

Snowy Valleys Council



SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL MEETING

LATE REPORTS

23 AUGUST 2018

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 2.00PM
IN THE SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BRIDGE STREET, TUMBARUMBA

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests at meetings

- Item from Bluet Local Government Handbook

[14.125] A Councillor or a Council Committee member who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council or committee at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. The person must not be present at, or in the sight of, the meeting either at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed or at any time during which a vote is being taken on any question relating to the matter (s 451). A Councillor who has declared a pecuniary interest in a matter before the council but has withdrawn from the meeting because of that declaration is not counted in considering whether the meeting is quorate for that matter.

Disclosure of Political Donations and Gifts

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 places obligations on Councillors, staff, applicants and any person who makes a public submission, to disclose information relating to political donations and gifts during the environmental plan making or development assessment process.

Furthermore, for each planning decision made at a Council or Committee Meeting, the names of Councillors who supported the decision and those that oppose the decision must be recorded.

The fact that political donations or gifts have been made by applicants / proponents of a planning application should not affect whether an application is approved or refused. Political donations or gifts should not be relevant in making a determination. The matter should be determined on its merits. Nor do they provide grounds for challenging the determination of any applications.

For further information, visit www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations

Public Recording of Meetings prohibited without Council authority

A person may use any recording device, including audio and visual recording and any device capable of recording speech, to record the proceedings of a meeting of a council or a committee of a council only by the resolution of the council or committee.

A person may, be expelled from a meeting of a council or a committee of a council or using or having used a tape recorder without consent.

Photography

Flash photography is not permitted at a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the council without the consent of the General Manager.

Public Forum (extract from the Code of Meeting Practice)

a) All prospective public forum speakers must advise the General Manager of their wish to address Council by the Monday prior to a Council meeting.

They must also provide a verbal or written précis of the subject matter at that time.

b) The public forum section shall only operate for a period of thirty (30) minutes immediately after apologies have been formally received.

c) Preference shall be given to addressees who wish to speak to any item before Council at that particular meeting.

d) The maximum time allowed for each speaker will be 5 minutes.

e) Not more than two members of a group may speak.

f) All persons addressing the meeting shall speak to the Chair.

g) The Chairperson may curtail the public participation where the information being presented is considered repetitive or irrelevant.

h) Councillors may ask questions of the person/s addressing Council only if so approved by the Chair.

i) Councillors will not enter into general debate with the speakers.

j) The Mayor is to approve of variations to this procedure in urgent / compelling circumstances.

k) All people / organisations who wish to address Council be made aware of the above condition.



Thursday 23 August 2018
Snowy Valleys Council Chambers
Bridge Street, Tumbarumba
2.00pm

LATE REPORTS

L. MAYORAL MINUTE

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TIMBER HAULAGE ROADS..... 5

1. CONFIDENTIAL

L. MAYORAL MINUTE**L.1 COUNCILLORS REQUEST TO ATTEND CONFERENCES****Author:** MATTHEW HYDE**Responsible** JAMES HAYES**Director:****PURPOSE**

To advise Council of Councillors Conference request and seek approval for attendance.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the attendance of Cr Bruce Wright at the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers Conference September 2 – 5 2018.

REPORT:

Governance is an important issue for Councils and Council is committed to providing professional development/training opportunities to Councillors and staff.

The theme of the 2018 Joint Institute of Foresters and Australia and Australian Forest Growers Conference – *Forests for healthy cities, farms and people* speaks to the increasing importance of urban forests in our growing cities, the continuing importance of trees on farms for productive and sustainable rural landscapes, and our increasing understanding of the links between healthy treescapes and healthy people.

The Conference registration cost is \$980. It is a 3 day conference therefore he would require accommodation for 3 nights totalling \$527. The total estimated cost for the Conference - \$1,507.

**INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK:
CSP Outcome 2028**

4.6 Council builds strong relationships with other organisations to advocate for our community.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Program - Institute of Foresters of Australia Conference [↓](#)



PROGRAM – IFA / AFG Joint National Conference, Canberra 2018
Forests for healthy cities, farms and People

Sunday 2 September 2018	
Australian National University - Various pre-conference activities (am and/or pm tba) – youth-focussed workshop; Indigenous campus tour	
Registration – University House, ANU - Afternoon	
Australian Forest Growers Board meeting (3:00 pm) and AGM (5:00 pm) - University House	
IFA NSW AGM (5:00 pm)– Fenner School of Environment and Society (ANU)	
5:45 pm – 9:00 pm Welcome to Country (Wally BELL, Ngunawal Elder) Conference Opening (ANU Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Academic, Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington) and Welcome BBQ Function	
Monday 3 September 2018	
Registration – University House, ANU - from 8.00am	
Welcome – 9:00 am – Conference Chair	
9:30 am Plenary 1: Forests for healthy cities and people Kenneth Er, CEO Singapore National Parks Board Kate Auty, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment	
MORNING TEA – 10:30 – 11:00 am	
11:00 am Plenary 2: Forests for healthy people Jackie Schirmer, Associate Professor University of Canberra Kathryn Williams, Associate Professor University of Melbourne	
LUNCH – 12:00 – 12:45 pm	
12:45 pm Concurrent Focus Sessions – sessions 1 and 2	
Focus Session 1: Forests for healthy cities and people	Focus Session 2: Forests for healthy farms and people
Catherine Keirnan (ACT Climate Change Policy)	Dr Hilary Smith (Latitude Forest Services)
Adrian Gray (Landscape Architects)	Dr James Bulinski (CO2 Australia)
David Rowlinson (Planet Ark)	Zoe Ryan (Climate Friendly) & Robert Downie
Laura Rayner (ACT Parks and Conservation)	
AFTERNOON TEA – 2:15 – 2:45 pm	
2:45 pm Concurrent contributed papers – sessions 1 and 2	
Session 1: Forests for healthy cities and people	Session 2: Farm Forestry – Making it work
A/Prof Cris Brack (ANU) & Jasmin Ghazalli	Rowan Reid (Australian Agroforestry Foundation)
Dr John Dargavel	Daniel Mackey & Cameron Neil
Dr Bill Jackson	Dr Daniel Mendham <i>et al.</i>
Dr John Van Der Kallen (DEA)	Zara Marais <i>et al.</i>
Dr Matthew Parker (National Arboretum Canberra)	Peter Langdon <i>et al</i> (ACT Parks and Conservation)
SHORT BREAK – 4:15 – 4:30 pm	
4:30 pm World café – Parallel Sessions	
Forests for healthy cities and people	Forests for healthy farms and people
<i>'Conversation Pit' and Trade Exhibits – open all day</i>	
5:30 pm Close - IFA AGM (5:30 – 6:30 pm) – Posters	
7:00 for 7:30 pm – Conference Dinner Guest speaker: Senior Australian of the Year, Prof Graham Farquhar	

Tuesday 4 September 2018		
Field Sessions – Choice of both Urban and farm forestry tours – some full day and some morning and afternoon only selections (attend AM or PM only or attend both an AM and a PM option) 8:00 am to 5:00 pm		
Wednesday 5 September 2018		
7:15 – 8:15 am Breakfast Forum – Education		
8:15 – 8:30 am FSC Australia National Standard launch		
9:00 am Australian Government welcome by Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources with responsibility for Forestry		
9:15 am Plenary 3: Forests for healthy farms and people – Policy engagement forum Fiona Simson, President National Farmer's Federation Greg McCormack, Chair Australian Forest Products Association; Chair Midway Rob Youl OAM, representative Landcare Australia Gordon Davis, President Greening Australia		
MORNING TEA – 10:30 – 11:00 am		
11:00 am Focus Session 3: Forestry for healthy farms and people Next Generation Plantations Investment discussion panel Dr Lyndall Bull, University of Melbourne Prof Rod Keenan, University of Melbourne Gary Dunning, The Forest Dialogue Yale University Braden Jenkin, Sylva Systems Dr Nerida Anderson, Research Fellow University of Melbourne Tony Price, CEO Midway Jonty Ephron, Chief Operating Officer Rural Funds Management Limited Howard Parry-Husbands, Founder Pollinate Rob de Fégely, Director Margules Groome Consulting P/L Ruth Harvey, Principal Policy Officer Forest Products Commission		
LUNCH – 12:30 – 1:15 pm		
1:15 pm Concurrent contributed paper sessions 3, 4 and 5		
Session 3: Urban Forestry	Session 4: Practical Farm Forestry	Session 5: Healthy Forests and Biosecurity
A/Prof Cris Brack	Dr John McGrath	A/Prof. Treena Burgess
Dr Marie Yee	Dr Peter Ritson <i>et al.</i>	Dr Angus Carnegie <i>et al.</i>
Dr Rosemary Lott & Rohan Jacobsen	Ken Goulter <i>et al.</i>	Dr Geoff Pegg
Kamal Melvani	Dr Graeme Palmer	Francisco (Paco) Tovar
SHORT BREAK – 2:45 – 3:00 pm		
3:00 pm – Wrap up by IFA and AFG Presidents, Conference Chair and FFI representative		
Close 4:00 pm		

10. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

10.10 SOFTWOODS WORKING GROUP - FUNDING APPLICATION TO UPGRADE KEY TIMBER HAULAGE ROADS

Author: MATT CHRISTENSEN

Responsible MATT CHRISTENSEN

Director:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a request from the Chair of the Softwoods Working Group to take the lead role in the pursuit of funding opportunities for upgrade of key timber haulage routes within the region, as identified in the Softwoods Working Group Road Haulage Study (2015). The priority projects within this study, and projects where funding is sought stretch across three local government areas, including Snowy Valleys Council, Greater Hume Shire Council and Cootamundra-Gundagai Council.

As a lead agency, Council will be the responsible party for submitting the business case for the funding and the ongoing administration of the funding between the local governments entities, should the funding be granted for the projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. **Note the Mayoral Minute – Softwoods Working Group – Funding Application to Upgrade Key Timber Haulage Roads**
2. **Take the lead agency role in the submission and administration for grant funding for the following projects:**

Road Haulage Study (2015) Project	Local Government
Bombowlee Creek Road	Snowy Valleys Council
Taradale/Broadleaf Park Road Complex	Snowy Valleys Council
Coppabella Road	Greater Hume Shire Council
Northern Roads Complex	Cootamundra-Gundagai Council

3. **Write to Softwoods Working Group, Greater Hume Shire Council and Cootamundra-Gundagai Council advising of Council's resolution on the matter**

BACKGROUND:

The creation of the Softwoods Working Group Road Haulage Study (2015) was brought about through the collaborative efforts of the local government areas (Snowy Valleys, Greater Hume and Cootamundra-Gundagai) with representatives of public

and private plantation sectors. This collaborative effort focused on the upgrading of road infrastructure to”

- Enable the more efficient operation of the regional timber growing and processing industry
- Ensure access to the plantation resource of the future
- Minimise risk of supply interruptions for the processing sector
- Deliver safe roads for local communities
- Reduce on-going maintenance costs for assets owners (Local Government)

The following projects have been identified within the study as priorities, and have been the subject of further economic analysis:

Road	Capital Cost (\$)	Local Government
Bombowlee Creek Road	7,000,000	Snowy Valleys
Taradale/Broadleaf Park Road Complex	2,650,000	Snowy Valleys
Coppabella Road	7,000,000	Greater Hume
Northern Roads Complex	3,700,000	Cootamundra-Gundagai

This has formed the basis of advocacy efforts of the Softwoods Working Group in pursuit of funding for the road upgrades.

As a result of these advocacy efforts, and subsequent grant application, Softwoods Working Group has been invited to the next stage of the funding consideration process. This stage involves the submission of a business case in accordance with the state government guidelines for business case development.

To meet the requirements of the funding agency, a lead agency must submit the application and be responsible for the administration of the funding, should the application be successful. The lead agency must be a local government entity, and due to Snowy Valleys Council making up the largest portion of the funding sought, has been requested to take the lead on the project.

Softwoods Working Group have undertaken to complete the business case and associated documentation for the grant funding.

The following time table for the funding submission is known:

Milestone	Timeframe
Submission of Business Case	September 2018
Notification of Application Outcome	December 2018

LINKS TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

Community Strategic Plan

Theme 2 – Growth through Innovation

- 2.1 Develop strong relationships with local industry, organisation and government to ensure a sustainable local economy

Theme 5 – Our Infrastructure

- 5.1 Provide a program to improve local roads

5.3 Provide and partner with other agencies to deliver an effective, safe local transport network

Regional Economic Development Strategy

Support and grow the Agriculture, Forestry and Timber Product Processing sectors

Other identified future actions

Upgrade of Broadleaf Park Road (Taradale Complex) which is major softwood freight route

Upgrade of Bombowlee Creek Road which is a major softwood freight route

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resource implications with the recommendation are minimal, given that Softwoods Working Group have undertaken to complete the business case themselves. Council Officers will need to review the submission and provide assistance with any outstanding information which is required that is outside of the contents of the Road Haulage Study (2015).

It would be appropriate, should the grant funding application be successful, that the three local government entities enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with regards to how the funding will be treated, along with meeting requirements of meeting the funding conditions. The approximate cost of this would be between \$500-1,000 and would be funded from the projects on equal proportion basis.

POLICY, LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Requirements for administration of the funding, should the application be successful, will be conditioned by the funding agency. This will include requirements for financial acquittal of the projects and compliance checks.

OPTIONS

Council may decide not to be the lead agency with respect to this funding, in which case notification will be given to Softwoods Working Group and one of the other two local government entities will need to take on the administration of the funding.

RISK MANAGEMENT – BUSINESS RISK/WHIS/PUBLIC

There is no Workplace Health and Safety, or public risk, associated with the recommendation.

Should the grant funding application be successful, Council will need to manage funds on behalf of other Council entities, tied with requirements to meet the state government guidelines around the funding. Risks of issues with the administration can be managed through a memorandum of understanding that stipulates all parties' expectations and responsibilities in working in partnership for the project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

At this stage community engagement on the funding application will not be proactive, given the status of the application not being decided.

Industry feedback on the proposed projects has been undertaken as part of the development of the Softwoods Working Group Road Haulage Study (2015) development.

Should the grant funding application be successful, Council will undertake a communication strategy on the success of the funding application, as well as the project development and delivery.

Attachments

- 1 Softwoods Working Group - Application to State Government for Funding to Upgrade Forest Roads [↓](#)
- 2 Softwoods Working Group - Road Haulage Study 2015 Priority Projects Map [↓](#)



August 17, 2018

The Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council
(by email)

Dear James

Re. : Application to State Government for funding to upgrade forest roads

As you aware, the Softwoods Working Group (SWG) has been approved to proceed to Stage 2 of our application (under the NSW Growing Local Economies program) for \$20 million to upgrade local roads identified by the Council members of the SWG as being priorities for timber haulage. This letter is to seek a resolution from Snowy Valleys Council (SVC) to act as the lead agency should we be successful in obtaining the requested funding.

A recent study completed on behalf of the SWG (Schirmer, et al, 2017) has confirmed the undoubted importance of the softwood plantation based industry for the continued social and economic wellbeing of the SVC community. This integrated industry supports the employment (direct and indirect) of over 50% of the workforce in SVC, and contributes over \$2 billion to the gross value of regional output.

The following four roads were identified in the SWG Road Haulage Study (2015) as being local roads used by the timber industry, and which were priorities for upgrading as a result:

- Within SVC – Bombowlee Creek Road, and the Taradale/Broadleaf Park Roads
- Within Greater Hume – Coppabella Road
- Within Cootamundra-Gundagai - the Northern Road complex (Nanangroe, Adjungbilly, and Redhill Roads)

Collectively, these roads provide for the annual cartage of around 50% of all logs produced in the region, and it is these roads that are the subject of our current funding application.

You should also note that this funding program requires NO contribution to the project to be made by Councils.

We would ask SVC to agree, by Council resolution, to take the lead role in both submitting the Business Case required in Stage 2 (to be prepared by the SWG), and in receiving the funds to be expended by not only SVC but also by Greater Hume and Cootamundra-Gundagai. We would also expect that these other Councils would undertake to deliver their portion of the project on time and within the budget allocated to the roads within their own boundaries.

We hope this request will be given your earliest attention, as we are required to submit the Business Case within the next few weeks.

I would be available to discuss this matter with you at any time.

Yours sincerely



Peter Crowe
Chair
Softwoods Working Group

APPENDIX 1 : Map indicating four case studies evaluated

SWG - Timber Haulage Road Study 2015

