phone (02) 6451 1651

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From: ApeosPort C4570 <fujixeroxdevice@bombala.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 2:49 PM

To:

Subject: Scan from Fuji Xerox MFD

Number of Images: 1

Attachment File Type: PDF

Device Name:

Device Location:

16.01-2023

SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL



BY:

WE STRONGLY OBJECT TO COUNCIL'S PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (OPTION 1) AND (OPTION 2) EVER SINCE TAKING OVER COUNCIL DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW HOW TO BUDGET, THEY WASTE MONEY IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

IE, BUILDING THINGS RIPPING THEM BACK OUT AFTER A SHORT TIME THEN REPLACING WITH SOMEOTHER EXPENSIVE THING

PLANTING GARDENS IN THE MIDDLE OF DROUGHT AND BUSHFIRES, THEN HAVING TO REPLACE SOME OF THEM

THIS IS JUST 2 EXAMPLES OF MANY, AND ONLY WHAT WE SEE IN OUR TOWN, IF THIS IS COMMON PRACTICE FOR ALL TOWNS IN THE SNOWY MONARO COUNCIL THEN ITS NO WONDER THEY ARE IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE

INCREASING RATES IS JUST EXPECTING EVERYONE TO PAY FOR THEIR INCOMPETANCE. UNTIL THEY STOP WASTING THE MONEY RATE INCREASING IS ONLY GOING TO BE A BAND-AID SOLUTION THE PROBLEM WILL CONTINUE

(OPTION 3) IS THE ONLY OPTION FAIR TO RATEPAYERS IF WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO LIVE IN THE SMRC ARE

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Response to SRV survey
Date: 14.01.2023 08:48:43 (+01:00)
Attachments: Vote against proposed rate increase for 202324.doc (1 page)

Dear CEO,

Please find my response to the proposed Special Rate Variation attached.

Confidential Draft

Dear Sir,

I am writing my response to you regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation because I found the online survey most concerning. I could not complete my survey on line because I was not permitted to proceed without completing the 3 options. I only wished to vote for one option and not register a preference for the others.

I am **against** the proposed Special Rate Variation options 1 and 2 to apply from 2023. At this time I am only in favor of the rate pegging increase of 4% for the financial year 2023/24.

The reason I am not in favor of the proposals 1 and 2 at this time is that I believe Council has not sufficiently justified the reasons for the increase other than an admission and well publicized information that Council is in financial trouble. There is no detail where the additional funds will be spent other than broad promises that they will be spent on roads, buildings and asset management programs. There is no hint of a restructure of Councils operations and service delivery strategy which I believe is paramount to this Council recovering its financial results and its credibility within the community. Additionally the projected financial benefits for the years post 2024 are not going to deliver the financial benefits stated. Example with the proposed 53% increase in 2023/24 is followed by 2.5% increases for the ensuing years which will be far less than inflation and will not achieve the projected \$64.3M additional investment.

Council cannot expect its ratepayers to provide additional funds through a substantial rate increase without a detailed justification for the additional funding and how further efficiencies will be made. It is all very well to make broad statements about all the additional funding being spent on road maintenance and improvement and on community infrastructure maintenance and improvement but far more justification/information in the form of budget figures is needed.

I believe there are many areas of Councils operations that can be improved substantially before ratepayers are asked to prop up a top heavy management structure and an inefficient workforce.

If Council can prove that it has thoroughly and forensically examined the staff structure and made improvements to its operating procedures other than simply throwing more staff into the organization, I might be convinced to support greater rate increases but at this stage I believe Council has a long way to go in addressing the **current** operating systems which are obviously are not delivering the desired outcomes.

From: **Cherie McNair**
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council** <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: - Re: Ranking the options
Date: 17.01.2023 19:09:45 (+01:00)

From: Gina Woodward
Sent: Thursday, 1 December 2022 4:32 PM
To: SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT) ; Narelle Davis
Cc: Cherie McNair ; Gina McConkey
Subject: FW: ; communications
- Re: Ranking the options

Hi – my suggestions would be:

1. Councillors need to understand the preferences of the community – what they rank in order of preferred option, and which one would be 2nd best over the next two...
2. They are done this way so councillors can understand the weighted rankings community preferences for each option...

From: Michelle Hurford
Sent: Thursday, 1 December 2022 12:38 PM
To: communications
Cc: CSO
Subject: Re: Ranking the options

Hi, has had a call from residents that are complaining as you should be able to choose only 1 option and should not have to rank these in order.

Would like a call from someone please to why this is set out this way and not just one option.

Thanks

4. Please rank the options in order of preference

<input type="text"/>	Option 1 – an increase in rates of 53% in 2023/24 maintaining service levels
<input type="text"/>	Option 2 – an increase in rates applied over five years - 12.25% in 2023/24, and 10.75% in each of the four years after with some service reductions in the first five years
<input type="text"/>	Option 3 – no SRV - an increase in rates of rate-peg only (4%) with significant service level reductions

From:

Nicole

To: **Overall** <monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>; **Kristy McBain** <community@contact.australianlabor.org.au>; **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council** <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

CC:

Subject: Re: Outrageous rate increase in Snowy Monaro and inadequate servicing of the region

Date: 17.01.2023 23:32:29 (+01:00)

Thankyou for your responding on behalf of Kristy, Indigo.

Regrettably I have not heard back from anyone else.

However, you might want to be aware of the following supplementary information.

Firstly, Varneys Range tower does not provide a signal along much of Avonside Rd.

Additionally, Sky Muster only offers limited data plans for similar cost to what is currently purchased. With the demands of home schooling for 4 children and the need to work remotely, this is insufficient without an expenditure of at least \$100plus, per month. NBN, and the options you refer to are not feasible or possible.

Re Blackspots in mobile coverage there are a number. The 3 worst commonly experienced are listed below. The latter two are worse than blackspots, there is no connectivity for half an hour:

- Berridale to the top of Varneys Range (Kosciusko Road)
- Middlingbank Road to Kingston Road (Snowy Mountains HWY)
- Dalgety to Bombala via (Snowy River Way)

These are sealed main roads, that are relied upon to transport feed on the farm truck from various locations. Additionally there are numerous Blackspots around Avonside where there is a variable 1 or 0 bar of service. Useless in an emergency situation.

While I appreciate your courtesy and promptness, I would value a response that outlines the solutions practically possible and a timeline eg a statement saying "they will be fixed by such and such a time". It seems Avonside Rd is simply in the too hard basket.

I have already availed myself of consultation around the current Council survey on rate increases, due in the next few days. Unsatisfactorily it offers limited options when it comes to the rates increase. The survey design actually steers ratepayers into an impossible corner with no viable options other than to swallow the increase, swallow the increase more gradually or reject it fully and accept having no further infrastructure funds or work done!

I welcome and hope the Federal Regional Connectivity initiative is successful and would appreciate being kept informed of site, location, coverage and time frames.

Thank you for your courteous response.

Best

Sent from my iPad

On 13 Jan 2023, at 12:34 pm,
wrote:

Dear

Thank you for taking the time to contact Kristy concerning the financial sustainability of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council and the proposed rate increase, as well as NBN connectivity options in the Avonside Rd area. Kristy has asked me to respond on her behalf.

Ultimately council rates will be a decision for Council and any special rate variation will need to be approved by the NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

In this case it would be prudent for you to also raise your concerns with the State Member, Mrs Nichole Overall, whom I see you have included in your correspondence.

I would also encourage you to get involved with the community consultation process and include your suggestions as Council is considering all its options.

You can find more information here, [Special Rate Variation | Your Say Snowy Monaro](#) and have your say here: [Snowy Monaro Potential Special Rate Variation from 2023/24 Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#). Alternatively, you can request a hard copy survey by emailing the council at council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au or calling 1300 345 345. Please note feedback is required by 11:59pm Sunday 22 January 2023.

Regarding the issue of internet availability along Avonside Road, there are a couple of options available which aren't as expensive as something like Starlink.

Depending on the usage and requirements of the household, I would recommend looking into SkyMuster, which is an NBN satellite service available in the area. The setup and installation are free, and there are no lock-in contracts so if it's unsuitable, the out-of-pocket cost is only around \$70. Details on SkyMuster can be found here [Sky Muster™ Satellite Internet Plans on NBN™ | SkyMesh](#).

Another option available to the household is a private internet service provider called Countrytell, which is also available along Avonside, and has just upgraded their wireless tower on Varney's range which services the area. Details on Countrytell can be found here [Countrytell – Connectivity, uncomplicated.](#)

The NBN network is constantly being expanded in the form of fixed-point wireless, and FTTP connections, however, at this stage NBNCo are prioritising more densely populated areas in the region for connectivity upgrades.

The Regional Connectivity Program is a federal initiative operated by the Department of Infrastructure and includes the Mobile Black Spot program. Round 3 is now open for community consultation and you can have your say here [Regional Connectivity Program \(including Mobile Black Spot opportunities\) | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#). Submissions close Friday February 10 2023 at 5pm. I can, however, confirm that new mobile towers have been approved for development in the last round along the Monaro and Snowy Mountains highways. We will keep you updated as more details become available regarding site location and coverage maps.

Please don't hesitate to contact Kristy in the future with any questions or concerns you have relating to federal issues in Eden-Monaro

Kind regards

Electorate Officer
Member for Eden-Monaro
1/21-25 Monaro Street | Queanbeyan NSW 2620 | 02 6284 2442
1/225 Carp Street | Bega NSW 2550 | 02 6492 0542
Parliament House | Canberra ACT 2600 | 02 6277 7060

THE HON KRISTY MCBAIN MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO

KristyMcBain.com.au



*We acknowledge the Ngambri, Ngunnawal, Wiradyuri, Ngarigo and Yuin people as Traditional Owners of Country in the Eden-Monaro Electorate.
We recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities and pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

From:

Sent: Saturday, 7 January 2023 4:35 PM

To: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au; Nichole Overall <monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>; McBain, Kristy (MP)

Cc:

Subject: Outrageous rate increase in Snowy Monaro and inadequate servicing of the region

Councillor Narelle Davis

Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Dear Narelle Davis, Nicole Overall and Kristy Mc Bain,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed 53% rate increase by the Monaro Regional Council for the upcoming year. Even worse is using that increase to peg subsequent increases to it rather than reducing the percentage once efficiencies have been achieved. That is simply incompetent and a waste of increased resourcing and engenders a complete lack of faith in Council's capacity to invest in the region strategically for the long term.

I visit the younger members of my family living in the region on a regular basis, although I have now had to make special arrangements to be met at Cooma as my sedan cannot any longer navigate Avonside Road safely. As my family has several young children I am deeply concerned about the impact this increase will have on their household budget and the budgets of other community members.

Furthermore, I am disappointed to learn that the funds reserved for sealing Avonside road are no longer being fully allocated to this task. I have written to you previously on this matter and have received a holding response from Ms Overall and disappointingly no response from Ms Mc Bain.

This road is a vital thoroughfare for many members of the local community and its Canberra visitors and it is essential that it be properly maintained and improved. The decision to divert funds away from this project is unacceptable, especially in light of the evident mismanagement and incapacity to effectively roll out the project. It is unacceptable that Avonside will now only receive half of the previously proposed allocation of funds. It is in fact dangerous to anyone driving on it, even an ambulance can't get to the section where this young family lives. Having young children makes this epic in its potential for life threatening accidents.

I accept that you have recently graded this as a temporary fix but that is only as good as the next strong rainfall which will again render it unusable.

I am also disheartened by the lack of progress on addressing the mobile blackspots and improving road infrastructure more generally in the region, despite the Federal Labor Party's election promises to do so. *After great initial optimism, my faith in Labor representation is quickly diminishing.*

In effect the State member is trying but the Federal Labor MP has been unresponsive-highly disillusioning.

Additionally, communication is woeful, inadequate and inconsistent at best. The quality of internet service particularly for those working from home, is unacceptable. Despite having line of sight to the tower and paying \$75 a month for the best NBN plan they can get, they are receiving internet speeds that are slower than dial-up or at inoperable levels.

When inquiring about this issue with an NBN representative, it was suggested we consider getting Elon Musk's "Starlink" service, which is an acceptable solution if you have \$150 a month to spend, but is out of reach for many people. It is simply unacceptable to be paying such extortionate high prices for poor quality, inadequate service.

As members of parliament, I am writing to ask for your assistance in addressing the issues outlined above. I hope that you will consider advocating on behalf of your constituents and urging the Monaro Regional Council to reconsider their proposed rate increase and also to prioritize the full allocation of funds for the proper long term sealing of Avonside road. I also hope that you will work to address the lack of progress on improving mobile blackspots and road infrastructure, and to improve internet service in our region.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPad

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Rate rise
Date: 18.01.2023 01:52:06 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your patience, as you can imagine we have received an overwhelming response from the community.

Please visit the Your Say council website to find all details of the proposed special rate variation. The link to this website has been provided below.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 7 December 2022 9:07 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate rise

Please email me the details of the proposed rate rise.

--

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Special Rate Variation Survey
Date: 18.01.2023 01:47:38 (+01:00)
Attachments: SRV SurveyMonkey Data.pdf (2 pages)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your patience, as you can imagine we have received an overwhelming response from the community.

Please find attached a copy of your completed survey as requested.

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Friday, 13 January 2023 10:53 AM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; David Rawlings
; Tracy Sligar
Subject: Fwd: Special Rate Variation Survey

Good morning SMRC

One month ago I sent my original request for a copy of my SRV survey response but, unfortunately, have not had either an acknowledgement or reply to my enquiry.

Advice from Mayor, Narelle Davis, confirms feed back closes in less than 6 working days therefore your immediate attention to this matter would be appreciated.

Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From:
Date: Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 10:26 AM
Subject: Special Rate Variation Survey
To: <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Good morning SMRC

On 13/12/22 I completed and submitted your SRV Survey Monkey.

As you probably realise I could not cc a copy of my response to myself for my records nor was it possible to copy/print the doc' before I sent it.

As such could you please forward a copy of my submission to me in order I can pursue some of the matters I have raised as I have no record of the comments I made.

My response can be identified by the inclusion of " Gullies Road" in the single free text question.

Thanks.

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Snowy Monaro Potential Special Rate Variation from 2023/24

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 12, 2022 9:15:15 AM
Last Modified: Monday, December 12, 2022 9:50:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:35:14
IP Address: 116.250.213.126

Page 1: Tell us what you want for the Snowy Monaro region

Q1 55-64

Please select your age category

Q2

What is the postcode of your primary residence?

2627

Q3

Residential Ratepayer (live full-time in region)

Which of these best describes your residential status in the Snowy Monaro? (Please select all that apply)

Q4

Please rank the options in order of preference

Option 1 – an increase in rates of 53% in 2023/24 maintaining service levels 3

Option 2 - an increase in rates applied over five years - 12.25% in 2023/24, and 10.75% in each of the four years after with some service reductions in the first five years 2

Option 3 – no SRV - an increase in rates of rate-peg only (4%) with significant service level reductions 1

Q5

Yes

Prior to this survey, were you aware that Council was exploring a Special Rate Variation?

Snowy Monaro Potential Special Rate Variation from 2023/24

Q6

How were you informed of the Special Rate Variation?
(Please select all that apply)

Other (please specify):

No official advice - heard general, local discussion and had to make my own enquiries. Concerned with lack of information dissemination, lack of community awareness and brevity of this survey inc' no opportunity for free space comment or to "Tell us what you want for the Snowy Monaro region". Consequently this survey could be viewed as a box ticking exercise in consultation to support the proposal. This exercise needs to extend far beyond a 6 question survey and can only properly reflect the views of all affected parties through much broader engagement and greater transparency. Ironically I have just tried to submit my response only to be instructed question 4 "requires an answer". In my first attempt I intentionally didn't answer q 4 as I found it to be misleading and loaded and, equally as important, somewhat presumptuous in the expectation of a preference whilst bereft of detail, consequence and the full details essential in advance of deciding one's preferences. Contrary to your claims of "community consultation" it is impossible to submit this survey without expressing an order of preference and duplication of a preference numbers ie "3, 3, 3 until further discussion" is not permitted which is extremely concerning given the potential for manipulation of such survey intel'.

Gullies Road.

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Special Rate Variation - Feedback
Date: 18.01.2023 03:23:28 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Council undertook an independent Financial Sustainability Review which has highlighted a lack of investment in asset maintenance which results in deteriorating assets. This review indicated a need for additional funding to ensure this work could be completed, along with a number of other recommendations to improve council's financial position.

Any additional funding raised through a Special Rate Variation will be used to fund existing services and provide required funding for the following:

- Resealing bitumen roads
- Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
- Improve our stormwater infrastructure
- Replacement of bridges that are failing
- Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition
- Investment in asset management capability

Specific projects within these broader areas will be identified through Council's asset management plans.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the other comments and questions coming in regarding what Council is doing to rectify these issues.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2022 9:26 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation - Feedback

Hi Council

I don't feel that the information you provided has enough details about how you plan on spending the additional funds. At this point in time from a ratepayers perspective and a person who grew up in the area, the district has been neglected for decades, one clear example is the disappearance of the footpaths on Orana Ave and other streets in the Cooma North area, lack of direction on the future of the snowy mountains area, tourism, sustainability, the environment and a plan on how to draw new businesses to the area to attract young people, create jobs and keep them here.

I fear likely many other residents that once the Snowy 2 scheme has been completed the current demand and income from these workers will leave the area and the result will be lower rents, no jobs and the area reverting back to its state prior to the scheme commencing.

The Snowy Mountains council needs to develop a roadmap and a plan to reinvigorate the entire Snowy region and make it attractive for businesses and young people to move into to build on the region's economy and appeal.

The Brumby distillery and Dalgety Brewery are great examples of what visitors want to experience in the local area and these are the types of experiences in addition to what is already on offer and support these visionaries to help bring about change to the area. The snowy should wish to be a Hunter Valley, Bowral, The Barossa type of destination. Watch Narooma transform now that Justin Hemmes has purchased all the local pubs, he has a vision with an extensive track record in turning poor performing venues into funky unique food, and dining experiences promoting the best of the local area and its produce.

The Snowy region has a lot to offer and the council is not promoting or open to new ideas or providing incentives to bring it back to life. If you want us, ratepayers, to fork out more money we want to see more value for it.

Regards

Confidential Draft

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Rate rise
Date: 18.01.2023 02:12:57 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Council undertook an independent Financial Sustainability Review which identified the issue of a lack of asset maintenance which results in deteriorating assets. This review indicated a need for additional funding to ensure this work could be completed.

There are many recommendations in the financial sustainability review focusing on the services offered by Council and how Council can operate more effectively.

We encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the other comments and questions coming in regarding what Council is doing to rectify these issues.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Monday, 28 November 2022 10:53 AM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate rise

If the council intends to raise rates then I would suggest that they start doing something about all that needs to be done around town. There are a lot of people who are not happy with this current council and their dealings. I would like to give this council the benefit of the doubt but from what we see around town and hear the council doesn't seem to have any concern about the people or the area. Please take a hard look at yourselves and what you've been doing.

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Proposed Rate increase and rezoning
Date: 18.01.2023 02:47:41 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Council has undertaken an independent financial sustainability review which has highlighted a number of recommendations to improve the financial sustainability of Council. One of those recommendations is to apply for a Special Rate Variation to increase the funding available for services throughout the local government area.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the questions coming through to Council regarding this proposal, and Council's responses outlining all of the actions that are being undertaken to improve the financial sustainability position of Council.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2022 8:44 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed Rate increase and rezoning

Dear Snowy Monaro council

I received a proposed rate increase email. A month ago, I also received a letter propose to change zoning of my land from rural to environmental protection, for better environmental protections apparently.

I'm a land owner of a block of rural land at Road, Michaelago. I receive no water, road access, electricity or rubbish collection. And I have been paying council rates for the past 10 years.

If the council is willing to rezone the property to low density residential areas, I will be more than happy to pay the proposed 53% council fee increase. You can increase the rates 100% if I can build on the property. Otherwise its really unfair having any fee increase without any council services offered to me or to my property, especially when the council is looking to make it even more impossible for me to build by rezoning the property to environmental protection areas. If the council wants a Park for environmental protections, buy it from us rates-payers and build a national park. It's daylight robbery to ask rates-payers to pay rates and rate increases, and meanwhile use their lands as environmental protection zone.

Regards

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council** <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
To: **Re: Snowy Monaro Economic Development Newsletter - Special Edition**
Subject: **Re: Snowy Monaro Economic Development Newsletter - Special Edition**
Date: 17.01.2023 21:43:48 (+01:00)

The survey by default selects an order of preference without the user selecting anything.
It is biased.

The separation of the amalgamated councils is probably the best option.
Bombala council ratepayers shouldn't need to pay for infrastructure for tourists going to Jindabyne and the mountains.

Other councils in Sydney avoided amalgamation.

Thanks

On 17 Jan 2023 11:47 am, Economic Development Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Snowy Monaro No images? [Click here](#)
Economic
Development
Newsletter - Special
Edition



Special Edition: January 2023

In this special edition of Council's Economic Development newsletter we're putting reminder for the Snowy Monaro business community to share their opinion on the Special Rate Variation (SRV) for our region.

The outcome of this consultation will affect every business in the Snowy Monaro a consultation is your opportunity to help inform what the future of rates will look like in the region.

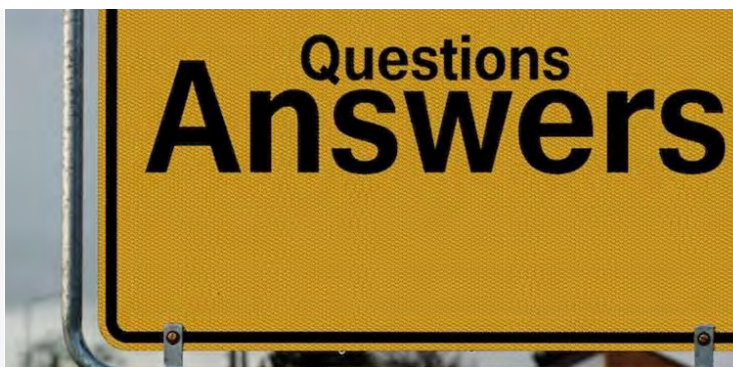
The **consultation is open until 11.59pm Sunday 22 January 2023** for you to your preferred option through our short online survey and provide your feedback. submissions are also welcome via email or hard copy.

If you haven't had your say already – there's still time to get involved.

Visit yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation today to have your say.

Feel free to jump right through to the Your Say website linked above to read detailed information or to complete the survey now – or read on here to get a rundown, with links to specific resources as a part of this consultation.





Special Rate Variation consultation update, Financial Sustainability Review and Council audit information

Many questions and a significant proportion of community comments received during Special Rate Variation (SRV) consultation have been concerned with the Financial Sustainability Review (FSR), why we went with the FSR instead of a just an audit, to access the results of the FSR and other Council financial information and documents.

Audit – annual

Council is audited every year – independently, which occurs separately from our own audit system. An audit is the examination of the financial report of an organisation. A financial report includes a balance sheet, an income statement, a statement of changes in equity, a cash flow statement, and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

This process for Snowy Monaro Regional Council is undertaken by the Audit Office of New South Wales. The outcome of this year's audit can be found in the Council Business Paper from the December 2022 Meeting at: www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Business-Papers-and-Minutes-2022

Auditors cannot predict the future – the audit relates to a specific past accounting period and does not judge what may happen in the future and so cannot provide assurance that the Council will continue in business indefinitely.

Beyond the traditional audit – Financial Sustainability Review

Councillors voted to engage AEC Group, an independent consultant, to conduct an investigation that went beyond a traditional audit – a Financial Sustainability Review. The review investigated financial information, asset management and Council's work for the pre-merger (three shires) to the present day as one regional Council.

AEC Group made several observations on finances, asset management and work for the Council. They made several recommendations for improvement. These were adopted by Council at an extraordinary meeting in November 2022, with the full report available here: www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Business-Papers-and-Minutes-2022

The information in the Financial Sustainability Review is a transparent account of Council's operations since merger and the three former Councils in the years immediately prior to merger.

The independent FSR showed that without an increase in rates and the implementation of identified efficiency improvements, Council would have no choice but to cut services. Infrastructure and public facilities would degrade and eventually close.

The financial sustainability review has 24 recommendations, a number of those with significant parts. Most are about making changes to be more efficient.

The problem faced by your Council is that the overall amount needed to efficiently deliver services is higher than the amount of funds available, so more investment is needed with careful spending of what is available.

The Financial Sustainability Review has confirmed that there is a long term structural issue at Snowy Monaro Regional Council, inherited from the predecessor shires. We have been told that the issues we are facing are the same issues similar Councils are facing - are not unique in the difficulties we face.

We have been told that for a long time the Council has not been investing enough in community's infrastructure to replace what we are using up, creating a bigger and bigger burden on future generations.

The NSW Auditor General, NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) and AEC Group said there is a significant financial issue and Council needs to start making hard decisions to fix the situation, which is what is being done now through this SRV consultation.

In addition to the FSR and the external and independent audit, the OLG is also closely monitoring our performance as an organisation.

The spending of any funds raised from a Special Rate Variation (SRV) must be reported in Council's Annual Report each year. This is non-negotiable and the community can have confidence that they will be able to see precisely what we spend any additional money through an SRV on.

SRV funds will be allocated to:

- Renewal of the sealed and unsealed road network
- Replacement of aged timber bridges
- Renewal work on the buildings that have deteriorated over time
- Improving the asset management planning systems.

Consultation on the potential Special Rate Variation for the Snowy Monaro for your response until 11.59pm Sunday 22 January 2023.

There is a short survey option and if you would like to make a written submission, to council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au or drop off in person before 4pm Friday 20 January 2023 at any council office.

Visit www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au to have your say, ask questions, and learn about this process and Council's finances.

[More Information and Registration Here](#)



Online Information Session - TOMORROW

Our final online information session offers further opportunity to learn about the proposed variation options and what they could mean for you and your business.

Potential Special Rate Variation online information session date:

To register for this session, please go to our Your Say website to learn more or register using the Eventbrite links below.

- **Wednesday 18 January 2023 – 7pm to 8.30pm - [Register here](#)**

[More Information and Registration Here](#)



Special Rate Variation Calculator: now available

You can access an easy-to-use Special Rate Variation (SRV) calculator through the Your Say consultation website.

This calculator will allow all you to more easily understand how each of the three scenarios being considered by councillors at end January 2023 would potentially affect the rates charged for your property.

If you have questions or concerns, the Your Say website contains an FAQ (frequently asked questions) section, as well as a question-and-answer section where you can read other questions and Council answers – and ask your own.

Click the 'More Information' link below to access the calculator.

[More Information](#)

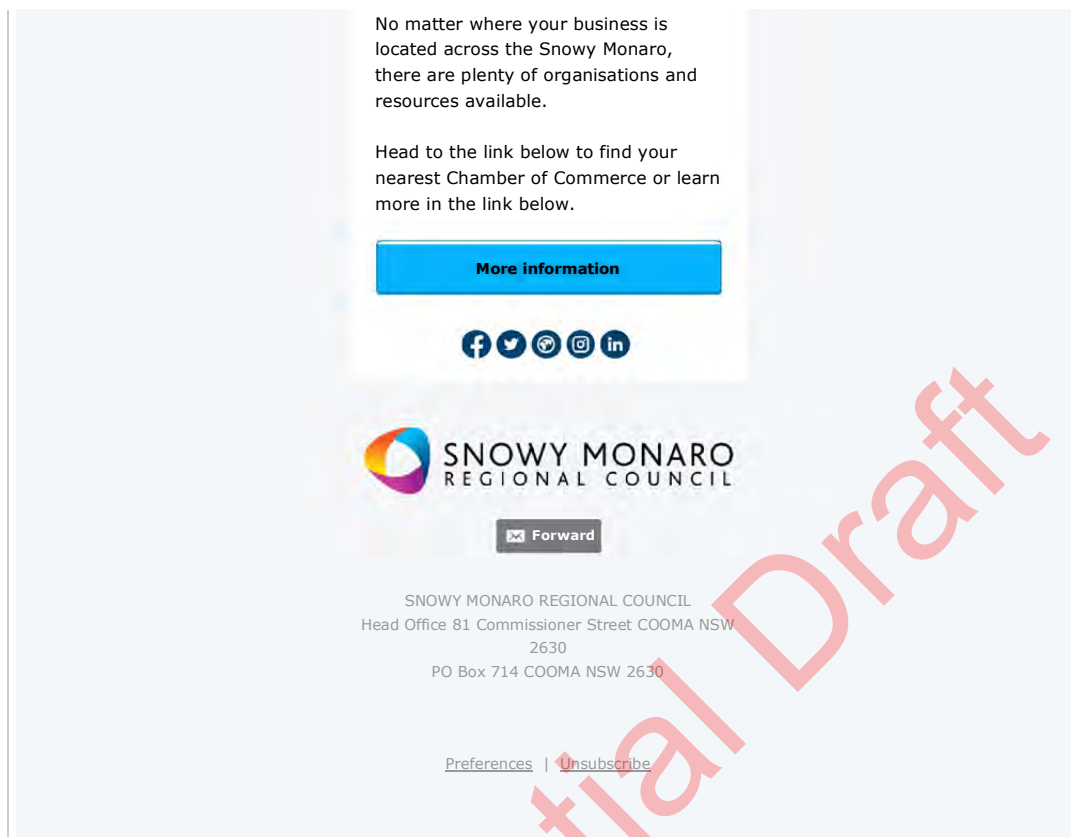
Please feel free to share this email with members of our business community you think would benefit. Encourage them to sign up through the link on our website.

GET IN TOUCH

council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
or call 24/7 on 1300 345 345

[Contact details](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



From: **Cherie McNair**
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website
Date: 17.01.2023 18:52:01 (+01:00)

From: Gina Woodward
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 8:35 AM
To: Cherie McNair ; SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)
Cc: communications
Subject: FW: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 8:01 AM
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Thank you for your reply. Yes current NSW Legislation dictated the amalgamation however you haven't addressed my concern re ratepayers bearing the majority financial burden to correct a financial disaster within the SMRC. We are an aging population therefore most of us on pensions whose real value diminishes year in year out will not be able to afford the suggested 53% option.

Where is the data to support the 53% increase and who has validated the veracity of the assumptions made?

On Mon, 16 Jan 2023 at 1:43 am, Your Say Snowy Monaro <notifications@engagementhq.com> wrote:

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'I don't like any of the three options. Plainly doing nothing is not an option. The other two options put the burden on a small number of ratepayers whose capacity to pay diminishes over time ie pensioners. The amalgamation of the Councils has been an unmitigated disaster with none of the economy of scale promised eventuating. The financial burden falls on one group ie ratepayers. Perhaps State should provide a larger financial support having inflicted the amalgamation in the first place ?'

Our response has now been posted on the site.

Our response:

As per previous responses, we encourage you to contact the relevant Ministers to provide your thoughts on current NSW Legislation.

Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

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Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC:
Subject: my objection to the rates rise
Date: 17.01.2023 14:06:10 (+01:00)

Dear Snowy council,

And SMRC councillors. I of street 2633 NSW is sending use my submission as a ratepayer and a new member of the Delegate progress association by email to uses as I strongly disagree to the rate rise I remember when it was voting time and meet the candidate use's promised to look after snowymonaro and some of uses have go back on your words only some. I don't understand why we need such a big rise for the hold of the snowy Monaro as living in just Delegate NSW 2633 just take a look at our Roads, No clean water for drinking, NO regular mowing in parks all around town, Cooma township gets more done for the town and uses say we are all under the snowy is not true. I got told by Narelle Davis but our town water money uses only just got it we were promised June 2017 that we would have clean water but now it's the end of this year are we been told more lies as everyone the snowymonaro has No money this is why uses need to put our rates up. I don't choose to live here I made a wish to both my dying parents that if one would go before the other because I was not married I would move in and help with the bills they are now both go I am paying all the bill by myself including the rates uses gets what uses are asking for I may be under financial stress as I only on a Disability pension and live on my own it is not the ratepayer fault that the council is in financial trouble as a council sorry to say uses need to manage your finance better and put none urgent things on hold really did Cooma need in town a wombat cross come one and did Bombala street need doing up could this like this be put on the back burner for the time been, and the doing up of the Bombala pool car park area yes it makes these town look very nice but when you don't have the money it should be put on hold to such time as you do common sense would tell you that. And yes I filled out the survey and didn't vote for the high rate rise there must be away this can happen without causing pain instead of enforce this high rate rise on to the ratepayer and the money doesn't get spent in our town what do we get as our town do not see where the council spend our money look at the tourism ad it said it all about Delegate it time to start thinking about the Delegate people as well ?. So I am highly rejection the high rate rise and wish for this email be read at the council meeting on 18 of January about the rates going up.

Yours sincerely

From: Gina Woodward
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 9:07 AM
To: Cherie McNair ; SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)
Cc: communications
Subject: FW: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

From:
Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 1:40 PM
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Thank you for your response.

Unfortunately the response does not in anyway answer my question.

In simple terms – if the actual projects are pivotal on being “DRIVEN” by the asset management system then how has the council determined the cost of this or any other general expenditure grouping?

Surely there has been some form of a budget with projected divisional and project expenditure?

Council needs to be more transparent in its disclosures to substantiate the expenditure.

The consultants who evaluated the existing “operation” set a value determined from I assume facts collated from current expenditure performance. I.E option 3 should not reflect or create any reduction in services.

Councils two alternative proposals are at the least “best guesses” unless they have been calculated from actual budgets.

If they have been calculated from documented budgets then disclose these proposed expenditures.

I am all for a proactive approach, just clarify it.

Yours Faithfully,

From: Your Say Snowy Monaro <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 12:43 PM
To:
Subject: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'The primary reason we have selected option 3 is because Council has not provided a proposed schedule of expenditure. It describes in only general terms where they are prepared to allocate funds. Can or will council provide a schedule of proposed expenditure with the EXTRA funds. You would not invest money in any venture without a very clear understanding of where it is going.'

Our response has now been posted on the site.

Our response:

The actual projects to be undertaken need to be driven by the asset management system. This will identify the assets that are reaching the point in their life where we need to intervene, whether to undertake maintenance or replacement of assets. The increase is about moving towards having sufficient money to do this as required. The actual works undertaken needs to be driven by a strategic approach, not a reactive approach. The current strategy is to prioritise works based on:

- Significant safety risks: Situations where a reasonable user of the facility is at a high risk of fatality.
- Just in time intervention: When assets have reached to point where renewal will save significant funds in the future. Overall allowing an asset to go to failure is about five time more costly than proper preventative maintenance.
- Highest community benefit: All other factors being equal where the greatest benefit to the community is generated from investing the remaining available funds.

The bulk of the funds will be put towards roads. Another recommendation in the financial sustainability review is to implement a pavement management system. This involves reviewing the condition of our road network and having an engineering assessment done of when interventions should occur and how we should intervene. This is likely to give a different outcome than what we assess based on what we currently know. So any list of specific roads would change.

Overall the first question needs to be do you want to fund all of the existing infrastructure and services. Depending on what the community will fund, then we look at the priorities for works, as it will be significantly different if the community chooses to reduce services as under option 3.

Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

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Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special rate variation
Date: 17.01.2023 17:55:48 (+01:00)

To whom it may concern

I totally disagree with a rate rise of the amounts proposed. Many people in the community disagree with how the council are spending money. Councillors are representing the community and need to therefore consult the community on their spending decisions. The community is very angry I've noticed. I support budgeting and spending on the essentials, cheers

Sent from my iPhone

Confidential Draft

From: Gina Woodward
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 9:03 AM
To: Cherie McNair ; SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)
Cc: communications
Subject: FW: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

From:
Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 6:00 PM
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

So, your answer to my question was 'lack of proper scoping and design before starting the project', doesn't this still come back to **bad management and a lack of experience?**

I suggest '**Needs Analysis & an independent Audit of all Management Positions**', then it can truly assessed whether, the structure is functional, value for money to its rate payers or just top heavy?

I do **not** want to pay higher rates until these issues are addressed.

Thanks

----- Original Message -----

From: "Your Say Snowy Monaro" <notifications@engagementhq.com>
To:
Sent: Monday, 16 Jan, 2023 At 12:39 PM
Subject: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'Will the gross miss management come to a end? Will incompetent department head of the shire be held accountable for gross miss management & constant budget blow outs on shire projects healed accountable (eg the roads department)?'

Our response has now been posted on the site.

Our response:

The financial sustainability review has identified that for a long time there has been a situation where the level of rates has not been sufficient to fund the proper management of the infrastructure. This is being addressed through this consultation. The review also identified a range of changes to be made about how the Council operates to improve the rigour around decisions on investment into new services and projects. A business case showing the full lifecycle costs will be required and all funding will need to be confirmed before proceeding. It also calls for increased budget controls and review measures to be put into place. These are all areas the Council has already been working on improving prior to the review.

A number of our current projects have been impacted by a lack of proper scoping and design before starting the project. This inevitably leads to problems in budgets. We have also seen considerable rapid increases in pricing. This has particularly impacted on grants, where the delay between application and when we are approved to start the grant can be close to a year.

Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

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From: **Peter Bascomb**
To: **SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)**
Subject: FW: Rate rise response
Date: 18.01.2023 16:48:24 (+01:00)

From: Narelle Davis
Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2023 4:47 PM
To:
Cc: Peter Bascomb ; SMRC Councillors

Subject: Rate rise response

Thankyou for your submission and thank you for filling out the survey. Council has not made a decision to increase rates. We consulting on the 3 options.

The council has continually repaired the Delegate to Bombala road in 2022. I would agree with you that the road is also continually fully apart. However the the long periods of wet weather and wear and tear from the log trucks has been a major contributor to the decline in the state of the road. In the 15 times I travelled to Delegate in 2022 there was always a road crew repairing the road. All of the roads in our council area are in poor state and council has as many works crews as available repairing the worse damage as quickly as possible.

The tender for the water treatment plant has been awarded and the the contractor and council are in the final stages of detail design for the work. This type of work takes a long period of time, a lot of the work is not visible to the community. The physical work will commence when the background work has been completed.

Water services are a user pay system and are a separate fee to the general rates. I explained this at a Progress Association meeting.

The wombat crossings at school sites in Cooma were grant funded and installed for safety reasons.

This council has been very honest with the community regarding the financial situation, and the work we have one in last 12 months is to improve the financial management of council.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and I would like invite to meet with our finance staff to see if there is any assistance council can provide you as a pensioner regarding your rates.

Regards
Narelle Davis
SMRC Councillor

Narelle Davis
SMRC Councillor

From: **Peter Bascomb**
To: **SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)**
Subject: FW: NSW State Election
Date: 19.01.2023 09:34:39 (+01:00)

From: Narelle Davis
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 9:18 AM

To:
Cc: Tanya Higgins ; Peter Beer
; Louise Frolich ; Luke
Williamson ; Chris Hanna
; Tricia Hopkins ;
Craig Mitchell ; Peter Bascomb

Subject: Re: NSW State Election

Hi

Thankyou for your email.

Yes you are correct that the March election is a good opportunity to lobby each candidate to fix the broken Local Government funding model. Every voter in our council region needs to lobby the candidates. I have been very vocal for the past 12 months stating that the current local government funding model is designed to keep rural councils poor and inefficient. Forcing councils to continually apply for grants to do the basic maintenance and renewal of our infrastructure, and service delivery. And no certainty as to success of these applications.

The past 3 years of weather events from major fire damage and wet weather events have escalated the impact of the councils ability to repair and renew our road and built infrastructure as it has deteriorated to below poor level.

The wet weather events have further limited our capacity to undertake routine maintenance to roads, requiring reactive maintenance to allow the community to travel across the region. Reactive maintenance costs 3 times more than a planned program. The damage to the roads is costing the residents in car repairs, time, access to services and reducing access for farmers to get stock and produce to markets.

The \$5mill in grant funding for pot hole repair will allow council to strategically focus on the worse roads and repair (not make better) large sections effectively. \$5mill across across 2700km of road breaks down to \$1800 per km. All of our roads are damaged.

Council has been lobbying and advocating the state government through our the Member for Monaro Nicole Overall and Local Government NSW. All councils in NSW agree the current model of funding is not fit for purpose.

Regionally this council is an active member of the Canberra Regional Joint Organisation of councils. In the past 12 months we have had the opportunity to speak directly to the NSW Minister for Local Government about IPART and the funding model. Reductions in State and Federal support, together with cost shifting and the rising costs of goods must be considered in a new approach.

You will note that our neighbouring councils Bega Valley and Queanbeyan/Palarang are applying for 90% increase in the General Rates.

We are actively lobbying the Member for Eden Monaro Kristy McBain who is also responsible for Local Government within her ministerial portfolio to reinstate the Financial Assistance grants back to 1% of tax revenues. These grants have reduced to 0.5% over the past 50 years. When legislated in the 1970s by the Whitlam Government these grants were increase not decrease. Through our membership of LGNSW, The

Australian Local Government Association role is to lobby the federal government for increase share of tax revenues.

IPART is currently reviewing the NSW Local Government funding model. This review was pushed by the Minister of Local Government after every council in NSW and the NSW Local Government Association loudly protested against IPARTs' decision to index councils a 0.7% rate increase when inflation was 6% and operational costs had exceeded 10%.

The results of this review is unlikely to be announced before the election.

The decision to apply to IPART for a rate increase has not been taken lightly by council. We are all ratepayers and we are also feeling the cost of living pressures. The elected council has worked with the council executive to work through options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of council. This work also included the Financial Sustainability Review. 23 recommendations from this review have been accepted by council. We have also been actively working the Office of Local Government and the Auditors General Department. Both bodies have clearly stated that council needs to make proactive steps to be financially sustainable.

What services and maintenance will council consider to cut/reduced, if council does not increase rates. The services funded by the General Fund.

- 2647km of roads – sealed and unsealed – including 155 bridges, 7184 culverts and footpaths
- 111 parks and sports fields and eight showgrounds
- 21 public toilet facilities, 15 halls and four libraries (including one mobile library service)
- 4 Swimming pools
- Two visitor information centres
- Economic development services
- Two community services centres and two aged care facilities
- Four Council offices with customer service for the community at each location
- The staff resources to provide these services and programs.

Waste, waste water and water are funded by user paper pay fees and are required by legislation to be reported separately.

Councillors are also aware of the impact of a rate rise on low income residents and pensioners. I have suggested to many pensioners that they take the opportunity to talk to the staff at council about how council can assist these people with their rates bill. Councils provides a number of options inclusive of rebates, payment plans, hardship relief and reviewing their rates notice.

Finally council cannot undo historical decisions made by all levels of government. We are responsible for ensuring this council is working within NSW Local Government Act and legislation. This includes ensuring council is financially sustainable and we provide the essential services the community requires.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Regards
Narelle

On 18 Jan 2023, at 10:04 pm,
wrote:

With a state election due in March, I would like to know what, other than raising rates, the SMRC is doing to improve the long term financial health of our region.

When the Carr government withdrew funding to Local councils in the 1990s and replaced it with the unreliable grants scheme, a commitment to repair major roads and capping rate increases, little did we know what would follow. After more than 20 years of this system, major problems are glaringly obvious, with most councils/shires in NSW in severe financial distress. Councils have been unable to properly plan or budget for future needs as they wait for required grants to be approved or rejected. Rejected grants cause a whole host of problems, further eroding finances, and adding the cost of an employee spending their time searching and applying for grants. The only option councils appear to have is raising their major source of revenue, our rates.

The forced amalgamation of councils by the Baird government further compounded these problems and now we have the result..... the mess that ratepayers are expected to pay for.

If the State government still want local councils to exist, what pressure can you put on them in an election year, to highlight the financial plight of most regional councils in NSW, and our council in particular.

I am very curious to know if there is a local council in Regional NSW that has a budget that is balanced, and is functioning successfully. If there is, what is it that these councils are doing to operate efficiently?

As rate increases are your only option for increasing revenue, I would also be interested to know how much money the NSW National Parks are making from our area, and how much they are reinvesting. Quite a few years ago, there was a strong voice for the Parks to spend money in reinvesting in the Park to improve services, which they have done.

I believe that the cost to SMRC to provide so many services should be partly offset by the NSW government returning more of their profits to this region. Surely cutting garbage collections in Jindabyne during winter from twice a week to once a week should not be an option when Jindabyne needs to be an attractive destination for the millions of visitors.

It is a very unpalatable option that a council member at the Markets last week said that if residents cannot afford the rate rises proposed, especially those on fixed incomes, that they could offset the charges against the equity in their home. Council would then recoup the rates when the house is sold. Surely the council is not proposing a death tax. If that is already the thinking of council, does that mean you expect that some people cannot afford the rate rises you are proposing?

It is also necessary to know exactly what are the services the council is considering cutting, as I am yet to find anyone who is voting for a rate increase.

Is the five million dollars the NSW state government is supplying as emergency funding for road repairs sufficient to fix the majority of the damage caused by the rain over the last year?

Council needs to be looking at other options than raising rates to improve the disastrous financial position SMRC is now in.

I look forward to your responses.

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Date: 18.01.2023 06:31:28 (+01:00)
Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

Council undertook an independent Financial Sustainability Review which outlines the reasons behind the need for additional funding. The report also identified a number of other recommendations for Council to consider actioning to assist with improving the financial position.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking. You will also find the Financial Sustainability Review report that was prepared by AEC.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation>

kind regards

From:
Sent: Friday, 13 January 2023 6:50 AM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

To the Mayor Narelle Davis

In regard to the recent Council request to complete the below Survey, I wish to make the below comments. The Survey alternatives seem to fail to provide a decent option and actually seem to have very little reference to the issues. I have completed a reply below which addresses many issues and since I wrote this reply the Government has acknowledged the Road repair issues and has announced they will be contributing more, to the Councils to help address this problem.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HL5G6NR>

Please see below comments on behalf of _____ of _____ street
Jindabyne.

"In regard to the Councils request for comments, as to the 3 proposed possible Options to increase rates, these comments follow.

Firstly, two of the Options seem so extreme, that they can only be considered as a type of Ambit claim. The size of the increases recommended in option 1 and 2 seem to be oblivious to the recent upheavals' residents and rate payers have been exposed to!! Given the size of the Council area, many Residents and rate payers have been exposed to:-
-Bush Fires

-Floods
-Covid
-51% increase in Energy bills as explained by the Government. This means our Electricity bill could exceed \$14000 a year.
-5 increase in mortgage rates over 6 months. This has increased repayments significantly, causing hardship for many and reducing disposable income, without hardly any wage increases for several years.
-up to 25% increase in fuel depending on which week applies.
-Although inflation is claimed to be 7.8 %, possibly living costs actually exceed about a 18%, in overall living costs.
- For example, as at 22nd December 2022 some cost increases were: cooking oil 19.2%, vegetables 17.6%, milk 16.4%, poultry 8.6%, bread 10.4%, beef 9%.
For the 12 months to 2021 petrol increased by 41.4 cents or 34%. A simple tank of petrol can go up \$40 depending on the pump price and the type of car.

Countless businesses have gone into Bankruptcy and employees have been terminated. How can council possibly consider asking for 53% or 55.25% increases in rates when residents have been absolutely hammered with surging costs in countless areas!!

A review of IPART appeals, show 86 councils successfully appealed to have a Variation increase and the highest increase granted was 2.5%.. Snowy Mountains council received such an increase. Plus, the latest Snowy Mountains council increase is, 4% which is higher than any wage rises this year. Council 3 Options, seem to be disingenuous, or maybe misleading, by providing 2 excessive options and the third option, which will have no increase. This is supported by the argument; the Council will lag behind and residents will suffer.

Why isn't there a more reasonable fourth option, which might be affordable and will not exacerbate the hardship many people are experiencing?? Has anyone considered that many of these premises are weekenders, holiday houses etc and many people are already paying rates on other premises.

Council has many projects in progress and is receiving significant funds from the State Government and other Authorities. Many of your rate payers are Businesses and they understand the need to work within a Budget, Maybe Council needs to consider this, as Council, actually according to your Balance sheet, is paying more wages than Rates received. Spending needs to be reduced. This can be reduced by reducing the number of employees or by spending less. Over a Million dollars can be saved by reducing employee numbers by about 10 people. More discretion can be applied to reducing non urgent projects or even Grants.

Council complains about road repair cost being a big problem and one reason why more rates are necessary. I note Council has expressed in your own documentation that the State Government is providing over \$912 k, towards road repair and \$391 million dollars to deliver the Snowy Mountains potential. If the Amalgamation of 3 Councils has failed, causing a cost blow out, then maybe Council should be arguing for more support from the Government, that forced the amalgamation, to assist more with the road repair, due to the ratio of rate payers compared to the increased length of roads, created by the amalgamation.

In conclusion Council seems to have ignored the soaring cost of Goods, leading to a record number of people seeking aid from charities over this Xmas. Many of these people are people who have been laid off or who have had failed Businesses. The people seeking aid, has also increased by 4 % for people who are actually working."

Cheers

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 27 December 2022 11:21 AM
To:
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

From:
Sent: Monday, 19 December 2022 8:58 PM
To:
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 8:27 AM
To:

Subject: FW: [EXT] Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

FYI – please read and provide feedback to me, and I can send feedback as one group.

Option 1 – it isn't clear if it's a one off hit and then rates go back.

From: Snowy Monaro Regional Council <news@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2022 6:35 PM
To: >
Subject: [EXT] Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Dear , I encourage your participation in providing feedback on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented in the 2023/24 Budget for Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC).

No images? [Click here](#)

Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Dear ,

I encourage your participation in providing feedback on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented in the 2023/24 Budget for Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC).

At a recent meeting, your Council decided to lodge an Expression of Interest to IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW) for a permanent Special Rate Variation. This will impact the percentage increase to Council's total rates revenue, not how much your individual rates will change.

Following a detailed and independent analysis of our financial position, plus ongoing service reviews, it is clear that an increase in rates is a long overdue and critical step to ensure we can become financially sustainable while maintaining service levels over the long-term, as expected by our community.

The rate increases set by the NSW State Government have not kept pace with cost escalations faced by Council in providing services to our community. Like many other NSW councils, SMRC has not generated revenue sufficient to undertake enough investment in community assets.

The independent analysis showed that Council's financial position will deteriorate to an average operating deficit of \$8.5million a year which is not sustainable. The impact of the deficit is that we are unable to invest enough money each year in necessary maintenance and renewal. Therefore, our roads, parks and gardens, and buildings will continue to deteriorate. Services and associated service levels will also need to be reduced.

You, the community, have consistently indicated that you do not wish to see Council's infrastructure assets deteriorate and service levels reduced.

The proposed SRV will generate the necessary revenue that will be used to fund our existing services and provide required funding for the following:

- Resealing bitumen roads
- Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
- Improve our stormwater infrastructure
- Replacement of bridges that are failing
- Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition

- Investment in asset management capability

If implemented, the SRV will apply to your general rates only. Revenue raised from a SRV must be accounted for each year in our annual report, showing where the money has been spent.

The SRV does not apply to your waste management, water and sewerage charges.

If the SRV is not approved, Council will need to implement service level reductions totalling \$28.8 million over the next ten years. Services will need to be discontinued, roads and buildings will continue to deteriorate, and unsafe facilities will be closed so that necessary funds can be redirected to keep essential infrastructure safe and functional for our community.

I encourage you to read the fact sheet enclosed with this letter and access further information on our Your Say website, where you can also select your preferred SRV option in the online survey by Sunday 22 January 2023.

There are three options for your consideration:

- Option 1 – 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24. Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.
- Option 2 – 55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from 2023/24. Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million in asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Over time, current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.

- Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only. Assets and service levels will deteriorate, and the current infrastructure backlog will continue to grow as additional assets deteriorate below satisfactory condition. Council will be required to reduce services and close unsafe facilities. We are engaging with our community to ensure all interested people are informed and that you are provided an opportunity to provide feedback on the options presented for the SRV application proposal. The details of our various community engagement activities are on our Your Say website. Please visit <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation> to have your say, read the documents, consider the options and complete the survey.

I look forward to working together with you to ensure that we are able to continue to provide services and the community over the long-term, and in line with expectations.

Councillor Narelle Davis

Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Option 1 – 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24

Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result i.e. financial sustainability.

Option 2 – 55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from 2023/24 Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million in asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current

infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets.

Over time, current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.

Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only

Assets and service levels will deteriorate, and the current infrastructure backlog will continue to grow as additional assets deteriorate below satisfactory condition. Council will be required to reduce services and close unsafe facilities.

[Click here to view the Special Rate Variation Fact Sheets](#)

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV) and Rate-Pegging?

Rates increase each year in line with an amount set by the State Government. This amount is calculated every year and is called the 'rate peg'. This is decided by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). For the 2023/24 financial year the rate peg applied to Snowy Monaro Regional Council, will be 4.0%.

If a council's rate revenue is not enough to maintain service levels, it can apply to IPART to increase overall rate revenue by more than the rate peg. This is known as a Special Rate Variation (SRV). In order to apply for an SRV, councils must demonstrate to the community and IPART that they need the money and have implemented improvements to be more efficient and productive.

What is the impact of the Special Rate Variation (SRV) on my rates?

Table 1 shows the impact of implementing the SRV on the average rates by each rate category.

Table 1 - Increase in 2023/24 Average Rate

What will SRV funds be used for?

Three options are provided for consideration based on rate increases;

- two SRV options
- one limited to the rate-peg

The proposed SRV will generate the necessary revenue that will be used to fund our existing services and provide required funding for the following:

- Resealing bitumen roads
- Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
- Improve our stormwater infrastructure
- Replacement of bridges that are failing
- Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition
- Investment in asset management capability

Option 1 will enable for the above service levels to commence from 2023/24, whereas Option 2 will allow for a staged increase in asset renewals and maintenance of current service levels over a number of years.

The Resourcing Strategy is on public exhibition, and can be accessed on Council's Your Say website or at any Council office. Residents are being asked for their views on the three options.

Current Council services

Have your say today

WHY HAVE I RECEIVED THIS EMAIL?

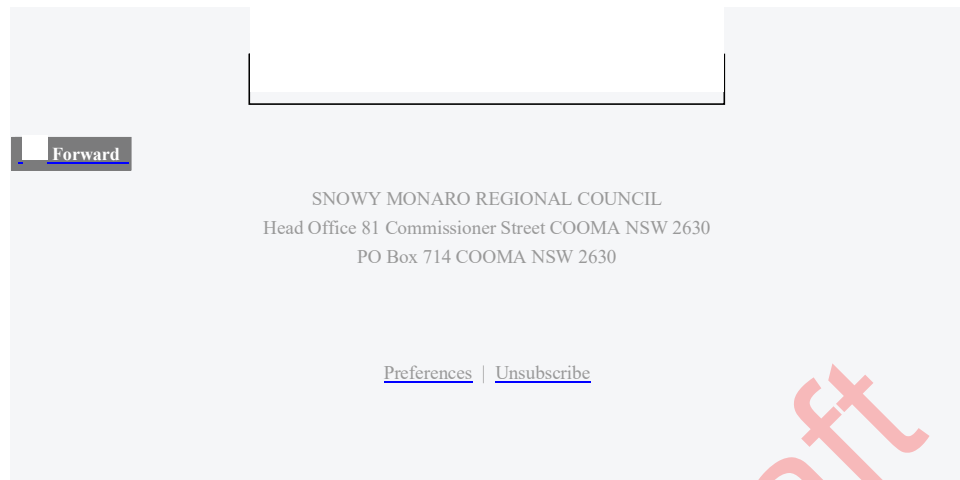
We are sending you this email as a ratepayer in the Snowy Monaro, as any potential Special Rate Variation (SRV) would effect how much you pay in rates.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Visit www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au for all the information on the proposed Special Rate Variation.

Call us on 1300 345 345 to speak with our team, or email council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au





From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**

To:

Subject: FW: Jindabyne

Date: 18.01.2023 05:01:53 (+01:00)

Good Afternoon ,

Your property, Road Jindabyne is classified as "Residential" for rating purposes. This has not changed as far back as the records available in Council's software system.

As per Section 524/525 of the Local Government Act, a property owner must notify Council within 30 days of any request in change of Category. If a person is dissatisfied with their Rate Category, Council can review this upon request.

In Snowy Monaro Regional Council, General Rates for "Business" and "Residential" categories have been calculated using the same formula since July 2021 so the amount levied since then would be the same regardless of the classification of your property.

Kind Regards

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Friday, 23 December 2022 5:04 PM

To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Jindabyne

Hello,

We received your notification of the need to increase the rates payable by ratepayers in the region.

Our place till before the Covid was used as Holiday accommodation. When the special restrictions came into force due to the Covid, we stopped renting out our townhouse.'

What is our townhouse classified as? It is not used as a business, most of the time it is empty. It is and will be used as holiday accommodation.

We hope you don't classify it as "Business" with a higher rate as it is only occupied - if we put it up for Holiday rental - during winter time, at most for two months. It would be very unfair if it was classified as "Business".

Please inform us of your classification.

Kind regards,

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: have my say re the SVR
Date: 18.01.2023 03:51:30 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for this feedback.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website. You don't need to sign in or register for anything to be able to access the Your Say area of our website and complete the survey. The website includes details of the impact of a special rate variation on an 'average' rates amount. There is also a calculator on the site whereby you can estimate the impact of a special rate variation on your rates.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

If you have any further difficulties with this, please feel free to call council for assistance or pop into an administration building for a hardcopy of the survey.

If you would like to discuss your rates specifically, I recommend you contact Council and ask to speak with our rates team members who can assist you with your current charges.

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2022 5:58 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: have my say re the SVR

Hi There

I have owned a block of land for over 20yrs on Bucky Springs Rd Rosemeath lots DP and I would like to have my say. But when I go to the site I find I don't have a sign in nor can I register as I am unable to enter my post code and have it return a suburb, essentially blocking me.

My property is classed farm land and yet I have never farmed, only camped. Over the last 20 years I have paid rates covering sewage, water, electricity, and garbage collection to name a few that are not actually offered to me as they are not available, and yet I keep paying.

When I think about this SVR subject, I feel I am already paying more than my share and find it offensive to hear we have a degrading service that requires propping up by all constituents of this area including those already overpaying.

I am more than happy to pay an SVR to get the council back on its feet if I start from a position where my rates are reduced to reflect the services I do not get or want.

Please let me know what my new rate is, minus the unavailable and unrequired service. In addition, how do I access the site to lodge my option.

Kind regards

Confidential Draft

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE:
Date: 18.01.2023 04:41:03 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for this consideration.

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 28 December 2022 2:12 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: David Rawlings ; Narelle Davis
; Luke Williamson

Subject:

Dear Council Members,

Could you please present this letter to your next Council meeting.

Obviously, some "very well off" Snowy Monaro Council members have completely lost touch with the average rate payer in the Snowy Monaro region, particularly those living rurally who receive close to ZERO services from Council as it is!

Are you not aware Councillors, that the cost of living has risen dramatically in 2022? Petrol, food and power bills in particular have skyrocketed in price. Many of us are already cutting back on food and trying to ration the amount of petrol we use. Petrol, food and electricity are a priority for ordinary rate

payers in Snowy Monaro, not the "extra services" that Council are supposed to provide.

We are all used to the cost of living continually going up but the **53% rate hike that you propose in Option 1 and Option 2 is obscene!** It is nothing short of an **outrage and an affront to the average rate payer**. I can only assume that you are **trying to force many Snowy Monaro rate payers from their homes**

because there are many of us who **cannot afford a 53% rate increase**, not even close!!!

If Council is broke and spent money that they don't have, that is poor and irresponsible budgeting on their behalf. It is NOT the rate payers' responsibility to gift Council an extra 53% in rates to bail them out (even if we could afford to which we can't!)

If the alternative is to reduce services (which living rurally I mostly don't get anyway), so be it. **Reduce the services you can't pay for!**

There are many services that I have to provide for myself (living rurally) which Council **don't** provide. These include: Waste/recycling collection services and facilities (the Bredbo Transfer Station is too expensive); Water and Sewerage; accessible libraries; accessible pools; accessible shared trails, parks and

playgrounds; Tourism and Economic Development Services; Community Halls; Sports ovals, Recreation and Natural Spaces; Street, Toilet and Park Cleaning; Cemeteries; Community and Youth Services etc etc

I am **not complaining about the above** but simply pointing out that **if required**, we can all **live with a down scaled version of these luxuries** rather than pricing people out of their homes, particularly rural and farmland!!!

Councillors, can you please take this into consideration at your next Council meeting. The only realistic and in any way affordable option for the **average rate payer** in Snowy Monaro is Option 3.

Thank-you,

Confidential Draft

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Rates rise
Date: 18.01.2023 06:45:48 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

Council has stringent reporting requirements in regards to how any additional rate income from a Special Rate Variation has been spent. This information will be reported to the community through various reports to Council.

Council undertook an independent Financial Sustainability Review which outlines the reasons behind the need for additional funding. The report also identified a number of other recommendations for Council to consider actioning to assist with improving the financial position.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking. You will also find the Financial Sustainability Review report that was prepared by AEC. A number of face to face consultation opportunities have been available to the community to discuss your concerns with Council management and Councillors.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Saturday, 14 January 2023 2:02 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Monaro Post <editor@monaropost.com.au>
Subject: Rates rise

To the Councillors,

Having asked, and having had answered, the question just prior to the announcement of our "choices" concerning rate rises as to whether the rise could be in the vicinity of 50% and having been told NO, I have difficulties with the proposed rate rises.

Questions:

- 1) Why should rate payers believe Council?
- 2) How, or why, should rate payers believe that the funds raised by an increase will be spent any more responsibly than past funds?

The misuse, or inefficient use, of rates in the past is not the fault of the present Councillors. However, trust has been broken.

Call a regional meeting and face your rate payers. Answer our questions. Give us reason to believe that we can have more faith in you than in your predecessors.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Confidential Draft

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Special Rate Variation
Date: 18.01.2023 05:25:26 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to the Council for their consideration.

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Friday, 6 January 2023 10:14 AM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation

Good Morning,

I am the owner of St., Jindabyne.
I am in favour of Option 1.

Subject: Submission to Council on Rates and Landuse planning

Dear All,

To avoid online submissions on the rate rises and land use strategy from being manipulated by the back office at council it is strongly recommended that submission be also made directly to the councillors by email. I have included the councillor's email addresses in this message for your information as well as a copy of my submission. Please feel free to distribute this widely.

Regards

Dear SMRC Councillors.

Please accept the following as my submission on the Special Rate Variation and Rural Landuse Strategy

Rate Variation.

I reject totally the need to increase the rates by any more than CPI. Council have not demonstrated they are efficient and effective service providers. Productivity must be increased through restructuring management, staff performance improvement and sound financial management including an assessment of demerging. It is not acceptable to continue to ask for more money from the community until the underperformance of the organisation is addressed. I do not accept that services have to decrease if rates don't rise.

Rural Land Use Strategy.

The process must be stopped and all documents referred back to council's reference group for assessment. The process has major failings including:

Proper strategic planning on all rural lands is fatally compromised by the Plantations and Reafforestation Act. This act, as council's strategic planners well know, completely overrides all provisions of council's planning documents. Until the plantations act is repealed there is no case other than to maintain the status quo.

Once the plantation act is repealed the landuse strategy should then focus on:

Increasing the population of rural areas through allowing limited dwelling allotments of around 2 Ha distributed throughout rural localities similar to the concessional holdings provision of the previous Bombala LEP.

Expanding the opportunities for niche agricultural enterprises with an associated dwelling entitlement in rural lands.

Ensuring new development does not burden council with ongoing maintenance costs eg provision of roads.

In general I am concerned that the elected councillors appear to have lost control of the council and that the agenda is being driven increasingly from council's management and state government agencies and mostly to the disadvantage of our communities.

Regards

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Snowy Monaro Regional Council - LEP/Special Rate Variation
feedback/Submission
Date: 18.01.2023 05:50:20 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking. You will also find the Financial Sustainability Review report that was prepared by AEC which outlined some of the causes of the current financial position. This report also lists a number of recommendations for other actions to assist with improving the financial position of Council.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Thursday, 12 January 2023 1:18 PM
To: Bob Stewart ; Craig Mitchell
; Chris Hanna ;
Karlee Johnson ; Lynda Summers
; Narelle Davis ;
Peter Beer ; Tanya Higgins
; Louise Frolich ;
Tricia Hopkins ; Luke Williamson
; Draft LEP <DraftLEP@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Nicole Overall <monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Snowy Monaro Regional Council - LEP/Special Rate Variation feedback/Submission

Dear All,

The letters received late last year by ratepayers from Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC) are without doubt indicative of the failed political and governance policies of the NSW government which have directly fostered a bureaucratisation of service provision the cost of which must now be faced by the ratepayers of this region. The failure by SMRC to prioritise and implement affordable governance and equitable service provision for all ratepayer groups has resulted in what may become an unsustainable financial and social crisis for the SMRC ratepayer base.

Any serious analysis of the possible benefits of the regionalisation of local government (both the SMRC and SE Local Land Services) would now undoubtedly be able to measure the loss of capacity and economic benefit to the respective ratepayers of both of these regionalised organisations. The *locally* based organisations they replaced had served with a modicum of accountability and equity for more than a century for their constituent groups without inflicting unsustainable costs and “out of touch” decision making.

The centralising and bureaucratising by the NSW government of the previously locally based and service focused organisations (local councils and Rural Lands Protection Boards) has resulted in a critical loss of accountability to ratepayers. This loss of accountability has seen the growth in unsustainable and self focused regional bureaucracies that are politically biased towards "majority" communities and their respective vested interests. Specifically it has been the tourism growth areas of the Monaro electorate along the Cooma to Jindabyne corridor that have most benefited from this political bias at both state and regional levels.

It is now incumbent on the NSW government and in particular the Member for Monaro to call for an investigation into the financial problems that have surfaced at the SMRC and to report the findings to SMRC ratepayers and the electorate of Monaro. In particular the rural ratepayer constituents of the eastern side of the SMRC whose interests have been most affected by regionalisation will look forward to both a reset and an equitable solution to the very obvious inequities presented by the costs of regionalisation.

Any report resulting from a review of SMRC financial management must address how the present financial situation has arisen and must also include what the state government intends to do about it. Both the NSW government and SMRC management are directly accountable to all ratepayers for the present situation and especially accountable to those ratepayers who have seen a serious decline in both services and representation but who are apparently still expected to pay the same high costs of the decisions that have not delivered equitable outcomes.

LEP

May I take this opportunity to express my total support for the submission from Grantley Ingram which very adequately clarifies the specific issues raised by the 25 November 2022 letter re the draft LEP and confirm that I would prefer that the process is discontinued until this draft LEP is reassessed and re presented to rural ratepayers.

RATE VARIATION

All rate variation proposals must be set aside until SMRC financial management is thoroughly investigated and audited and any inequities across ratepayer groups are reported upon by the NSW government. It is also incumbent on both SMRC and the Member for Monaro to engage with the Bombala community and SMR Councillors to discuss and redress the financial and social impacts that specific regionalisation policies have imposed on this area.

Yours sincerely,

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Incorrect response to the survey
Date: 18.01.2023 04:25:22 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for the feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration. This includes completed surveys and comments and questions being submitted via the Your Say website, email and hard copy written submissions.

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Thursday, 22 December 2022 8:47 AM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Incorrect response to the survey

Good morning,

In responding to the survey for the special rate rise, I have incorrectly placed the options in the order I wish.

I would hate for this to be a factor for incorrect outcome of the survey.

I am uncertain however, how to correct this error.

Kind regards,

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**

To:

Subject: RE: my objection to the rates rise

Date: 18.01.2023 07:08:58 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

Council undertook an independent Financial Sustainability Review which outlines the reasons behind the need for additional funding. It was identified that Council was not spending enough on infrastructure maintenance which is now resulting in a council assets needing considerable repair work.

The report also identified a number of other recommendations for Council to consider actioning to assist with improving the financial position, including prioritising work to be completed based on what has been identified in the asset management plans.

Council is actively looking to improve the financial position and maintain services for the community.

I would like to remind you of the Council's financial hardship policy that is designed to assist ratepayers. Pension rebates are also available for ratepayers who are on a pension. If you are currently not in receipt of a pension rebate on your rates, please contact Council to look into this further.

Kind regards

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 2:06 PM

To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Cc:

Subject: my objection to the rates rise

Dear Snowy council,

And SMRC councillors. I of street 2633 NSW is sending use my submission as a ratepayer and a new member of the Delegate progress association by email to uses as I strongly disagree to the rate rise I remember when it was voting time and meet the candidate use's promised to look after snowymonaro and some of uses have go back on your words only some. I don't understand why we need such a big rise for the hold of the snowy Monaro as living in just Delegate NSW 2633 just take a look at our Roads, No clean water for drinking, NO regular mowing in parks all around town, Cooma township gets more done for the town and uses say we are all under the snowy is not true. I got told by Narelle Davis but our town water money uses only just got it we were promised June 2017 that we would have clean water but now it's the end of this year are we been told more lies as everyone the snowymonaro has No money this is why uses need to put our rates up. I don't choose to live here I made a wish to both my dying parents that if one would go before the other because I was not married I would move in and help with the bills they are now both go I am paying all the bill by myself including the rates uses gets what uses are asking for I may be under financial stress as I only on a Disability pension and live on my own it is not the ratepayer fault that the council is in financial trouble as a council sorry to say uses need to manage your finance better and put none urgent things on hold really did Cooma need in town a wombat cross come one and did Bombala street need doing up could this like this be put on the back burner for the time been, and the doing up of the Bombala pool car park area yes it makes these town look very nice but when you don't have the money it should be put on hold to such time as you do common

sense would tell you that. And yes I filled out the survey and didn't vote for the high rate rise there must be away this can happen without causing pain instead of enforce this high rate rise on to the ratepayer and the money doesn't get spent in our town what do we get as our town do not see where the council spend our money look at the tourism ad it said it all about Delegate it time to start thinking about the Delegate people as well ?. So I am highly rejection the high rate rise and wish for this email be read at the council meeting on 18 of January about the rates going up. Yours sincerely

Confidential Draft

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: (NO SRV)
Date: 18.01.2023 04:34:15 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Information on Council's income and expenses can be located on Councils website in the Annual Financial Statements.

You can also access comparative data for Snowy Monaro Regional Council from the 'Your Council' website.
<https://www.yourcouncil.nsw.gov.au/compare-councils/>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Friday, 23 December 2022 10:20 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: (NO SRV)

Is there any statistical data showing council income to spending. Hard to make a decision when we don't know how much revenue council takes in as a whole in relation to which services they fund. Cheers

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE:
Date: 18.01.2023 05:14:39 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Thursday, 5 January 2023 9:26 AM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject:

Hi,

I'm sure that no one on the SMRC will take any notice of this email but here we go. Re: your edict about usurious rate rises I quote from a recent email from the Jindabyne Action Group about the claims you have made to justify this:

'Reduced services in Jindabyne, you would have to look closely to see what services we have. Of the services cited: Waste collection, water and sewage are separate charges. If we look at these services in Jindabyne with high dual occupancies this means extra charges per bin/ water rates. Town water has been unfit to drink on numerous occasions over the last few years. Trails, parks and playgrounds, in Jindabyne the grass along our shared trails are waist high and as far as biosecurity, the weeds grow as high as the grass. Roads, try driving to Leadsville or the Clay Pits. Community Halls, ours, is in need of repair. Community and youth services, what services? Libraries, our library, paid for by the state is nothing more than a peace offering, but they could close it. Pools, oh yes, the council could close the Jindabyne pool.

What happened to the sales pitch we were sold that amalgamation of our Snowy Council, which was always in the black, would give financial stability to Jindabyne. Since amalgamation we have had at best three representatives from our area on the council, at present we have two.'

To this I'd add the plague of permanent graffiti all over Jindabyne (solution: install security cameras at key locations and ensure that the little buggers who do this and/or their parents pay for the clean ups); broken road signs that are not replaced for months and the growing number of potholes that can be found all over Jindabyne (the consequence of the SMRC failing to repair local roads properly for years long. There may have been short term 'savings' by filling these with useless slurry, but greater costs over the long term). These problems existed long before the recent council amalgamation.

The so-called 'sustainable** economic development of Jindabyne' and environs is primarily for the benefit of two highly profitable, privately owned ski resorts, builders and developers, local real estate agents and many local businesses. They should be making a greater \$ contribution to SMRC coffers. Oh, but you recently *reduced* their council rates didn't you? How about a small bed charge levy on the tourists who visit Jindabyne, Thredbo, Perisher etc - proceeds to go directly to cleaning up Jindabyne's graffiti, repairing potholed roads in the town, and removing grass and weeds on median strips and sidewalks?

Regards,

(** Taking anthropogenic climate change into account, this is not sustainable over the long term, something that the SMRC does not appear to understand. If you don't agree with that claim, what specific steps are being taken now to cope with the next bushfire conflagration that will inevitably occur some time within the next two decades? That will be even worse than the fires of 2019-2020 when Thredbo and Perisher Blue came within days of being destroyed)

Confidential Draft

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Rate proposal
Date: 18.01.2023 06:25:27 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

Council undertook an independent Financial Sustainability Review to review councils current financial position. The review identified a number of recommendations for Council to consider actioning to assist with improving the financial position.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking. You will also find the Financial Sustainability Review report that was prepared by AEC.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation>

Kind regards

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 11 January 2023 at 8:41:22 pm AEDT
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate proposal

Dear Council, I strongly object to any proposed rate rises in the Snowy Monaro region. There is no justification for raising rates, As a resident and ratepayer for 33 years I feel that we are overcharged for the services provided and that our rates are not going towards essential services such as road repair and general maintenance. The roads are a disgrace. There are dangerous holes on the roads, the grass at road edges is not cut, we have no green waste service, the patrol of illegal campers is inadequate, there is no safety fire check on properties where people have excessively huge trees which are a hazard and dog owners are not sufficiently monitored. Ratepayers should not have to complain to council for these things to be done as we already pay our rates.
Yours sincerely ,

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**

To:

Subject: RE: Proposed rate increase

Date: 18.01.2023 04:52:17 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Council's asset management plans will inform the specific works to be undertaken with any additional funds raised from a Special Rate Variation.

Council has stringent reporting requirements in regards to how any additional rate income from a Special Rate Variation has been spent. This information will be reported to the community through various reports to Council.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

Kind regards

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 4 January 2023 3:18 PM

To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Proposed rate increase

As a long time owner of a property in Jindabyne (over 20 years) I would like to raise my concern as to councils communications re their proposed increase in rates for necessary expenditure.

I not with some interest that the Rate PEG only option is that established by independent consultants.

The proposed increase options relate to councils own estimates of funds required to cover a "list" of future much needed expenses.

I would politely suggest to council that communications to rate payers should include some form of explanation / justification as to their proposed allocation.

This would make the increased rate concept significantly more palatable.

My personal experience saw Wingecarribee Shire Council rate over \$300,000 (working from memory here) in council fees – placed into a foreign investment fund with a planned intention to use these funds over a period of time. The money was lost due the US market melt down. Result increased council rates. Option 2 could replicate this experience.

A clearly displayed financial proposal would really make it easy to accept an increase.

You would not invest your money without seeing a plan for its use. Would you?

Council has listed examples for the SRV

-
- Resealing roads - OK identify them or at least the major roads, provide a scope of works including costs and proposed start and completion dates.
 - Gravel Roads – as above.
 - Stormwater infrastructure – explain, expense and timing.
 - Replace failing bridges – Identify them and expense.
 - What community buildings or “other” buildings are in poor condition – Expense and timing.
 - Investment in asset management capability – what exactly are we talking about? People, buildings, equipment, training – expense.

I would hope that the above is considered to be a considered contribution and not a criticism of council.

Yours Faithfully.

Confidential Draft

From: Snowy Monaro Regional Council <news@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 6:34 PM
To:
Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council

No images? [Click here](#)



Proposed Special Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional Council



Dear

I encourage your participation in providing feedback on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented in the 2023/24 Budget for Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC).

At a recent meeting, your Council decided to lodge an Expression of Interest to IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW) for a permanent Special Rate Variation. This will impact the percentage increase to Council's total rates revenue, not how much your individual rates will change.

Following a detailed and independent analysis of our financial position, plus ongoing service reviews, it is clear that an increase in rates is a long overdue and critical step to ensure we can become financially sustainable while maintaining service levels over the long-term, as expected by our community.

The rate increases set by the NSW State Government have not kept pace with cost escalations faced by Council in providing services to our community. Like many other NSW councils, SMRC has not generated revenue sufficient to undertake enough investment in community assets.

The independent analysis showed that Council's financial position will deteriorate to an average operating deficit of \$8.5million a year which is not sustainable. The impact of the deficit is that we are unable to invest enough money each year in necessary maintenance and renewal. Therefore, our roads, parks and gardens, and buildings will continue to deteriorate. Services and associated service levels will also need to be reduced.

You, the community, have consistently indicated that you do not wish to see Council's infrastructure assets deteriorate and service levels reduced.

The proposed SRV will generate the necessary revenue that will be used to fund our existing services and provide required funding for the following:

- Resealing bitumen roads
- Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
- Improve our stormwater infrastructure
- Replacement of bridges that are failing
- Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition
- Investment in asset management capability

If implemented, the SRV will apply to your general rates only. Revenue raised from a SRV must be accounted for each year in our annual report, showing where the money has been spent.

The SRV does not apply to your waste management, water and sewerage charges.

If the SRV is not approved, Council will need to implement service level reductions totalling \$28.8 million over the next ten years. Services will need to be discontinued, roads and buildings will continue to deteriorate, and unsafe facilities will be closed so that necessary funds can be redirected to keep essential infrastructure safe and functional for our community.

I encourage you to read the fact sheet enclosed with this letter and access further information on our Your Say website, where you can also select your preferred SRV option in the online survey by Sunday 22 January 2023.

There are three options for your consideration:

- Option 1 – 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24. Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.
- Option 2 – 55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from 2023/24. Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million in asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Over time, current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.
- Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only. Assets and service levels will deteriorate, and the current infrastructure backlog will continue to grow as additional assets deteriorate below satisfactory condition. Council will be required to reduce services and close unsafe facilities.

We are engaging with our community to ensure all interested people are informed and that you are provided an opportunity to provide feedback on the options presented for the SRV application proposal. The details of our various community engagement activities are on our Your Say website. Please visit <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation> to have your say, read the documents, consider the options and complete the survey.

I look forward to working together with you to ensure that we are able to continue to provide services and the community over the long-term, and in line with expectations.

Councillor Narelle Davis
Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council



Option 1 – 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24

Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result i.e. financial sustainability.

Option 2 – 55.25% rate increase spread over five years starting from 2023/24 Enables an additional staged investment of \$51.1 million in asset renewal to progressively stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets.

Over time, current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result i.e. financial sustainability.

Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only

Assets and service levels will deteriorate, and the current infrastructure backlog will continue to grow as additional assets deteriorate below satisfactory condition. Council will be required to reduce services and close unsafe facilities.

[Click here to view the Special Rate Variation Fact Sheets](#)

Special Rate Variation

Facts and information

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV) and Rate-Pegging?

Rates increase each year in line with an amount set by the State Government. This amount is calculated every year and is called the 'rate peg'. This is decided by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). For the 2023/24 financial year the rate peg applied to Snowy Monaro Regional Council, will be 4.0%.

If a council's rate revenue is not enough to maintain service levels, it can apply to IPART to increase overall rate revenue by more than the rate peg. This is known as a Special Rate Variation (SRV). In order to apply for an SRV, councils must demonstrate to the community and IPART that they need the money and have implemented improvements to be more efficient and productive.

What is the impact of the Special Rate Variation (SRV) on my rates?

Table 1 shows the impact of implementing the SRV on the average rates by each rate category.

Table 1 - Increase in 2023/24 Average Rate

Rating Category	2022/23 Rate	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Residential	\$980.29	\$1,499.84	\$1,100.38	\$1,019.50
Farmland	\$2,026.30	\$3,100.24	\$2,274.52	\$2,107.35
Business	\$1,071.29	\$1,639.07	\$1,202.52	\$1,114.14
Electricity Generation	\$43,806.17	\$67,023.44	\$49,172.43	\$45,558.42

What will SRV funds be used for?

Three options are provided for consideration based on rate increases;

- two SRV options
- one limited to the rate-peg

The proposed SRV will generate the necessary revenue that will be used to fund our existing services and provide required funding for the following:

- Resealing bitumen roads
- Putting gravel back on our unsealed roads
- Improve our stormwater infrastructure
- Replacement of bridges that are failing
- Bringing our community and other buildings back to a good condition
- Investment in asset management capability

Option 1 will enable for the above service levels to commence from 2023/24, whereas Option 2 will allow for a staged increase in asset renewals and maintenance of current service levels over a number of years.

The Resourcing Strategy is on public exhibition, and can be accessed on Council's Your Say website or at any Council office. Residents are being asked for their views on the three options.

Current Council services



[Have your say today](#)

WHY HAVE I RECEIVED THIS EMAIL?

We are sending you this email as a ratepayer in the Snowy Monaro, as any potential Special Rate Variation (SRV) would effect how much you pay in rates.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Visit www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au for all the information on the proposed Special Rate Variation.

Call us on 1300 345 345 to speak with our team, or email council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au



From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Rates-Option 3
Date: 18.01.2023 05:33:29 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to the Council for their consideration.

Kind regards

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 10 January 2023 9:18 AM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rates-Option 3

Dear Snowy Monaro Regional Council,

We have a holiday house at Rd, Anglers Reach and we have decided on Option 3 for the Rates.

Yours faithfully,

Sent from my iPhone

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Proposal for special rate increase
Date: 18.01.2023 04:01:02 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking to improve the financial position of Council.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

Kind regards

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Saturday, 17 December 2022 9:28 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposal for special rate increase

ALL COUNCILLORS I write concerning the Special Rate increases proposed . None of the options should be necessary we've now been amalgamated which we were told ;MAKE US ALL BETTER OFF. This came from our Administrator via the State government (. Dean LYNCH) Within weeks water rose 40% , a dramatic rise in itself . Another example , sewage access rose 100% and general rates have risen . The question needs be asked , Where has the money gone? We were told that the new recycle contract saved us a minimum of \$ 5 million and maybe \$ 10 million . State government put in another\$ 14 million . Have all inefficiencies been addressed? Perhaps not . Has private enterprise been considered ? This council has some of the most expensive charges already . Its a cold climate and many struggle with energy , so at the very least hold off until energy returns to normal.

And given the increase in cost of living many renters and owners cannot keep absorbing increase after increase . Maybe some things will need to be delayed . Three levels of government has always looked unsustainable and looks even more so now .A WHOLE NEW DEBATE .

Regards

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Snowy Monaro Regional Council - Special Rate Variation
Date: 18.01.2023 06:54:23 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

Council undertook an independent Financial Sustainability Review which outlines the reasons behind the need for additional funding. The report also identified a number of other recommendations for Council to consider actioning to assist with improving the financial position.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking. You will also find the Financial Sustainability Review report that was prepared by AEC.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Saturday, 14 January 2023 3:40 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Overall <monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>; kristy.mcbain.mp@aph.gov.au
Cc: Anthony Albanese <a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Snowy Monaro Regional Council - Special Rate Variation

Councillor Narelle Davis
Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Dear Narelle Davis, Nicole Overall and Kristy Mc Bain,

I am writing to express my absolute objection to the proposed 53% rate increase by the Monaro Regional Council for the upcoming year. My understanding is that the proposed increase will be used to peg subsequent increases.

Well, as a Dalgety landholder and ratepayer, I am absolutely appalled by the suggestion and impertinence of Council when I and many others on the land are on the brink of survival.

There are many people out there on the breadline and doing it tough. Do I need to remind you that we are currently in a period of very high inflation, high interest rates, record diesel fuel prices, record farm materials and pesticides costs, record shearers costs etc etc. Coupled with more regular and extreme weather events, as well as low wool prices (mainly influenced by Asian markets) it is any wonder that primary production is getting much more difficult for the average farmer?

Council needs a reality check. There are a lot of people struggling to put food on the table out there and I hazard a guess that the Special Rate Increase strategy was not thought up by any of them. As a result I have a complete lack of faith in Council's capacity to manage and invest in the region for the long term.

I believe the Council has been incompetent in their management of ratepayers money to date. One example that comes immediately to mind is a local road/excavation contractor that has been engaged by Council for several years to maintain Avonside Road. This road becomes riddled with potholes after heavy rain and becomes dangerous and almost impassable after heavy rain. As a result it needs to be regraded several times a year however the job has never been done properly as it should with the addition and compaction of new road base material, instead, it is always just recut deeper with a grader which also brings vegetable matter from the gutters back into the road making slippery and a stop gap measure at best. Even worse, the now deeper gutters make driveway crossings extremely difficult with many locals having to grade their road gutters/crossings with tractors themselves.

The other item I take issue with is the lack of adequate communication in the area. The mobile phone and internet services are woeful, inadequate and inconsistent. As a farmer, I hope I never need to make an emergency 000 call while on my own in the paddock because I have very little hope or confidence there would be any phone reception (I know farmers that have had life threatening injuries, snakebite or pinned by their machinery and not been discovered till the following day, even though they had mobile phones). On a farm, a working mobile phone is a basic essential survival tool. No reception can mean death.

As members of parliament, I am writing to ask for your assistance in addressing the issues outlined above. I hope that you will consider advocating on behalf of your constituents and urging the Monaro Regional Council to reconsider their proposed rate increase.

I also hope that you will work to address the lack of progress on improving mobile blackspots and road infrastructure, and to improve internet service in our region.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: in regards to the exorbitant hike in rates we as pensioners can not afford this hike as our pensions have not increased to cover this hike and as such we will eventually fall into arrears which means that we will at some time in the future lose our ho
Date: 18.01.2023 05:21:49 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

Council has a Financial Hardship policy to assist ratepayers. I recommend that if you are or know of anyone who is experiencing difficulties, to please contact Council to discuss the options available. Further information on the financial hardship policy can be found on councils website.

Kind regards

From:

Sent: Friday, 6 January 2023 7:55 AM

To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: in regards to the exorbitant hike in rates we as pensioners can not afford this hike as our pensions have not increased to cover this hike and as such we will eventually fall into arrears which means that we will at some time in the future lose our hou...

also as we have lost services in bombala and you expect us to pay more for less also why do you send people from other areas to service bombala area when we had the personnel haer to start with amalgamation has not worked and a lot of areas are reverting back to the way it was before amalgamation this area is way to big for the council to manage and as such should be abolished
yours sincerely

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Attention: Councillor Narelle Davis- Private and Confidential. Proposed Special Rate Variation
Date: 18.01.2023 14:44:09 (+01:00)

Dear Narelle the Mayor of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council,

I am writing this letter in regards to the letter recently received regarding the proposed special rate variation.

It is obvious the community are all united in rejecting this massive proposed rate increase reading the feedback you have received.

It was terrifying to read the proposed massive rate increase of 55% increase. In these times of financial uncertainty.

As my husband and I are aged over 65 and on a limited income, where do we get this extra money? We have tightened our belts and the council need to do the same. It's impossible to come up with this extra money.

We vote for option 3.

You are welcome to contact me at anytime at

Yours sincerely

Confidential Draft

From: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
To:
Subject: RE: Outrageous rate increase in Snowy Monaro and inadequate servicing of the region
Date: 18.01.2023 05:29:24 (+01:00)

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to the Council for their consideration.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation#!>

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Saturday, 7 January 2023 4:35 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Overall <monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>; Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au
Cc: Anthony Albanese <a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Outrageous rate increase in Snowy Monaro and inadequate servicing of the region

Councillor Narelle Davis
Mayor, Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Dear Narelle Davis, Nicole Overall and Kristy Mc Bain,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed 53% rate increase by the Monaro Regional Council for the upcoming year. Even worse is using that increase to peg subsequent increases to it rather than reducing the percentage once efficiencies have been achieved. That is simply incompetent and a waste of increased resourcing and engenders a complete lack of faith in Council's capacity to invest in the region strategically for the long term.

I visit the younger members of my family living in the region on a regular basis, although I have now had to make special arrangements to be met at Cooma as my sedan cannot any longer navigate Avonside Road safely. As my family has several young children I am deeply concerned about the impact this increase will have on their household budget and the budgets of other community members.

Furthermore, I am disappointed to learn that the funds reserved for sealing Avonside road are no longer being fully allocated to this task. I have written to you previously on this matter and have received a holding response from Ms Overall and disappointingly no response from Ms Mc Bain.

This road is a vital thoroughfare for many members of the local community and its Canberra visitors and it is essential that it be properly maintained and improved. The decision to divert funds

away from this project is unacceptable, especially in light of the evident mismanagement and incapacity to effectively roll out the project. It is unacceptable that Avonside will now only receive half of the previously proposed allocation of funds. It is in fact dangerous to anyone driving on it, even an ambulance can't get to the section where this young family lives. Having young children makes this epic in its potential for life threatening accidents.

I accept that you have recently graded this as a temporary fix but that is only as good as the next strong rainfall which will again render it unusable.

I am also disheartened by the lack of progress on addressing the mobile blackspots and improving road infrastructure more generally in the region, despite the Federal Labor Party's election promises to do so. *After great initial optimism, my faith in Labor representation is quickly diminishing.*

In effect the State member is trying but the Federal Labor MP has been unresponsive-highly disillusioning.

Additionally, communication is woeful, inadequate and inconsistent at best. The quality of internet service particularly for those working from home, is unacceptable. Despite having line of sight to the tower and paying \$75 a month for the best NBN plan they can get, they are receiving internet speeds that are slower than dial-up or at inoperable levels.

When inquiring about this issue with an NBN representative, it was suggested we consider getting Elon Musk's "Starlink" service, which is an acceptable solution if you have \$150 a month to spend, but is out of reach for many people. It is simply unacceptable to be paying such extortionate high prices for poor quality, inadequate service.

As members of parliament, I am writing to ask for your assistance in addressing the issues outlined above. I hope that you will consider advocating on behalf of your constituents and urging the Monaro Regional Council to reconsider their proposed rate increase and also to prioritize the full allocation of funds for the proper long term sealing of Avonside road. I also hope that you will work to address the lack of progress on improving mobile blackspots and road infrastructure, and to improve internet service in our region.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Rates rise
Date: 18.01.2023 05:53:14 (+01:00)

It would be very helpful if you had answered my questions, not provided information that I did not seek.

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From: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 4:45:48 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Rates rise

Good afternoon

Thank you for your feedback.

Details of all submissions will be provided to Council for their consideration.

Council has stringent reporting requirements in regards to how any additional rate income from a Special Rate Variation has been spent. This information will be reported to the community through various reports to Council.

Council undertook an independent Financial Sustainability Review which outlines the reasons behind the need for additional funding. The report also identified a number of other recommendations for Council to consider actioning to assist with improving the financial position.

I encourage you to visit the Your Say website and review some of the comments and questions coming in regarding what other actions Council is undertaking. You will also find the Financial Sustainability Review report that was prepared by AEC. A number of face to face consultation opportunities have been available to the community to discuss your concerns with Council management and Councillors.

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation>

Kind regards

Records Snowy Monaro



PO Box 714
COOMA NSW 2630

Direct 1300 345 345
Phone
Fax (02) 6456 3337

snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

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From:

Sent: Saturday, 14 January 2023 2:02 PM

To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Monaro Post <editor@monaropost.com.au>

Subject: Rates rise

To the Councillors,

Having asked, and having had answered, the question just prior to the announcement of our "choices" concerning rate rises as to whether the rise could be in the vicinity of 50% and having been told NO, I have difficulties with the proposed rate rises.

Questions:

- 1) Why should rate payers believe Council?
- 2) How, or why, should rate payers believe that the funds raised by an increase will be spent any more responsibly than past funds?

The misuse, or inefficient use, of rates in the past is not the fault of the present Councillors. However, trust has been broken.

Call a regional meeting and face your rate payers. Answer our questions. Give us reason to believe that we can have more faith in you than in your predecessors.

From:
To: **David Rawlings** ; **Tracy Sligar**

Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
<Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Chris Hanna**
CC: <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: SRV Response
Date: 20.01.2023 15:33:26 (+01:00)

Good afternoon David and Tracy
In response to the proposed SRV I reiterate my comments submitted in my SMRC "Have Your Say"
Survey reply of 13/12/22 below:

"no official advice - heard general, local discussion and had to make my own enquiries. Concerned with lack of information dissemination, lack of community awareness and brevity of this survey inc' no opportunity for free space comment or to "Tell us what you want for the Snowy Monaro region". Consequently this survey could be viewed as a box ticking exercise in consultation to support the proposal. This exercise needs to extend far beyond a 6 question survey and can only properly reflect the views of all affected parties through much broader engagement and greater transparency. Ironically I have just tried to submit my response only to be instructed question 4 "requires an answer". In my first attempt I intentionally didn't answer q 4 as I found it to be misleading and loaded and, equally as important, somewhat presumptuous in the expectation of a preference whilst bereft of detail, consequence and the full details essential in advance of deciding one's preferences. Contrary to your claims of "community consultation" it is impossible to submit this survey without expressing an order of preference and duplication of a preference numbers ie "3, 3, 3 until further discussion" is not permitted which is extremely concerning given the potential for manipulation of such survey intel'."

Since I submitted my Survey response last year I am concerned the only level of community discussion on the matter beyond the 1:1 conversations I have had with individuals I know has been through the Monaro Post "Letters to the Editor" feature. Whilst the published contributions I have read have been most interesting this has been a somewhat limited source of information upon which any concerned resident or observer could regularly appraise the developing opinions of the broad and affected community. Accordingly, it could appear SMRC is relying on the Monaro Post's independent information dissemination to inform interested parties of opinions and developing trends as an adequate and appropriate level of consultation prior to decision making rather than assume and expand the responsibility itself. As a result more than 1,300 Survey respondents have submitted their responses to the 6 questions in complete ignorance of the issues, concerns, suggestions and possible alternatives proposed by others whose views could have been shared in complete anonymity. Aside from public disillusion with the process this could well lead to accountability issues in the future. In the interests of true, transparent and meaningful consultation on a matter of such importance and on the established premise of collective interaction being best encouraged and enhanced by open and shared dialogue in a common forum from which all participants can learn, consider and potentially develop their own understanding and contributions to the discussion I would like your response to the following questions:

1. Who authored the Survey?
2. Who is to collate and analyse the Survey responses to determine the results of the Survey?
3. With regard to basic research and market analysis dictates does SMRC remain satisfied that in order to reach a decision on a major financial issue potentially impacting upon personal finances, housing and rental affordability and ongoing access to services to name just a few, adequate community feedback can be appropriately canvassed and collated through 6 "closed questions" the first 3 of which refer to age, postcode and residential status and the 4th of which requires a respondent's preferences re Options1 - 3 which must be completed to enable the Survey to be submitted and with no free text or facility to submit alternative suggestions or opinions?
4. Why were no public meetings held to discuss the matter and facilitate collective interaction?
5. Why didn't SMRC facilitate a publicly accessible Frequently Asked Questions website to regularly share de-identified community input?

On matters more specific to the financial aspect of the proposal and the suggested benefits of Options 1 and 2 and the potentially threatening consequences of Option 3 I would like your response to the following questions.

In the event Options 1 or 2 are implemented:

1. What specific programmes, projects or "infrastructure backlogs" have been identified to be undertaken/addressed and by what \$ amount?
2. How much of an increase in annual SMRC revenue is proposed to be allocated to the Special Activation Precinct project?
3. What new positions or roles are proposed or envisaged to be created within SMRC?

In the event Option 3 is implemented:

1. What asset and service level deterioration has been identified?
2. What services will be "reduced" and what unsafe or potentially unsafe "facilities" have been identified for consideration for closure?
3. If infrastructure backlog continues to grow and assets deteriorate below a "satisfactory condition" will SMRC still maintain infrastructure and assets and service levels to a proper, appropriate and safe standard?
4. What will be the impact upon the SAP project?

In relation to more general financial matters pertinent to overall SMRC operations I would like your response to the following questions:

1. How much was applied for and how much was granted to SMRC under the 2022 NSW State Government Disaster Relief Funding?
2. How much was applied for and how much was granted to SMRC under the 25/10/2022 NSW State Government Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Funding?
3. How much was applied for by SMRC under the 3/1/2023 \$5 billion NSW State Government Regional and Local Roads Repair Funding?
4. Were any discussions regarding the SMRC financial situation undertaken with the NSW State Government Minister for Local Government, Wendy Tuckerman, prior to the SMRC 24/11/2022 Extraordinary meeting?
5. Were any discussions regarding the SMRC financial situation undertaken with the NSW Member for Monaro, Nichole Overall, prior to the SMRC 24/11/2022 Extraordinary meeting?

In conclusion I feel it necessary to raise the following questions in regard to the 12/5/2016 NSW Government forced amalgamations of local government:

1. What and by how much are the identified financial benefits achieved by SMRC/NSW State Government since amalgamation?
2. In the event the forced amalgamation can be established as contributing in any way to the current SMRC status and SRV proposal have any discussions been undertaken with the then Deputy Premier and Member for Monaro, John Barilaro, the former Minister for Local Government and current State MP, Gabrielle Upton, the former Minister for Local Government and now Deputy Premier, Paul Toole or any other proponents, advocates and/or architects of the Cooma, Snowy River and Bombala Councils amalgamation?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Our Family's SRV Survey comments.
Date: 20.01.2023 09:23:13 (+01:00)

Dear Councillors

Apart from the obvious financial, economic, emotional and mental anguish that council's preferred 53% rate increase is going to cause its ratepayers – facts that surely have not escaped the attention, concern and consideration of councillors - can you explain to me why the rate increase choices in council's "survey" have to make such a dramatic jump from the pegged rate of 4% to 53% or the 55.25% over five years.

Under the current economic circumstances that Australia is and will be facing for several more years, why is it not being considered by council to have a special variation rate of a much lesser - and economically kinder and sensible -percentage than a huge jump from the pegged 4% (Option 3) to 53%. This would make more commonsense.

We believe the survey is flawed as it does not allow participants to choose only one option. It does not allow only one choice. The survey will not get submitted if the two other options are not ranked. We feel that by making ratepayers rank all three options that there is an ulterior motive by council to use the forced data option selection to justify its options 1 and 2.

Therefore we are asking you to register our choice of Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only.

We respectfully suggest council goes back to its 'proposed rate increase drawing board' and develop a rate increase option that is more realistic and affordable for all ratepayers and use the revenue raised in a commonsense, economically sensible, and practical way that benefits all of its ratepayers equally and in a financial equitable way.

Yours sincerely

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: "Your Say" Submission Relating to Rate Variation
Date: 20.01.2023 15:13:02 (+01:00)
Attachments: NoToRateRisePetitionSignatures.csv (9 pages)

Hi

said to send this one to you so that you can add it to the SRV submissions.

Thanks

From:
Sent: Friday, 20 January 2023 1:21 PM
To: David Rawlings <David.Rawlings@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: "Your Say" Submission Relating to Rate Variation

Dear Chief Strategy Officer David Rawlings,

I would like to make a submission to the "Your Say" Snowy Monaro community consultation process. Please find attached the list of 387 signatures I have obtained in an online petition to reject the proposed 53% rate rise. This petition can be found on Change.org at website <https://chng.it/mMnqYgXQ>. We would appreciate your consideration of the public voice in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

20/01/2023

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
				Australia	16/12/2022
	Winnifred		2632	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	NSW		2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Cooma		2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Brisbane		4069	Australia	16/12/2022
	Melbourne		3004	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	East Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	East Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Civic		2601	Australia	16/12/2022
	Michelago		2620	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Cooma		2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Brisbane		4000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Gundagai		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Cooma		2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Jindabyne		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Cooma		2630	Australia	16/12/2022
	Bredbo		2626	Australia	16/12/2022
	Brisbane		4000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Illawong		2234	Australia	16/12/2022
	Kalkite		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Avonside		2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Delegate		2633	Australia	16/12/2022
	Delegate		2633	Australia	16/12/2022
	Canberra		2602	Australia	16/12/2022
	Canberra		2602	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Nimmitabel		2631	Australia	16/12/2022
	Delegate		2633	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2622	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2000	Australia	16/12/2022
	Sydney		2156	Australia	16/12/2022
	Nimmitabel		2631	Australia	16/12/2022
	Cooma		2630	Australia	16/12/2022

Top	2628	Australia	16/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2600	Australia	16/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
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Bombala	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	16/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
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Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
LAKE ILLAWARRA	2528	Australia	16/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2617	Australia	16/12/2022
	2226	Australia	16/12/2022
Melbourne	3766	Australia	16/12/2022
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Delegate	2600	Australia	16/12/2022
Kingaroy	4610	Australia	16/12/2022
Glenola	2620	Australia	16/12/2022
	2620	Australia	16/12/2022
Melbourne	3806	Australia	16/12/2022
NIMMITABEL	2631	Australia	16/12/2022
Warragul	3820	Australia	16/12/2022
Melbourne	3001	Australia	16/12/2022
Logan City.	4132	Australia	16/12/2022
Inala	4077	Australia	16/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	16/12/2022
Bendoc	3888	Australia	16/12/2022
Canberra	2606	Australia	16/12/2022
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Canberra	2617	Australia	16/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	16/12/2022
	2550	Australia	16/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	16/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	17/12/2022
	2632	Australia	17/12/2022
Bombala	22632	Australia	17/12/2022
Moonbah	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
	4124	Australia	17/12/2022

Jindabyne	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Canberra	2611	Australia	17/12/2022
Chiswick	3806	Australia	17/12/2022
Araluen	2622	Australia	17/12/2022
weed Heads	2485	Australia	17/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
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Bombala	2632	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
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algety	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
	3451	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
Quirindi	2343	Australia	17/12/2022
Lyneham	2602	Australia	17/12/2022
P	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
Capel Sound.	3940	Australia	17/12/2022
Adelaide	5033	Australia	17/12/2022
Numbula Vale. Dalge	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
lagstaff Hill	5159	Australia	17/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Perth	6000	Australia	17/12/2022
Colinton	2626	Australia	17/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	17/12/2022
NSW	2631	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2727	Australia	17/12/2022
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Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Delegate	2633	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
	2170	Australia	17/12/2022
Canberra	2905	Australia	17/12/2022
	2076	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Melbourne	3000	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627	Australia	17/12/2022
Melbourne	3000	Australia	17/12/2022
Perth	6000	Australia	17/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	17/12/2022

Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Adelaide	5001	Australia	17/12/2022
█	2620	Australia	17/12/2022
Woodend	3442	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	17/12/2022
Wodonga	3690	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Hoxton Park	2171	Australia	17/12/2022
█	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Burleigh	4220	Australia	17/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	17/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	17/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	17/12/2022
Glenwood	2768	Australia	17/12/2022
East Burwood	3151	Australia	17/12/2022
Brisbane	4001	Australia	17/12/2022
Jerrabomberra	2619	Australia	17/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Melbourne	3978	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2611	Australia	18/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631	Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2611	Australia	18/12/2022
Maffra	2630	Australia	18/12/2022
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Canberra	2902	Australia	18/12/2022
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Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
Delegate	2633	Australia	18/12/2022
Cooma	2630	Australia	18/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
Queanbeyan East	2620	Australia	18/12/2022
█	2639	Australia	18/12/2022
Bundaberg	4670	Australia	18/12/2022
Brisbane	4000	Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
█	█		18/12/2022
Bombala	2632	Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000	Australia	18/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	18/12/2022
Michelago	2620	Australia	18/12/2022

jinjera	2622 Australia	18/12/2022
Bredbo	2626 Australia	18/12/2022
Padstow	2211 Australia	18/12/2022
█	2632 Australia	18/12/2022
	3168 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Dalgety	2628 Australia	18/12/2022
Bredbo	2626 Australia	18/12/2022
Auburn	2144 Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2617 Australia	18/12/2022
Berridale	2628 Australia	18/12/2022
St Georges Basin	2218 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2630 Australia	18/12/2022
Anembo	2621 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Cooma	2630 Australia	18/12/2022
Brisbane	4000 Australia	18/12/2022
Melbourne	3003 Australia	18/12/2022
Bredbo	2626 Australia	18/12/2022
Jerrabomberra	2619 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Drummoynes	1470 Australia	18/12/2022
Brisbane	4000 Australia	18/12/2022
█, Adelaide,	5093 Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2600 Australia	18/12/2022
Michelago	2620 Australia	18/12/2022
Jindabyne	2627 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
█	3136 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2617 Australia	18/12/2022
█	2176 Australia	18/12/2022
Avonside	2628 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
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Minnamurra	2533 Australia	18/12/2022
Nimmitabel	2631 Australia	18/12/2022
Canberra	2600 Australia	18/12/2022
Adaminaby	2629 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Wilton	2571 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
Cessnock	2325 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022

ervoir	3073 Australia	18/12/2022
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Maffra	2630 Australia	18/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	18/12/2022
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Bombala	2632 Australia	19/12/2022
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Sydney	2000 Australia	19/12/2022
Bombala	2632 Australia	19/12/2022
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Berridale	2628 Australia	19/12/2022
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Cooma	2030 Australia	19/12/2022
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Canberra	2617 Australia	19/12/2022
Melbourne	3000 Australia	19/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	19/12/2022
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Michelago	2620 Australia	19/12/2022
Canberra	2602 Australia	19/12/2022
BERRIDALE	2628 Australia	19/12/2022
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Sydney	2000 Australia	19/12/2022
Adaminagy	2629 Australia	19/12/2022
Cooma	2630 Australia	20/12/2022
Cooma	2630 Australia	20/12/2022
Coolangatta	4225 Australia	20/12/2022
Bombala	2632 Australia	20/12/2022
Yowrie	2550 Australia	20/12/2022
Berridale	2628 Australia	20/12/2022
Kalkite	2627 Australia	20/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	20/12/2022

Moonbah	2627 Australia	20/12/2022
brisbane	4021 Australia	20/12/2022
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Berridale	2628 Australia	20/12/2022
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indabyne	2627 Australia	20/12/2022
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Jindabyne	2627 Australia	20/12/2022
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Rocky plan	2628 Australia	20/12/2022
Cooma	2630 Australia	20/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	20/12/2022
Hazelwood	3840 Australia	20/12/2022
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Adelaide	5000 Australia	20/12/2022
Dalgety	2628 Australia	21/12/2022
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Canberra	2906 Australia	21/12/2022
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	2630 Australia	21/12/2022
Berridale	2628 Australia	21/12/2022
Cooma	2630 Australia	21/12/2022
Canberra	2550 Australia	21/12/2022
Kurrajong	2758 Australia	22/12/2022
Sydney	2000 Australia	22/12/2022
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Bombala	2632 Australia	23/12/2022
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	264 Australia	26/12/2022
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NSW	2620 Australia	29/12/2022
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Bredbo	2626 Australia	30/12/2022
Berridale	2628 Australia	2/1/2023
Sydney	2330 Australia	2/1/2023
	2000 Australia	2/1/2023
Melbourne	3001 Australia	2/1/2023
	2760 Australia	2/1/2023
Perth	6060 Australia	2/1/2023
	2905 Australia	2/1/2023
elegate	2632 Australia	3/1/2023
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Bombala	2632 Australia	3/1/2023
	2633 Australia	3/1/2023
Sydney	2000 Australia	3/1/2023
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Sydney	2000 Australia	3/1/2023
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Brisbane	4000 Australia	3/1/2023
Maffra	3860 Australia	3/1/2023
ydney	2000 Australia	3/1/2023
bayswater	6053 Australia	3/1/2023
Sydney	2000 Australia	4/1/2023
Sydney	2001 Australia	5/1/2023
cooma	2630 Australia	5/1/2023
		5/1/2023
anberra	2617 Australia	6/1/2023
Sydney	2000 Australia	6/1/2023
Sydney	2000 Australia	8/1/2023

Sydney	2000 Australia	8/1/2023
oma	2630 Australia	8/1/2023
Cooma	2630 Australia	8/1/2023
Cooma	2630 Australia	9/1/2023
Dalton	2581 Australia	9/1/2023
Dalgety	2628 Australia	#####
dney	2000 Australia	#####
NIMMITABEL	2631 Australia	#####
Canberra	2611 Australia	13/01/2023
	2631 Australia	15/01/2023
Bombala	2632 Australia	16/01/2023
Cooma	2630 Australia	16/01/2023

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Submission to Council on Rates
Date: 20.01.2023 14:40:05 (+01:00)
Attachments: MY SUBMISSION TO COUNTIL.docx (1 page)

Confidential Draft

SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL

Submission to Council

1. While accepting that there is a need for rates to rise, I feel the proposed rate is too high, especially in the present economic climate. People are already struggling to make ends meet.
2. Delegate receives only the most basic of services and our main road to Bombala and other rural roads are in a permanent state of disrepair. When The State Government in pushing the Managed Investment Schemes buying up land for large pine plantations, they failed to make adequate plans for the infrastructure to withstand the heavy traffic now that the pines are being harvested. I feel strongly that compensation should be made to fix this problem as filling the potholes is only a band aid solution, as the trucks drive them and they are back worse than ever.
3. Our town is full of long grass both on the verges and in private blocks and owners are not contacted to maintain their blocks thus creating a fire hazard. Our transfer station is only open for two half days per week and many items will not be accepted there. There are a number of residents in the town that are not in a position to cart large items of waste to Bombala.
4. Our library bus has been cancelled.
5. Our camping ground is neglected, with visitors complaining that the new kitchen is not opened for their use. Many items which we have repeatedly requested for a number of years, remain in the too hard basket. For instance, one of the water tanks delivered to the camping ground several years ago has not been connected and one left at the school of arts where it was not required has not been installed at the camping ground despite our requests. Bill Jeffreys recreation ground and camping area is in a great location with a lot of potential, but it is not cared for and no improvements are made. This points to poor management by those in charge, who do not seem able to organise basic tasks.
6. Finally, I would like to say that until Council can illustrate a willingness to do better, aim at more productivity from staff, cut out areas of waste and eliminate unnecessary spending, I do not feel that ratepayers should be asked to pay higher rates.
7. My final question: Is State funding to rural councils adequate? Because Council mergers were pushed through and promises were made regarding the advantages such mergers would bring, which of course have not materialised, so the State Government must bear some of the blame. There may be one or two other council areas in the state as large as this one, but they certainly would not be as diverse, with areas of very different needs. Something which was not taken into account when the merger were pushed through.

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council** <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: [My Community Directory] Contact from Directory via My Community
Date: 20.01.2023 03:49:54 (+01:00)

Email not displaying correctly? [View it](#) in your browser.



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Hi council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au,

The following message was sent to you from the person whose contact details are below via [your listing](#) on My Community Directory. You may reply to this email to respond to them or click on their email address to create a new message to them.

“ Attention: General Manager-SMRC

As a concerned rate payer in the SMRC area I have watched the ongoing increase in charges that the council has imposed on rate payers, particularly after the merger with the Bombala Council. Since the merger, council has increased rates, but has had the audacity to reduce the services that we enjoyed before the merger.

For instance, offering only the minimum size capacity of the red bin, discontinuing the provision of the glass recycling bin and the green waste bin, and introducing fees for the local Bombala residents to use our once-free rubbish tip.

These tip charges are also extremely exorbitant. Even charging for green waste cuttings from the garden. Then council has the audacity to on-sell what we have been charged for!

More importantly though, is the council's grab for more money from the rate payers.

The scathing reports from the NSW Audit Office, NSW Office of Local Government, and particularly the AEC Group, highlights the irresponsible and unsustainable manner that the administration of the SMRC continue to provide.

As with all administrations that fail in their financial duties, the only recourse is to try to cover up their misgivings by not being honest and transparent.

Therefore, I am absolutely against any further rate increase as the fault lies within council due to its obvious incapability of providing financial viability, and lacks the expertise for a future suitable vision for balanced success throughout the region.

With the cost of living impost causing interest rate rises, and the general massive increases in power supply costs, the last thing council should do is try to shove rate increases down the rate payers throats!

The obvious remedy is to get rid of those incapable of running the SMRC.

Also, this only reinforces the the push for reinstating the previous councils by means of demergers.

As a retired (self-funded) rate payer, I am one of the 'silent majority' that is fed up with the ongoing inefficiencies of the SMRC administration, and hopefully I will see its demise in the near future.



If you need assistance or have questions, please contact [My Community Directory Customer Service](#)

This email was intended for council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au. Learn how this information helps us [protect your security](#)

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From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Online Session - Special Rate Variation Information
Date: 20.01.2023 15:56:59 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Friday, 20 January 2023 1:14 PM
To: SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)
<SMRCExecutiveLeadershipTeamELT@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>;
Subject: FW: Online Session - Special Rate Variation Information

From:
Sent: Friday, 20 January 2023 1:12 PM
To: David Rawlings
Cc: communications
Subject: RE: Online Session - Special Rate Variation Information

Hi David

Working so late sending me a reply at 1:54am – please don't kill yourself in the process.
Thanks so much for your reply – I have a better understanding where you are coming from. Comforting to know there is engineering qualified expertise at a senior management level – I could not pick where that was at in the structure and my knowledge of Council personnel but I accept your advice on this point. My own experience tells me none of this is easy and it looks to me like there is some intelligent thought being given to solving Council's problems. I think it was Peter who noted that successive Council's did not bite the bullet and go for incremental SRV rate increases over the years. Fully agree with that sentiment. The current situation shows the folly of that approach.

One area that I think Council can collect money or have improvements undertaken is through developer contributions. I have yet to wade through the proposed developer contributions plans in their entirety however from my initial look most of this seems to be water and wastewater focussed and thus benefit only those funds. This is an area where in the past (going back around 35 years) when I was with Snowy River Shire we had some major roadworks completed in the Jindabyne area through the development contributions process which of course benefitted the General Fund.

I am hoping to get something together for a submission on the SRV.
Many thanks again for your reply.

Cheers

From: David Rawlings
Sent: Friday, 20 January 2023 1:53 AM
To:
Cc: communications
Subject: RE: Online Session - Special Rate Variation Information

Hi

We do have engineers at the third level of the structure (Managers) as well as at the fourth and fifth levels. We currently have 8 qualified engineers that I know of and a couple more that I think are, but have never actually asked. But we are subject to risk of losing people through the high demand, as most councils are, which has led to gaps on and off. Some of these people are funded by the grant funding, so if our funds drop back we would not be able to sustain the numbers we currently have in place.

We had a service review of the asset service undertaken and it recommended we add three technical staff to the current team of 4 people, one of which as an engineering degree (Not a civil engineer). Within our asset team there is already provision for a water/wastewater engineer, in addition to the 4 positions in place, which may attract a qualified engineer. I could not see how we could justify the extent of technical staff and overall size of the team based on managing the infrastructure network we have. In addition a lot of our work is lumpy, so I think it will be more effective to contract in more specialist resources to undertake that work (eg road conditions, building pavement management system, revaluing water/sewer infrastructure). When AEC looked at our organisation they also stated that they could not see the justification for the three positions and recommended that we instead utilised our resources in place (eg within the operations teams) in addition to an extra technical resource.

I come at the problem from a analysts approach, but do rely on the technical employees and research in the field to support the way our asset management system is being developed to guide the direction we should be going. Particularly with the road network as that is our largest cost. AEC's view is that we should get specialist advice in on the treatments we should be using (which is supported by our staff) and until that occurs we cannot say the financial impacts. They have said that we know we have to fix the existing structural deficit urgently. At the moment the Council depreciates the pavements (sealed and unsealed) over 25 years. If the pavement management specialists come back with shorter timeframes we may well be indicating the current proposed funds are not sufficient. My analysis indicates we could stretch sealed road seals out to 15 years. Using traffic counts and extrapolation of traffic volumes (based on residences along the various segments) the gravel loss rates I use indicate that the gravel resheeting should be worn out over time periods between 2.5years and 18years. So this is a an area of risk with the current approach of funding the current deficit and a large part of why the AEC's recommended increase is much less than what I previously recommended to Council. They also cut back on the reconstruction rates we were proposing.

Hope this helps your thinking.

From:
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 7:44 AM
To: David Rawlings
Cc: communications
Subject: Online Session - Special Rate Variation Information

Good morning David
Hope all is going well with you and welcome back to the Snowies.
I attended the online session last night and have a follow up question. One point of discussion later in the presentation was in relation to the recommendation by AEC that more technical staff be engaged by

Council and that this was rejected in favour of just one Engineer to be placed in the Assets division. I have been concerned for a number of years about the lack of Engineering expertise (ie qualified engineers with Engineering Degrees) at senior levels within the organisation.

It is my understanding that within the organisational structure at SMRC the first qualified Engineer appears at the fourth and possibly even the 5th level of management within the organisation. I would appreciate if you could advise me of the situation as it will have some bearing upon my submission on the SRV.

Cheers

From: Snowy Monaro Regional Council <noreply@event.eventbrite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2023 2:56 PM
To:
Subject: REMINDER: Online Session Tonight - Special Rate Variation Information

This was sent to you by Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Thank you for registering to attend the Special Rate Variation Community Consultation. The online session is tonight, January 18, 2023, at 7.00pm. Please see the link to the online session and more information below:

Topic: Special Rate Variation Community Consultation – ONLINE
Time: Jan 18, 2023 07:00 PM until 8:30pm Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83543334665?pwd=VkREWU1tK2w3aUJGL3ZQR2lSQ0F4QT09>
Meeting ID: 835 4333 4665
Passcode: 769252

More information: <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation>

Please note: All participants will be muted on entrance, and we encourage you to use a device where you can see the chat function.

[Snowy Monaro Special Rate Variation Information](#)
[Session - 2](#)

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM (AEDT)

[View Order](#)

Organized by [Snowy Monaro Regional Council](#)

Questions about the event?

Contact the [organizer](#)

This email was sent to .

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From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Submission against proposed special rate rise.
Date: 21.01.2023 14:07:11 (+01:00)
Attachments: Submission for Proposed Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Regional council.docx (1 page)

Confidential Draft

Submission for Proposed Rate Variation for Snowy Monaro Reginal council.

I am totally opposed to any rate variation apart from the Ministers approved rate increase for 2023.

Councils have always relied on extra money from State Treasurers and Federal Government grants as it has always been the case that Council Income never covers the extra cost of Swimming pools, Local halls, Parks and Gardens and major infrastructure upgrades.

The Snowy Monaro Reginal Council has since its inception shown an incapacity and contempt, and a total disregard of any budget it has had to work with.

There is no plan put forward by council to budget its way out of debt and this should be Councils top priority before coming cap in hand to the community.

There is an incapacity of Council to appreciate the general hardships of this area in regard to the proposed incredible rate price increases. This proposed special rate increase amounts to the introduction of a new tax by another name and will become the new base rate for this area from now on.

We pay our Income taxes, and our Land taxes, and our Fuel taxes and our Road taxes, and our Goods and Services taxes year after year and expect more of a share of this money to flow into this community and assist Snowy Monaro Council.

There is plenty of Tax Payers money in State Treasury as witnessed by what is being handed out by Government and Opposition in this election year. I expect our State and Federal elected members to make sure this community gets our fair share without placing the extra burden on the local area.

Kind Regards

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Submission on Proposed Special Rate Variation

Date: 21.01.2023 19:26:48 (+01:00)
Attachments: Points for submission to Council.docx (1 page)

Please find attached abovementioned submission.

Confidential Draft

Please consider the following points from the _____ concerning the Proposed Special Rate Variation Options.

- The proposed Special Rate Variations Options are too high. This area has many residents who are on low or fixed incomes and who are already experiencing difficulty in paying household expenses due to rising costs of utilities, fuel and food.
- Whilst we are aware that Council does have hardship provisions, we are concerned that a high rate rise will lead to stress and upset in the community.
- We are also concerned that the additional costs of rates will lead to less disposable income and to a general downturn in the local economy and the Council area as a whole.
- As rates are only approximately a third of Council's income, a Special Rate Variation may only be a band aid solution, only fix the problem for a short time and that further Special Rate Variations may need to occur.
- We acknowledge that the issue of funding local government is complex and that local government has been underfunded for many years from both a State and Federal Government level. Could Council approach the State and Federal Governments requesting additional funding to help alleviate the need for a Special Rate Variation of such a large amount.
- Without the proposed Special Rate Variation (Option 1 or 2) Council states that services will be reduced. Many areas are already experiencing an unprecedented lack of services at present. Long grass, unkept streets and gardens are a common sight.
- Delegate and surrounding area have borne the brunt of the deterioration of their roads since the introduction of pine plantations in the area. Lack of Government planning in providing suitable roads and bridges to accommodate the resulting heavy vehicle traffic, means that our roads are in a constant state of disrepair. Funding needs to be urgently sought from State Forests and private plantation owners to cover the cost of upkeep.
- Finally, it is strongly felt that Council needs to have a hard look at its own management, as examples of waste and inefficiency are day to day occurrences. As ratepayers, we would like to see a meaningful proposal from Council as to how they propose to examine their structures and reduce their operational costs without resorting to cutting services. It is a bit rich to ask ratepayers to shoulder this burden on their own.

From:

To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
CC: <Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Submission to Council on Rates

Date: 21.01.2023 17:20:45 (+01:00)

The current survey of rate payers' views of the three rate increase proposals raises some concerning matters with me, a rate payer. I believe that to consider any rate increase of the extreme size proposed will cause unintended consequences to our citizens, especially those who will have difficulty meeting these proposed increases. What considerations have Councillors made to address the future effects of this proposal on the various age groups with the SMRC rate payer base?

Council appears to have sought rate payers views based on a Staff drafted paper which does not give the detail needed for rate payers to address this serious matter. From my research, I fail to see any intellectual rigour from the Councillors challenging the content of the draft paper. We are given a threat that if none of these options are acceptable then dire consequences follow. What is the basis for this prediction and have our Councillors thoroughly analysed supporting documentation? Where is this new rates' money to be spent and what guarantee can Councillors give that the money raised will be used appropriately? Have Councillors challenged the senior management on the processes to be implemented to use these additional funds?

It is common practice in any business which strives to succeed that in bad time severe cuts are made to maintain the business. Such cuts include staff reductions, restructuring, altering operating processes to focus on core activities. Where is the evidence that SMRC has a practical plan to make similar measures in its operation?

From:

To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
CC: <Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Special Rates Variation

Date: 21.01.2023 08:23:09 (+01:00)

Attachments: SUBMISSION.docx (1 page)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Confidential Draft

SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL RE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Please accept my submission on the special rate variation proposal by Council.

It is wrong to expect our small community to pay such a high increase, which will impact greatly on those on a fixed income and low -income earners.

Our community is disadvantaged by being at the edge of the Shire and this is evident by the lack of services for which we pay rates. The appearance of the town is one not one to be proud of and listed below are several matters requiring urgent attention.

- The main street in particular is a disgrace with an open drain across the footpath – a health and safety issue.
- Gardens not watered, weeded or maintained.
- Trees that have seeded, growing in the creek in the centre of town.
- Unoccupied houses and blocks of land are overrun with long grass, posing a potential fire hazard. I understand that Council has the power to enforce this type of clean-up which is also a health and safety issue.
- The Camping Ground and Memorial Park are badly in need of attention, facilities require improved cleaning services and management to encourage visitors to stay. The area has a lot of potential and could be an income earner if these improvements are made. Perhaps Council could consider employing someone local to carry out cleaning and town maintenance.
- Also, any public works required, local avenues should be given first priority.

So far, Council has not been able to provide efficient services to out town and therefore I am opposed to any rate increase.

From: **Narelle Davis** <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
To:
CC: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Chris Hanna**
<Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
<Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: SRV
Date: 22.01.2023 19:09:19 (+01:00)

Thankyou

For taking the time to respond to our consultation
This email will be sent to the team to add to the feedback on the SRV.
Regards
Narelle

Sent from my iPhone

On 22 Jan 2023, at 3:40 pm,

wrote:

To the General Manager and Executive,
Snowy Monaro Regional Council.,
Commissioner Street, COOMA NSW 2630
Comments on the proposed SRV

While I reviewed with interest the report from the consultants Council contracted and I am aware that Council continues to experience shortfalls in funding from both State and Federal Governments, I believe very strongly that before Council can expect ratepayers to agree to a near doubling of rates over the short term, it must first get its own house in order.

I noted that Council says it has made some \$5 million in internal savings over the last few years. This is a significant amount. However, it does point to bad management decisions in regard to operational activities/staffing in the past. I contend that there is still room for significant improvements in these areas which need to be addresses before Council consider an SRV that will impact heaving on the vast majority of ratepayers. Why should ratepayers be made to fund poor management and planning?

Council has also stated that there has not been an increase in rates above rate pegging since the amalgamation. While this is correct, it also needs to be recognized, that as part of the amalgamation process, it was not allowed to seek any Special Rate Variations during this period. In addition, it was well known that all three Councils where likely to be seeking an SRV prior to the amalgamation and yet, it appears that, Council staff did not take this into consideration when preparing previous budgets and staffing structures. Management should have been aware of the condition of assets, costs to bring them up to standard, impact of depreciation etc however no proper planning or allowances have been made over the last six years. Again, why should ratepayers have to pay for poor management?

I understand that the current rate peg does not keep up with the increasing costs of operations.

I also understand the stresses low-income families and those on fixed incomes are currently facing as a result of cost-of-living increases.

However I cannot support any of the current options.

The increases in the first two will lead to an adverse effect on the majority of ratepayers and impact economic activity and option three gives me no firm advice as to the services likely to be lost.

Yours Faithfully

Confidential Draft

From:

To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: SRV

Date: 22.01.2023 09:57:38 (+01:00)

Hi Council!

just would like to make a few points on the attempt by council to cause even more hardship to residents, especially of Jindabyne!

The campaign, by council, started with suggested "average" rates of \$980, with no information of how that was calculated, what land value was used etc. This had no realistic bearing on anyone, that I could see, in the SMRC LGA. The, later released, calculator helped, a little bit, but still said to use current land value. Surely council knew very well that they would be using 2022 land values when they issue the rate notices?

The "survey" appeared to be set to give the answer that Council required? No place for any comments, no ability to just choose one option & question 4 was set out to confuse with the options set out in the order of #1, #3, #2? Was that, also to achieve an outcome?

Council then commenced answering questions put by the public. Some are still unanswered? Or were only questions answered that were chosen? Regardless, it showed the lack of understanding by some of what "rates" means to payers and to council. Payers think of rates as the amount they will have to pay, council, apparently, thinks of "rates" as the total \$ they are allowed to collect. Question "does a high land value effect my rates?". . . Answer by council, "NO, there is no effect".

tell that to Jindabyne residents who suffered badly from the harmonisation and will suffer very badly if the 53% or even the 12% over 4 years goes ahead! Another answer to a similar question "rates do NOT increase when land values increase". REALLY? Wait until the new land values arrive in the next few days/weeks & hear the howls! Another question that was given a confusing answer. . "is this once only or will rates return to 'normal' in 23/24?" Answer, "NO, any increase will be permanent". Another similar question "does Permanent SRV mean SRV will be ongoing every year" answer "YES". From both those one could assume that council intends to raise "RATES" every year. Questions about libraries and pools were answered badly, drownings are more prevalent from people from regional areas so pools are necessary in accessible places. (Like the "Regional" sports hub too far away for most in the LGA). Bus service to Canberra and Cooma from Bombala also a similar problem.

That is just a sample of some of the confusing answers given. Regardless, council should have given CLEAR details that they would be using 2022 land values for the massive hike they want and set out the calculations to show this. With most Jindabyne residential land values now expected to be close to a \$million dollars, it will be a nightmare for the 50% of pensioners and young families (with interest rate expected to go up again), and renters can expect a possible \$100 raise in weekly rents. (Not "a cup of coffee" but a fair amount of the weekly shopping bill!). from councils calculator, if the 53% is implemented my rates will be around \$80- \$90 per week. A big slug out of a pension!! It will be miracle if any businesses can get any staff! Of course other areas will suffer, a little, as their values will also rise by percentages. But they will not rise as much in actual \$dollars. Council can accept some of the blame for Jindabyne's woes as they "gave away" the land for the new road causing delays to the SAP. SAP has some fault, too. As they are working on a 40 year plan and council has used this to "wait & see" what SAP will do. Meanwhile monies from amalgamation are losing value fast as council delays projects. (Like moving the toilets to the town centre. Please don't tell me the gossip is that you want to stick them alongside the hall? Thus cutting off access to the hall and putting a stop to any modifications to the hall that would make it more usable).

Council says it will carry out a review of what are "acceptable levels of service"? Jindabyne was neglected by Berridale council, and overlooked by Cooma council forcing community members to approach our local member that eventually gave rise to the SAP. But the SAP is not concentrating on the basics that were asked for, so the best we can expect is "better than nothing" & more of the same, developed not planned or built for purpose and community. Example, the new library, whilst it's good to have a library, what a waste of space! We don't have any space left (medical centre!) so a 2 storey building would have made more sense. Plus a cheaper build system. To say this can be deconstructed and moved is problematic, the foundations alone were massive! "Acceptable levels" have never been achieved in Jindabyne, more so since amalgamation. Whilst the outdoor crews try hard there is insufficient numbers covering a vast area, locals are seen trying to maintain council managed lands often. Flower beds installed in town are looked after by shopkeepers or residents (Not like Cooma's Sharp street!) and so on.

The suggested use of the monies is so general to be of no use to assess any benefit (Just like consolidated accounts!). there is no detail, and no comment on grants available or "constant". What is "Investment in asset management"? isn't

that a "part of council's normal day to day work? Isn't there already a whole team on this? Or is this why Councillor Hanna's Question on Roads is still unanswered? How is the Operational Report made if there is no knowledge of the assets? The schedule of expenditure is said to be assessed by 'safety risk', JIT intervention(!!) and highest community benefit. FOOTPATHS! It was ridiculous of council to say that "it's OK to walk in the road" or "can't afford the depreciation" at the same time as allowing dirt ditches to be dug into every park and reserve throughout the LGA. Even the Cooma Creek Path and Lake Jindabyne Village Trails are not fit for purpose as they do not conform to AUSroads specifications. (Especially as council calls them "bike paths"! Most of our tourists come for a relaxed holiday, especially the off peak ones, & everything should be done to encourage residents also to maintain health. As you can imagine, I am much opposed to the SRV as it stands. Council needs to approach all parties for the next election and get promises for an overhaul of the way council is funded, and , maybe, get some definite continuous funding arrangements. Maybe it is time to stop the amalgamation "experiment" & insist on returning to the 3 LGA's, especially as they are so distinctly different, except in an accountant's eyes?

Regards

PS I hope all councillors are made to read ALLfull submissions, not just councils "points" precis's!

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
CC: <Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation and Rural Landuse Strategy
Date: 22.01.2023 21:30:38 (+01:00)
Attachments: Dear SMRC Councillors 2023.docx (2 pages)

Please find attached my submission on the Special Rate Variation and Rural Landuse Strategy.
Regards



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Dear SMRC Councillors,

Please accept the following as my submission on the Special Rate Variation and Rural Landuse Strategy.

Rate Variation:

I reject totally the need to increase the rates by any more than CPI. Council has not demonstrated they are efficient and effective service providers. Productivity must be increased through restructuring management, staff performance improvement and sound financial management including an assessment of demerging. It is not acceptable to continue to ask for more money from the community until the underperformance of the organization is addressed. I do not accept that services have to decrease if rates don't rise.

The Council has been informing the community for years that there is a financial problem but appears to have made no effort to resolve the issue and now council propose to invoke a sudden radical solution.

A corporate financial crisis usually requires management changes. Pumping money into an unrepaired financial system only serves to extend the time of pain until the need for more money injection. Council can now be seen as extremely biased and council's three options special rate variation proposals were a council self-serving deliberate play to blame and victimize the community. This options process should be scrapped. A confirmative No to all options and investigate the whole of councils operational and financial activities. The independent investigation should not be of local government or council choice.

If a business does not provide value for money, they go broke. It appears council may be heading this way. Snowy Monaro Regional Council in their presented choices totally ignore any consideration of reducing their administration costs. They have too many managers, too many cars, too many feel good functions. If you have less administration staff you may not need a rate rise and the pay rate of senior management is far too high. Financial audits do not indicate whether activities were carried out efficiently. If administration costs were reduced by about 10 percent this could produce the income desired. Council needs to identify their core business and what that cost to implement. The council needs to undertake a restructure to only employ the staff for the necessary activities they can afford.

We certainly do not need a new council building in the light of the ratepayers having to pay extra rates to build it. The council's financial situation is not going to be solved by throwing additional dollars into a business that is broken. We need to see a total review of ALL of council's operations before we allow more good money to be wasted on inefficient operations. I suspect the threatened cuts will not effect the "feel good" parts of the organization that have been introduced over the years since the amalgamation. I would like to remind council that the ratepayers are fair dinkum about wanting a detailed explanation of the services we are paying for, we might finally get an independent body who will conduct an indepth structural review examination of council's whole organizational structure and operations. Councilors have missed the point of why we voted for them, they are supposed to be working for the community and their voters not against them. They should check and double check everything that is put before them not just take the recommendations of management as gospel, which is just making them a rubber stamp and no more. The amalgamation has been a farce with promises of

advantages that would vastly improve combined Shires and generate financial and non-financial benefits. Of course now, seven years later, the penchant is to favour manipulated statements and promises (NOT delivered), as "this was always going to happen". Well, if they knew that in 2015/16, why wasn't something said?

I really think the only solution to fix council is to sack all councilors and council management staff and half of the office staff, make a board of voluntary directors of successful business people, accountants and solicitors to go through all council books and paperwork with a fine tooth comb and restructure the entire council and to employ management staff who are sensible level headed people that know their field and don't have to bring in consultants, even if we have to bring the right people out of retirement to do so, also vote in new councilors that have the time and expertise to run a successful business. We all know that council only employs failed business people who could not run a successful business of their own in the private business world. Some of the present councilors have been in the corporate world with their jobs for far too long and can't see the reality of running a successful business.

Rural Land Use Strategy.

The process must be stopped and all documents referred back to council's reference group for assessment. The process has major failings including:
Proper strategic planning on all rural lands is fatally compromised by the Plantations and Reafforestation Act. This act, as council's strategic planners well know, completely overrides all provisions of council's planning documents. Until the plantations act is repealed there is no case other than to maintain the status quo.

Once the plantation act is repealed the landuse strategy should then focus on:

Increasing the population of rural areas through allowing limited dwelling allotments of around 2 Ha distributed throughout rural localities similar to the concessional holdings provision of the previous Bombala LEP.

Expanding the opportunities for niche agricultural enterprises with an associated dwelling entitlement in rural lands.

Ensuring new development does not burden council with ongoing maintenance costs eg provision of roads.

In general I am concerned that the elected councillors appear to have lost control of the council and that the agenda is being driven increasingly from council's management and state government agencies and mostly to the disadvantage of our communities.

Regards

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
CC: <Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject:
Date: 22.01.2023 20:39:33 (+01:00)
Attachments: Dear SMRC Councilors 2023.docx (1 page)

Please find attached my submission on the Special Rate Variation
Regards



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Dear SMRC Councilors,

Please accept the following as my submission on the Special Rate Variation.

What a dilemma facing ratepayers, looking down the barrel of a possible 53% rate increase by the start of the new financial year. This will be an absolute disaster for many struggling businesses, people & families in our region, who have to live within their means, Council should restructure to live within its means.

When Councils amalgamated we were promised more efficiency but this didn't happen, we now have more staff than the three councils originally had and with significant staff cost increases have forced us further into this dilemma. So therefore we reject any rate increases more than the CPI.

Council certainly hasn't demonstrated any efficiencies nor have they proved to be effective service providers. Productivity must be increased through restructuring management, sound financial management and staff performance.

We find that it is unacceptable to ask ratepayers for more money until the poor performance of the Council is addressed.

It would also be important to do an assessment of demerging.

Regards

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Objection to proposed rate variations
Date: 22.01.2023 14:30:04 (+01:00)
Attachments: SUBMISSION FOR PROPOSED RATE VARIATION FOR SNOWY MONARO
REGINAL COUNCIL.docx (1 page)

Confidential Draft

**SUBMISSION FOR PROPOSED RATE VARIATION FOR SNOWY
MONARO REGINAL COUNCIL:
ADDRESS:**

**I object to these proposed increases and agree only to the
approved Ministers Rate Increase for 2023.**

- **People of this area have suffered enough to manage
their own budgets, and Councils need to do the same.**
- **Although the Council has regular audits proper
management of funds such as Rates and Government
Grants appear to be lacking.**
- **I have not heard from the elected Councillors regarding
their opinions of these proposed increases.**
- **I have not enjoyed a decent road since I moved here
from Sydney in 1985. My husband and myself have had
to try and maintain our road out of our property, while
working and raising our family. Nothing much has
happened for the money we have paid over those years,
for us and the other residents who are living in this area.**

Thanking you

From:
To: **Council** <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Records Snowy Monaro Regional**
<SMRCCouncillors@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **SMRC Councillors**
Subject: Special Rate Variation
Date: 22.01.2023 21:07:59 (+01:00)

To Council staff and Councillors,

We would like to strongly object to the proposed special rate variation.

We feel that an audit must be carried out before we could even consider anything other than the rate peg increase.

We have had our say via the survey provided on your website as well as this email.
We would like to bring to your attention that when completing the survey on our mobile phone we had a few issues.
We were given 3 options with drop down boxes and that was how we selected the order.
As we scrolled down to find submit button the order of our choices changed.
So the survey filled in on a mobile device can both use the drop down box and move the boxes with your finger. So as I scrolled down I moved the choice boxes. Fortunately I checked otherwise my vote would have been not my order of choice.
I have gone back to check and there is no warning regarding the use of mobile devices on the survey.
It is reasonable to expect many people will have used a mobile device and may not have noticed this issue....

Thank you for your time

Confidential Draft

From: **Peter Bascomb**
To: **Cherie McNair** ; **SMRC Executive**
Leadership Team (ELT)
Subject: FW: Bad Public Relations
Date: 23.01.2023 12:07:01 (+01:00)

From: Narelle Davis <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 10:24 AM
To: Peter Bascomb
Subject: Fwd: Bad Public Relations

Sent from my iPhone

Narelle Davis
SMRC Councillor



PO Box 714
COOMA NSW 2630

Phone 1300 345 345
Fax (02) 6456 3337

snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Think of the environment, please don't print this email unless you really need to

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Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 22 January 2023 at 9:17:32 pm AEDT

To: Narelle Davis <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: **Bad Public Relations**

Attention:
Narelle Davis
Councillor/Mayor SMRC

Dear Mayor,

Notwithstanding the plethora of controversial problems faced by the SMRC in regards to its incapacity to sustain a viable, and economically stable model of administration for the SMRC region, and the more serious matter of a general lack of transparency and accountability when asked to explain to the ratepayers and other stakeholders various specific details relating to a huge range of council projects, it is not surprising that the NSW Audit Office, NSW Office of Local Government and the independent report by the AEC Group has been highly critical of council in their reviews.

It is therefore not surprising to see the recent formation of the Snowy Monaro Ratepayers and Residents Association that will be the basis for a demand for accountability and full transparency from council. Failing any change to unacceptable council culture will likely bring the call for a commission of enquiry into council behaviour, and the prospect of a call for council administration to be replaced. Demergers by the previous independent Council Areas are now a proven valid option as they have been disadvantaged by merging with Cooma Council.

On the matter of council's demand for a rate rise, it is seen by ratepayers as an insult to their intelligence, and quite offensive in the way in which you personally set about "explaining" the reasons for such a rate increase in the Monaro Post dated January 18 2023.

Relating to your options: Option 1: 53% increase paid in 2023/2024. Option 2: 55.25% increase over five years from 2023/2024. Option 3: No special rate variation, with only the standard rate peg applying and a **decrease to Council services** to suit the level of available funds.

The whole problem lies with a council that has proven incapable of providing **the correct priorities** for financial outlay!

Presenting Option 3 as a direct threat to the ratepayers with this form of intimidation shows your personal lack of respect and consideration for those that elected you to office. Free advice: The skills of good public relations between a Mayor and those that elected them to office should be exemplary.

Question: How much of the \$391 million is going to be spread throughout the whole Monaro Region and not just for the privileged in Jindabyne and the snowfields? At the time of the Bombala Council area "merger" it had \$17 million in the bank! Now, the roads are deteriorating, potholes in every direction towards the coast, Delegate, Cooma and Dalgety. No wonder demands for demerger are increasing.

As an aside, the column written by Greg Davies in the Monaro Post certainly brings the council inefficiencies to light.

Shameful behaviour!

From: **Gina Woodward**
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Cherie McNair**
Subject: FW: SRV Consultation
Date: 23.01.2023 14:02:37 (+01:00)

Nothing from Cr Mitchell just FYI

From: Craig Mitchell <Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 2:02 PM
To: Peter Bascomb <Peter.Bascomb@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; SMRC Councillors
<SMRCCouncillors@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Gina Woodward <Gina.Woodward@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: SRV Consultation

Hi Peter
I haven't received any that have only been to me
Cheers
Craig

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Peter Bascomb
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 12:28:49 PM
To: SMRC Councillors <SMRCCouncillors@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Gina Woodward
Subject: SRV Consultation

Good afternoon Mayor and Councillors

As you would be aware, consultation closed yesterday. The team is now preparing the consultation report ahead of Wednesday's briefing.

I ask that you send in today any written or email feedback regarding the SRV you have received that you believe has not been sent to Council.

This will ensure that the consultation report is comprehensive.

Regards

Peter

Peter Bascomb
Chief Executive Officer

From:
To: **David Rawlings** ; **Tracy Sligar**
Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
<Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Chris Hanna**
CC: <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: SRV Response
Date: 23.01.2023 12:50:48 (+01:00)

Apologies - original sent in haste and should have been proof read!
Please see correction in bold italics.

3. How much was applied for by SMRC under the 3/1/2023 **\$500 million** NSW State Government Regional and Local Roads Repair Funding?

Cheers

On Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 3:33 PM

wrote:

Good afternoon David and Tracy

In response to the proposed SRV I reiterate my comments submitted in my SMRC "Have Your Say" Survey reply of 13/12/22 below:

"no official advice - heard general, local discussion and had to make my own enquiries. Concerned with lack of information dissemination, lack of community awareness and brevity of this survey inc' no opportunity for free space comment or to "Tell us what you want for the Snowy Monaro region". Consequently this survey could be viewed as a box ticking exercise in consultation to support the proposal. This exercise needs to extend far beyond a 6 question survey and can only properly reflect the views of all affected parties through much broader engagement and greater transparency. Ironically I have just tried to submit my response only to be instructed question 4 "requires an answer". In my first attempt I intentionally didn't answer q 4 as I found it to be misleading and loaded and, equally as important, somewhat presumptuous in the expectation of a preference whilst bereft of detail, consequence and the full details essential in advance of deciding one's preferences. Contrary to your claims of "community consultation" it is impossible to submit this survey without expressing an order of preference and duplication of a preference numbers ie "3, 3, 3 until further discussion" is not permitted which is extremely concerning given the potential for manipulation of such survey intel."

Since I submitted my Survey response last year I am concerned the only level of community discussion on the matter beyond the 1:1 conversations I have had with individuals I know has been through the Monaro Post "Letters to the Editor" feature. Whilst the published contributions I have read have been most interesting this has been a somewhat limited source of information upon which any concerned resident or observer could regularly appraise the developing opinions of the broad and affected community. Accordingly, it could appear SMRC is relying on the Monaro Post's independent information dissemination to inform interested parties of opinions and developing trends as an adequate and appropriate level of consultation prior to decision making rather than assume and expand the responsibility itself. As a result more than 1,300 Survey respondents have submitted their responses to the 6 questions in complete ignorance of the issues, concerns, suggestions and possible alternatives proposed by others whose views could have been shared in complete anonymity. Aside from public disillusion with the process this could well lead to accountability issues in the future. In the interests of true, transparent and meaningful consultation on a matter of such importance and on the established premise of collective interaction being best encouraged and enhanced by open and shared dialogue in a common forum from which all participants can learn, consider and potentially develop their own understanding and contributions to the discussion I would like your response to the following questions:

1. Who authored the Survey?
2. Who is to collate and analyse the Survey responses to determine the results of the Survey?
3. With regard to basic research and market analysis dictates does SMRC remain satisfied that in order to reach a decision on a major financial issue potentially impacting upon personal finances,

housing and rental affordability and ongoing access to services to name just a few, adequate community feedback can be appropriately canvassed and collated through 6 "closed questions" the first 3 of which refer to age, postcode and residential status and the 4th of which requires a respondent's preferences re Options 1 - 3 which must be completed to enable the Survey to be submitted and with no free text or facility to submit alternative suggestions or opinions?

4. Why were no public meetings held to discuss the matter and facilitate collective interaction?
5. Why didn't SMRC facilitate a publicly accessible Frequently Asked Questions website to regularly share de-identified community input?

On matters more specific to the financial aspect of the proposal and the suggested benefits of Options 1 and 2 and the potentially threatening consequences of Option 3 I would like your response to the following questions.

In the event Options 1 or 2 are implemented:

1. What specific programmes, projects or "infrastructure backlogs" have been identified to be undertaken/addressed and by what \$ amount?
2. How much of an increase in annual SMRC revenue is proposed to be allocated to the Special Activation Precinct project?
3. What new positions or roles are proposed or envisaged to be created within SMRC?

In the event Option 3 is implemented:

1. What asset and service level deterioration has been identified?
2. What services will be "reduced" and what unsafe or potentially unsafe "facilities" have been identified for consideration for closure?
3. If infrastructure backlog continues to grow and assets deteriorate below a "satisfactory condition" will SMRC still maintain infrastructure and assets and service levels to a proper, appropriate and safe standard?
4. What will be the impact upon the SAP project?

In relation to more general financial matters pertinent to overall SMRC operations I would like your response to the following questions:

1. How much was applied for and how much was granted to SMRC under the 2022 NSW State Government Disaster Relief Funding?
2. How much was applied for and how much was granted to SMRC under the 25/10/2022 NSW State Government Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Funding?
3. How much was applied for by SMRC under the 3/1/2023 \$5 billion NSW State Government Regional and Local Roads Repair Funding?
4. Were any discussions regarding the SMRC financial situation undertaken with the NSW State Government Minister for Local Government, Wendy Tuckerman, prior to the SMRC 24/11/2022 Extraordinary meeting?
5. Were any discussions regarding the SMRC financial situation undertaken with the NSW Member for Monaro, Nichole Overall, prior to the SMRC 24/11/2022 Extraordinary meeting?

In conclusion I feel it necessary to raise the following questions in regard to the 12/5/2016 NSW Government forced amalgamations of local government:

1. What and by how much are the identified financial benefits achieved by SMRC/NSW State Government since amalgamation?
2. In the event the forced amalgamation can be established as contributing in any way to the current SMRC status and SRV proposal have any discussions been undertaken with the then Deputy Premier and Member for Monaro, John Barilaro, the former Minister for Local Government and current State MP, Gabrielle Upton, the former Minister for Local Government and now Deputy Premier, Paul Toole or any other proponents, advocates and/or architects of the Cooma, Snowy River and Bombala Councils amalgamation?

I look forward to hearing from you.
Regards

From: **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
To:
CC: **SMRC Councillors** ; **Peter Bascomb** ; **David Rawlings**
Subject: Petition related to the SRV
Date: 20.01.2023 17:17:20 (+01:00)

Dear

Thank you for your email and the link to the petition. I also thank you for getting involved in this important matter.

I have shared your email and the petition link in this email with all councillors and the relevant council executive.

Regards

Luke Williamson
Councillor

Snowy Monaro Regional Council
PO Box 714
COOMA NSW 2630

Luke Williamson
SMRC Councillor



PO Box 714 Phone
COOMA NSW 2630 Fax (02) 6456 3337

snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

<P style="FONT-SIZE: 9pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial" **Think of the environment, please don't print this email unless you really need to**

<P style="FONT-SIZE: 9pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial"

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From: **Gina Woodward**
SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)
To: **McNair** ; Cherie
Subject: FW: Your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website
Date: 19.01.2023 14:43:48 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 2:40 PM
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

This should read I only want to rate Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only – my typo!!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Your Say Snowy Monaro](#)
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 2:02 PM
To:
Subject: Your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'Question 1 Why are farmland rates the most expensive when, in our case, we have no waste or water services, no garbage collection services and no infrastructure provided by council other than 3kms of Bumbalong Road, graded infrequently. Question 2 - I don't want to rate all options in the survey. I only want to rate Option 1. My survey is not being submitted because of my choice not to rate Options 2 and 3. I think that Council is trying to trick us by forcing us to rate all options and then use this date to put forward the other options. This smacks of deceit. Can you let me know how I can let council know that I only want to chose Option 1 and not rate the other two options? Question 3 - what are the Jindabyne SAP assets and what does this mean. Question 4 - when do the new rates become effective Question 5 - when is the next council election '

We will get back to you as soon as possible with a response.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

||

From: **Peter Bascomb**
To: **SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)**
CC: **Cherie McNair**
Subject: FW: Special Rate Variation - very supportive
Date: 22.01.2023 15:47:10 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Friday, 20 January 2023 12:10 PM
To: Peter Bascomb ; Jeff Morgan
; Narelle Davis <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Cc:
Subject: Special Rate Variation - very supportive

Hi Narelle, Peter and Jeff, (and all councillors)

As owners of Lots and Moonbah I would like to confirm that and I fully support the Special Rate Variation Option 1:

Option 1 – 53% rate increase to be paid in 2023/24. Enables an additional investment of \$64.3 million in asset renewal to stabilise the current infrastructure backlog and to undertake additional renewal and maintenance of our roads and other community assets. Current service levels will be maintained while also progressively improving the operating result ie. financial sustainability.

We consider it vital that SMRC has the resources to adequately fund the current backlog of maintenance and current and future renewal of roads and community infrastructure.

We have indicated this through our responses to your survey but as your consultation process draws to a close, we wanted to further emphasise our support for the Special Rate Variation through this email.

We need SMRC to be able to do the best work possible to set up the Snowy Monaro region for a more resilient future.

Thanks for your efforts in communicating this complex matter to Snowy Monaro citizens.

Yours sincerely

From: **Peter Bascomb**
To: **Cherie McNair** ; **SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)**
Subject: FW: Snowy Hydro Ltd letter regarding Special Rate Variation
Date: 22.01.2023 15:47:56 (+01:00)
Attachments: SMRC - Rate Variation Response Letter.pdf (2 pages)

From:
Sent: Friday, 20 January 2023 12:20 PM
To: Peter Bascomb <Peter.Bascomb@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Cc:
Subject: Snowy Hydro Ltd letter regarding Special Rate Variation

Dear Peter

As discussed, Snowy Hydro has considered the special rate variation and the implications for the Company. I have attached a written submission (addressed to the Mayor). Would you please include this in Council's consideration of the proposed variation.
regards,

Snowy Hydro: Confidential Communication.

This email (which includes any attachments) may contain information that is confidential, legally privileged or protected by copyright. If this email has been sent to you by mistake, please inform us by reply and then delete the email and destroy any printed copy and do not disclose or use the information in it. There is no warranty that this email is error or virus free. If this is a private communication it does not represent the views of Snowy Hydro. Snowy Hydro collects personal information to provide our services. For more information about use, disclosure and access see our privacy policy at www.snowyhydro.com.au.



20 January 2023

Mayor Narelle Davis
Snowy Monaro Regional Council
81 Commissioner Street
COOMA NSW 2630

By email:

Dear Mayor

Snowy Monaro Regional Council - Proposed Special Rate Variation

Snowy Hydro Ltd (SHL) understands that at an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 24 November 2022, the Council decided to proceed with notifying the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) that it intends to apply for a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV). You have circulated three proposed options for this variation and SHL has considered the implications of each of them.

SHL also understands Council's need to raise revenue to continue to provide the infrastructure and services required and expected by the community. This year SHL will pay around \$600,000 to Snowy Monaro Regional Council for land rates. \$530,000 of this sits within the 'Electricity Generation' category for land that sits under Jindabyne and Eucumbene reservoirs. The rest of the rate charge is paid for land within business, farmland and residential categories.

SHL does not oppose increases to rates imposed and paid by SHL for land owned within the business, farmland or residential categories. This is due to (a) there being some nexus between the rate charge and provision of services by Council and (b) there is a need to keep pace with the costs of doing business.

However SHL is of the view that the current rate charge for the 'Electricity Generation' category is already more than adequate under the circumstances. Paying \$530,000 annually for land that provides significant recreation / amenity and economic value to the community with no overhead, is considered by SHL to be a more than sufficient contribution. Raising this existing charge between \$60,000 (Option 2) and \$280,000 (Option 1) without rationale (other than assumed ability to pay) cannot be supported. Essentially, this land is not imposing a cost for Council to "keep pace with".

This is because:

- There are no Council roads passing through the land.
- SHL maintains operational tracks around the lakes that are used and shared by recreational users.
- SHL patrols the foreshores at busy times and will deploy resources at our cost when issues arise from recreational use or when safety issues are identified.



- SHL also maintains other facilities including waste disposal around the lakes at its cost, while also paying the waste management collection charge to the Council.
- There are no people living on this land (ie no draw on resources such as library, halls, health and building inspections or dogs).
- All the land is zoned the same and in one ownership, so it is exceptionally easy to administer.

In addition to this, SHL is proud to contribute to the community we have been part of for 75 years, and does so in numerous financial and less tangible 'in kind' ways. Beyond paying our rates, SHL has consistently demonstrated that it is prepared to contribute to activities and infrastructure that improve the wellbeing of the local community and visitors. Specific examples include;

- Provision of boat ramps
- Provision of land for bike tracks at no cost
- Land for water treatment plant
- Supporting community groups and local events through our Community Grants Program
- Providing substantial financial support to Snowy Monaro Country Universities Centre

In conclusion, SHL understands Council's need to raise revenue to continue to provide the infrastructure and municipal services expected by the community and supports increases in the business, farmland and residential categories. This is because there are community and Council overheads associated with this land.

SHL already makes a substantial contribution through its rates and also through numerous payments and 'in kind' contributions every year.

SHL objects to Options 1 or 2 being applied to its land within the 'Electricity Generation' category because there is no discernible overhead or service being provided by Council to this land. In fact it represents a significant community recreational, health asset and economic driver.

We have discussed this with the CEO and would welcome an opportunity to talk to you or the Councillors prior to a vote that might make this policy.

Yours sincerely

From:
To: **Chris Hanna <>**
Subject: Objection to increase in rates.
Date: 22.01.2023 22:34:25 (+01:00)
Attachments: Council rates objection.odt (1 page)

Please find attached our objections to the increase in rates above the rate peg.

We know that this is a very difficult decision.

Many thanks,

Confidential Draft

22nd January, 2022

To Snowy Monaro Regional Council and Councillors

We are very concerned that you are requesting these rate increases and wish to object to these increases.

There are major issues that must be addressed. We do not accept that services have to decrease if rates don't rise any more than the CPI.

We think that Council will do whatever they choose to do but will these increases just be the start of permanent increases every year?

The Federal Government, the State Government and many local councils are in debt. We as a country cannot continue down this road. We have to be accountable and manage what we have and learn to live within our means and this doesn't mean closing all the outlying offices with all roads leading to Cooma.

We have to look at why this Council has managed to amass such a large debt.

If we were to accept either option 1 or 2 how sure can you be that you would be able to balance the budget and not use it all and still be in debt and then ask for a continuation of the increase?

Is it because management is too large and too expensive for this council to afford? Are the expenses incurred by employees travelling, and car expenses etc justified and affordable?

Is it because jobs often take longer to do and cost more and the budget is blown?

The road repairs don't last. They are continually repairing the pot holes and in no time at all they have opened up again. Even when the roads are tarred it is only a matter of weeks before there are potholes everywhere.

Many people seem to be travelling to work sites in other areas passing workers travelling to their area eg tar patching trucks.

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council area is a very large area, it is not like city areas, you can't manage the areas in the same way.

Yours sincerely

From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: SRV
Date: 23.01.2023 08:36:47 (+01:00)

I completed the survey re the SRV last night. I voted for option 2. I am not sure if that is a good idea.

Eighty percent of our interaction with Council is our rural roads. When we get to Cooma we then make use of some of Councils services.

I understand that there is no guarantee that there will be any increase in road maintenance even with the large increase in rates. Is this so?

The last couple of years have been very difficult regarding rural gravel roads. It appears that when all the grant money is used there will not be any more work done to these roads, is this so?

As far as we, rural road users, are concerned roads are everything.

Please put rural roads on the must do list and budget accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Confidential Draft

From:

To:

Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
<Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

CC:

Subject:

Re: Submission to Council on Rates and Landuse planning

Date:

11.01.2023 01:24:29 (+01:00)

Dear SMRC Councillors.

Please accept the following as my submission on the Special Rate Variation and Rural Landuse Strategy

Rate Variation

I reject totally the need to increase the rates by any more than CPI. Council have not demonstrated they are efficient and effective service providers. Productivity must be increased through restructuring management, staff performance improvement and sound financial management including an assessment of demerging. It is not acceptable to continue to ask for more money from the community until the underperformance of the organisation is addressed. I do not accept that services have to decrease if rates don't rise.

Rural Land Use Strategy

The process must be stopped and all documents referred back to council's reference group for assessment. The process has major failings including:

Proper strategic planning on all rural lands is fatally compromised by the Plantations and Reafforestation Act. This act, as council's strategic planners well know, completely overrides all provisions of council's planning documents. Until the plantations act is repealed there is no case other than to maintain the status quo.

Once the planation act is repealed the landuse strategy should then focus on:

Increasing the population of rural areas through allowing limited dwelling allotments of around 2 Ha distributed throughout rural localities similar to the concessional holdings provision of the previous Bombala LEP.

Expanding the opportunities for niche agricultural enterprises with an associated dwelling entitlement in rural lands.

Ensuring new development does not burden council with ongoing maintenance costs eg provision of roads.

In general I am concerned that the elected councillors appear to have lost control of the council and that the agenda is being driven increasingly from council's management and state government agencies and mostly to the disadvantage of our communities.

Regards

From:

Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
<Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

To:

Subject:

SRV

Date:

22.01.2023 22:16:56 (+01:00)

Dear Councilors,

I am writing to inform that after considering all available information that I have voted for no SRV. While I can accept that there are increased cost pressures in a number of areas, I am not convinced that an SRV of this scale, at this time, is justified by Council's and their consultant's figures. There appears to be a large gap between some recommended and proposed levels of SRV. I am not convinced that any serious consideration has been given to the efficiency of Council operations, but I remain open to any future properly grounded proposals.

Regards,

From: **Gina Woodward**
To:
CC:
Subject: FW: NO RATE RISE
Date: 23.01.2023 14:29:25 (+01:00)

Another one – but it did come in after 11.59pm last night so am checking with CEO on action

From: Luke Williamson <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 2:27 PM
To: Gina Woodward ; Peter Bascomb

Subject: FW: NO RATE RISE

Gina, Peter.
This was just received also.
Regards
Luke Williamson

From:
Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 2:26 PM
To: Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Karlee Johnson <Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Lynda Summers <Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Narelle Davis <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Peter Beer <Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Tanya Higgins <Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Louise Frolich <Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Bob Stewart <Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Craig Mitchell <Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Tricia Hopkins <Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; Luke Williamson <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NO RATE RISE

Dear SMRC Councillors.
Please accept the following as my submission on the Special Rate Variation and Rural Land use Strategy

Rate Variation.

I reject totally the need to increase the rates by any more than CPI. Council have not demonstrated they are efficient and effective service providers. Productivity must be increased through restructuring management, staff performance improvement and sound financial management including an assessment of demerging. It is not acceptable to continue to ask for more money from the community until the underperformance of the organisation is addressed. I do not accept that services have to decrease if rates don't rise.

This rate rise will put more homeowners under heavier financial stress and force people to live in poverty, also decreasing the value of our homes. Why would anyone want to come and buy a property in Delegate (pop. roughly 450) for instance as tree change and pay higher rates that they can pay to live near the beach or major shopping centres? Home owners who live out in the far reaches of the region, with already minimal services and shopping facilities will suffer even more and some towns may not be able to continue to exist, while people who live in Cooma and Jindabyne continue to thrive and grow, people who live in Delegate continue to pay for these upgrades. Delegate does not even have potable water but the water charges have already increased. Anyone would think we live in a third world country. This is appalling.

My personal rates with your 53% raise on the base rate means that just for my residential rate will go from \$550.19 to a whopping \$801.94 plus then the other services such as waste management, collection services, recycling services (by the way – Delegate has no green waste bin) and stormwater management charges will all rise as well making this an almost unachievable cost for people on fixed incomes. My total rates and charges will be in excess of \$1079. Then I have to pay water and sewer charges as well which have already increased to \$396. Every four months making a total of \$1188 per year. (and I am sure this will rise as well.) This will make my total rates and charges \$2267+.

This is a crazy amount for people to be paying to have further reduced service such as Delegate Transfer Station and crap roads. It is easy enough for people to say you can use Bombala Tip, but it is a 75km round trip from Delegate to Bombala, then you have to pay tip fees. The cost of petrol has increased as well so this is a long way to travel on the shocking state of the road between Delegate and Bombala making a trip to Bombala Tip a very expensive exercise just to get rid of a bit of excess rubbish...

Rural Land Use Strategy.

The process must be stopped and all documents referred back to council's reference group for assessment. The process has major failings including: Proper strategic planning on all rural lands is fatally compromised by the Plantations and Reforestation Act. This act, as council's strategic planners well know, completely overrides all provisions of council's planning documents. Until the plantations act is repealed there is no case other than to maintain the status quo.

Once the plantation act is repealed the land use strategy should then focus on: Increasing the population of rural areas through allowing limited dwelling allotments of around 2 Ha distributed throughout rural localities similar to the concessional holdings provision of the previous Bombala LEP.

Expanding the opportunities for niche agricultural enterprises with an associated dwelling entitlement in rural lands.

Ensuring new development does not burden council with ongoing maintenance costs eg provision of roads.

In general I am concerned that the elected councillors appear to have lost control of the council and that the agenda is being driven increasingly from council's management and state government agencies and mostly to the disadvantage of our communities.

Regards

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From:

To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Narelle Davis <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
<Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
CC: <Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Emailing: 20230120_103047, 20230120_102944, 20230120_102835,
20230120_103502

Date: 20.01.2023 11:53:03 (+01:00)

Attachments: 20230120_103047.jpg (1 page), 20230120_102944.jpg (1 page),
20230120_102835.jpg (1 page), 20230120_103502.jpg (1 page),
20012023112354.pdf (2 pages)

Please find attached rates submission and photos of overgrown properties at Delegate.

Confidential Draft









The Snowy Monaro Regional Council,

- This is my Submission re the proposed special Rate Variation Increase for the SMRC and why I object to it.
 - First and foremost, we have little or no services in Delegate, basically limited Garbage collection, no Green Waste bin, Sewerage, and Non Potable Water, our tip is open two ½ days a week and there is a threat of closure. We are even charged when we take Green Waste to the tip.
 - Our town is the furthest away from Cooma and you can tell, the road approach from Bombala is enough to deter any Tourists, with the potholes and falling down roadside safety fences. As potholes are repaired the timber trucks push the fill out again.
 - Obviously the road wasn't made to service the harvesting of the Pine Plantations. The Timber Industry should subsidise the road and the building of a heavier duty road should be the aim in the future, as it will be an ongoing problem otherwise.
 - Wastage in the management of council services. How can it be economical to send workers from Bombala, via Cooma (to pick up hot mix) then on to Crackenback to fix potholes (4) then back to Bombala. What about the workers from Jindabyne or Cooma? Where were they? They were probably in Nimmitabel!
 - I am told one worker goes along and marks the potholes to be fixed, the following team repairs those potholes even though worse ones could have formed since. Years ago the team got a load of hot mix and repaired potholes as they came across them, the whole road was fixed as they moved on.
 - Too many consultants used, why do we pay big money to Council Executives and middle Management, when every time they think about projects they have to get a consultant in to tell them what to do. They obviously shouldn't be in the job.
 - Public consultations, no point if no notice is taken by Management of what is discussed.
-

- Consultations with staff, councillors, **walk rounds useless unless followed up by necessary Actions**, just a waste of everybody's time
- Open drains flowing over the footpath in the main street, is a health hazard, must be a leaking pipe somewhere, needs to be fixed ASAP, not a good look. Also open drains in Memorial Park need fixing.
- **Delegate at the present moment is in a worse danger of a fire catastrophe than it was in 2019/2020 with the amount of long grass everywhere on vacant blocks and along the sides of the roads.**
- The state of abandoned houses, with long grass, blackberries, rubbish, old iron ect. Council should send a letter of intent, clean this up or we will at your cost, might get some results, other council areas do this.
- **Burnt house** near school, disgusting mess, long grass, snake, health and fire hazard, not fair to neighbours and schoolchildren. Public trustees have been contacted in the past, to no avail. Council should clean it up and send the bill to Public Trustees, they are managing the late Mr McCluskey's finances.
- The township of Delegate has a low socio economic demographic and the residents **should not be expected to Subsidise** to the more affluent larger towns such as Jindabyne and Cooma, which already have many more facilities, pools, adventure playgrounds, theatres, ski resorts, shops, clubs, than we have here.
- Not to mention the **new \$3mil. Library** at Jindabyne to the cost of our **beloved Library** truck lost to the rest of the Shire.

*Photos of 10 Stewart St - abandoned home +
corner Church St & Orr St. vacant block.*

From: **Gina Woodward**
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Cherie McNair**

CC: **SMRC Executive Leadership Team (ELT)**

Subject: FW: SRV Consultation

Date: 23.01.2023 13:46:46 (+01:00)

Attachments: Submission to Council on Rates and Landuse planning.eml (3 pages), Message-345588648.eml (2 pages), Re_ Submission to Council on Rates and Landuse planning.eml (4 pages), Snowy Monaro Regional Council - LEP_Special Rate Variation feedback_Submission.eml (2 pages), Proposed Special Rate Variation.eml (2 pages), FW_ my objection to the rates rise.eml (2 pages), FW_ my objection to the rates rise.eml (2 pages), Rate rise .eml (1 page), Rate rise .eml (1 page), my objection to the rates rise.eml (2 pages), my objection to the rates rise.eml (2 pages), Re_ my objection to the rates rise.eml (2 pages), Rate rise response.eml (2 pages), Re_ NSW State Election.eml (3 pages), Council's proposed application for a Special Rate Variation - Our family comments .eml (1 page), Emailing_ 20230120_103047, 20230120_102944, 20230120_102835, 20230120_103502.eml (7 pages), _Your Say_ Submission Relating to Rate Variation.eml (10 pages), SRV Response.eml (2 pages), Submission re Special Rates Variation.eml (2 pages), Petition related to the SRV.eml (2 pages), Special Rates Variation.eml (2 pages), Submission to Council on Rates .eml (1 page), Re_ Submission re Special Rates Variation.eml (2 pages), Message-821616842.eml (2 pages), Special Rate Variation.eml (1 page), Special Rate Variation and Rural Landuse Strategy.eml (3 pages), SRV.eml (1 page), Objection to increase in rates..eml (2 pages), Re_ SRV Response.eml (2 pages)

Thanks for all your help on the SRV stuff.

Here are the emails from Councillor Williamson. We have asked all councillors to send in any emails or letters they have received for inclusion in the report.

Thanks, g

From: Luke Williamson <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 1:44 PM
To: Peter Bascomb ; Gina Woodward

Cc: SMRC Councillors <SMRCCouncillors@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SRV Consultation

Peter, Gina.

Attached are the emails I have received. I have not validated to whom else they were sent.

Regards
Luke Williamson

From: Peter Bascomb
Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 12:29 PM
To: SMRC Councillors
Cc: Gina Woodward
Subject: SRV Consultation

Good afternoon Mayor and Councillors

As you would be aware, consultation closed yesterday. The team is now preparing the consultation report ahead of Wednesday's briefing.

I ask that you send in today any written or email feedback regarding the SRV you have received that you believe has not been sent to Council.

This will ensure that the consultation report is comprehensive.

Regards

Peter

Peter Bascomb
Chief Executive Officer



PO Box 714
COOMA NSW 2630

Direct (02) 6451 1262
Phone 1300 345 345
Fax (02) 6456 3337

snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

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From:
To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
David Rawlings ; **Narelle Davis**
CC: <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject:
Date: 28.12.2022 14:12:23 (+01:00)

Dear Council Members,

Could you please present this letter to your next Council meeting.

Obviously, some "very well off" Snowy Monaro Council members have completely lost touch with the average rate payer in the Snowy Monaro region, particularly those living rurally who receive close to ZERO services from Council as it is!

Are you not aware Councillors, that the cost of living has risen dramatically in 2022? Petrol, food and power bills in particular have skyrocketed in price. Many of us are already cutting back on food and trying to ration the amount of petrol we use. Petrol, food and electricity are a priority for ordinary rate

payers in Snowy Monaro, not the "extra services" that Council are supposed to provide.

We are all used to the cost of living continually going up but the **53% rate hike that you propose in Option 1 and Option 2 is obscene!** It is nothing short of an **outrage and an affront to the average rate payer**. I can only assume that you are **trying to force many Snowy Monaro rate payers from their homes**

because there are many of us who **cannot afford a 53% rate increase**, not even close!!!

If Council is broke and spent money that they don't have, that is poor and irresponsible budgeting on their behalf. It is NOT the rate payers' responsibility to gift Council an extra 53% in rates to bail them out (even if we could afford to which we can't!)

If the alternative is to reduce services (which living rurally I mostly don't get anyway), so be it. **Reduce the services you can't pay for!**

There are many services that I have to provide for myself (living rurally) which Council **don't** provide. These include: Waste/recycling collection services and facilities (the Bredbo Transfer Station is too expensive); Water and Sewerage; accessible libraries; accessible pools; accessible shared trails, parks and

playgrounds; Tourism and Economic Development Services; Community Halls; Sports ovals, Recreation and Natural Spaces; Street, Toilet and Park Cleaning; Cemeteries; Community and Youth Services etc etc

I am **not complaining about the above** but simply pointing out that **if required**, we can all **live with a down scaled version of these luxuries** rather than pricing people out of their homes, particularly rural and farmland!!!

Councillors, can you please take this into consideration at your next Council meeting. The only realistic and in any way affordable option for the **average rate payer** in Snowy Monaro is Option 3.

Thank-you,

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the NSW Department of Education. Be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear All,

To avoid online submissions on the rate rises and land use strategy from being manipulated by the back office at council it is strongly recommended that submission be also made directly to the councillors by email. I have included the councillor's email addresses in this message for your information as well as a copy of my submission. Please feel free to distribute this widely.

Regards

Dear SMRC Councillors.

Please accept the following as my submission on the Special Rate Variation and Rural Landuse Strategy

Rate Variation.

I reject totally the need to increase the rates by any more than CPI. Council have not demonstrated they are efficient and effective service providers. Productivity must be increased through restructuring management, staff performance improvement and sound financial management including an assessment of demerging. It is not acceptable to continue to ask for more money from the community until the underperformance of the organisation is addressed. I do not accept that services have to decrease if rates don't rise.

Rural Land Use Strategy.

The process must be stopped and all documents referred back to council's reference group for assessment. The process has major failings including:

Proper strategic planning on all rural lands is fatally compromised by the Plantations and Reafforestation Act. This act, as council's strategic planners well know, completely overrides all provisions of council's planning documents. Until the plantations act is repealed there is no case other than to maintain the status quo.

Once the planation act is repealed the landuse strategy should then focus on:

Increasing the population of rural areas through allowing limited dwelling allotments of around 2 Ha distributed throughout rural localities similar to the concessional holdings provision of the previous Bombala LEP.

Expanding the opportunities for niche agricultural enterprises with an associated dwelling entitlement in rural lands.

Ensuring new development does not burden council with ongoing maintenance costs eg provision of roads.

In general I am concerned that the elected councillors appear to have lost control of the council and that the agenda is being driven increasingly from council's management and state government agencies and mostly to the disadvantage of our communities.

Regards

From:

Bob Stewart <Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Chris Hanna**
<Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
<Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Draft LEP**
<DraftLEP@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

To:

CC:

Nicole Overall <monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>

Subject:

Snowy Monaro Regional Council - LEP/Special Rate Variation feedback/Submission

Date:

12.01.2023 13:18:17 (+01:00)

Dear All,

The letters received late last year by ratepayers from Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC) are without doubt indicative of the failed political and governance policies of the NSW government which have directly fostered a bureaucratisation of service provision the cost of which must now be faced by the ratepayers of this region. The failure by SMRC to prioritise and implement affordable governance and equitable service provision for all ratepayer groups has resulted in what may become an unsustainable financial and social crisis for the SMRC ratepayer base.

Any serious analysis of the possible benefits of the regionalisation of local government (both the SMRC and SE Local Land Services) would now undoubtedly be able to measure the loss of capacity and economic benefit to the respective ratepayers of both of these regionalised organisations. The *locally* based organisations they replaced had served with a modicum of accountability and equity for more than a century for their constituent groups without inflicting unsustainable costs and "out of touch" decision making.

The centralising and bureaucratising by the NSW government of the previously locally based and service focused organisations (local councils and Rural Lands Protection Boards) has resulted in a critical loss of accountability to ratepayers. This loss of accountability has seen the growth in unsustainable and self focused regional bureaucracies that are politically biased towards "majority" communities and their respective vested interests. Specifically it has been the tourism growth areas of the Monaro electorate along the Cooma to Jindabyne corridor that have most benefited from this political bias at both state and regional levels.

It is now incumbent on the NSW government and in particular the Member for Monaro to call for an investigation into the financial problems that have surfaced at the SMRC and to report the findings to SMRC ratepayers and the electorate of Monaro. In particular the rural ratepayer constituents of the eastern side of the SMRC whose interests have been most affected by regionalisation will look forward to both a reset and an equitable solution to the very obvious inequities presented by the costs of regionalisation.

Any report resulting from a review of SMRC financial management must address how the present financial situation has arisen and must also include what the state government intends to do about it. Both the NSW government and SMRC management are directly accountable to all ratepayers for the present situation and especially accountable to those ratepayers who have seen a serious decline in both services and representation but who are apparently still expected to pay the same high costs of the decisions that have not delivered equitable outcomes.

LEP

May I take this opportunity to express my total support for the submission from which very adequately clarifies the specific issues raised by the 25 November 2022 letter re the draft LEP and confirm that I would prefer that the process is discontinued until this draft LEP is reassessed and re presented to rural ratepayers.

RATE VARIATION

All rate variation proposals must be set aside until SMRC financial management is thoroughly investigated and audited and any inequities across ratepayer groups are reported upon by the NSW government. It is also incumbent on both SMRC and the Member for Monaro to engage with the Bombala community and SMR Councillors to discuss and redress the financial and social impacts that specific regionalisation policies have imposed on this area.

Yours sincerely,

Confidential Draft

From: **Narelle Davis** <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins** <Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer** <Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich** <Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Chris.Hannah@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au**

To: <Chris.Hannah@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins** <Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson** <Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell** <Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart** <Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers** <Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation

Date: 14.01.2023 09:08:55 (+01:00)

Attachments: Vote against proposed rate increase for 202324.doc (1 page)

Good morning Councillors,

Please find my response to Councils CEO regarding the Special Rate Variation survey.

I am sending this to you personally because I suspect my comments relating to the subject will be precied as a response for or against in the report to Council without you seeing my thinking behind my vote.

Yours sincerely,

Confidential Draft

Dear Sir,

I am writing my response to you regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation because I found the online survey most concerning. I could not complete my survey on line because I was not permitted to proceed without completing the 3 options. I only wished to vote for one option and not register a preference for the others.

I am **against** the proposed Special Rate Variation options 1 and 2 to apply from 2023. At this time I am only in favor of the rate pegging increase of 4% for the financial year 2023/24.

The reason I am not in favor of the proposals 1 and 2 at this time is that I believe Council has not sufficiently justified the reasons for the increase other than an admission and well publicized information that Council is in financial trouble. There is no detail where the additional funds will be spent other than broad promises that they will be spent on roads, buildings and asset management programs. There is no hint of a restructure of Councils operations and service delivery strategy which I believe is paramount to this Council recovering its financial results and its credibility within the community. Additionally the projected financial benefits for the years post 2024 are not going to deliver the financial benefits stated. Example with the proposed 53% increase in 2023/24 is followed by 2.5% increases for the ensuing years which will be far less than inflation and will not achieve the projected \$64.3M additional investment.

Council cannot expect its ratepayers to provide additional funds through a substantial rate increase without a detailed justification for the additional funding and how further efficiencies will be made. It is all very well to make broad statements about all the additional funding being spent on road maintenance and improvement and on community infrastructure maintenance and improvement but far more justification/information in the form of budget figures is needed.

I believe there are many areas of Councils operations that can be improved substantially before ratepayers are asked to prop up a top heavy management structure and an inefficient workforce.

If Council can prove that it has thoroughly and forensically examined the staff structure and made improvements to its operating procedures other than simply throwing more staff into the organization, I might be convinced to support greater rate increases but at this stage I believe Council has a long way to go in addressing the **current** operating systems which are obviously are not delivering the desired outcomes.

From:
To: **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC: **c**
Subject: FW: my objection to the rates rise
Date: 17.01.2023 14:51:38 (+01:00)

From: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au [mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 2:06 PM
To:
Subject: my objection to the rates rise

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www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

From:
Sent: 17/01/2023 2:06:10 PM +11:00
To: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
Subject: my objection to the rates rise

Dear Snowy council,

And SMRC councillors. I of street 2633 NSW is sending use my submission as a ratepayer and a new member of the Delegate progress association by email to uses as I strongly disagree to the rate rise I remember when it was voting time and meet the candidate use's promised to look after snowymonaro and some of uses have go back on your words only some. I don't understand why we need such a big rise for the hold of the snowy Monaro as living in just Delegate NSW 2633 just take a look at our Roads, No clean water for drinking, NO regular mowing in parks all around town, Cooma township gets more done for the town and uses say we are all under the snowy is not true. I got told by Narelle Davis but our town water money uses only just got it we were promised June 2017 that we would have clean water but now it's the end of this year are we been told more lies as everyone the snowymonaro has No money this is why uses need to put our rates up. I don't choose to live here I made a wish to both my dying parents that if one would go before the other because I was not married I would move in and help with the bills they are now both go I am paying all the bill by myself including the rates uses gets what uses are asking for I may be under financial stress as I only on a Disability pension and live on my own it is not the ratepayer fault that the council is in financial trouble as a council sorry to say uses need to manage your finance better and put none urgent things on hold really did Cooma need in town a wombat cross come one and did Bombala street need doing up could this like this be put on the back burner for the time been, and the doing up of the Bombala pool car park area yes it makes these town look very nice but when you don't have the money it should be put on hold to such time as you do common sense would tell you that. And yes I filled out the survey and didn't vote for the high rate rise there must be away this can happen without causing pain instead of enforce this high rate rise on to the ratepayer and the money doesn't get spent in our town what do we get as our town do not see where the council spend our money look at the tourism ad it said it all about Delegate it time to start thinking about the Delegate

people as well ?. So I am highly rejection the high rate rise and wish for this email be read at the council meeting on 18 of January about the rates going up.

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC:
Subject: FW: my objection to the rates rise
Date: 17.01.2023 15:22:20 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 2:52 PM
To: 'Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au'
Cc:
Subject: FW: my objection to the rates rise

From: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au [mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 2:06 PM
To:
Subject: my objection to the rates rise

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www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

From:
Sent: 17/01/2023 2:06:10 PM +11:00
To: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
Subject: my objection to the rates rise

Dear Snowy council,

And SMRC councillors. I of street 2633 NSW is sending use my submission as a ratepayer and a new member of the Delegate progress association by email to uses as I strongly disagree to the rate rise I remember when it was voting time and meet the candidate use's promised to look after snowymonaro and some of uses have go back on your words only some. I don't understand why we need such a big rise for the hold of the snowy Monaro as living in just Delegate NSW 2633 just take a look at our Roads, No clean water for drinking, NO regular mowing in parks all around town, Cooma township gets more done for the town and uses say we are all under the snow is not true. I got told by Narelle Davis but our town water money uses only just got it we were promised June 2017 that we would have clean water but now it's the end of this year are we been told more lies as everyone the snowymonaro has No money this is why uses need to put our rates up. I don't choose to live here I made a wish to both my dying parents that if one would go before the other because I was not married I would move in and help with the bills they are now both go I am paying all the bill by myself including the rates uses gets what uses are asking for I may be under financial stress as I only on a Disability pension and live

on my own it is not the ratepayer fault that the council is in financial trouble as a council sorry to say uses need to manage your finance better and put none urgent things on hold really did Cooma need in town a wombat cross come one and did Bombala street need doing up could this like this be put on the back burner for the time been, and the doing up of the Bombala pool car park area yes it makes these town look very nice but when you don't have the money it should be put on hold to such time as you do common sense would tell you that. And yes I filled out the survey and didn't vote for the high rate rise there must be away this can happen without causing pain instead of enforce this high rate rise on to the ratepayer and the money doesn't get spent in our town what do we get as our town do not see where the council spend our money look at the tourism ad it said it all about Delegate it time to start thinking about the Delegate people as well ?. So I am highly rejection the high rate rise and wish for this email be read at the council meeting on 18 of January about the rates going up.

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC:
Subject: Rate rise
Date: 17.01.2023 15:30:12 (+01:00)

Dear Luke, I sent my submission to you and all SMRC Councillors as I do not agree with the high rate rise and I wish for this to be added to the meeting and read out to all and I have also filled out the Survey NOT for 53% I hope all councillors get my email as I have spent all day doing this . your sincerely
and thank to those how are against this.

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC:
Subject: Rate rise
Date: 17.01.2023 16:02:13 (+01:00)

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and thank to those how are against this.

Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC:
Subject: my objection to the rates rise
Date: 17.01.2023 16:04:55 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 2:52 PM
To: 'Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au'
Cc:
Subject: FW: my objection to the rates rise

From: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au [mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au]
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From:
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To: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
Subject: my objection to the rates rise
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Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
CC:
Subject: my objection to the rates rise
Date: 17.01.2023 16:05:17 (+01:00)

From: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au [mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 2:06 PM
To:
Subject: my objection to the rates rise

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Confidential Draft

From:
To: **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: my objection to the rates rise
Date: 17.01.2023 16:57:22 (+01:00)

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Jan 2023, at 4:05 pm,

wrote:

From: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au [mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 2:06 PM
To:
Subject: my objection to the rates rise

Thank you for contacting the Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Your email will be processed by our Records Management Team and will be forwarded to the appropriate Council officer.

This is an auto generated response email, please do not reply to this email

Snowy Monaro Regional Council
PO Box 714 Cooma NSW 2630
P 1300 345 345
F 02 6455 1799
www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

From:
Sent: 17/01/2023 2:06:10 PM +11:00
To: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
Subject: my objection to the rates rise

Dear Snowy council,

And SMRC councillors. I of street 2633 NSW is sending use my submission as a ratepayer and a new member of the Delegate progress association by email to uses as I strongly disagree to the rate rise I remember when it was voting time and meet the candidate use's promised to look after snowymonaro and some of uses have go back on your words only some. I don't understand why we need such a big rise for the hold of the snowy Monaro as living in just Delegate NSW 2633 just take a look at our Roads, No clean water for drinking, NO regular mowing in parks all around town, Cooma township gets more done for the town and uses say we are all under the snowy is not true. I got told by Narelle Davis but our town water money uses only just got it we were promised June 2017 that we would have clean water but now it's the end of this year are we been told more lies as everyone the snowymonaro has No money this is why uses need to put our rates up. I don't choose to live here I made a wish to both my dying parents that if one would go before the other because I was not married I would move in and help with the bills they are now both go I am paying all the bill by myself including the rates uses gets what uses are asking for I may

be under financial stress as I only on a Disability pension and live on my own it is not the ratepayer fault that the council is in financial trouble as a council sorry to say uses need to manage your finance better and put none urgent things on hold really did Cooma need in town a wombat cross come one and did Bombala street need doing up could this like this be put on the back burner for the time been, and the doing up of the Bombala pool car park area yes it makes these town look very nice but when you don't have the money it should be put on hold to such time as you do common sense would tell you that. And yes I filled out the survey and didn't vote for the high rate rise there must be away this can happen without causing pain instead of enforce this high rate rise on to the ratepayer and the money doesn't get spent in our town what do we get as our town do not see where the council spend our money look at the tourism ad it said it all about Delegate it time to start thinking about the Delegate people as well ?. So I am highly rejection the high rate rise and wish for this email be read at the council meeting on 18 of January about the rates going up. Yours sincerely

Confidential Draft

From: **Narelle Davis** <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
To:
CC: **Peter Bascomb** ; **SMRC**
Councillors
Subject: Rate rise response
Date: 18.01.2023 16:47:16 (+01:00)

Thankyou for your submission and thank you for filling out the survey. Council has not made a decision to increase rates. We consulting on the 3 options.

The council has continually repaired the Delegate to Bombala road in 2022. I would agree with you that the road is also continually fully apart. However the the long periods of wet weather and wear and tear from the log trucks has been a major contributor to the decline in the state of the road.

In the 15 times I travelled to Delegate in 2022 there was always a road crew repairing the road. All of the roads in our council area are in poor state and council has as many works crews as available repairing the worse damage as quickly as possible.

The tender for the water treatment plant has been awarded and the the contractor and council are in the final stages of detail design for the work. This type of work takes a long period of time, a lot of the work is not visible to the community. The physical work will commence when the background work has been completed.

Water services are a user pay system and are a separate fee to the general rates. I explained this at a Progress Association meeting.

The wombat crossings at school sites in Cooma were grant funded and installed for safety reasons.

This council has been very honest with the community regarding the financial situation, and the work we have one in last 12 months is to improve the financial management of council.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and I would like invite to meet with our finance staff to see if there is any assistance council can provide you as a pensioner regarding your rates.

Regards
Narelle Davis
SMRC Councillor

Narelle Davis
SMRC Councillor



From: **Narelle Davis** <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
To:
CC: **Tanya Higgins** <Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer** <Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich** <Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson** <Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Chris Hanna** <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins** <Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell** <Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Bascomb** <Peter.Bascomb@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: NSW State Election
Date: 19.01.2023 09:18:07 (+01:00)

Hi

Thankyou for your email.

Yes you are correct that the March election is a good opportunity to lobby each candidate to fix the broken Local Government funding model. Every voter in our council region needs to lobby the candidates. I have been very vocal for the past 12 months stating that the current local government funding model is designed to keep rural councils poor and inefficient. Forcing councils to continually apply for grants to do the basic maintenance and renewal of our infrastructure, and service delivery. And no certainty as to success of these applications.

The past 3 years of weather events from major fire damage and wet weather events have escalated the impact of the councils ability to repair and renew our road and built infrastructure as it has deteriorated to below poor level.

The wet weather events have further limited our capacity to undertake routine maintenance to roads, requiring reactive maintenance to allow the community to travel across the region. Reactive maintenance costs 3 times more than a planned program. The damage to the roads is costing the residents in car repairs, time, access to services and reducing access for farmers to get stock and produce to markets.

The \$5mill in grant funding for pot hole repair will allow council to strategically focus on the worse roads and repair (not make better) large sections effectively. \$5mill across across 2700km of road breaks down to \$1800 per km. All of our roads are damaged.

Council has been lobbying and advocating the state government through our the Member for Monaro Nicole Overall and Local Government NSW. All councils in NSW agree the current model of funding is not fit for purpose.

Regionally this council is an active member of the Canberra Regional Joint Organisation of councils. In the past 12 months we have had the opportunity to speak directly to the NSW Minister for Local Government about IPART and the funding model. Reductions in State and Federal support, together with cost shifting and the rising costs of goods must be considered in a new approach.

You will note that our neighbouring councils Bega Valley and Queanbeyan/Palarang are applying for 90% increase in the General Rates.

We are actively lobbying the Member for Eden Monaro Kristy McBain who is also responsible for Local Government within her ministerial portfolio to reinstate the Financial Assistance grants back to 1% of tax revenues. These grants have reduced to 0.5% over the past 50 years. When legislated in the 1970s by the Whitlam Government these grants were increase not decrease. Through our membership of LGNSW, The Australian Local Government Association role is to lobby the federal government for increase share of tax revenues.

IPART is currently reviewing the NSW Local Government funding model. This review was pushed by the Minister of Local Government after every council in NSW and the NSW Local Government Association loudly protested against IPARTs decision to index councils a 0.7% rate increase when inflation was 6% and operational costs had exceeded 10%.

The results of this review is unlikely to be announced before the election.

The decision to apply to IPART for a rate increase has not been taken lightly by council. We are all ratepayers and we are also feeling the cost of living pressures. The elected council has worked with the council executive to work through options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of council. This work also included the Financial Sustainability Review. 23 recommendations from this review have been accepted by council. We have also been actively working the Office of Local Government and the Auditors General Department. Both bodies have clearly stated that council needs to make proactive steps to be financially sustainable.

What services and maintenance will council consider to cut/reduced, if council does not increase rates. The services funded by the General Fund.

- 2647km of roads – sealed and unsealed – including 155 bridges, 7184 culverts and footpaths
- 111 parks and sports fields and eight showgrounds
- 21 public toilet facilities, 15 halls and four libraries (including one mobile library service)
- 4 Swimming pools
- Two visitor information centres
- Economic development services
- Two community services centres and two aged care facilities
- Four Council offices with customer service for the community at each location
- The staff resources to provide these services and programs.

Waste, waste water and water are funded by user paper pay fees and are required by legislation to be reported separately.

Councillors are also aware of the impact of a rate rise on low income residents and pensioners. I have suggested to many pensioners that they take the opportunity to talk to the staff at council about how council can assist these people with their rates bill. Councils provides a number of options inclusive of rebates, payment plans, hardship relief and reviewing their rates notice.

Finally council cannot undo historical decisions made by all levels of government. We are responsible for ensuring this council is working within NSW Local Government Act and legislation. This includes ensuring council is financially sustainable and we provide the essential services the community requires.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Regards
Narelle

On 18 Jan 2023, at 10:04 pm,

wrote:

With a state election due in March, I would like to know what, other than raising rates, the SMRC is doing to improve the long term financial health of our region.

When the Carr government withdrew funding to Local councils in the 1990s and replaced it with the unreliable grants scheme, a commitment to repair major roads and capping rate increases, little did we know what would follow. After more than 20 years of this system, major problems are glaringly obvious, with most councils/shires in NSW in severe financial distress. Councils have been unable to properly plan or budget for future needs as they wait for required grants to be approved or rejected. Rejected grants cause a whole host of problems, further eroding finances, and adding the cost of an employee spending their time searching and applying for grants. The only option councils appear to have is raising their major source of revenue, our rates.

The forced amalgamation of councils by the Baird government further compounded these problems and now we have the result..... the mess that ratepayers are expected to pay for.

If the State government still want local councils to exist, what pressure can you put on them in an election year, to highlight the financial plight of most regional councils in NSW, and our council in particular.

I am very curious to know if there is a local council in Regional NSW that has a budget that is balanced, and is functioning successfully. If there is, what is it that these councils are doing to operate efficiently?

As rate increases are your only option for increasing revenue, I would also be interested to know how much money the NSW National Parks are making from our area, and how much they are reinvesting. Quite a few years ago, there was a strong voice for the Parks to spend money in reinvesting in the Park to improve services, which they have done.

I believe that the cost to SMRC to provide so many services should be partly offset by the NSW government returning more of their profits to this region. Surely cutting garbage collections in Jindabyne during winter from twice a week to once a week should not be an option when Jindabyne needs to be an attractive destination for the millions of visitors.

It is a very unpalatable option that a council member at the Markets last week said that if residents cannot afford the rate rises proposed, especially those on fixed incomes, that they could offset the charges against the equity in their home. Council would then recoup the rates when the house is sold. Surely the council is not proposing a death tax. If that is already the thinking of council, does that mean you expect that some people cannot afford the rate rises you are proposing?

It is also necessary to know exactly what are the services the council is considering cutting, as I am yet to find anyone who is voting for a rate increase.

Is the five million dollars the NSW state government is supplying as emergency funding for road repairs sufficient to fix the majority of the damage caused by the rain over the last year?

Council needs to be looking at other options than raising rates to improve the disastrous financial position SMRC is now in.

I look forward to your responses.

Regards

From:

Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>;
tania.higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
<tania.higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>;
Louis.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

To:

<Louis.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Chris Hanna**
<Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject:

Council's proposed application for a Special Rate Variation - Our family comments

Date:

20.01.2023 08:14:18 (+01:00)

Dear Councillors

Apart from the obvious financial, economic, emotional and mental anguish that council's preferred 53% rate increase is going to cause its ratepayers – facts that surely have not escaped the attention, concern and consideration of councillors - can you explain to me why the rate increase choices in council's "survey" have to make such a dramatic jump from the pegged rate of 4% to 53% or 55.25 over five years.

Under the current economic circumstances that Australia is, and will be facing for several more years, why is it not being considered by council to have a special variation rate of a much lesser - and economically kinder and sensible -percentage than a huge jump from the pegged 4% (Option 3) to 53%. This would make more commonsense.

We believe the survey is flawed as it does not allow participants to choose only one option. It does not allow only one choice. The survey will not get submitted if the two other options are not ranked. We feel that by making ratepayers rank all three options that there is an ulterior motive by council to use the forced data option selection to justify options 1 and 2. It appears there is a hidden agenda when analysing the data to indicate that ratepayers were in favour of an option that they were f

Therefore we are asking you to register our choice of Option 3 – No SRV, Rate Peg Only.

We respectfully suggest council goes back to its 'proposed rate increase drawing board' and develop a rate increase option that is more realistic and affordable for all ratepayers and use the revenue raised in a commonsense, economically sensible, and practical way that benefits all of its ratepayers equally and in a financial equitable way.

Yours sincerely

Sent from [Mail](#)

SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL RE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Please accept my submission on the special rate variation proposal by Council.

It is wrong to expect our small community to pay such a high increase, which will impact greatly on those on a fixed income and low -income earners.

Our community is disadvantaged by being at the edge of the Shire and this is evident by the lack of services for which we pay rates. The appearance of the town is one not one to be proud of and listed below are several matters requiring urgent attention.

- The main street in particular is a disgrace with an open drain across the footpath – a health and safety issue.
- Gardens not watered, weeded or maintained.
- Trees that have seeded, growing in the creek in the centre of town.
- Unoccupied houses and blocks of land are overrun with long grass, posing a potential fire hazard. I understand that Council has the power to enforce this type of clean-up which is also a health and safety issue.
- The Camping Ground and Memorial Park are badly in need of attention, facilities require improved cleaning services and management to encourage visitors to stay. The area has a lot of potential and could be an income earner if these improvements are made. Perhaps Council could consider employing someone local to carry out cleaning and town maintenance.
- Also, any public works required, local avenues should be given first priority.

So far, Council has not been able to provide efficient services to our town and therefore I am opposed to any rate increase.

From:

To: **Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council**
<council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
CC: <Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Subject:

Date: 22.01.2023 20:39:33 (+01:00)

Attachments: Dear SMRC Councilors John 2023.docx (1 page)

Please find attached my submission on the Special Rate Variation
Regards



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Dear SMRC Councilors,

Please accept the following as my submission on the Special Rate Variation.

What a dilemma facing ratepayers, looking down the barrel of a possible 53% rate increase by the start of the new financial year. This will be an absolute disaster for many struggling businesses, people & families in our region, who have to live within their means, Council should restructure to live within its means.

When Councils amalgamated we were promised more efficiency but this didn't happen, we now have more staff than the three councils originally had and with significant staff cost increases have forced us further into this dilemma. So therefore we reject any rate increases more than the CPI.

Council certainly hasn't demonstrated any efficiencies nor have they proved to be effective service providers. Productivity must be increased through restructuring management, sound financial management and staff performance.

We find that it is unacceptable to ask ratepayers for more money until the poor performance of the Council is addressed.

It would also be important to do an assessment of demerging.

Regards

From:

Chris Hanna <Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Karlee Johnson**
<Karlee.Johnson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Lynda Summers**
<Lynda.Summers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Narelle Davis**
<Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Peter Beer**
<Peter.Beer@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tanya Higgins**
<Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Louise Frolich**
<Louise.Frolich@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Bob Stewart**
<Bob.Stewart@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Craig Mitchell**
<Craig.Mitchell@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Tricia Hopkins**
<Tricia.Hopkins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>; **Luke Williamson**
<Luke.Williamson@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

To:

Subject:

SRV

Date:

22.01.2023 22:16:56 (+01:00)

Dear Councilors,

I am writing to inform that after considering all available information that I have voted for no SRV. While I can accept that there are increased cost pressures in a number of areas, I am not convinced that an SRV of this scale, at this time, is justified by Council's and their consultant's figures. There appears to be a large gap between some recommended and proposed levels of SRV. I am not convinced that any serious consideration has been given to the efficiency of Council operations, but I remain open to any future properly grounded proposals.

Regards,

Confidential Draft

22nd January, 2022

To Snowy Monaro Regional Council and Councillors

We are very concerned that you are requesting these rate increases and wish to object to these increases.

There are major issues that must be addressed. We do not accept that services have to decrease if rates don't rise any more than the CPI.

We think that Council will do whatever they choose to do but will these increases just be the start of permanent increases every year?

The Federal Government, the State Government and many local councils are in debt. We as a country cannot continue down this road. We have to be accountable and manage what we have and learn to live within our means and this doesn't mean closing all the outlying offices with all roads leading to Cooma.

We have to look at why this Council has managed to amass such a large debt.

If we were to accept either option 1 or 2 how sure can you be that you would be able to balance the budget and not use it all and still be in debt and then ask for a continuation of the increase?

Is it because management is too large and too expensive for this council to afford? Are the expenses incurred by employees travelling, and car expenses etc justified and affordable?

Is it because jobs often take longer to do and cost more and the budget is blown?

The road repairs don't last. They are continually repairing the pot holes and in no time at all they have opened up again. Even when the roads are tarred it is only a matter of weeks before there are potholes everywhere.

Many people seem to be travelling to work sites in other areas passing workers travelling to their area eg tar patching trucks.

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council area is a very large area, it is not like city areas, you can't manage the areas in the same way.

Yours sincerely

From: **Gina Woodward**
Cherie McNair ; **SMRC Executive**
To: **Leadership Team (ELT)**
CC: **communications**
Subject: FW: Your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website
Date: 17.01.2023 14:49:57 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 2:36 PM
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Still waiting for an answer to my question\~

On 1 Jan 2023, at 09:53, Your Say Snowy Monaro
<notifications@engagementhq.com> wrote:

•
<0.png>

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'How do I put forward to council a number of my opinions on various matters controlled by council and other matters where I think council should get themselves involved? '

We will get back to you as soon as possible with a response.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

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~
~
~

From: Your Say Snowy Monaro <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 12:43 PM
To:
Subject: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

~

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'The primary reason we have selected option 3 is because Council has not provided a proposed schedule of expenditure. It describes in only general terms where they are prepared to allocate funds. Can or will council provide a schedule of proposed expenditure with the EXTRA funds. You would not invest money in any venture without a very clear understanding of where it is going.'

Our response has now been posted on the site.

Our response:

The actual projects to be undertaken need to be driven by the asset management system. This will identify the assets that are reaching the point in their life where we need to intervene, whether to undertake maintenance or replacement of assets. The increase is about moving towards having sufficient money to do this as required. The actual works undertaken needs to be driven by a strategic approach, not a reactive approach. The current strategy is to prioritise works based on:

- Significant safety risks: Situations where a reasonable user of the facility is at a high risk of fatality.
- Just in time intervention: When assets have reached point where renewal will save significant funds in the future. Overall allowing an asset to go to failure is about five time more costly than proper preventative maintenance.
- Highest community benefit: All other factors being equal where the greatest benefit to the community is generated from investing the remaining available funds.

The bulk of the funds will be put towards roads. Another recommendation in the financial sustainability review is to implement a pavement management system. This involves reviewing the condition of our road network and having an engineering assessment done of when interventions should occur and how we should intervene. This is likely to give a different outcome than what we assess based on what we currently know. So any list of specific roads would change.

Overall the first question needs to be do you want to fund all of the existing infrastructure and services. Depending on what the community will fund, then we look at the priorities for works, as it will be significantly different if the community chooses to reduce services as under option 3.

Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

||

From: **Gina Woodward**
Cherie McNair ; **SMRC Executive**
To: **Leadership Team (ELT)**
CC: **communications**
Subject: FW: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website
Date: 17.01.2023 09:02:43 (+01:00)

~
~

From:
Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 6:00 PM
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

~
So, your answer to my question was 'lack of proper scoping and design before starting the project', doesn't this still come back to **bad management and a lack of experience?**

I suggest '**Needs Analysis & an independent Audit of all Management Positions**', then it can truly assessed whether, the structure is functional, value for money to its rate payers or just top heavy?

I do **not** want to pay higher rates until these issues are addressed.

Thanks

----- Original Message -----

From: "Your Say Snowy Monaro" <notifications@engagementhq.com>
To:
Sent: Monday, 16 Jan, 2023 At 12:39 PM
Subject: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Hi there,

~

~Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

~

~You asked:

~

~'Will the gross miss management come to a end? Will incompetent department head of the shire be held accountable for gross miss management & constant budget blow outs on shire projects healed accountable (eg the roads department)?'

~

~Our response has now been posted on the site.

~

~Our response:

~

~

The financial sustainability review has identified that for a long time there has been a situation where the level of rates has not been sufficient to fund the proper management of the infrastructure. This is being addressed~through this consultation. The review also identified a range of changes to be made about~how the Council operates to improve the rigour around decisions~on investment into new services and projects. A~business case showing the full lifecycle costs~will be required and all funding will need to be confirmed before proceeding. It also calls for increased budget controls and review measures to be put into place. These are all areas the Council has already been working on improving prior to the review.~

A number of~our current projects have been impacted by a lack of proper scoping and design before starting the project. This inevitably leads to problems in budgets.~We have also seen considerable rapid increases in pricing. This has particularly impacted on grants, where the delay between application and when we are approved to start the grant~can be close~to~a year.~

~

~Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.

~

~Regards

~

~Snowy Monaro Regional Council

||

From: **Gina Woodward**
Cherie McNair ; **SMRC Executive**
To: **Leadership Team (ELT)**
CC: **communications**
Subject: FW: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website
Date: 17.01.2023 08:34:38 (+01:00)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 8:01 AM
To: YourSay <your.say@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to your question on Your Say Snowy Monaro website

Thank you for your reply. Yes current NSW Legislation dictated the amalgamation however you haven't addressed my concern re ratepayers bearing the majority financial burden to correct a financial disaster within the SMRC. We are an aging population therefore most of us on pensions whose real value diminishes year in year out will not be able to afford the suggested 53% option.

Where is the data to support the 53% increase and who has validated the veracity of the assumptions made?

On Mon, 16 Jan 2023 at 1:43 am, Your Say Snowy Monaro <notifications@engagementhq.com> wrote:

Hi there,

Thanks for taking the time to visit Your Say Snowy Monaro and asking us a question.

You asked:

'I don't like any of the three options. Plainly doing nothing is not an option. The other two options put the burden on a small number of ratepayers whose capacity to pay diminishes over time ie pensioners. The amalgamation of the Councils has been an unmitigated disaster with none of the economy of scale promised eventuating. The financial burden falls on one group ie ratepayers. Perhaps State should provide a larger financial support having inflicted the amalgamation in the first place?'

Our response has now been posted on the site.

Our response:

As per previous responses, we encourage you to contact the relevant Ministers to provide your thoughts on current NSW Legislation.

Please let us know if you have any more questions or if anything needs to be clarified.

Regards

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

□

From: **Narelle Davis** <Narelle.Davis@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
To:
Subject: Re: SRV
Date: 16.12.2022 12:03:03 (+01:00)

Hi

Thankyou for your email.

Can I suggest you read the Financial Sustainability Review. In this review the consultants have highlighted the \$169million asset renewal from the SAP program for Jindabyne, will substantially impact the council financial position into the future.

Jindabyne will receive major infrastructure upgrades as part of this program, and all rate payers across the region will contribute to the ongoing costs of this major investment for Jindabyne.

Whilst land valuations have increased across this council region, the rate peg has not changed. Meaning no matter how much the valuations have increased we cannot raise rates above the rate peg being \$17million per annum. Which is why council does not have enough revenue to maintain our assets.

Foot paths across the region will be repaired within the maintenance program.

Can I also suggest you read the FAQs on the your say page for the SRV. The answers to questions will help.

I am also happy to meet with you and discuss further.

Regards
Narelle

On 15 Dec 2022, at 8:45 am,

wrote:

Hi Narelle,
I think Council needs to be a little more helpful with regards to this SRV.
The notice in the 'Post with it's "averages" is a bit disingenuous & does nothing for councils reputation.
This average does not give a. what date valuation is used.
b. what base rate is used. or c. what land value is used.
By my Guestimate the average used is based on a land value of around \$150,000, that does not apply to very many lots within the LGA. (Bombala half that & Jindabyne 4 to 5 times that value).

I would suggest that council needs to be more open and set out tables showing a range of land values i.e.; -

min. 60K to max. 80K	(to represent Bombala & smaller towns).
min. 100K to 200K	(Cooma?)
200K to 300K	(Cooma)
350K to 450K	(Berridale)
500K to 750K	(Jindabyne)

Council also needs to show, on this data, current land value used for current rates (2019 values) and predicted (Guestimates) for 22/23 rates as council will be using 2023 values (not available until January '23). Jindabyne's values will have (by my estimate!) doubled by then, so to use anything less would not be really honest. Others will also suffer but not so badly, as they start at much lower values. Bombala already up by 30%, Cooma by 40% & Jindabyne by more than 80%, Berridale's values could also double as a consequence of the new sub-divisions. So using that low average gives no idea of the massive increases to come for some who are already paying hefty increases from the new base rate model. If council still keeps to this current "average" then, maybe, they could publish a possible % increase expected so that individuals can use their current notice to estimate their future pain? Or would that be a sliding scale, based on value, and too difficult?

If council was really honest & transparent, they would also list the number of residential rate payers, in each town, to show who is contributing, and not receiving, the benefits of all this. (My

estimates Bombala 600, Berridale 500 to 600, Cooma 3250, Jindabyne 3000 to 4500! (Impossible to work out as data confusing with areas like E.Jindabyne & Tyrolean, Cobbin, Lakewood etc. etc. not necessarily included, but all deemed as Jindabyne). Council has put out where the money will go, but still nothing for footpaths in Jindabyne nor anything to improve the social and cultural welfare either. It remains to be seen if The SAP will help at all?

This needs to be done and put in next week's 'Post, Council's F'book pages & Council's website (News & SRV section,) as the time line for submissions is very short, given the holiday season.

I'm sure you can get this done!

Regards

Confidential Draft

Impact on Rates by Quartile

Option 1 – 53% one off increase

Residential

	rte_zne	Minimum	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Mode
Valuation	RES	\$130	\$68,700	\$96,657	\$193,025	\$2,150,000	\$144,022	\$84,400
2022-23 Rate	RES	\$486.35	\$721.82	\$817.82	\$1,148.75	\$7,869.02	\$980.47	\$775.73
2023-24 Rate without SRV	RES	\$505.80	\$750.69	\$850.53	\$1,194.70	\$8,183.78	\$1,019.69	\$806.76
2023-24 increase (\$)		\$19.45	\$28.87	\$32.71	\$45.95	\$314.76	\$39.22	\$31.03
2023-24 increase (%)		4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
2023-24 Rate with SRV	RES	\$744.11	\$1,104.38	\$1,251.27	\$1,757.59	\$12,039.60	\$1,500.12	\$1,186.87
Difference due to SRV (\$)	RES	\$238.31	\$353.69	\$400.73	\$562.89	\$3,855.82	\$480.43	\$380.11
Difference due to SRV (%)	RES	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%

Farmland

	rte_zne	Minimum	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Mode
Valuation	FARM	\$270	\$183,250	\$306,000	\$515,750	\$14,000,000	\$449,819	\$170,000
2022-23 Rate	FARM	\$486.83	\$1,115.18	\$1,536.71	\$2,256.99	\$48,562.04	\$2,030.58	\$1,069.68
2023-24 Rate without SRV	FARM	\$506.30	\$1,159.79	\$1,598.18	\$2,347.27	\$50,504.52	\$2,111.81	\$1,112.81
2023-24 increase (\$)		\$19.47	\$44.61	\$61.47	\$90.28	\$1,942.48	\$81.22	\$42.79
2023-24 increase (%)		4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
2023-24 Rate with SRV	FARM	\$744.85	\$1,706.23	\$2,351.16	\$3,453.20	\$74,299.92	\$3,106.79	\$1,636.61
Difference due to SRV (\$)	FARM	\$238.55	\$546.44	\$752.99	\$1,105.93	\$23,795.40	\$994.99	\$524.14
Difference due to SRV (%)	FARM	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%

Business

	rte_zne	Minimum	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Mode
Valuation	BUS	\$100	\$44,605	\$103,000	\$215,250	\$1,960,000	\$170,467	\$19,698
2022-23 Rate	BUS	\$486.24	\$639.07	\$839.60	\$1,225.07	\$7,216.56	\$1,071.29	\$553.54
2023-24 Rate without SRV	BUS	\$505.69	\$664.64	\$873.19	\$1,274.07	\$7,505.22	\$1,114.14	\$575.68
2023-24 increase (\$)		\$19.45	\$25.56	\$33.58	\$49.00	\$288.66	\$42.85	\$22.14
2023-24 increase (%)		4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
2023-24 Rate with SRV	BUS	\$743.95	\$977.78	\$1,284.59	\$1,874.36	\$11,041.34	\$1,639.07	\$846.92
Difference due to SRV (\$)	BUS	\$238.26	\$313.15	\$411.41	\$600.28	\$3,536.11	\$524.93	\$271.24
Difference due to SRV (%)	BUS	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%

Electricity Generators

	rte_zne	Minimum	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Mode
Valuation	BEG	\$2,240	\$7,260	\$42,950	\$555,500	\$42,600,000	\$4,961,127	\$7,260
2022-23 Rate	BEG	\$1,234.03	\$1,277.13	\$1,583.53	\$5,983.78	\$366,936.65	\$43,806.17	\$1,277.13
2023-24 Rate without SRV	BEG	\$1,283.39	\$1,328.21	\$1,646.87	\$6,223.13	\$381,614.12	\$45,558.42	\$1,328.21
2023-24 increase (\$)		\$49.36	\$51.09	\$63.34	\$239.35	\$14,677.47	\$1,752.25	\$51.09
2023-24 increase (%)		4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
2023-24 Rate with SRV	BEG	\$1,888.07	\$1,954.00	\$2,422.80	\$9,155.18	\$561,413.08	\$67,023.44	\$1,954.00
Difference due to SRV (\$)	BEG	\$604.67	\$625.79	\$775.93	\$2,932.05	\$179,798.96	\$21,465.02	\$625.79
Difference due to SRV (%)	BEG	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%

Option 2 – 55.25% increase over five years: first year

Residential

	rte_zne	Minimum	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Mode
Valuation	RES	\$130	\$68,700	\$96,657	\$193,025	\$2,150,000	\$144,022	\$84,400
2022-23 Rate	RES	\$486.35	\$721.82	\$817.82	\$1,148.75	\$7,869.02	\$980.47	\$775.73
2023-24 Rate without SRV	RES	\$505.80	\$750.69	\$850.53	\$1,194.70	\$8,183.78	\$1,019.69	\$806.76
2023-24 increase (\$)		\$19.45	\$28.87	\$32.71	\$45.95	\$314.76	\$39.22	\$31.03
2023-24 increase (%)		4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
2023-24 Rate with SRV	RES	\$545.92	\$810.24	\$918.00	\$1,289.47	\$8,832.98	\$1,100.58	\$870.76
Difference due to SRV (\$)	RES	\$40.12	\$59.55	\$67.47	\$94.77	\$649.19	\$80.89	\$64.00
Difference due to SRV (%)	RES	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%

Farmland

	rte_zne	Minimum	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Mode
Valuation	FARM	\$270	\$183,250	\$306,000	\$515,750	\$14,000,000	\$449,819	\$170,000
2022-23 Rate	FARM	\$486.83	\$1,115.18	\$1,536.71	\$2,256.99	\$48,562.04	\$2,030.58	\$1,069.68
2023-24 Rate without SRV	FARM	\$506.30	\$1,159.79	\$1,598.18	\$2,347.27	\$50,504.52	\$2,111.81	\$1,112.47
2023-24 increase (\$)		\$19.47	\$44.61	\$61.47	\$90.28	\$1,942.48	\$81.22	\$42.79
2023-24 increase (%)		4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
2023-24 Rate with SRV	FARM	\$546.46	\$1,251.79	\$1,724.95	\$2,533.47	\$54,510.89	\$2,279.33	\$1,200.72
Difference due to SRV (\$)	FARM	\$40.16	\$92.00	\$126.78	\$186.20	\$4,006.37	\$167.52	\$88.25
Difference due to SRV (%)	FARM	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%

Business

	rte_zne	Minimum	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Mode
Valuation	BUS	\$100	\$44,605	\$103,000	\$215,250	\$1,960,000	\$170,467	\$19,698
2022-23 Rate	BUS	\$486.24	\$639.07	\$839.60	\$1,225.07	\$7,216.56	\$1,071.29	\$553.54
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2023-24 increase (%)		4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
2023-24 Rate with SRV	BUS	\$545.81	\$717.36	\$942.45	\$1,375.14	\$8,100.59	\$1,202.52	\$621.35
Difference due to SRV (\$)	BUS	\$40.12	\$52.72	\$69.27	\$101.07	\$595.37	\$88.38	\$45.67
Difference due to SRV (%)	BUS	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%

Electricity Generators

	rte_zne	Minimum	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Mode
Valuation	BEG	\$2,240	\$7,260	\$42,950	\$555,500	\$42,600,000	\$4,961,127	\$7,260
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2023-24 increase (\$)		\$49.36	\$51.09	\$63.34	\$239.35	\$14,677.47	\$1,752.25	\$51.09
2023-24 increase (%)		4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
2023-24 Rate with SRV	BEG	\$1,385.20	\$1,433.58	\$1,777.51	\$6,716.79	\$411,886.39	\$49,172.43	\$1,433.58
Difference due to SRV (\$)	BEG	\$101.81	\$105.36	\$130.64	\$493.66	\$30,272.27	\$3,614.01	\$105.36
Difference due to SRV (%)	BEG	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%

Possible Impacts of LTFP Options

From Asset Management Strategy

ASSET MANAGEMENT FUNCTION	SCENARIO ONE STRATEGY OUTCOMES	SCENARIO TWO STRATEGY OUTCOMES	SCENARIO THREE STRATEGY OUTCOMES
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced operations due to less emphasis upon inspection and mitigation of risks associated with deteriorating assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the short term, higher emphasis upon inspection and mitigation of risk of deteriorated assets while funding is increased in a staged approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to lack of funding, a higher emphasis will need to be placed upon risk mitigation and higher frequency of inspections for early detection of asset failure (especially critical assets). Operations on deteriorating assets likely to result in higher operating costs and breaks in services due to asset failures.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance is adequate to maintain assets at an acceptable level of service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance is constrained in the short term while additional funding is gradually realised. Unsealed road maintenance is significantly reduced in the short term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance is significantly constrained, resulting in further deterioration of assets requiring earlier intervention to renew or replace assets. Unsealed road maintenance is significantly reduced with half of the kilometres able to be graded.
Renewal/Replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets will be renewed or replaced according to the planned useful life of assets. \$113 million will be invested on roads over 10 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenario two will result in road treatments being halved initially (compared to Scenario One) with staged improvements until 2027/28 when the necessary treatments outlined above will be able to be fully funded. \$109 million will be invested on roads over 10 years. Scenario two will delay until 2027/28 the allocation of \$1,400,000 to the renewal of building assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewals and replacement of assets is significantly constrained. \$73 million will be invested on roads over 10 years (\$40.4 million less than Scenario One). This is not a sustainable approach to maintaining assets. Only 24km of unsealed roads to be resheeted a year. Reseal program limited to a reseal every 25 years (or 30km a year). Heavy patching limited to 4,300m² per year. Council will rely almost entirely on grants to replace bridges. Renewal of building assets reduced by \$450,000 per year compared to Scenario One.
Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No asset disposal is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No asset disposal is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset rationalisation will need to be considered to reduce the funding burden on asset maintenance and renewals and to mitigate the risk of assets that will deteriorate to an unacceptable condition.

Service Level Impacts

The following represents a summary of the key differences in service levels between the three LTFP options, based on current costs and assumed unit rates.

Staff are recommending option one as it provides the greatest benefit to community with immediate impact from the 2023-2024 financial year.

Option One

Reseal 961km every 15 years @ \$5.50/m2 assuming width of pavement resealed is 6m

Heavy patching of 1.5% of the 961kms each year assuming 10% of areas requiring treatment @ \$60/m2

Resheet 80% of 1,721kms every 15 years @ \$37,500/km - 1/20 first 2 years

One bridge per year at \$1.0M per bridge (50% funded through grant)

\$100,000 a year for replacement of park equipment and play equipment

\$2.8M a year on building renewals – specialised and non-specialised, including \$750k of grant funding

Option Two

Reseal – half of above for first three years, then same as above

Heavy patching – half of above for first four years, and then same as above

Resheet – half of above for first three years, then same as above

No bridge replacement in 23/24, then same as above

Park equipment replacement – half of above for first four years, then same as above

\$800,000 a year less on building renewals for the first 5 years, then same as above

Option Three

Option Three

Reseal - \$500k per year, which will fund 230km every 15 years

Heavy Patching – \$750k per year, which will fund same as Option One (not reduced as this is required to address risk of failing pavement)

Resheet - \$900k per year, which will fund 450kms of resheeting

Bridges - \$500k per year, assumed 100% grant funded

Buildings - \$950k per year

No funding for office equipment

Park Equipment replacement – \$50,000 per year

No funding for stormwater renewals