



**SNOWY MONARO**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# **Minutes**

**Extraordinary Council Meeting**

**23 December 2024**



**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 81 COMMISSIONER STREET, COOMA NSW 2630  
ON MONDAY 23 DECEMBER 2024**

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**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 81 COMMISSIONER STREET, COOMA NSW 2630**

**ON MONDAY, 23 DECEMBER 2024  
COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Christopher Hanna  
Deputy Mayor Tricia Hopkins  
Councillor Narelle Davis  
Councillor Nick Elliott  
Councillor Tanya Higgins  
Councillor John Rooney  
Councillor Reuben Rose  
Councillor Bob Stewart  
Councillor Lynda Summers  
Councillor Andrew Thaler  
Councillor Luke Williamson

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

**Staff:** Stephen Dunshea, Chief Executive Officer  
David Rawlings, Chief Strategy Officer  
Simon Rennie, Chief Financial Officer (Via video link)  
John Gargett, Acting Chief Infrastructure & Projects Officer  
Tony Murray, Chief Community Services Officer  
Angela Sommerville, Chief People & Organisational Performance Officer  
Patricia Swain, Secretary Council and Committees

**1. OPENING MEETING**

The Mayor opened the meeting at 10:00 AM

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**3. COUNCILLOR REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE VIA AUDIO-VISUAL**

**3.1 COUNCILLOR REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE VIA AUDIO-VISUAL**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**305/24**

That Council approve the remote attendance of Councillor Rooney at the meeting on 23 December 2024, via audio-visual link.

**Moved Councillor Davis**

**Seconded Councillor Summers**

**CARRIED**

**Record of Voting**

*Councillors For: Councillor Davis, Councillor Elliott, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Summers and Councillor Williamson.*

*Councillors Against: Councillor Thaler.*

**4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS**

Nil

**5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil

**6. OTHER REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

Nil

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Thaler has given notice that at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, he will move the following motion.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**306/24**

That Council:

1. Council write to the Minister seeking an extension of time for responses to be provided, noting that this is presently Christmas Eve where everything shuts down for two weeks.
2. Council make clear to the Minister that there is no disharmony in council meetings, and direct his attention to the December 2024 meeting webcast.
3. Council remind the Minister of his obligations at Law, the Right to the Presumption of Innocence, the Protection of All Human Rights and that everybody at Council is entitled to a safe workplace, including ALL councillors.
4. Council explain to the Minister that this council is already well on its way to solving its financial problems.
5. Council explain to the Minister to respectfully suggest his Proposed Order is Legally Oppressive due to Councillors inability to directly control the day to day finances.
6. Council write to the Minister to draw his attention to the inconsistency between his proposed order for Georges River Council and Snowy Monaro and seek an explanation.

**Moved Councillor Thaler**

**Seconded Councillor Williamson**

**LOST**

**Record of Voting**

*Councillors For: Councillor Elliott, Councillor Rose, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Thaler, and Williamson.*

*Councillors Against: Councillor Davis, Mayor Hanna, Councillor Higgins, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councillor Rooney and Councillor Summers.*

*At 10:51 am Councillor Rooney left the meeting.*

*At 10:52 am Councillor Rooney returned to the meeting.*

## 6.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE

### 6.1.1 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE A PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ORDER

Record No: I24/707

#### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- A. Receives and notes the receipt of the Minister's intention to issue a Performance Improvement Order on Snowy Monaro Regional Council dated 16 December 2024 citing the following reasons:
  - a. Council has limited further ability to eliminate or mitigate the psychosocial risks present and require urgent intervention.
  - b. Council risk assessments are continuing to return an outcome risk of 'High'.
  - c. Council underwent a financial sustainability review and while Council has been making steady improvements, there has not been sufficient improvement and the impact of transition of the newly elected Council has slowed progress.
  - d. Council needs to retain its budget discipline to achieve financial sustainability.
  - e. Council needs to ensure it maintains access to appropriate staff expertise and engagement to provide secure advice to the councillors on financial, governance, and regulatory matters.
  - f. Council should only be changing strategic priorities with a clear understanding of costs and funding sources and not at the detriment of achieving financial sustainability.
  - g. Council needs to continue to deliver and implement the changes required as part of recommendations of the AEC Group financial sustainability review.
  - h. Any initiatives in progress to assist Council with its objective of achieving financial sustainability must continue.
  - i. The publicly displayed attitude towards a policy intended to set expected standards of behaviour will inevitably negatively affect the Council's reputation within the community if allowed to continue.
  - j. The ongoing diversion of resources to these issues poses a significant risk of adversely impacting other aspects of Council's operations.
  - k. Certain councillors have repeatedly disrupted Council meetings with baseless allegations of council misconduct.
  - l. The delays associated with some councillors' conduct are not sustainable for the Council to exercise its functions longer term.
  - m. There has been a pattern of poor or inappropriate behaviour by some councillors.
- B. In acknowledging the negative impacts the cited reasons have on the wellbeing of staff, on the efficient functioning of Council, and on Council's reputation, Council does not provide a submission in response to the Minister regarding his intention to issue a performance improvement, and that Council await his final decision on the matter.
- C. Continue to work collaboratively with the Office of Local Government in demonstrating Council's commitment to the Towards Excellence and financial sustainability journey.
- D. Immediately commence a staff and community awareness campaign following council's decision in respect of the Minister's Notice.
- E. Receive a further report following receipt of the Minister's final decision on the matter.

**7. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Nil

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 11:08

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CHAIRPERSON

The above minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Snowy Monaro Regional Council held on 23 December 2024 were confirmed by Council at a duly convened meeting on 20 February 2025 at which meeting the signature hereon was subscribed.