

Council NEWS

Edition 15, May 2018



MAYOR'S MESSAGE - 2018/19 COUNCIL BUDGET

The 2018/19 Council Budget is a turning point in our municipality's history. Why, you ask? Because it's the year the meaning of rate capping has really hit home. Balancing the Budget while delivering all the services the Council is responsible for has become a massive and difficult task. We remain committed to our election promise of concentrating on the fundamentals at the core of Local Government.

2018/19 will also be a turning point in other ways. It will see the commissioning of two

new large employers in our community (the concrete batching plant and the 120 bed aged care facility), extensions to Benalla P-12 and Cooida Village. This is set to be the largest investment and construction period in Benalla's history.

The Council is aware that all this expansion comes with challenges that must be managed. We keep in mind that we have to maintain the wonderful environment that is Benalla Rural City.

BENALLA LANDFILL AND RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE - CELL 2 UPDATE

The Council is constructing a second EPA compliant, fully lined cell at the Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre. Construction of the previous cell was completed in 2015 and will be at its capacity by early 2019.

The second cell is being constructed in two stages. The material excavation of the bulk earthworks is complete. Minor works, including the construction of haul roads, crossings, storm water drains, bunding and placement of top soil are being finalised before handover. These works complete Stage 1 of the Cell.

The EPA conducted a detailed design audit of Stage 2 of the Cell and provided conditions to be met in the construction. The approval was received on 11 April 2018.

We are now in the procurement stages of Stage 2, which will involve the installation of the cell lining.



NEW JOHN DEERE GRADER ON THE ROAD

Have you seen our replacement grader? We have acquired a John Deere grader under our plant replacement program. The grader it replaced was almost 14 years old and had clocked up more than 15,200 hours of service. The normal life expectancy of a grader is 10-12 years.

The new grader has a 14 foot blade compared to the previous grader's 12 foot blade.

The grader will be working through Baddaginnie, Stewarton, Devenish, Chesneyvale and Thoona during May.

BE A PART OF THE BENALLA FESTIVAL

Are you interested in holding an event during the Benalla Festival this year?

This year's Benalla Festival runs from 3-11 November 2018 with the theme 'Our Backyard, a celebration of special places and spaces'.

If you would like to hold an event as part of the program, please download an Expression of Interest form from www.benallafestival.com.au and return it to us by Monday 23 July 2018.



BENALLA FESTIVAL

3 - 11 November 2018 www.benallafestival.com.au



MAKING A SPLASH IN BENALLA



The Victorian Government will contribute \$48,000 for a feasibility study and design of a splash park for Benalla. Jaclyn Symes, State Member for Northern Victoria, announced the funding with

Councillors and families who are excited about the prospect of a new splash park for Benalla. They are shown here holding images of concepts for a splash park.

DENNY STREET TRAFFIC CHANGES



New traffic calming devices (speed humps) have been installed in Denny Street. These devices are speed limited to 10km/h. It is designed to slow traffic down around the Denny Street carpark, making it safer for pedestrians and road traffic.



DEVENISH SILO ART

We launched the new Devenish Silo Art on 24 April, in time for Anzac Day. The giant artwork depicts a World War I nurse and a modern combat medic and commemorates 100 years since the end of the War. The idea was the initiative of the Devenish community, led by my local farmer Kevin Mitchell. Thanks also to Graincorp for making the silos available.

CREATING SPACE FOR TOURISM



New long parking bays have been created in Fawcner Drive and Lowry Place. This is great for tourism as it contributes to Benalla becoming an RV friendly destination.



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