

# Finance and Planning Committee

## Agenda

**Date: Wednesday 24 May 2023**

**Time: 5.30pm**

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

Committee Meetings are live streamed and recorded. Members of the public are encouraged to watch the live broadcast of the meeting at [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)

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](mailto:council@benalla.vic.gov.au) or telephoning Governance Coordinator Jess Pendergast 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 Danny Claridge
- Councillors**            Councillor Peter Davis  
                                  Councillor Don Firth  
                                  Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)  
                                  Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne  
                                  Councillor Justin King  
                                  Councillor Gail O’Brien
- In attendance**        Dom Testoni                      Chief Executive Officer  
                                  Robert Barber                    General Manager Corporate  
                                  Cathy Fitzpatrick                Manager Finance  
                                  Jess Pendergast                 Governance Coordinator

## Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair will open the meeting and recite the following Acknowledgement 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. Proposed 2023/24 Budget – Hearing of Submissions

SF/2485-08

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

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#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents submissions received on the proposed 2023/24 Budget.

#### BACKGROUND

The Council at its meeting on Wednesday 19 April 2023 resolved:

1. *That the proposed 2023/24 Budget be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 20 April 2023.*
2. *That submissions relating to the proposed 2023/24 Budget be heard at a meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee on 24 May 2023.*
3. *That the Council consider submissions relating to the proposed 2023/24 Budget at a meeting on 14 June 2023.*
4. *That the Council consider the adoption of the 202/24 Budget at a meeting of the Council on Wednesday 28 June 2023.*

Public notice of the proposed 2023/24 Budget was given on the Council's website on 20 April 2023 and in the *Benalla Ensign* on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

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

A community information session was held on Tuesday 2 May 2023 at the Benalla Civic Centre.

The submission period closed 5pm Thursday 18 May 2023.

#### DISCUSSION

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

- David Lamont (refer **Appendix 1**)
- Jane Rushworth (**Appendix 2**)
- Nigel Bowen (**Appendix 3**)
- Emily (**Appendix 4**)

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* IMPLICATIONS**

**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 Planning Committee on 14 June 2023.

The proposed *2022/23 Budget* will be considered for adoption at the Council meeting on 28 June 2023.

**Recommendation:**

**That submissions be received.**

From DAVID LAMONT  
 BENALLA RESIDENT 70 YEARS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

## Council seeks ideas for upcoming budget

Benalla Rural City Council is calling on the community to share its ideas for consideration in its 2023-24 budget.

Mayor Bernie Hearn said ideas raised by the community would be considered as part of putting together the draft budget, which will be released for public comment in mid-April.

"We are asking the community to go to the Have Your Say online portal to do exactly that, have your say in what your priorities are for council's upcoming budget," Cr Hearn said.

"As part of community consultation we want to know how you would spend \$1000 of

ratepayers' money across a range of services that council provides.

"This will let us see how you would prioritise funds, and at the same time gives us an idea of which of council's services you value.

"We are also asking for your ideas, letting you upvote or downvote other ideas and asking you, the ratepayers, to have an open conversation on what you see as important for council to fund in the 2023-24 budget.

Submissions close on Friday, March 10, at 5pm.

• Head to [haveyoursay.benalla.vic.gov.au](https://haveyoursay.benalla.vic.gov.au) to make a submission.

(A) UPGRADE THE INFORMATION NOTICE AT BENALLA TOWN BRIDGE TO INCLUDE A 12 MONTH SUMMARY OF MAJOR BENALLA COUNCIL PROPOSALS.

(B) ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE EXISTING KERB & CHANNEL SHORTCOMINGS — IE NO SEAL BETWEEN SEALED ROAD & KERB, NO EXISTING KERB | ONE SECTION OF ONE EXISTING STREET EACH YEAR I-SA SUCCESSION.



# Make a submission

## Proposed Budget 2023/24

BENALLA BENALLA RURAL CITY COUNCIL			
27 APR 2023			
RURAL CITY			
FILE NO.	2	10	P

My written submission

Joni Bushworth

- Have the council's help applied to this year's budget

That will ensure the budget reflects the Community values identified in the community plan 2016/22.

attached

Use reverse side of page if more space is needed

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this below.

Name (required): Joni Bushworth

Email (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number (required): [REDACTED]

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report (required):

Yes

No



**From:** [noreply@socialpinpoint.com](mailto:noreply@socialpinpoint.com)  
**To:** [Benalla Council Email](#)  
**Subject:** Submission - Proposed 2023/24 Budget  
**Date:** Friday, 5 May 2023 6:27:26 PM

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# Submission - Proposed 2023/24 Budget

Submission received via Have Your Say website.

### **My written submission:**

The proposed Council Budget makes no reference to any Footpath works within Benalla. There are many streets in Benalla that have NO footpaths. Witt Street is in dire need of a footpath extension and this is more apparent now that the Subdivision works have started. The increased road traffic in Witt Street along with pedestrian traffic sharing the same road reserve is far from ideal and needs to be addressed before a pedestrian is hit by a vehicle. This is a safety issue.

The 2022/3 budget included a large allocation and from what I have seen we have had very little done for the \$'s allocated. The footpath program should be seen by council as a high priority before new buildings with high ongoing upkeep are done.

### **Name:**

Nigel Bowen

### **I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report:**

Yes

**From:** [noreply@socialpinpoint.com](mailto:noreply@socialpinpoint.com)  
**To:** [Benalla Council Email](#)  
**Subject:** Submission - Proposed 2023/24 Budget  
**Date:** Friday, 5 May 2023 7:24:50 PM

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## **Submission - Proposed 2023/24 Budget**

Submission received via Have Your Say website.

### **My written submission:**

Requesting to use some Funding to put toilets at the Jaycee island park, McKellar street park as well as the splash park.

Children are loving these new additions but it is a let down not having toilet facilities as we all know little kids need the toilet often and it will reduce the amount of accidents that are currently happening on the new parks/ splash park.

### **Name:**

Emily

### **I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report:**

No

## Closure of Meeting