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ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION WORKSHOPS WITH STUDENTS

Over 500 students from schools across the Snowy Valleys took part in environmental workshops supported by Council and conducted by EnviroMentors.

The workshops aimed to inspire students to become environmental leaders in recycling and waste reduction.

Schools involved included Adelong, Franklin, Khancoban, and Tumbarumba Public Schools.

Students learned about "Composting and Worm Farming" and "Garbage to Garden" in hands-on workshops.

They showed enthusiasm for diverting waste from landfill and were familiar with Council's FOGO bins.

This program was funded by the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, of which SVC is a member.



Above: Adelong Public School students in their "Garbage to Garden" workshop.

COUNCILLOR COLUMN – MAYOR IAN CHAFFEY

As this term of council comes to an end it is interesting to reflect on the reaction of certain sections of the community's response to this year's council budget.

SVC has run at a deficit averaging 5 million dollars a year for 8 years and rundown in its cash reserves of approx. \$12 million.

When this council was elected in December 2021 there was a belief from some that the special rate variation proposed by the previous council was not needed. Unfortunately, that was not the case as the structural problems of the merged council are embedded, and I believe cannot be solved unless the council is demerged. The only other course of action available is to take the hard yards and either raise additional rate revenue or cut expenditure, neither of which is popular.

To fully understand the dilemma that the council faces needs more space than this column provides but in broad terms like any household or business if you keep spending more than you earn you will go broke.

Suffice to say, to partially address the issue of spending more money than you have, you only have two options.

After one Special Rate Variation of 36.5% spread over 2 years the community convinced IPART that an additional SRV was not an option leaving council with no other alternative than to cut staff and services in an attempt to balance the books.

Of the cut in expenditure of 1.25 million dollars, one-quarter of what is needed to bring the budget into balance, \$800,000 is in staff cuts.

I find it interesting that the greatest community reaction has been to the reduction in library and pool hours but not a mention of those employees who will lose their jobs.

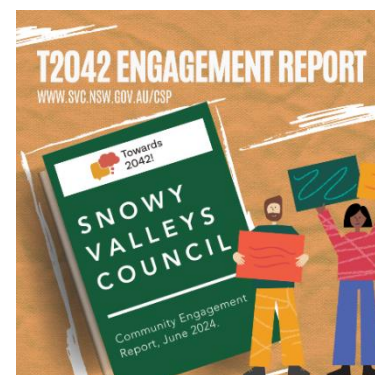
I cannot help but wonder where our community's priorities lie.

For those who believe there are other ways to stop living beyond our ability to pay, there is a golden opportunity to stand for election on the 14th of September as a councillor at Snowy Valleys Council.

TOWARDS 2042 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Our Towards 2042 Engagement Report captures the feedback we received earlier this year from more than 450 people who shared their perspectives, contributing to a review of the Snowy Valleys Community Strategic Plan (CSP). Read the report on our website to see what people had to say.

An updated CSP must be endorsed by Councillors before 30 June 2025.



CELEBRATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK - 29 JULY TO 4 AUGUST 2024

Local Government Week celebrates the range and diversity of services councils offer their communities.

Here's just a sample of some of the initiatives, programs and projects SVC has delivered over the last 12 months



Upgrades and new amenities for Tumbarumba Goldfields Park



Youth Week Basic Car Skills Workshop



Rehabilitation Works on Yaven Creek Rd



Tumbatrek 2024



Engagement sessions reviewing the Towards 2042! Community Strategic Plan



Summer Pool Parties with free entry, giant inflatables, and food



Upgrades and new amenities for Tumut Rotary Pioneer Park



School Holiday Bubble Games



Seniors Festival Expo Days



Small Business Month Webinars



Replacement of Brungle Creek Bridge # 3



Organics processing at the new Gilmore Processing Facility



18 new Aust Citizens welcomed



New worker accommodation at the Batlow Caravan Park officially opened

HAVE YOUR SAY – ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

- **Draft Water and Wastewater Charging Policy – submissions close 5 August**

Key proposed changes are in Section 4.10 - Undetected Leak or Exceptional Water Loss

- **Draft Council Managed Crown Land Plan of Management – submissions close 22 August**

Captures all Crown reserves managed by Council and addresses future management and uses of the land

- **Draft Zero Waste Strategy 2024 – 2030 – submissions close 30 August**

Refines targets from the original Strategy, removes actions that have already been undertaken and identifies a deliverable set of actions moving forward.