

Council NEWS

July 2021



More than \$2 million budgeted for roadworks



More than \$1 million budgeted for drainage works

2021/2022 BUDGET

A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET THAT DELIVERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

The 2021/2022 budget has been adopted and is available to read online.

The budget includes a record \$13.389 million capital works program. We received \$7.322 in funding from the Victorian and Australian Governments for capital works. This means that while we grow our community's assets, we are able to maintain a financially responsible budget and continue to deliver our wide range of services. Highlights of the budget include a \$3 million upgrade to the Benalla Art Gallery and \$2.014 million redevelopment of the Benalla Visitor Information Centre.

Roadworks total \$2.140 million and \$1.144 million will be invested into drainage works.

The budget includes a 1.50 percent rate increase in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates system. Forecast operating revenue is \$36.519 million with operating expenses of \$34.566 million resulting in an operating surplus of \$1.953 million.

Waste management charges increase by 5 percent and are budgeted to raise \$3.751 million.

No new borrowings are proposed for 2021/2022. Debt decreases by more than \$1 million to \$3.804 million by 30 June 2022.

Download the budget online or ask to view a copy at the Council's Customer Service Centre or the Benalla Library.

NAIDOC WEEK 2021



We're proud to have supported the Benalla Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee in their successful NAIDOC Week 2021 celebrations. The event took place at the Benalla Town Hall on Monday 5 July, 11am-2pm.

A Welcome to Country and a raising of the flags in front of the Council Chambers and Civic Centre opened the event, before a smoking ceremony welcomed the community into the Town Hall where a host of stalls and activities were available.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2025



We manage a vast road network across Benalla Rural City.

We've drafted a *Road Management Plan 2021-2025* that balances the expectations of the community with the resources we have available to maintain the network. This consultation is your opportunity to have your say on how we manage and maintain our local road network.



We are making ourselves available to have face-to-face discussions throughout July and August. You can make an appointment or just turn up at one of the scheduled sessions, which are available to view on the Council's website.



Contribute online benalla.vic.gov.au/have-your-say

Submit your feedback by 5pm Friday 3 September 2021.

We're grateful to all who gave us their thoughts, ideas and suggestions as a contribution to the Council Plan 2021-2025. We're now building our draft Council Plan on that feedback. Once drafted, it will be published for comment.





BENALLA AQUATIC CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

We have recently completed a series of refurbishment works at the Benalla Aquatic Centre.

Completed works include:

- Retiled the 25 metre and toddler pools
- Repainted the interior and some of the exterior of the Centre
- Repainted the outdoor pool
- Repaired the program pool's water supply

We're also installing new shade sails for the grassed area of the outdoor pool.

The inspiring mural pictured was designed by Kristy Sutherland, a local artist.

Speak to our team about ROSE PRUNING

We'll be doing our annual rose pruning at the Benalla Botanical Gardens in late July.

Speak to our horticulture team for general gardening advice or to get a rose pruning for your garden. Look out for us from 8am to 3pm, Tuesday to Friday from 20-30 July.



GRADER ISSUES DURING WET WEATHER

Surface road conditions can deteriorate faster in wet weather than during warmer months. Unfortunately, just when you need the grader most, wet weather also complicates how we manage our road network. Using the grader in wet weather can make some roads worse.

We know that some roads are scheduled to be graded and we need to wait for clear weather. If there are dangerous conditions on your road, always let us know as soon as possible.

Pictured - the grader worked the Nillahcootie Track, the road to Lima South Hall and Benalla Boundary Road on dry days.



WORKS AROUND BENALLA

We've been clearing gutters to make sure the wet weather doesn't cause pooling on the road.

We've been performing routine fire plug inspections and replacing damaged or worn markers. Fire plugs are often covered over with growth or, worse still, vandalised. They are an important tool for the CFA to identify and access water in built-up areas during emergencies.

Works on Waller Street's kerb, channel and drainage have continued as we complete installation of the underground drainage system.

Earthworks preparing for the installation of kerb and channel on the corner of Waller Street and Clarke Street.



Clearing gutters
on George Street



Underground
drainage
being
installed on
Waller Street
to eliminate
water issues



Fire plug
checks and
maintenance



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