



SPIRIT OF THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS

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Ref: J Vescio

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Ms Teresa McMichael  
Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms McMichael

### **Inquiry into Tourism in Local Communities**

I refer to your letter dated 14 November 2013 forwarding a transcript of evidence, with the question taken on notice for review and response by Snowy River Shire Council.

#### **Transcript Corrections**

Following a review of the transcript I make these suggested corrections for your consideration.

Page 17	replace 'cost on' with 'copy of'
Page 17	replace '3,500' with '5,500'
Page 19	replace 'land' with 'lands'
Page 22	replace 'Mr Stewart-Beardsley' with 'Mr Vescio'
Page 23	replace 'PSN' with 'TSM'

Copies of the amended pages are attached for your information

#### **Transcript Clarification**

During my responses to the Committee I responded that Snowy Rive Shire had 5,500 ratepayers and 3,500 water/sewer accounts. The actual number of ratepayers 5,861 and the actual number of water accounts issued are 2,981. The point I was trying to make was that there is a difference of approximately 2,000 less water and sewer accounts in our Shire than ratepayers. Based on the numbers I have to the hearing there are just under 40% less water accounts than ratepayers. As our infrastructure most affected by tourism is our water and sewer system there are less members of the community subsidising tourism. However based on the actual numbers this difference is greater, closer to 50%.

With regard to the question taken on notice from the Hon. Jan Barham, (page 19 of transcript) I would like to clarify that the \$50 million I had referred to earlier in the

hearing related to replacement costs for Councils Water and Sewerage System over the next 20 years not just Jindabyne. I refer you to Page 17 of the transcript where I state '...we are looking at Jindabyne in the not too distant future at having to replace the Jindabyne Sewerage treatment plant and the sewerage system...'

### Questions on Notice

#### 1. Page 17

With regard to the number of properties which have development approval for holiday lettings. Up to 25 June 2012 Council had 902 tourist accommodation units/houses in the Shire.

#### 2. Page 19

With regard to the cost of the works required for improvements to Council Jindabyne Sewerage Treatment Plant and Sewerage System, in summer Council operates one 4000EP (Equivalent Population) IDEA tank (Intermittent decanting and extended aeration). In winter Council operates two 4000 EP tanks (Total 8,000 EP = 1.9megalitres). Thereby indicating a 100% increase in the capacity required to service the tourist community. Please note this relates to Council owned infrastructure only and specifically the Jindabyne sewerage system.

A concept study has been prepared for two more tanks which will take it up to 16,000 EP (3.8 megalitres) to provide for future growth.

A review of the census data for the areas serviced by Jindabyne Sewerage Treatment Plant (JSTP) were taken into account and includes the NSW Sport & Recreation Centre and the Station Resort. The following table gives the statistics which affect the JSTP:

Location	Jindabyne	East Jindabyne & Tyrolean Village	Cobbin Creek, Station Resort and Sport & Rec	TOTALS
Count (Winter)	4,159	813	1,329	6,301
Residents	1,735	542	229	2,506

Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan has identified the cost of capital works required over the next 10 years for both water and sewer as \$33 million dollars which has an impact on the typical residential bill of \$155/ per tenement per year.

In addition to this capital expenditure Council wishes to emphasize the operational costs relating to tourist influx such as high energy cost of operating the Sewerage Treatment Plant and the Sewerage Pumping Stations during peak winter season. A by-product of sewerage treatment which is sludge and its management and disposal costs are also very high as we are running out of space for disposal and are looking at alternate land acquisition.

Based on the above census information it may be appropriate to surmise that 60% of these costs are attributable to tourism.

#### 3. Page 21

As stated at the hearing Council produces 'The Little Black Book' to provide seasonal workers information to stay safe and sound, tips on issues they may encounter as well as where to turn if something goes wrong. Contributors for this publication

include Snowy River Shire Council, the NSW Police, Southern NSW Medical Local and NSW Health.

Copies of recent versions of the Little Black Book are enclosed for information of the Committee members.

This year council has created a Little Black Book website ([www.snowyblackbook.com](http://www.snowyblackbook.com)) which is accessible via mobile phone, tablet and PC.

I trust the above information addresses the outstanding matters from the hearing. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

**Joseph G Vescio**  
General Manager