

# Council Meeting

## Minutes

**Date: Wednesday 20 December 2023**

**Time: Midday**

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

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the Governance Rules 2020 the Council Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website and an audio recording was made of the proceedings.

Members of the public were encouraged to watch the live broadcast of the meeting at [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)

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# Minutes

**Councillors** Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor)  
Councillor Peter Davis  
Councillor Don Firth  
Councillor Bernie Hearn  
Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne  
Councillor Justin King  
Councillor Gail O'Brien

**In attendance** Dom Testoni Chief Executive Officer  
Robert Barber General Manager Corporate  
Nathan Gasperoni Environmental Sustainability Officer  
Jessica Beaton Governance Coordinator

## Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 12.06pm and recited 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

An apology was received from Councillor Bernie Hearn and Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne.

**Cr Davis / Cr Firth:**

**That the apology/ies be accepted.**

**Carried**

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### **Statement of Commitment**

The Councillors recited the following Statement of Commitment:

*I declare,  
that as a Councillor of Benalla Rural City  
I will undertake on every occasion  
to carry out my duties in the best interests of the community  
and that my conduct shall maintain the standards of our Councillor Code of Conduct  
so that I may faithfully represent  
and uphold the trust placed in the Council  
by the people of Benalla and District.*

### **Governance Matters**

This Council Meeting was 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* the Council Meeting was audio recorded.

### **Disclosures of Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were disclosed to the Chair.

## Officer Reports

### 1. Annual Report 2022/23

The report presented for consideration the *Benalla Rural City Council Annual Report 2022/23*.

**Cr Firth / Cr O'Brien:**

1. That the *Benalla Rural City Council Annual Report 2022/23* be received.
2. That the Victorian Auditor General's Office Independent Auditor's Performance Statement Report and Independent Auditor's Financial Report be presented to the Council Meeting on 14 February 2024.

**Carried**

### 2. Proposed Tesla Carpark Licence Agreement

The report presents the proposed Tesla licence on Council-owned land for the purpose of an electric vehicle charging station.

**Cr Davis / Cr O'Brien:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Council grant in principle the licence to Tesla Motors Australia Pty Ltd for the use and occupancy of land at the rear of 49-59 Smythe Street, Benalla.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to finalise negotiations with Tesla Motors Australia Pty Ltd for the use and occupancy of land at the rear of 49-59 Smythe Street, Benalla.
4. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute final contract documentation.

**Carried**

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### 3. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

### Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 12.37pm.

The Minutes were confirmed on the fourteenth day of February 2024.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Danny Claridge