



SNOWY MONARO
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

Extraordinary Council Meeting

3 April 2025

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 81 COMMISSIONER STREET, COOMA NSW 2630
ON THURSDAY 3 APRIL 2025**

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Unconfirmed

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

**ON THURSDAY, 3 APRIL 2025
COMMENCING AT 1:00 PM**

PRESENT:

Mayor Christopher Hanna
Deputy Mayor Tricia Hopkins
Councillor Narelle Davis
Councillor Nick Elliott
Councillor Tanya Higgins
Councillor John Rooney
Councillor Reuben Rose
Councillor Bob Stewart
Councillor Lynda Summers
Councillor Andrew Thaler
Councillor Luke Williamson

APOLOGIES:

Nil

Staff:

Stephen Dunshea, Chief Executive Officer
David Rawlings, Chief Strategy Officer
Simon Rennie, Chief Financial Officer
John Gargett, Acting Chief Infrastructure & Projects Officer
Tony Murray, Chief Community Services Officer
Angela Sommerville, Chief People & Organisational Performance Officer
Patricia Swain, Secretary Council and Committees

1. OPENING MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 1:00 PM

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3. COUNCILLOR REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE VIA AUDIO-VISUAL

Nil

4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

Nil

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

5.1 COUNCILLOR THALER

Councillor Thaler declared non-pecuniary interests in Items, 8.12 as he has a in this item *due to living in the same street*, Item 8.18 as *he is the original complainant* and Item 8.24 as *he is the subject of the Unreasonable Customer Complaint Restrictions (UCC)*.

5.2 COUNCILLOR HANNA

Councillor Hanna declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8.6 as he has a conflict of interest in this item *due to supply of PPE to the Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC)*, as declared in previous meetings.

Councillor Hanna left the meeting at 5.42pm and returned at 6.13pm. Councillor Hanna did not take part in discussion or voting on this item.

5.3 COUNCILLOR HIGGINS

Councillor Higgins declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 8.10 as *paying user of Michelago bank of bins*.

5.4 COUNCILLOR ROONEY

Councillor Rooney declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 8.10 as *paying user of Michelago bank of bins*.

Procedural Motion

GENERAL MOTION

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

54/25

That Item 8.10 be bought forward – at Item 8.1 a decision is pending by Council and is delaying repairs.

Moved Councillor Higgins

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Summers, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Nil.

At 01:14 pm Councillor Thaler left the meeting.

At 01:15 pm Councillor Thaler returned to the meeting.

6. OTHER REPORTS TO COUNCIL

6.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE

6.1.1 RESOLUTION ACTION SHEET UPDATES

Record No: I25/190

This is an information only report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

55/25

That Council note Resolution Action Sheet Updates and ensure unresolved actions are included in the delivery program and operational plan 2025 onwards.

Moved Deputy Mayor Hopkins Seconded Councillor Davis CARRIED

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Summers, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Nil.

6.1.2 UNLAWFUL MOTIONS

Record No: I25/191

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

There is no recommendation as this is a report from the CEO advising of action taken in accordance with the code of meeting practice. This report is not business before Council, simply legislative reporting.

Moved Councillor Thaler Seconded Councillor Davis

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Summers, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Nil.

At 01:36 pm Councillor Thaler left the meeting.

At 01:36 pm Councillor Thaler returned to the meeting.

At 01:37 pm Councillor Thaler left the meeting.

At 01:37 pm Councillor Thaler returned to the meeting.

6.1.3 SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS - SNOWY RESERVOIR COLLAPSE - STATUS REPORT

Record No: I25/192

This is an information only report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council note the March 2025 Settlement of Claims - Snowy Reservoir Collapse - Status Report

Moved Councillor Davis Seconded Councillor Thaler

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Summers, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Nil.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the minutes of the:

- i. Bombala Exhibition Ground Management Committee - Meeting Held 13 November 2024 and 11 December 2024
- ii. Adaminaby Hall Management Committee Minutes of Meeting held 11 February 2025
- iii. Michelago Hall and Tennis Courts Management Committee Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 18 September 2024
- iv. Michelago Hall and Tennis Courts Management Committee Minutes of Meeting held 20 November 2024

7.1 MINUTES FROM MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Record No: I25/193

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council receive the minutes of the:

- i. Bombala Exhibition Ground Management Committee - Meeting Held 13 November 2024 and 11 December 2024
- ii. Adaminaby Hall Management Committee Minutes of Meeting held 11 February 2025
- iii. Michelago Hall and Tennis Courts Management Committee Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 18 September 2024
- iv. Michelago Hall and Tennis Courts Management Committee Minutes of Meeting held 20 November 2024

Moved Councillor Thaler

Seconded Councillor Stewart

Record of Voting

Councillors For: *Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Summers, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.*

Councillors Against: *Nil.*

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

Procedural Motion

INTO COMMITTEE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council move into committee.

Moved Councillor Williamson

Record of Voting

Councillors For: *Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins,*

Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.
Councillors Against: Councillor Davis and Councillor Summers.

Procedural Motion

OUT OF COMMITTEE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council move out of committee.

Moved Councillor Thaler

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Summers, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Nil

8.10 RELOCATION OF MICHELAGO BANK OF BINS

Record No: I25/203

Councillor Andrew Thaler has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 April 2025, he will move the following motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council investigate the operation and satisfaction by residents with the Michelago bank on bins and report back to Council by the end of May 2025.

Moved Councillor Thaler

Seconded Councillor Williamson

LOST

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Rose, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Stewart and Councillor Summers.

At 02:41 pm Councillor Summers left the meeting.

At 02:41 pm Councillor Stewart left the meeting.

At 02:41 pm Councillor Stewart returned to the meeting.

At 02:43 pm Councillor Summers returned to the meeting.

Procedural Motion

MOTION

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council reduces the time of speakers from 5 mins to 3 mins and put the motion after 2 speakers for and against.

Moved Councillor Rose

CARRIED

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Davis, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rose, Councillor Summers and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Elliott, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Stewart and Councillor Thaler.

8.1 CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN COUNCIL AND THE MINISTER

Record No: I25/194

Councillor Reuben Rose has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 April 2025, he will move the following motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

- A. all correspondence (from the dates 01.09.24 – 31.03.25) between the council (staff and councillors) and both the Office of Local Government and Minister of Local Government, in relation to concerns regarding:
- the anticipated or actual performance of the new council;
 - issues of councillor misconduct;
 - the Minister's intention to issue a Performance Improvement Order (PIO) and
 - all correspondence by staff and councillors subsequent and in relation to the proposed PIO.
- B. the above be made available to councillors in a timely manner and prior to the next general meeting of council.

Moved Councillor Rose

Seconded Councillor Thaler

LOST

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Summers.

8.2 PAYMENTS MADE IN RELATION TO THE WATER RESERVOIR COLLAPSE

Record No: I25/195

Councillor Reuben Rose has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 April 2025, he will move the following motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That all payments made by the council to residents impacted by the Snowy No. 1 Reservoir failure, as well as the authority for these payments approved by relevant staff/councillors, in the period between 01.01.2020 and 31.04.2025 be provided (confidentially and with appropriate redaction) to councillors. This information is to be provided in a timely manner and, at latest, by the May 2025 general meeting of the council.

Moved Councillor Rose

Seconded Councillor Thaler

LOST

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Rose, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Stewart and Councillor Summers.

8.3 FULL AND ACCURATE MINUTES

Record No: I25/196

Councillor Reuben Rose has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 April 2025, he will move the following motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That a subcommittee of councillors be appointed to review current minute-keeping practices to ensure compliance with Section 375 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), which states: *'The council must ensure that full and accurate minutes are kept of the proceedings of a meeting of the council.'*

The subcommittee will be tasked with making detailed recommendations on how the council can improve or enhance its minute-keeping practices to fully comply with the legislative requirements.

The subcommittee shall consist of the CEO and two councillors who have experience in governance, transparency, and meeting procedures. The members of the subcommittee will be appointed by council resolution and will ensure the review is conducted with a focus on improving the quality, accuracy, and accessibility of council meeting minutes.

The subcommittee will be required to report its findings and recommendations back to the council within 8 weeks of being appointed.

Moved Councillor Thaler

Seconded Councillor Rose

LOST

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Summers.

Procedural Motion

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the Extraordinary Council meeting be adjourned at 3.53pm for a break.

Moved Mayor Hanna

Procedural Motion

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

56/25

That the Extraordinary Council meeting be resumed at 4.01.

Moved Mayor Hanna

CARRIED

Procedural Motion

ADJOURNMENT – PUBLIC FORUM

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

57/25

That the Extraordinary Council meeting be adjourned at 4.02pm for public forum.

Moved Mayor Hanna

CARRIED

At 04:21 pm Councillor Elliott left the meeting.

At 04:23 pm Councillor Elliott returned to the meeting.

Procedural Motion

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

58/25

That the Extraordinary Council meeting be resumed at 4.23pm.

Moved Mayor Hanna

CARRIED

8.4 THE DISASTER READY FUND

Record No: I25/197

Councillor Reuben Rose has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 April 2025, he will move the following motion.

MOTION - WITHDRAWN

That an application under Stage 3 of the Federal Government's *Disaster Ready Fund*, announced on 22 January, be prepared and submitted as a priority. Furthermore, the draft application should be made available for councillor review as soon as it is completed to ensure transparency and alignment with council priorities.

Procedural Motion

MOTION

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council move Item 8.20 to now.

Moved Councillor Thaler

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.
Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Summers.

8.20 FLUORIDE SURVEY

Record No: I25/213

Councillor Andrew Thaler has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 April 2025, he will move the following motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Undertake a community survey into discontinuing public water fluoridation.
2. Note the discontinuance of the public water fluoridation across the United States of America.

Moved Councillor Thaler Seconded Councillor Williamson LOST

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Elliott, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.
Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Summers.

At 05:08 pm Councillor Higgins left the meeting.

At 05:11 pm Councillor Higgins returned to the meeting.

8.5 IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY

Record No: I25/198

Councillor Luke Williamson has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 April 2025, he will move the following motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1. That Council adopt a policy that increases transparency of Council's governance by:
 - A. Allowing members of the public to attend, not participate in all briefings and workshops of council.
 - B. Webcasting of all briefings and publishing the recording of the briefings/meetings.
 - C. Allowing portion of briefings/meetings to be closed to the public in accordance with the NSW Local Government Act requirements for closing a portion of a public meeting as per 10A (2) of the Act.
2. That Council will review its adopted code of meeting practice to consider opening pre-meeting briefing sessions to the public.
3. That Council conduct a workshop to review the code of meeting practice.

Moved Councillor Williamson

Seconded Councillor Thaler

LOST

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Elliott, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Summers.

At 05:30 pm Councillor Rose left the meeting.

At 05:31 pm Councillor Rose returned to the meeting.

At 05:31 pm Councillor Stewart left the meeting.

At 05:35 pm Councillor Stewart returned to the meeting.

FORESHADOWED MOTION – ITEM 8.5 IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

59/25

That Council:

- a. Review the code of meeting practice upon the receipt of the Ministers revised model code of meeting practice with a view to increasing transparency.
- b. Consider allowing members of the public to attend certain council briefings once the revised model code of meeting practice has been considered.

Moved Deputy Mayor Hopkins

Seconded Councillor Thaler

CARRIED

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Councillor Higgins and Councillor Summers.

At 05:42 pm Mayor Hanna left the meeting.

Councillor Hanna left the meeting at 5.42pm and returned at 6.13pm. Councillor Hanna did not take part in discussion or voting on this item.

Deputy Mayor Cr Hopkins assumed the Chair.

8.6 AN AUDIT OF PAYMENTS TO THE HOLDERS OF COUNCIL LEADERSHIP OFFICES

Record No: I25/199

Councillor Luke Williamson has given notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 April 2025, he will move the following motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

- A. Request the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to consider immediately commissioning Council's independent auditor to conduct an audit of the appropriateness of all payments made to all councillors and administrators, current or past, of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council.
- B. Specify in the audit's terms of reference that the auditor will consider:
 - (a) The appropriateness of payments made to or into the accounts of all councillors and administrators, or to businesses or companies that they operated, held equity in, were employed by, or were directors of. ASIC, Australian Business Register and other searches, or other discovery methods, shall be employed to determine such interests.
 - (b) The appropriateness of payments of expenses incurred by or behalf of all councillors and administrators and paid for by council.
 - (c) The use of council credit cards, fuel cards, etc. Consideration to include whether such cards were used appropriately, consistent with council policies and whether usage did or did not continue after the end of individuals' respective terms (including during election periods).
 - (d) Where a councillors and administrators (including businesses or companies they are involved with (as per point 2.a)) have received payments for services or goods provided to council or staff of council, the auditor should consider:
 - (i) Whether councillors and administrators declared a pecuniary conflict of interest and refrained on voting on any matter (e.g. annual budgets, budget variation, project approvals, etc) that directly or indirectly benefited their business interest.
 - (ii) Whether the related procurement decision was made following a suitable procurement process consistent with council's policy and applicable NSW Guidelines.
 - (e) Whether council executive have allowed or decided to allow, councillors and administrators (including businesses or companies they are involved with (as per point 2.a)) to benefit from council business in a manner that is inconsistent with council's procurement policy or good governance.
 - (f) Any other matter the independent internal auditor deems appropriate to consider.
- C. Direct the auditor to:
 - (a) Provide a comprehensive report specifying:
 - (i) The details and amounts of all payments to councillors and administrators including businesses or companies they are involved with (as per point 2.a)), any concerns they may have related to each payment.
 - (ii) Advising councillors of any matters of concern.
 - (iii) Making recommendations for the consideration of councillors.
 - (b) Refer any matters of concern to ICAC.
- D. Establish a committee including Clr Rose, Clr Stewart and Clr Elliott to oversee the audit.

Moved Councillor Williamson

Seconded Councillor Thaler

LOST

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart and Councillor Summers.

At 06:13 pm Mayor Hanna returned to the meeting.

Procedural Motion

MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council extend the meeting by 2 hours.

Moved Councillor Thaler

Record of Voting

Councillors For: Councillor Elliott, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rose, Councillor Thaler and Councillor Williamson.

Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Stewart and Councillor Summers.

Procedural Motion

CLOSED MEETING 6.17PM

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the Extraordinary Council meeting be closed at 6.17pm and all remaining items deferred to the next meeting.

Moved Mayor Hanna

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6.17PM

CHAIRPERSON

The above minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Snowy Monaro Regional Council held on 3 April 2025 were confirmed by Council at a duly convened meeting on 17 April 2025 at which meeting the signature hereon was subscribed.