

5. Draft *Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026* – Consideration of Submissions

SF/1269

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents submissions received on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026*.

BACKGROUND

The Council at its, Finance and Operations Committee on 13 April 2022 resolved:

1. *That the draft Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026 be endorsed.*
2. *That the Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026 be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.*

Public notice of the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026* was given on the Council's website on Friday 22 April 2022 and in the *Benalla Ensign* on Wednesday 27 April 2022.

The draft *Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026* was also presented to the Benalla Youth Service Providers Network and also promoted via the Council's website and social media.

The submission period closed 5pm Thursday 27 May 2022.

DISCUSSION

At the close of the submission period two submissions have been received.

- Cienna Hughes
- Charlie Davies.

Submissions are attached as **Appendix 1**.

In accordance with the Council's *Governance Rules 2020*, submitters were invited to address the Finance and Operations Committee in support of their submissions. No request to speak were received from submitters.

Feedback was received from councillors, at the Finance and Operations Committee meeting held on 13 April 2022, regarding the themes of racism and multiculturalism within the consultation report and whether they could be more specifically addressed within the strategy.

Council staff have considered this feedback and believe that the strategy adequately addresses the subject within the *Connect* theme, action 3.7:

“[Our community will:] Be a safe place to live, where young people’s diversity and culture is respected and celebrated.”

Specific actions, projects, and initiatives addressing all themes identified within the strategy and consultation report will appear within annual action plans.

The annual action plans will be developed in collaboration with young people, local youth networks, and other key stakeholders.

No changes to the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026* are proposed after considering the formal submissions and other feedback received.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Community

- *A Healthy, safe and resilient community.*
- *A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Economy

- *Diverse education and employment.*

Leadership

- *Engaged and informed community.*

GENDER EQUALITY ACT

Under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* the Council is required to undertake a gender impact assessment when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public.

A gender equity assessment found the Strategy has an overall positive gender impact.

LEGISLATIVE OR STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that the report is consistent with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with implementation of the *Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026* will be accommodated within existing budget allocations.

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 submissions be received.**
- 2. That the *Benalla Rural City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2026* be adopted.**