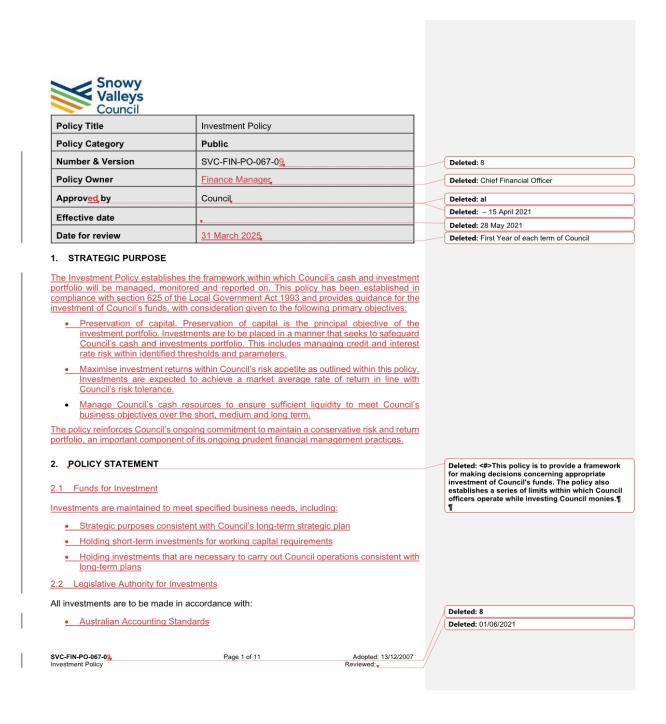
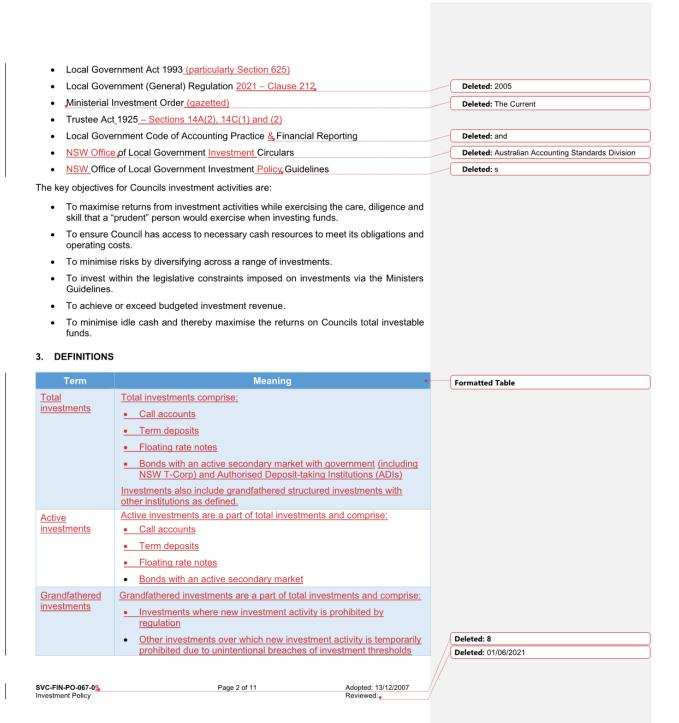
10.7. REVIEW OF INVESTMENT POLICY FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION - ATTACHMENT

Attachment Titles:

1. Draft Investment Policy SVC-FIN-PO-067-09

Attachment 1 - DRAFT Investment Policy





Liquidity risk	The risk the Council is unable to redeem the investment at a fair price
<u>Liquidity</u>	Ensuring that funds are available in a timely manner to meet the Council's cash flow requirements without the unanticipated, and potentially disadvantageous, sale of investment products.
Market risk	The risk that the fair value or future cash flows of an investment will fluctuate due to changes in market prices
Credit risk	The risk that an institution or a product the Council has invested in fails to pay the interest and/or repay the principal of an investment.
<u>Call funds</u>	Call funds are closely linked with investments but do not constitute investments. Call funds are used to meet immediate operational cash needs and may be retained in Council cheque accounts and call accounts at an ADI. Call funds must be accessible immediately or up to a maximum of 24 hours' notice within normal ADI operating hours.
	30 Day Bank Bill Index - The Bank Bill Index is designed to measure the performance of the Australian short-term money market and consists of 13 weekly maturities out to varying dates. Interest rates applied to these maturities are interpolated from cash and Bank Bill Swap (BBSW) rates. BBSW rates are administered by the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX).
	value, each with a maturity seven days apart. The average term to maturity is approximately 45 days. A Bank Bill is a non-interest bearing security issued by a bank whereby the bank takes on an obligation to pay an investor a fixed amount (face value) at a fixed future date. It is sold to an investor at a discount to the face value. Bank Bills are short-term money market investments with maturities usually between 30 days and 180 days.
<u>Benchmark</u> <u>rates</u>	Benchmark rates comprise: Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index - The Australian Bloomberg (formally UBSA) Bank Bill index is constructed as a benchmark to represent the performance of a passively managed short-term money market portfolio. It comprises thirteen Bank Bills of equal face
Active secondary market	investors, rather than from issuing companies themselves on an arm's length (independent) basis.
Approved Deposit-taking Institution (ADI)	An institution that is authorised under the Banking Act 1959 to accept term deposits and conduct banking activities in accordance with that Act and under the prudential supervision of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA). A market where investors purchase securities or assets from other
AusBond Bank Bill Index	The Bank Bill Index (BBI), formerly the UBS BBI, represents the performance of a notional rolling parcel of bills averaging 45 days, and is the widely used benchmark for local councils and other institutional cash investments.
<u>Impairment</u>	The impairment of an investment represents the amount of the original cost of the investment that is not expected to be recovered at the investment's maturity date due to current adverse economic or investment conditions that impact on the investment's financial performance.
	and limitations that arise due to changes in the level of unrelated investments within the portfolio, (the prohibition only remains as long as the breaches remain in place)

	within a timely period.
Maturity risk	The risk relating to the length of term to maturity of the investment - the longer the term, the greater the length of exposure and risk to market volatilities
Preservation of capital	The requirement for preventing losses in an investment portfolio's total value (considering the time value of money)
Diversification	Setting limits to the amounts invested with a particular financial institution or government authority to reduce credit risk.
Prudent Person	A hypothetical person used as a legal standard to determine whether someone acted with negligence.

4. CONTENT

4.1 <u>Investment Governance</u>

The following internal control practices are in place to ensure adequate governance and allow transparent and clear performance measurement for the management of Council's cash and investment portfolio:

- Financial planning and cash flow management
- Delegated authorities and investment approval
- Measurement of investment performance
- Performance benchmarks
- Reporting and review
- Audit oversight

4.2 <u>Delegation of Authority</u>

Authority for the implementation of the Investment Policy is delegated by Council to the General Manager in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

The General Manager (GM) has delegated the day-to-day management of Council's investment portfolio, including authority to invest surplus funds as follows:

- Finance Manager (FM)
- Other senior financial officers who have the requisite skills to undertake investment functions (as per the Delegations Register)

Officers with delegated authority are required to acknowledge they have received a copy of this policy and understand their obligations in this role.

4.3 Prudent Person Standard

Council has a fiduciary responsibility when investing. Council's investment portfoliq, will be managed with care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise. As trustees of public monies, officers are to manage Council's investment portfoliq in accordance with the spirit of this Investment Policy, and not for speculative purposes.

4.4 Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and

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management of Council's investment portfolio. Any potential conflicts of interest should be appropriately disclosed in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

Independent advisors are also to declare that they have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest and receive no inducements in relation to Council's investments.

4.5 Authorised Investments

Current investment regulations require Councils to invest with either the NSW Treasury Corporation (NSW TCorp) or Approved Deposit-taking Institutions (ADI) such as Australian banks or branches of foreign owned banks, credit unions and/or building societies as it acknowledges the additional assurance that arises from their regulation by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA).

Investments are limited to those allowed by any current Ministerial Investment Order that has been issued by the NSW Minister for Local Government.

4.6 Prohibited Investments

In accordance with any current Ministerial Investment Order, this investment policy prohibits but is not limited to any investment carried out for speculative purposes, including:

- Derivative based instruments
- Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDO's)
- Principal only investments or securities that provide potentially nil or negative cash flow
- Standalone securities issued that have underlying futures, options, forward contracts and swaps of any kind.

This policy also prohibits the use of leveraging (borrowing to invest) of an investment.

4.7 Local Economic Benefit

Council will give consideration to investment products from institutions that provide a direct economic benefit to the Snowy Valleys community. This may include:

- Institutions that operate a retail branch in the Council area
- Institutions specifically established for the purpose of investing in the local area such as local credit unions

This is conditional upon the Council complying with its other obligations under this policy and the achievement of comparable investment security and rates of return. Any such consideration will be in line with the Council's obligations under legislation and its purchasing policies and procedures.

4.8 Investment Advisor

In managing its investments Council may, from time to time, engage the services of an independent investment advisor, licensed by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission for the purpose of achieving the aims of this policy. Independence includes receiving no commissions or other benefits in relation to the investments being recommended or reviewed, except as fully rebated to Council, promptly.

The independent advisor will review and assess the market value of the investment portfolio on a monthly basis.

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Council's investment advisor is required to provide written confirmation that they do not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to the investments they are recommending or reviewing, including that they are not receiving any commissions or other benefits from the product providers in relation to the investments being recommended or reviewed.

4.9 Mandatory Investment Criteria

4.9.1 Scope

Investments must comply with the legislative authorities as described in the Legislative Authority for Investments paragraph of this policy.

4.9.2 Placing Investments

All new and renewal investments must be authorised by two (2) senior financial officers of Snowy Valleys Council one of which will be the FM.

4.9.3 Currency

All investments must be denominated in Australian Dollars.

4.9.4 Ownership

Investments must be held in Snowy Valleys Council name.

4.9.5 Risk Management Framework

Council's risk profile in relation to investing surplus funds is to be relatively prudent, conservative and risk averse. The profile will be achieved by effectively managing within the investment portfolio:

- The diversity of the investments
- The creditworthiness of the investments

Diversity is achieved by placing limits on the maximum exposure Council may have to individual funds or financial institutions and individual credit rating bands.

Creditworthiness of investments is primarily determined using industry standard credit ratings.

Investments are to comply with three key risk management criteria:

- Overall Portfolio Credit Framework: limit overall credit exposure of the portfolio
- Institutional Credit Framework: limit exposure to individual institutions based on their rating
- Term to Maturity Framework: limits based on maturity of securities

Overall Portfolio Credit Framework

To control the credit quality of the entire portfolio, the following credit framework limits the percentage of the total portfolio exposed to particular credit rating categories.

Credit rating agencies apply short-term ratings to investments with 12 months or less to maturity and long-term ratings to those with greater than 12 months to maturity.

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Investments are to comply with three key criteria relating to:¶

Counterparty / Institutional Credit Framework: limit exposure to individual institutions based on Their credit ratings;¶

Overall Portfolio Credit Framework: limit overall credit exposure of the portfolio. And;¶
Term to Maturity Framework: limits based upon

maturity Framework: limits based upon maturity of securities.¶

Deleted: (b) Overall Portfolio Credit Framework¶
To control the credit quality on the entire portfolio, the following credit framework limits the percentage of the portfolio exposed to any particular credit rating category. The maximum percentage of the total portfolio that can be held within any one credit rating category is as follows:¶

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- Credit ratings apply to both products and institutions. This policy requires the rating
 applicable to the institution responsible for the product (e.g. guarantor) to be taken as
 the relevant rating given this represents the underlying risk to Council.
- Credit risk investment parameters are based on credit rating bands as published by the credit rating agencies (e.g. S&P, Moody's, Fitch). If an investment is rated by more than one ratings agency, the credit rating to be used will be based on the order of S&P, Moody's and then Fitch. In the event of disagreement between agencies as to the rating band ("split ratings") Council shall use the higher in assessing compliance with portfolio policy limits, but for conservatism shall apply the lower in assessing new purchases.
- Where the principal amount and accrued interest of any investment with a financial institution are directly guaranteed by the Australian Federal Government for full repayment, the exposure of the total portfolio to credit ratings lower than AAA may be exceeded, provided that the excess amount comprises only guaranteed investments. As a result, investments directly guaranteed by the Australian Federal Government may comprise the total investment portfolio. Management should ensure that any excess of investments over the parameters specified in the table above that is comprised of Australian Federal Government guaranteed investments can be managed back to within the specified parameter levels prior to the expiration of any such guarantee.

Institutional Credit Framework

Council's exposure to an individual institution will be restricted by their credit rating so that single entity exposure is limited.

Where Council has short-term and long-term holdings with the same institution, the limit associated to the institution's long-term rating will be used.

Short-term credit rating	Long-term credit rating,	Overall portfolio exposure (as a % of Total Portfolio),
A-1+	AAA	30%
A-1	AA or Major Banks	30%
A-2	Α	20%
A-3	BBB	15%
Unrated	Unrated	<u>5</u> %

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 Adopted: 13/12/2007 estment Policy

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Framework¶
Exposure to an individual institution will be restricted by their credit rating so that single entity exposure is limited, as detailed in the table below with the exception of Councils primary business banker which will be limited to a maximum of 30%.¶

Deleted: Long-term credit rating

Deleted: Maximum Percentage of Total Investments Overall portfolio exposure (as a % of Total Portfolio)

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Unrated NSW Treasury Corp Managed Funds

30%

- Credit ratings apply to both products and institutions. This policy requires the rating applicable to the institution responsible for the product (e.g. guarantor) to be taken as the relevant rating given this represents the underlying risk to Council
- Credit risk investment parameters are based on credit rating bands as published by the credit rating agencies (e.g. S&P, Moody's, Fitch). If an investment is rated by more than one ratings agency, the credit rating to be used will be based on the order of S&P Moody's and then Fitch. In the event of disagreement between agencies as to the rating band ("split ratings") Council shall use the higher in assessing compliance with portfolio policy limits, but for conservatism shall apply the lower in assessing new purchases.
- Where the principal amount and accrued interest of any investment with a financial institution are directly guaranteed by the Australian Federal Government for full repayment, the exposure to individual institutions may exceed the stated limits provided that the excess amount comprises only guaranteed investments.

Term to Maturity Framework

The term to maturity framework specifies the maximum amounts or percentages of Council's total investment portfolio that can be held within the various investment maturity bands.

Maximum thresholds are set to control the proportion of the total portfolio that can be invested into longer term investments to ensure that Council has adequate access to short and medium term liquidity to satisfy its business objectives. The maximum thresholds reduce as the maturity horizon extends further into the future.

	< 1 Year	1 to 2 Years	2 to 5 Years	> 5 Years	
Maximum % of Total Portfolio	100%	70%	50%	<u>10</u> %	

Minimum thresholds are set to ensure that there will always be an adequate amount of liquidity available for ongoing working capital purposes. Remaining funds are invested across the various investment horizons, seeking the best relative value at the time of investment.

	< 1 Year
Minimum % of Total Portfolio	40%

4.9.6 Breaches of Criteria

This policy imposes limits and thresholds in relation to the acquisition and holding of investments. However, situations may occur where inadvertent breaches of these limitations or thresholds arise, other than from the acquisition of investments. For example:

- Amendments to regulatory directives or legislation
- Changes in the total value or amount of Council's investment portfolio which consequently changes any of the threshold limits so that they no longer meet the portfolio liquidity parameters

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Deleted: *Or Moody's/Fitch equivalent¶
^For the purpose of this Policy, "Major Banks" are currently defined as the ADI deposits or senior guaranteed principal and interest ADI securities issued by the major Australian banking groups: ¶ Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited

Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)¶ National Australia Bank Limited (NAB)¶
Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC)¶ westpac Barining Corporation (WBC)₁₁ including ADI subsidiaries whether or not explicitly guaranteed, and brands (such as St George), ¶ Council may ratify an alternative definition from time to time. Standard & Poor's ratings attributed to each individual institution will be used to determine maximum holdings. ¶

In the event of disagreement between agencies as to the rating band ("split ratings") Council shall use the higher in assessing compliance with portfolio Policy limits, but for conservatism shall apply the lower in assessing new purchases.¶

** Whilst these funds are unrated they provide a high

degree of capital security as all underlying investments are highly rated. In the case of Cash Fund these investments solely invest in minimum A1 short term and AA- long term rated investments and A2 short term and A long term in the case of the Strategic Cash Facility. They also provide Council with monthly income payments, diversification and quick access to funds.¶

Deleted: (c) Term to Maturity Framework¶ The investment portfolio is to be invested within the following maturity constraints:¶

Investment Horizon Description Formatted Table

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practicable. A resolution of Council is required for the

early termination of an investment where a potential loss of Capital is to be realised.

If the credit ratings of any of Council's investments are downgraded to an extent that they no longer fall within the investment policy limits, they will be divested as soon as practicable having regard to potential losses resulting from early redemption and subject to minimising any loss of capital that may arise from compliance with this provision.

Those limitations or thresholds breached due to amendments to regulatory directives or legislation, the investment portfolio must be managed in accordance with the respective amendments. Where the amendments enable retention and grandfathering of existing investments, Council may continue to actively manage those investments within the portfolio in accordance with all other regulations and policies applicable to such investments. This includes a strategy of holding or divesting such investments in accordance with regular investment considerations.

Where limitations or thresholds are breached due to a change in the overall size of the total investment portfolio, the following process will apply:

- An immediate freeze is imposed on the acquisition of new investments in the relevant category until the portfolio can be effectively managed back to accord with the requirements of this policy
- The relevant category of investments must be managed back in accord with the policy limits within a period that takes into account any adversity created by market liquidity, current valuations of these investments and the risks of default.

The immediate forced sale of the investments in breach of the limits or thresholds will not be required.

4.10 Measurement of Investment Performance

Investment performance includes both interest returns and any change in the underlying capital value of the investments.

Interim fluctuations of capital value are excluded from the monthly measurement of investment performance on the basis that:

- Investments are mainly acquired with the intention of holding them through to maturity, although some liquid assets may be sold prior to maturity should it be to the benefit of Council.
- Cash liquidity requirements are structured and managed to ensure that Council is not in a financial position that will require a forced sale of these assets

Notwithstanding the above, changes in capital value are important and the monthly investment report will therefore provide Council with indicative market valuations of each investment. In the event that the capital value of any investment becomes impaired, or a capital gain or loss is actually realised (through disposal), the gain or loss of value will be recognised within that month's financial accounts.

Investment performance will be measured monthly against the chosen benchmarks in relation to both current month and 12-month rolling returns.

The FM will approve the use of independently determined benchmarks. Where Council changes independently determined benchmarks, monthly reports for the month of change and the next five months thereafter shall contain reporting of investment returns against benchmark for both the following:

o The benchmark that is being replaced, and

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- o The new benchmark backdated on a twelve-month basis.
- Council currently uses two performance benchmarks:
- Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (formerly known as UBSA Bank Bill Index) the Bank Bill Index represents the performance of a notional rolling parcel of bills averaging 45 days and is the widely used benchmark for local councils and other institutional cash investments
- 30-day Bank Bill Rate provides a fair indicator of the risk free rate of return so that Council can understand the return that has been earned from diversifying its investment portfolio and accepting conservative levels of risk

4.11 Reporting and Review,

Council will maintain a separate record of money it has invested under section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, in accordance with the criteria defined by the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

All investments are to be appropriately recorded in Council's financial records and reconciled at least on a monthly basis.

Pursuant to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (clause 212), the FM will provide a monthly report to Council on investments. The monthly report to Council will detail the investment portfolio in terms of performance and rate of return on the overall portfolio for the period and will detail the purchase price, face value, current (market) value, credit rating and coupon / yield for each individual investment.

For audit purposes, the FM will obtain certificates from the banks or fund managers confirming the amounts of investment held on Council's behalf at 30 June each year.

The Investment Policy will be reviewed in the first year of each term of Council or as required in the event of legislative changes.

5. ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021,
- Ministerial Investment Order (gazetted)
- Trustee Act 1925 No 14
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting
- Australian Accounting Standards
- NSW Office of Local Government Investment Circulars
- NSW Office of Local Government Investment Policy, Guidelines

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Deleted: Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and management of Council's investment portfolio.¶
This policy requires officers to disclose any conflict of interest to the Chief Executive Officer.¶
Authorisations and Delegations in Place¶
The Chief Executive Officer has authority to invest surplus funds in accordance with this policy and may delegate this function to the Chief Financial O

Deleted: Investments made after the adoption of this Investment Policy are limited to those allowed by the most current Ministerial Investment Order issued by the NSW Minister for Local Government and include:¶ Commonwealth/State/Territory Government securities e.g.

Interest bearings deposits and senior securities issued by an authorised deposit-taking institution (ADI);¶
Bills of exchange, (< 200 days duration), guaranteed by an authorised deposit-taking institution (ADI);¶

Debentures issues by a Council (within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1993;¶ Deposits with NSW Treasury &/or Investments in TCorp's

Managed Funds; and¶
Investments grandfathered under the previous Ministerial Investment Ord

Deleted: Credit and Maturity Guidelines¶ Investments are to comply with three key criteria relating to:¶

Counterparty / Institutional Credit Framework: limit

exposure to individual institutions based on Their credit Overall Portfolio Credit Framework: limit overall credit

exposure of the portfolio. And;¶ Term to Maturity Framework: limits based upon maturity of securities.¶

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The Chief Executive Officer or the delegated representative is authorised to approve variations to this policy if the investment is to Council's advantage and/or due to revised legislation.¶

All changes to this Investment Policy are to be reported to Council as soon as practicable with any amendments to the Investment Policy to ultimately be by way of Council resolution.¶

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6. ASSOCIATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS Financial Reserve Management Policy – SVC-FIN-PO-056 7. HISTORY Date Resolution Date Resolution Number 10/12/2007 13/12/2007 SVC-FIN-PO-067-04 31/12/2007 M260 Review, refer to Investment Policy 23/07/2013 Review, refer to Investment SVC-FIN-PO-067-05 26/09/2013 M191 Council Policy 20/06/2016 Review, refer to Investment SVC-FIN-PO-067-06 30/6/2016 M63 Policy Council 28/12/2019 Investment 21/11/2019 M382/19 Adopted No SVC-FIN-PO-067-07 Submissions Policy 01/06/2021 SVC-FIN-PO-067-08 15/04/2021 M65/21 Adopted No Investment Submissions Policy For Public Investment SVC-FIN-PO-067-09 Deleted: Date

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