

Finance and Operations Committee

Agenda

Date: Wednesday 25 May 2022

Time: 5.30pm

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

The *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020* enables councils to hold meetings electronically. This measure is intended to ensure the safety of members of the public, Councillors and Council staff.

The Council Meeting Room has limited capacity for public attendance. Accordingly, members of the public are encouraged to watch the live broadcast of the meeting at www.benalla.vic.gov.au

Any person wishing to participate in Question Time in accordance with Rule 7.2 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 the Governance Rule 6.4 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
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	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.

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. Public Question Time

The Council's *Governance Rules 2020* provide the opportunity for members of the public to lodge written questions of broad interest to the Council and the community.

Questions of the Council will not be allowed during any period when the Council has resolved to close the meeting in respect of a matter under section 66 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

A question may be on any matter except if it:

- is considered malicious, defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial, or objectionable in language or substance;
- relates to confidential information as defined under the Act;
- relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer; or
- relates to any other matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

No more than two questions will be accepted from any person at any one meeting.

All questions and answers must be as brief as possible, and no discussion may be allowed other than by Councillors for the purposes of clarification.

Like questions may be grouped together and a single answer provided.

The Chair may nominate a Councillor, the Chief Executive Officer or another member of Council staff to respond to a question.

Recommendation:

That the question(s) and answer(s) be noted.

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2. Proposed 2022/23 Budget – Hearing Of Submissions

SF/3919-04

Cathy Fitzpatrick – Manager Finance
Robert Barber – General Manager Corporate
Dom Testoni – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents submissions received on the proposed *2022/23 Budget*.

BACKGROUND

The Council at its meeting on Wednesday 20 April 2022 resolved:

1. *That the proposed 2022/23 Budget be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 21 April 2022.*
2. *That submissions relating to the proposed 2022/23 Budget be heard at a meeting of the Finance and Operations Committee on 25 May 2022.*
3. *That the Council consider submissions relating to the proposed 2022/23 Budget at a Council meeting on 15 June 2022.*
4. *That the Council consider the adoption of the 2022/23 Budget at a meeting of the Council on Wednesday 29 June 2022.*

Public notice of the proposed *2022/23 Budget* was given on the Council's website on 21 April 2022 and in the *Benalla Ensign* on Wednesday 27 April 2022. Feedback was also sought via the Council's website and promoted on social media.

A community information session on the proposed *2022/23 Budget* was held on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at the Benalla Civic Centre.

The submission period closed 5pm Thursday 19 May 2022.

DISCUSSION

At the close of the submission period 11 submissions had been received from:

- Warren Sun (refer **Appendix 1**)
- Linda Lee (**Appendix 2**)
- Nigel Bowen (**Appendix 3**)
- Miranda (**Appendix 4**)
- Tanya Johnstone (**Appendix 5**)
- June Howard (**Appendix 6**)
- Rhys (**Appendix 7**)
- Caroline Wallis (**Appendix 8**)

- Sabine Smyth (**Appendix 9**)
- Alice Crichton (**Appendix 10**)
- Benalla Residents for Accountable Governance (**Appendix 11**)
- Anonymous (**Appendix 12**)

In accordance with the Council's *Governance Rules 2020*, submitters have been invited to address the Finance and Operations Committee in support of their submissions.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Leadership

- *Good governance.*
- *High performance culture.*
- *Engaged and informed community.*

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.

CONCLUSION

Submissions will be considered at the Finance and Operations Committee on 15 June 2022.

The proposed *2022/23 Budget* will be considered for adoption at the Council meeting on 29 June 2022.

Recommendation:

That submissions be received.

please Note: upon Mr Stewart Courtts' advice, this message is also copied in Dr. Helen Haines, Member for Indi

Dear New Mayor, Cr Bernie Hearn,

Appendix 1

Warm congratulations on you being the newly elected Mayor of Benalla. I am particularly impressed by your "election manifesto" that you "listen to community; eager to work for the best outcomes", as well as your first Mayor's Message: "caring for our neighbours".

Over a year ago, I and my neighbours wrote to Benalla Rural Council with a petition for installing street lights covering the area of blocks/numbers 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36 of Baddaginnie-Benalla Road. Every night the whole area (about 210 meters long) becomes pitch-black. This pitch-dark situation is very likely to cause personal safety hazards, such as tripping across the drainages/ditches along the footpath (which after rain are often filled with flood water, such as shown in the attached pictures taken this morning), or stepping over snakes (one Council contracted tradesman warned me about the snake holes near my house.) In any case, we do not dare to come out on foot in this home surrounding area.

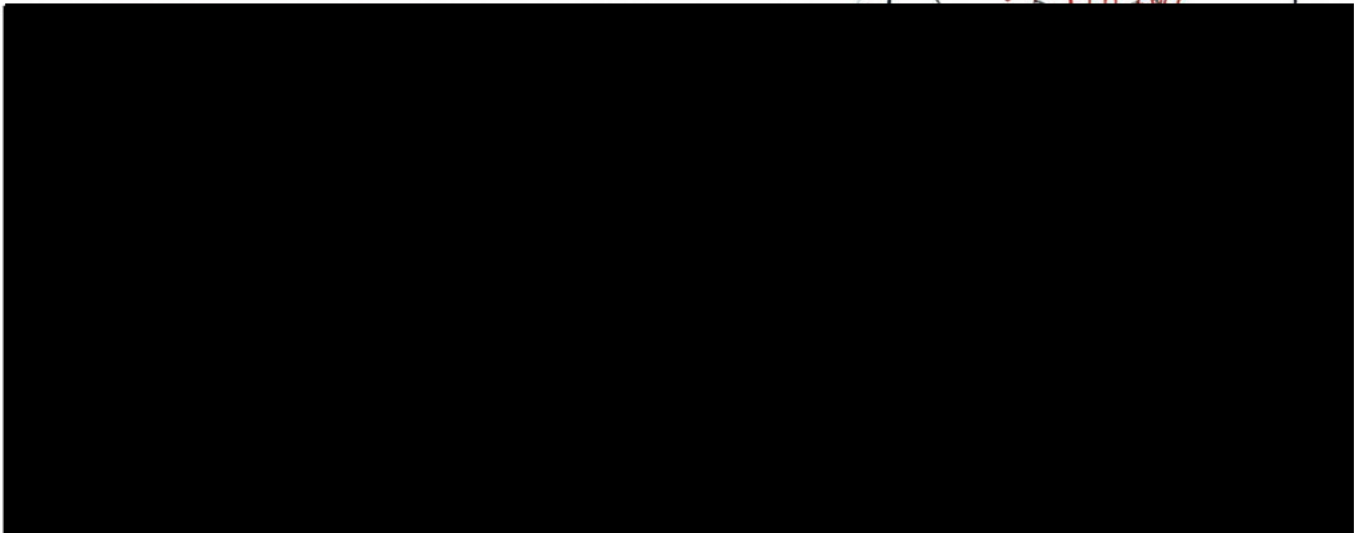
Like the previous year all our neighbours including those from the near-by households in the cul-de-sac express their sympathy and support for this petition. Please consider and take appropriate measure to rectify this hazardous condition.

Grateful thanks. Warren Sun, 23 Dec, 2021

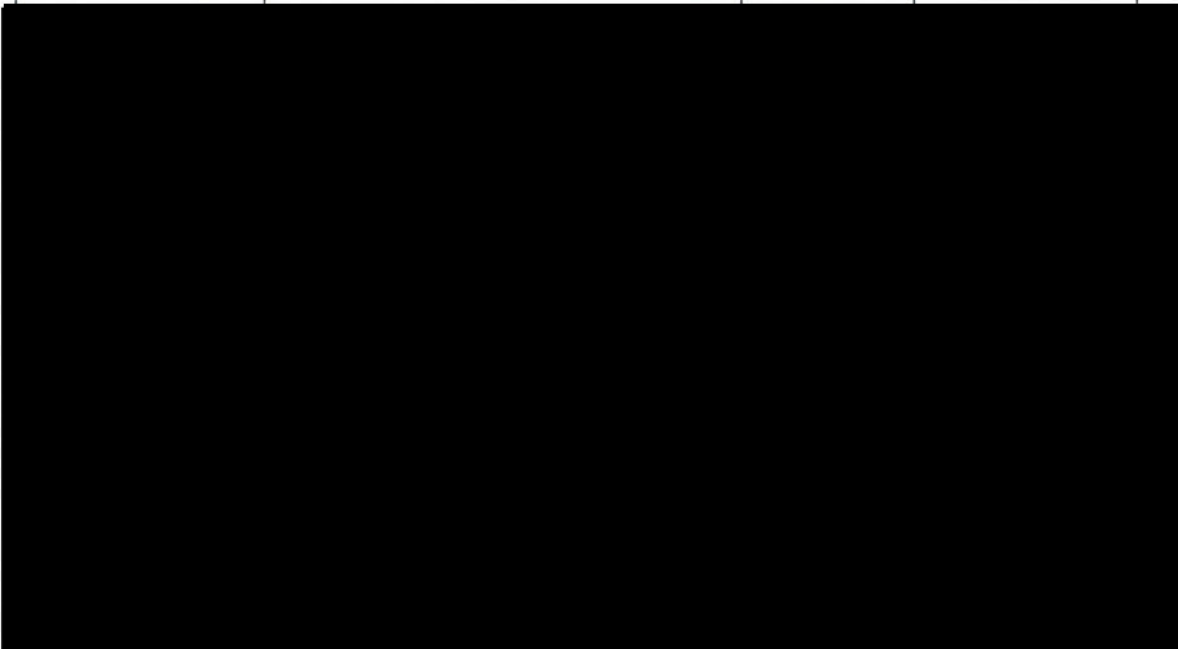
BENALLA RURAL CITY COUNCIL

Also From residents and citizens below:

11 FEB 2022



Name	Address	Telephone	Signature
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From: [Linda Lee](#)
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 budget Submission
Date: Friday, 11 March 2022 11:44:23 AM

To whom it may concern,

Having received your colourful newsletter last week, I was impressed to think that council was interested in its residents views regarding the budget - how our rates would be put to work.

I therefore endeavoured this week to complete the survey as suggested at "haveyoursay.benalla.vi.gov.au". I struggled to find the said budget survey so I rang the council office for guidance. Can you imagine my dismay as I got passed around from one receptionist to another, each unable to assist me. Upon enquiring, they found out that the draft budget isn't available until the 20th April but if I wished I could make any comments by email or letter. But what about the advertised survey? This amazed me as I thought our input may be of value in developing the budget alongside community needs and concerns. If the idea of an online survey is "fake news" how much of the given newsletter is also "fake news". I have enjoyed getting these in the past and believing that our council was industrious for the residents of the rural city.

So just in case any of our councillors ARE interested in community views as they prepare the budget, I thought I would offer my ideas.

1. In consideration of our mums with prams and our our aging population using walking frames, sticks, and scooters could we ensure all footpaths are safe and smooth and new pathways are put in existing residential areas.

2. Put in decent playgrounds for OUR little ones. Wangaratta and Shepparton show us up with their concern for their children. Their play equipment is interesting, suited to various ages, and safe.

3. Speaking of safety, this leads me to maintenance of our public areas. This requires more than lawn mowing, which is well done.

On a visit to the mosaic sculpture there was bottle tops, broken glass and weeds growing through the pavement, cobwebs decorate the ceilings, graffiti scrawled on the tiles and leaf litter gathering in the courtyard. Could we have maintenance done regularly to make it an inviting and safe place for both residents and tourists to visit? The idea of putting in gardens will only mask the sculpture from visitors and hide it from the councillors having to look down on it from their offices.

4. We were thrilled to find we had a grader to maintain our road shoulders but does it only operate part time? Over a month it managed to improve three (3) roads. Being a rural resident and aware of the state of our roads, I should think more work would need to be done to keep up maintenance of the vas areas of country roads in our shire.

5. Drop the idea of a new cinema centre. The current one is suitable and attractive and the distance to it is negligible. Extend the bus service if necessary. (Well done on the bus service extension out along the Wangaratta Road!)

Please don't destroy our riverside environment. I'm not impressed by the "shed" you propose to put in to house toilets and changerooms and a cafe near the splash park, although I agree they are needed! The beautiful and creative architecture of our past has been replaced by tin boxes and financial budgeting

These are just a few thoughts. I hope you will consider them

Linda Lee
Resident.

From: no-reply@harvestdp.com
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 budget Submission
Date: 29 March 2022

Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission

Submission:

For many years rate payers have been asking for better footpaths. There are so many streets in Benalla that have NO footpaths at all. Some of these streets are very busy, like Witt Street, and the only place to walk is on the road/verge and it is only a matter of time before someone is hit by a vehicle. Recently I had the opportunity to travel through many Victorian and South Australian towns and took particular notice of the amenities of these towns. Some and not isolated to, Like Cohuna have fantastic facilities. In the heart of the Cohuna town they have a Tourist Information centre, Excellent New playground with a sand beach with pier, competition grade skate park and a Free caravan park. This town puts Benalla to shame as it has so much to offer and attracts visitors to stop. Sure we have the Splash park and that is great, the skate park is under developed and needs an upgrade. Many other existing facilities need upgrades, but we see more and more partially funded and poorly costed facilities receiving long term commitments that we cannot afford. The ongoing costs of these facilities is killing us. Do we really need the council to be building facilities that are surely outside of the Councils core business and more related to a private development. Make Benalla more attractive for visitors and business and the town will grow. Council need to balance the spend and stop chasing the grants that demand a council share that the town cannot afford. Limit these long term commitments on the "must haves" rather than the "wants" just because some Government cash is available. Council needs to get back to basics and try to reduce costs. Our rates are and have always been too high for the return.

Name:

Nigel

From: no-reply@harvestdp.com
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission
Date: 23 April 2022

Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission

Submission:

Build a fenced dog park with amenities such as water, seating and toilets.

Name:

Miranda

From: no-reply@harvestdp.com
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 budget Submission
Date: 24 April 2022

Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission

Submission:

I read in the budget that \$100k is allocated to the skate park/BMX track. As the bike track has had zero spent on it for the past 10+ years, I hope that the larger portion of these funds are used to remodel this track rather than further funds spent on the skate park. Whilst BMX bikes can be ridden at the skate park, there is a large amount of kids in town that ride mountain bikes and the current BMX track has minimal small and larger jumps to accommodate these bikes, Our kids love riding and would welcome an improved facility. I'm also sure the kids would like to be involved with the planning of a new & improved track if you give them the chance. Allowing them to be involved in the design would give them pride in any redevelopment.

Name:

Tanya

From: no-reply@harvestdp.com
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission
Date: 24 April 2022

Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission

Submission:

Devenish for 20 plus years we have been promised that the drainage will be fixed. Stage 1 of stage 3 commenced. What a disaster. All we have now are gaping trenches that don't drain and have become cesspools, breeding mossier and a dangerous for traffic and children. All the money was spent on stage 1, hence stage 2 and 3 gone into the black hole. In last 5+ years we have been advised the money is there to fix the drainage. Still nothing has happened, empty promises from council. Some of The councilors say the money is there but covid has stopped the works enough is enough where is the CE

Name:

June

From: no-reply@harvestdp.com
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 budget Submission
Date: 23 April 2022

Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission

Submission:

An upgrade of the squash and racquet ball courts is desperately needed, along with the basketball stadium. Benalla facilities are terrible compared to other towns.

Name:

Rhys

From: [Caroline Wallis](#)
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: 2022/23 Budget Submission
Date: Sunday, 24 April 2022 8:17 AM

Good morning Councillors,

I'd like to share our story so you have some context for my input into the new Council budget. It has taken me 18 months to feel ready to do this. I appreciate your time and hope you read the whole email - it's a little long (sorry).

On 17th July 2020 just as Covid hit with a vengeance, my then 63 year old, very fit and healthy husband suffered a devastating massive stroke. This was completely out of the blue as he had no symptoms of being unwell, had never smoked, was very fit and active - what happened to him could happen to anyone. He spent months in hospital and rehabilitation having lost the use of his right side, his communication severely impacted, and eventually he came home a different person. No longer able to work, I became his fulltime carer.

After much encouragement I convinced him to venture out for the first time, in November 2020 to a cafe in Benalla. Naturally he is wheelchair bound but with much assistance he can transfer from the car to the chair. So with an encouraging smile on my face to cover up my anxiety and trepidation, we got into town and parked at the signposted accessible parking bay closest to the cafe we wanted to go to. When I went to the passenger side door I realised we had a huge problem. The curb was full of water. It seems that this parking spot is the one that collects the excess water, as all the others up the road were clear. The second problem was there was no way I could get the wheelchair anywhere near my husband for him to safely get out of the car and into the chair because the curb is in the way. It appears that Benalla Council has placed a sign indicating accessible parking - even with the symbol of a person in a wheelchair - at a spot that nobody in a wheelchair can use. The parking space is a normal parking space with a lovely sign and nothing more. I took a photo, lodged an enquiry as I thought this must be a mistake and received a call from an employee who assured me the council has to meet its quota of accessible parking spaces and that's why this spot is marked accessible. I tried to explain that it is not accessible in any way, and that what Council has is a number of signs! Not actually accessible parking. I was told how expensive accessible parking was and the Council doesn't have the money. I suggested perhaps it was an issue of prioritising resources. I was then invited to attend the next meeting of the parking group and assured I would receive contact. I stated I doubted that would happen but I would wait and happily attend. Well, as expected no such contact ever occurred.

Being a fulltime carer takes an enormous amount of physical, emotional and spiritual energy and I had better things to do with my time than chase up something that clearly wasn't going to change. I had bigger problems to deal with so I let it go. However I knew that when things were a little more settled, I would want to do something in future to address this appalling lack of service for people with mobility problems. So, I checked Council's website and your disability action plan is hopelessly out of date, and it appears your Council does not have any real actions addressing accessibility, only plans and signs that meet the state's requirements for councils to take 'action'.

I understand that there are other priorities such as sport, recreation, arts, roads etc. And now it is annual Council budget time again and I have decided to raise this issue with you directly. Now I am living this life of a carer, I can tell you it is extremely difficult for people with mobility problems to get around Benalla safely. Surely you can find \$40 or \$50k each year to upgrade your sign posts so that they become really accessible parking spaces that allow sufficient room, which includes room behind the vehicle, to allow people to participate in the activities of this town that you all take for granted. My husband now has an electric wheelchair that I will need to transport in our horse float and I am too terrified to take him into town and park somewhere because I don't know where we can do that in a way that ensures I can load the wheelchair back in the float when we get back. Someone is bound to park behind us. So basically we don't go anywhere.

Anyway, very long story short, please try to imagine what life is like for people like my husband. Please put some money and real passion and interest into these issues, not just tick a box to please the state that Benalla Council has sufficient parking spaces per head of population when all you have is signage. People like us become very isolated and feel shut out of Benalla because it is just so difficult to get around. Just crossing the street pushing a man in a wheelchair is a nightmare because of the steepness of the curbs and lack of pedestrian crossing. I actually plan our parking for medical appointments so that I don't have to cross a road with the wheelchair, and we never park in the designated accessible parking bays you have because they are dangerous! It's really crazy stuff - straight out of an episode of Utopia, seriously.

Like you, I had no idea how bad it was in Benalla until it happened to us. Now my eyes are open and I wish the council's were as well.

In a nutshell, I'd like to see Council commit to a **functional disability advisory committee** that is actually taken seriously and listened to; an **update of the disability action plan** that outlines actions that are supported by the annual budget; an **annual allocation to upgrade accessible parking spaces** - even just one per year - based on proper consultation and input from people who actually use them - not the road engineers who know nothing about real life users; the **creation of at least one pedestrian zebra crossing** in the middle of the main street and a **plan to gradually improve the steepness of the curbs** (sorry I don't know the engineering term for it) where you cross the road - at the moment most are so steep the wheelchair almost tips over when we cross (eg at the set of lights in the middle of the CBD) and I have to go down with my husband facing backwards, then quickly spin him around and race across the road before the lights change, quickly spin him around backwards again to pull the chair up the curb - it's terrifying and dangerous and frankly, humiliating.

Thank you for listening. I know we are not alone in this situation.

your sincerely

Caroline and Bernie Wallis

From: [Sabine Smyth](#)
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: 2022/23 Budget Submission
Date: Wednesday, 18 May 2022 9:37:29 PM

My Submission to the 2022/2023 Budget

From Sabine Smyth 18th May 2022

I strongly object to this Financial Plan.

The BRC Financial Plan 2022-2023 should be presented to the community alongside an Asset Plan. 'The Asset Plan ensures effective management and stewardship of community assets' (Page 3 of your Financial Plan). However there is no Asset Plan on the council website, that I can see. It says in your Council Plan 2021-2025 that : As an Asset Owner, "Council owns (or is a custodian) and has responsibility for capital, operating and maintenance costs."

This is relevant because there is at least one community asset that is repeatedly overlooked, the former Benalla Migrant Camp Site. There has been no action (although urgent repairs were flagged in 2018) on the implementation of Council's Conservation Management Plan for the site, for three years. Again there is no recommendation to this budget/financial plan for urgent works.

Yes I am aware that Ms Elise Wood is lodging an application for funding to repair Hut 65; I wrote a letter of support for her funding submission and I keep my fingers crossed it is successful. I am also aware that this particular funding source (Living Heritage Grants) has had seven rounds, and this is the last one.

I ask will Council at least allocate some funds for drainage works for the site, preceded by an inspection and advice by a drainage specialist?

I now make a final comment about community engagement in regards to a Council Budget/Financial Plan. Openness, Accountability and honesty are essential to build high levels of trust amongst citizens.

Without transparency, effective community engagement, planning, financial management and any number of Council responsibilities cannot be properly transformed. While many matters were considered confidential under the old Local Government Act, under the new Act it is now only limited to matters where 'public availability of this information is contrary to the public interest.' Councils should note that public transparency principles, at section 58 of the Act, must be applied to all aspects of a Council's operations and decision making.

It is not against public interest to have competently explained, the reason behind major spending such as the Visitor Information Centre cinema café complex. You have so far not answered direct questions, you have not shared with the community, reports or summaries of professional advice you received for this project. You have not explained to us in what way this expensive liability investment will benefit the whole community, or attract sufficient visitation to warrant its build. You have not published your business case.

You have approved a budget and financial plan, which recommends the allocation of ratepayer monies towards the high risk prospect of building a café and cinema in a flood plain. Even before a brick is laid, there is a one million dollar cost blow-out in this project, announced in the local paper. Please take the time to reconsider this project, in the community's interest.
Sabine Smyth

From: [Alice Crichton](#)
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 4:03:38 PM

Draft Budget 2022-23 Submission Form Submission

My written submission on the draft Budget 2022-23

We need to stop the cinema shed proposal. We have a very low level of available cash when compared to the state average and other similar councils. We cannot afford a project that has blown out by \$1 million, we have borrowed too heavily to finance the project, and we cannot afford the on-going cost if we ever want to properly fund the basic infrastructure that we, as residents, rely on the council to provide. The council's determination to push ahead with this project, despite the absence of a business case and insufficient community engagement, risks damaging the community's trust in the council's ability to manage our shared resources.

We need to spend more on asset renewal and upgrade, especially for our footpaths and bike lanes. We also need to manage and develop parks and recreation facilities, especially outside the Benalla city. Badaginnie does not have a recreation reserve that is fit for purpose and accessible for local residents. They need one and we should be funding it as it is a basic service of the council, and much more important than building a new cinema less than 20 years after we built the last one. We have a very high rate of obesity within our local government area (see <https://www.centralhumepcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Benalla-LGA-Data-Profile-2020-CHPCP.pdf>) with up to 70% of men overweight or obese. A high level of overweight and obesity today will translate in to expensive chronic conditions in to the future – type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart disease to name a few. We can prevent these future chronic diseases right now by directing our resources towards building the infrastructure people need to stay healthy, and that means making it easy to walk or cycle and making recreation space attractive and accessible. Public health is the essential work of all local governments, and Benalla needs to take a leading role in preventing future disease. The budget should prioritise commit funds to fully implement the Climate Change Action Adaption Plan 2013-2025. This commitment of funds should include updating the plan as it is currently overdue for review. We should direct our resources to preparing for less comfortable weather in to the future, and the community and the BRCC should work together for future benefit.

This budget should prioritise a funding commitment to building a facility that is accessible for everyone within the local government area and does not require payment so that people can meet and socialise comfortably without cost, especially during periods of heat and cold. We have no shared community centre within our local government area and we sorely need one.

We should have a reusable (“cloth”) nappy rebate. A reusable nappy rebate will save us money in the long term – both in collection costs and landfill costs. As a community, we have decided that the cost of bringing up a baby in BRCC should be shared, which is why we provide additional waste collection service to the parents and carers of babies. For each year that we do this, it costs the BRCC \$207.50, and families can have this service for up until their baby is 3 years old. I understand that the free upgrade to weekly bin collection for parents is to assist with the removal of disposable nappies. Offering residents a small, one-off payment to encourage the use of reusable nappies will reduce the amount of money we spend on waste collection and landfill costs. Additionally, the council offering a free service only that only benefits parents who use disposable nappies is inequitable – if we accept that new parents need help to manage the cost of waste generated by a child, we have to provide assistance to every type of nappy that is generated. It is inequitable that BRCC will only provide substantial subsidy to parents who generate waste through using disposable nappies and nothing to parents who choose reusable nappies. We should be giving parents the choice between weekly bin collection and reusable nappy rebate. By offering a small payment of \$150, which is a sum offered by other councils with a nappy rebate, we can save \$600 we currently spend on additional waste collection for Benalla’s smallest residents.

BRCC should allocate money to implement the National Action Plan for Endometriosis (<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-action-plan-for-endometriosis>). Every level of government has a role to play in this plan, and BRCC should take a leading role in addressing this public health issue.

BRCC should commit money to a substantial anti-racism program. We have a serious problem with racism within our local government area, and we ought to prioritise making a real effort to address it for the benefit of all of our residents and businesses.

Would you like to speak at a Council meeting in support of your submission?

No, I do not wish to speak to my submission

Name

Alice Crichton

From: [letushaveoursay](#)
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 4:06:13 PM

Draft Budget 2022-23 Submission Form

Submission

My written submission on the draft Budget 2022-23

Benalla Residents for Accountable Governance (BResAG)'s Budget Submission.

BResAG requests that the Benalla Rural City Council cease the development of the proposed cinema site in Mair St Benalla. After reviewing the budget, it is obvious to us that this project is unaffordable at this time and will eat up money that should be spent on basic infrastructure improvement and maintenance. An example of an infrastructure improvement that should occur with the money in this budget is the development of the recreation space available in Badaginnie so that residents in that town are able to exercise and play locally.

This budget does not provide adequate resources to catch up for the on-going underspend on asset renewal and asset upgrade. We have been spending less than a third of the amount we should be spending on asset renewal and asset upgrade, and this budget does not address this problem. Benalla Rural City Council commitment to chronic underspending on maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure comes at the cost of residents' health and wellbeing. We need footpaths that are safe and fit for purpose (including meeting current safety codes), cycling paths that are connected and safe, and access to safe spaces where residents can meet and exercise. The cost of this underspend is transferred on to residents and business owners through grazed knees, broken bones, and smashed windscreens caused by our crumbling infrastructure. Please use our available money to implement the recommendations in the "Pathways to the Future" report so that we can have a safe transportation network that meets state safety codes.

Benalla Rural City Council should have a plan to reduce our rates in the future. Our rates are higher than the state average and higher than similar councils. We should plan to make rates more affordable in the future by practicing restraint now – that means that we should not be diving in to projects that will use up all of our available cash and tie us to future expenditure. Benalla's residents and businesses deserve to have a budget that pays for the basic infrastructure that we all need to live a healthy and safe life.

Would you like to speak at a Council meeting in support of your submission?

Yes, I would like to speak at a Council meeting.

Name

Benalla Residents for Accountable Governance

From: [Anonymous](#)
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Proposed 2022/23 Budget Submission Thursday,
Date: 19 May 2022 4:12:41 PM

Draft Budget 2022-23 Submission Form Submission

My written submission on the draft Budget 2022-23

I want lots more playgrounds and I want them to be shaded. I like playing at the park near Avon St but there is no shade in summer so it's not very fun. I like the new park in Goorambat but I want more parks and fun places.

Would you like to speak at a Council meeting in support of your submission?

No, I do not wish to speak to my submission

Name

I do not wish to be identified in the public submissions report

3. Draft *Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2023 to 2032* – Hearing Of Submissions

SF/1489-07

Cathy Fitzpatrick – Manager Finance
Robert Barber – General Manager Corporate
Dom Testoni – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents submissions received on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2023 to 2032*.

BACKGROUND

The Council at its meeting on Wednesday 20 April 2022 resolved:

1. *That the draft Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2023 to 2032 be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 21 April 2022.*
2. *That submissions relating to the draft Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2023 to 2032 be heard at a meeting of the Finance and Operations Committee on 25 May 2022.*
3. *That the Council consider submissions relating to the draft Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2023 to 2032 at a Council meeting on 15 June 2022.*
4. *That the Council consider the adoption of the Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2023 to 2032 at a meeting of the Council on Wednesday 29 June 2022.*

Public notice of the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2023 to 2032* was given on the Council's website on 21 April 2022 and in the *Benalla Ensign* on Wednesday 27 April 2022.

Feedback was also sought via the Council's website and promoted on social media.

A community information session on the draft *Financial Plan 2022 to 2032* was held on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at the Benalla Civic Centre.

The submission period closed 5pm Thursday 19 May 2022.

DISCUSSION

At the close of the submission period one submission had been received from:

- Jane Rushworth (refer **Appendix 1**)

In accordance with the Council's *Governance Rules 2020*, submitters have been invited to address the Finance and Operations Committee in support of their submissions.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Leadership

- *Good governance.*
- *High performance culture.*
- *Engaged and informed community.*

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.

CONCLUSION

Submissions will be considered at the Finance and Operations Committee on 15 June 2022.

The draft *Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2023 to 2032* will be considered for adoption at the Council meeting on 29 June 2022.

Recommendation:

That submissions be received.

From: no-reply@harvestdp.com
To: [Benalla Council Email](#)
Subject: Draft Financial Plan 2022 to 2032 Submission
Date: 4 May 2022

Draft Financial Plan 2022 to 2032 Submission

Submission:

Hello,

Benalla's community values are reflected daily in every decision we make.

Our vision describes ""thriving"" in an ""inclusive"" and ""welcoming"" community.

I would like this document's introduction to include explanations about how the 2023-32 Financial Plan supports our community vision for environmental health and gender equity, and to include the references that support that explanation.

The purpose of my request is to overtly link how our community values drive our financial planning.

Kind regards,

Name:

Jane Rushworth

Closure of Meeting