

Attachment 2 – Comments from Budget Allocator

2.1 Overall / summary comments

Rural services
I believe there should some fee charged at the pools, even a dollar coin to contribute to the ongoing costs, service and lengthening of the season.
I am willing to pay more in my rates to afford the extra services.
The service has been very good since the merger. The biggest things I have noticed are very dangerous trees in the park at Coorabel Avenue (They need to be pruned back very heavily as they are a safety risk and many children use this park), the footpaths in the town are hazardous because they are uneven and the street sweeper needs to come around more often in the minor streets in the town.
Join with DNSW on \$ for\$ funding to promote the region to encourage residential growth and tourism. Engage with RDA and other Government sectors to get the Brindabella road Shovel Ready whilst there is funding for these infrastructure projects available. This was important to everyone when community consultations were done. The people of Snowy Valleys want this road to go ahead NOW
The allocation amount of the budget for all of our shire seems to be too low. Maybe staffing levels should be looked at. Something is incorrect as the rates that you are receiving would be way way above the budget allowance. Would like to know the percentage of income to spend.
To encourage small scale entrepreneurial projects amongst young people eg market gardens, aquaponics, aquaculture, domestic fencing etc.
Increase in community grants
small rate increase
An increase of rates in line with the CPI would more than cover this budget. Additional investment in tourism infrastructure is critical to our region.
Additional funds - project manager salary increase. Income options include expanding private works capability but this requires investment in key positions.
Your descriptions made it sound like the minimum spend achieves nothing. The assumption that more money equals better service is not true. It's about using the money properly and not wasting it. I am a communitarian and strongly believe in the value of communities looking after one another, but the amount of money that SVC bleeds out of our shire through exorbitant consultant's fees putting together documents that the local community could do just as well and many times more authentically is extremely sad and frustrating. Looking at what the council spends money on, I would advocate across the board for a shift towards "Go Fund Me"-style budget allocations. i.e. we are allowed to allocate a small portion of our rates to the area we nominate. Over the years, as the culture of direct democracy grows, this portion is increased until rates themselves are optional and directed towards what we individually and collectively prefer. The role of councillors is to come up with potential projects for funding, which are then opened for "voting" (investment) by the population. Where essential services are chronically underfunded, they should where possible be funded by the users (eg petrol excise), or as a last resort, by a compulsory rate for all citizens. But as a general rule, extorting rates from citizens and then spending it on things they don't want and don't use is not an ethical, morally just or particularly good way to run a local government.
Small fee charged to access the pools
Jarrah oval amenities and canteen

I currently run the after school care building, attached to the neighbourhood centre. Council has recently come to check our building out. We have also received checks from the education dep which have deemed our building unfit. (Lots of oh&s issues) I am desperate to source some grants, or budget to be able to make this building into something that I am proud of and our community can be proud of too! (Even new fencing, a lick of paint and some resources would be amazing)
Youth mental health and support programs including suicide prevention.
Second time I have completed. Just checking if it worked the first time.
There was not option to seek internal efficiencies.
I would look at a small subsidy for pool entry fees.
Budget is just over. The biggest cost is road development. This could be supplemented with Federal grants and shared funding with the ACT government.
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the budget allocation While I realise this budget is based on service delivery and much is hidden under various headings .One such service is the Heritage advisor here is no provision for an allocation for heritage /museums and any extras on a "wish list " One way to increase councils income could there be a minimal rate base from the state forests
I believe a well managed special rate variation would be appropriate to meet the short deficit in my budget challenge outcome. As there is a backlog there needs to be an opportunity to develop a program to reduce the backlog. Councils cannot expect to always rely grants, they should be looking to ways of generating additional income to spent on improving council-wide services efficiently.
Try to utilise grants for upgrading services and equipment for children, especially for shade over play equipment and additional toilets.

2.2 Comments in relation to particular services

Community Development and Events	I believe that there should be an increase in funding and support to the local indigenous culture. There are many areas that could developed for the benefit of the local community and provide support for indigenous education. The youth of Tumbarumba would benefit from additional events and cultural programs.
Economic Development	What do you spend 225k on, if you lose capacity to do everything?
Environmental Weed Management	Weed control operations are paramount to a healthy environment. Focus should be on waterways. Development of weed identification brochures/programs. Introduction of environmental services at the local schools so that future workers will be able to see for themselves, ensuring a informed and hopefully proactive community when it comes to weed management. Support and promotion of Land Care groups.
Environmental Weed Management	Be great to see increase in weed control operations and follow up as it will reduce maintenance if you can get on top of things.
Footpaths	Current level is fine assuming it includes the shared-use paths program which I believe was externally funded anyway.

Libraries	Increased hours would allow for cultural programs to be run at the library, upgrading of Indigenous Heritage information and resources. After school access could include cultural storytime
Parks, Playgrounds and Reserves	Creation of Bush Tucker garden for education and tourism, interpretive local cultural walks
Parks, Playgrounds and Reserves	Makes sense to reduce playground infrastructure if it is not used, and instead focus on having one great park in each town near to CBD. Upgrades and future development can be planned and be shovel ready waiting for external funding opportunities.
Parks, Playgrounds and Reserves	Makes sense reduce playground equipment if it is not used, and instead focus on having one great park in each town. Upgrades and development can be planned and shovel ready waiting for external funding opportunities.
Planning and Development	Same budget - but increase service by reducing bureaucratic obstructionism and creating internal efficiencies.
Public Toilets	I don't agree with your pricing. You can build lower budget toilets with lower operating costs using modern knowledge and technology, and even capture the waste for sale as an agricultural input.
Public Toilets	Reduce cleaning schedules at the free camping toilets. Leave in town the same.
Roads	Roads should be maintained through petrol excise (i.e. road use), not council rates. This expenditure should be gradually eliminated in line with increases to petrol excise or other road-user pricing mechanisms (see https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BriefingBook45p/FundingRoads) During the transition period towards lower council roads expenditure, interim measures such as heavy vehicle levies should be considered. If road condition declines excessively, current service level should be retained.
Roads	more attention to unsealed roads and a program of works to maintain them to a safe level. Sometimes it is safer to have a well maintained unsealed road rather than a poorly maintained sealed road
Sportsgrounds and Facilities	Sport facilities is very important for a strong community. However sports facilities should be assessed to ensure actual demand exists, duplication is avoided, and if there are opportunities to maximise usage, such as removing impediments (costs) to social sport and sharing facilities/fields between different sports. For example a Town the size of Tumbarumba I would think can only justify one high quality playing field that services all the codes. Yet both fields are getting an upgraded surface and duplication of facilities, with minor league even wanting new fields because they're not prepared to use the sports ground. Also, horse events should be encouraged to make use of the Equine Centre.
Street Trees	More shade is required I would suggest a careful selection of flora to be planted therefore reducing overall maintenance cost and safety
Street Trees	More street trees and planned replacement program.
Swimming Pools	entry fees are standard everyone. heated, chlorinated, filtered water is a massive privilege, not a human right.

Swimming Pools	Happy to pay for use of pools - Tumbarumba was good value. Would love to see the improvements which were included in the SVC Pool's report - particularly an after hours access card in Tumbarumba (which I'm happy to pay for). Don't need an extended season - 99.9% of people only want to swim when it's hot. Why subsidise the 0.1%?
Tourism	Marketing costs very little money if you know how to do it correctly. People came to the Apple Blossom festival from Sydney but nobody had even posted a program online so they missed it. You need to provide value for money, not more Sydney consultants charging us five times the average yearly income for a PDF about "community values"
Tourism	Tourist look for unique experiences, Tumbarumba has a wealth of Indigenous Cultural and significant sites. It is proven that tourist enjoy and seek out indigenous cultural experiences. Engagement with the local Indigenous people would allow further discussion and promote Tumbarumba as a forward thinking town.
Tourism	Tourist Information Centre's are important, they are the first port of call for travellers. I believe Tumbarumba needs to increase their range of facilities to include an Indigenous Cultural experience, this would then be utilised for education and information availability to the broader community.