

SUBMISSION TO SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL

In the SVC Operational Plan Draft 2019-20 section 1.1.6 there are two incorrect performance measures.

No 4: The Tumbarumba Small Community Grants is a partnership between the SVC, Tumbarumba Bendigo Bank and Hyne Community Trust. At the TSCG meeting on 6th May it was agreed by representatives of each group to share the coordination of these grants each year. Presentations will be hosted by one of the three partners each year. The council representatives at this meeting were

NO 5: The Hyne Community Trust does not and never has had any coordination from either Councils. We do have a councillor, Bruce Wright, as one of our six directors.

I submit that these entries be omitted from this draft operational plan.

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED 16 MAY 2019 Tumut Office DOC ID: BOX ID: Notes:

Snowy Valley Council,
Sir,

I & my husband are pensioners
I feel any rise above the CPI is unacceptable
for us & we object any cut to services
in our town. We think cutting wasteful
spending should be a priority & no sale of
asset.

SNOWY VALLEYS
COUNCIL
RECEIVED
20 MAY 2019
Tumut Office
DOC ID:
BOX ID:
Notes: VALLEY
2019
15/5/19

SNOWY VALLEYS Council (SVC)

P.O Box 61

TUMBARUMBA
2653

SNOWY VALLEYS
COUNCIL
RECEIVED

20 MAY 2019

Tumbarumba Office

DOC ID:

BOX ID:

Notes:

SIRS,

OUR INSISTENCE THAT "YOU" BALANCE YOUR BUDGET
BY CUTTING OUT WASTEFUL SPENDING. IF TUMBARUMBA
SHIRE COUNCIL COULD DO IT, WHY CAN'T SNOWY VALLEY COUNCIL?

WE STRONGLY OBJECT TO ASSET SALES.

WE INSIST THAT SVC NOT CUT STAFF OR SERVICES
OUR INSISTENCE THAT THE SERVICES AND STAFF NUMBERS
IN TUMBARUMBA ARE NOT CUT.

OUR OBJECTION TO SVC ESTABLISHING "business units"
(THINK SNOWY WORKS AND SERVICES) TO SERVICE OTHER AREAS
INSTEAD OF OUR COUNCIL AREA.

WE OBJECT TO ANY SPECIAL RATE VARIATION!

WE OBJECT TO RATE INCREASES ~~THE~~^{4th} CPI!

WE INSIST THAT SVC ^{OTHER THAN} PUBLISH PROPOSED RATE
INCREASES FOR INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES BEFORE ASKING
RESIDENTS OR COUNCILLORS TO SUPPORT ANY CHANGES.

The Shire Clerk
Snowy Valleys Council
PO Box 61
TUMBARUMBA NSW 2653

17th May 2019

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to your suggestions Council has in regard to our town of Tumbarumba.

Firstly, I strongly object to the suggested 30% Rate increase, my husband is an aged pensioner and it is almost impossible to make ends meet now let alone a huge rate increase. **PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO OUR TOWN.**

Secondly, I don't understand why you cannot balance the books, cut out senseless spending, and take a leaf out of the old Tumbarumba Shire book keeping. **PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO OUR TOWN.**

Thirdly, I would like you to advertise any suggested rate increases of properties before asking Tumbarumba residents and/or councillors to approve. **PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO OUR TOWN.**

Fourthly, I am new to Tumbarumba, and I am disgusted to hear of staff cuts since the amalgamation, also I hear of staff been bullied into leaving or forced to take long service leave, I object so strongly to this, you are once again not thinking about Tumbarumba. **PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO OUR TOWN.**

Fifth on my list of objections is the proposed sale of assets – think of the future and once again think about Tumbarumba. **PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO OUR TOWN.**

Sixth on my list is that services to Tumbarumba along with the staff are not reduced – in the two years since we have lived in Tumbarumba, I have noticed a difference – even the mowing of road edges – a pet hate of mine when things look unkempt. **PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO OUR TOWN.**

Sir, the list is endless of the damage you and your councillors are creating for the township of Tumbarumba, I have heard your position is only a stepping stone in your career, so once again I am kindly asking you to reconsider what you are doing. Tumbarumba is a fabulous little town with an amazing fighting spirit, and be honest with yourself it was in top condition until it was merged with Tumut.

I would be pleased to receive a reply to my thoughts.

Yours faithfully
PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO OUR TOWN.

SNOWY VALLEYS
COUNCIL
RECEIVED

16 MAY 2019

Lumburumba Office

DOC ID:

BOX ID:

Notes:

to

The Management of SVC

As a concerned pensioner rate payer I'm worried about the way the SVC is being ran. I'm not in favor of the special rate variation. Rates should not be put up above the CPI as we pay more then some of the bigger towns and cities then us. I'm not in favor of the staff and services cuts in Lumburumba as a lot of the elderly can't get to Lumbur for the services we have. By what I read there is for too much money wasted. Lumburumba Shire Council never had this financial problem that SVC has at the moment so stop wasting money and tighten the purse strings and spend the money wisely.

Concerned rate payer

15 May 2019

Ben Smith
Divisional Manager Strategy and Place
Andrew Rae
Strategic Planning and Engagement Officer

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL
PO Box 61
Tumbarumba NSW 2635

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED 16 MAY 2019 Tumbarumba Office DOC ID: BOX ID: Notes:
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Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents

I have read the IP and R documents and would like Council to note and act upon my strong objections on the following:

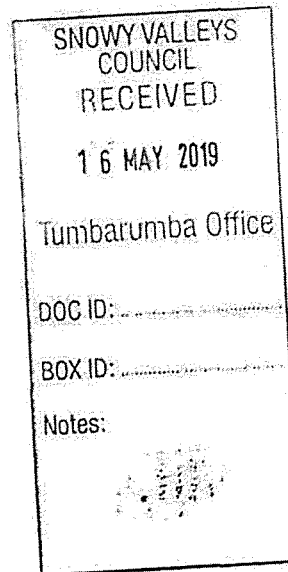
- I strongly object to an introduction of any Special Rate Variation. Previously Tumbarumba has existed as a strong and viable council without requiring this. I strongly object to my rates being increased only to prop up an inefficient and incompetent Council.
- I strongly object to rate increases above the CPI. Council needs to be capable of budgeting and working within that budget not imposing extra taxes to cover for its inadequacies.
- I insist that Council publish proposed rate increases for individual properties before asking residents or councillors to support any changes.
- I insist that Council not cut staff and services.
- Services and staff numbers must not be cut in Tumbarumba.
- I strongly object to the reinstatement of Snowy Works and Services.
- The extraordinary waste in spending due to project mismanagement, incompetence and unnecessary projects must stop. To balance the budget stop the waste, not by cutting staff and services.
- Tumbarumba assets must not be sold off.

I found the documents full of meaningless statements and errors. It would be a travesty if this Council was to accept this IP&R.

15 May 2019

Ben Smith
Divisional Manager Strategy and Place
Andrew Rae
Strategic Planning and Engagement Officer

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL
PO Box 61
Tumbarumba NSW 2635



Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents

Council has asked for feedback on the above documents. I would like Council to note my vehement objection to how this council is destroying the once viable and progressive council of Tumbarumba Shire. The IP&R document only confirms my worst fears for the future of Tumbarumba.

I object to any sell off of Tumbarumba Shire assets.

I am fed up with the wasteful spending and appalling project management. Increasing rates to solve the budget problems is wrong!

The number of Tumbarumba management staff leaving is a dreadful and sad situation. It is not only the employees that we miss, it is their whole families that are leaving town.

How can you justify rate increases when our services are declining and service costs are rising?

Simply, the plan Snowy Valleys Council has devised for us is appalling and not viable. In two years this council has brought a once brilliant council to its knees. I fear for the future.



14th May 2019

To General Manager and Councillors

Snowy valleys Council

To whom it may concern

In regards to the "draft integrated planning and reporting" documents as a concerned citizen of a once vibrant shire who had no financial problems and now a citizen of a council that has no idea on how to run a budget and give rate payers value for money. I am submitting the following feedback in point form.

- 1) Special Rate Variation- I Object to any special Rate variation as I believe that our rates are more than adequate, if not a little high considering the level of services we now receive following the Merger.
- 2) Rate Increases over the CPI- This I object to as I believe that it will be an unnecessary huge burden on a lot of rate payers which could be avoided by sound management. Something our previous shire did thus avoiding having to apply for higher rate increases unlike the former Tumut Council.
- 3) Proposed Rate increases for Individual Properties-These should be published well before asking residents or councillors to support any changes, these should be published in both our local papers, not just the council website as a number of our residents don't have the inter-net.
- 4) Cutting of Staff or Services- I feel very strongly about any staff or services being cut, it is bad enough that we have lost some of the most talented staff from our offices including one of the best shire managers in the state, lost the ability to pre poll within our own town, have to travel to Tumut for other issues that once could be done in our Tumbarumba office. This has got to stop, we are now unfortunately a part of a merged shire and we deserve the same services as the larger town.
- 5) Business Unit-I object to Snowy Valleys Council establishing any business unit such as the Snowy works and services as this would take both employees and machinery from vital road works that already not being achieved in an acceptable time frame.
- 6) Balance Budget- as a rate payer I insist that the council stop wasting our rates firstly consultants (when council already have highly paid engineers and other professionals on staff) don't waste money on feasibility studies on some world class sports centre that not only services a small portion of the council but is going to run at a substantial yearly loss. I would also like to see councillors taking more of an active role making sure our money is spent efficiently. (Not just agreeing with everything that is put forward without Question).
- 7) Asset sales- No assets should be sold off unless after full community consultation preferably through community meetings as these assets belong to the are generally owned by the community, paid for by the ratepayers or provided by governments with tax payers funds therefore we as community members and rate payers should have a say in what happens to our assets.

I expect to receive a written reply to the above within 28day of you receiving this submission. I believe a public meeting should be held before council precedes with this proposal

14th May 2019

To the General Manager & Councillors

Snowy Valleys Council

To Whom it may concern

In regards to the submission I would like to put forward my point of view

- 1) I object to any Special Rate Variation
- 2) I object to rate increases above the CPI. Tumbarumba Shire never needed a rise above the official rate peg.
- 3) I insist that council publish proposed rate increases for individual properties before asking residents or councillors to support any changes.
- 4) I insist that Council not cut staff or services
- 5) I Insist that the services and staff numbers in Tumbarumba are not cut
- 6) I object to SVC establishing "business units" to service other council areas instead of our council area
- 7) I insist that they balance their budget by cutting out wasteful spening. If Tumbarumba Shire Council could do it, why can't Snowy Valleys?
- 8) I object to the sale of any of our Assets.

I would like these matters addressed in a community meeting

SNOWY VALLEYS
COUNCIL
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16 MAY 2019

Tumbarumba Office

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14th May 2019

To the General Manager & Councillors

Snowy Valleys Council

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- 8) I object to the sale of any of our Assets.

I would like these matters addressed in a community meeting

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED
16 MAY 2019
Tumbarumba Office
NAME:
PHONE:
Notes:

13th May, 2019.

The Managing Director, Mayor and fellow Councillors,
Snowy Valleys Council
76 Caper St., Tumut, 2720. NSW.

SNOWY VALLEYS
COUNCIL
RECEIVED

15 MAY 2018

Tumbarumba Office

DOC ID:

BOX ID:

Notes:

Sirs,

IP & R documents/Feedback.

As a property owner I see no benefit in paying council rates at all. We do not receive any council services even to the extent of maintaining our roads, which are an absolute disgrace. Have a thought for our ratepayers - while fixing other areas' problems local infrastructure is not being attended to, consequently formation of business units should be disregarded.

As for the financial situation SVC finds itself in beggars belief. Should I be 5 cents out of balance at the end of the month my book keeper wants to know why and I am not allowed to spend thousands of dollars on consultants to find out where it has gone.

Many of council's interests and efforts seem to be centred around tourism.. Once again some of this is to the detriment of the local ratepayers. What money is spent in the town is of no personal benefit. Well kept areas for free camping and all weather entrances. plus garbage collection, is fantastic but surely a small contribution could be made to council.

Tumbarumba has important services, established by the original council which are needed in this town and are used by people living in the area. These services should NEVER be cut or sacrificed neither should local staff. Assets are important to retain, once sold gone for ever. Our town caravan park is well utilised and should be a privately owned business

We have a right to live in a comfortable community and at the same time retaining our service. SVC should proceed with Snow View Estate, let our retirement village continue to grow, keep our services and staff without punishing our ratepayers Maybe you should take the example of the LLS which has not charged rates this year. How are you able to justify such disgraceful rises in rates, other than to reimburse the coffers of SVC which has failed disgracefully in financial matters? Tumbarumba Council membes had the ability to retain a balanced budget along with investments.

It is long past time that SVC should be investigated by an independent team of administrators going back as far as the original amalgamation of Tumbarumba/Tumut shires.

I trust that this letter, with many others will be tabled at the forthcoming meeting of SVC and practical and sensible action taken.

SNOWY VALLEYS
COUNCIL
RECEIVED
15 MAY 2018
Tumbarumba Office

DOC ID: [REDACTED]
BO ID: [REDACTED]
No: [REDACTED]

A note from June [REDACTED]

To SVC about my OBJECTION
Rate Variation - I don't believe
they should be anymore than
the C.P.I. allows & we should know
in advance. I wish to say
there should be no reduction
in staff in Tumbarumba. I object
to establishing business units &
taking all our equipment that
we paid for, out of our area &
neglecting us. Also would SVC
stop wasting our money, it was
well managed by Tumbarumba Shire
they could do it, why can't SVC?
Don't sell our assets & waste it
on halfbrained ideas & ridiculous
projects. It was a real effort to
write this letter as not well been
downball since merge (not that you
care)

83753NP1

A24272

9th May 2019.

Snowy Valleys Council,
P.O.Box 61,
TUMBARUMBA. 2653.

Attention: Submission Re. "Draft intergrated Planning and Reporting".

We object strongly to rate increases above the CPI and definitely to any Special Rate Variation, and insist that council publish proposed rate increases for individual properties before asking residents or councillors to support any changes.

We object to Snowy Valleys Council establishing 'Business Units' to service other council areas instead of servicing our council area which is a very large area which is in need of constant work due to our forestry industries and our mountainous roads.

We insist that you balance your budget by cutting out wasteful spending ^{on} luxury items so there is funding for necessary and important requirements, instead of cutting staff numbers and services, or selling assets.

Your staff that are employed to run council hopefully were employed because of their skills, qualifications and experience without the need to employ outside consultancy firms to do their jobs.

Thanking you.

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED 15 MAY 2018 Tumbarumba Office DOC ID: BOX ID: Notes:
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The Acc. G.V.C.

As ratepayers we take exception to
SVW Council operating in debt position
year after year.

We demand that any proposed property
increases be circulated to the owners before
councillors or property owners are further imposed
upon to express any approvals.

In particular we take objection to the —

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

We the ratepayers must live within our means
at all times. Why should councils be exempt
from this principle? Your previous council
in Tumbarumba Shire set the example!

Budgets must be BALANCED

Why are you unable to achieve this!
Bring back some of your councillors
socialising expenses first off before services
to the ratepayer.

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED 15 MAY 2018 Tumbarumba Office	DOC ID:	BOX ID:	Notes:
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15 MAY 2019

Tumbarumba Office

DOC ID:

BOX ID:

Notes:

To: Snowy Valleys Council
PO Box 61 Tumbarumba 2653.

This is the first time I've felt the need to make a submission to any organisation. But with all that's happened and all that's planned by the council in the IP and R documents has made me more concerned than ever.

- ① - first of all, I'm not a financial wizard, but the lack of a detailed budget for 2019/20 not to be included in any council plan, it can't be accessed on your website.
- ② - I object to the former Tumbar Shire residents not only being hit by the special rate variation, but also a rise in rates above the special rate peg.
- ③ - I very strongly object to any job losses in our former Tumbar shire, or any loss of services, or raising the cost of those services.
- ④ - I am dismayed, and shocked that your council can't balance a budget. And I object even more to having our reserves raided of another \$13.7 million this time. Our former shire council was well run and always balanced theirs. After all it was the best run of all Rural Shires in NSW, Tumbar included. I might remind you 2nd only to Sydney. That is million is a disgrace, and one wonders just why or how that has happened, and why council hasn't been sacked and the merger being referred!
- ⑤ Why is council establishing a "business unit" to service other council areas, there's much to do in our existing area, is this another "wacky" idea that's going to fail and leave the people to pay the debt?

As you can see, I'm not happy at all.

S.V. COUNCIL,

THIS IS TO A PROTEST ABOUT YOUR MANAGEMENT OF THE SHIRE.

(1) THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE. BUSINESS & FARM ARE ALL DOING IT TOUGH FROM THE DROUGHT. ANY EXTRA COSTS ARE GOING TO IMPACT. SOME MAY BE PUT OUT OF BUSINESS.

(2) ROADS. SHIRE WASTED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT TEARING UP A PERFECTLY GOOD STRIP OF TAR ON THE COURABYRA ROAD, SPEND MONTHS PUTTING DOWN ANOTHER TAR (WHICH I SUSPECT IS INFERIOR). THEY MUST HAVE BEEN BEING PAID BY THE MINUTE.

(3) THE MONEY WASTED ON CONSULTANTS. THE COUNCIL IS ELECTED TO RUN THE SHIRE, IF THEY ARE INCOMPETENT THEY SHOULD RESIGN.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: WE
DO NOT WANT OUR RATES TO GO UP
NOR OUR COUNCILERS REMOVED
SO YOU CAN FEATHER YOUR OWN
NEST WE HAVE NEVER BEEN
SO BAD OFF SINCE THE AMALGAMA-
TION TOOK PLACE

To whom it may concern.

I am opposed to upcoming
rate rise in the snowy valley
council.

Its hard enough to make ends
meet, without these rate rises.

Yours sincerely

A

16 May 2019

Ben Smith
Divisional Manager Strategy and Place
Andrew Rae
Strategic Planning and Engagement Officer
SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL
PO Box 61
Tumbarumba NSW 2635

Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents

In my view these documents are not adequate to make any informed decisions. I cannot understand where SVC plans to reduce specific areas of unaffordable and wasteful spending.

The documents are full of errors, omissions of key data and confusing information. Two examples being;

The Draft Resourcing Strategy talks of tables pages 17 (Planned Scenario) and 22 (Unsustainable Scenario) instead both are titled "General Fund Statement ..Planned Scenario" – What does that mean?

Operation Plan Action Items 2019-2020 – the tables of Activities has a heading "2021 Delivery Program Strategy" with subheadings of 2018/19. What does that mean?

SVC is trying to crawl out of the hole it is rapidly digging by increasing rates and charges and selling off assets. Surely, it would be better to focus on stopping the appalling waste of money on consultants, abysmal project management and unnecessary works.

If SVC management team was in charge of a private enterprise business you would be broke and sold up within 12 months.

SVC not continuing to support Carcoola , Tumboosh and Puggles children's services and aged care services ,as has been the case with the Tumbarumba Shire Council

The councillors control Council.

If councillors are found to be derelict in their fiscal management responsibilities then the ultimate result is for an administrator to be appointed to sort this mess out and equitable outcomes achieved for each merged council.

SVC do you realise what a rotten name the SVC has in Tumbarumba. You keep saying one thing and contradicting yourself next week.

Citizens just don't believe you or your employees any more.

You do not have a mandate to charge extra rates or to cut services.

Like wise the whole range of services you want to change to get back into the black.

Your and your shire are a failure of what was supposed to happen. It didn't work in Queensland and only some are functional in Victoria, you were a botched, rushed job at the time and that's the way you are performing now.

Re submission for SVC

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED 15 MAY 2018 Tumbarumba Office DOC ID: BOX ID: Notes:
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Sub

mission for SVC for perusal

Several years ago, I decided to make Tumbarumba my home. I was always informed that politicians were no good but live and let live was my moto.

I still take a lot of notice to what is happening to my home nation of Fiji and have lived through the happenings of George Speit and Barney Marama.

I am listening with great delight to the promised of Mr Bill Shorten and Mr Scott Morrison on how much better off I will be after the election and nearly have the extra money spent.

If you and your council were to rip me off by adding an extra 30% on my rates and services, I would be no better off. If this is going to be the case, the advice I have received is correct and just maybe Barney Marama had the right idea with his coupe. Please show me that you are above Banana Republic politics and let common sense rule

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED 15 MAY 2018 Tumbarumba Office DOC ID: BOX ID: Notes:
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Submission for SVC perusal

Sir the process of merging shires has been a total mess up. The whole theory of mergers was based on lies and mistruths and has gone downhill from there.

I Have grown up here and played all types of sport. The way you have handled the up grades of the two sports ovals has been treated very badly. The way you informed users bordered on outright disrespect. You fail to realise that the people you treated you this way are the same people who will vote next time around. Tumba people have long memories.

Well may you say that it wasn't me, but it was one of your employees, someone with the same logo on their shirt as the one on yours. Remember the old saying, "the bucks stop's with me"

Play the game within the guide lines and don't try to invent new rules to suit yourself. You were gifted a magnificent shire with a magnificent amount of funds. If the old shire could do it, a team with your talent should be able to do it on their head.

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED 15 MAY 2018 Tumbarumba Office DOC ID: BOX ID: Notes:
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SUBMISSION TO SVC

It is incredible given the current SVC's record re financial management that it could believe that ratepayers and residents will agree to the proposed increases in rates, fees and charges along with an application for a special Rate Variation of 10%.

I am strongly opposed to the SVC applying for this SRV as per the Draft One Page Amendment to the Delivery Program. Instead, it would make sense to completely overhaul the way council operates, to stop wasting \$'s on Consultants when they employ highly paid and supposedly capable staff, who should be able to make the required decisions in-house. Other councils have proven in the past that they can operate efficiently without a SRV and still provide the required services and improvements. Why can't SVC?? For example, why bring in consultants from North Qld to search for the missing \$4 million dollars when they were not fully qualified in this field? This is obvious from the outcome – still no answers as to where the money has gone. Shouldn't a responsible council be obligated to report to their ratepayers as to where this money is – not a casual "probably just a book entry error".

The IP&R documents also show the SVC intends to proceed with rate harmonization between the two previous shires at the same time as the SRV in mid-2020 – however details as to how this will be done have not been provided. Is it a case of Tumbarumba area rates automatically being lifted to the same levels as those at Tumut – yet you've also stated that council will maintain rate revenues at the current levels. How will this happen?? Nowhere does the Council give a full and frank disclosure of a detailed budget for 2019/20 – what do they have to hide?? Why does the SVC have to increase their rates by more than the CPI as well as have a SRV? It has been proven that efficient councils do not need to do this - which says a lot about SVC's economic management - or rather the lack of it!

Already many fees and charges have risen considerably in the Tumbarumba area and the SVC is looking at raising them again for the 19/20 year – yet Council figures appear to be inconsistent as to how much the overall fees and charges will rise by. Is this an indication of the SVC's lack of ability to manage our finances? Having budget predictions of continued expenditure exceeding income should ring alarm bells for management – but apparently it is accepted as the norm – why?? Anyone in this situation in private business would either promptly review/adjust the situation or sink! What is different about this Council?

Why are the fees and charges for Child Care in Tumbarumba scheduled to rise so much? Is the Council trying to make them a 'user pays' service (eventually saying they're not sustainable and closing them), thus completely losing sight of why they were established in the first place – to provide a service for the people and to assist in the area's development?

Also, the previously discredited Snowy Works and Services (or a similar enterprise) should NOT even be considered by the SVC, let alone implemented. They (SVC) have proven in the past few years they are incapable of managing projects within time and budget in their own shire eg the Tumbarumba Caravan Park upgrade and the Rosewood Toilet Block, so this would just be an extra \$ burden on ratepayers – not a benefit.

I am also strongly against any reduction in staffing levels and cut backs in services at the Tumbarumba office. Tumut is obviously located in the northern section of a long north-south shire and any reduction in services will seriously impact on residents and ratepayers in Tumbarumba and south to Jingellic, Tooma and Khancoban. This will come in addition to the proposed large increases in rates etc - a double whammy to these residents. Does anyone in the SVC acknowledge this and have ways been sought to prevent it happening?? Or don't people matter anymore? The SVC should never lose sight of the fact that without people to support them, they will cease to exist – nor should they forget that 93% of residents in this area showed in the past that they want to regain their previous council. Shouldn't this be an incentive for SVC to do the right thing by these citizens to show they are capable of providing the same services within similar cost frames??

Since its inception, SVC has widely sought community consultation and inputs etc, but have given no indication of ever having taken notice of any of these – to the point where ratepayers and residents are asking 'why bother'? Is this just an exercise to appear to be doing the 'right thing', but in reality not caring or being interested in what residents or ratepayers really care about? Basically lip service!!

Feedback to Snowy Valleys Council on its 2019 IP&R docs

I do not support the IP&R proposals as published in the suite of documents, especially plans to cut or outsource services, like childcare and aged care, any staff reductions in the Tumbarumba area nor the re-establishment of the former Snowy Works and services third party revenue raising proposal.

I do not support and will vigorously oppose any move by council to seek a Special Rate Variation. Tumbarumba Shire Council never had to rely on an SRV. Tumut Shire Council and now SVC have relied on an SRV since 2005.

Council has failed to demonstrate any attempt to rein in its own profligacy with council funds (ratepayer money) before calling for additional rates;

- \$150,000 pa (Council estimate) for free pool entry that the community doesn't really want, Council needs to provide details of the actual loss and the full costs of the unnecessary move.
- \$1.15 million for the first 6 months of 2018/19 on consultants, on top of similar expenditure in 2017/18, What reductions are proposed in consultancy spending?
- \$240,000 on spin doctors,
- proposed \$500,000 annual operating loss if the Tumut MPS project ever gets off the ground, not to mention the money wasted on consultants in pursuit of that "vanity" project,
- \$100,000 on a "Forensic Review" of council that still could not identify where the missing \$ 4 million went,
- \$2.6 million for a community hall that could be refurbished for around \$650,000
- the list goes on...

Council needs to live up to its much relied on mantra of transparency and produce detailed budgets and historical records by line item since amalgamation, and into the future for the community to scrutinise. It should also produce detailed employment costings relative to council's HR structure so that residents can ascertain whether they are getting value for money, especially from its highly paid executive level.

In my view the IP&R documents are not fit for purpose, there is inadequate financial detail and explanation of council's rationale for its proposals upon which to make informed decisions, and there is insufficient detail to understand where council has, or plans to reduce specific areas of wasteful and unaffordable expenditure eg: consultants, free swimming pool entry, as opposed to services valued by the ratepayers.

Council has chosen a revenue generation focus rather than an emphasis on prudent spending according to principles of sound financial management that are set out in the Local Government Act s8B:

"Council spending should be responsible and sustainable, aligning general revenue and expenses".

On the information provided in the IP&R documents there is no evidence that council is following that principle.

The integrity of the entire suite of IP&R documents is highly questionable and provide the reader little confidence in the accuracy of the content, or the scrutiny under which they were drafted. The documents contain material errors including cross referencing errors, omissions of key data, confusing information, and in places ludicrous propositions as to what constitutes “Performance Measures”, all of which seemingly are activity based rather than based on outcomes; eg;

- The draft Resourcing Strategy presents tables at pages 17 and 22 purporting to represent the “Planned Scenario” p17 and the Unsustainable Scenario”. The top table on each page are both entitled “General Fund Statement... Planned Scenario” (see right hand side at top of each table). So how does an examiner make sense of the 2 tables? What confidence can people have as to the accuracy of the information?
- The commentary at P21 of the Draft Resourcing Strategy refers “key objectives of the LTFP defines in Section 2.2”. Section 2.2 of the doc does not discuss these key objectives, it refers to a table of key operating revenue and expenditure.
- The same draft Resourcing Strategy doc in respect of proposed workforce Path to improvement plans refers on page 46 to “the following table outlinesestimated cost” . There are no costs identified in the table presented. How can the proposal possibly be assessed?
- The document entitled Operation Plan Action Items 2019 – 2020 is presented in a way that is so confusing it is unintelligible; The tables of Activities carries a major heading “2021 Delivery Program Strategy” with subheadings labelled 2018 /19
- Take for example the Draft Operation Plan; It lists a sub Group item 3.4 which has the objective to “Protect and manage the local environment including air quality, waterways, rivers and streams”, against which it lists an Activity 3.4.1 to “Collect samples and test public water supply as required by legislation”. The listed activity is a mandatory public health measure and has nothing to do with “Protecting and caring for the natural environment to ensure future generations can experience and enjoy its beauty”.
- Similarly the same Draft Plan lists a subgroup 4.2 “Deliver a communication strategy which ensures the community receives information in a timely and convenient manner”, against which it lists an activity 4.2.1 for which the performance measure is “Increase in number of social media followers, increase in community satisfaction with communication, increase in website subscribers”. Does council really believe that social media is an effective way to ensure the majority of the community receives information in a timely and convenient manner. How has it arrived at this conclusion? Clearly council doesn’t understand the demographic of its community nor the preponderance of poor or non existent internet access.
- Likewise there is no explanation whatsoever what is proposed by a Mayoral Summit (item 4.1.2 of the same plan) nor how it is going to aid a culture of engagement to aid Council decision making, when Council has failed abjectly at even attempting to engage the community in any meaningful way, especially the former Tumbarumba Shire?

Snowy Valleys Council,
P.O. Box 61,
Tumbarumba, NSW 2653

FEEDBACK: IP&R DOCUMENTS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am deeply concerned by, and object in the strongest terms, to SVC's proposed program expressed in the 2019/20 IP&R documents, namely:

- Draft One Page Amendment to the Delivery Program
- Draft Resourcing Strategy 2019-2029
- Draft 2019-2020 Operational Plan
- 2019-2020 Fees and Charges Schedule

My concerns are detailed below.

Draft One Page Amendment to the Delivery Program

This amendment floats the suggestion that SVC apply for a Special Rate Variation as a means of reducing its operating deficit. In spite of the proposal, according to the Long Term Financial Plan, SVC will continue to lose money for years to come.

I strongly object to any Special Rate Variation application, and any increase in rates beyond the CPI. Tumut Shire Council's (and indeed now SVC's) appalling financial management, in spite of Special Rate Variation funding from ratepayers since 2005, is sufficient evidence that such an impost on SVC ratepayers is unfair and unjustified. Further, the idea that a council's inability to manage ratepayers funds should be compensated by increased taxation of those ratepayers is absurd.

The reality is that ratepayers of Tumbarumba Shire face a massive increase in rates as a result of the SVC "harmonisation" process. To add a simultaneous, significant additional financial burden on those ratepayers is inequitable and unfair.

SVC has proved itself to be grossly inefficient and financially incompetent, so why should any ratepayer pay increased rates to support such a body? Councils are required under the Act and Regulation to spend responsibly to balance income and expenditure. Since election SVC has repeatedly failed to demonstrate that it can balance its budget within the 4 year term, so why should ratepayers believe these opaque, unexplained plans?

Beyond these fundamental arguments SVC has failed to provide sufficient information to allow ratepayers any reasonable opportunity to assess the impacts of a Special Rate variation. There is no information provided, for example, as to the level of increase proposed on different rating categories. There is no length of time proposed.

The former Tumbarumba Shire Council never applied for a Special Rate Variation, and managed its finances competently and to the general approval of the community. SVC has yet to even try to balance its budget. The SRV idea will be opposed by the community until it is dropped.

The One Page Amendment also highlights the principles developed in other IP&R documents, namely “user pays” and “civil contracting”. I object to both of these in the strongest terms, as explained later in my submission. The simple reality is that SVC is a bloated, inefficient organisation that needs to radically improve its delivery to ratepayers without additional cost imposts.

Draft Resourcing Strategy 2019-2029

The Resourcing Strategy proposes that SVC achieve an operating surplus in 5 years by (among other measures) increasing costs imposed on ratepayers, reducing council staff, selling assets, and attempting to make a profit by contracting out council staff and assets.

I strongly object to all of these proposed measures.

The Strategy also proposes a miniscule capital works program, of lower value than the depreciation of current assets. This is simply absurd.

The table on pages 8 and 9 detail proposed measures to be adopted by SVC in 2019/20 including staff reductions, service level reductions, restructuring SVC’s approach away from Community Strategic Plan priorities, and other crisis measures. Without any justification. One can only surmise that SVC has little idea how to deliver essential services to its community and raise the necessary funds from outside sources. The document adopts a zero sum approach, with ratepayers either paying more or receiving less. This is exactly the strategy used by the General Manager in several exchanges with ratepayers over the past year, and which has been comprehensively rejected in those forums.

Section 2.3 of the Strategy outlines in the sketchiest terms both the Special Rate Variation proposal and rate harmonisation proposal. The documents fail however to provide any information about the options council might be considering, what the best and worst case scenarios are, who the winners and losers will be, and what process SVC intends to use to implement that harmonisation. In spite of this, these IP&R reports will be presented to SVC meeting in June for approval.

No credible body would approve either concept without detailed financial information. Ratepayers are expected to make a judgement and express opinions on these proposals with zero, yes zero, information. Were SVC serious about community consultation it would publish proposed changes to rates for each and every property before asking residents and Councillors to evaluate or endorse any changes.

Section 2.4 describes the “planned scenario”. It describes massive rate increases for Tumbarumba Shire residents, staff cuts, increased costs for ratepayers for basic services, asset sales, establishing a profit-making civil contracting business, and selling assets.

I object in the strongest terms to all of these measures. This scenario will result in nothing but worse service provision and increased cost to residents, and decline of our communities. What council would impose such a scenario on its ratepayers?

The financials behind the “planned scenario” are also fundamentally flawed. One simple example will illustrate my point: it is not possible for anyone (perhaps even the Councillors, given the lack of supporting documents provided to the at the last Council meeting) to understand or evaluate the General Income and Expenditure statements because there is no breakdown of what the figures mean. Why for example, do User Fees and Charges go up by \$840,000 between 2019/20 and 2020/21, and \$910,000 the following year, when the texts says Users Fees and Charges will only (!) increase by \$100,000 and \$150,000 respectively? Something is clearly wrong.

These same financial tables show SVC’s complete lack of investment in any capital projects. In 2019/20, for example, \$22 million will be spent on purchases of infrastructure, plant and equipment. In 2020/21, however this figure drops to \$8 million. It remains at that level or lower until the end of the LTFP, in 2028/29. That means there will actually a decrease in expenditure every year for the next decade.

Does SVC seriously think that ratepayers will accept no spending on street beautification and amenity after 2020/21? Or that no rural culvert will be repaired after 2021/22? Or that there will be no road upgrades after 2023/24? These are simply unacceptable.

It is clear that SVC must not cut staff or services, or capital projects. In particular, services and staff numbers in Tumbarumba must not be cut.

It is also clear that establishing ‘business units’ to service other agencies and council areas, instead of the residents of the Snowy Valleys Council area, is a very stupid idea. Given the priority ratepayers put on improving roads, why would sending our staff and machinery to other places make sense? Further, if this unit (perhaps to be named Snowy Works and Services?) doesn’t make a profit, ratepayers suffer directly. Not a good model given the evidence of SVC’s inability to control costs in capital projects to date. Perhaps fixing the roads in your own shire first might get more support.

It is also clear that balancing the budget by selling assets is a crisis measure imposed by an out of touch and incompetent council. I object to any proposal to sell assets in this manner. I insist that SVC balances its budget by cutting out wasteful spending. If Tumbarumba Shire Council could do it, why can’t Snowy Valleys?

Section 2.6 (Sensitivity Analysis) illustrates clearly how fragile SVC’s planned scenario really is. A wide range of utterly plausible small changes to conditions would completely blow the Long term Financial Plan right out of the water, and leave ratepayers with a bankrupt council, radically decreased services, and increased costs. Further, it breaches Local Government regulation requiring all councils to cover depreciation costs with cash:

“If Council was to increase spending on asset renewals sufficient to match depreciation it would spend another \$13M over the 10 years of the LTFP.”

The Planned Scenario does not ever meet the core measure of financial sustainability (the Operating Performance Ratio) during the term of the Council. SVC is spending more than it earns.

These arguments show that the IP&R documents are simply a very poor plan that is unacceptable to me.

SUBMISSION TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS COUNCIL

Regarding the "Draft Integrated Planning and Reporting" documents.

We have read these documents. It would be more informative if the major project plans are separated into government fully or partly funded projects, and SVC funded projects. Then the ratepayers of the SVC can form an informed assessment of the SVC spending budget, given the parlous state of SVC finances.

It appears the outcome of endorsing the DIPR document will adversely affect the long term viability of the Tumbarumba district and threaten the development of projects previously endorsed and budgeted for by the Tumbarumba Shire. These include the Snow View Estate, Stage 3 and the construction of 2 retirement units.

Since 1905 the Tumbarumba Shire Council had no need to apply for a special rate variation. The SVC's need to apply twice for rate variations indicates the inability of the councillors to provide sound financial guidance and governance.

The rate payers of the ex Tumbarumba Shire should not have to pay for a debt incurred by the Tumut Shire. Our expectation is that our rates increase with the CPI.

More fiscal management by the councillors to control financial losses is necessary. One example is to reinstate the swimming pool fees. This was a poor election promise.

It does the councillors no credit that \$4M is unable to be accounted for.

In Summary, we object to

Paying any Special Rate Variation

Paying any rate increases above the CPI

Reducing any more services or staff in Tumbarumba

SVC not curbing wasteful spending, eg on consultants doing work the staff are employed to do

SNOWY VALLEYS
COUNCIL
RECEIVED

16 MAY 2019

Tumut Office

DOC ID:

Page ID:

Notes:

To the General Manager:

Dear Sir

I wish to express my concern regarding Snowy Valleys Council's fiscal responsibility. Already in deficit, the Council proposes to go yet further into debt.

The proposed measures, especially the Special Rate Variation (particularly in respect of Tumbarumba Shire residents) can only further damage the prosperity of the district.

The lack of a detailed budget is further cause for alarm.

The appointment of an Administrator is needed at the earliest time to objectively examine Council's financial dealings and budgetary arrangements.

—
Mathew Hyde
General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council

May 19th.2019

CC Andrew Rae
Strategic Planning and Engagement Officer
Snowy Valleys Council

Dear Andrew,

Re Operational Plan documents etc

Thank you for the opportunity to respond (Have Your Say)to the documents .It was regrettable that while you invited those who volunteered as the "Sounding Board " they were unable to meet to review these extensive papers due to time constraints .I feel that given the initial commitment made by the participants to be given more time to review with others would have been of benefit. The information contained deserves more discussion as it also indicates there has been considerable input from all council staff concerned and deciphering online is difficult.

Following the generous time participants gave to council over 4 weekends it was indeed disappointing to see that the "Sounding Board's input was disregarded in relation to the swimming pool charges that there will continue to be free swimming at all pools. One very important if not the most was the issue to providing free swimming lessons and the need to have all residents both young and old water safe .During the extensive discussion many good ideas were put forward which should have been considered

- Concession cards for families on application free annual entry at the discretion of staff with recommendations from schools as the eligibility and need
- Gold coin entry for all
- Charging entry cards .similar to loading credit on phones

Re the documents

I have reviewed the documents as best as I have been able on screen and have some comments and questions and addressed this issues of my interest, there are many more items that would have been interesting to be discussed with others

Draft Operational Plan
Open space under capital projects

Neighbourhood centre Replacement \$50,000

Question what is meant by replacement and what works are intended

Adelong Falls Replacement \$20,000

Question Can you please advise what is meant by replacement?

Heading Capital Projects the section indicates 2019-2020

Question the page heading for the details indicates 2018-19 Can you clarify please

We celebrate and nurture the unique character of our towns and villages

1.3.1

Implement priority actions in the Adelong Falls Management Plan, Conservation Strategy

- Indicates funding should be sought for interpretive signage

Question this has been included previously as there is much more contained within the management documents than signage and have provided a suggested budget for the Adelong Falls within this letter

NB There is not a Conservation strategy there is a Conservation Management Plan and an interpretive strategy plus the Plan of Management

This is the number one tourist attraction in the council and wider area (35,000 visitors were recorded last year)there has to be an ongoing and incremental budget allowance plus the need to seek external funding

1.3.3

Work in partnership with the Aboriginal Community

Suggest inclusion to develop dual language signage where and when possible

Delivery program

There is mention of enhancing Adelong Falls as tourist site -dependant on external funding

Question what is intended ?

I notice in the list of areas under the various directors there is no mention of heritage can you advise me please who is the director responsible?

I appreciation

Attachment included Suggested budget Adelong Falls Gold Mill Ruins

ADELONG FALLS BUDGET ALLOCATION REQUEST 2019/20

Coordinator	Tasks examples	Reporting
Regular Tasks As listed on previous contracts NB the tasks have been extended as the site has become more popular and the budgetary constraints have necessitated extending coordinator's tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Adelong works team each week Check site at least weekly • Liaise with SVC Heritage Advisor • Monitor ruins and prepare annual condition report referencing the Long Blackledge report • Remove any rubbish clean off picnic tables • Identify any areas of invasive weeds • Report any issues with paths etc • Polish /maintain interpretive signs • Seek possible grants apply in consultation with managers • Landscape maintenance where it safe to do so • Conduct tours • Draft media releases • Organise ephemeral arts day and subsequent Wagga exhibition • Distribute Falls brochures to the caravan park accommodation places and visitors centres in the local and wider area (Wagga -Coota -Gundagai) • Promote site /marketing • Discuss the site when invited with consultants eg branding • Attend marketing workshops /information session relative to the Adelong Falls and heritage • Ensure compliance with Conservation Management Plan ,Plan of Management Interpretive Strategy • Keep the Adelong Falls committee informed • Organise RFS to undertake control burn across sections • Contact Mines dept re fossicking and possible signage • Conduct heritage skills workshops • Host school excursions ,gold panning demonstrations with living history miner <p><i>Undertake the unexpected</i></p> <p>Funding estimate includes travel \$20,000 ex gst plus super guarantee</p>	
Additional tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate current Heritage Near Me 	

<i>Some of which can be included in annual allocation</i>	grant		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete acquittal when finished 		
	Liaise with Lands dept re gazettal of crown parcels extending along Adelong creek to town bridge to be included under Falls title		
	Complete submission to NSW heritage to have additional block incorporated into the heritage listing		
	Contribute to the development of heritage/ gold trails		
	Complete archival documenting of ruins and conservation works		
	Research any available funding Continue to develop and research items for the mining equipment park		
	Liaise with Lands council to develop indigenous trail		
General maintenance		Estimates	This must have priority
	Weed spraying across reserve – <u>Maintenance</u>	\$5,000	
	General mowing and whipper-snipping	\$2,500	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair main access road including contours Fill ruts Deco to paths <u>Maintenance</u>	\$5,000	
	Timber seats along paths replace with hardwood Plus instillation	\$3,000	
	Total maintenance	\$15,500 (\$20,000)	
Other projects			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painting toilet block Will require scaffold 	\$8,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repaint platform Will require scaffold 	\$12-14.000	

	Mining Equipment Park Seek funding	Engineer specs \$3,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct Poppet head replica using donated mining equipment 	Construction \$55,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with the Weaver family on purchase of ruin within the reserve, a heritage item of value 		
	Seek funding Volunteer group e.g Conservation Volunteers to	\$14,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clear up reserve, fence along Grahamstown road Clean up debris in and along creel Develop sky line walk Rebuild access stairs to upper water wheel Clear vegetation 		
	Publicity Redesign brochure. printing	\$12-1500	
	Plan of Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review document List items completed and recommendations to be carried out 		
	Funding request	Coordinator \$40.ph Travel time plus.72c per km	\$20,000 ex gst +super
	NB Fee has not changed in 12 years	Maintenance	\$20,000 + gst
		Additional Estimate	\$95,400

Submission: 2019/2020 Fees & Charges Schedule

Waste collection fees

Once again Snowy Valleys Council (SVC) has failed to deliver transparent and good governance-based decision-making processes, the outcomes of which will have a major financial impact on the ratepayers of the former Tumut Shire.

An example of this ongoing failure is the process followed to increase waste collections fees.

The proposed 35.75% or \$118 pa. increase in annual waste bin pickup for the former Tumut Shire ratepayers as opposed to a 5.9% or \$25 pa. for the Tumbarumba ratepayers under the guise of “harmonisation” shows the current councillors have no understanding of the fundamental principle of local government “user pays” pricing.

The proposed 2019/2020 Operation Plan lists a number of priority areas that the Councillors of SVC are apparently committed to, including;

1. Providing opportunities for the community to participate in the decision-making process ensuring outcomes that benefit our community, and
2. Ensuring transparent and accountable leadership.

The same plan (p25) indicates \$204 000 for Waste services capital works with no detail provided.

Action 3.3.1 (p43) indicates council will “develop and implement a waste and recycling strategy” during 2019/2020.

This is a serious miss-timing of due process. Implementing a major increase in fees and charges without community consultation and the support of a financially sustainable business case is a breach of councils’ commitments to its ratepayers. It is this disregard to good governance that is plaguing SVC and is contributing to its current financially unsustainable Long Term Financial Plan.

If council has any belief in its statements of integrity and respect within its vision and values it must follow the correct course of action.

1. Delay the increase in waste collection fees until 2020/2021.
2. Complete the proposed waste strategy.
3. Engage the community in meaningful discussion regarding the proposed actions within the strategy.
4. Adopt a waste management pricing policy that reflects the outcomes of the correct process.

On a wider perspective SVC is setting itself up to fail in its delivery of its 2019/2020 Operational Plan and associated resourcing strategies.

Council has committed to deliver approximately \$25m in community capital works projects and \$10m internal capital works. It does not have the resources to carry out these major works on top of “business as usual” while at the same time committing to reducing its 2019/2020 budget as outlined on page 4 of its resourcing strategy.

If council cannot keep its promise of genuine community engagement for a simple project, like a new waste management strategy, it will face major problems when it starts the process of harmonising rates and applying for a special rate variation.

Yours

Tumut Council is, to quote an old cliché “drinking Champagne on a beer budget”. Rather than address the importance of every indiscretion, this needs to be looked at overall and there is one main issue of concern:-

The lack of accounting for money and funding i.e. reports and documentation

Rather than a struggling local economy employ bullying tactics to extort money from prospering communities, it should take a closer look at their own management of their council.

All communities hope to prosper and should not be drained of funds in order for others to solely succeed.

I believe there has been a serious breach of finances at the highest level in order to set Tumut on the map.

If this comes at the expense and sacrifice of smaller, seemingly vulnerable communities, it cannot be accepted.

In short, rather than plugging up a leak from the outside, determine a solution from the inside.

I do not claim to know how the cogs of government work, however I am a person who lives and works in Tumbarumba and would dearly love our way of life and that of others to continue harmoniously.

17 May 2019

Mr Matthew Hyde
General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council
76 Capper Street
Tumut NSW 2720

Dear Matthew,

Submission re Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents 2019/2020

The Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce is pleased to provide a submission regarding the advertised Integrated Planning and Reporting documents for 2019/2020.

We are disappointed to see once again that there is no funding for growth in the 2019/2020 budget. In particular we note that there is no money for Snow View Estate Stage 3 or the next units of the Tumbarumba Retirement Village in 2019/2020, or in any year of the Long Term Financial Plan. Nor is there any funding for Khancoban Hall or for that matter, community improvement or growth projects anywhere in the council area. There appears to be no capital or increased operating expenditure on either tourism or economic development activity despite the adoption of recommendations in destination management and economic development plans that needed increased funding.

Snow View Estate and the Tumbarumba Retirement Village are high priority projects for the Tumbarumba community. The Chamber understands that Council is to receive another report about the reason for delaying Snow View Estate, but this will be after or at the same meeting that the budget is adopted so the Tumbarumba community will have no opportunity to comment. It seems Council believes the investment can be delayed because sales have recently slowed, but slowing sales may well be caused by Council inaction to either subdivide the large blocks, or alternatively to lower their price to bring them into the market range. The Chamber believes it is important that construction take place over summer of 2019/20 in good time to capitalise on existing growth potential and development opportunities associated with Snowy 2.0. Similarly the delay in the Retirement Village is not acceptable. The next retirement units were planned to be built in 2016/2017. Council's Operational Plan 2018/2019 included completing two new units. Now the 2019/2020 plan only aims to complete a review of the business case and there is no capital funding in the LTFP.

The Chamber is receiving more and more bad feedback about Council's development and planning approval processes, and the delays and costs to business. We are looking to collate this information in a form that will not identify businesses and individuals (who are fearful of retribution and further delays). The only target measure Council has included in the Operational Plan is '80% of Development Applications are assessed and determined within 60 days'. Council needs much

stronger performance measures to get independent feedback on the quality and timeliness of its development approvals to drive much needed improvement.

The rationale for the Long Term Financial Plan is hard to understand. Asset replacement is underfunded, with a shortfall of approximately \$3.3 million in 2019/2020 in replacing assets that SVC classifies as being in poor condition (renewal required). At the same time, cash investments rise from \$18.7 to \$52.7 million over 10 years, due to zero funding for any community growth or improvement assets, and underfunding for replacement of existing assets. In the context of cash increasing by \$34 million over the life of the plan, how can Council argue that a special rate variation is necessary any time in the next 10 years?

Council has not yet undertaken the rigorous review of its cost structures that is needed to understand its financial position, and won't complete this until the various merger projects are delivered. Council's workforce plan says that there are six people working in temporary roles relating to merger implementation. Presumably when this work finishes there may be immediate savings of \$600,000 pa, let alone other savings that will be possible at that time.

We were lucky to have two members attend the sounding board last Saturday May 11 2019, which answered a number of questions the Chamber had about the content of the documents. Without the benefit of a face to face briefing, it is impossible to tell from the published documents where significant changes to service levels may have occurred. It is also not possible to see where the fees and charges have changed from 2018/2019 to 2019/2020. Members of the public can't provide informed comment about the documents if they aren't given enough information.

The Chamber understands that the planned reviews of aged care and children's services are not about Council reducing these services. It would be useful if Council could make this very clear in the documents. There is rising community angst because this is being seen as a strategy for Council to sell these services.

A number of changes in income and expenditure were explained at the 'sounding board' meeting, but the Chamber would appreciate a breakdown of the increased expenses in 'Corporate and Executive' expenditure. In the Delivery Plan 2018-2021 projected expenditure for 2019/2020 was \$3,122,649. Expenditure in the Operating Budget 2019/20 is \$10,146,138, an increase of more than \$7 million. We also ask Council to identify the assets it is planning to sell for \$611,000.

We are concerned about the blanket approach to 'cost recovery'. Council needs to seriously consider its philosophy and the pros and cons of full cost recovery. If 'cost recovery' results in lower levels of development and increases community dissatisfaction, then what has Council achieved? Similarly, we fail to understand Council's abandonment of swimming pool charges when there was clear acceptance for them to be charged, which would fund improved facilities requested by communities. We are concerned too about Council's approach to allocation of overheads. While this is ok in principle, it can mask excessive administration costs. This is particularly relevant in relation to the revival of a 'civil works unit' which is only aiming for a profit margin of 5%. At this rate it is questionable whether it would be worth doing, particularly if a model similar to the

previous Snowy Works and Services is adopted, with a costly administrative structure, distributed as overheads over Council works as well as private works – ie profit on private works is overstated because all Council works cost more. The reduction in income from RMS works is very concerning. If Council doesn't secure significant external works, there will be an obvious need to downsize the road construction and maintenance workforce. We trust Council is doing its utmost to lobby for a change in approach from government.

Once again, there is no mention in the workforce plan of the need/strategy to maintain staffing levels in the Tumbarumba rural centre. This needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis.

There are a great many actions in the Operating Plan that can only occur if Council succeeds in attracting funding. We suggest Council should review the plan and only include actions that are realistically achievable.

Finally, while there are fewer errors in this year's document when compared to last, there are still discrepancies that should be corrected, notably a discrepancy between capital works in the operating plan compared with the LTFP of \$4,111,072 (OP more), and difference between consolidated budget net income OP and LTFP of \$293,794 (LTFP better). It seems likely the capital discrepancy is due to all merger projects being included at their total cost regardless of timing. The OP should only include those that Council plans to complete during the year. We'd appreciate to know the reason for the difference between net operating income in the OP and LTFP.

Looking forward to your response and some changes to planned programs as a result of our submission.

To the Council

I am not happy about the rates
going up all the time

SNOWY VALLEYS
COUNCIL
RECEIVED

16 MAY 2019

Tumbarumba Office

DOC ID:

BOX ID:

Notes:

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at About Your Voice Snowy Valleys

The question that was asked is:

I AM CONCERNED WITH THE WAY THE SNOWY COUNCILS ARE OPERATED AND DO NOT AGREE WITH THE FORCED MERGER OR THE INCREASED FEES INVOLVED AS PER OUTLINED IN THE" DRAFT INTERGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING PROGRAM ". NEED TO DEMERGE ASAP!

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at About Your Voice Snowy Valleys

The question that was asked is:

Draft planning and reporting why is council spending more than it earns ??

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Re submission for SVC

The whole scenario of Council mergers was to save money. You have been unable to budget for this merger even with extra finances being allocated to cover any unforeseen problems.

If you were employed in the private sector you would be unemployed by now.

Members of all Council must take some sort of oath or commitment to do the best of their ability. If this is so every one of you are living a lie.

You have squandered cash and cash reserves. You have lost or misplaced \$4 million.

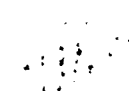
You have coerced, threatened and even bullied staff to accept your point of view and made it impossible for them to work for you if they didn't agree to your warped sense of priorities and ethics.

I am not perfect but I have handled men all my life and I have made a golden rule never ask any of my staff to do any thing I would not do myself, to gain achievements that I or my section would be proud of come judgement day. Can you say the same?.

You and your staff must have very poor morals to be screwing the minor party of a so-called merger they way you are doing.

To regain some creditability, you must cut spending and get back into budget straight away. My advice to you would to start culling from the top end as that end gets more remuneration than the bottom end and that's seems to be where the problem lies.

I was once proud to be a person from Tumbarumba, now I am ashamed and embarrassed to be part of your shire. I hope that I can live long enough to see that abomination reversed. I know that I will fight it until my dying breath.

SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL RECEIVED 10 MAY 2018 Tumbarumba Office DOC ID: BOX ID: Notes: 
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Dear Councillors

I wish to put forward my concerns as a ratepayer in both Tumbarumba and Batlow.

I read with some dismay of the expected shortfall in the coming finances. It seems obvious to just increase rates but this should be a last resort, at least if going above the CPI.

As we all need to budget our own personal finances, you have taken on the task of budgeting our Shire budget. You have been elected in but the people of Snowy Valley and we have entrusted that to you.

I think it's obvious that the Sports Stadium to be constructed in Tumut definitely needs to go on a back burner until we are, hopefully, once again in a financial situation to do so especially as it will benefit such a small percentage of the community.

Thankyou

Good afternoon Andrew,

I am regretfully unavailable to attend the sounding board review on May 11 as I have business in Sydney to be attended to and this meeting falls right in the middle of my Sydney trip. It would have been most interesting and I must again commend Matt Hyde for the Sounding Board initiative where community concerns can be aired/discussed. Maybe one day we can reinstate the annual council meetings that were held at Brindabella!

It seems that even when retired, business seems to impact on whatever else you might like to do! Please accept my apologies.

There were a couple of specific items that are of great interest to this Brindabella community which have hopefully been noted. Specifically, they are:

The Brindabella Road - Some promising signs that the regional road upgrade will progress in part at least although funding is always going to be the problem we think. Suffice to say that the current traffic usage on this road way surpasses the ability of a dirt/gravel road to survive such traffic flows for 12 months (or longer) between grades. The Brindabella Road absolutely needs more than a single grade per year and should be budgeted accordingly. Many in the community believe that the State Government should be funding (at least part) of the cost as it has now become a 'national' road link between Canberra and the Riverina and even Sydney to Melbourne, being the shortest route. If we, the community could do something to assist with State or Fed funding assistance, we would be happy to help, the situation is becoming diar for this aging population

Waste Access Charge - This charge was originally levied to supposedly cover increased tipping costs brought about by Gillard's famous 'Carbon Tax'. This community let it be known that the Tumut tip was not used by this community (generally speaking) as it was far more convenient for us to use the garbage

/recycle facility available within the Canberra/ACT precinct, mostly free of charge and (much) lower cost where a charge was applied. It hence forth relieved Tumut of our waste problem and after consultation at a Tumut Council visit to the valley (a community meeting), I believe it was agreed that Brindabella would be exempt from this new levy. In fact, it is written into the 58 page 'Fees and Levies' document - refer page 22, where it clearly states that Brindabella is exempt (see attached image).

While working though the Council Fees document with the late Bill Franklin, we could not see that anything had changed to preclude Brindabella from this previously negotiated exemption (Brindabella is still using the ACT for garbage and recyclable disposal - by most if not all local residents) and, quite frankly, the tip at Tumut is extremely inconvenient for our location, it's just too far away, opening hours are severely limited/restricted, and it remains competitive . When traveling to Tumut from Brindabella, it's a full days outing, the last thing you need is a car full of rubbish while shoping with the hope you can find the tip open. The \$51 impost provides Brindabella with no tangible benefit and we must therefore remain exempt from this already highly questionable levy.

Furthermore, we believe it would be appropriate for SVC to credit Brindabella rate payers for the 2018-2019 rating period (even 2017-2018 and earlier) where \$51 has been erroneously invoiced (and presumably paid by all rate payers in payments commencing August 2018).

Trusting you can pass these thoughts on to the facilitators of the Sounding Board review

with best regards

PROPOSED INCREASE OF AVIATION FUEL LEVY FROM 5c/LTR to 6c/LTR FOR FY 19/20

Former Tumut Council Resolution 25 January 2011, resolved that the Council:

21 (2) Require a levy of at least five (5) cents per litre be charged on all avgas and jet fuel sales to be returned to Council on a regular basis by the Tumut Aero Club.

Current Situation

1. The former Tumut Council (and now Snowy Valleys Council) does not own the aviation fuel facility on the Aerodrome. Skyfuel is the major financial stakeholder in the facility and the operator of the facility - Skyfuel pays 5c/litre on fuel sales to the Council, is responsible for the insurance, maintenance, and compliance with environment and OH&S requirements, etc.
2. Tumut Aero Club (TAC) provided volunteer labour and contributed financial resources for the installation of the facility - TAC does not receive any revenue from the fuel facility but continues to provide trained volunteers for weekly checks required to be done on the facility.
3. Visitors to the aerodrome purchase most of the fuel in the facility as most ultralight/recreational aircraft on the airfield use MOGAS and aircraft/helicopters used for air ambulance, fire and flood emergencies are exempt from paying the levy.

Likely Effect of Increasing the Fuel Levy

4. Demand is closely linked to price - increasing the levy is likely to reduce demand as users can readily bypass purchasing fuel at Tumut if the fuel can be purchased cheaper at neighbouring aerodromes that do not have landing fees, eg Cootamundra, Temora.
5. Income from fuel sales will reduce for both Skyfuel and the Council. This could lead to a commercial decision by Skyfuel to remove the facility from Tumut Aerodrome.
6. There will be a potential risk on the timelines of supply of fuel in the case of emergencies if the fuel facility is removed from Tumut Aerodrome.

Recommendation:

- ***No change to fuel levy of 5c/litre for Jet-A1 and AVGAS.***
- ***Consultation/agreement with Skyfuel must be obtained by Council when considering any changes to the fuel levy.***

Background

Prior to its removal in 2008, Air BP maintained an avgas tank and bowser at Tumut, and TAC bought and sold the fuel and collected the sales income, passing the agreed 5c/litre on to the Council. No fuel company was interested in installing a new avgas installation at Tumut.

In the last 12 years major fuel companies have withdrawn from most airports not serviced by airline services due to their high overheads in a small market. The void has been filled by small independent fuel re-sellers such as Skyfuel. They operate at a small scale with small margins.

The initiative to install a fuel facility was taken by the TAC because of the inertia of the former Tumut Council in making a decision on the supply of aviation fuel at the Aerodrome. A fuel facility was considered to be a very important asset to the community, aviators and the Council. The benefits include providing timely fuel supplies in emergency situations due to floods and fires, contributing to an increase in aviation activity at the Aerodrome, visitor income to the community, and income for the Council.

Skyfuel made a substantial financial investment in 2012 in the Tumut fuel installation to stimulate an embryonic fuel market. Their commercial strategy appears to be "build the infrastructure and the industry will follow". This is occurring - establishment of the RFS base, the relocation of True North Helicopters, the use of the Aerodrome by commercial spraying helicopters and aircraft, increase use of a community asset, attendant employee income and accommodation expenses in the local economy, etc.

The 5c levy was supported by the TAC on the basis that it was to be collected from itinerant users in lieu of landing fees.