

Finance and Operations Committee

Agenda

Date: Wednesday 5 October 2022

Time: 6pm

**Venue: Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room)
13 Mair Street, Benalla**

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Any person wishing to participate in Public Submissions in accordance with Rule 7.3 of the *Governance Rules 2020* should contact the Council by emailing council@benalla.vic.gov.au or telephoning Governance Coordinator Jessica Beaton on (03) 5760 2600.

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* an audio recording will be made of the proceedings of the meeting.

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Agenda

Chair	Councillor Justin King	
Councillors	Councillor Danny Claridge Councillor Peter Davis Councillor Don Firth Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor) Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne Councillor Gail O'Brien	
In attendance	Dom Testoni	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Jane Archbold	Manager Community
	Bronwyn Chapman	Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
	Jessica Beaton	Governance Coordinator

Acknowledgment of Country

We, the Benalla Rural City Council, acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.

Apologies

Recommendation:

That the apology/ies be accepted and a leave of absence granted.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes have been circulated to Councillors and posted on the Council website www.benalla.vic.gov.au pending confirmation at this meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Finance and Operations Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Governance Matters

This Committee Meeting is conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Benalla Rural City Council *Governance Rules 2020*.

Recording of Council Meetings

In accordance with the *Governance Rules 2020* clause 6.4 meetings of Council will be audio recorded and made available for public access, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda.

Behaviour at Meetings

Members of the public present at a meeting must remain silent during the proceedings other than when specifically invited to address the Committee.

The Chair may remove a person from a meeting for interjecting or gesticulating offensively after being asked to desist, and the chair may cause the removal of any object or material that is deemed by the Chair to be objectionable or disrespectful.

The Chair may call a break in a meeting for either a short time, or to resume another day if the behaviour at the Council table or in the gallery is significantly disrupting the meeting.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Councillor must declare any Conflict of Interest pursuant to Section 130 of the Act in any items on this Agenda.

At the time indicated in the agenda, a Councillor with a conflict of interest in an item on that agenda must indicate they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- the item for which they have a conflict of interest;
- whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a Councillor must indicate to the meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the meeting.

Business

1. 2022/2023 Community Sponsorship Program

SF/2857

Jane Archbold – Manager Community
Tom Arnold – Community Development Coordinator

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents funding applications under the 2022/23 Community Sponsorship Program.

BACKGROUND

The Community Sponsorship Program enables local community groups, clubs and organisations to seek funding to increase their capacity to work in partnership with the Council and others to address local needs and enhance the local community.

The Community Sponsorship Program distributes grants up to \$500 on a monthly basis, allowing local clubs, groups and organisations the opportunity to seek funds when the need arises.

DISCUSSION

Applications for consideration under the 2022/23 Community Sponsorship Program are detailed in the table below.

Applicant	Details	Amount Requested	Proposed Assistance
Room at the Table	Room at the Table will be running a Stay and Play day during the 2022 Benalla Festival at the same time as the Air Show as a quieter, more sensory safe space for those who may need it whilst visiting the air show. Stay and Play is a mostly free day with activities for all ages. There will be boardgames, tabletop games, roleplaying games, workshops, trading card games and people in costumes. The rooms will be open for people to view as well as use. The grant will be used to buy supplies needed for the workshop activities on the day.	\$500	\$500

Applicant	Details	Amount Requested	Proposed Assistance
Baddaginnie Fire Brigade	The Baddaginnie Fire Brigade will conduct an open day as part of the 2022 Benalla Festival, which will commence with a free breakfast to try and encourage attendance. The brigade wants to showcase itself to the public by having the fire station open with equipment on display along with fire safety advice and information being available. The open day will also be used as an opportunity to recruit new members.	\$500	\$500
Waminda Community House	The Waminda Community House, High Tea and Fashion Parade, is specifically designed for senior members of our community to celebrate Seniors Week, in October 2022. Attendees will be served tea/coffee, sandwiches, hot food, cakes and slices while viewing a fashion parade at Benalla Bowls Club. The free event provides community members with a chance to reconnect and re-establish social networks, reduce social isolation and recognise the important contribution seniors make to our community.	\$500	\$500
Total		\$1,500	\$1,500

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- *A healthy, Safe and resilient community.*
- *A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Leadership

- *Engaged and informed community.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council's *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that, due to administrative nature of the Policy, that community engagement be undertaken at the 'Inform' level under the International Association for Public Participation's IAP2 public participation spectrum.

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of program via media, website and social media. ▪ Program presented in public reports to the Council. ▪ Outcomes advised directly to applicants. ▪ Outcomes detailed in Annual Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The *2022/23 Budget* allocates \$15,000 to the Community Sponsorship. To date, \$2,500 in Community Sponsorship grant funding has been allocated.

To ensure transparency and accountability, where assistance is provided in meeting the cost of Council facility hire, the payment is reflected in relevant ledger accounts via an internal transaction.

For example, if the Council agrees to meet the hire cost of the Benalla Town Hall a credit would be made to the Town Hall income ledger account and a debit made to the Community Support Program expense ledger account.

In addition, recipients of support throughout the financial year are detailed in the Annual Report.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

Recommendation:

That \$500 grants from the 2022/2023 Community Sponsorship Program be allocated to Room at the Table, Baddaginnie Fire Brigade and Waminda Community House.

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2. Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy

SF/3607

Bronwyn Chapman – Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
Dom Testoni – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report seeks the Council's support of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's *Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27*.

BACKGROUND

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) develops a Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy every six years.

The *Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27* (the Strategy) is an overarching document that outlines the long-term vision for the integrated catchment management and is guided by the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

The strategy guides actions to improve and protect the Goulburn-Broken catchment's land, water, biodiversity and community.

A summary of the strategy is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Five key principles will guide the implementation of the strategy:

1. *Strengthen partnerships between community, landholders and agencies*
2. *Community-led: community leaders are involved in decision making and priority actions align with community values.*
3. *Embed resilience principles to respond to uncertain futures and knowledge; and anticipating and adapting to change.*
4. *Supported by science: priority actions address critical tipping points, and improve knowledge and understanding*
5. *Foster stewardship: priority actions build values of environmental stewardship among the community, landholders and organisations.*

DISCUSSION

For the Strategy to be successful and to improve the health and resilience of the catchment area, collaboration and support is needed from groups and organisations that live, work, visit and invest in the Goulburn Broken catchment.

The GBCMA is seeking a pledge of support from the Council. Pledges of support will feature on the GBCMA's website.

Providing a pledge of support will underpin the ‘*Support the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Regional Catchment Strategy and other regional environmental strategies*’ in the *Council Plan 2021-2025*.

In return for the Council’s pledge of support, it will receive annual updates on catchment condition and progress towards the strategic outcomes. The Council will also be notified of collaboration opportunities to share perspectives, influence decisions, design and/or deliver catchment-wide projects.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- *A healthy, Safe and resilient community.*
- *A connected, involved and inclusive community*

Economy

- *Thriving business and industry.*

Environment

- *Healthy and protected natural environment.*
- *Sustainable practices.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that, due to administrative nature of the report, community engagement be undertaken at the ‘Inform’ level under the International Association for Public Participation’s IAP2 public participation spectrum as detailed in the table below:

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public report to the Council. ▪ Pledge listed on Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority website. ▪ Pledge promoted via social media.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no material financial implications with supporting the *Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27*.

During the life of the Strategy, the Council may have programs and projects that align with the Strategy. This alignment can bring opportunities to apply for collaborative funding.

The ongoing fight to eradicate the noxious cabomba weed from Lake Benalla is an example of collaboration between the Council and GBCMA, along with other stakeholders.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

Recommendation:

- 1. That the Council publicly pledge its support for the *Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27*.**
- 2. That the Council authorise its public pledge to be featured on the Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority website and in other publications.**

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Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27

Purpose: Collaborative strategy to guide actions to improve and protect the Goulburn Broken Catchment's land, water, biodiversity and community.



Closure of Meeting