

Snowy Valleys Council

SRV Engagement Summary - October to December 2023

www.svc.nsw.gov.au/srv

COMMUNITY POP-UPS

| Date | Town | Venue | Time |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 23 October | Tumut | Outside Harvey Norman | 11.00am - 2.00pm |
| Friday 27 October | Batlow | Outside Batlow IGA | 11.00am - 1.30pm |
| Monday 30 October | Adelong | Outside Adelong IGA | 11.30am - 2.00pm |
| Tuesday 31 October | Talbingo | Outside Talbingo Supermarket | 11.30am - 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 1 November | Khancoban | Inside Pickled Parrot Providore | 10.30am - 12.00pm |
| Wednesday 1 November | Tumbarumba | Main Street Kiosk | 1.30pm - 3.30pm |

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

| Date | Venue | Time |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Tuesday 28 November | Tumbarumba RSL Hal | 7pm – 8.30pm |
| Wednesday 29 November | Tumut Montreal Community Theatre | 7pm – 8.30pm |
| Tuesday 5 December | Batlow Literary Institute | 7pm – 8.30pm |

LOCAL PRESS ADS

| Date | Publication | Content |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Friday 20 October | T&A Times | Community Pop-ups |
| Wednesday 25 October | Tumbarumba Times | Community Pop-ups |
| Wednesday 22 November | Tumbarumba Times | Community Meetings |
| Friday 24 November | T&A Times | Community Meetings |

SOCIAL MEDIA

| Date | Publication |
|----------------------|---|
| Wednesday 18 October | Let's talk SRV |
| Sunday 22 October | Join us at Pop-ups |
| Thursday 26 October | Join us at pop-up in Batlow tomorrow |
| Monday 30 October | More Pop ups this week |
| Sunday 19 November | Community meetings save the date |
| Monday 27 November | Community meetings this week in Tumba and Tumut |
| Monday 4 December | Community meeting tomorrow night in Batlow |

OTHER

| Date | Publication |
|---------------------|--|
| Thursday 12 October | Newsletter – Special Rate Variation Overview / community pop-ups |
| Monday 16 October | Media Release – Council begins community engagement on special rate variation proposal |
| Thursday 26 October | Newsletter - Let's talk SRV – Community Pop-ups |
| Thursday 9 November | Newsletter – Community meetings – let's talk special rate variation options |
| Thursday 9 November | Rate Payer Mail out – approx. 7,100 addresses |

| Date | Publication |
|--------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 14 November | Media release – Council to hold community meetings on SRV options |
| 18 October – 28 November | Local radio |

APPENDIX

Pg 4 Yourvoice.SVC website snip

Pg 5 Webpage - Let's Talk Special Rate Variation

Pg 12 Online SRV Survey

Pg 15 Council Newsletter – published 12/10/23

Pg 17 Media Release - issued 16/10/23

Pg 19 Council Newsletter – published 26/10/23

Pg 21 Local Press Ad – published 20/10/23 and 25/10/23

Pg 22 Council Newsletter – published 9/11/23

Pg 24 Rate Payer Letter and double-sided flyer – issued 9/11/23

Pg 27 Media Release issued - 14/11/23

Pg 28 Council Newsletter – published 23/11/23

Pg 30 Local Press Ad – published 22/11/23 and 24/11/23

Pg 31 Presentation delivered at Community Meetings – 28/11, 29/11 & 5/12, 2023

Pg 53 Examples of Social Media posts published between Oct-Dec 2023

Pg 54 Photos

- Community pop-ups in Tumut, Talbingo and Batlow
- Community meetings in Tumut and Tumbarumba



Welcome to our Snowy Valleys engagement hub! Council is committed to sharing and consulting with our community about important projects and initiatives "Your Voice" is a place for you to get involved and help shape the future of our region. Have your say on any of our draft policies and plans or check out what's happening with the major projects in your town.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE - Find out more about Council projects and plans that are being developed to help shape the future of the Snowy Valleys

Special Rate Variation

Council is investigating a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to help achieve financial sustainability.

[Learn More](#)



Council is investigating a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) to achieve financial sustainability.

Get Involved

- Take the [Quick Survey](#).
- Provide your feedback via the online [Feedback Form](#)
- Attend one of our [Pop-ups during October](#)
- Attend one of our [Community Meetings in November](#)
- Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Use the [Rates Calculator](#) to review the impact of the SRV scenarios on your annual rates bill

Learn More

Council's financial sustainability has been an ongoing concern since 2020. In 2022, in an effort to become financially sustainable, council successfully applied for a permanent 35.9% special rate variation (SRV) which came into effect over the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.


Cost to Council pressures to date have further been exacerbated by the high inflation environment and an increasingly competitive employment market that has occurred post-COVID-19, as well as cost shifting from previously State Government funded services that are now at Council's cost (like the recently announced increase to the Emergency Service Levy), a continuation of rate pegging, and the normal increased service level expectations.

The findings of Professor Joseph Drew in the detailed financial analysis undertaken as part of the de-amalgamation business case review also identified the serious current underlying financial challenges faced by Council.



Rates Calculator

Download the Rates Calculator and have your Annual Rates Notice handy, so you can enter your Property Value. If you do not have Microsoft Excel and/or cannot download the calculator, contact Council on 1300 275 782 for assistance.

 [SRV Rates Calculator V3.xlsx](#)
(82.6 KB) (xlsx)

Community Meetings

Join Councillors and Senior Staff to learn more about the proposed SRV and other sustainability initiatives
28 November → 05 December 2023

Community Pop-Ups

Drop into one of our Community Pop-ups and learn more about Council's financial sustainability plans.
23 October → 01 November 2023

As a result, internal productivity savings and the 2022 SRV has unfortunately not been sufficient to achieve Council's financial sustainability, so we are exploring opportunities to implement a new permanent SRV as part of a range of initiatives to make sure services can be delivered into the future.

Council's funds are broken into three (3) main areas - General, water and sewer. General fund refers to all council activities except for water and sewer services.

At present, Council's water and sewer funds are covering their respective costs. However, the General fund is experiencing a significant deficit which is projected to continue over the next 10 years.


Current modeling in Council's 2023-2033 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) shows that further rate increases are needed to enable Council to maintain current service levels, adequately fund ongoing asset maintenance, reduce Council's reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals, and ensure Council's financial sustainability.

Council's LTFP includes three scenarios, all based on existing service delivery levels and maintaining our growing Capital base.


The assumptions made by implementing an SRV for the general fund have been developed with the primary aim of achieving a balanced operating position.


- Scenario 1 (base case) shows Council's expected financial position with reliance just on the rate cap would be a continued deficit in excess of \$4 million in its General Fund each year (before Capital grants and contributions). This scenario is not sustainable.
- Scenario 2 introduces permanent 18% SRV increases over two consecutive years 2024/25 and 2025/26 (39.24% cumulated) which would show a return to a balanced operating budget (before hoped for grants and capital contributions) from year 2025/26 and an overall balanced budget with a slow increase in a small (<2%) surplus over the 10 year period to service any further cost shifting or unexpected new service deliveries as was the case during Covid.


Frequently Asked Questions


 [FAQS - Special Rate Variation Community Engagement - Oct 2023.pdf \(152 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Other Documents

 [SRV Presentation - Community Meetings.pdf \(501 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

 [Special Rate Variation Community Information Flyer.pdf \(206 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

 [Long-Term Financial Plan 2023-2033 - Updated version - For adoption - 21 September 2023.pdf \(1.56 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

 [20231016 - Media Release - Council Begins Community Engagement on Special Rate Variation Proposal.pdf \(73.6 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

 [SRV Community Pop-up Flyer for website.pdf \(182 KB\)](#)

- Scenario 3 introduces permanent 12.5% increases (42.38% cumulated) spread over three consecutive years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 which would show a return to a balanced budget (before hoped for grants and capital contributions) from year 2026/27 and an overall balanced budget with a slow increase in a small (<2%) surplus over the 10 year period to service any further cost shifting or unexpected new service deliveries as was the case during Covid.

Income Consolidated (including water and sewer) - Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes (LTFP 2023-2033). The increased rating level at the completion of the SRV Scenarios would then remain permanently and be the amount subject to any future increases.

| Financial year | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | 2030/31 | 2031/32 | 2032/33 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Scenario 1 – no SRV, rate peg only | (1,444) | (1,394) | (1,585) | (1,736) | (1,886) | (1,718) | (1,766) | (1,758) | (1,572) | (1,285) |
| Scenario 2 - 18% SRV over two consecutive years 2024/25 and 2025/26. (39.24% cumulated) | (1,444) | 452 | 2,392 | 2,361 | 2,313 | 2,586 | 2,645 | 2,763 | 3,063 | 4,962 |

(pdf)

Important Links

De-amalgamation Business Case

Key dates



Community Information and Feedback Period

12 Oct - 15 Dec 2023



Under Review

December 2023/January 2024: Contributions to this consultation will be evaluated as part of the SRV application development process.



Council Meeting

January 2024: Council Meeting to review outcomes of

| Financial year | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | 2030/31 | 2031/32 | 2032/33 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Scenario 3 - 12.5% SRV over three consecutive years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. (42.38% cumulated) | (1,444) | (240) | 829 | 2,200 | 2,148 | 2,417 | 2,472 | 2,586 | 2,881 | 3,279 |

Income General Fund (excluding water and sewer) - Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes (LTFP 2023-2033). The increased rating level at the completion of the SRV Scenarios would then remain permanently and be the amount subject to any future increases.

| Financial year | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | 2030/31 | 2031/32 | 2032/33 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Scenario 1 – no SRV, rate peg only | (4,482) | (4,105) | (4,183) | (4,245) | (4,334) | (4,212) | (4,271) | (4,277) | (4,251) | (4,152) |

consultation and proceed with SRV application

Submit application to IPART

February 2024: The application is submitted.

IPART decision

May/June 2024: IPART provides decision on SRV application and Council determines draft 2024-25 Budget

Budget is adopted

June 2024: Council adopts 2024-25 Budget

| Financial year | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | 2030/31 | 2031/32 | 2032/33 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Scenario 2 - 18% SRV over two consecutive years 2024/25 and 2025/26. (39.24% cumulated) | (4,482) | (2,259) | (206) | (148) | (135) | 92 | 104 | 244 | 383 | 598 |
| Scenario 3 - 12.5% SRV over three consecutive years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. (42.38% cumulated) | (4,482) | (2,951) | (1,769) | (309) | (300) | (77) | (33) | 67 | 202 | 412 |

The SRV scenarios result in balanced budget which allows Council to increase its asset replacement reserves ensuring current expected services can be delivered into the future. In the long-term it allows Council to invest responsibly in infrastructure and avoids burdening future generations with excessive costs or excessive reductions to services.

How to assess the proposed SRV Options

An SRV is calculated on the Ordinary Rate only. This is listed as a separate line item on your Rates Notice. Please use only this amount to calculate the percentage increase applicable each year.

Your rates notice could also contain separate charges for Sewer, Water and Waste. These items are not impacted by any SRV.

At the completion of the implementation period for the SRV, annual increases return to a rate pegging amount only (typically between 1.5% - 2.5%) set by the State Government.

SRV Option 1 - The increased rating level at the completion of 2025/26 would then remain permanently and be the amount subject to any future increases.

| | Average Rate Paid per property | SRV 18% 2024/25 | SRV 18% 2025/26 |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ordinary Business Rate | 2,071.48 | 2,444.35 | 2,884.33 |
| Ordinary Farmland Rate | 2,705.38 | 3,192.35 | 3,766.98 |
| Ordinary Mining Rate | 3,174.23 | 3,745.60 | 4,419.80 |
| Ordinary Residential Rate | 907.39 | 1,070.72 | 1,263.45 |

SRV Option 2 - The increased rating level at the completion of 2026/27 would then remain permanently and be the amount subject to any future increases.

| | Average Rate Paid per property | SRV 12.5% 2024/25 | SRV 12.5% 2025/26 | SRV 12.5% 2026/27 |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ordinary Business Rate | \$2,071.48 | \$2,330.42 | \$2,621.72 | \$2,949.43 |
| Ordinary Farmland Rate | \$2,705.38 | \$3,043.56 | \$3,424.00 | \$3,852.00 |
| Ordinary Mining Rate | \$3,174.23 | \$3,571.01 | \$4,017.39 | \$4,519.56 |
| Ordinary Residential Rate | \$907.39 | \$1,020.82 | \$1,148.42 | \$1,291.97 |

Rates Calculator

You can also use our online Rates Calculator to review the impact of the SRV scenarios on your annual rates bill. Please be advised that the rates calculator will calculate your new annual rate with the two (2) proposed SRV options. This calculation does not include any water, sewer or waste charges which also form part of your general rates notice.

Download the SRV Rates Calculator. Have your Annual Rates Notice handy, so you can enter your Property Value. If you do not have Microsoft Excel and/or are unable to download the calculator, contact Council on 1300 275 782 for assistance.

SRV Rates Calculator

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

! This survey no longer accepts submissions

SRV SURVEY

Council is considering two options to become financially sustainable, both of which require a special rate variation. Please take this quick survey to let us know which option you prefer.

You are encouraged to use our online Rates Calculator to review the impact of the SRV scenarios on your annual rates bill prior to taking the survey.

We also encourage you to review the additional information on Council's financial position from this website and have your say.

You will be submitting this survey as **SVC**, to change this [logout](#)

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required

1. Please select those that best describe your situation *

Resident Ratepayer

Business Owner/Operator

Landlord

Renter

Non-Resident Ratepayer

Other (please specify)

2. Do you understand why Council is seeking a Special Rate Variation (SRV)? *

Yes

No

Other (please specify)

3. Council is considering two SRV options to become financially sustainable. Which SRV option do you prefer Council applies for: *

Option 1: a permanent special rate variation of 39.24% spread over two (2) years 2024/25 and 2025/26 – 18% increase each year

Option 2: a permanent special rate variation of 42.38% spread over three (3) years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 – 12.5% increase each year

Other (please specify)

4. Do you have any other comments you wish to make in regard to Council's proposal to seek an SRV?

5. You can also upload a pre-prepared response

 **Upload file**

Submit

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NEW ACCOMMODATION OPENED



The new Itinerant Worker Accommodation at the Batlow Caravan Park was officially opened on Wednesday 4 October.

Wagga MP Dr Joe McGirr MP joined Mayor Ian Chaffey, Councillors and community members for the official ceremony.

Dr McGirr said that the opening was another chapter in Batlow's recovery from the 2019-20 bushfires.

The project was jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Government's and has provided an additional 60 permanent beds to support the local horticultural and forestry industries.



TOOMA ROAD WORKS

Road repair works are underway on a 1.4km section of Tooma Rd near the Paddys River Falls Rd intersection. The works involve 100mm of gravel overlay which will then be sealed with two coat seal.



This project is funded under the NSW Government's Regional and Local Road Repair Program (RLRRP) and will be completed in 3-4 weeks subject to favourable weather conditions.

COUNCILLOR COLUMN – MAYOR IAN CHAFFEY

I urge all residents to start preparing your homes and properties ahead of the start of this year's bushfire season.

We are entering an El Nino weather phase which brings hot and dry conditions and below-average rainfall and we have already seen bushfires on the NSW south coast and Hunter regions so we can't be complacent thinking it won't happen to us again.

It is vital that we listen to the advice from the NSW Rural Fire Service and our own local Brigades to act now and develop our bushfire survival plans and clean up our houses and properties.

This includes things like clearing gutters, keeping grass short, and cleaning up fallen leaves, twigs, and branches from around our yards and paddocks.

We need to ensure we have cleared around our homes including things like moving the firewood stacked on the front veranda away from any buildings. The last thing we want is to leave more fire fuel lying around.

The RFS also recommends that residents:

- Develop a bushfire survival plan and talk about it with family/friends
- Use the NSW bushfire household assessment tool to know your fire risk
- Be aware of the new fire danger ratings and how to use them as a trigger for action
- Know where your local Neighbourhood Safer Places are located, should you need to seek shelter
- Create a watch zone on the Hazards Near Me app to be notified of any fires in your area

It's not only up to the RFS to keep us safe, as residents we have a responsibility to ensure our own safety and preparedness too.





Council is investigating a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to achieve financial sustainability.

The SRV approved in 2022 has unfortunately not been sufficient to achieve Council’s financial sustainability so we are exploring opportunities to implement a new SRV to make sure services can be delivered into the future.

Council’s cost pressures have been exacerbated by the high inflation environment and an increasingly competitive employment market that has occurred post-COVID-19, as well as cost shifting from previously State Government funded services that are now at Council’s cost (like the recently announced increase to the Emergency Service Levy), a ceiling placed on rates, and the normal increased service expectations.

Current modeling in Council’s 2023-2033 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) shows that further rate increases are needed to enable Council to maintain current service levels, adequately fund ongoing asset maintenance, reduce Council’s reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals, and ensure Council’s financial sustainability.

SRV OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Option 1

- 18% permanent SRV increases over two consecutive years 2024/25 and 2025/26 (39.24% cumulated)

This option would show a return to a balanced operating budget* from year 2025/26 and an overall balanced budget with a slow increase in a small (<2%) surplus over the 10 year period to service any further cost shifting or unexpected new service deliveries as was the case during Covid.

Option 2

- 12.5% permanent SRV increases over three consecutive years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 (42.38% cumulated)

This option would show a return to a balanced operating budget* from year 2026/27 and an overall balanced budget with a slow increase in a small (<2%) surplus over the 10 year period to service any further cost shifting or unexpected new service deliveries as was the case during Covid.

*before grants and capital contributions

An SRV is calculated on the Ordinary Rate only. Your rates notice could also contain separate charges for Sewer, Water and Waste. These items are not impacted by any SRV.

These SRV scenarios result in a balanced budget which allows Council to increase its asset replacement reserves ensuring current expected services can be delivered into the future. In the long-term it allows Council to invest responsibly in infrastructure and avoids burdening future generations with excessive costs or excessive reductions to services.

LET’S TALK SRV

Drop into one of our Community Pop-ups and learn more about Council’s financial sustainability plans. Or visit our website to take our quick online Survey and use our Rates Calculator to better understand the impact to your rates. www.svc.nsw.gov.au/srv

| Date | Town | Venue | Time |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 23 October | Tumut | Outside Harvey Norman | 11.00am - 2.00pm |
| Friday 27 October | Batlow | Outside Batlow IGA | 11.00am - 1.30pm |
| Monday 30 October | Adelong | Outside Adelong IGA | 11.30am - 2.00pm |
| Tuesday 31 October | Talbingo | Outsite Talbingo Supermarket | 11.30am - 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 1 November | Khancoban | Inside Pickled Parrot Providore | 10.30am - 12.00pm |
| Wednesday 1 November | Tumbarumba | Main Street Kiosk | 1.30pm - 3.30pm |

For immediate release

16 October 2023

Council Begins Community Engagement on Special Rate Variation Proposal

Snowy Valleys Council has announced a series of community pop-up dates to discuss the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation, which involves options for a Special Rate Variation.

Interim General Manager Steven Pinnuck said Council is investigating applying for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to achieve financial sustainability.

“Unfortunately, the SRV approved in 2022 has not been sufficient to achieve Council’s financial sustainability so we are exploring opportunities to implement a new SRV to make sure services can be delivered into the future,” Mr Pinnuck explained.

“Council’s cost pressures have been exacerbated by the high inflation environment and an increasingly competitive employment market that has occurred post-COVID-19, as well as cost shifting from previously State Government funded services that are now at Council’s cost (like the recently announced increase to the Emergency Service Levy), a continuation of rate pegging, and the normal increased service level expectations.

“Current modeling in Council’s 2023-2033 Long Term Financial Plan shows that further rate increases are needed to enable Council to maintain current service levels, adequately fund ongoing asset maintenance, reduce Council’s reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals, and ensure Council’s financial sustainability.”

There are two permanent SRV options explored in the Long Term Financial Plan, option one would see 18% increases over two consecutive years (39.24% cumulative) while option two would see 12.5% increases over three consecutive years (42.38% cumulated).

Mr Pinnuck said both SRV options result in a balanced budget which will allow Council to increase its asset replacement reserves ensuring current expected services can be delivered into the future.

“In the long-term it allows Council to invest responsibly in infrastructure and avoids burdening future generations with excessive costs or excessive reductions to services,” he said.

Community members can learn more about the council's sustainability measures and the two SRV options at Community Pop-ups happening around the region in late October.

Further information is also available from Council's website including a quick survey where people can have their say on which SRV option council should proceed with. www.svc.nsw.gov.au/srv

COMMUNITY INFORMATION POP-UPS

| Date | Town | Venue | Time |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
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-ENDS-

For more on all these stories visit
www.svc.nsw.gov.au

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www.svc.nsw.gov.au/enewsletter

WORKS UNDERWAY – WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!

Our teams are working on various projects around our region, including:

- Capper Street footpath – linking the existing Capper St footpath to the newly constructed roundabout. (right completed footpath)



- Brindabella Road – widening works have recommenced after the Winter break. The project is on track to finish in late November 2023.

- Fairway Drive Estate - Electrical trenching works.

- Tooma Road - Repair works to 1.4km section of Tooma Rd near the Paddys River Falls Rd intersection. Works scheduled to be completed in early Nov 2023. (below Tooma Rd gravel stabilisation works)



ADELONG BIN SURROUNDS

We're excited to share that the new bin surrounds in Adelong have been installed!

Thanks to the Adelong community for their valuable input, helping to decide on a design that pays homage to the town's rich history, with a nod to the Gold Mill Ruins. Check out the shovel and pick design that's now gracing the streets!



COUNCILLOR COLUMN – CR JULIA HAM

There have been four standouts for me recently:

1. Councillor Armour and I attend the 2023 Digital Agrifood Summit at Charles Sturt University. This summit outlined the importance of knowing and planning for data to be collected on the Environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects of council and in agriculture working towards a more environmentally sustainable future. We learned about many new technologies and processes which will impact everyone's way of life in this quickly changing world



2. A very successful visit was made by the Wagga City Councillors who were keen to view the success of the rail trail from Tumbarumba to Rosewood. We showed where a possible extension of the trail could go through the Forestry land leading down to Humula. An enjoyable lunch was shared at Gone Barney.

3. Applications for a possible Regional University Study Hub formerly known as a Country University Centre (CUC) are closing on the 15th of December. With the help of a newly formed board, we hope to take advantage of the federal government grant for Tumut and surrounds.

4. So good to see Snowy Hydro come on board as a partner to The Snowy Valleys Sculpture Trail. On the weekend I was one of the 450,000 visitors to the Sculptures by the Sea at Bondi. If we can have just 1% of these people visit our region to look at the sculptures the impact on local businesses will be positive. Thanks to David Handley and his Board for the continued support of the region.



LET'S TALK SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

To deliver the current expected and necessary services and achieve financial sustainability, Council is exploring opportunities to implement a new permanent SRV to make sure services can be delivered into the future.

Drop into one of our Community Pop-ups and learn more about our financial sustainability plans and ask your questions.

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|----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
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Productivity savings and the SRV approved in 2022 have unfortunately not been sufficient to achieve Council's financial sustainability so we are exploring two SRV options:

- **SRV Option 1** - 18% permanent SRV increases over two consecutive years 2024/25 and 2025/26. (39.24% cumulated).
- **SRV Option 2** - 12.5% permanent SRV increases over three consecutive years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. (42.38% cumulated).

Visit our website to take the quick online Survey and use our Rates Calculator to better understand the impact to your rates. www.svc.nsw.gov.au/srv

TUMBARUMBA FLOOD STUDY FEEDBACK

We are keen to hear from locals about their experiences with flooding events around Tumbarumba to help inform a Tumbarumba Flood Study.

Community members are invited to share their local knowledge and flooding experiences online via the Flood Study Survey and/or in person at the Community Pop-Up.



Community Pop-Up

Tumbarumba Flood Study

- Friday 10 November
- 9.00am to 11.00pm
- Meeting Room 2
- Council Offices, Bridge St, Tumbarumba

www.svc.nsw.gov.au/tumba-flood-study

SVC VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED



Recently, we took a moment to say THANK YOU to our amazing volunteers at special morning tea events in Tumbarumba (pictured above) and Tumut (below).

Council has around 70 registered volunteers, from the hardworking Community Transport Drivers to Visitor Information Centre helpers and green thumbed heroes that keep our parks beautiful.

To our remarkable volunteers, your dedication and kindness make a world of difference. Thank you for making our community a better place.



MORE VANDALISM IN OUR PUBLIC AMENITIES

Several public amenities including some of our new facilities have again been the target of substantial vandalism. This is very frustrating for our staff who spend considerable time and money repairing the damage.

Our parks and public amenities are provided for the use of residents and visitors and it is particularly disappointing to know that persons are deliberately sabotaging them.

The police have been contacted and we encourage you to report any suspicious activity to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppers.com.au



COUNCIL IS INVESTIGATING A PERMANENT SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) TO ACHIEVE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY.

The SRV approved in 2022 has unfortunately not been sufficient to achieve Council's financial sustainability so we are exploring opportunities to implement a new SRV to make sure services can be delivered into the future.

Council's cost pressures have been exacerbated by the high inflation environment and an increasingly competitive employment market that has occurred post-COVID-19, as well as cost shifting from previously State Government funded services that are now at Council's cost (like the recently announced increase to the Emergency Service Levy), a continuation of rate pegging, and the normal increased service level expectations.

Current modelling in Council's 2023-2033 Long Term Financial Plan shows that further rate increases are needed to enable Council to maintain current service levels, adequately fund ongoing asset maintenance, reduce Council's reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals, and ensure Council's financial sustainability.

SRV OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Option 1

- 18% permanent SRV increases over two (2) consecutive years 2024/25 and 2025/26. (39.24% cumulated)

This option would show a return to a balanced operating budget* from year 2025/26.

Option 2

- 12.5% permanent SRV increases over three (3) consecutive years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. (42.38% cumulated)

This option would show a return to a balanced operating budget* from year 2026/27.

*before grants and capital contributions

These SRV scenarios result in a balanced budget which allows Council to increase its asset replacement reserves ensuring current expected services can be delivered into the future. In the long-term it allows Council to invest responsibly in infrastructure and avoids burdening future generations with excessive costs or excessive reductions to services.

COMMUNITY POP-UPS - LEARN MORE AND ASK YOUR QUESTIONS

Drop into one of our Community Pop-ups and learn more about Council's financial sustainability plans.

| Date | Town | Venue | Time |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Monday 23 October | Tumut | Outside Harvey Norman | 11.00am - 2.00pm |
| Friday 27 October | Batlow | Outside Batlow IGA | 11.00am - 1.30pm |
| Monday 30 October | Adelong | Outside Adelong IGA | 11.30am - 2.00pm |
| Tuesday 31 October | Talbingo | Outside Talbingo Supermarket | 11.30am - 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 1 November | Khancoban | Inside Pickled Parrot Providore | 10.30am - 12.00pm |
| Wednesday 1 November | Tumbarumba | Main Street Kiosk | 1.30pm - 3.30pm |

**To access the online Rates Calculator and take our Quick Survey
visit www.svc.nsw.gov.au/srv**

For more on all these stories visit
www.svc.nsw.gov.au

Want to join our mailing list?
Subscribe at

www.svc.nsw.gov.au/enewsletter

BRINDABELLA ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The 10km stretch of Brindabella Rd between the Goodradigbee River and Piccadilly Circus (ACT border) is now wider and safer than ever.

Work has focused on improving safety for users by widening the road and improving steep edges and road shoulders.

In places, the road has been widened by up to four metres and the excavated material has been used to form safety barriers to prevent steep drop-offs.

The full project is on track to be finished by the end of the year with final road resealing works planned for December.

These \$3,000,000 safety improvements were funded by the NSW Government's Fixing Local Roads Fund.

Photo: The same section of Brindabella Rd – top photo before and bottom photo after widening works.



CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS



Photo: Cr Hayes with Triniti Hussell one of the 2023 scholarship recipients.

Applications are now open for the 2024 Snowy Valleys Council Scholarship through Charles Sturt University.

In this round two successful applicants will each receive \$5,000 to assist with university costs. Eligible students must have completed Years 11 and 12 in the Snowy Valleys region and be living or have a parent residing in the area.

To apply online visit our website, applications close 5 February 2024.

COUNCILLOR COLUMN – CR JAMES HAYES

Last week Crs Armour, Hughes, and I attended a two-day course provided by the Australian Institute of Company Directors covering Governance Essentials for Local Government. This was a great opportunity to hear from experts and liaise with other councillors from across our region.

Cr Hughes and I travelled to Canberra via the Brindabella Rd, I am elated with the extent and calibre of construction to date, our contractors and staff have excelled on this project.

It is encouraging indeed to see years of advocacy for this project reaping rewards. (The Brindabella Rd albeit vastly improved still has 40 kms of unsealed section and is not suitable for caravans, sports cars, or the fainthearted)

More good news from the NSW Govt and Office of Local Government with a \$1 million severe weather and flood grant received following flooding in November 2022.

Some of the projects this funding will go towards include Tumbarumba creek walk betterment, Adelong Main St design, Adelong Creek riparian works and a community event in Khancoban. Special thanks to SVC staff and Local member Joe McGirr for assisting.

I was able to visit Sculpture by the Sea in Bondi and grateful for the opportunity to highlight the Snowy Valley Sculpture Trail during an interview with Simon Marney on ABC Saturday morning radio.

I also accompanied Keld Moseholm's family and other artists to the announcement of Snowy Hydro's funding of the Snowy Valleys Sculpture Trail and Education program at Adelong.

More good news for locals with the reopening of the Adelong Swinging Bridge after several years, thanks to John D'Allesandro and Fiona Matthews who have worked so hard to make this a reality.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS - SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

To continue to deliver the current expected and necessary services and achieve financial sustainability, Council is exploring opportunities to implement a new Special Rate Variation (SRV) to make sure services can be delivered into the future. Another SRV alone will not be sufficient to ensure Council's financial sustainability and a range of other initiatives will also need to be implemented.

Join Councillors and Senior Staff at a Community Meeting to learn more about the SRV options and how council is working towards becoming financially sustainable.

Each meeting will run from 7.00pm to 8.30pm

- Tuesday 28 November – Tumbarumba RSL Hall
- Wednesday 29 November – Tumut Montreal Community Theatre
- Tuesday 5 December – Batlow Literary Institute



| Date | Venue | Time |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday 28 November | Tumbarumba RSL Hall | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |
| Wednesday 29 November | Tumut Montreal Community Theatre | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |
| Tuesday 5 December | Batlow Literary Institute | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |

Visit our website to take the quick Online Survey and use the Rates Calculator.

ROAD WORKS – WEE JASPER RD

Road repair works are in progress on a 400-metre stretch of Wee Jasper Road including the intersection of Wee Jasper Road and Brungle Road.

The areas will be gravelled and resealed to fix defects in the road surface and provide safer travelling.

The work will take 3-4 weeks, depending on favourable weather conditions, and drivers should exercise caution during this period.

Funding is provided through the NSW Government's Regional and Local Road Repair Program.



NATURE FUN AT PIONEER PARK



Youngsters have been loving the new nature play areas and cool playground equipment at Tumut's Rotary Pioneer Park. Spinning orb, trampoline, and slide - there's something for everyone!

Recent improvements include carpark upgrades with clearing, concrete edging, bollard installation, and sealing. We've also been busy installing timber seating and plantings.

The final phase includes the installation of a footbridge connecting the two carparks and solar lighting along the Riverwalk, ensuring your safety from the racecourse to Riverglade Caravan Park.

Funded under the NSW Government's Public Spaces Legacy Program.



GARAGE SALE TRAIL

Get involved in some treasure-hunting fun across two weekends in November - 11-12 & 18-19.

There are already over 15 sales registered in the Snowy Valleys with more coming on board every day, so you're sure to find a bargain or two.

Shopping at a garage sale is a simple action we can all take to reuse and reduce waste to landfill.

www.garagesaletrail.com.au/svc



November 2023

Dear Snowy Valleys Rate Payer,

To continue to deliver the current expected and necessary services and achieve financial sustainability, Council is exploring opportunities to implement a new Special Rate Variation (SRV) to make sure services can be delivered into the future. Another SRV alone will not be sufficient to ensure Council's financial sustainability and a range of other initiatives will also need to be implemented.

Like other businesses, Council is subject to everyday cost increases in areas such as electricity, construction, building maintenance and mandatory staff wage increases. Added to these rising costs is the continued state government cost-shifting plus other expenses outside Council's control thanks to the current high inflation environment.

Previous budget forecasts could not fully predict these changes, so in order to absorb some of the impact of these extra financial strains from the public, Council has already commenced reviewing the structure of the organisation including staffing levels and the manner in which services are delivered.

Council is investigating two SRV options, Option One would see 18% increases over two consecutive years (39.24% cumulative) while Option Two would see 12.5% increases over three consecutive years (42.38% cumulated).

I invite you to review the options and further information contained in the attached flyer and have your say via the online survey and feedback form on our website. We have also made available an online rates calculator where you can review the impact of the SRV options on your own annual rates bill.

If you are not able to access the feedback form and survey online, I would encourage you to write to Council with your feedback – Attention: Interim General Manager, 76 Capper Street, Tumut NSW 2720 before 15 December 2023.

Yours faithfully



INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER



Leading, Engaging and
Supporting Strong and
Vibrant Communities

P: 1300 ASK SVC (1300 275 782)

Tumut Office
76 Capper Street
Tumut NSW 2720

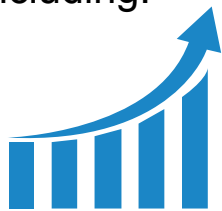
Tumbarumba Office
Bridge Street
Tumbarumba NSW 2653

E: info@svc.nsw.gov.au www.svc.nsw.gov.au

Council is investigating a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) to achieve financial sustainability.

Productivity savings and the SRV approved in 2022 has unfortunately not been sufficient to achieve Council’s financial sustainability so we are exploring opportunities to implement a new SRV to make sure services can be delivered into the future.

Council’s cost pressures have been exacerbated by outside forces including:



High inflation environment



Cost shifting from State Government
(like the Emergency Service Levy)



Competitive employment
market - post Covid-19



A continuation of rate pegging

Current modeling in Council’s 2023-2033 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) shows that further rate increases are needed to enable Council to maintain current service levels, adequately fund ongoing asset maintenance, reduce Council’s reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals, and ensure Council’s financial sustainability.

SRV OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Option 1

- 18% permanent SRV increases over two consecutive years 2024/25 and 2025/26 (39.24% cumulated)

This option would show a return to a balanced operating budget* from year 2025/26 and an overall balanced budget with a slow increase in a small (<2%) surplus over the 10 year period to service any further cost shifting or unexpected new service deliveries as was the case during Covid-19.

Option 2

- 12.5% permanent SRV increases over three consecutive years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 (42.38% cumulated)

This option would show a return to a balanced budget* from year 2026/27 and an overall balanced budget with a slow increase in a small (<2%) surplus over the 10 year period to service any further cost shifting or unexpected new service deliveries as was the case during Covid-19

*before grants and capital contributions

An SRV is calculated on the Ordinary Rate only. Your rates notice could also contain separate charges for Sewer, Water and Waste. These items are not impacted by any SRV.

AN EXAMPLE TABLE FOR THE IMPACT OF THE SRV OPTIONS IS BELOW:

| Option 1 | Average Rate Paid per Property | SRV 18% 2024/25 | SRV 18% 2025/26 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ordinary Residential Rate | \$907.39 | \$1,070.72 | \$1,263.45 |
| Ordinary Farmland Rate | \$2,705.38 | \$3,192.35 | \$3,766.98 |
| Ordinary Business Rate | \$2,071.48 | \$2,444.35 | \$2,884.33 |
| Ordinary Mining Rate | \$3,174.23 | \$3,745.60 | \$4,419.80 |

| Option 2 | Average Rate Paid per Property | SRV 12.5% 2024/25 | SRV 12.5% 2025/26 | SRV 12.5% 2026/27 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Residential Rate | \$907.39 | \$1,020.82 | \$1,148.42 | \$1,291.97 |
| Ordinary Farmland Rate | \$2,705.38 | \$3,043.56 | \$3,424.00 | \$3,852.00 |
| Ordinary Business Rate | \$2,071.48 | \$2,330.42 | \$2,621.72 | \$2,949.43 |
| Ordinary Mining Rate | \$3,174.23 | \$3,571.01 | \$4,017.39 | \$4,519.56 |

These SRV scenarios result in a balanced budget which allows Council to increase its asset replacement reserves ensuring current expected services can be delivered into the future. In the long-term it allows Council to invest responsibly in infrastructure and avoids burdening future generations with excessive costs or excessive reductions to services.

HAVE YOUR SAY

1. Learn more by visiting our website www.svc.nsw.gov.au/srv
2. Use the online Rates Calculator to review the impact of the SRV options on your annual rates bill
3. Read the Frequently Asked Questions
4. Take our Quick Online Survey
5. Provide any other comments via our online feedback form



For immediate release

14 November 2023

Council To Hold Community Meetings On SRV Options

Snowy Valleys Council will host Community Meetings in Batlow, Tumut and Tumbarumba to present Special Rate Variation (SRV) options and other financial sustainability initiatives to the community.

The community meetings follow community pop-ups held in towns across the region in late October where community members had the opportunity to speak one-on-one about the SRV and ask their questions.

Interim General Manager Steven Pinnuck said that the community meetings would be a further opportunity for people to hear firsthand about the SRV options currently being investigated and other initiatives council was looking to implement.

“Another SRV alone will not be sufficient to ensure Council’s financial sustainability and a range of other initiatives will also need to be implemented including increasing income streams and reducing expenditure,” Mr Pinnuck said.

“I encourage everyone to join Councillors and senior staff at a community meeting and learn more about the proposed plans.”

SRV Community Meetings:

- Tuesday 28 November – Tumbarumba RSL Hall – 7.00pm to 8.30pm
- Wednesday 29 November – Tumut Montreal Community Theatre – 7.00pm to 8.30pm
- Tuesday 5 December – Batlow Literary Institute – 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Two permanent SRV options are being explored to help in achieving a balanced operating position for council.

Option one would see 18% increases over two consecutive years (39.24% cumulative) while option two would see 12.5% increases over three consecutive years (42.38% cumulated).

For further information including a quick survey where people can have their say on which SRV option council should proceed with and a rates calculator visit www.svc.nsw.gov.au/srv

-ENDS-

For more on all these stories visit
www.svc.nsw.gov.au

Want to join our mailing list?
Subscribe at

www.svc.nsw.gov.au/enewsletter

NEW FOOTPATH WORKS

Construction of the new Herbert Street footpath is underway linking to the existing footpaths on Lambie Street and Bogong Place adjacent to the Tumut High School.

Works are scheduled to be completed this week. Crews will then move to the Franklin School boundary to extend the existing footpath on Forest Street and up and along Blowering Road finishing opposite Lockeridge Drive.

Pedestrians and motorists are reminded to take care around the construction site. Temporary pedestrian access is signposted.

These prioritised safety upgrade projects are funded under the Australian Government's Local Road Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program.



ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

Here's a small snapshot of the diverse range of activities undertaken from July 2022 to June 2023:

- \$27.8 million Capital Works Program delivered
- 156 Development Applications determined
- 46 aging sewer ventilation shafts replaced
- 10km of Brindabella Road widened and improved
- 23,025 tonnes of bushfire-destroyed trees cleared
- 61,297 visitors hosted at our Libraries
- 3,801 rural pipe culverts maintained
- 72 Burials and 18 Reservations facilitated
- 60 new permanent beds installed at the Batlow Caravan Park



COUNCILLOR COLUMN – CR SAM HUGHES

Last month councillors and staff had the opportunity to play host to members of Wagga Wagga City Council.

The occasion was to showcase and brainstorm with leaders of our neighbouring council the opportunities available for extending the successful Tumberumba to Rosewood Rail Trail into Wagga Wagga.

I travelled to Canberra recently to take part in an Essential Governance for Councillors Training Program presented by the Australian Institute of Company Directors through the Canberra Regional Join Organisation.

This gave opportunities to ground-test mindsets, gain advice on parameters and paint in some landscapes of the future and the past of rural councils and of being a rural councillor.

I joined a convoy to Lobs Hole to see the future sites of key items of the nation-building project in our council area.

Having the opportunity to discuss the project and its works with the group of people holding key positions was beneficial. In this format time was available to discuss in depth the technical nuances and take the time to unpack the questions that needed to be asked and share perspectives that describe positions taken.

I also had the opportunity to be present at the quarterly community meetings in Batlow where community groups come together to share updates on their projects, discuss opportunities and issues for the town and clear the air where needed.

There are more than enough callings to get involved, and I can't say I've taken every chance to act as a councillor for the community and that's why there is more than one of us.

But each month opportunities like these come past for councillors. Together, the wide vision these opportunities afford an active councillor cannot be understated.

It's a truly unique position to be supported by your community in this way and one not to be taken lightly.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS - SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

To continue to deliver the current expected and necessary services and achieve financial sustainability, Council is exploring opportunities to implement a new permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) to make sure services can be delivered into the future. Another SRV alone will not be sufficient to ensure Council’s financial sustainability and a range of other initiatives will also need to be implemented.

Join Councillors and Senior Staff at a Community Meeting to learn more about the SRV options and how council is working towards becoming financially sustainable.

Each meeting will run from 7.00pm to 8.30pm

- Tuesday 28 November – Tumbarumba RSL Hall
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| Date | Venue | Time |
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Visit our website to take the quick Online Survey and use the Rates Calculator.

MOTORCYCLISTS ENJOY COFFEE WITH A COP

Over 50 motorcyclists from as far away as QLD broke their journey in Khancoban on the way to the Phillip Island GP. They enjoyed free coffee and a chat about road safety with local law enforcement officers, Council’s road safety officer, and NSW Road Safety representatives. It was great to see so much support for the Coffee with a Cop event which was targeting motorcyclist fatigue.

Thanks to the team at the Pickled Parrot Providore for providing the coffee.



CAREERS TALK WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

We recently hosted 15 high school students from Tumut High School, McAuley Catholic Central School, and Gundagai High School for a day of learning and career chats.

The students had the opportunity to explore the various traineeship, cadetship, and apprenticeship opportunities offered by Council.

They also received insights from Ross, one of our mechanics who shared his experiences of completing an apprenticeship with Council that kick-started his career.

Included in the day was an industry tour of the Tumut Wastewater Plant, where they learned firsthand about the role and responsibilities of a council water/wastewater officer as well as gaining an understanding of how Council manages the town's water and wastewater.



2024 ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAM

Eight entry-level roles are currently available across a range of council functions including GIS & Assets, Health & Safety, Customer Service, Water & Wastewater, Childcare, Parks & Gardens, and Growth & Development.

Applications close on Sunday 3 December 2023.





LET'S TALK SPECIAL RATE VARIATION OPTIONS

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Join Councillors and Senior Staff at one of our Community Meetings to learn more about the SRV options and other initiatives Council is looking to implement.

| Date | Venue | Time |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday 28 November | Tumbarumba RSL Hall | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |
| Wednesday 29 November | Tumut Montreal Community Theatre | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |
| Tuesday 5 December | Batlow Literary Institute | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |

Use our online SRV calculator to measure the suggested changes on your own rates and then take our quick survey to let us know what you think is the best way forward.



**Snowy
Valleys
Council**

***Special Rating Variation
(SRV) Presentation***



Acknowledgement of Country

Snowy Valleys Council proudly acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of this land and water and pays respect to their Elders past and present.



Reconciliation of General Fund Position

Extract from the 2022/2023 Financial Statement Public Notice

| | 2022/2023 | 2021/2022 |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Net operating result for the year (before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes) | \$187 | (\$19.72M) |
| Less Water Fund operating result | \$4.97M | (\$14.25M) |
| Less Sewerage Fund operating result | \$1.19M | \$0.81M |
| General Fund operating result (refer page 51 of the 2023/2024 Financial Statement) | (\$5.97M) | (\$6.27M) |



Background – Operating Result – General Fund

| | 15/16 (combined) | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 | 19/20 | 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Op. result including capital grants | \$1.34M | \$10.99M (Note 1) | (\$1.46M) | \$2.67M | \$5.10M | \$6M | \$6.98M | \$8.48M | \$31.02M (Note 6) |
| Net op. result before capital grants | (\$2.26M) (Note 5) | (\$1,04M) | (\$7.51M) | (\$2.11M) | (\$6.54M) | (\$4.98M) | (\$6.27M) (Note 2) | (\$5.97M) (Note3) | (\$4.48M) (Note 4) |
| Depreciation | \$9.96M | \$9.16M | \$8.29M | \$8.89M | \$8.89M | \$8.21M | \$8.85M | \$9.76M | \$9.47M |

Note 1: High level of operating grants received

Note 2: 5 FAG payments received for year. Actual position at 30 June 2022 is a deficit of \$7.9M

Note 3: 5 FAG payments received for year. Actual position at 30 June 2023 is a deficit of \$7.7M

Note 4: Assumes prepayment of FAG's continue in 2023/2024

Note 5: Adjusted to reflect current accounting treatment of Roads to Recovery Grants

Note 6: High level of capital grants expected to be received



Background – Unrestricted Cash Position – General Fund

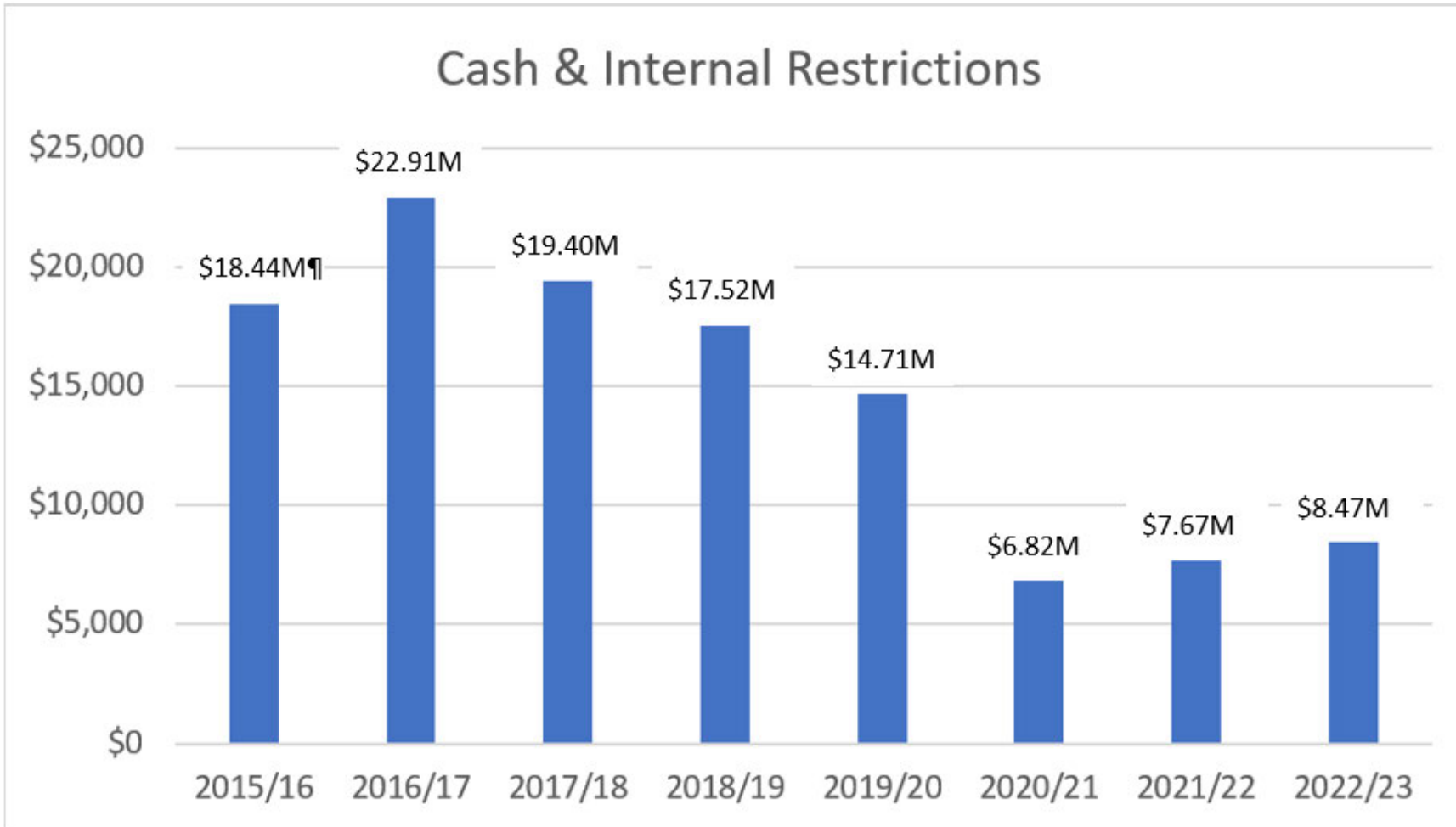
| | 15/16 (combined) \$ | 16/17 \$ | 17/18 \$ | 18/19 \$ | 19/20 \$ | 20/21 \$ | 21/22 \$ | 22/23 \$ |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total cash | \$31.22M | \$49.32M | \$47.64M | \$49.35M | \$41.85M | \$38.02M | \$45.33M | \$44.02M |
| Total restrictions | \$27.44M | \$46.73M | \$45.27M | \$47.75M | \$39.90M | \$40.40M | \$44.86M | \$43.95M |
| Unrestricted cash | \$3.79M | \$2.59M | \$2.37M | \$1.61M | \$1.96M | -\$2.38M | \$0.475M | 0.063M |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Internal restrictions | \$14.67M | \$20.32M | \$17.04M | \$15.92M | \$12.76M | \$9.20M | \$7.20M (Note 1) | \$8.41M Note (2) |

Note 1: Five FAG payments received in financial year

Note 2: Five FAG payments received in financial year



Background – Unrestricted Cash and Internal Restrictions – General Fund



Background – Unrestricted Cash Position – Continued

- Underlying operating deficit in the region of \$6M to \$7M annually
- Diminishing Internal Reserves and Unrestricted cash of approximately \$2M to \$3M per year.



Background – What was said prior to initial SRV

- Previous SRV of 35.95% implemented over the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years.
- There was strong opposition to both the SRV and/or service cuts.
- In addition to the SRV, Council committed to generate savings which has been difficult to achieve in a post COVID environment. A Financial Sustainability Plan was developed and implemented.

(Since 2020 Council has made savings in the order \$1.3M, however most of these savings have been offset by a higher cost environment.)



Background – What was said prior to initial SRV

- Maintain service levels as close as possible to current levels
- Fund ongoing maintenance
- Fund renewal of infrastructure assets
- Increase capacity to renew deteriorating assets
- Ensure and improve financial sustainability
- Reduce reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals.



Challenges faced by Snowy Valleys Council

- Tumut and Tumbarumba Councils merged on 12 May 2016 to form Snowy Valleys Council
- Black Summer bushfires late 2019/early 2020
- Significant impacts of COVID pandemic throughout most of 2020 and 2021
- At least 6 other natural disaster events since 2021.



Grant funded projects approved for SVC since Amalgamation

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| ➤ 2016/17 | \$14,803,358 |
| ➤ 2017/18 | \$ 4,348,130 |
| ➤ 2018/19 | \$ 1,622,500 |
| ➤ 2019/20 | \$ 8,107,232 |
| ➤ 2020/21 | \$44,739,158 |
| ➤ 2021/22 | \$33,106,278 |
| ➤ 2022/23 | \$10,224,502 |
| ➤ 2023/24 | \$11,073,245 * year to date |

Approximately \$128M additional funding in less than 8 years whilst at the same time implementing the amalgamation and ensuring 'business as usual' activities were delivered.



Tracking our Income and Employee Costs over the last 4 years – General Fund only

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|--------|--|
| Total income | 54M | 66.1M | 62.75M | 77.07M | 88.82M | 63.57M | |
| Employee costs | 19.54M | 18.94M | 18.84M | 19.75M | 1.07% increase over 4 years 25.6% of income in 2022/2023 | | |



Why is Council Considering Another SRV?

- Operating in a high inflationary environment
- An increasingly competitive employment market that has occurred post-COVID-19
- Continuation of cost-shifting from the State Government (e.g. substantial increases in the Emergency Services Levy)
- Ensuring Council has the capacity to maintain and replace its expanding asset base funded from rates and other untied revenue.



Council Services/Costs Provided by General Revenue Including Rates

- Governance/Administration costs
- Road maintenance and improvements
- Footpaths and kerb and gutter
- Planning and building services
- Parks and Reserves
- Sporting grounds
- Swimming Pools
- Libraries
- Public toilets
- Cemetery maintenance
- Aerodrome
- Caravan Parks
- Tourism/visitor services and economic development

Note:

Community services (Children's Services, Community Transport and Care Packages etc.) are funded by grants and user contributions.

Water, Sewerage and Waste are funded by specific charges that must be used for the purchase for which they are raised.



How are we going to Repair the Budget?

- Special Rating Variation (SRV)
- Opportunities to increase income streams (e.g. Calling for Expressions of Interest for the management/lease of four caravan parks owned by SVC).
- Reducing Council's expenditure including employee costs (this financial year changes have been made to the staffing structure that will remove approximately \$500k from employee costs);
- A review of how services are provided (e.g. a recent change of Council IT Managed Service Provider will see a reduction of approximately \$200K pa);
- Realisation of surplus assets (including real estate) held for sale;
- Review and potential disposal of underutilized assets.



How are we going to Repair the Budget?

- Success of the proposed Special Rating Variation (SRV) Application is crucial as a first step to financial sustainability of SVC.

If successful, and if Option 3 (12.5% pa spread over 3 consecutive years) was implemented rate income would increase by:

2024/2025 **\$1.362M**

2025/2026 **\$2.846M**

2026/2027 **\$4.541M**

2027/2028 **\$4.541M** then annually and subject to rate peg increases

- Ideally Council will need to identify opportunities to increase income and expenditure savings similar to the additional income generated by the SRV.



How are we going to Repair the Budget?

If Option 3 (12.5% pa spread over 3 consecutive years) was implemented the estimated increase above ratepegging is:

| | SRV over 3 years | Rate Peg | Additional inc. | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2024/2025 | 12.5% | 5% | 7.5% | |
| 2025/2026 | 12.5% | 4.5% | 8% | (Note) |
| 2026/2027 | 12.5% | 4% | 8.5% | (Note) |
| Total | 37.5% | 13.5% | 24% | |

Note : Assumes inflation and therefore the rate peg amount decreases in 2025/2026 and 2026/2027



What are other Councils doing?

Financial position of a near neighbour

53.5% Special Rating variation approved for implementation over **4 years in 2021**

| | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Operating result | (7.01M) | (\$5.58M) | (\$4.26M) |



What are other Councils doing?

A snapshot SRV's approved by IPART in June 2023 (17 in total)

| | Sought | Approved |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Armidale | 58.8% over 3yrs | 58.8% over 3yrs |
| Bega Valley | 48.3% over 2 yrs | 48.3% over 2 yrs |
| Federation | 74.59% over 4 yrs | 39.2% over 2 yrs (temporary) |
| Queanbeyan – Palerang | 64.3% over 3 yrs | 64.3% over 3 yrs |
| Strathfield | 92.83% over 4 yrs | 92.83% over 4 yrs |
| Tenterfield | 104.5% over 2 yrs | 43% over 1 yr |
| Walcha | 57.74% over 3 yrs | 57.74% over 3 yrs |

Recently Narrandera resolved to seek an SRV of 48.1% over 2 years.



Looking to the Future

- Continue to implement the Financial Sustainability Plan
- Council and the community will need to be able to distinguish between wants and needs
- The 'whole of life' cost of a project or initiative will need to be taken into account.



Timeline

- Complete community meetings next week
- Online Survey closes 15 December – 160+ surveys received to date
- Report on outcome of community engagement presented to Council late Jan/early Feb
- If Council resolves to proceed closing date to submit an application to IPART is 5 February
- IPART undertakes community Feb-Mar 2024
- IPART will release its decision late May 2024





Questions



Snowy Valleys Council
Published by Donna Wilson · 18 October 2023 ·

LET'S TALK SPECIAL RATE VARIATION
Council is investigating a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) to achieve financial sustainability.
Two SRV options are being considered –

- 18% over two consecutive years; or
- 12.5% over three consecutive years... See more

WWW.SVC.NSW.GOV.AU/SRV

See Insights and Ads [Boost post](#)

9 1 comment 15 shares

Snowy Valleys Council
Published by Donna Wilson · 22 October 2023 ·

LET'S TALK SPECIAL RATE VARIATION – COMMUNITY POP-UPS
Want to learn more about Council's SRV options and ask your questions?
Drop in at one of our community pop-ups happening in the next two weeks:

- ♥ Tumut – Monday 23 October – 11am to 2pm – outside Harvey Norman
- ♥ Batlow – Friday 27 October – 11am to 1.30pm – outside IGA
- ♥ ... See more




Council is investigating a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to achieve financial sustainability.

Visit us at a Community Information Pop-Up to learn more

| Date | Town | Venue | Time |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 23 October | Tumut | Outside Harvey Norman | 11.00am - 2.00pm |
| Friday 27 October | Batlow | Outside Batlow IGA | 11.00am - 1.30pm |
| Monday 30 October | Adelong | Outside Adelong IGA | 11.30am - 2.00pm |
| Tuesday 31 October | Talbingo | Outside Talbingo Supermarket | 11.30am - 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 1 November | Khancoban | Inside Pickled Parrot Providore | 10.30am - 12.00pm |
| Wednesday 1 November | Tumbarumba | Main Street Kiosk | 1.30pm - 3.30pm |

WWW.SVC.NSW.GOV.AU/SRV


8 25 comments 4 shares

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Snowy Valleys Council
Published by Donna Wilson · 27 November 2023 ·

REMINDER! SRV COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON THIS WEEK
Join Councillors and senior staff at one of our upcoming community meetings and hear firsthand about the SRV options currently being investigated and other initiatives council are looking to implement to be financially sustainable including increasing income streams and reducing expenditure.

- Tuesday 28 November – Tumbarumba RSL Hall – 7.00pm to 8.30pm
- Wednesday 29 November – Tumut Montreal Community Theatre – 7.00pm to 8.30pm... See more





COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Join Councillors and Senior Staff at one of our Community Meetings to learn more about the SRV options and other initiatives Council is looking to implement.

| Date | Venue | Time |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday 28 November | Tumbarumba RSL Hall | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |
| Wednesday 29 November | Tumut Montreal Community Theatre | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |
| Tuesday 5 December | Batlow Literary Institute | 7.00pm - 8.30pm |

Use our online SRV calculator to measure the suggested changes on your own rates and then take our quick survey to let us know what you think is the best way forward.



WWW.SVC.NSW.GOV.AU/SRV

1 3 comments

