

# Leading, engaging and supporting strong and vibrant communities



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Celebrating 12 months in office and looking forward to the future

## Mayor's Message

Reflecting on the first 12 months as part of the inaugural Snowy Valleys Council has been deeply rewarding. I am particularly proud to lead a cohesive team of committed and passionate councillors who continue to keep their community aspirations at the forefront of their work and interactions.

In a dynamic and ever changing political environment, we have worked hard as a group to advocate for the things that matter to our community. Those things that will future proof the communities of the Snowy Valleys and improve the liveability of the region. For my fellow councillors and myself, those priorities focus on ensuring that we have the critical infrastructure to support growth. That includes modern and fit for purpose education, health and recreational facilities, vital transport and tourism linkages such as the Brindabella Road and the necessary infrastructure to support business development across the region, such as power upgrades and digital connectivity. Along with the Deputy Mayor and General Manager, we have been working hard to advocate for government investment in these areas.

I am particularly proud that the Snowy Valleys vision for the next ten years has been captured in the Snowy Valleys 2028 Community Strategic Plan. Adopted at the June Council Meeting on behalf of the community, Snowy Valleys 2028 clearly defines the community's vision for the future and from that, a set of themed strategic directions has emerged. The strategic themes of towns and villages, our natural environment, our infrastructure, communication and engagement and growth through innovation provide the essential blueprint that underpins all the decisions that we make as the community's elected representatives.

Through the engagement and direct input of more than 7% of the population of the Snowy Valleys LGA, this is truly a people's plan developed by the community for the community.

The future for Snowy Valleys is bright. We are beginning to experience the start of a period of unprecedented investment by both the government and private sector in the region.

I am committed to leading a future focused council. Through our relationship with the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, we are actively positioning ourselves to maximise the social and economic benefits of this investment spike through positive collaboration with our neighbours.

I take this opportunity to thank the communities of the Snowy Valleys for their active participation and feedback as we build this region together. I also extend my sincerest thanks to my team of councillors and to the General Manager, Executive Team and staff for their hard work over the last 12 months.

Maintaining a committed, cohesive and effective council remains a major priority.

**COUNCILLOR JAMES HAYES**  
MAYOR



## Councillor John Larter Deputy Mayor

During the first 12 months, we have as a Council experienced difficult operating constraints and challenges, but we have worked together and developed strong and binding relationships.

We are not only getting on with providing the usual services, but ensuring our council is ready to take up opportunities that significant infrastructure such as Snowy 2.0 will provide our region.

It is a privilege to be able to explore and work to capitalise on the economic potential of the region through the development of key events and infrastructure investment through partnerships with Government and other agencies. This council is cohesive, inclusive and mindful of our community's needs and wishes, and we are looking to the future with projects such as Brindabella Road and major sporting, social and education hubs to serve our region into the future.



## CR ANDRIANNA BENJAMIN

I'm passionate about what happens in our local community, and it's exciting to make a difference.

I'm proud of the initiative to purchase the Batlow Cannery Site and am looking forward to achieving the benefits its redevelopment can bring the community. A major focus for me is getting our major projects underway and completed, such as the Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail.

It will be a focus for me to support tourism and small business in the region as well as encourage new business, and ensuring Tumut Hospital and Snowy Hydro 2.0 move forward.



## CR BRUCE WRIGHT

I have a keen interest in promoting cycle and adventure tourism in all forms and capturing the benefits it can bring to our economy.

One of my proudest achievements as part of this Council was getting the Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail trail started. It is now a focus for me to keep it moving and progressing, within budget.

I want to maintain a positive attitude within the Council and keep on supporting the smaller towns in our council area.



## CR CATE CROSS

There is so much we can do as a council.

I want to advocate for strong mobile and internet connectivity across our area and facilitating projects that improve the economy.

I also want to ensure the streetscapes in all our towns are well maintained and attractive, and our communication with the community allows us to operate on the same page.

I value my role as a link between Council and our youth, ensuring that they have a voice in our initiatives, events and the development of important plans that have an impact on them now and into the future. I will continue to advocate for improvements to social infrastructure such as the establishment of a Country University Centre as a way to support our youth to stay in the community.



## CR COR SMIT

The successful review and implementation of the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents and the Tourism Destination Management Plan in the given timeframe was a real achievement of this Council.

Meeting the timeframes with a new Council and many first time Councillors, advocating for residents with positive outcomes is a key personal achievement as part of this process.

The next 12 months will see many of the projects listed on our board actually completed. Although it is difficult sometimes to ensure wider understanding of the project time frames, completing them will enhance the success of Council.

It has been amazing to see unity and purpose of all Councillors during the first 12 months.



## CR GEOFF PRITCHARD

Overall I want to continue to ensure the whole community can prosper whilst preserving our wonderful environment.

Due to my medical background, I am a strong advocate for the health of the whole community. I am proud of initiating the free pool entry, encouraging increased use especially among children, and am looking forward to fighting for Tumut Hospital to return to being a subregional surgical and obstetric centre.



## CR JULIA HAM

Over the next 12 months I believe we need to focus on supporting local industries, such as tourism and agriculture.

The rail trail pilot has been a dream for 20 years and by getting this project to start soon we will see more tourists, as well as providing a great activity for local families to enjoy.

I'm particularly proud of my work with Cr Cate Cross starting the Children's Services Committee, allowing early childhood educators to network and share knowledge locally.



## CR MARGARET ISSELMANN

I see a very bright economic future for the Snowy Valleys region with the upgrade of Brindabella Road and the Snowy 2.0 project.

Our region will develop strong links with higher education between Canberra and Wagga universities, have greater access to medical specialists and experience a boom in tourism and business investment never before experienced.

The amalgamation was an opportunity to have game changing projects funded and I am glad to be part of it.



## Join us at our Anniversary Roadshow!

We're looking forward to catching up with our community at one of the many fantastic events happening across the Snowy Valleys this spring.

We're excited to share with you our experiences from the past 12 months in office, the projects and initiatives already delivered and those that are under way.

We'll have information on projects, the details on the new ways to stay in touch with council happenings and some advice on how to lodge your customer requests.

**Look for the Snowy Valleys Roadshow tent at the following events:**

- Adelong Markets  
Saturday 29 September
- Khancoban Markets  
Sunday 30 September
- Talbingo Markets  
Sunday 30 September
- Rosewood Golf Club  
Thursday 11 October
- Tumut Rotary Markets  
Saturday 13 October
- Tumbarumba Kiosk  
Saturday 13 October
- Batlow Apple Blossom Festival  
Saturday 20 October
- Brungle Memorial Hall Market Day  
Saturday 20 October
- Jingellic Show Society Hall  
Tuesday 30 October
- Tooma Markets  
Saturday 3 November

### 12 MONTHS OF DELIVERING TO OUR COMMUNITY: OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES OUR INFRASTRUCTURE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION

 Free Pool Entry 2017/18 Season	 Community Engagement Snowy Valleys 2028	 \$685,000 Khancoban pool upgrade completed	 Tumbatrek 2018	 Children Services Committee formed	 National Youth Week activities	 Council individual deputiation with Premier of NSW, Gladys Berejiklian	 Council adopts IP&R documents	 Purchase of the Batlow Cannery	 Tumbarumba Rail Trail Survey tender awarded	 \$75,000 Government funding announced for a Crime Prevention Officer		
OCTOBER 2017	NOVEMBER 2017	DECEMBER 2017	JANUARY 2018	FEBRUARY 2018	MARCH 2018	APRIL 2018	MAY 2018	JUNE 2018	JULY 2018	AUGUST 2018	SEPTEMBER 2018	
 General Manager Matt Hyde appointed	 New boundary signs erected across LGA	 Council supports Snowy 2.0	 Australia Day Community Awards	 Tumbarumba Caravan Park Group Accommodation opens	 Canberra Joint Organisation Resolution	 Councillor Listening Tour kicks off	 Brindabella Road survey and design tender announced	 Land handed over for Tumbarumba Rail Trail	 Regional Economic Strategy endorsed	 Meeting with ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr re Brindabella Road	 NAIDOC Week celebrations	 Free Pool Entry 2018/19 Season