

Council Meeting

Agenda

Date: Wednesday 14 February 2024

Time: 6pm

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

Any person wishing to participate in Question Time or Public Submissions in accordance with Rule 7.2 and 7.3 of the Governance Rules 2020 should contact the Council by emailing council@benalla.vic.gov.au or telephoning the Governance Coordinator Jess Pendergast on (03) 5760 2600.

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

Members of the public are encouraged to watch the live broadcast of the meeting at www.benalla.vic.gov.au

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Contents

Opening and Acknowledgment of Country	3
Apologies.....	3
Disclosures of Conflict of Interest.....	5
Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting	5
1. Public Question Time.....	6
2. Petitions	7
Record of Committees.....	7
3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee	7
3.2 Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees	9
Officer Reports.....	11
4.1 Amendment To Planning Permit P0157/17 For The Development Of The Land For A Precast Concrete Manufacturing Facility, The Removal Of Native Vegetation And A Reduction Of Car Parking Spaces At 270 Murray Road, Benalla....	11
4.2 Financial Report For the Half Year Ended 31 December 2023	23
4.3 Finance Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023.....	31
4.4 Fawckner Drive Masterplan	37
4.5 2023/24 Quick Response Grants Program	41
4.6 Facilities and Information Technology Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023.....	43
4.7 Economic Development and Sustainability Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023.....	45
4.8 Community Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023.....	51
4.9 Assets and Infrastructure Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023	57
4.10 Capital Works Program Update As At 31 December 2023.....	63
4.11 Victorian Auditor General's Office Independent Auditor's Performance Statement Report and Independent Auditor's Financial Report	67
4.12 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions.....	69
4.13 Council Actions Pending	73
5. Reports by Councillors	75
6. Notices of Motion	75
7. Notices of Rescission Motion	75
8. Urgent Business.....	75
9. Confidential Business.....	77
9.1 Confidential Report by Councillors.....	79
9.2 Confidential Council Actions Pending	79
10. Reopening of the meeting to the public	81
Closure of the meeting	81

Agenda

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
	Jane Archbold	Manager Community
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Greg Robertson	Manager Facilities and Information Technology
	Nilesh Singh	Manager Development
	Tom Arnold	Community Development Coordinator
	Joel Ingham	Planning Coordinator
	Jessica Beaton	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.

Statement of Commitment

The Councillors will recite 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 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.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes have been circulated to Councillors and posted on the Council website www.benalla.vic.gov.au pending confirmation at this meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 13 December 2023 and 20 December 2023 be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

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.

2. Petitions

Record of Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 be adopted.

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Business**1. Building and Planning Approvals – November and December 2023**

The report detailed planning permit applications and building approvals for November and December 2023.

Cr Firth / Cr Davis:

That the report be noted.

Carried

2. Development Department Activity Report for the Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

The report presented the activities of the Development department for the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:

That the report be noted.

Carried

3. People and Performance Department Activity Report for the Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

The report presented the activities of the People and Performance Department for the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

Cr Gunaratne / Cr O'Brien:

That the report be noted.

Carried

4. Councillors' Expenses For the Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

The report detailed expenditure associated with Councillors' mobile phone usage, attendance at professional development courses, conferences and seminars, and reimbursement of expenses incurred.

Cr Davis / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried

5. CEO Credit Card Report for the Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

The report detailed expenditure associated with the corporate credit card issued to the Chief Executive Officer for the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

Cr Firth / Cr Davis:

That the report be noted.

Carried

6. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Closure of Meeting

The Finance and Planning Committee meeting closed at 6.24pm.

Confirmed this sixth day of March 2024.

Signed: _____
Cr Bernie Hearn (Chair)

3.2 Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees

Under Council's *Governance Rules 2020* the Chief Executive Officer is required to provide a written record of the Assemblies of Councillors at a scheduled Council Meeting.

The record of Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Copies of the Minutes from the following meetings have been provided to councillors under separate cover.

December 2023

4 December 2023	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee Meeting
5 December 2023	Benalla Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
11 December 2023	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
12 December 2023	Australia Day Advisory Committee Meeting
12 December 2023	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
13 December 2023	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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Record of Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees

December 2023

Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Committee

2pm Monday 4 December 2023, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room), 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair: Adrian Gasperoni Manager Assets and Infrastructure

Committee:

Councillor Bernie Hearn	Council Representative
Councillor Justin King	Council Representative
Lisa Aitkinson	Victoria Police
Mark Byers	Victoria Police
Kylie Cotter	Benalla P-12 College
Gavin Duncan	Victoria Police
David Gillespie	Victoria Police
Fran Gottschling	Victoria Police
Shaun Hillier	Victoria Police
Shaun Mason	FCJ College Benalla
David Morrow	Cooinda Village
John Stafford	Regional Roads Victoria
Cristy Webb	Regional Roads Victoria

In attendance: Briana Beggs Administration Officer
Jenni Lamond Victoria Police

Apologies: Kylie Cotter and Fran Gottschling.

Not in Attendance Mark Byers, Gavin Duncan, Shaun Hillier, Shaun Mason and David Morrow.

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Inland Rail Project Update
2. Review of Action Sheet
3. Project Updates
4. Opportunities to Work Together / General Business

Benalla Airport Advisory Committee

5.30pm Monday 20 November 2023, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla

Chair: Councillor Peter Davis Council Representative

Committee: Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor) Council Representative
Vivienne Drew Gliding Club of Victoria
Craig Morrison Benalla Aviation Museum
Mark Carr Commercial Operator
Joni Jones Balloon Association of Victoria
Rob Evans Benalla Aeropark Club Inc

In attendance: Greg Robertson Manager Facilities and Information Technology
Elise Wood Facilities Coordinator
Georgia Spencer Administration Officer

Apologies: Joni Jones

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Business Arising from Previous Minutes
2. Airport Managers Report
3. Airport Leases
4. User Group Reports
5. General Business

Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee

5.30pm Monday 11 December 2023, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla

Chair:	Raelene Stratton	Community Representative
Committee:	Councillor Don Firth	Council Representative
	Councillor Gail O'Brien	Council Representative
	Toby Benador	Community Representative
	Ian Gonzaga	Community Representative
	Alex Ross	Community Representative
	Joel Spencer	Community Representative
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
In attendance:	Catherine Macmillan	Business Development Coordinator
	Eddie Zammit	Curator
	Charlie Vincent	Tourism North East Victoria
	Alison Angus	Tourism Coordinator
	Kirsten Hein	Administration Officer
	Jim Myconos	Former Benalla Street Art Inc.

Apologies: Alison Angus, Charlie Vincent Alex Ross and Kirsten Hein.

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Review of Actions Pending
2. Wall to Wall Festival in previous years
3. Community Information Session
4. Marketing
5. Sponsorship Prospectus
6. Street Art Festival Program
7. Volunteer Roles
8. Other Business

Australia Day Advisory Committee

10am Monday 12 December 2023, Benalla Library, Fawckner Drive, Benalla.

Chair:	Councillor Bernie Hearn	Council Representative
Committee:	Councillor Gail O'Brien	Council Representative
	Amanda Challis	Community Representative
	Robyn Goudie	Community Representative
	Jade Kirk	Community Representative
	Rex Nankervis	Community Representative
	Vicki Sheriff	Community Representative
	Christine Werner	Community Representative
	Diane Young	Community Representative
In attendance:	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Barrie Irvine	Citizen of the Year 2023
	Erin Jenkins	Young Citizen of the Year 2023
	Kirsten Hein	Administration Officer
Apologies:	Cr O'Brien, Amanda Challis, Barrie Irvine.	

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Election of Chair
2. Australia Day 2024
3. General Business

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

5pm Tuesday 12 December 2023, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room), 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair Mr Cameron Gray

Committee Councillor Peter Davis
Councillor Bernie Hearn
Mr Michael Hedderman
Mr Justin Reid
Ms Rita Ruyters

In attendance Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor)
Councillor Don Firth
Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne
Councillor Gail O'Brien

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

External Auditor Leanne Brodie Crowe
Jason Gilbert Crowe

Apologies: Councillor Don Firth and Leanne Brodie

Conflicts of Interest disclosed:

Items discussed:

1. Meeting with Auditors
2. Draft *Annual Financial Report* and Draft *Performance Statement For The Year Ended 30 June 2023*
3. General Business

Communications Advisory Committee

1.30pm Wednesday 13 December 2023, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room)
13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor)

Councillors Councillor Bernie Hearn

Councillor Peter Davis

In attendance

Dom Testoni	Chief Executive Officer
Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
Grant Banks	Communications and Engagement Coordinator
Tracey Beaton	Executive Coordinator
Lucy Hansen	Communications and Engagement Officer

Apologies: Nil

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Review of actions from meeting held 15 November 2023
2. Media Highlights for the past month
3. Community Engagement activity for the past month
4. Summer School Holiday Activities program
5. Christmas Comms
6. Planning for Australia Day 2024
7. General Business

Officer Reports

4.1 Amendment To Planning Permit P0157/17 For The Development Of The Land For A Precast Concrete Manufacturing Facility, The Removal Of Native Vegetation And A Reduction Of Car Parking Spaces At 270 Murray Road, Benalla

DA6595

Joel Ingham – Planning Coordinator
Nilesh Singh – Manager Development

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report assesses an amendment to the plans for planning permit P0157/17 for the development of the land for a precast concrete manufacturing facility and the removal of native vegetation at 270 Murray Road, Benalla.

BACKGROUND

Site Address	Lot 2 on PS816677N 270 Murray Road, Benalla.
Existing Use	The land currently contains infrastructure relating to the recast concrete manufacturing facility
Proposal	Amend plans for the development of the land for a precast concrete manufacturing facility, removal of native vegetation and reduction of car parking spaces to alter Condition 22 to reflect a revised Traffic Impact Assessment Report.
Applicant	West Gate Tunnel Project (Matt Westaway)
Zone	Industrial 1 Zone
Overlays	Nil
Referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Department of Transport▪ Environment Protection Authority▪ Engineering Unit

PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks approval to amend plans associated with the precast concrete manufacturing facility (concrete facility).

Specifically, the changes are to alter Condition 22 to reflect a revised Transport Impact Assessment Report:

Condition 22 of Planning Permit P0157/17 states:

Before the use begins, the applicant or owner must construct any traffic management works identified in Traffic Impact Assessment Report dated 31/10/2017 prepared by Traffic Works Pty Ltd for West Gate Tunnel Project, CPB-John Holland Joint Venture with project number 120318 to the satisfaction of Council. The cost of such works must be fully met by the applicant's developer.

A plan of the proposal is attached in **Appendix 1**.

Site and Surrounds

An inspection of the site and the surrounding area has been undertaken.

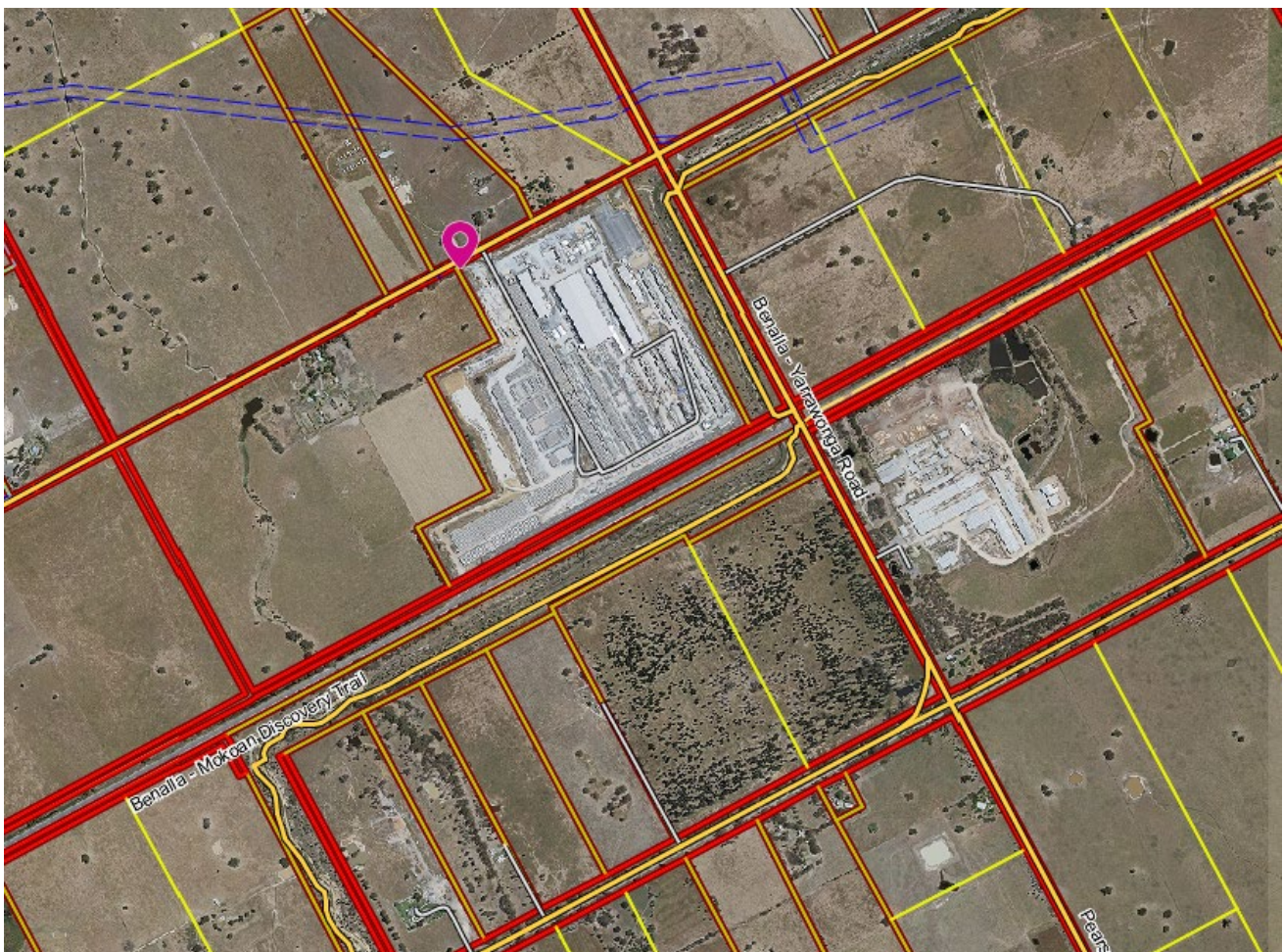
The land is an irregular shaped lot with an area of approximately 48.6 hectares.

The land abuts the Mokoan drainage channel to the south and east and the North Eastern Railway line to the east. The land has frontage to Murray Road, Benalla (north) and Benalla – Yarrawonga Road, Benalla to the east.

The land contains the existing concrete facility buildings and internal access tracks, with most of the land containing precast concrete panels storage. Access is via Murray Road, Benalla to the north.

The subject site is located within an Industrial 1 Zone, with land to the north and west containing similar sized lots used for farming purposes. Land to the south and east comprises smaller sized lots in the farming zone.

LOCALITY MAP



Public Notification

The planning application is to amend Condition 22, relating to a specific traffic Impact Assessment Report. The condition was required by Council at the time of permit issue and it is not expected that changes to traffic management will cause material detriment to surrounding properties. Advertising was not required.

A copy of the application was provided to Department of Transport and Planning (Transport) for comment.

Planning Scheme Provisions

Municipal Planning Strategy

- *Clause 02.03-1 Settlement identifies Benalla as the major urban centre of the municipality, with Enterprise Park providing the bulk of the industrial opportunities.*
- *Clause 02.03-3 Land use conflicts states that in seeking to minimize the potential for land use conflicts, Council seeks to:*
 - *Discourage residential development or other sensitive uses if it will lead to land use conflict with an agricultural or industrial use, or service utility.*
 - *Locate new industrial development to reduce the risk of adverse amenity impacts.*

Planning Policy Framework (PPF)

- *Clause 13.07-1S Land use compatibility seeks to protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial, infrastructure or other uses with potential adverse off-site impacts. The following strategies apply:*
 - *Ensure that use or development of land is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.*
 - *Avoid locating incompatible uses in areas that may be impacted by adverse off-site impacts from commercial, industrial and other uses.*
 - *Avoid or otherwise minimise adverse off-site impacts from commercial, industrial and other uses through land use separation, siting, building design and operational measures.*
 - *Protect existing commercial, industrial and other uses from encroachment by use or development that would compromise the ability of those uses to function safely and effectively.*
- *Clause 15.01-1S Urban design seeks to create urban environments that are safe, healthy, functional and enjoyable and that contribute to a sense of place and cultural identity. The following strategies apply:*
 - *Require development to respond to its context in terms of character, cultural identity, natural features, surrounding landscape and climate.*
 - *Ensure development contributes to community and cultural life by improving the quality of living and working environments, facilitating accessibility and providing for inclusiveness.*
 - *Ensure the interface between the private and public realm protects and enhances personal safety.*
 - *Ensure development supports public realm amenity and safe access to walking and cycling environments and public transport.*

- *Ensure that the design and location of publicly accessible private spaces, including car parking areas, forecourts and walkways, is of a high standard, creates a safe environment for users and enables easy and efficient use.*
- *Ensure that development provides landscaping that supports the amenity, attractiveness and safety of the public realm.*
- *Ensure that development, including signs, minimises detrimental impacts on amenity, on the natural and built environment and on the safety and efficiency of roads.*
- *Promote good urban design along and abutting transport corridors.*
- *Clause 19.03-2L Infrastructure design and provision seeks to provide a consistent approach to the design and construction of infrastructure across the municipality.*

Zones

Clause 33.01 Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z)

The purpose of the Industrial 1 Zone is:

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To provide for manufacturing industry, the storage and distribution of goods and associated uses in a manner which does not affect the safety and amenity of local communities.*

The original planning permit required approval pursuant to Clause 33.01-4 for buildings and works. A planning permit is being sought to amend a specific condition.

Particular Provisions

Clause 52.06 Car parking

The proposal does not change the use or increase the floor area associated with the use. No consideration of car parking is required under the amendment.

Clause 52.29 Land adjacent to the principal road network

Pursuant to Clause 52.29-2 a permit is required to alter access to a road in a transport Zone 2.

The application does not alter access to a road in a Transport Zone 2, however given the proposal abuts the Benalla- Yarrawonga Road (TRZ2) and directly feeds from the Murray Road access onto this road, a copy of the application was sent to Department of Transport and Planning for comment. DTP have provided a response with conditions for consideration by Council officers.

Referrals

External Referrals and Notices required by the Planning Scheme:

Clause 52

The original application was sent to VicRoads given the proximity to the facility to the subject site. As such a copy of this application was provided to Department of Transport and Planning for comment.

Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) provided a response on 6 September 2023. It did not object to the proposal on the provision that seven conditions were placed on an amended permit.

The conditions included, among other items, the preparation of a Traffic Management Plan and the implementation of any actions recommended in the plan. The conditions also included the completion of identified road works on Benalla-Yarrawonga Road, Murray Road and Sydney Road, Benalla at no cost to the Head, Transport for Victoria.

The conditions are as follows:

1. *A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) must be submitted to and approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.*

The TMP must be prepared by a VicRoads pre-qualified consultant and must address the transport and traffic impacts associated with the proposed development including (but not limited to):

- a. *Existing conditions survey of public roads must be undertaken for the following locations:*
 - i. *Benalla-Yarrawonga Road south of Murray Road.*
 - ii. *Sydney Road east of Benalla-Yarrawonga Road.*
 - iii. *Hume Freeway/Sydney Road Interchange including ramps.*
- b. *The designation of all vehicle access points to the site from local roads and arterial road intersections. Vehicle access points must be designed and located to ensure safe sight distances, turning movements, and avoid potential through traffic conflicts.*
- c. *Engineering Plans and reporting demonstrating whether, and if so, how truck movements to and from the site can be safely accommodated within the road reserve. Mitigation measures are to be developed by the proponent and agreed to by the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority for all hazards including, but not limited to:*
 - i. *Oversize and overmass haulage.*
 - ii. *Traffic management.*
 - iii. *Removal of roadside vegetation.*
 - iv. *Alteration to any road furniture or intersections.*
 - v. *Emergency management and*
 - vi. *Risk management.*
- d. *A program of regular inspections to be carried out during the operation of the subject site to identify maintenance works necessary as a result of additional heavy vehicular traffic generated by the development.*
- e. *Works required by the TMP must be completed at no cost and to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.*
- f. *A program to rehabilitate existing public roads and associated road infrastructure to a safe and usable condition to the greater standard of either the:*
 - i. *Standard no less than what is required to support the proposed use or*
 - ii. *The condition identified by the surveys required under the condition above.*

- g. The proponent is responsible for any damage caused to construction vehicles or other vehicles in the event that the safe and usable quality of any public road and associated infrastructure is degraded or compromised as a result of the development, and that the Head, Transport for Victoria or the Responsible Authority will not accept liability for any such damage.*
- 2. The traffic management and road upgrade and maintenance works identified in the endorsed TMP must be carried out in accordance with the endorsed TMP to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.*
- 3. The provision of a security bond (or other legal agreement as agreed in writing by the Head, Transport for Victoria) equal to the reasonable estimated costs of the rehabilitation/replacement of any road infrastructure identified as being at risk by the TMP to the satisfaction of The Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority. A contract between the Developer and The Head, Transport for Victoria must be prepared for the terms of use of the security bond (or other legal agreement) at no cost to, and to the written satisfaction of The Head, Transport for Victoria.*
- 4. Demonstration that all necessary permits have been obtained for the removal of vegetation within the road reserve for the purpose of providing access to the site for material.*
- 5. A Functional Layout Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria. When approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria, the plans must be endorsed by the Responsible Authority and will then form part of the permit. The plans must show (but not limit to) the following:*
 - a. Channelised Right Turn (CHR) Treatment on Benalla-Yarrawonga Road at Murray Road.*
 - b. Basic Left Turn (BAL) Treatment on Benalla-Yarrawonga Road at Murray Road.*
 - c. Acceleration Lane on Sydney Road east of Benalla-Yarrawonga Road.*
 - d. Street lighting Category V3.*
- 6. Functional layout stage and detailed design stage road safety audits must be submitted to and approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority. The road safety audits must be undertaken by a suitably qualified road safety auditor.*
- 7. The following roadworks must be completed at no cost to and to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria:*
 - a. Channelised Right Turn (CHR) Treatment on Benalla-Yarrawonga Road at Murray Road.*
 - b. Basic Left Turn (BAL) Treatment on Benalla-Yarrawonga Road at Murray Road.*
 - c. Acceleration Lane on Sydney Road east of Benalla-Yarrawonga Road.*
 - d. Street lighting Category V3.*
 - e. Any works identified in the Road Safety Audit.*
 - f. Any other works required.*

The applicant considered the proposed conditions were onerous and outside of the scope of the amendment. To this end the applicant clarified with DTP that:

- Peak operations at the site took place during the surveyed times in March 2022.
- Future operations at the site are expected to be notably reduced (associated with the North East Link Project).

- The Traffic Impact Assessment prepared by Trafficworks, dated 27 October 2022 indicated that the subject site was operating at approximately half to two thirds of the facility's full capacity.

Following these discussions and in light of the information above, a revised response has been provided by DTP, dated 17 January 2024.

The revised response still requires the preparation of a Traffic Management Plan however no longer requires conditions five to seven, however some of those matters have been incorporated into the new conditions.

Revised conditions are as follows:

1. *A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) must be submitted to and approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.*

The TMP must be prepared by a VicRoads pre-qualified consultant and must address the transport and traffic impacts associated with the proposed development including (but not limited to):

- a. *Existing conditions survey of public roads must be undertaken for the following locations:*
 - i. *Benalla-Yarrawonga Road, Benalla south of Murray Road, Benalla.*
 - ii. *Sydney Road, Benalla east of Benalla-Yarrawonga Road, Benalla.*
 - iii. *Hume Freeway/Sydney Road, Benalla Interchange including ramps.*
- b. *The designation of all vehicle access points to the site from local roads and arterial road intersections. Vehicle access points must be designed and located to ensure safe sight distances, turning movements, and avoid potential through traffic conflicts.*
- c. *Engineering Plans and reporting demonstrating whether, and if so, how truck movements to and from the site can be safely accommodated within the road reserve. Mitigation measures are to be developed by the proponent and agreed to by the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority for all hazards including, but not limited to:*
 - i. *Oversize and overmass haulage.*
 - ii. *Traffic management.*
 - iii. *Removal of roadside vegetation.*
 - iv. *Alteration to any road furniture or intersections.*
 - v. *Emergency management and*
 - vi. *Risk management.*
- d. *A program of regular inspections to be carried out during the operation of the subject site to identify maintenance works necessary as a result of additional heavy vehicular traffic generated by the development.*
- e. *Works required by the TMP must be completed at no cost and to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.*
- f. *A program to rehabilitate existing public roads and associated road infrastructure to a safe and usable condition to the greater standard of either the:*
 - i. *Standard no less than what is required to support the proposed use or*
 - ii. *The condition identified by the surveys required under the condition above.*

- g. *The proponent is responsible for any damage caused to construction vehicles or other vehicles in the event that the safe and usable quality of any public road and associated infrastructure is degraded or compromised as a result of the development, and that the Head, Transport for Victoria or the Responsible Authority will not accept liability for any such damage.*
2. *The traffic management and road upgrade and maintenance works identified in the endorsed TMP must be carried out in accordance with the endorsed TMP to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.*
3. *The provision of a security bond (or other legal agreement as agreed in writing by the Head, Transport for Victoria) equal to the reasonable estimated costs of the rehabilitation/replacement of any road infrastructure identified as being at risk by the TMP to the satisfaction of The Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority. A contract between the Developer and The Head, Transport for Victoria must be prepared for the terms of use of the security bond (or other legal agreement) at no cost to, and to the written satisfaction of The Head, Transport for Victoria.*
4. *Demonstration that all necessary permits have been obtained for the removal of vegetation within the road reserve for the purpose of providing access to the site for material.*

Referral Responses

Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Engineering	No objections subject to conditions relating to widening works and cycle lanes.
Goulburn Murray Water	No objection subject to the retention of a condition on permit.

ASSESSMENT

The proposal seeks to alter a condition specifically tying the applicant to the construction of traffic management works in line with a Traffic Impact Assessment Report (TIAR). The applicant has provided a revised TIAR in support of alternative traffic management works. The amendment was submitted as it was identified that vehicle movements had substantially changed to require more truck movements to and from the site.

The application and amended TIAR were provided to VicRoads for comment in November 2019. Department of Transport and Planning officers have been working with the applicant since then to clarify the implications of the revised TIAR for the road network and existing infrastructure.

A final TIAR was provided 27 October 2022. The Department of Transport and Planning have provided consent to the proposal with conditions. Should all conditions not be adhered to, the department objects to the proposal.

The Applicant has advised that they support and accept the items 1(a)(i), 1(b) and 1(c) and would undertake any minor works that may result out of compliance with these conditions.

The Applicant does not however, support the inclusion of the remaining conditions on any planning permit issued and views them as onerous, given that the roads included are shared by numerous other local and interstate users and do not have reasonable proximate connection with the facility.

The application was referred to Council's Engineer who reviewed the information and found the proposal generally acceptable subject to conditions relating to bicycle lanes and widening works.

Council considers that it is difficult to establish an equitable proportion of road use to the operation of the facility, in order to support DTP's proposed conditions outside of the immediate intersection with Benalla-Yarrowonga Road and Murray Road, Benalla.

The operation certainly utilizes the included roads, however as noted, as do a significant portion of local and interstate uses. It noted that the road forms part of a major truck bypass, used by other significant companies in the region, such as D&R Henderson.

Council considers that there is insufficient nexus between the use of these roads by the applicant and any apparent impact to infrastructure that may require further works or rehabilitation. This is especially difficult to establish given some of the proposed conditions do not isolate a particular road area and length or define the time period to which they apply.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- *A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Livability

- *Vibrant public spaces and places.*
- *Connected and accessible roads, footpaths, transport and parking.*

Economy

- *Thriving business and industry.*
- *Flourishing tourism.*

Environment

- *Healthy and protected natural environment.*
- *Sustainable practices.*

LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

A decision by the Council to determine that a permit should be granted for the proposal may be appealed to VCAT by the objectors and/or the applicant against conditions of the permit;

In the instance that the Council decides to refuse to grant an amended permit the applicant also has a right of appeal to VCAT.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council, as the responsible authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, must determine the permit application.

If the Council decision is appealed by any party to VCAT, the Council has a statutory role in being a party to the appeal and informing and assisting VCAT.

CONCLUSION

It is considered that the proposal allows for intersection and road upgrades to better reflect the vehicles' movements and conditions on site. It is appropriate that the applicant undertake an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the immediate intersection with Benalla-Yarrawonga Road, Benalla and implement recommendations of this assessment, however, Council do not agree that there is an appropriate nexus between the proposal and the extent of assessment required by Department of Transport and have amended the conditions accordingly. The proposal is appropriate for approval.

Recommendation:

That Planning Permit No. P0157/17 be amended as follows:

Replace Condition 22 with the following new conditions:

22.A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) must be submitted to and approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.

The TMP must be prepared by a VicRoads pre-qualified consultant and must address the transport and traffic impacts associated with the proposed development including (but not limited to):

- a. Existing conditions survey of public roads must be undertaken for the following locations:**
 - i. Benalla-Yarrawonga Road south of Murray Road.**
- b. The designation of all vehicle access points to the site from local roads and arterial road intersections. Vehicle access points must be designed and located to ensure safe sight distances, turning movements, and avoid potential through traffic conflicts.**
- c. Engineering Plans and reporting demonstrating whether, and if so, how truck movements to and from the site can be safely accommodated within the road reserve. Mitigation measures are to be developed by the proponent and agreed to by the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority for all hazards including, but not limited to:**
 - i. Oversize and overmass haulage.**
 - ii. Traffic management.**
 - iii. Removal of roadside vegetation.**
 - iv. Alteration to any road furniture or intersections.**
 - v. Emergency management and**
 - vi. Risk management.**
- d. A program of regular inspections to be carried out during the operation of the subject site to identify maintenance works necessary as a result of additional heavy vehicular traffic generated by the development.**
- e. Works required by the TMP must be completed at no cost and to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.**

23. The traffic management and road upgrade and maintenance works identified in the endorsed TMP must be carried out in accordance with the endorsed TMP to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority.
24. The provision of a security bond (or other legal agreement as agreed in writing by the Head, Transport for Victoria) equal to the reasonable estimated costs of the rehabilitation/replacement of any road infrastructure identified as being at risk by the TMP to the satisfaction of The Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority. This relates to the area of works required for the Murray Road and Benalla Yarrawonga Road intersection and Benalla Yarrawonga Road south of Murray Road only. A contract between the Developer and The Head, Transport for Victoria must be prepared for the terms of use of the security bond (or other legal agreement) at no cost to, and to the written satisfaction of The Head, Transport for Victoria.
25. Demonstration that all necessary permits have been obtained for the removal of vegetation within the road reserve for the purpose of providing access to the site for material.

Replace Condition 24 of the existing permit with the following conditions:

- Within 12 months of the issue of this amended permit, Murray Road is to be widened from the western boundary of the site to the Benalla-Yarrawonga Road to achieve traffic lane widths of at least 3.1m, together with 1.2m sealed cycle lanes and 1.0m wide gravel shoulders.
- The widening works shall be constructed with a full depth pavement and shall conform to the requirements of the Infrastructure Design Manual. Works shall be undertaken to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority at the full cost of the applicant.
- The widening works will be addition infrastructure to be maintained by the applicant/developer as outlined in condition 5 of the permit.

Include the following Note:

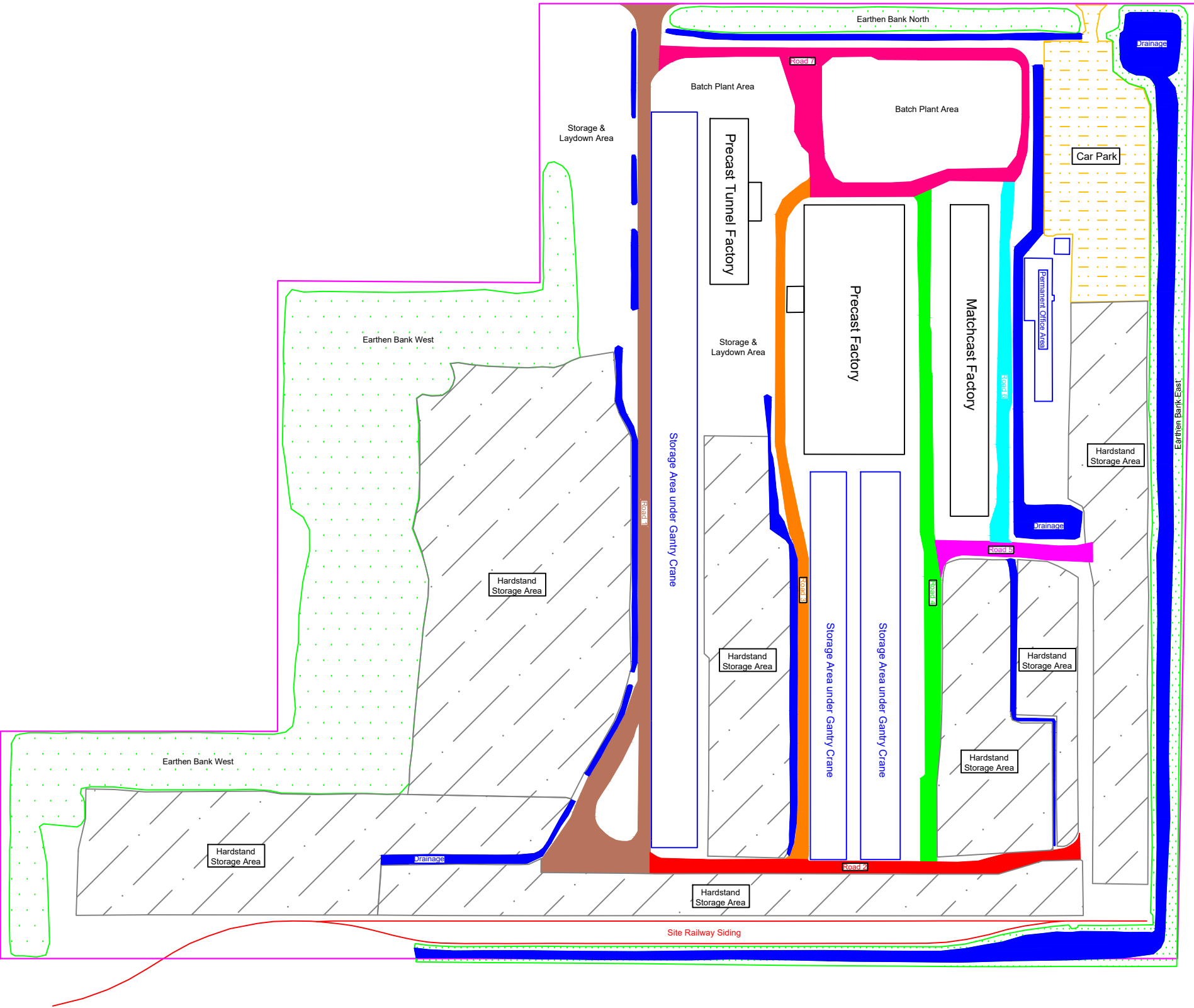
26. Separate consent for works within the road reserve and the specifications of these works is required under the Road Management Act 2004. For the purposes of this application the works will include provision of:
- a. Channelised Right Turn (CHR) Treatment.
 - b. Basic Left Turn (BAL) Treatment.
 - c. Acceleration Lane.
 - d. Street lighting Category V3.
 - e. Any other works required.

Further information regarding VicRoads' consent to work within the road reserve can be found on the VicRoads Website: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/design-and-management/working-within-the-road-reserve

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Legend

- Site Title Boundary
- Site Railway Siding
- Earthen Bank
- Surface Drainage
- Car Park
- Precast Factory
- Storage Area under Gantry Crane
- Hardstand Storage Area
- Road 1
- Road 2
- Road 3
- Road 4
- Road 5
- Road 6
- Road 7



1.	PRELIMINARY FOR REVIEW	FZ	29/09/2022
ISSUE	AMENDMENTS	INT	DATE
REVISIONS			

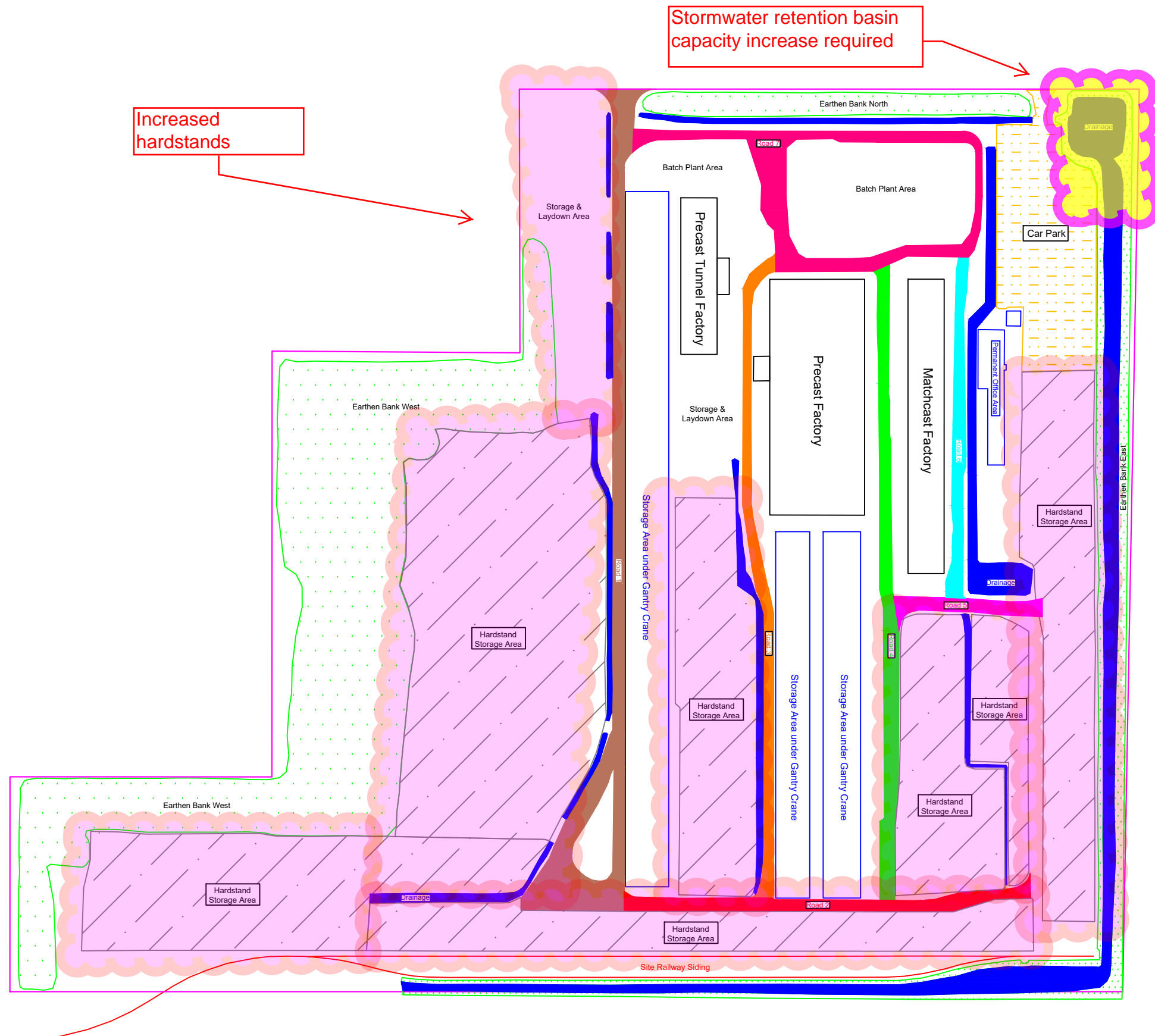


SURVEYED / DRAWN BY	Frank Z
CHECKED	Mal T
VERIFIED	
HORIZONTAL SCALE	N.T.S

TITLE:		AS-CONSTRUCTED DRAWINGS	
		GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN	
DWG NO:	S-03	PLOT DATE:	29/09/2020
		Sheet	A3

Legend

- Site Title Boundary
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- Road 7



1.	PRELIMINARY FOR REVIEW	FZ	29/09/2022
ISSUE	AMENDMENTS	INT	DATE
REVISIONS			



JOHN HOLLAND



AUSPAT
LAND SURVEY
AUSTRALIA

SURVEYED / DRAWN BY	Frank Z
CHECKED	Mal T
VERIFIED	
HORIZONTAL SCALE	N.T.S

TITLE:		AS-CONSTRUCTED DRAWINGS	
		GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN	
DWG NO:	S-03	PLOT DATE:	29/09/2020
		Sheet	A3

4.2 Financial Report For the Half Year Ended 31 December 2023

SF/1519

Cathy Fitzpatrick – Manager Finance
Robert Barber – General Manager Corporate

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the financial result compared to budget for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 and presents outcomes from the 2023/24 half-year budget review.

BACKGROUND

Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that at the end of each quarter of the financial year, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a meeting that is open to the public.

The budget report must include a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to data and an explanation of any material variations. In addition, the second quarterly report of a financial year must include a statement by the Chief Executive Officer as to whether a revised budget is, or may be, required.

OPERATING RESULT

Year to date 31 December 2023 operating result compared to budget

The report contains the Standard Income Statement and Statement of Capital Projects. The operating result for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 was a surplus of \$6.964 million which was \$56,420 more than the budgeted surplus of \$6,908 million as shown in Table 1 below.

Full Year (30 June 2024) Forecast Operating Result compared to budget

The forecast operating result for the year ending 30 June 2024 has been updated to reflect the half-year budget review.

The forecast operating result for the year ending 30 June 2024 is a deficit of \$9.283 million which is an unfavorable variance of \$18.736 million compared to the budgeted surplus of \$9.453 million as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Net Operating Result For the Period Ended 31 December 2023 and Half-Year Review Forecast Compared To Budget As At 30 June 2024

Income Statement	Notes	2023/24 YTD Actual \$'000	2023/24 YTD Budget \$'000	2023/24 YTD Variance \$'000	Half-Year Review Forecast \$'000	Full Year Budget \$'000	EOY Forecast to Budget Variance \$'000
Revenue and Income							
Rates and charges	1	\$22,026	\$21,701	\$325	\$21,909	\$21,899	\$10
Statutory fees and fines	2	\$333	\$303	\$30	\$612	\$606	\$6
User fees	3	\$1,921	\$1,799	\$122	\$3,727	\$3,622	\$105
Grants - operating	4	\$1,430	\$1,795	\$365	\$2,577	\$6,839	\$4,262
Grants - capital	5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,140	\$14,356	\$12,216
Contributions - monetary and non-monetary	6	\$174	\$56	\$118	\$405	\$257	\$148
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		\$8	\$8	\$0	\$25	\$25	\$0
Other income	7	\$485	\$209	\$276	\$603	\$231	\$372
Total Revenue		\$26,377	\$25,871	\$506	\$31,998	\$47,835	\$15,837

Income Statement	Notes	2023/24 YTD Actual \$'000	2023/24 YTD Budget (\$'000)	2023/24 YTD Variance \$'000	Half-Year Review Forecast \$'000	Full Year Budget \$'000	EOY Forecast to Budget Variance \$'000
Expenses							
Employee Costs	8	\$6,487	\$6,724	\$237	\$13,569	\$13,450	-\$119
Materials and Services	9	\$7,874	\$7,737	-\$137	\$17,776	\$15,743	-\$2,033
Depreciation	10	\$4,302	\$3,945	-\$356	\$8,383	\$7,891	-\$492
Amortisation - intangible assets	11	\$197	\$127	-\$70	\$394	\$253	-\$140
Amortisation - right of use assets		\$172	\$170	-\$2	\$341	\$341	\$0
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14	\$14	\$0
Borrowing costs		\$66	\$58	-\$8	\$116	\$116	\$0
Finance Costs leases		\$14	\$9	-\$5	\$19	\$19	\$0
Other Expenses	12	\$300	\$192	-\$108	\$670	\$555	-\$114
Total expenses		\$19,413	\$18,962	-\$449	\$41,282	\$38,382	-\$2,899
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		\$6,965	\$6,909	\$56	(\$9,283)	\$9,453	-\$18,736

Income Statement Notes:

1. Rates and charges: Favourable variance at 31 December 2023 by \$324,647 due to supplementary rate revenue.

No significant change in forecast is calculated as consideration of objections to valuations are yet to be determined which may impact the final rate revenue outcome.

2. Statutory fees and fines: favourable variance \$30,139 significant items:

Permit fees	\$17,809
Fines	\$5,959
Certificate charges	\$4,727

No significant change in forecast variance to 30 June 2024.

3. User fees: Favourable variance year to date \$121,502

Significant favourable variances:

▪ Drainage headworks	\$122,945
▪ Cinema operations and sales	\$52,490
▪ Art Gallery fees and sales	\$39,355
▪ Environmental Health fees	\$28,497

Offset by various unfavourable service variance primarily Landfill fees \$72,060.

Forecast results to 30 June favourable \$105,000 due to various small service variances and increased drainage headworks fees.

4. Grants – operating: Unfavorable variance of \$364,571. Financial Assistance Grant income prepaid in 2022/23 (refer below).

Other variances due to additional performance requirements being introduced on several grants which were budgeted for full payment by December 2023 these will be received later in year:

▪ Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program	\$60,000
▪ Benalla Library	\$16,101
▪ Youth Programs – Engage, LTP and FREEZA	\$73,298

Additional unbudgeted grants:

▪ Council Rapid Antigen Testing Program	\$60,000
▪ Roadside Weeds and Pest Management Program	\$41,956
▪ Government Paid Maternity Leave	\$37,104

Forecast results to 30 June is \$4.262 million less than budget. Financial Assistance Grant income of \$4.54 million prepaid in 2022/23 but budgeted for in 2023/24.

Partially offset by unbudgeted increased and new grant funding for various service areas:

▪ Youth Programs	\$69,000
▪ Family Support	\$60,000
▪ Community Operations – Vulnerable Persons DFFH Funding and Social Inclusion Action Group	\$36,600
▪ School Crossing	\$20,622
▪ Financial Assistance Grants	\$20,512

5. Capital Grants: Unfavourable variance forecast results to 30 June is \$12.216 million less than budget attributed to:

- Art Gallery projected grant income reduced from \$2.8 million to \$250,000.
- Flood restoration works grant income reduced from \$10 million to \$250,000

6. Contributions: Favourable variance \$117,994 as additional contribution funding received and timing variations:

▪ Visit Victoria - Street Art (total in 23/24 \$150,000)	\$50,000
▪ Additional Public Open Space contributions	\$56,028

Forecast results to 30 June favourable \$148,000 due to the above items.

7. Other Income: Favourable variance of \$276,207 due to higher earning on investments.

End of year forecast favourable variance of \$372,000.

8. Employee Costs: Overall favourable by \$237,000 due to various staffing vacancies.

Several grants received and recognised in 22/23 financial year, however, delivery resulted in 2023/24 salary costs. Emergency events incurred additional salary expenses not budgeted for.

Forecast results to 30 June is expected to be unfavourable \$119,000. Impacted by additional labour costs for emergency events and additional grant projects increasing employee costs. Unfavourable variances partially offset by savings due to vacant positions.

9. Materials and Services: Unfavourable by \$137,000 with the major significant variance due to staff shortages at Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre and the impacts of flood and storm events:

▪ Landfill – contract staff costs	\$120,123.
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Result to 30 June expected to be unfavourable by \$2.033 million. Impacted by carry forward expenditure items from 2022/23 totalling \$1.516 million. Additional grants projects in 23/24 resulting in additional Materials and Services cost.

Appendix 1 details Materials and Services expenditure to 31 December 2023.

10. Depreciation: Unfavourable variance \$356,000 as building and road assets were revalued at 30 June 2023 resulting in higher charges than budgeted. Forecast result to 30 June is an unfavorable variance of \$492,000.
11. Amortisation - intangible assets: Unfavourable variance year to date \$70,155 due to increased interest charges. Forecast to 30 June is unfavourable by \$140,306.
12. Other Expenses: Unfavourable variance of \$108,00 primarily payments for carry forward 22/23 Community Contributions to Township projects funded by Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funding. Forecast to 30 June is an unfavourable variance of \$114,000.

CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM RESULT

The Capital Projects Program result for the six months ended 31 December 2023 was expenditure of \$2.524 million, \$800,000 more than the budgeted expenditure of \$1.725 million as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Capital Program result for the period ending 31 December 2023 and Forecast to 30 June 2024

	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance	2023/24 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Q2 Full Year Forecast
Aerodrome	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0
Bridge	\$31,606	\$19,000	-\$12,606	\$500,000	\$600,227
Buildings Heritage	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$65,000
Buildings	\$760,316	\$933,333	\$173,017	\$2,931,000	\$1,311,129
Plant and Equipment	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$650,000	\$690,000
Computers and Telecommunications	\$28,207	\$20,000	-\$8,207	\$452,000	\$310,062
Library Book stock	\$85,607	\$84,000	-\$1,607	\$96,000	\$95,716
Drainage	\$149,242	\$150,000	\$758	\$1,182,000	\$1,248,240
Fixture Fittings and Furniture	\$133,264	\$29,999	-\$103,265	\$30,000	\$386,297
Footpath	\$133,253	\$9,000	-\$124,253	\$185,000	\$652,813
Off Street Car Parks	\$5,350	\$0	-\$5,350	\$0	\$170,000
Other Infrastructure	\$21,685	\$0	-\$21,685	\$244,000	\$357,105
Parks Open Space and Streetscapes	\$306,798	\$25,000	-\$281,798	\$128,000	\$879,128

	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance	2023/24 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Q2 Full Year Forecast
Recreational, Leisure and Community	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$104,000	\$104,000
Roads	\$751,826	\$426,450	-\$325,376	\$12,046,000	\$3,009,982
Waste Management	\$114,209	\$25,000	-\$89,209	\$2,633,000	\$1,171,512
Total	\$2,524,363	\$1,724,782	-\$799,581	\$21,206,000	\$11,051,211

Material variances in the Capital Program budget are discussed in the Capital Works Program Update As At 31 December 2023 report in this agenda.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Leadership

- Good governance.
- High performance culture.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Significant additional carry forward items from 22/23 Budget for both operating statement items and capital works projects have been forecast to spend throughout 2023/24 year.

As a result, carry forward items from 2022/23 Budget \$1.516 million for Materials and Services expenditure is included in the 30 June 2024 forecast, this is funded from unspent revenue recognised in the prior year.

Additional flood recovery expenditure will be required for infrastructure operating statement items and capital grant projects (some income part recognised 2022/23 and others in 2023/24) associated with Emergency Events – Flood October 2022.

The forecast result is based on the Council's status as at 31 December 2023, the impact of 3 January 2024 storm event and associated costs are yet to be estimated.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council's *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that community engagement be undertaken at the 'Inform' level under the International Association for Public Participation's IAP2 public participation spectrum.

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report presented to Council. ▪ Report published on Council's website.

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:

That the report be noted.

Appendix 1

Materials and services expenditure to 31 December 2023

Materials and Services	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance
04: Vandalism	\$ 500	\$ 4,314	\$ 3,814
05: Contract Staff	\$ 150,909	\$ 51,594	-\$ 99,315
06: Catering and Refreshments	\$ 24,929	\$ 18,480	-\$ 6,449
07: Materials	\$ 572,121	\$ 558,059	-\$ 14,062
08: Contract Payments	\$2,493,308	\$2,299,092	-\$ 194,216
09: Merchandise	\$ 34,583	\$ 29,598	-\$ 4,985
10: Functions & Receptions	\$ 15,015	\$ 14,022	-\$ 993
11: Stores Issues	\$ 161,736	\$ 80,904	-\$ 80,832
12: Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 148,720	\$ 215,118	\$ 66,398
18: Lease Payments	\$ 5,980	\$ 54,174	\$ 48,194
20: Bank Charges	\$ 25,555	\$ 27,648	\$ 2,093
21: Advertising and Promotion	\$ 36,090	\$ 35,370	-\$ 720
23: Exhibitions	\$ 45,555	\$ 39,372	-\$ 6,183
24: Insurance	\$ 472,072	\$ 615,464	\$ 143,392
25: Legal Expenses	\$ 102,391	\$ 104,172	\$ 1,781
26: Consultants General	\$ 190,061	\$ 250,524	\$ 60,463
27: Membership and Subscriptions	\$ 226,930	\$ 144,312	-\$ 82,618
28: Security Expenses	\$ 20,909	\$ 20,016	-\$ 893
29: Postage and Freight	\$ 23,296	\$ 28,182	\$ 4,886
30: Printing, Copying and Stationery	\$ 37,854	\$ 52,074	\$ 14,220
31: Rent	\$ 28,035	\$ 27,426	-\$ 609
32: Computer Support/Software	\$ 505,413	\$ 477,438	-\$ 27,974
33: Internal Plant Hire Expense	\$ 4,656	\$ 108,732	\$ 104,077
35: Travel Expenses	\$ 7,974	\$ 1,500	-\$ 6,474
36: Meeting Expenses	\$ 4,017	\$ 3,030	-\$ 987
37: Staff Training / Courses	\$ 70,866	\$ 68,484	-\$ 2,382
38: Vehicle Expenses	\$ 1,535	\$ -	-\$ 1,535
39: Electricity	\$ 180,758	\$ 261,942	\$ 81,184
40: Water Consumption	\$ 20,277	\$ 37,758	\$ 17,481
41: Gas	\$ 16,180	\$ 17,364	\$ 1,184
42: Telephone	\$ 43,864	\$ 74,514	\$ 30,650
43: Contributions & Reimbursements	(\$ 29,009)	\$ 13,273	\$ 42,282
47: Green Waste Mulching	\$ 60,397	\$ 10,650	-\$ 49,747
49: Machine Hire	\$ -	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,250

Materials and Services	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance
51: E.P.A. Levy	\$ 831,052	\$ 563,316	-\$ 267,736
52: Domestic Animals Levy	\$ -	\$ 6,960	\$ 6,960
53: Management Committees	\$ 27,665	\$ 72,258	\$ 44,593
54: Cleaning Expenses	\$ 127,555	\$ 112,288	-\$ 15,267
103: Vehicle Fuel	\$ 191,909	\$ 171,726	-\$ 20,183
104: Vehicle Maintenance - Standard	\$ 20,269	\$ 41,898	\$ 21,629
105: Vehicle Lease Payments	\$ 17,608	\$ 8,094	-\$ 9,514
109: Canteen Trading Purchases	\$ 7,177	\$ 3,726	-\$ 3,451
110: Performing Fees	\$ 36,855	\$ 24,948	-\$ 11,907
126: Landfill Daily Cover	\$ -	\$ 6,834	\$ 6,834
127: Landfill Rock Supplied	\$ 22,346	\$ 18,372	-\$ 3,974
128: Gas Monitoring - Landfill	\$ 6,560	\$ 9,588	\$ 3,028
130: PAG Meal Costs	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ 42
131: Diesel Rebate (Negative Expense)	(\$ 29,196)	(\$ 13,746)	\$ 15,450
138: Councillors Training	\$ 2,847	\$ 7,350	\$ 4,503
140: Carry Forward Expenditure	\$ 13,145	\$ -	-\$ 13,145
144: Vehicle Maintenance - Repairs	\$ 61,668	\$ 69,300	\$ 7,632
145: Tyres Purchased for Plant	\$ 27,773	\$ 8,910	-\$ 18,863
146: Registrations	\$ 17,869	\$ 11,676	-\$ 6,193
16: Services (Non Contract) To Council	\$ 722,708	\$ 745,980	\$ 23,272
160: Audit / Monitoring costs Landfill	\$ 20,583	\$ 74,250	\$ 53,667
170: Museum Fees	\$ -	\$ 528	\$ 528
179: Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging	\$ 350	\$ -	-\$ 350
199: Internal Charge - Expense	\$ 35,857	\$ 9,222	-\$ 26,635
34: Goods Delivered (Contractual)	\$ 7,869	\$ 33,564	\$ 25,695
Total	\$7,873,941	\$7,736,934	-\$ 137,007

4.3 Finance Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

SF/1519

Cathy Fitzpatrick – Manager Finance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents an overview of the functions of the Finance Department for the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

Finance

- Victorian Local Government Grants Commission return 2022/23 lodged.
- Quarter 2 review of forecast result for 30 June 2024 considering impacts against budget phasing 2023/24 and CAPEX 2023/24 given impact of flood event.
- Released 2024/25 Budget Program and Business Planning Guidance Instructions.
- Ongoing involvement with 4 council CODI system assessment of new computer system issues

Sundry Debtors

An analysis of the unpaid sundry accounts as at that date with comparative data for the previous year is as follows:

Debtors Balances:

Date	90 days	60 days	30 days	Current	Total
31/12/23	\$357,687	\$153,944	\$96,030	\$142,074	\$749,735
30/09/23	\$87,821	\$83,695	\$125,195	\$348,241	\$644,952
30/06/23	\$34,236	\$95,687	\$128,329	\$492,225	\$750,477
31/03/23	\$76,473	\$7,629	\$117,961	\$618,359	\$820,422
31/12/22	\$60,095	\$115,348	\$174,703	\$441,560	\$785,310

Investment Portfolio

In accordance with the Investment Policy, details of investments held at 31 December 2023 are provided in the following table.

Table 1. Investments held at 31 December 2023

Bank	Short-term credit rating	Investment type	Amount invested '000	Interest rate	Term (days)	Maturity date
Westpac	A-1+	TD	\$5,084	5.03%	122	29-Feb-24
Westpac	A-1+	TD	\$984	4.96%	270	25-Mar-24
Westpac	A-1+	TD	\$2,105	5.2%	181	25-Mar-24
Westpac	A-1+	TD	\$1,103	4.99%	182	29-Apr-24
ANZ	A-1+	TD	\$3,900	4.83%	184	23-Jan-24
NAB	A-1+	TD	\$3,114	4.32%	276	07-Feb-24
NAB	A-1+	TD	\$943	5.08%	274	21-Mar-24
Subtotal	\$17,233					
CBA	A-1+	At call	\$4,273	0.25%		
CBA	A-1+	Operating	\$3,743	3.60%		
Subtotal			\$8,016			
Total			\$25,249			

*TD refers to general term deposits where the use of interest earned is not restricted.

These funds are required to meet the Council's short-term commitments, including capital and operating supplier payments, employee payroll costs and loan repayments.

Loan Portfolio

Details of existing loans held at 31 December are attached in **Appendix 1**.

Loan terms are:

Loan Number	Type	Term
16 to 17	Variable	10 years
18	Fixed – principal and interest	10 years
19	Variable	10 years
20	Fixed	10 years
21	Fixed	10 years
22	Variable	10 Years

Procurement

Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation

The purpose of this sections is to inform the Council and Community of publicly advertised tenders which have been awarded under delegation for the period 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023.

Contracts awarded for the period 1 October – 31 December 2023.

No	Name of Contract	Name of Business
1	Provision of Public Health Services	Kernow Environmental Services
2	Benalla Rural City Heritage Gap Study Stage 2	Trustee for the Perceval Family Trust

Delegation of Procurement Authority to Chief Executive Officer

As per the *Procurement Policy*, instances where the Chief Executive Officer approved expenditure for statutory charges or other matters, generally consistent with the approved or revised budget, be reported quarterly.

The following table provides a summary of approvals. (including GST)

Date Endorsed	Type	Amount
3/10/2023	State Revenue Office	\$540,541
4/12/2023	Fire Services Property Levy Collections – first and second Instalment 23/24	\$431,558
7/12/2023	EPA Victoria – Quarterly Waste Levy – July to September 2023	\$392,680

Revenue, Property and Valuations

- Second instalment notices issued to all ratepayers. First and second instalment reminder notices issued for overdue balances.
- High-level debts were not referred to the debt collection agency in November. The collection process has been amended to comply with new legislation.
- Fire Services Property Levy
 - Second instalment remittance return submitted to the State Revenue Office (SRO).
 - Annual Return for 2023/24 approved by SRO.
 - Annual Reconciliation for 2022/23 approved by SRO. Funding invoice generated.
- E-notice stats:
 - EzyBill – 520 (+32)
 - BPAY View – 406 (-1)

EzyBill allows access to rate notices from any device, making payment both easy and convenient. BPAY is an easy and secure way to pay and manage bills from your online banking.

Rates and Charges Revenue

Reminder notices were issued for the first instalment on 9 October 2023. There were 1,309 notices issued for debts totaling just under \$1.263 million.

Second instalment notices were issued on 25 October with payment due by 30 November 2023. Reminder notices were issued on 7 December 2023. There were 1,390 notices issued for debts totaling just under \$1.312 million.

Valuation objections are still being processed by Valuer-General Victoria. More than 45 objections were lodged, which is more than previous years.

To date, there have been 359 supplementary valuations processed this year, resulting in an additional 123 rateable properties.

Appendix 2 details the overall rates and charges generated and collected and apportions the unpaid balance between arrears from previous years of \$677,000 and unpaid charges levied in the current year amounting to \$9.33 million.

Rate arrears collected in the current year amount to \$251,000. This figure increased significantly in the last quarter but is lower (-12 percent) than the previous December 2022 quarter. This change, compared to previous quarter, was expected due to some large overdue debts being paid in full.

Collections, as a proportion of overall debt, are slightly down compared to Q2 last year (-0.61 percent). As a result, the number of properties with outstanding balances has increased by 230 properties. The cost-of-living crisis and relaxed formal collection activity has likely contributed to this increase.

Appendix 3 provides a graph summary comparing the 2023/24 rate instalments due with the total instalments paid as at 2 January 2024.

Spatial Data Management

The following table includes spatial data management statistics.

Task	Dec 2023	Sept 2023	June 2023	March 2023
Rural Road numbers and urban addresses issued (not part of new subdivisions)	16	25	1	9
M1s forwarded to the Spatial Information Division of DEECA to update the State mapping datasets with new addresses and Council Property Numbers and rectify anomalies	162	56	94	203
Maintenance and auditing parcels and Mapbase	180	90	110	220

Corporate GIS

- Continued data audit of mapping files to translate their projection from GDA94 to GDA2020.
- Assigned rural road number and urban addresses. Due to some complex issues, several applications required lengthy research and advice sought from VicMap Helpdesk to ensure the new addresses were assigned in accordance with the Australian/New Zealand Addressing Standard.
- Attended 2023 Mapped Out conference.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

	Notes	2023/24 YTD Actuals	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance	2023/24 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Full Year Forecast
Accounting Services	1	(\$86,563)	\$234,708	\$321,271	(\$2,188,975)	\$388,667
Property and Valuations	2	(\$17,699,620)	(\$17,351,032)	\$348,588	(\$17,411,678)	(\$17,417,678)
Acquisition and Disposal of Council Properties		(\$7,967)	(\$8,000)	-\$33	(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)
Total		(\$17,794,150)	(\$17,124,324)	\$669,825	(\$19,625,653)	(\$17,137,792)

Notes:

1. Interest expense favourable variance \$287,950 as interest expenses actual currently lower than budgeted partly offset by unfavourable additional online transaction charges and higher expense \$9,555.
Forecast at 30 June 2024 unfavourable due to Victoria Grants Commission payment for 2023/24 being received in 2022/23.
2. Additional Rate and charges revenue supplementary rates and charges \$336,714.
Forecast return on supplementary rates will not be altered until valuation objections finalised.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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Loans held at 31 December 2023

Interest to be paid:

Loan Number	2023/2024 Year	2024/2025 Year	2025/2026 Year	2026/2027 Year	2027/2028 Year	2028/2029 Year	2029/2030 Year	2030/2031 Year	2031/2032 Year	Totals
16	\$5,139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$5,139
17	\$12,127	\$4,059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$16,186
18	\$5,630	\$3,561	\$1,372	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$10,563
19	\$10,810	\$8,124	\$5,010	\$1,731	-	-	-	-	-	\$25,675
20	\$9,499	\$7,528	\$5,395	\$3,286	\$1,062	-	-	-	-	\$26,771
21	\$9,778	\$8,146	\$6,487	\$4,773	\$3,010	\$1,174	-	-	-	\$33,367
22	\$77,823	\$68,735	\$58,361	\$47,986	\$37,711	\$27,237	\$16,826	\$6,488	-	\$341,202
Total Interest Payable	\$130,807	\$100,153	\$76,624	\$57,776	\$41,783	\$28,411	\$16,826	\$6,488	\$0	\$458,904

Principle to be paid:

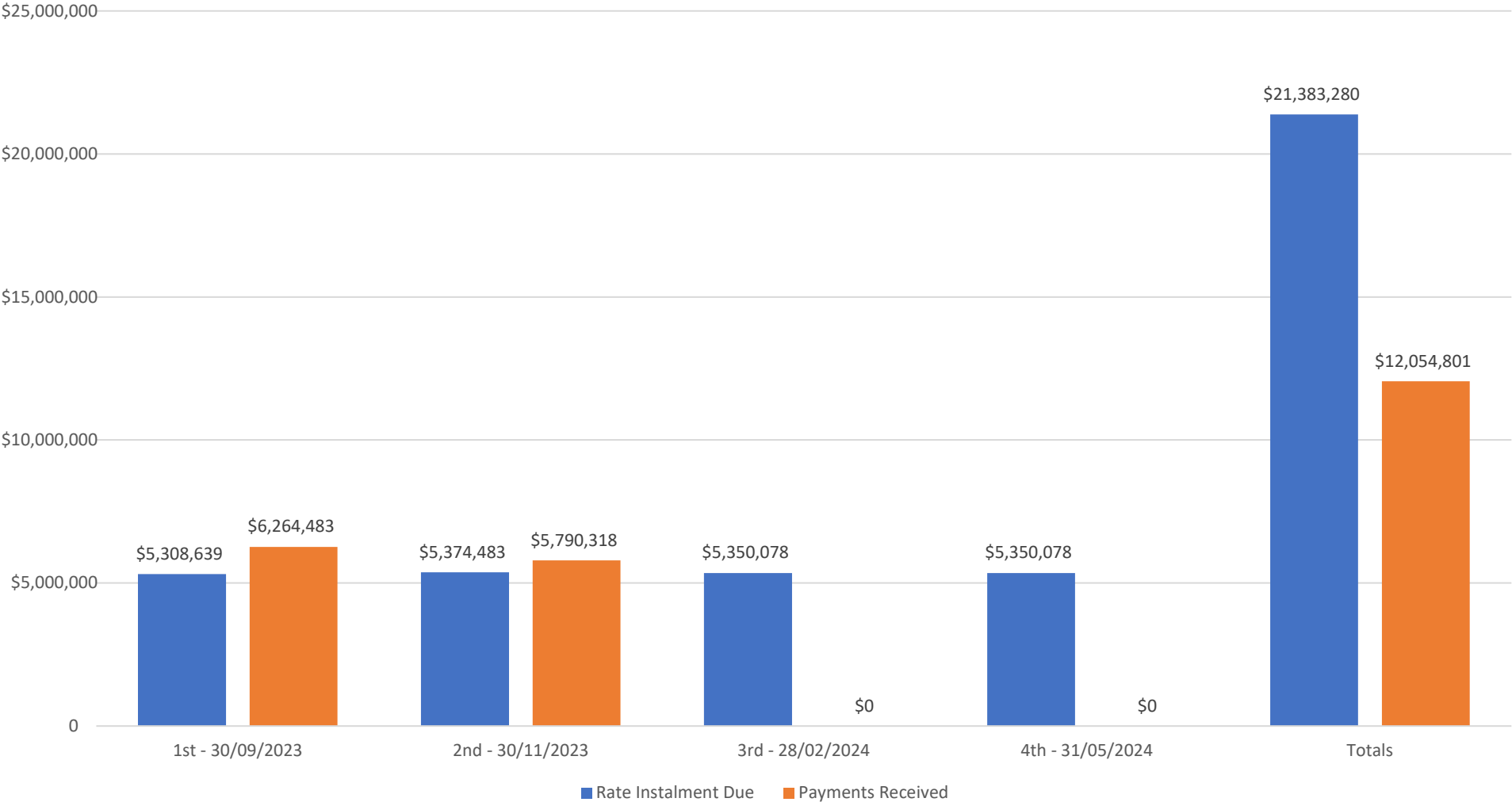
Loan Number	2022/2023 Year	2023/2024 Year	2024/2025 Year	2025/2026 Year	2026/27 Year	2027/28 Year	2028/29 Year	2029/30 Year	2030/31 Year	Totals
16	\$133,677	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$133,67
17	\$108,961	\$105,790	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$214,751
18	\$54,570	\$56,639	\$58,819	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$170,027
19	\$52,067	\$54,693	\$57,807	\$53,456	-	-	-	-	-	\$218,023
20	\$51,654	\$53,625	\$55,758	\$57,867	\$50,061	-	-	-	-	\$268,966
21	\$48,971	\$50,602	\$52,262	\$53,976	\$55,738	\$57,671	-	-	-	\$319,221
22	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	-	\$1,520,000
Total Principal Payable	\$639,899	\$511,350	\$414,646	\$353,298	\$295,799	\$247,671	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$0	\$2,844,664

Rates and Charges Collections Report

As at 31 December 2023

	Rates	Interest	Legal	Total	Comments
Arrears as at 01/7/2023	\$860,264	\$50,692	\$16,794	\$927,750	Unpaid amounts up to and including the 2022/23 rating year
Payments					
30/09/2023	-\$59,898	-\$8,507	-\$810	-\$69,215	
31/12/2023	-\$174,171	-\$6,249	-\$1,013	-\$181,433	
Total	-\$234,069	-\$14,756	-\$1,823	-\$250,648	
Arrears Rates Balance	\$626,195	\$35,936	\$14,971	\$677,102	Arrears Unpaid as at 31/12/2023
Current Rates/Charges	Rates	Interest	Legal	Total	Comments
Raised					2023/24 Rates including Municipal and Waste Management Charges (includes additional rates levied on new houses and subdivided lands)
30/09/2023	\$21,610,933	\$6,254	\$5,739	\$21,622,926	
31/12/2023	\$165,110	\$19,697	\$4,708	\$189,515	
Total	\$21,776,043	\$25,951	\$10,447	\$21,812,441	
Pension Concessions	Rates	Interest	Legal	Total	Comments
					State Govt - reimbursed by DFFH
30/09/2023	-\$424,351	\$0	\$0	-\$424,351	
31/12/2023	-\$4,811	\$0	\$0	-\$4,811	
Total	-\$429,162	\$0	\$0	-\$429,162	
Net Rates for Collection	Rates	Interest	Legal	Total	Comments
	\$21,346,881	\$25,951	\$10,447	\$21,383,279	Payments received to date for current year rates
Payments					
30/09/2023	-\$6,262,005	-\$1,335	-\$1,144	-\$6,264,484	
31/12/2023	-\$5,781,428	-\$8,699	-\$191	-\$5,790,318	
Total	-\$12,043,433	-\$10,034	-\$1,335	-\$12,054,802	
Current Rates Balance	Rates	Interest	Legal	Total	Comments
	\$9,303,448	\$15,917	\$9,113	\$9,328,478	Current Unpaid as at 31 December 2023
Balance Remaining	\$9,929,643	\$51,853	\$24,084	\$10,005,580	Balance as at 31 December 2023

2023/24 Rates and Charges - Due and Collected to 2 January 2024



4.4 Fawckner Drive Masterplan

SF/1506

Tom Arnold – Community Development Coordinator
Jane Archbold – Manager Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the *Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan*.

BACKGROUND

Benalla's Fawckner Drive Precinct is a highly valued community open space that is enjoyed by a broad cross-section of the community.

The precinct is bordered by the Benalla CBD, Lake Benalla and hosts the monthly Benalla Market. The precinct is comprised of the Skatepark and BMX track, community event spaces, Lake Benalla walking track, RV Camping site, Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) and the Senior Citizens Centre.

The *Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan Report* (**Appendix 1**) has been developed by specialist outdoor landscape and recreation consultants *Playce* following a community consultation program and is built on community and Council feedback.

DISCUSSION

The *Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan Report* (the Masterplan) ensures that Council's objectives to ensure open space and public places in existing and developing communities are thoughtfully planned, connected, green, sustainable, accessible, engaging and inclusive and considers the needs of the whole community.

The masterplan will enable Council to:

- enhance and protect natural assets in the precinct
- to create a space that encourages use for all community members
- incorporate community and user groups feedback
- identify opportunities and challenges
- to capitalise on tourism and economic development opportunities
- improve pedestrian connections and link existing infrastructure
- align recreational planning with other planning strategies and processes
- assist council to advocate to other tiers of government for funding
- establish priorities and costings for any improvements to the precinct
- ensure future improvements are well planned.

If adopted by the Council, the first priorities will be to investigate the installation of strongly supported opportunities identified within the report. These could include the upgrade of the BMX Track to a Pump Track, installation of a flying fox, pedestrian connections and social and active play opportunities.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS**Community**

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

Livability

- *Vibrant public spaces and places.*
- *Connected and accessible roads, footpaths, transport and parking.*

Economy

- *Thriving business and industry.*
- *Flourishing tourism.*

Environment

- *Healthy and protected natural environment.*

Leadership

- *Engaged and informed community.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The draft *Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan Report* was developed at a cost of \$24,000, funded through an existing budget allocation.

A combination of external and internal funding will be required to deliver the Masterplan's proposed projects over the coming years. The *2023/24 Budget* allocates \$100,000 to upgrading the skate park and BMX track within the precinct.

Council has \$90,000 in additional funding through the Department of Justice for community activation within the precinct.

LEGISLATIVE AND 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*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community consultation process to develop the Masterplan involved both internal and external engagement to ensure a broad range of opinions and experiences were canvassed.

These included:

- presentation to Council's Leadership Team, Councillors, and Council staff
- online consultation and paper based surveys
- attendance at the Benalla Lakeside Craft and Farmers Market

- stall at Benalla Skate Park competition
- meeting with Age Friendly Reference Group
- presentation at U3A Benalla Annual General Meeting
- signage with QR codes on site.
- Placing the draft Masterplan on Public Exhibition for community feedback

Full details of the consultation to develop the Masterplan are detailed in the Consultation Summary (**Appendix 2**).

The Masterplan was placed on public exhibition on 28 June and closed Friday 11 August 2023. At the close of the submission period 31 submissions had been received.

In accordance with the Council's *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that community engagement on the adoption of the *Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan* be undertaken at the 'Inform' level under the International Association for Public Participation's IAP2 public participation spectrum as detailed in the table below:

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community updated via the 'Have Your Say' project webpage. ▪ <i>Masterplan</i> and report presented to a public Council meeting. ▪ Promotion of the <i>Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan</i> via media, website and social media. ▪ Publication of the <i>Masterplan</i> and report on Council's website.

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:

That the *Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan* be adopted.

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Benalla Fawckner Drive

Masterplan Report

Concept Design Report
February 2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN?

Introduction 03

Community Consultation Summary 04

Masterplan Concept 07

Precedent Imagery 09

Site Analysis and Background Information:

Zoning Plan 15

Movements & Access Plan 16

Analysis & Constraints Plan 17

Site Opportunities Plan 18

INTRODUCTION.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Benalla Rural City (Benalla) is a small local government area (2,350 sq km) located in the north-eastern region of Victoria. It comprises the township of Benalla and the communities of Baddaginnie, Devenish, Goorambat, Swanpool, Tatong, Thoona and Winton. Only two hours from Melbourne along the Hume Freeway, the Rural City has a population of over 14,000, with 9,000 people living in the Benalla urban area.

Council's vision is to provide a sustainable, thriving and cohesive community where lifestyle, culture, health and wellbeing are supported by strong leadership and community partnership.

ABOUT THE DRAFT FAWCKNER DRIVE PRECINCT MASTERPLAN

The Draft Masterplan has been developed to ensure that Councils' objectives to ensure open space and public places in existing and developing communities are thoughtfully planned, connected, green, sustainable, accessible, engaging and inclusive and consider the needs of ageing community.

The Fawckner Drive Precinct is a highly valued community open space that is enjoyed by a broad cross-section of the community. The precinct is bordered by the Benalla CBD, Lake Benalla and hosts the monthly Benalla Market. The precinct is comprised of the Skatepark and BMX track, community event spaces, Lake Benalla walking track, RV Camping site, Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) and the Senior Citizens Centre.

The Precinct Masterplan is a living document that will undergo periodic reviews to ensure it meets the future needs of the community

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN

- Future improvements are well planned
- Opportunities and challenges are identified
- Assist Council to advocate to other tiers of government for funding
- Incorporate community and user groups feedback
- To create a space that encourages use for all community members
- Enhance and protect natural assets
- To capitalise on tourism and economic development opportunities
- Improve pedestrian connections and link existing infrastructure
- Align recreational planning with other planning strategies and processes
- Establish priorities and costings for any improvements to the precinct

WHAT IS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN?

The Draft Masterplan does not offer detailed design for proposed projects within it. Should the Council decide to pursue a project outlined in the Draft Masterplan, it would necessitate thorough design development and active involvement of the community through engagement initiatives.

Upgrades to Council owned facilities within the precinct such as the Benalla Senior Citizens Centre and Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) or the installation of additional public toilets will be considered separately by the Council.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY

This section outlines the result of the consultations undertaken for Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan. Working with Benalla Rural City Council, Playce conducted face-to-face community consultations, skate-focused consultation and events, Age Friendly group consultation, meetings with Council reference groups, and 3 weeks of an online survey, there were more than 100 participants engaged in the consultation process. Ideas and thoughts were collected from the community and a number of key needs and wants were identified.

This feedback was then used to inform the Masterplan design of the Benalla Fawckner Drive Precinct.

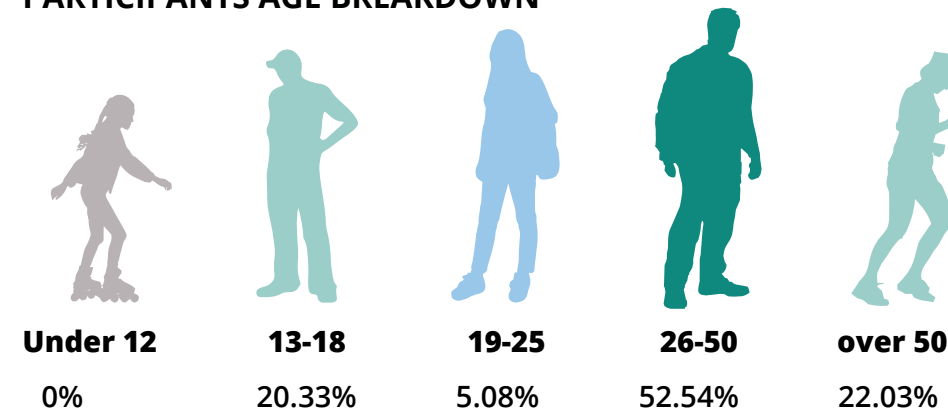
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY

PARTICIPANTS

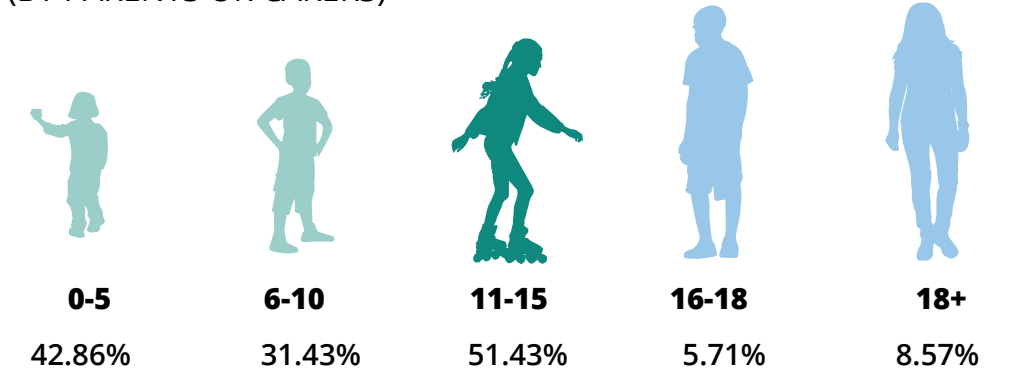
= 100+ People engaged

- + 58 survey responses
- + 3 weeks online consultation
- + 1 month community consultation
- + Council reference groups
- + Stall at Benalla farmers market
- + Benalla BMX, Skate, Scoot event

PARTICIPANTS AGE BREAKDOWN



CHILDREN REPRESENTED IN SURVEY (BY PARENTS OR CARERS)



WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED FIRST?



Upgraded Pump Track



Upgraded Skate Park



New Skate Plaza



Social and Active Play



Multi-functional Social Space



Lawn Space with Stage for large events



Multi-purpose Sports Court and Terraces

PREFERRED SOCIAL AND ACTIVE PLAY



Flying Fox



Mini Golf



Fitness Element

PREFERRED MULTI-FUNCTION SPACE FACILITY



Shade Structure



Picnic Spot



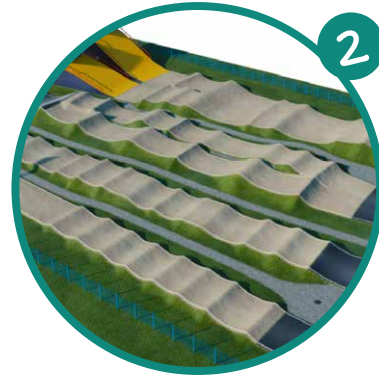
Lounging Space

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY

PREFERRED PUMP TRACK STYLE



Pump Track
For bikes, skate and scooters



BMX racing track
Competition level



Jumps Track
Tricks and jumps for BMX

WHAT SKILL LEVEL PUMP TRACK WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

1 Intermediate pump track
51.35%

2 Beginner pump track
27.03%

3 Advanced pump track
21.62%

PREFERRED MULTI-PURPOSE COURT FACILITY



Rebound wall & climbing wall



Table Tennis / Foosball



Full court with Basketball & Netball hoops

PREFERRED STYLE



Park / Mixed
A combination of street and transition elements



Transition / Bowl
Transition / bowled elements, vert / extensions, & volcanoes



Street / Plaza
Ledges, rails, banks, stairs, & flat ground elements

PREFERRED FEATURES



Mini Ramp



Hips / Transition



Spine / Volcano



Bowl

OVERALL CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Over face-to-face community consultations, skate-focused consultation, Age Friendly group consultation, and 3 weeks of an online survey, there were more than 100 participants engaged in the consultation process. Ideas and thoughts were collected from the community and a number of key needs and wants were identified.

Overall, there was strong interest across the board in upgrading the pump track, upgrading the skate facility, having more social and active play, space for events, and multi-purpose courts. There were leading trends for the upgraded pump tracks, the upgraded skate parks, and social and active play; there was also a strong emphasis on a space with a shade structure, providing outdoor social and hangout space, sports court for multi-purposes.

Overall, it is a great outcome. The community embraced many ideas presented on the Dotmocracy board, and see it as an opportunity for a space that can be enjoyed by all residents of Benalla.

MASTERPLAN CONCEPT

The Masterplan for Benalla Fawckner Drive Reserve Precinct recognises the importance of enhancing connectivity within the area while identifying potential for community engagement through versatile event spaces, a community market area, sports courts, picnic spots, upgrades to the existing skate park and pump track, and fitness facilities.

The design objectives focus on establishing a well-connected, green, sustainable, and inclusive precinct that caters to diverse age groups and abilities. The masterplan aims to promote community participation by providing a wide range of recreational opportunities and fostering community engagement.

To ensure accessibility and functionality, the precinct features an interconnected network of accessible paths that connect various facilities such as swings, a flying fox, picnic tables, the skate park, the pump track, and other amenities. The design incorporates flexibility, prioritising multi-use spaces. For instance, the multi-sports court can be transformed into a community market area through the use of removable bollards. Additionally, the main social area, equipped with shelters, a stage, and modular furniture, enables the hosting of community events.

By unifying the reserve and offering flexibility, recreational value, and community activations, the precinct becomes an integral part of the Benalla community, providing a vibrant space for residents to enjoy.

MASTERPLAN CONCEPT



KEY ELEMENTS

- 01 **Stage/Events Space**
Stage for large community events such as festivals and concerts
 - 02 **Multi-sports Court**
Multi-purpose hard stand and sports court for small to medium community events and markets and well as sports for daily use
 - 03 **Rebound Wall / Climbing Wall**
Offering climbing and bouldering experiences
 - 04 **Shelter, Social Area and BBQ area**
Small stage with outdoor seating and BBQ facility for socialising, small events such as gigs and exhibitions
 - 05 **Table Tennis / Ping Pong Table**
 - 06 **Hammocks + Nets**
Hammocks and Net structure for social play and hanging out
 - 07 **Upgraded Skate Park**
Replacing the existing steel skate elements within the skatepark with a "park style" facility, potential inclusion of elements such as a mini ramp, banks, hips, transitions, volcano, manual pads, ledges, and rails.
 - 08 **Single Point Swing**
Accessible via rubber path
 - 09 **Pump Track**
Proposed intermediate pump track - asphalt
 - 10 **Fitness Station**
Fitness Area with varied equipments, Climbing bars, and all abilities options
 - 11 **Shelter with picnic seating and BBQ**
 - 12 **Flying Fox**
accessible via rubber path, offering all ability seats
 - 13 **Market Space**
Semi-Formalized gravel area with dedicated car parking spots. This space can also be closed off for market overflow, events bump in and bump out as well as food truck parking during large events
 - 14 **Picnic + Social area facing the Lake**
 - 15 **Lawn**
Reduce car park and provide additional lawn space for library
 - 16 **Terrace Seating**
Terrace seating utilising existing mound to create social seating and viewing of court and events
 - 17 **Improved Access**
Improve library access paths from car park and to new recreation spaces
 - 18 **Connection to the Island & Playground**
Path connection from Carier St to the island and the Playground
 - 19 **Formalise Existing Car Park**
- * Note: all paths and pedestrian circulation are accessible

PRECEDENT IMAGERY

MULTI PURPOSE AREA

+

SOCIAL AREA

+

FITNESS AREA & CLIMBING WALLS

+

UPGRADED SKATE & PUMP TRACK

PRECEDENT - MULTI PURPOSE AREA

Key Plan



Multi-sports Court + Line Marking



Table Tennis



Rebound Wall with Line Marking



Terrace Seating for Events



Community Market Space



Terrace Seating and Stage



Seating integrated with Garden Bed

PRECEDENT - SOCIAL AREA

Key Plan



Shelter



Modular Seating



Nets for Social Play



Flying Fox



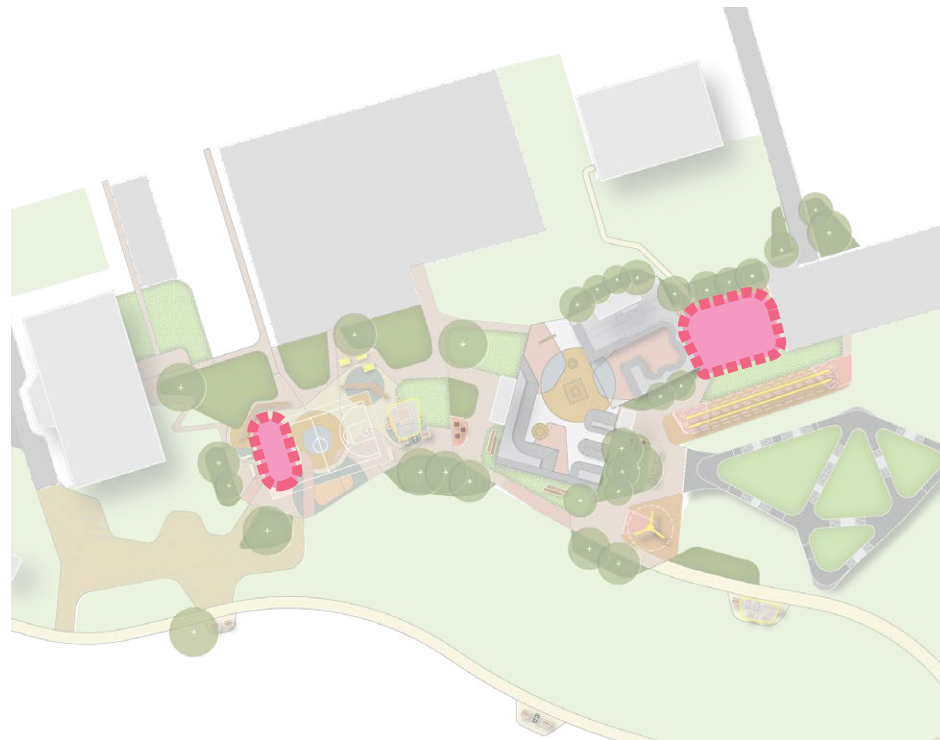
Hammocks



Single Point Swing

PRECEDENT - FITNESS AREA & CLIMBING WALL

Key Plan



Climbing Bars



Climbing Walls with Playful Elements



Outdoor Fitness Stations for all ages



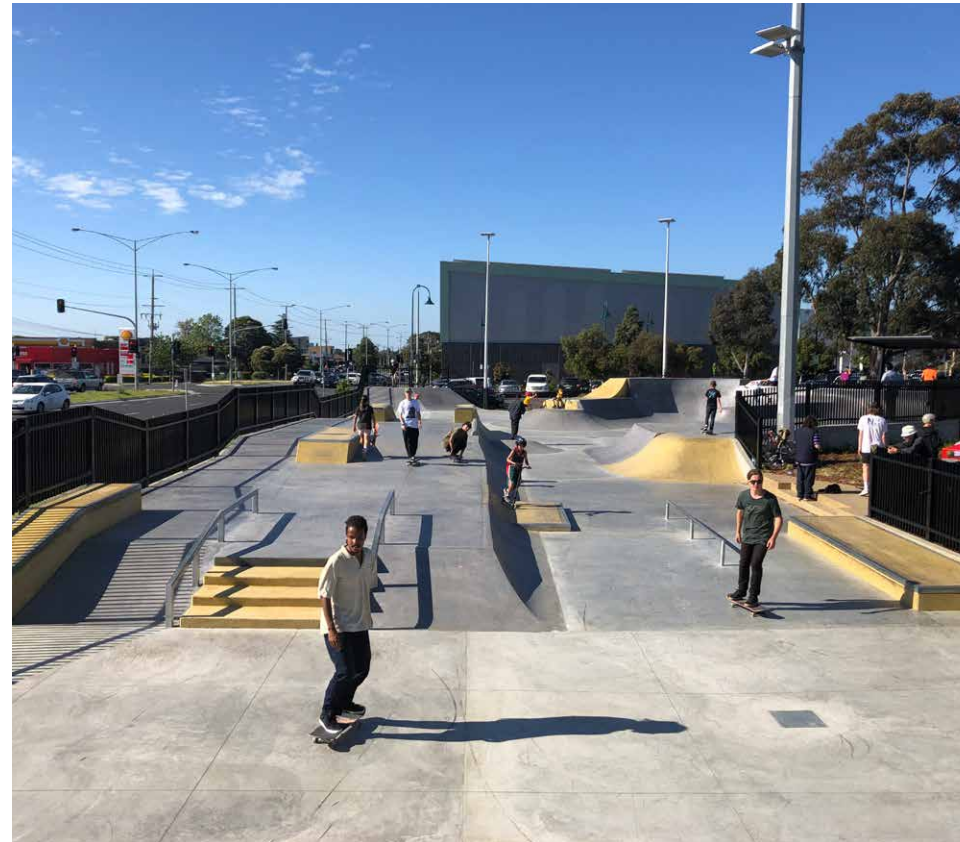
Sculptural-like Climbing Walls



Fitness Bars and Exercise equipment

PRECEDENT - UPGRADED SKATE AND PUMP TRACK

Key Plan



Park / Mix style Skate Park



Mini Ramp



Hips / Transition



Pump Track for Bikes, Skate and Scooters



Pump Track - Berm feature



Pump Track - Rollers, Bank Turns

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

ZONING PLAN

+

MOVEMENTS & ACCESS PLAN

+

SITE ANALYSIS & CONSTRAINTS PLAN

+

SITE OPPORTUNITIES

SUPPORTING INFORMATION - ZONING PLAN



LEGEND

- SOCIAL PLAY AREA
- ACTIVE WHEEL SPORTS AREA
- RECREATIONAL AREA
- MULTI USE HARDSTAND / SPORTS COURT
- SEMI FORMALISED PARKING AND EVENT SPILL-OUT SPACE

The recreational areas are designed to be open and flexible. The lawn space can be utilized for picnics and community events, and a stage is proposed to the west of the Library for potential large festivals.

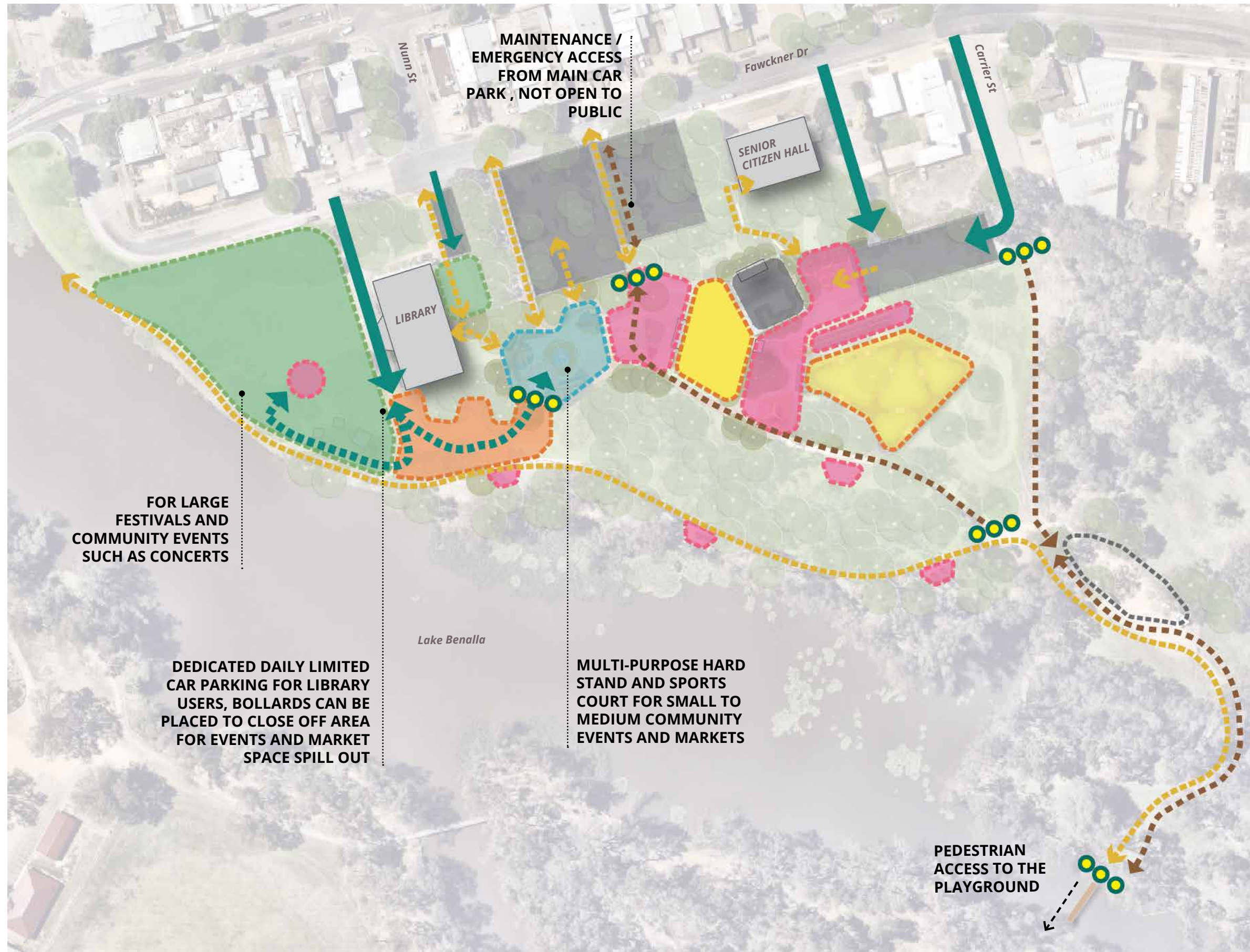
A semi-formal parking and events spill-out space is located to the south of the library.

The multi-purpose area consists of a hardstand surface primarily used as sports courts on a daily basis, but it can be transformed into a community market space during weekends. It also provides relevant facilities for hosting events.






The social area serves as a cohesive element for the entire precinct, offering shaded areas, various seating options, BBQ and picnic facilities, as well as fitness equipment. Social and motion play elements are considered, including a large single-point swing, hammocks, and a flying fox, are incorporated to promote a fun and relaxing social environment that caters to a diverse range of user groups.

The skate park and pump track are upgraded based on the community's preferred elements.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION - MOVEMENTS & ACCESS PLAN



LEGEND

-  REMOVABLE BOLLARDS
-  MAIN VEHICULAR ACCESS
-  LIMITED VEHICULAR ACCESS
- FOR EVENT USE, NOT GENERAL PUBLIC
-  PEDESTRIAN ACCESS INTO RECREATIONAL AREAS FROM TOWN
-  MAINTENANCE VEHICULAR ACCESS
- NOT FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

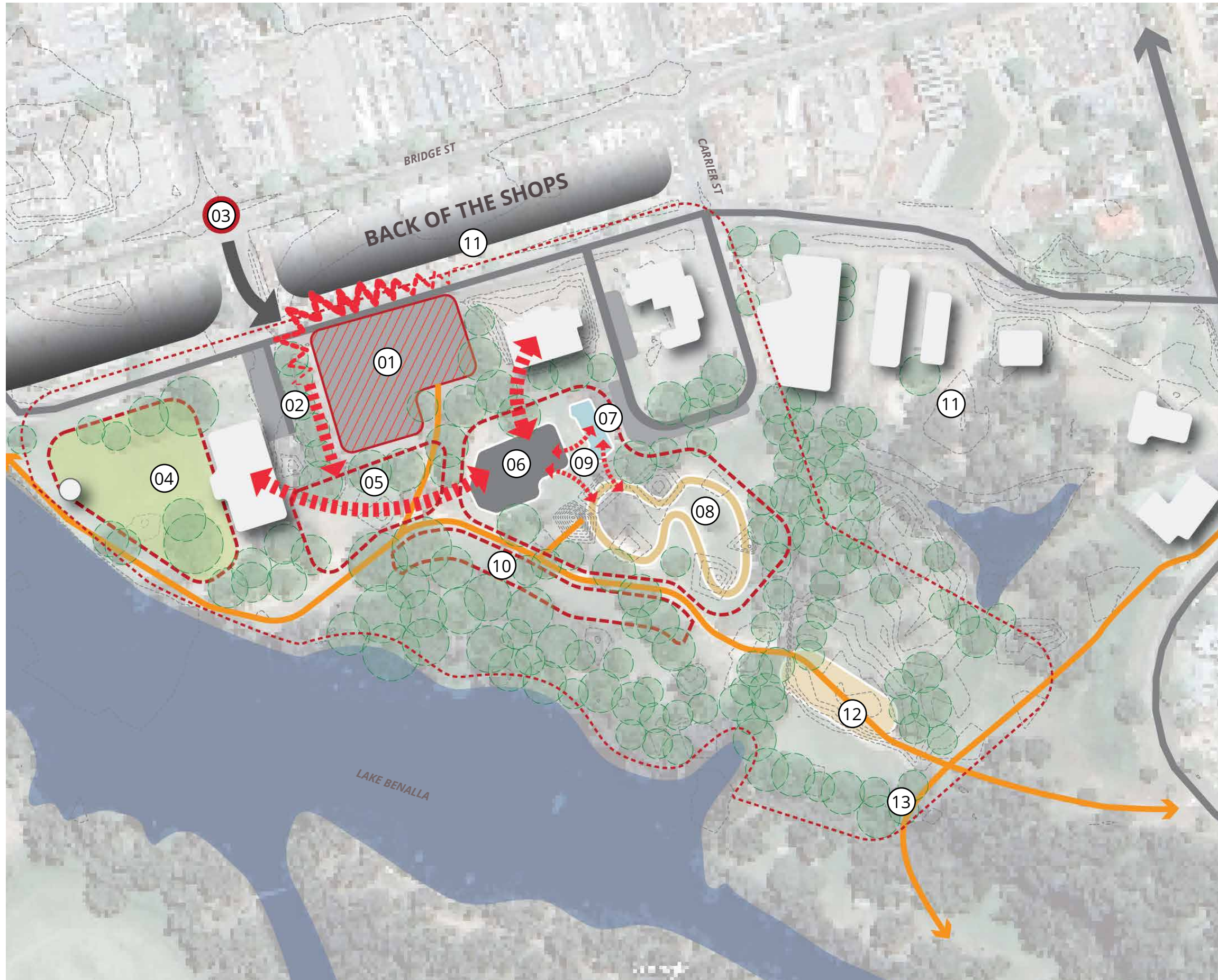
The masterplan aims to establish a well-connected precinct with different zones offering a variety of programs and functions.

Existing vehicular access to the car park will be enhanced, and stronger pedestrian connections will be formally established from Fawckner Drive to the northern part of the space.

Strategically placed removable bollards ensure the space's functionality on a day-to-day basis while providing flexibility for events and maintenance access.

Social areas also act as key gathering spaces, fostering connections between different zones along the west-east axis.

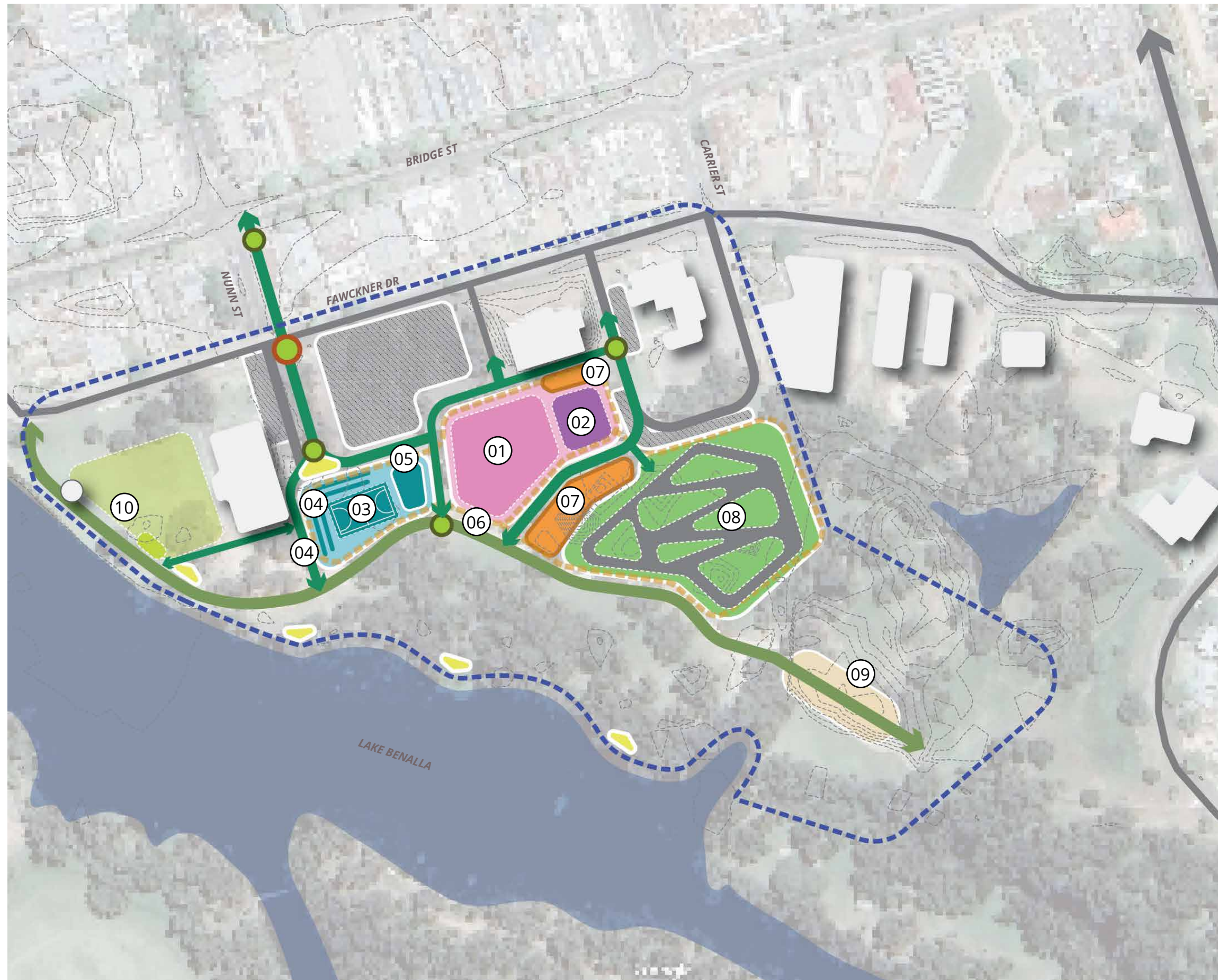
SUPPORTING INFORMATION - ANALYSIS & CONSTRAINTS PLAN



KEY ELEMENTS

- 01 Existing car park is both a visual and physical barrier to the site
- 02 Lack of clear connection to the main street no clear pedestrian priority of access from town centre
- 03 Lack of way-finding and awareness of existing facilities facility
- 04 Lawn space being utilised as event space, however missing other relevant amenities such as stage
- 05 Under utilised lawn space between library and recreational areas
- 06 Existing skate park - older facility opportunity to upgrade. Currently it is geared towards BMX, opportunity to include beginner level skaters and other styles of skating.
- 07 Existing 3 x half courts, currently under-utilised, no full court available for games. Opportunity for other sports and games
- 08 Existing pump track - not well maintained berms and pumps have overgrown and washed out. Opportunity to upgrade,
- 09 Existing active recreational facilities are disjointed are older facilities. Opportunity to provide linkages, social amenity and upgrade facilities.
- 10 Lawn Space and gravel path currently used as market space. This causes conflict with other pedestrians and dog walkers. Other issues include muddy and wet ground conditions after rainfall, making it an unpleasant user experience.
- 11 Back of the shops - less activated areas. Opportunity to increase passive surveillance via community activation of the precinct.
- 12 Current path used as road to access RV Parking. This is potential safety issue and promotes conflict between users. This will only increase as the precinct is redeveloped. RV parking location to be reviewed for better suited location,
- 13 Opportunity to increase safety for pedestrians by relocating RV parking, and providing clearer paths of travel for passive recreation, dog walking and nature walks to the islands and natural surrounds.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION - SITE OPPORTUNITIES PLAN



LEGEND

- Pump Track
- Upgraded Existing skate park
- New Skate Plaza
- Multi-purpose Court
- Active community space
- Picnic/ Social Areas
- Active Social Play Area
- Large space for events/ performances
- Possible stage for events
- Way-finding
- Way-finding Entry Feature
- Running track
- ↔ Pedestrian Connections / Key Paths
- ↔ Waterfront Promenade
- Extent of Works

KEY ELEMENTS

- 01 Upgraded Skate Park**
Upgrade of existing Skate park, this area is geared more towards BMX and other wheel play, upgrading of older steel elements to more contemporary style
- 02 New Skate Plaza**
Convert 3 existing half courts into a new skate plaza area with street style elements.
- 03 Multi-purposes Court**
Multi-purpose hard stand area featuring a full size court to replace half courts. This area converts to a space for markets and community events with a social space that includes a stage.
- 04 Terrace seating**
A back drop to the stage and community space/ sports court, terraces take advantage of the existing embankment to create viewing seats for games, events and concerts.
- 05 Multi-functional Active Social space**
Modular seating and shade structures combine to create a multi-functional space that acts as a frame work for many community events.
- 06 Running and walking track**
This track skirts all the active areas providing access and great running surface for the community.
- 07 Proposed Social + Play Area**
Older teen play - hangout modular seating, hammocks and nets, giant basket swing and other large play equipments
- 08 Pump Track**
Upgrade of run-down pump track to include pumps, berms and other elements.
- 09 RV Parking to be reconsidered**
This is to be reviewed as best location for RV parking. With proposed work and community spaces being introduces this becomes a conflict between pedestrians and vehicles
- 10 Large scale events**
Lawn space and possible stage for large scale concerts, events and performances.

No.	Name:	Submission:
1	Anonymous	<p>Disappointing to not see Mountain bikes catered for. MTB Mountain biking is still one of the fastest growing recreational activities. A pump track is not a BMX track. Pump tracks are designed for dirt jump style bikes. Most bikes seen around town ridden by all age groups are Mountain bikes.</p> <p>I have spoken to Wangaratta riders and visited the pump track there, it doesn't get used by bike riders as kids on scooters are always on it.</p> <p>Look it places similar to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Railyard Arkansa USA. ▪ Spring Gully skills park Bendigo. ▪ Red Hill South, Vic MTB skills park. ▪ Fox Creek South Australia. ▪ Small skills park at Beechworth.
2	Anonymous	Looks great, but are there public toilets?
3	Catherine	I would love to see tracks and bike riding opportunities for young children to be able to ride their bikes. Due to the lack of footpath areas in the community we are having to have 3yo-6yo on roads to learn how to ride. A traffic school set up would be a great opportunity and would attract younger families to the area.
4	Loki Finnigan	<p>I do feel that a lockable "shed" or smth along those lines should be implemented, stocked with, a couple brooms and dustpan & brush. To be used when the park is covered in debris from storms, general public use or mistreatment of the park, an example being the bowl used as a bin for beer bottles, i personally have spent money purchasing a broom more then once to clean up the park, and left it there hoping that ppl would understand it's purpose. Sadly they don't and by the next week the broom is gone. An example I've had on my mind is having the key/shed being put somewhere in/on the senior citizen building and users of the park can just ask for the brooms and then put them back when finished.</p>
5	Josh	Pump track
6	Kelly	<p>We love the bmx pump track. Please keep the track user-friendly for all ages. Our young boys would be disappointed if it was made for teenagers/adults only. Seating around the track would be helpful for parents.</p> <p>Don't reduce parking - if anything increase it!!!</p> <p>I love the idea of the flying fox.</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
7	Andrew Hick	<p>Can I ask for some concrete/stone chess tables as part of this design?</p> <p>There are plenty of designs online, and anyone who has travelled to American or European cities is likely to have seen them.</p>
8	Debbie Higgins	<p>Love the plan, I like the multi layer use of the space. My suggestion would be to put a 'kinder kids' bike path loop for them to practice their bike skills, ie a loop around the basket ball court with bike lanes and possibly 2 'four square' courts if possible near the multiple purpose sports court.</p>
9	Coral Challender	<p>These are great ideas and I think they will be utilised by majority of the older age group.</p> <p>But what about the younger ones.</p> <p>They need somewhere to play when going there as a whole family without the older kids possibly scaring them or injuries.</p> <p>I think a little traffic school set up with signs and a smooth road etc would be so good for the younger ones learning how to ride.</p> <p>I know as a Mum of 3 I always try to make sure wherever we go there is something for all 3 of them to play on and do.</p> <p>I think if there's nothing for the younger ones it won't be utilised as families will not be able to cater or enjoy it as a whole family or go as a whole family.</p> <p>We need this to be able to enjoy but also you need to make sure all age groups are thought of.</p>
10	Anthony Jenkins	<p>Hello I would like to suggest a skateboard bowl and a calisthenics workout area.</p> <p>I have during this school holidays been skateboarding with my son at the skate park. He is 7 and I am 50. He's learning I used to skateboard. A bowl with a shallow and deep end would bridge the gap between beginner and experienced.</p> <p>Skateboarding in a bowl is quite fluid and one naturally moves from beginner to advanced. I also believe it's safer than the big metal ramps. (which are great fun, but can be daunting for new board riders). (I tried to upload pictures but file to large for a screen shot).</p> <p>I would also like to suggest a calisthenics style work out section. This I believe will attract young 20-40 year olds that are really into their fitness. It would also be good to have more ppl working out around the young skateboarders for safety. I believe both would attract ppl from town and surrounding areas.</p> <p>And I know skateboarders will travel a long way to ride a good bowl. I also noticed the mountain bike riders using the large quarter pipes to jump off.</p> <p>I bet they would love a trail winding thru the trees with jumps and all that sort of stuff (not my area) but I know mountain biking and bike riding in general is huge on north east Vic so we could attract the ppl riding in the highlands to stay or camp in town.</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
11	Lisa Hind	<p>1) terrible location for stage. When the stage is here during the festival it destroys the view of Lake Benalla. Having the stage positioned closer to Fawcner Drive or Library and leave the lake view beautiful</p> <p>2) so disappointed to see the new basketball courts will be wasted -poor planning. Surely activating the space will increase the use of the already existing asset.</p> <p>3 & 6) switch location- have a chill out / hammock space in the vicinity of the library and terrace seating (space to rest will visiting the market) move the climbing wall to the activity space near the skate park and pump track</p> <p>5 & 10) did the community feedback support a table tennis/ ping pong table and another fitness station???</p> <p>11) move to position 10.</p> <p>15) not required</p> <p>18) very much required</p>
12	David Blore	<p>I am pleased t see this much-improved version of plans for the Fawcner Drive Precinct. There are two areas on which I would like to make specific comments, as follows.</p> <p>1. Changes to parking immediately adjacent to the Library: This change seems to be simply to generate some grassed area. Several questions arise:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What assessment was made of utilisation of the existing parking spaces? - Who was consulted about this change? <p>My perception (confirmed with a number of other residents) from frequently passing this area and past personal usage patterns is that the parking outside the library is one of the most heavily utilised areas in the CBD. I fail to see any significant advantage to be gained which could offset the loss of these parking spaces and consequent inconvenience to library and other users.</p> <p>2. A Significant Gap in the Masterplan: Despite the data on age profiles and the fact of Benalla being a town with a significant older age profile than many other municipalities, no mention is made of the potential future development of the Senior Citizens facility to cater for current needs and this increased cohort into the future. Whilst it is accepted that there is a specific focus on greening (and the lack of tree removal, with additional planting proposed, is applauded), there are numerous other infrastructure projects included. The need for such an upgrade of the building now, let alone into the future, was part of submissions to the proposal, so should have been included.</p> <p>A final comment: The proposal to formalise the parking behind the CFA building is supported, but there should be vehicle access (as at present) from the southward extension of Carrier Street for this parking space rather than relying on all parking traffic passing the Senior Citizens building on the existing narrow access. The proposal for a proper pathway between the lake walking track and Carrier Street (Item 18) is however strongly supported.</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
13	Millicent Lang	<p>It's an absurd adult playground. More "fluff" as someone described it. Firstly it will be flooded. Secondly it consists of various eyesores. Thirdly it will require ongoing maintenance at a cost. Fourthly the lakeshore should be left as a lakeside. Fifthly how much more can they jam in? Sixthly people don't always need to be 'entertained' - enjoy the natural environment. Seventhly the measure of a Council is not how much fluff it can build during their tenure. Anyone can spend money.</p>
14	Tom Yates	<p>The proposed pathway (18) is adjacent to a substantial quiet natural waterway , and bird nesting area .</p> <p>A wide path in this locality would significantly alter this naturally attractive area , as would the sealing and upgrading of the existing bmx track (9)</p> <p>A new pathway , and a sealed pump track , is an over development of this area , and would further detract from the natural appeal that this area offers.</p> <p>There is no demonstrated need for an additional wide path from Carrier St as access is already good . The current gravel bike track is situated between large river gums and has minimal environmental impact in its current form .</p> <p>This bike track could be relocated to a more suitable position , and the area maintained as a buffer zone to the natural waterway and bird nesting area.</p> <p>This area provides a natural link to the Casey island waterways , which should be maintained. It contributes to the existing natural appeal that the Casey island precinct offers.</p> <p>Over development of this area, and Casey Island itself, threatens the very appeal that the area offers .</p>
15	Anonymous	<p>I wish not to have my name printed or identified in the public record.</p> <p>My husband and I have looked at the proposal. It looks great. Minor suggestions would be a fenced off play section for toddlers or young children. The skate park to have beginner friendly options. That play areas have appropriate shading for summer. Overall the proposal is very exciting!</p>
16	Anonymous	<p>Do not delete any of the old skatepark especially the half pipe I've done this for 20+ years and that is by far the best half pipe I've ever seen</p> <p>It is the craziest skatepark.</p> <p>Before you make a call go ask some professional bmx's skateboarders and scooter riders that not hard to find and ask them about there opinion your upgrade will never match what's already there.</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
17	Anonymous	<p>RE reduced car parking- Library car park No 15.</p> <p>As a regular user of the Library, I have concerns about reducing the number of car parking spaces and converting it to additional lawn space.</p> <p>Reducing car space will disadvantage an ageing population that requires close parking.</p> <p>Parents taking children to the library will be disadvantaged if they cannot park close to the library. It could become a safety issue for young children who do not have good traffic awareness or common sense near cars. Families should be encouraged to use the library without any unnecessary obstacles.</p> <p>Parking is already an issue on busy days and especially on market days and for any events that are held in Benalla on the foreshore area.</p> <p>I believe that there is ample lawn space on the lakeside of the library for activities.</p>
18	Craig Robinson	<p>My concerns are that we are building another amenity in a flood zone, How is this going to be mitigated? What coatings are in place to repair the facility after being flooded. Total agree that it's needed as our youth need amenities and it will bring families to Benalla at a minimum as a stop over but at what cost .</p>
19	Max Richards	<p>I have had the opportunity to peruse the Benalla Fawkner Drive Master Plan Report.</p> <p>As a resident of Benalla for 36 years, concerned with the previous additions to the lakeside amenity, I bring to attention the following issues for consideration.</p> <p>In Item 15 of the Concept it is proposed to remove car parking and provide a lawn area in front of the Library. The parking area is well used. in addition providing good close access for the disabled.</p> <p>Removal of this good access would be a retrograde step!</p> <p>The area adjoining the Senior Citizens building. This building has extensive windows overlooking the natural bush land to the South. This outlook is enjoyed by the users of this Community Centre and is a vital element for enjoyment of those using it. Every effort should be made to retain outlook as much as possible.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to muted colours and landscape screening of existing and proposed installations. It should also be noted that skateboard activities seem to be a fading fad and that the area receives only limited use. The earthen bike track does not appear to be used at all.</p> <p>Whilst probably outside the scope of the project no consideration has been given to attempting to improve the eyesore of the rear of businesses facing Fawkner Drive This area sorely needs landscaping along Fawkner Drive including nature strip planting etc. Business owners should be encouraged to improve their "back door"</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
		<p>In summary it is critical that every effort be made to preserve the natural beauty of this area along the banks of the Broken River. The Masterplan has been prepared to guide development of the Broken River Fawkner Drive Precinct. The action in preparing the Masterplan will hopefully avoid ad-hoc poorly considered proposals in such an important precinct.</p> <p>This area is of prime importance to Benalla. Located in the flood plain in the centre of Benalla it not only forms part of the flood plain but also allows the natural river plain to extend into the heart of the City. Past Councils have recognised the importance of the precinct and have sited important civic structures, the Library {former Council Offices} and the Senior Citizens buildings to take maximum advantage of the site. It is imperative that the function and surrounds of these buildings are not compromised!! Both the Library and the Senior Citizens benefit from the natural riverine landscape. This statement especially applies to the Senior Citizens where the outlook forms an important part of the buildings function.</p> <p>The precinct is already overdeveloped and progressively new ad hoc elements have been added. The skate park can be seen as an attraction when used by skilful participants. However bins, shelters, tables and other unsightly furniture have been added resulting in a “dogs breakfast”.</p> <p>Thus the advantages of the outlook of the Senior Citizens building have been compromised. It is critical that any proposed new installations be considered recognising the landscape values of the site, and if necessary incorporating appropriate landscaping.</p> <p>What is required?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 A Landscape Plan, aimed at restoring the riverine plain values, be prepared for the area to provide guidance should any future furniture be considered. 2 Existing furniture should also receive landscape treatment to mitigate harsh conflicting elements. [The landscaping of the children’s garden adjacent to the Benalla Gardens show what can be achieved]. 3 The old earthen BMX track is no longer used and can be returned to natural bush land [with appropriate landscaping]. 4. Colours of any new paintwork should camouflage any furniture. [Unless high visibility is required e.g. rubbish bin] 5 Proposals for <u>ANY</u> new development be carefully considered to ensure existing uses are not compromised. <p>Other Matters</p> <p><u>Library Car Park</u></p> <p>The plan shows the park significantly reduced in area. This is a retrograde step as often the existing park is well occupied and any unwarranted proposal to make life more difficult for the disabled is ridiculous.</p> <p><u>Access Roads and Paths Layout</u></p> <p>The orderly layout arrangements are considered highly desirable.</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
20	Michele Lee	Maybe a Frisbee golf course/game we played on one while travelling in Charleville and it was great fun. I took a photo but it's too large to upload 🙄
21	Rosie Moulday	All looks exciting but for heavens sake do not take away the parking at the library. Foolish move Parking is so hard at any rate in this town We enjoy the library so dont take the parking away.
22	Briana	I feel this area would be a great spot to put a track for the younger kids, something similar to the traffic school in Wangaratta. I am aware that many of the kindergardens in Benalla take their students to Wangaratta to the Traffic School to teach them basic road rules. How good would it be for them to not have to leave the town to do so! Also allows families with different ages of children to all be able to participate riding their bikes/scooters etc in the one area. Kids could progress from a traffic school style track then on to a pump track or the bmx track once they have gained the confidence.
23	Damian	<p>As a long time benalla citizen and growing up using the skatepark facilities I highly recommend a more bmx/scooter focused skate park rather than mainly skateboard features.</p> <p>Benalla has always had more bmx/scooter riders than skateboard. Of course there needs to be some skateboard features incorporated but the council should be looking to improve the park for the majority of user's.</p> <p>As for the pump track I believe we should be following in the footsteps of Wangaratta, thus having multiple levels of difficulty in the course or having a few different sections. This will help the development and growth of our youth and also every member wanting to use the facilities.</p> <p>The idea of having one track at an intermediate difficulty will soon become outdated like the current bmx track.</p>
24	Robert Bird	<p>Congratulations on proposing a plan. Some thoughts. A walk in covered water feature like the one in the Parliament Gardens in Melbourne called Cole's fountain or the Mildura Water Play park.</p> <p>Some car parks and the multiple sports courts and skate park need to be covered and solar panels placed on top. The staged events place covered with solar panels and excellent place for a summer outdoor film/theatre. Car charges in car parks. More imaginative play areas than just swings and slides like Royal Park in Parkville or Bollygum Park in Kinglake. The plans need to embrace climate change and it's effects.</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
25	Peter Reid	<p>There are a number of issues re this proposal</p> <p>1. There appears to be no RV site in the proposal. Has the RV site been deleted or relocated? We stopped at Jugiong NSW one night and about 100 vans also at their RV site. The economic boost to Jugiong was clear to see at the cafe and hotel. Does the road access to Jaycee Island and the car park there remain. There are issues associated with the proposed plan eg the proposed BBQ no. 11 has no car parking associated with it.</p> <p>2. The removal of the b/ball goals and replaced with a fitness station/s flies in the face of current trends for youth participation. The b/ball goals are used on a regular basis.</p> <p>3. no. 18 the link path is a good idea however the solution to the sewerage smell /leak at the end of Carrier St should be the priority before the path is constructed. The reed ponds established do not solve the issue.</p> <p>4. I am of the view that a number of activities would be better at the splash park site eg. flying fox, single point swing and rebound climbing wall.</p> <p>5. no. 02 the multi purpose crt may be located where the current b/ball goals are currently.</p> <p>6. the current BBQ facilities near the library and car park are not mentioned. Have they been removed.</p> <p>7. I am bemused by the proposal and I would ask for answers to some questions</p> <p>a] What is the overriding goal of this proposal? b] what is the budget for the overall plan? c] Was the consultant made aware of the projected demographics 2030 for Benalla. This proposal does not reflect the projected demographics nor does it reflect the activity trends or participation in outdoor activities for youth in Australia</p>
26	Anonymous	<p>It's good to see planning for improved facilities for Benalla's young people. However, there seems to be a lot packed into the area, making it feel very crowded. I hope the final plan will allow clear pedestrian access through the area and ensure safety for those using the flying fox. I am concerned that development shouldn't spill out beyond the path immediately south of item 8. Items 11 and 14 are moving into the riverine parkland area, impinging on the lake surrounds. The seating areas (14) are particularly problematic. As a regular lake walker, I think the area of native phragmites at the lakes edge provides a lovely vista that will be spoiled by this kind of development. The Benalla Riverine Trail and Waterway Management Plan prepared in around 2001 is still very worthy of consideration in planning future improvements.</p>
27	Lisa Linke	<p>Hi. I would like to propose a 10 Mt long x 1.5 Mt high concrete wall somewhere at the Fawcner Drive precinct. It would specifically be a "graffiti wall" for the people of the town who feel the need to tag everything in sight. If we had a purpose built wall for them to display their "art" it may help to discourage them to put it elsewhere. When the wall is full, it could just be respected white and they could start over. Of course profanities would be unacceptable but it may help to curb the problem with graffiti in the town.</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
28	Kerryn Amery	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised plan. I'm pleased to see that space has been left available for the future expansion of the Elderly Citizens' Centre. It is a mistake to reduce the parking at the Library and replace it with lawn. Library staff are opposed to this proposal. The carpark is conveniently located for the many patrons carrying resources (books, toys, DVDs, etc) to and from the library. These patrons include parents with prams and small children, older patrons, mobility reduced patrons and other community members. The stairs down to the carpark are difficult to safely negotiate when carrying library resources. I returned a large bag of books this morning and appreciated being able to find a park close to the library. The current carpark has adequate parking to meet patrons' needs. I continue to disagree with the centralisation of the proposed sporting and fitness resources at Fawkner Drive. These resources should be located where Benalla is growing and where most families reside, on the west side of Benalla. I agree with the expansion of the skate park but the fitness station (there is one on Jaycee Island), flying fox, multipurpose court, climbing wall, table tennis table, pump track, etc, should be located closer to new housing estates and those areas of Benalla where the bulk of our families and younger people live. Churchill Park would be a great location or the large empty park off Ackerly Street. I am opposed to the pump track in the Fawkner precinct. It destroys a valuable green space. Landscape this space instead and plant more trees to encourage the return of the echnidnas that once grazed on the grass behind the library. Council needs to value and improve our green spaces. Churchill Park is a better location for the pump track. I encourage Council to put this project on hold. I urge Council to carefully study Benalla's demographics and select a more suitable location for these initiatives, close to where people live.</p>
29	Judy Amery	<p>I fail to understand why the council wants to reduce the car park at the library to provide more lawn. There is enough lawn around the library without adding more. Reducing the number of car parks particularly close to the library discriminates against the elderly, disabled and parents with young children who have to park further away and also removes the ability to drop off people such as the disabled or elderly at the front of the library. If any of these groups have to park in the big car park then the council will have to put a ramp between the car park and the library as the existing steps are too steep. What happens to the ramp? Where does it then go? What happens to the beautiful Library sign? Talk about looks over requirements. I wonder why the council is concentrating everything in this area. There are so many new estates opening and there are no facilities or parks in any of them. Why can't we have two skate parks? One over the other side of town where it is more accessible to local youth. Why can't elements of this plan be spread around Benalla so that they can easily be enjoyed by all the residents instead of making kids ride to this area or force parents to have to drop them off and pick them up again.</p>

No.	Name:	Submission:
30	Elizabeth Lang	<p>The Benalla lake and surrounding environment is what makes Benalla special. Slowly it is being eroded by unnecessary structures, lighting and paths. It's gradually becoming a fun park rather than a beautiful natural environment with open space. The community does not want any additional development. If the council feels the need to spend grant money it could focus on enhancing the natural environment by managing the weeds including angled weed, oxalis and Chilean needle grass. Or further developing other areas away from the lake such as the Mackella st playground. The community needs basic services that are not being provided such as meals on wheels and childcare. Paths are also absent in many streets and would improve public safety if provided. Please save our beautiful lakeside precinct from further development.</p>
31	Louisa Marston	<p>It is great to see Benalla Council taking an active long term planning role in key community connecting areas in town. This area will play an incredible role in engaging youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Love there is another bouldering wall! - Move the fitness station a little further away from the skatepark, people in their late 20's, 30's and more can get intimidated by lots of youth (so supportive of them, but they can be intimidating). - Possibility to include an area to roller skating, outdoor dance etc? Roller skating is increasing in popularity. - The Table tennis tables seem to be in an awkward position. A little too close to the carpark. - For no. 18 the walking track needs to use the current worn in track. I am a garden designer, and a key rule is always using tracks people have already made. This is formalising natural flow. - This plan needs a place of last resort/resilience hub/safe place for emergencies (heat waves, floods, power outages) and day to day for people in need, especially youth. A kitchen could provide meals through volunteer programs to people in need during emergencies and daily as homelessness and DV increases. The building could have free hot showers & toilets for people in need daily and during emergencies. Charging points for people to charge their devices. Indoor social hang out areas for days over 35 degrees and colder days when people cannot afford heating/cooling. The senior citizens hall is in such a prime location for this. This building could be refit to provide a key community service that is missing from this town. Thank you for coordinating.

4.5 2023/24 Quick Response Grants Program

SF/2857

Tom Arnold – Community Development Coordinator
Jane Archbold – Manager Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents funding applications for 2023/24 Quick Response Grants.

BACKGROUND

The Quick Response grant program enables local community groups, clubs and organisations to seek funding to increase their capacity to work in partnership with the Council and others to address local needs and enhance the local community.

The program distributes grants up to \$500 allowing local clubs, groups and organisations the opportunity to seek funds when the need arises.

DISCUSSION

Applications for consideration under the 2023/24 Quick Response Grant program are detailed in the table below.

Applicant	Details	Amount Requested	Proposed Assistance
Benalla and District Junior Football	Benalla and District Junior Football wish to install a CellaED Defibrillator in the Junior Sporting Facility located in the Benalla Showgrounds reserve. Benalla Auskick has more than 250 participants as well as parents and volunteers every Saturday morning. The nearest AED device is in the Benalla Saints changerooms which are only open to Benalla and District Junior Football during Saints home games. The Benalla and District Junior Football feel it is important that this device be available to such a large regular gathering of people of all ages.	\$500	\$500
Total		\$500	\$500

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- *A healthy, Safe and resilient community.*
- *A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Leadership

- *Engaged and informed community.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council's *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that community engagement be undertaken at the 'Inform' level under the International Association for Public Participation's IAP2 public participation spectrum.

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of program via media, website and social media. ▪ Program presented in public reports to the Council. ▪ Outcomes advised directly to applicants. ▪ Outcomes detailed in Annual Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The *2023/24 Budget* allocates \$15,000 to the Quick Response Grant program. To date, \$2,400 in Quick Response Grant funding has been allocated.

To ensure transparency and accountability, where assistance is provided in meeting the cost of Council facility hire, the payment is reflected in relevant ledger accounts via an internal transaction.

For example, if the Council agrees to meet the hire cost of the Benalla Town Hall a credit would be made to the Town Hall income ledger account and a debit made to the Annual Grant Program expense ledger account.

In addition, recipients of support throughout the financial year are detailed in the Annual Report.

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:

That a \$500 grant from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Benalla and District Junior Football.

4.6 Facilities and Information Technology Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

SF/1544

Greg Robertson – Manager Facilities and Information Technology

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the Facilities and Information Technology Department for the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

Facilities Management

- Benalla Town Hall Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling (HVAC) system is fully commissioned now the upgraded mains electricity supply upgrade has been approved by AusNet Services. The Auditorium painting has been completed.
- The Benalla Town Hall Basement has been carpeted and painted by local Benalla based contractors. The next step is the cabinetry, plumbing and electrical works in the kitchenette, with Benalla based contractors sourced to provide quotations and specifications.
- Tender released for asbestos removal works for the heritage listed BARC Huts. As part of the works, all asbestos material will be completely removed from the structures, including the roof and ceiling lining. Officers are working closely with Heritage Victoria (HV) to ensure compliance with all permit conditions, and that the replacement materials are approved by HV. This process is detailed, with HV approvals required for both the replacement material and placement methodology.
- The *Benalla Airport Masterplan* review tender closed with five tender submissions. All submissions were to a high standard and conforming to the specification.
- The Splash Park season commenced successfully. Several water feature solenoids are scheduled for replacement, consistent with normal wear and tear on a heavily used community facility.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

- A campaign of email phishing simulations was held during the quarter, this will continue as part of ongoing staff ICT security and email scam awareness.
- Continued evaluation of alternate helpdesk software and remote access tool by the ICT Team during the quarter. The pilot for alternate ICT Helpdesk will run next quarter with staff using the system for the first time.
- The ICT team worked closely with Councils ICT Network security appliance supplier to interrogate the configuration of Councils firewall appliances. A report is being compiled with any recommendations to be actioned as a priority. No major faults in the current ICT firewalls configuration were identified.
- Staff continue to work on the Collaborative Digital Innovation Project (CODI) in conjunction with Strathbogie, Mansfield and Murrundindi Shires. CODI will replace core Financial, Rates and Property, Customer Management, Records and Planning, Building, and Regulatory software systems by end of 2024.

Benalla Aquatic Centre

- Benalla Aquatic Centre Membership finished the quarter at 424, a minor decrease on 444 memberships reported at the close of the last quarter.
- Swimming Lesson memberships stand at 629 enrolments, up on the 589 Swimming Lesson memberships reported last quarter. Numbers have increased, as expected, over the warmer months.

Highlight

- Sustained strong enrolment in the Swimming Lesson program at the Benalla Aquatic Centre.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 December 2023

	Note	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance	2023/24 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Full Year Forecast
Facilities	1	\$1,835,853	\$1,322,922	-\$512,624	\$2,645,208	\$3,641,327
Information Technology		\$894,549	\$997,987	\$103,438	\$1,719,537	\$1,587,884
Benalla Airport	2	\$44,673	\$117,651	\$72,978	\$318,063	\$183,344
Saleyards	3	(\$7,567)	\$14,532	\$22,099	\$29,112	\$29,112
Aquatic Centre	4	\$423,372	\$391,620	-\$31,752	\$783,246	\$873,000
Total		\$3,190,880	\$2,844,712	-\$345,861	\$5,495,166	\$6,314,667

Notes:

1. Unfavourable variance depreciation expense for Council owned facilities is higher than budgeted due to revaluation of buildings in prior year. Forecast depreciation expense for year has been amended to align with new valuations. Offset by reduced Material and Services expenses as works restricted due to 2023 October flood event.
2. Favourable variance as repairs and maintenance works delayed in first three months due to weather conditions. Expenditure on Living Heritage Grants Program, Former Benalla Migrant Camp Conservation projects works rephased to late in 2024.
Forecast expenditure for year reduced as depreciation expense for Benalla Airport less due to review of assets useful life and valuations in prior year.
3. Favourable variance as truck wash income more than budgeted first quarter due to flood event usage. Less expenditure on Saleyards repairs and maintenance due to weather conditions, works rephased to later in 2023/24.
4. Unfavourable variance on contract management fees (CPI rise impact). Forecast result for year amended accordingly.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

4.7 Economic Development and Sustainability Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

SF/1893

Courtney Naughton – Manager Economic Development and Sustainability

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the Economic Development and Sustainability Department for the quarter ending 31 December 2023.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Future of Benalla and District Project

- The Regional Context Analysis Report was presented to the Benalla Rural City community at two launch events on 5 October 2023 and the morning of 12 October 2023. The presentations were well attended with more than 45 people at each event. Following the presentations, attendees had the chance to ask questions in a group setting and approach the Economic Diversification Plan Project Coordinator. Feedback received was overwhelmingly positive.
- The Economic Diversification Plan Project Coordinator attended a scientific forum at Melbourne University hosted by local company Gretals. The day highlighted the work that the company has undertaken over the last couple of years and reported on the progress of their projects.
- The Economic Diversification Plan Project Coordinator worked with two local businesses to assist them to submit expressions of interest for the Forestry Transition Fund. This fund runs alongside the work currently being undertaken through the Future of Benalla and District project.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Benalla Street Art

The December 2023 quarter was busy with a heavy focus on planning for the upcoming 2024 Benalla Street Art Festival.

- Expressions of interest for walls were called for.
- A Marketing Plan, sponsorship prospectus, website and new marketing designs were in development.
- Extensive Business and Community engagement continued as part of planning the program.
- A Community Sneak Peek was held on 30 November 2023 to hear the curator's vision. More than 40 people attended.
- The 2024 Benalla Street Art Festival will be extended to a weeklong event from 21 to 28 March 2024.

Jobs and Skills

- The North East Tracks LLEN withdrew its support of the NEVic Jobs Hub following a change in leadership roles. The website was founded with support from Benalla Rural City Council, Wangaratta Council and Mansfield Council. A review of the website is currently being undertaken to ensure the website meets current needs. It is hoped that other NEVic Councils will also come on board in 2024 to enable expansion of the portal.

Ovens Murray Digital Plan

- A refresh of the regional Digital Plan occurred in October 2023 led by Regional Development Victoria.

Business Engagement and Support**New businesses**

- Rivers opened its store front on 18 December 2023 at Benalla Homemaker Centre on Sydney Road, Benalla. This completes the tenancies in the Centre which includes Pets Domain, Harry Brown and Mitre 10 Trade.
- Foott Waste opened their new facility in Irwin Rd, Benalla during the quarter as part of the introduction of Victoria's container deposit scheme. Their innovative machinery employed is ensuring a seamless operation with excellent customer service.

Coffee Connections

- Monthly 'before work' meetups continued in October and November 2023 with numbers growing steadily. Those attending appear keen to reinvigorate a more active business network in 2024 to support Benalla's business community, including after some after work events.

Business Communications

- The Benalla Business E-News is provided to more than 1,200 subscribers fortnightly. It continues to highlight local stories and business profiles, webinars and professional development, opportunities, business tips, grant opportunities and upcoming tourism events.
- The Business Development Coordinator manages the social media page know as *@SupportingBenallaBusiness* on Instagram and Facebook. Posts and stories occur several times per week with good engagement from followers.

Christmas 2023

- New walk-through lit Christmas decorations were placed on display at the Benalla Splash Park Forshaw. Decorations were well received by the Benalla Rural City community.
- The Business Development Coordinator and Communications team organised a very successful Family Christmas Event held at the Splash Park Forshaw on Friday 1 December 2023. The event was a success with more than 500 people of all ages in attendance. Feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive.
- The winners of the Benalla Spirit of Christmas Business Windows competition were announced at the Family Christmas Event on 1 December 2023: Best night time display – Milner Watson Pharmacy, Best day time display – Rambling Rose and Most Amusing window – The Merchant Benalla.

- Certificates of appreciation were awarded to the Benalla Men's Shed, Benalla P-12 College and Benalla Flexible Learning Hands On for their role in making new Christmas decorations. The new Christmas decorations included 25 wire lit baubles and Christmas gift boxes.
- Seven Busking Bases were launched in December 2023 with QR codes for instant registration. These were identified by colourful non-slip decal pavement decals. Busking was free in the central business district for December 2023. The Business Development Coordinator is working with the Compliance team to see if it is possible extend this in order to encourage more live music throughout the year in the central business district.

Look for the pavement decals to perform at any of the busking base locations below. Simply register once via the QR code* (*registration is **essential** and means you're covered for insurance).



	POWERED	SHELTER
1 GOTAFE corner Nunn & Bridge Street East	✗	✗
2 CVGT Pergola Bridge Street East	✗	✓
3 BRRR Real Estate 72 Bridge Street East	✓	✗
4 Millers Corner 85 Bridge Street East	✗	✓
5 Hollywoods Café 87 Bridge Street East	✗	✓
6 Hides Bakery Bridge Street East	✗	✓
7 Zeus Coffee Co 123 Bridge Street East	✗	✗

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Media Coverage – Highlights

- Benalla Community Christmas Celebration and lighting of the tree.
- Benalla CBD Christmas activation coverage in local media.
- Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment – community input on location.
- Benalla Street Art Festival community info session and announcement of festival dates.
- Benalla Festival promotions and extensive coverage.

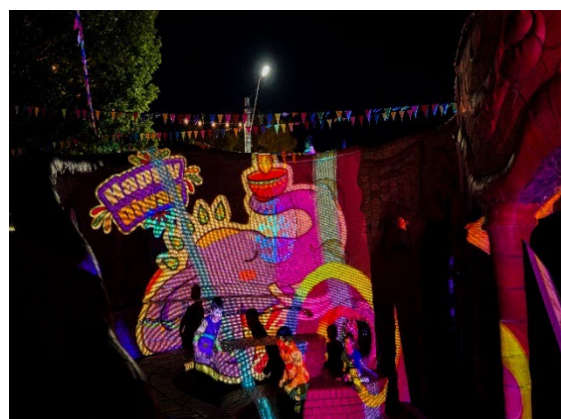
Community Engagement Activities

- The Benalla Churchill Reserve Dog Park opening was held on Thursday 26 October 2023. The event was well attended with more than 50 community members present.

EVENTS

Benalla Festival – 3-12 November 2023

- Benalla Festival was curated by new curator Blank Vault for the Lake Foreshore Events and this year's event saw high visitation.
- Opening of the Benalla Festival was held Friday 3 November 2023 at the Benalla Visitor Information Centre. This event provided an opportunity to showcase the newly developed Benalla Visitor Information Centre and increase visitation at the Diwali multi-cultural event hosted by the Benalla Migrants Association. Projections were cast onto the Benalla Art Gallery and Visitor Information Centre walls when the sun went down.
- Expectations were exceeded out at Moorngag for the Balloon Glow event. More than 2000 visitors and residents attended the Moorngag Hall for live music, food and Balloon Glow. The event was held on the first weekend of the 2023 Benalla Festival.



Benalla Cinema

Cinema Comparison for the quarter:

BPACC (Quarter ended 31 December 2022)	Benalla Cinema (Quarter ended 31 December 2023)
174 sessions	301 sessions
1361 patrons	2507 patrons
Monthly handbill	Weekly handbill

- Benalla Cinema has participated in cinema experiences like *Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour*, Advanced Screenings of *Trolls Band Together* and *Andre Rieu*. Gift cards became available in time for the Christmas 2023.
- The ninth Annual Benalla Shorts Film Festival was held in the Benalla Cinema as part of the 2023 Benalla Festival. Nine short films were played as part of the festival. The cinema was hired out as part of this event.

Tourism and Visitors

- After a very long hiatus, visitation to the Benalla Visitor Information Centre has finally returned to pre COVID-19 numbers.

Month	Visitor attendance at Benalla Visitor Information Centre
October 2023	1592 persons
November 2023	1601 persons
December 2023	1095 persons
Total	4288 persons

- The Tourism Coordinator attended the Australian Regional Tourism Convention in Newcastle from 10 to 12 October 2023. The theme of the event was 'Creating the Regional Visitor Economy of the Future'. It is a great networking opportunity and forum to exchange ideas about ways to grow a sustainable regional destination and to showcase best practice success.

Benalla Art Gallery

- For the quarter December 2023 the Benalla Art Gallery welcomed 19,742 exhibition visitors and staged 40 public and education programs for 723 participants.
- In December 2023 the Benalla Art Gallery was notified that it was successful in securing a four-year investment in organisations through Creative Australia. Across the nation the Benalla Art Gallery was one of 13 successful visual arts organisations and the only regional gallery to receive this funding. The funding will total \$400,000 split evenly across 2025-2028. The funding program will allow the appointment of a Curator.
- In December 2023 the Benalla Art Gallery was informed it had been awarded \$3,300 through the *Gordon Darling Foundation's 'Darling Travel Grant / Domestic'*. The funding is allocated by the *Gordon Darling Foundation* in consultation with State and Territory Gallery Directors to enable a public visual arts institution staff member with professional development and major projects opportunities. The funding will enable the Benalla Art Gallery Director to explore projects in collaboration with the National Gallery of Australia, National Portrait Gallery, and Art Gallery of New South Wales.

- In December 2023 the Benalla Art Gallery partnered with *Just Another Agency* and launched a new major exhibition, *Gonketa: Moving Forward*, by profoundly Deaf street artist Jaycob Campbell (Gonketa). The exhibition featured works on canvas, a large scale mural, and projection artwork created by Gonketa in collaboration with Deaf media artist, Ravi Vasavan. The exhibition launch was an Auslan interpreted event, and the exhibition attracted 3,189 visitors across 28 days. Public response to the exhibition was incredibly positive, including comments such as *'We visited Benalla specifically to see Gonketa at the gallery, and stayed for lunch!'* and *'The gallery brought us to the town from Canberra, and likely brings others from nearby areas – great for Tourism!'*
- Benalla Art Gallery received notification it had been successful in its Robert Salzer Foundation application to acquire *Myee biganga banu woka daya* (2023) by Dr Treahna Hamm (Firebrace). The Robert Salzer Foundation awarded 50 percent of the purchase cost with the remaining 50 percent funded by the Benalla Art Gallery Foundation.
- In December 2023 the Benalla Art Gallery shared materials to support an advocacy campaign being run through the *Public Galleries Association of Victoria*. The campaign, called *'Public Galleries: Our Creative Heart'* was developed in consultation with the public gallery sector in late 2022. The advocacy campaign was designed to help galleries attract additional State Government funding by establishing a unified voice, articulating the role and value of galleries, and explaining the investment required. Benalla Art Gallery shared information, campaign badges and stickers, and a postcard campaign calling for gallery visitors to write about why they believe funding for public galleries is important. Within a month, the Gallery's allocation of over 60 postcards was exhausted, with a unanimously positive response, each of which was unique and deeply considered.



Sustainable Environment

- Ironbark Sustainability have completed a Corporate Emissions Report for Council operations for the 2022/23 Financial year. Ironbark have also completed the Net Zero Action Plan for Council with an advised Net Zero goal of 2035/36 for Council operations and a goal of 2040/41 for the Benalla Resource and Recovery Centre.
- The draft *Climate and Environment Strategy* is nearing completion and will be presented to Council at a future meeting.
- A request for tenders for the *Hollands Bio Link Management Plan* review was released. This project will include reviewing and updating the *Hollands Bio Link Management Plan* and consultation for the next two stages of the Bio link Channel.
- Council staff are working with the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance and Indigo Power on a Neighbourhood battery project to further the Councils renewable energy goals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance	2023/24 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Full Year Forecast
Economic Development and Sustainability		\$247,809	\$229,441	-\$18,368	\$428,985	\$416,032
Art Gallery	1	\$169,680	\$225,617	\$55,937	\$569,652	\$567,330
Benalla Cinema	2	\$106,591	\$120,263	\$13,672	\$240,516	\$248,457
Communication and Engagement	3	\$159,561	\$179,798	\$20,237	\$359,657	\$399,897
Events		\$183,576	\$198,378	\$14,802	\$294,418	\$325,428
Tourism	4	\$140,015	\$186,577	\$46,562	\$319,874	\$349,662
Environmental Sustainability	5	\$58,297	\$75,567	\$17,270	\$151,142	\$182,642
Business Development		\$84,124	\$81,023	-\$3,101	\$193,650	\$163,650
Total		\$1,149,654	\$1,296,664	\$147,010	\$2,557,895	\$2,653,099

Notes:

1. Positive variance due to increased income from sales and donations.
2. Positive variance mainly due to more than budgeted income from cinema sales over the December 2023 period.
3. Positive variance due to Council no longer sending out newsletters. Savings to be redirected to other communication activities.
4. Positive variance due to receipt of unbudgeted Visit Victoria funding for the 2024 Benalla Street Art Festival.
5. Positive variance is the result of unbudgeted income for Pest and Weed Program.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

4.8 Community Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

SF/1534

Jane Archbold – Manager Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the Community Department for the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

Community Development

- Strong focus on recreational needs over the quarter including meeting with Sports and Recreation Victoria regarding upcoming sports infrastructure funding opportunities. Staff met with Valley Sport to discuss sport and recreation opportunities in Benalla Rural City community. Staff attended the Hume Region Sports and Recreation Forum in Mansfield and met with various sporting clubs to discuss funding applications. A submission to Local Sports and Infrastructure Funding program for Open Space Strategy funding was prepared.
- Preparation, development and opening of Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre (BIRC) engagement material (including signage at sites, online and paper-based promotion, distribution of surveys and information packs), and meetings with Brand Architects and Churchill Reserve Committee of Management.
- Staff met with Benalla Street Art curator to discuss grant funded opportunities for youth workshops and production of a mural.
- Funding received for 16 Days of Activism campaign to produce 1000 seed packets with help finding messaging. The seed packets were distributed across the community, the library was lit up orange and a number of morning teas were funded across the organisation promoting the campaign.
- Staff met with AgBiz Assist to discuss support options and future programs for local farmers.
- Three Quick Response Grant applications presented to Council (Tatong Christmas gathering, Thoona Christmas event and Small-Town Sing) and two Major Event Funding applications (Swanpool Motor Festival and Lawn Tennis Tournament).
- Benalla Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group met twice during the quarter. The group appointed Nikki James, proud Yorta Yorta woman as the Chair of the advisory group.
- Staff attended the official opening of the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in Nunn Street on 21 November 2023. The centre, which was co-designed by people with lived experience, is open three evenings a week, Sundays and on public holidays.
- Council staff attended the first Community Consultative Committee meeting held in over three years for the Benalla West project. Engagement on the draft masterplan was open for a short time for community input.
- The Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group and Child Safe Working Group continued to meet over the quarter with work progressing on drafting Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan and most staff and Councillors attending Child Safe training over three days in November 2023.

Youth Development

- The 2023 Live4Life crew organised a successful Live4Life Benalla Celebration for Year 8 students from Benalla P-12 College and FCJ College on Wednesday 25 October 2023. The Celebration featured guest speaker Sally Kurzke who features in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Australia teen training videos. Over 120 students attended the celebration event.
- Every year the Live4Life crew are thanked for their time and effort by having a crew celebration end of year activity. The crew chose to go to Fun Fields this year in mid-December 2023. There were 26 crew members in attendance.
- Live4Life Benalla Crew Recruitment for 2024 attracted More than 60 applications. This demonstrates the success of the Live4Life program.
- Live4Life Benalla Review and Reflection Partnership Meeting was held on 6 December 2023.
- The youth team joined forces with Benalla Cinema to screen the classic film ‘Scream’ as a FReeZA event celebrating Halloween 2023. More than 50 young people attended the event.
- As part of the Benalla Festival a live music night was held at The Shed. The night featured three solo artists (Emily Snell, Meghan Guy and Kelly Walker) and two bands (The Danners and The Counterfeits) with the night being a sellout event (170 tickets). This was a first-time performance at a FReeZA event for all the solo artists who gave great feedback on their experience and are wanting to be engaged in future gigs.
- North East Rainbow Ball 2024 Event was outsourced to Drag’d Out Beechworth. More than 70 young people from the region attended the event with no disturbances or issues reported, just a whole lot of fun for young people.
- A free outdoor pop-up cinema for the community was held just before Christmas featuring the film ‘Elf’. More than 150 people were in attendance, with those attending able to take up the opportunity for free popcorn, fairy floss and snow cones.
- Youth team training for the quarter included Video Production, First Aid and CPR Training.
- The L2P program assisted 41 learner drivers in October, 55 in November and 50 in December. Seven young people got their licence during the quarter, taking the total to 30 young people obtaining their licence through the program over 2023. An average of 22 volunteers actively drove over the quarter, providing 750 driving hours to participants and 57 professional driving lessons were undertaken.
- More than 30 people attended the end of year celebration event for the L2P program including volunteers, driving instructor and members of the L2P steering committee.
- The L2P program had seven social media posts over the quarter with an average engagement of 105 people.
- The L2P Coordinator has spoken informally with Rotary regarding funding a pilot program for older drivers (based on the L2P philosophy) Further meetings and a formal proposal to be discussed with Rotary in 2024.



Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG)

- The SIAG committee comprises of eight community partners, three organisational partners. The SIAG Committee sees representation from persons self-identifying as LGBTQIA+, older people, youth, neurodiverse, Aboriginal, and those with lived experience of disability.
- The SIAG Committee met twice during the quarter. The first meeting was held on the 16 November 2023 and centred around familiarising members with one another and the SIAG guidelines and objectives, and the needs analysis document. There was also the opportunity for members to speak about their own personal lived experience. During this meeting, the SIAG Committee voted to commit up to \$15,000 to a round of “Social Connection Grants”, which will support connection for the Benalla Rural City community.
- Robbie from Ending Loneliness Together delivering Social Inclusion 101 training attended the second SIAG Committee meeting. This training proved insightful for our SIAG Committee, challenging perspectives on the relationship between depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

- 28 Birth Notices received for the Quarter October to December 2023.
- First Time Parents’ Group and First Time Dad’s Group both ran well with good attendance and positive feedback.
- Unfortunately, Council’s application for a Dad’s Group Grant was unsuccessful, the current group structure will continue in 2024 and the MCH team will look at other opportunities to engage dad’s.
- The Christmas week was covered by the Team Leader working on 27 and 28 December 2023 offering a reduced service to see young babies and Home Visit for eight week old babies.
- 12 new Enhanced referrals were received. The number of referrals made earlier in pregnancy has increased.
- The MCH Service received their annual funding letter for 23/24 funding very late in the quarter. There has been funding allocated to increasing education to support for Breast Feeding. Also included in the funding letter are details of increased funding for increased MCH consultation time. This funding will not affect Benalla MCH Service as due to COVID-19 consultations were increased, so this additional funding will bring the service in line with guidelines.
- A Kindergarten Connections meeting was held in November 2023 with nearly all Benalla kindergartens and childcare centres represented. The group agreed to continue supporting Early Start to Kindergarten (ESK) data sharing agreement with a focus on improving process and communication. The Kindergarten Infrastructure and Service Plan (KISP) and Benalla LGA Workforce Plan for Early Childhood Education Centres were discussed, and the group agreed to come together again in late February 2024.

Integrated Family Services (IFS)

- Family Services (FS) finished the quarter sitting at 120 percent achievement of funded service hours. FS is currently sitting on target for throughput of allocations from The Orange Door. The team has supported seven families over the quarter with access to flexible package funding available through Ovens Murray Child Family Services Alliance.
- Staff have been working with the Benalla Art Gallery to finalise projects in supporting families and increasing outcomes for vulnerable families.

- Integrated Family Services (IFS) are working with Upper Murray Family Care and the Alliance in creating a standardised template for client data recording. There is no universal guide, resulting in each service determining how data is input. Creating a universal guide for the Alliance will allow for more accurate data reporting and extracts to plan for future funding, training needs and practitioner development.
- Family Services recognised by The Orange Door (TOD) for flexibility and reasonability in approach to supporting families, including picking up support for families in nearby townships to support services with capacity bottleneck.
- IFS Giving Tree provided support to 29 families (inclusive of 72 children). Many thanks to the Lurg community group for their generous donation of gifts from their community Christmas event.
- Supported Playgroup (SPG) Facilitator attended the statewide Playgroup Victoria conference and statewide Supported Playgroup Community of Practice in October 2023. The program, which offers two groups per term is currently meeting requirements. There is some capacity available for In-Home Coaching with the SmallTalk parenting program. SPG supported five families with food hampers for Christmas.
- IFS staff continue to have exposure to a good range of training opportunities including Child Safe, Shark Cage Family Violence training, Effective Conflict Management and De-escalation training.
- Feedback from Child Protection Community Based Team Manager about Family Services team stated how much Child Protection value the work our staff do, highlighting the contact with families and the positive results achieved in keeping children safe.

Age Friendly Benalla

- Two meetings of the Age Friendly Benalla Reference Group were held over the quarter with the group continuing to assist the Ageing Well Officer to work on priorities identified in the Action Plan
- The *Benalla Treasures* were celebrated by sharing their individual stories and photos in the Ensign and on Council's website. The *Benalla Treasures* are group of older people who have contributed to the Benalla Rural City community in a variety of ways over a long period of time, making our community a richer place.
- Ageing Well Officer has been working with U3A and Senior Citizens Club to reopen the Ageing Well Benalla Info Hub on a trial basis in late February. The focus has been in setting up a roster of volunteers to staff the hub, fitting out the room with shelving and improved equipment, getting support from the Men's Shed who are constructing a brochure display board and shelving and linking in with local organisations and service providers to discuss programs and activities and obtain updated brochures to display at the hub.

Regional Assessment Service

- 93 referrals for new assessments were received and 46 of those were eligible for an assessment. 87 support plan reviews were completed over the quarter.
- The Council will be exiting out of the Regional Assessment Service at the end of June 2024.
- Requests for new assessments and reviews remain high and the team continues to struggle with administrative burdens.
- Relationships with both Calvary and Community Accessibility as the main service providers are steady, despite their inability to accept domestic assistance referrals.

Highlights

- Council's Ageing Well Officer in partnership with the Age Friendly Benalla Reference Group coordinated a number of activities to celebrate this year's Senior's Festival. Events included movie screenings at Swanpool Cinema and the new Benalla Cinema, Shepperton *Beatlez* Concert, an Aboriginal Craft Workshop for Women at the Benalla Art Gallery, Music Trivia afternoon at Benalla Bowls Club and an afternoon tea session hosted by the Senior Citizens Club. U3A also held a Get online BBQ Lunch. The Seniors festival received positive feedback on the success of this year's program. All events were well attended.
- During Children's Week in October 2023 Family Services staff delivered a total of 1150 activity packs to kindergartens and primary schools in the Benalla Rural City community. Activity packs included service brochures, activity booklets, local age-related service activities (such as Library sessions, YMCA, Tomorrow Today etc.), upcoming events, local sport and recreational activities and a toy and YMCA balloon. The activity packs received positive feedback from the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance	2023/24 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Full Year Forecast
Community Operations	1	\$322,808	\$367,847	\$45,039	\$920,036	\$1,291,378
Youth Programs	2	\$49,127	(\$26,480)	-\$75,607	\$98,974	\$177,891
ADS Aged and Disability Services		\$5,545	\$7,230	\$1,685	\$14,500	\$18,873
ADS Assessment		\$11,746	\$11,131	-\$614	\$17,096	\$145,078
ADS Social Support		\$0	\$42	\$42	\$737	\$0
FCS Maternal Child Health		\$63,361	\$68,025	\$4,664	\$136,108	\$353,434
FCS Family and Childrens Services	3	\$120,627	\$30,129	-\$90,498	\$117,231	\$264,592
Total		\$573,214	\$457,924	-\$115,290	\$1,304,682	\$2,251,246

Notes:

1. Favourable variance primarily due to difficulties with staff recruitment.
2. Unfavourable variance due to grant income received in 2022/23 but expenditure to occur in 2023/24.
3. Unfavourable variance due to program delivery in 2023/24 with income received in 2022/23.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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4.9 Assets and Infrastructure Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 December 2023

SF/1242

Adrian Gasperoni – Manager Assets and Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the Assets and Infrastructure Department for the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

Assets and Infrastructure

Assets and Infrastructure department continued to provide maintenance throughout the municipality, undertake capital works projects, as well as continuing to provide emergency asset restoration works following the Flood and Storm events over the past 24 months.

Highlights for the quarter are detailed below.

Operations

- Completed grading of approximately 140 kilometers of unsealed road.
- Completed grading of 15 kilometers of sealed road shoulders.
- Replaced 46.5 meters of brick gutter in Benalla Street, Benalla.
- Replaced 11.6 meters of brick gutter in King Street, Benalla.
- Replaced 5.4 meters of brick gutter in Lavery Street, Benalla.
- Replaced 9 square metres of concrete footpath in Banfield Street, Benalla.
- Replaced 27 square metres of concrete footpath in Dawn Street, Benalla.
- Replaced 11.5 square metres of concrete footpath in Stacey Street, Benalla.
- Replaced 11.5 square metres of concrete footpath in Rebbechi Court, Benalla.
- Carried out routine maintenance on the sealed road network with the jet patcher.
- Carried out linemarking maintenance.
- Provided traffic management for the Moorngag Balloon Festival.
- Provided traffic management for the Benalla Festival.
- Installed Christmas decorations throughout Benalla.
- Two new employees joined the operations team.

Parks and Gardens and Open Spaces

- Installed softfall around spinning carousel at Jaycee Island Playground.
- Carried out flood clean up following October flood event.
- Carried out drainage and irrigation works at the Visitor Information Centre.
- Event preparation for Benalla Festival.
- Carried out weed control and spraying.
- Routine furniture maintenance.
- Carried out building maintenance of the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre. Flooring, roof guttering and an addition of a wall bearer.
- Carried out building maintenance of Sports Equestrian Centre of the roof and gutter.
- Staff completed training in First Aid and Childsafe.
- Enrolled Sam Newton into an apprenticeship in Horticulture.

Waste

- Constructed concrete/brick hardstand out of onsite recycled materials.
- Constructed green waste/processed timber hardstand.
- Conducted a review of costs of Benalla Rural City Council to dispose of waste to Landfill.
- Received costings from Foott Waste for glass collection services.
- Completed tender submission for Mansfield/ Strathbogie Shire's landfill disposal.
- Undertook quarterly gas, ground water and leachate monitoring.
- Completed final contract negotiations for the Hume Collaborative Waste tender.
- Undertook public consultation for the Glass collection bin.
- Placed the soil protection layering on the exposed batter in Cell 3A.
- Carried out repairs to various infrastructure from regular break ins.
- Carried out repairs to leachate and storm water pumping onsite.
- Resource and Recovery staff undertook individual tender response scoring for scrap metal transport and recycling, green waste and processed timber processing, landfill gas monitoring, ground water and leachate monitoring and landfill environmental auditing services.

Capital Projects

A separate more detailed Capital Works Report will be presented to Council, however some highlights of the Capital Works Program for the quarter are listed below.

- Completed first package of footpath works, worth \$100,000.
- Awarded second package of footpath works, worth \$150,000. Works to commence in February 2024.
- Completed kerb and channel works in Dunlop Place, Benalla.

- Completed footpath, drainage and parking bay works in Mair Street, Benalla.
- Completed all accessibility footpath at the lakeside precinct.
- Commenced works in Hangar Lane with sealing to commence in the third quarter.
- Tender awarded for Devenish Drainage Project, construction with completion prior to June 2024.
- Consultation ongoing for Midland Highway footpath to the Benalla Racecourse.
- Completed reseal preparation for the 2023/2024 Sealing program.
- Commenced resealing works for 2023/2024 program, with completion in the third quarter.
- Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment – Architectural Services Contract was awarded.
- Completed asphalt works in Thomas Street, from Waller Street to Amber Ave, Benalla.
- Completed road culvert works for Tatong-Moorngag Road, Tatong.
- Awarded works for multiple culvert replacement and renewal works in separate locations throughout the municipality.

Asset Management

The following table outlines requests for works received through the *Asset Edge - Reflect* program of inspection and *Customer Request Management System*.

Task	March 2023	June 2023	Sept 2023	December 2023
Defects overdue on roads and drains - safety only:				
Link roads	14	1	13	14
Collector roads	15	0	24	22
Access roads	12	2	13	15
Defects overdue on footpaths - safety only	0	0	0	14
Defects rectified - routine maintenance and safety – road, footpath and parks	209	461	252	185
Defects and maintenance - items outstanding - road, footpath and parks	346	197	348	352
Unsealed roads graded (km)	188	141	119	51
Sealed road shoulders graded (km)	66	45	4	15

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance	2023/24 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Full Year Forecast
Capital Projects Operations	1	\$310,721	\$260,590	-\$50,131	\$1,371,226	\$1,371,226
Operations Support	2	\$721,243	\$347,380	-\$373,863	(\$101,932)	\$1,521,028
Plant Operations	3	\$87,216	\$26,478	-\$60,738	\$53,034	\$76,796
Operations and Capital Grant Income	4	(\$32,856)	(\$2,496)	\$30,360	(\$14,361,258)	(\$2,145,258)
Sealed Roads		\$1,481,582	\$1,471,928	-\$9,654	\$2,943,978	\$3,864,706
Unsealed Roads	5	\$638,605	\$887,206	\$248,601	\$1,774,557	\$1,662,338
Bridges	6	\$369,130	\$441,531	\$72,401	\$883,108	\$886,325
Drainage	7	\$493,181	\$349,530	-\$145,651	\$699,137	\$696,221
Mechanics Workshop		\$38,282	\$41,361	\$3,079	\$82,726	\$82,726
Street Cleaning	8	\$25,605	\$37,873	\$12,268	\$75,764	\$75,764
Roadsides	9	\$661,115	\$274,978	-\$386,137	\$550,174	\$533,046
Parks and Gardens		\$525,667	\$527,289	\$1,622	\$1,054,891	\$1,044,391
Asset Management Services	10	(\$74,566)	\$125,766	\$200,332	\$251,571	\$251,571
Landfill	11	\$626,968	\$664,223	-37,255	\$1,345,881	\$932,618
Kerbside Waste		(\$3,090,387)	(\$3,063,695)	\$26,692	(\$1,854,943)	(\$1,854,943)
Recreation	12	\$70,343	\$139,638	\$69,295	\$279,354	\$199,839
Total		\$2,851,851	\$2,529,580	-\$322,271	(\$4,952,733)	\$9,035,393

Notes:

1. Unfavourable variance due to unbudgeted scoping of projects to apply for grant funding.
2. Unfavourable variance due to operational component of Financial Assistance Grant received in 2022/23. Forecast income amended for year to date and 30 June 2024.
3. Unfavourable variance due to plant operating income being lower than budgeted and additional expenses tyre replacement and fuel cost expenditure.
4. Favourable variance year to date due to unbudgeted Lighting the Lake grant and Roads to Recovery funding. Year-end forecast income significantly decreased. Majority of funding for flood repair works and Benalla Art Gallery redevelopment will not be received in 2023/24.
5. Favourable variance due to depreciation expense being lower than budgeted.
6. Favourable variance due to budgeted major culvert condition assessment not undertaken.
7. Unfavourable variance due to increased drainage works required in the first half of the year.
8. Unfavourable variance due to budget phasing. Year-end forecast not changed.
9. Unfavourable variance depreciation more than budgeted.
10. Favourable variance due to the receipt of unbudgeted headworks income. Asset Coordinator role remains vacant.
11. Year-end forecast expenditure increased to reflect increased contractor expenses required to address staffing resource issue.
12. Favourable variance due to depreciation being \$40,000 less than budgeted and phasing of payments to committees of management.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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4.10 Capital Works Program Update As At 31 December 2023

SF/1242

Malcolm Bromley – Technical Service Coordinator
Adrian Gasperoni – Manager Assets and Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents an update on the Capital Works Program as at 31 December 2023.

BACKGROUND

Capital projects are funded from general revenue and grant funding. An update on the status of key capital projects is discussed below.

DISCUSSION

Capital Projects

Highlights for the year to date include:

- Completed first package of footpath works, worth \$100,000.
- Second package of footpath works, worth \$150,000 has been awarded with works planned to commence in February 2024.
- Completed kerb and channel works in Dunlop Place, Benalla.
- Completed footpath, drainage and parking bay works in Mair Street, Benalla.
- Completed all accessibility footpath at the lakeside precinct. Mair Street now has all abilities access through to the Splash Park and Lakeside Path (Boardwalk).
- Commenced pavement works at the Benalla Airport on Hangar Lane. Sealing to commence next quarter.
- Tender awarded for Devenish Drainage Project. Construction expected to commence in February 2024.
- Consultation for the Midland Highway pathway (linking Benalla CBD through to the Equine Precinct) has been finalised. Options to be presented to Council for consideration in February 2024.
- Completed reseal preparation for the 2023/2024 Sealing program.
- Scoping of 2023/2024 gravel and shoulder resheet projects deferred pending outcome of DRFA funding.
- Commenced resealing works for 2023/2024 program. Completion expected in March 2024.
- Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment - Architectural Services has been awarded and community engagement and consultation underway.
- Work on the Benalla Art Gallery Architectural Design for Stage 1A and overall Masterplan Design concepts continued. Completion expected in February 2024.
- Completed asphalt works in Thomas Street, Benalla from Waller Street to Amber Ave, Benalla.
- Completed road culvert works for Tatong-Moorngag Road, Tatong.

Emergency Events

Benalla Rural City has been affected by several emergency events since January 2022 and have previously been reported at previous Finance and Planning Committee meetings.

A summary of each event update on the events is provided below.

January 2022 Storm Event

A storm event in January 2022 damaged community asset (roads), throughout the north and north-eastern areas of the municipality. All restoration works now complete.

October 2022 Flood Event

A flood event in October 2022 affected more than 160 assets requiring some level of flood restoration. Full Scope of Works for multiple Tender packages currently being finalised.

January 2023 Storm Event

A storm event in January 2023 damaged trees as well as community and private structures. All clean up works completed.

October 2023 Flood Event

A flood event on the 5 October 2023 resulted in moderate flood event on the Broken River at Benalla. The event has been approved for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Council is in the process of scoping the damaged assets from the event. Damage costs to assets are still unknown at this time.

Council is liaising with DRFA representatives, in relation to all events to ensure that asset recovery and restoration works are undertaken within the established guidelines and time frames.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Community

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

Livability

- *Vibrant public spaces and places.*
- *Connected and accessible roads, footpaths, transport and parking.*

Environment

- *High quality efficient and sustainable waste management.*
- *Sustainable practices.*

Leadership

- *Good governance.*
- *High performance culture.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Capital Projects Program result for the six months ended 31 December 2023 was expenditure of \$2.523 million which was \$800,000 more than the budgeted expenditure of \$1.725 million as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Capital Program result for the period ending 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023/24 YTD Actual	2023/24 YTD Budget	2023/24 YTD Variance	2023/24 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Q2 Full Year Forecast
Aerodrome	1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0
Bridge		\$31,606	\$19,000	-\$12,606	\$500,000	\$600,227
Buildings Heritage	2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$65,000
Buildings		\$760,316	\$933,333	\$173,017	\$2,931,000	\$1,311,129
Plant and Equipment		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$650,000	\$690,000
Computers and Telecommunications	3	\$28,207	\$20,000	-\$8,207	\$452,000	\$310,062
Library Book stock		\$85,607	\$84,000	-\$1,607	\$96,000	\$95,716
Drainage		\$149,242	\$150,000	\$758	\$1,182,000	\$1,248,240
Fixture Fittings and Furniture	4	\$133,264	\$29,999	-\$103,265	\$30,000	\$386,297
Footpath	5	\$133,253	\$9,000	-\$124,253	\$185,000	\$652,813
Off Street Car Parks	6	\$5,350	\$0	-\$5,350	\$0	\$170,000
Other Infrastructure	7	\$21,685	\$0	-\$21,685	\$244,000	\$357,105
Parks Open Space and Streetscapes	8	\$306,798	\$25,000	-\$281,798	\$128,000	\$879,128
Recreational, Leisure and Community		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$104,000	\$104,000
Roads	9	\$751,826	\$426,450	-\$325,376	\$12,046,000	\$3,009,982
Waste Management	10	\$114,209	\$25,000	-\$89,209	\$2,633,000	\$1,171,512
Total		\$2,524,363	\$1,724,782	-\$799,581	\$21,206,000	\$11,051,211

Notes

1. \$25,000 funding for aircraft tiedown project transferred to Buildings Heritage.
2. BARC Hut 65 new roof project.
3. Expenditure associated with Lower North Easter Digital Transformation Project to be transferred to operating budget.
4. Carried forward projects, including Benalla Town Hall renewal \$59,065.
5. Delivery of grant funded footpath projects.
6. Grant funded Denny Street Carpark Redevelopment project included in year-end forecast.
7. Year to date spend associated with carried forward Baddaginnie Street Light project. Scope of grant funded Bridge Streetscape Upgrade project increased.
8. Carried forward grant funded projects including Mural Precinct Upgrade Botanical Garden Lights, Lake Benalla Lighting and Benalla Skatepark.
9. Road reseal program brought forward. Year-end forecast amended to reflect that expenditure allocated to the repair of flood-damaged roads will not be spent in 2023/24.
10. Unfavourable variance due to construction of green waste hardstand (\$43,000) and work in progress: Cell 3B \$33,000 and Stage 2 Rehabilitation \$38,000. Forecast decreased to reflect that several budgeted waste projects will not proceed in 2023/24.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council's *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that community engagement be undertaken at the 'Inform' level under the International Association for Public Participation's IAP2 public participation spectrum.

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report presented to Council. ▪ Report published on Council's website.

LEGISLATIVE AND 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*.

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:

That the report be noted.

4.11 Victorian Auditor General's Office Independent Auditor's Performance Statement Report and Independent Auditor's Financial Report

SF/808-07

Dom Testoni – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the *Victorian Auditor General's Office Independent Auditor's Performance Statement Report and Independent Auditor's Financial Report*.

BACKGROUND

At the Council Meeting on 20 December 2024, the Council resolved:

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.*

Sections 98 and 99 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), require councils to prepare an annual report for the preceding financial year.

The 2022/23 financial statements, the 2022/23 performance statement and the 2022/23 governance and management checklist are required to be included in the Annual Report.

The financial statements and performance statement included in the Annual Report have been subject to review by the Victorian Auditor-Generals Office subsequent to the December Council meeting.

All councils are required to report performance results as part of their annual report.

The framework was introduced to ensure all councils measure and report on their performance in a consistent way. The Annual Report also follows the State Government's better practice guide for producing the report of operations.

DISCUSSION

The Annual Report provides an account to the community of the Council's performance to our community. The report details achievements against the goals of the Council Plan and performance against stipulated measures. It also provides a detailed account of the Council's financial management across the 2022/23 financial year.

The Annual Report has been provided electronically and is available for download on the Council's website.

Victorian Auditor General's Office Independent Auditor's Performance Statement Report and Independent Auditor's Financial Report are attached as **Appendix 1**.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS**Leadership**

- *Good governance*
- *Engaged and informed community*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the production of the Annual Report were met from existing budget allocations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Section 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states the Council must present the Annual Report at a Council Meeting open to the public. The Annual Report was presented at the Council Meeting held on 20 December 2023

Councillors and staff have been consulted in the development of the Annual Report with no community consultation proposed.

Level of public participation	Promise to community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Report presented in a public report to the Council. ▪ Annual Report to be published on Council's website. ▪ <i>Victorian Auditor General's Office Independent Auditor's Performance Statement Report and Independent Auditor's Financial Report</i> presented in a public report to the Council.

Public notice that the Council had prepared its Annual Report was advertised in the *Benalla Ensign* on 6 December 2023 and on the Council's website.

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

The Annual Report is now available for public inspection on the Council's website and at the Customer Service Centre and the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Benalla Rural City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Benalla Rural City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2023 • overview of 2023 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • other information and • certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of Benalla Rural City Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2023 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>

**Auditor's
responsibilities
for the audit of
the performance
statement**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
21 December 2023



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Benalla Rural City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Benalla Rural City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• balance sheet as at 30 June 2023• comprehensive income statement for the year then ended• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended• statement of cash flows for the year then ended• statement of capital works for the year then ended• notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies• certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2023 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



4.12 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

SF/1557

Tracey Beaton - Executive Coordinator

The Mayor and Councillors, listed in alphabetical order, attended meetings and events as detailed below during the period from 11 December 2023 to 4 February 2024.

Mayor Councillor Danny Claridge	
12 December	Meeting with NE Tracks Local Learning and Employment Network
	Benalla Family Research Group Committee Meeting
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
13 December	Councillor Only Time
	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
	Meeting with Benalla RSL
	Council Meeting
14 December	Meeting with Gliding Club of Victoria
	Mayoral Christmas Video
15 December	Launch of Gonketa: Moving Forward at the Benalla Art Gallery
16 December	ABC Radio Interview - What's on around the Region
17 December	Benalla Lions Club Carols by Candlelight
19 December	Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan Briefing Session
	Mayoral Forum – The Hon Melissa Horne MP
20 December	Additional Council Meeting
21 December	Meeting with Benalla Bowls Club
2024	
5 January	68th Inter Regional Country Championships – Opening Ceremony
25 January	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Session – Bridge Street, Benalla
26 January	Baddaginnie Australia Day Community Breakfast, Presentation and Flag Raising Ceremony
	Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at BPACC
	Gliding Australia National Championships Open and 18 Metre Classes Presentation Dinner hosted by the Gliding Club of Victoria
30 January	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Session – Churchill Reserve
31 January	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors
1 February	Tour of the Benalla Golf Club Facilities
2 February	Launch of SHOWCASE: 2023 Senior Art and Design Student Exhibition at the Benalla Art Gallery

Councillor Peter Davis	
12 December	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
13 December	Councillor Only Time
	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
	Council Meeting
20 December	Additional Council Meeting
2024	
26 January	Warrenbayne Australia Day Community Breakfast and Flag Raising Ceremony
	Lima/Swanpool Australia Day Flag Raising Ceremony, Presentation and Morning Tea
	Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at BPACC
31 January	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors
1 February	Tour of the Benalla Golf Club Facilities

Councillor Don Firth	
11 December	Benalla Street Art Advisory Group Meeting
13 December	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
20 December	Additional Council Meeting
2024	
26 January	Tatong Australia Day Community Breakfast, Presentation and Flag Raising Ceremony
	Molyullah Australia Day Community Breakfast, Presentation and Flag Raising Ceremony
	Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at BPACC
29 January	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
30 January	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Session – Churchill Reserve
31 January	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors
1 February	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Briefing

Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne	
12 December	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
13 December	Council Meeting
17 December	Benalla Lions Club Carols by Candlelight
20 December	Additional Council Meeting
2024	
26 January	Thoona Australia Day Community Breakfast, Presentation and Flag Raising Ceremony
	Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at BPACC
31 January	Assembly of Councillors
1 February	Tour of the Benalla Golf Club Facilities

Councillor Bernie Hearn	
12 December	Australia Day Advisory Committee Selection Panel and Advisory Committee Meeting
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
13 December	Councillor Only Time
	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
	Council Meeting
2024	
16 January	Australia Day Ceremony Video
25 January	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Session – Bridge Street, Benalla
26 January	Benalla Australia Day Community Breakfast, Presentation and Flag Raising Ceremony
	Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at BPACC
30 January	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Session – Churchill Reserve
31 January	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors
1 February	Tour of the Benalla Golf Club Facilities
	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Briefing

Councillor Justin King	
12 December	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
13 December	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
20 December	Additional Council Meeting
2024	
26 January	Devenish Australia Day Presentation, Flag Raising Ceremony and Morning Tea
	Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at BPACC
30 January	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Session – Churchill Reserve
	Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Meeting
31 January	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors

Councillor Gail O'Brien	
11 December	Benalla Street Art Advisory Group Meeting
12 December	Australia Day Advisory Committee Selection Panel and Advisory Committee Meeting
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
13 December	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
15 December	Launch of Gonketa: Moving Forward at the Benalla Art Gallery
17 December	Benalla Lions Club Carols by Candlelight
20 December	Additional Council Meeting
5 January	68th Inter Regional Country Championships – Opening Ceremony
24 January	Neighbourhood House Visits in Shepparton
25 January	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Session – Bridge Street, Benalla
	Goomalibee Australia Day Community Breakfast and Flag Raising Ceremony
26 January	Goorambat Australia Day Community Breakfast, Presentation and Flag Raising
	Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at BPACC
29 January	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
30 January	Arts, Culture and Migrant Camp Workshop
	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Session – Churchill Reserve
	Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Meeting
31 January	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors
1 February	Tour of the Benalla Golf Club Facilities
2 February	Launch of SHOWCASE: 2023 Senior Art and Design Student Exhibition at the Benalla Art Gallery

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

4.13 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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Council Actions Pending

Action No.	Meeting Name	Item	Action	Officer	Status/notes
1.			Proposed Tesla Carpark Licence Agreement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	CEO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. Completed 3. In progress 4. In progress
2.	Council Meeting 20-Dec-23	1	Annual Report 2022/23 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Annual Report 2022/23</i> 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. 	CEO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. Report to be presented to Council Meeting on 14 February 2024.
3.	Council Meeting 13-Dec-23	4.5	Council Plan 2021/2025 Action Plan To 30 June 2025 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the actions detailed in Appendix 1 be incorporated into the <i>Council Plan 2021-2025 Action Plan To 30 June 2025</i>. 2. That quarterly updates on the status of the actions detailed in Appendix 1 be reported to the Council. 	GMC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. Completed

Action No.	Meeting Name	Item	Action	Officer	Status/notes
4.	Council Meeting 13-Dec-23	4.4	Benalla Sports and Equestrian Reserve Committee That the debate on this matter be deferred until the Council Meeting on 14 February 2024 to allow the <i>Benalla Sports and Equestrian Reserve</i> user groups to endorse their representative on the <i>Benalla Sports and Equestrian Reserve Committee</i> and the <i>Instrument of Sub-Delegation from the Chief Executive Officer to Community Asset Committees</i> be updated.	CEO	Several responses not received. Additional two weeks given to user groups to nominate a representative. Report to be presented at a future Council Meeting.
5.	Council Meeting 13-Dec-23	4.3	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project 1. That the <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Community Engagement Plan</i> be adopted. 2. That the <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project</i> be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.	MAI	1. Completed 2. In progress
6.	Council Meeting 13-Dec-23	4.2	2023/24 Quick Response Grants Program and Major Event Funding 1. That a \$500 grant from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Thoona Memorial Hall and Public Library. 2. That a \$2,000 grant from the Major Event Funding program be allocated to Benalla Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Inc.	MC	1. Completed 2. Completed
7.	Council Meeting 13-Dec-23	4.1	Draft Annual Financial Report and Draft Performance Statement For The Year Ended 30 June 2023 1. That Council approves in principle the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023</i> and <i>Benalla Rural City Council Performance Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2023</i> . 2. That Mayor Cr Danny Claridge, Cr Bernie Hearn and Chief Executive Officer Dom Testoni be authorised to certify the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Annual Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023</i> and <i>Benalla Rural City Council Performance Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2023</i> in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the auditor have been made.	CEO	1. Completed 2. Completed

Action No.	Meeting Name	Item	Action	Officer	Status/notes
8.	F&P Committee 6-Dec-23	7	Benalla Street Art Festival Social Media Exemption That the Council provides an exemption to the <i>Social Media Policy</i> to allow third party Eddie Zammit to post on the social media profiles known as <i>@Benalla Street Art Festival</i> (Facebook) and <i>@Benalla.Street.Art.Festival</i> (Instagram) for the purpose of promoting the <i>2024 Benalla Street Art Festival</i> until 31 March 2024.	MEDAS	Completed
9.	F&P Committee 6-Dec-23	6	Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change That the proposal for the <i>Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre</i> to be renamed <i>Benalla Seniors and Community Centre</i> be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.	MC	In progress
10.	F&P Committee 6-Dec-23	2	Planning Application – To Use And Develop The Land For A Dog Breeding Facility At 11 Peck Road, Goorambat That the item be deferred until the Finance and Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 10 April 2024 to allow for more detailed information to be provided from the applicant.	MD	A report will be presented to the Finance and Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 10 April 2024.
11.	Council Meeting 28-June-23	4.6	Fawckner Drive Precinct Masterplan That the draft <i>Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan</i> be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.	MC	Submissions were considered at the F&P Committee on 27 September 2023. A report will be presented to the Council Meeting on 14 February 2024.
12.	Council Meeting 19-Apr-23	4.4	Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2013-2025 and the Environment Strategy 2016-2020 Review 1. That the report be noted. 2. That a draft <i>Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy</i> be developed. 3. That the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan</i> be endorsed.	MEDAS	1. Completed 2. In progress. Report to be presented to Council at a Assembly of Councillors Briefing on 28 February 2024. 3. Completed

Action No.	Meeting Name	Item	Action	Officer	Status/notes
13.	Council Meeting 15-Mar-23	4.2	Proposed Tesla Carpark Lease <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That submissions be received. 2. That in-principle support be given to the installation of an electric vehicle supercharger in the carpark at the rear of 49-59 Smythe Street, Benalla. 3. That licence agreement negotiations be finalised with Tesla Motors Australia Pty Ltd for the use and occupancy of land at the rear of 49-59 Smythe Street, Benalla. 4. That a report on licence agreement negotiations be presented to the Finance and Planning Committee meeting on 5 April 2023. 5. That submitters be advised of the Council's decision. 	MEDAS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. Completed 3. Completed 4. Report presented to Council Meeting on 20 December 2023 5. Completed
14.	F&P Committee 1-Mar-23	3	Planning Scheme Review Amendment – Benalla Planning Scheme Review That Council resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note and forward the <i>Benalla Planning Scheme Review 2022</i> to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 12B (5) of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>. 2. Seek assistance from Regional Planning Hubs to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to implement the <i>Benalla Planning Scheme Review 2022</i>. 	MD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. In progress
15.	F&O Committee 15-Jun-22	9.	Financial Hardship Policy Review <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the <i>Financial Hardship Policy</i> be adopted. 2. That the <i>Financial Hardship Policy</i> be reviewed once the <i>Local Government legislation Amendment (Rating Reform and Other Matters) Bill 2022</i> becomes legislation. 	MF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. Legislation has been passed. A report will be presented once further clarification has been received.

5. Reports by Councillors

Recommendation:

That the report(s) be noted.

6. Notices of Motion

7. Notices of Rescission Motion

8. Urgent Business

Business can only be admitted as urgent business by resolution of the council, and only then if it:

- relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
- cannot be deferred until the next Council Meeting without having a negative impact on the Council, the municipality or the local community; and
- cannot be addressed through the Customer Request Management System.

A Councillor proposing that a matter be admitted as urgent business must lodge it in writing with the Chief Executive Officer by 4pm on the day of the meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer will advise the Mayor of any matter that the Chief Executive Officer determines appropriate for the Council to consider admitting as urgent business.

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9. Confidential Business

It is proposed that the following items be considered in confidential business pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2020* as they contain personal information or private commercial information that would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about a person, their personal affairs or expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking if released:

- 9.1 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 9.2 Confidential Council Actions Pending

Recommendation:

That the meeting be closed to the public for the consideration of the confidential business item noted above pursuant to Sections 3(1) and Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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10. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Recommendation:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Closure of the meeting