

Benalla Rural City Council

Council Meeting

Agenda

Date: Wednesday 19 March 2025

Time: 6pm

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

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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 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 and made available for public access, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda.

Members of the public can watch the live broadcast of the meeting at www.benalla.vic.gov.au

Question Time and Public Submissions

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.

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.

Agenda

Chair Councillor Justin King

Councillors Councillor David Blore
Councillor Peter Davis
Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne
Councillor Jillian Merkel
Councillor Nathan Tolliday

Electronic attendance Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)

In attendance	Robert Barber	Acting Chief Executive Officer
	Nilesh Singh	Interim General Manager Corporate
	Jane Archbold	Manager Community
	Joel Ingham	Interim Manager Development
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Tom Arnold	Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
	Jess Pendergast	Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgement 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.

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 Model 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.

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 Meeting held on 12 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

No petitions were submitted to the meeting.

Record of Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2025 are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2025 be adopted.

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Recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee

1. Planning Application – Multi Lot Subdivision (six lots) at CA25 and CA26 High Street, Baddaginnie

The report assessed a planning application received for a six lot subdivision at CA25 and CA26 High Street, Baddaginnie.

It is noted that Simon Kennedy from Onleys Survey Design made a submission on the item and spoke in support of the planning application.

Cr King / Cr Blore:

That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. P0101/24 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* decides to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit under the provisions of the Benalla Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as CA25 and CA26, High Street, Baddaginnie, for the subdivision of land into six lots in accordance with the plans as lodged with the application dated 13 September 2024 and subject to the following conditions:

1. The subdivision as shown on the endorsed plan must not be altered without the prior written permission of the Responsible Authority.
2. The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:
 - a) a telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
 - b) a suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunication facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.
3. Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for the subdivision under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:
 - a) a telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
 - b) a suitably qualified person that fibre ready telecommunication facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.
4. All sewage and sullage waste water from any proposed development must be discharged into a new onsite septic tank system which is approved by the Environment Protection Authority and retains all wastes within the boundaries of the land in accordance with the *Land Capability prepared by A.C Geotechnical Pty Ltd for Jeremy Sloan with report number 24281, Corner High Street and Clarendon Street Baddaginnie* to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

5. Prior to certification of the plan of subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988 the wastewater envelopes must be identified on the plan of subdivision as a restriction as provided by the *Land Capability prepared by A.C Geotechnical Pty Ltd for Jeremy Sloan with report number 24281, Corner High Street and Clarendon Street Baddaginnie* to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
6. Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, the owner/subdivider must enter into an agreement with the responsible authority, pursuant to Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This agreement must be registered by the responsible authority pursuant to Section 181 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* on the titles to the lots resulting from approval of the subdivision and the costs of preparation and registration of the agreement must be met by the owner/subdivider. The agreement must provide for the following:
 - That any dwelling to be erected on any lot created must comply with the recommendations of the *Land Capability prepared by A.C Geotechnical Pty Ltd for Jeremy Sloan with report number 24281, Corner High Street and Clarendon Street Baddaginnie*.
7. The proposed works must not cut off natural drainage from adjacent properties.
8. Any damage to Council assets (i.e. roads, table drains etc) shall be repaired at the cost of the applicant to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
9. No additional vehicle accesses may be constructed apart from those endorsed on the approved plan.
10. Prior to the Statement of Compliance, the vehicle accesses must be constructed to include a pipe and headwalls at the applicant's expense. The access must be in accordance with the Infrastructure Design Manual SD255 requirements for a rural entrance.
11. Prior to the Statement of Compliance, all lots shall be serviced with a stormwater connection to the legal point of discharge as recommended in the Onley report, Stormwater Management Plan dated 4 September 2024.
12. Prior to the Statement of Compliance, the owner of the land must enter into an Agreement (in a form satisfactory to the Responsible Authority) with the Responsible Authority pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The agreement must provide for:
 - Each lot must have stormwater detention constructed and maintained on the property, as recommended in the Onley report, Stormwater Management Plan dated 4 September 2024.
13. Prior to the Statement of Compliance, the table drain along the frontage of the site in High Street must be cleaned and levelled to allow stormwater to flow to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

AusNet Services

14. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification must be referred to AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd in accordance with Section of the *Subdivision Act 1988*.
15. The applicant must –
 - a) Enter into an agreement with AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd for the extension, upgrading or rearrangement of the electricity supply to lots on the plan of subdivision. A payment to cover the cost of such work will be required.

- b) Provide electricity easements internal and external to the subdivision in favour of AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd to service the lots on the plan of subdivision and/or abutting lands as required by AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd. The provision of reserves for electricity substations may also be required.

16. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- a) the plan of subdivision is not certified within two years of the date of this permit;
- b) the subdivision is not completed within five years of the date of certification of the plan of subdivision.

The Responsible Authority may extend the commencement date if a request is made in writing by the owner or the occupier of the land to which the permit applies before the permit expires or within six months afterwards.

The Responsible Authority may extend the time within which the development is to be completed if the development has commenced and a request in writing is made by the owner or the occupier of the land to which it applies within 12 months after the permit expires.

Notes

- The granting of this permit does not obviate the necessity for compliance with the requirements of any other authority under any act, regulation or local law.
- A subdivision approved under a planning permit does not constitute the certification of a Plan of Subdivision. A separate application should be made by a licensed land surveyor.
- Prior to any works being carried out in relation to any part of the septic system a permit for the works must be obtained from the Benalla Rural City Council.
- A consent to work within a road reserve must be obtained from the Responsible Authority prior to the carrying out of any vehicle crossing works.

Carried

2. Building and Planning Approvals – November and December 2024

The report detailed planning permit applications and building approvals for January 2025.

Cr Gunaratne / Cr Blore:
That the report be noted.

Carried

3. 2024/2025 Quick Response Grants

The report presented funding applications for 2024/25 Quick Response Grants.

Cr Tolliday / Cr Hearn:

That a \$500 grant from the 2024/2025 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Swanpool and District Community Development Association.

Carried

4. 2024/2025 Major Events Grant Funding

The report presented funding applications for the 2024/25 Major Event Funding Program.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That a \$2,000 grant from the 2024/25 Major Event Funding program be allocated to the Molyullah Recreation and Public Hall Reserve Committee.

Carried

5. Australia Day Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

The report presented the updated and reviewed *Australia Day Advisory Committee Terms of Reference*.

Cr Hearn / Cr Blore:

That the *Australia Day Advisory Committee Terms of Reference* be adopted.

Carried

6. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

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.

3 February 2025	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee
3 February 2025	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee
4 February 2025	Accessibility Reference Group
5 February 2025	Live4Life Benalla Partnership Meeting
11 February 2025	Australia Day Advisory Committee
17 February 2025	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee
18 February 2025	Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Control Group
18 February 2025	Audit and Risk Committee
26 February 2025	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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Record of Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees

February 2025

Benalla Local Safety Traffic Liaison Committee

2pm Monday 3 February 2025, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
Committee	Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	Councillor Representative
	Cr David Blore	Councillor Representative
	Lisa Aitkinson	Victoria Police
	Mark Myers	Victoria Police
	Kylie Cotter	Benalla P-12 College
	Gavin Duncan	Victoria Police
	Edward Graham	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
	Stephen Dowe	Senior Projects and Technical Services Officer
Not in attendance	Lisa Aitkinson, Mark Byers, Kylie Cotter, Gavin Duncan, Shaun Mason, David Morrow, John Stafford	
Apologies:	Nil	
Conflicts of Interest disclosed:	Nil	
Items discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inland Rail Project Update 2. Action Sheet Review 3. Project Updates 4. Opportunities to Work Together and General Business 	

Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee

5.30pm Monday 3 February 2025, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Raelene Stratton	Community Representative
Committee	Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	Councillor Representative
	Cr Nathan Tolliday	Councillor Representative
	Ian Gonzaga	Community Representative
	Alex Ross	Community Representative
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Charlie Vincent	Tourism North East
In attendance	Alison Angus	Visitor Economy Coordinator
	Eric Nash	Director Benalla Art Gallery
Apologies:	Charlie Vincent	

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Review of actions pending
2. Council Update
3. Curator Update on Artis Lineup
4. Sponsorship
5. Marketing
6. General Business

Accessibility Reference Group

10.30am Tuesday 4 February 2025, Community Care (Activity Room 1) 45 Coster Street, Benalla.

Chair	Marissa Batten	Community Development and Recreation Officer
Committee	Cr David Blore	Councillor Representative
	Cr Puna Gunaratne	Councillor Representative
	Amanda Challis	Community Representative
	Stuart Green	Community Representative
	Cheryl-Anne Menere	Community Representative
	Keith Menere	Community Representative
	Barbara Schedlich	Community Representative
	Faye Squires	Community Representative
	Caroline Wallis	Community Representative
In attendance	Tom Arnold	Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
	Greg Van Poppering	Benalla Health
Apologies:	Caroline Wallis	

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Welcome back
2. Terms of Reference
3. 2025 Bi-monthly Meeting Schedule
4. Inland Rail Presentation
5. Benalla Health
6. Council Project Updates
7. Organisational Updates
8. Community Connect – Open Forum Other Business

Live4Life Benalla Partnership Meeting

2pm Wednesday 5 February 2025, FCJ College Benalla 36 Arundel Street, Benalla.

Chair	Stephanie Brack	Youth Development Coordinator / Free From Violence Project Officer
Committee	Cr Nathan Tolliday	Councillor Representative
	Lisa Atkinson	Victoria Police
	Annette Borradaile	NE Tracks LLEN
	Kathryn Chai	Youth Live4Life
	Georgie Gray	NESAY
	Brad Hearn	Benalla Flexible Learning Centre
	Rebecca Higginson	Benalla Flexible Learning Centre
	Renae Hughes	FCJ College Benalla
	Sally Matheson	Tomorrow Today Foundation
	Joe Mount	FCJ College Benalla
	Lou McCloskey	Benalla P-12 College
	Tim Oliver	NE Tracks LLEN
	Steve Power	Youth Live4Life
	Annie Spelling	Australian Christian College
	Adam Toms	FCJ College Benalla

Apologies: Cr Nathan Tolliday, Lisa Atkinson, Georgie Gray, Rebecca Higginson, Time Oliver and Steve Power

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Mental Health First Aid Training
2. 2025 Crew
3. 2025 Live4Life Benalla Goals
4. 2025 Planning Dates
5. Partnership to share organisational updates

Australia Day Advisory Committee

10am Tuesday 11 February 2025, Customer Service Centre (Geoff Oliver Meeting Room) 1 Bridge Street East, Benalla.

Chair Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor)

Committee	Cr Justin King	Councillor Representative
	Amanda Challis	Community Representative
	Robyn Goudie	Community Representative
	Jade Kirk	Community Representative
	Rex Nankervis	Community Representative
	Vicki Sherriff	Community Representative
	Christine Werner	Community Representative
	Diane Young	Community Representative

In attendance	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Kate Nolan	Tourism and Events Officer
	Sara Bowie	Administration Officer

Apologies: Christine Werner, Jade Kirk and Vicki Sherriff.

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Australia Day 2025
2. General Business

Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee

5.30pm Monday 17 February 2025, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair Raelene Stratton Community Representative

Committee	Cr Jillian Merkel	Councillor Representative
	Cr Nathan Tolliday	Councillor Representative
	Ian Gonzaga	Community Representative
	Alex Ross	Community Representative
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability

In attendance	Alison Angus	Visitor Economy Coordinator
	Sara Bowie	Administration Officer

Apologies: Nil

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: A Community Representative declared a conflict of interest under agenda item 3.

Items discussed:

1. Review of Actions
2. Council Update
3. Fringe Events
4. Budget Discussion
5. Exhibition Schedule
6. Sponsorship
7. General Business

Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Control Group

2pm Tuesday 18 February 2025, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
Committee	Cr Justin King	Councillor Representative
	Cr David Blore	Councillor Representative
	Barbara Alexander OA	Chair Benalla Art Gallery Advisory Committee
	Jason Brown	Browns Project Solutions
	Laura Benson	Browns Project Solutions
	Eric Nash	Benalla Art Gallery Director
	Travis Vincent	Regional Development Victoria
In attendance	Brianna Beggs	Administration Officer

Apologies: Nil

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Terms of Reference Review
2. Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Update
3. Benalla Art Gallery Advisory Committee Update
4. Funding Provider Update
5. Action Sheet Review
6. General Business

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

5pm Tuesday 18 February 2025, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room), 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Mr Cameron Gray	
Committee	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Ms Rita Ruyters	
In attendance	Robert Barber	Acting Chief Executive Officer
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Janine McMaster	Manager People and Performance
Internal Auditors	Brad Ead	AFS Auditors

Apologies: Nil

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Meeting with Auditors
2. Internal Audit Program
3. Risk Management Update
4. Procurement Process Exemptions
5. Reports From Regulatory and Integrity Agencies
6. Audit and Risk Committee Compliance Management Items
7. General Business

Assembly of Councillors – Business Review

6pm Wednesday 26 February 2025, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair Councillor Justin King

Councillors Councillor David Blore
Councillor Peter Davis
Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)
Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne
Councillor Jillian Merkel
Councillor Nathan Tolliday

In attendance Robert Barber Acting Chief Executive Officer
Nilesh Singh Interim General Manager Corporate
Joel Ingham Interim General Manager Corporate
Courtney Naughton Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
Nathan Gasperoni Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

Apologies: Cr Puna Gunaratne

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Cr David Blore declared a conflict of interest for Item 4 and Cr Jillian Merkel declared a conflict of interest for item 5.

Items discussed:

1. Financial Responsibilities, Internal Audit and Audit and Risk Committee
2. Planning Application – Multi Lot Subdivision (six lots) at CA25 and CA26 High Street, Baddaginnie
3. Future of Benalla and District Project Update
4. Draft *Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy 2025-2030*
5. Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Nominations
6. Benalla Rural City Council Enterprise Agreement Update

Officer Reports

4.1 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 Update

Ref: 388623326-370

Tom Arnold – Community Recreation Coordinator
Jane Archbold – Manager Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents a progress report on the development of the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025-2029*.

BACKGROUND

Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that the Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next four financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

A Council Plan must include the following:

- the strategic direction of the Council
- strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction
- strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next four financial years
- strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives
- a description of the Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure amenities
- any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

The *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan* is integrated within the Council Plan due to the inherent role council plays in fostering community wellbeing.

Ninety Mile Consulting have been appointed to assist the Council in the delivery of the *Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025–2029*.

DISCUSSION

The draft *Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025–2029* is progressing in accordance with the planned timeline. A wide range of engagement activities have been completed by Ninety Mile Consulting (NMC) and Council staff to gather community feedback and data to inform the plan.

Progress and Achievements

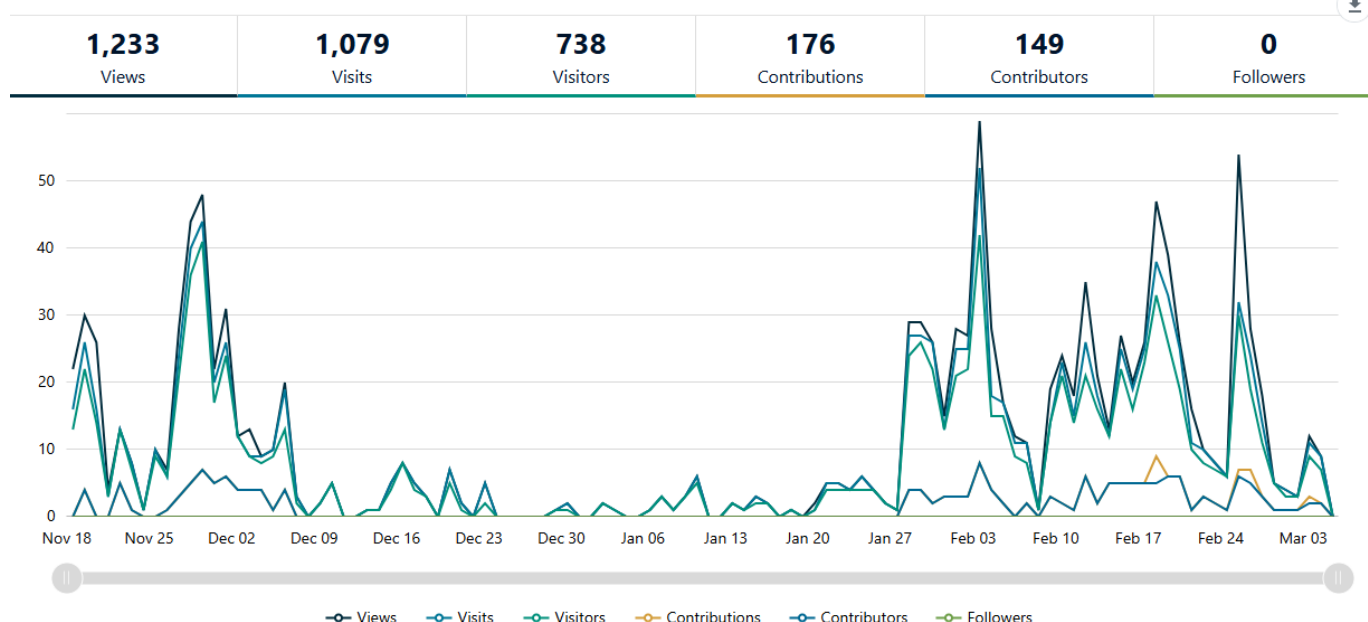
Community Panel

- 15 community members were appointed in December via an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. A total of 34 community members submitted an EOI. Those appointed represent a range of key demographic groups within Benalla Rural City.
- The first Community Panel meeting was held on 21 January with a further two meetings planned in March and May.

Community Surveys

- A total of 176 surveys have been received as of 1 March.
- The survey has been promoted through Council's website and social media, Have Your Say, brochures, postcards, the Benalla Ensign, Council's intranet, and to external working groups and advisory committees.

Performance Summary



**Statistics from Council's Have Your Say page November 2024 – March 2025.*

Engagement Activities

- U3A Listening Session: 20 attendees
- Tomorrow Today's Full Impact Squad
- School visits - Benalla P-12 (Waller Street campus), St. Joseph's, Australian Christian College
- Creating Community Connections Expo
- Benalla Community Market
- Devenish Market
- Upcoming engagement activities include Swanpool Community Spirit BBQ, Molyullah Fish and Chip Night, Benalla Train Station, FCJ College, Benalla P-12 (Faithful Street campus), Pop-ups in the main street and rural community visits.

Interviews

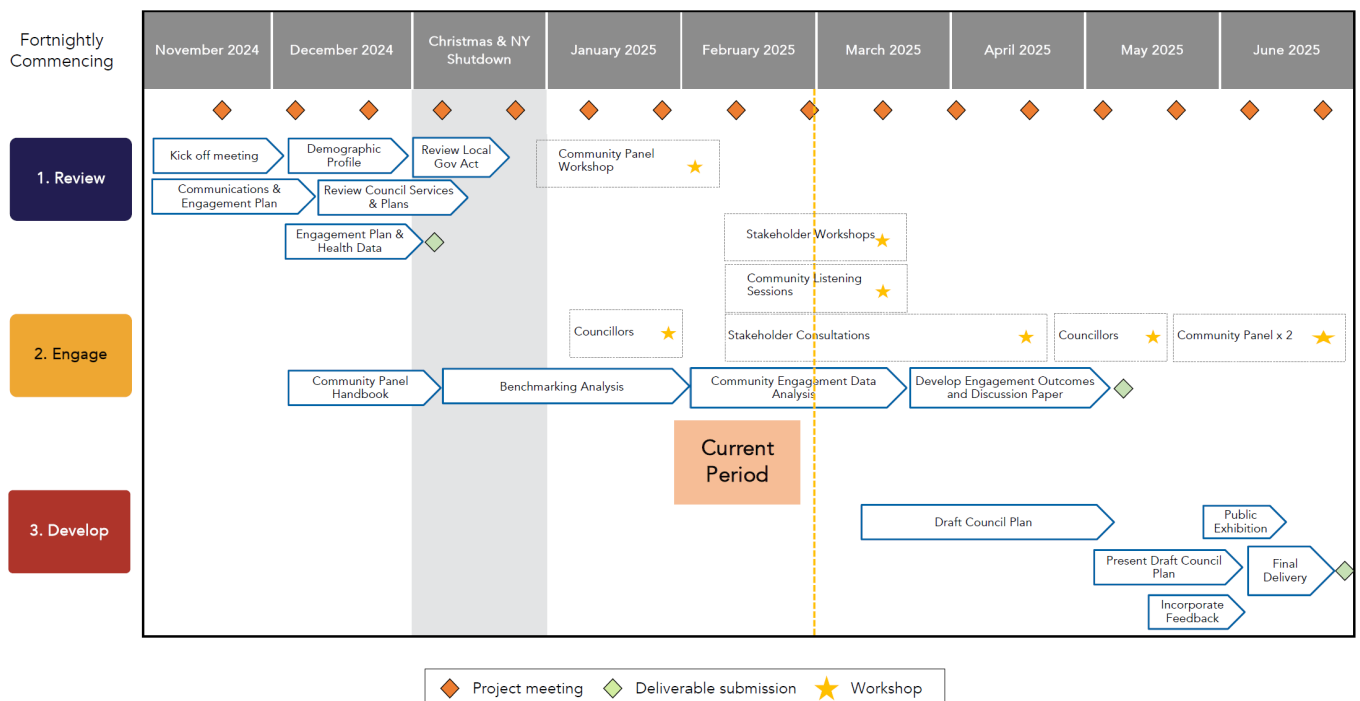
- NMC have conducted 61 interviews with 21 staff members and 40 external key stakeholders from local businesses, community organisations and interested community members
- Upcoming external stakeholder consultations include Benalla Museum.

Workshops

- NMC has hosted five themed workshops, and a final workshop is scheduled for Monday 17 March.

Theme	Attendees
Environment	16
Community Workshop 1	17
Community Workshop 2	11
Arts, Culture, and Tourism	20
Business and Economy	14
Benalla Health and Wellbeing Partnership	Pending

Timeline Summary



COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Leadership

- Good governance.*
- Engaged and informed community.*
- Effective and responsive advocacy.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council's *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed, due to the administrative nature of the report, that community engagement 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">▪ Promotion of achievements via media, websites and social media.▪ Public report presented to the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has allocated \$50,000 to the development of the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025-2029* in the *2024/25 Budget*. As of the end of February 2025 expenditure was \$24,327.

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 development of the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025-2029* remains on track.

The next phase will involve completing remaining consultation activities, reviewing data and outcomes. The draft *Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025-2029* is scheduled to be presented to the Council in May 2025.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

4.2 Benalla Planning Scheme Review

Ref: 366676239-52

Joel Ingham – Interim Manager Development
Nilesh Singh – Acting General Manager Corporate

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the Planning Scheme Amendment C45bena.

BACKGROUND

A report was presented to Council 1 March 2023 regarding the findings of the *Benalla Planning Scheme Review Report 2022*, with Council resolving to:

1. *Note and forward the Benalla Planning Scheme Review 2022 to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 12B (5) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987; and*
2. *Seek assistance from Regional Planning Hubs to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to implement the Benalla Planning Scheme Review 2022.*

As summarised in the report to Council, the 2022 review found the Benalla Planning Scheme was generally effective, with a clear long-term settlement strategy, and identified the following areas for improvement:

- Address strategic gaps affecting the scheme's effectiveness in implementing state and local policies (e.g. many local schedules lack content, and local policies, especially in residential zones, need refinement to meet current best practices).
- Make efficiency improvements include removing unnecessary permit triggers in Design and Development Overlays, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, and the Farming Zone, potentially reducing application numbers.
- Make policy-neutral changes to align the scheme with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

The review concludes with a list of amendments to be made to the scheme and identifies strategic planning priorities to for the Council over the next four years (i.e. through to 2026).

Amendments proposed by C45bena

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) via the Regional Planning Hub (RPH) has now prepared the draft amendment documentation. This report seeks resolutions from Council to further progress the amendment.

Planning Scheme Amendment C45bena implements the findings of the Benalla Planning Scheme Review Report 2022. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) via the Regional Planning Hub (RPH) has now prepared the draft amendment documentation. The amendment will be further progressed to implement the findings of the Planning Scheme review.

RPH has provided Council with an updated Planning Scheme ordinance, with the input provided by the Council in August 2024. These updates are summarised as follows:

- The Municipal Planning Strategy has been updated with revisions to Clauses 02.01, 02.02, and 02.03. These changes primarily reflect the latest Census 2021 data, improved consistency with the current Council plan and other strategic documents and include general editorial improvements.

- The Planning Policy Framework has been revised with:
 - Updates to Clauses 11.03-1L, 12.03-1L, 13.04-2L, 14.01-1L, 14.02-1L, 15.01-5L, 15.01-6L, 17.03-2L, 18.01-1L, 18.01-2L, and 19.03-2L. These changes enhance consistency with Council strategic documents, remove policy expiry clauses, reposition local policies to more appropriate sections, and include general editorial improvements.
 - The introduction of Clause 19.02-6L to align with Council plan strategies relating to public spaces.
- In Zones:
 - Schedule 1 to Clause 35.03 is replaced with an updated schedule, removing the minimum subdivision area, the minimum area for which no permit is required to use land for a dwelling, and accompanying maps contained within the schedule.
 - Schedule 1 to Clause 37.01 is replaced with an updated schedule to consolidate purposes and include general editorial improvements.
 - Schedule 3 to Clause 37.03 is replaced with an updated schedule that conforms with updated schedule requirements.
- In Overlays:
 - Schedule 1 to Clause 42.01 is replaced with an updated schedule that consolidates environmental objectives.
 - Schedule 4 to Clause 4.01 is replaced with an updated schedule that clarifies permit requirements.
 - Schedule 2 to Clause 42.02, Schedule 3 to Clause 42.02, Schedule 1 to Clause 42.03, Schedule 1 to Clause 43.02, Schedule 4 to Clause 43.02 and Schedule 5 to Clause 43.02 are replaced with updated schedules that conform with updated schedule requirements or include general editorial improvements.
- In Operational Provisions, the schedule to Clause 72.08 is updated with previously referenced background documents, and the schedule to Clause 74.02 is updated to reflect further strategic work required.

Planning Scheme Amendment Process

RPH have prepared the amendment documentation. Council, as the Planning Authority, must now undertake the following procedural steps to continue with the amendment:

1. Per Section 8A(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 ('the Act'), apply to the Minister for Planning for authorisation to formally prepare an amendment.
2. Per Section 20(1) of the Act, apply to the Minister for Planning to be exempted from the requirements of Section 19 of the Act or from the Planning and Environment Regulations, and per the power under Section 20(2) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, limit notification of the amendment to only prescribed Ministers and referral authorities for a period of 14 days.
 Items 1 and 2 should be made concurrently. Item 2 has been 'pre-discussed' and agreed with DTP. RPH have provided the relevant exemption request form for submission to the Minister.
3. Completion of giving notice per the instructions and conditions received from the Minister for Planning.
4. Per Section 22 of the Act, consider each submission made to the amendment.

5. Per Section 23 of the Act, after considering a submission which requests a change to the amendment, the planning authority must:
- change the amendment in the manner requested; or
 - refer the submission to a panel; or
 - abandon the amendment or part of the amendment.

With notice likely only required to prescribed Ministers and referral authorities it is generally considered unlikely that submissions received will require either the referral of the submission to a panel, or the abandonment of all or part of the amendment. To this end, further information regarding the panel process is not included here. However, as an administrative requirement, the planning authority must provide 'pre-set' panel hearing dates in accordance with DTP instructions.

6. Per Section 29 of the Act, a planning authority can adopt an amendment, or part of it, with or without changes. Changes may be made as a result of the authority's initial consideration of submissions or for other reasons considered relevant.

In accordance with s188(2)(a) of the Act, adoption of an amendment cannot be delegated to officers. It must be by resolution of the planning authority and recorded in its minutes or reports. A copy of the resolution, or evidence of it, should be attached to the adopted amendment.

Once the planning authority has adopted the amendment, it must be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

7. Per Ministerial Direction No. 15 – The Planning Scheme Amendment Process requires an amendment to be submitted to the Minister within 10 business days of when the amendment was adopted. Per Section 35 of the Act, the Minister can approve an amendment, or a part of it, with or without changes and subject to conditions, with notice of the approval published in the Government Gazette.

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.*
- *Population growth.*

Environment

- *Healthy and protected natural environment.*
- *High quality efficient and sustainable waste management.*
- *Sustainable practices.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The amendment is not expected to have any significant impact upon the Council resources given RPH have prepared the majority of the amendment documentation required. Should a panel be requested to consider submissions, resources would be required to provide appropriate representation. Staff time has been expended to date and further work will be required to complete the process.

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">Amendment presented in a public report to the Council.Amendment report to be published on Councils website.

The amendment implements the recommendations of the *Benalla Planning Scheme Review* that are administrative in nature.

Notice of the amendment will be required to be provided to Prescribed Ministers and referral authorities.

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 Council prepare Amendment C45bena by undertaking the following actions:

- 1. Request under Section 8A(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* that the Minister for Planning authorise Benalla Rural City Council to prepare Amendment C45bena to the Benalla Planning Scheme.**
- 2. Request under Section 20(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* that the Minister for Planning exempt Benalla Rural City Council from the requirements of Section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and per the power under Section 20(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, limit notification of the amendment to only prescribed Ministers and referral authorities for a period of 14 days.**
- 3. When authorised by the Minister for Planning, exhibit Amendment C45bena to the Benalla Planning Scheme in accordance with the Minister's instructions and conditions.**

4.3 Council Plan Action Plan 2021-2025 Status Update

Ref: 1493865563-399

Robert Barber – Acting Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents an update on the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Action Plan to 30 June 2025* as at 31 December 2024.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 27 October 2021 the Council adopted the *Council Plan 2021-2025*.

At its meeting on 13 December 2023 the Council adopted the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Action Plan to 30 June 2025*.

The Action Plan detailed projects and programs to be delivered to achieve the Council Plan strategies under its five themes: Community, Liveability, Economy, Environment and Leadership.

DISCUSSION

For a status update on actions from the *Council Plan 2021-2025* refer to **Appendix 1**.

Regular updates on the actions are also provided via quarterly departmental activity reports.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Leadership

- *Good governance.*
- *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 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">▪ Public report presented to the Council▪ Action plan published on the Council's website.▪ Quarterly status updates reported to the Council.▪ Status updates regularly promoted to the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the development of actions for the *Council Plan 2021-2025 Action Plan To 30 June 2025* have been met from existing budget allocations.

Funding allocations will be required to deliver many of the actions. Funding requests will be considered by the Council during development of the *2025/26 Budget*.

Delivery of actions from *Council Plan 2021-2025* formed the basis of the *2024/25 Budget*.

LEGISLATIVE STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that the report is consistent with section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, where the Council must develop or review the Council Plan in accordance with its deliberate engagement practices.

The *Council Plan Action Plan 2021-2025 to 30 June 2025* Status Update report is a reportable measure for the yearly *Local Government Performance Indicators*. Indicators are also published in the Council's 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 the report be noted.

Theme 1: Community**Objective 1.1: A healthy, safe and resilient community**

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Work closely with community and key stakeholders to plan for emergencies and build community resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate Benalla Rural City's preparedness to respond to emergencies. 	Manager Development	Working with partner agencies in preparing for emergencies.
With our community and key stakeholders address the priorities of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023: healthy eating and active living; mental wellbeing, sexual and reproductive health, reducing tobacco related harm and harmful alcohol and drug use and preventing violence and injury, drug-resistant infections and climate change and its impact on health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement and monitor Benalla Rural City Municipal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan. 	Manager Community	<p>Manager Community resourced one meeting of the Benalla Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group focusing on the theme of mental health, with five services overviewing their programs. The partnership continues to attract new service providers keen to link in with other providers servicing the Benalla area.</p> <p>Manager Community attended a number of sessions offered by VicHealth's six-month Innovation Lab program. This initiative provides participants with insights, ideas, motivation and resources to boost Public Health and Wellbeing (PHW) across the council's core business. Also attending online sessions offered by GVPHU.</p>

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Work together with key health, welfare and community organisations and networks to support better learning, development and wellbeing outcomes for community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the State Government to plan for future Benalla Rural City kindergarten infrastructure and workforce needs. 	Manager Community	Manager Community attended a meeting in October 2024 to discuss the draft Kindergarten Infrastructure Services Plan (KISP). The final <i>Workforce Plan for Early Childhood Education Centres</i> was submitted in early May to the Department of Education.
Offer programs, services, activities and events that support, develop and connect community members of all abilities and lead the community in being age friendly and child and Covid safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt and implement the Disability Action Plan. 	Manager Community	<p>The draft <i>Disability Action Plan</i> will be presented to the Accessibility Reference Group (ARG) and submitted to the graphic designer in 2025.</p> <p>Child Safe Working Group continues to meet, with majority of staff having received training from Child Safe Strategies. Follow-up sessions were given to several teams across Council facilitated by members of the working group.</p> <p>Age Well in Benalla Info Hub still operates promoting services and activities available in Benalla for older people.</p>

Theme 1: Community

Objective 1.2: A connected, involved and inclusive community

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Support and promote opportunities for the community to participate in a range of social, recreational, and arts and cultural programs, activities and events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate development of an off-leash dog park in the east of Benalla. 	Manager Development	Locations investigated; however, parking is an issue for all the sites. The Barkly Street School site could house a dog park which is central and has the capability of on and off-site parking. To be considered as part of Barkly Street Master Plan. A grant funding application was made for a second dog park near the Saleyards. Council staff are awaiting a decision on this funding application.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of creating a 'Barkly Street Community Precinct' at the former Benalla P-12 College campus. 	General Manager Corporate	Negotiations with the State Government regarding potential uses of the site continue.
Encourage, support, value and celebrate volunteering in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a Volunteer Engagement strategy. 	Manager People and Performance	The Benalla Rural City Council Volunteer Development and Engagement Strategy 2023-2025 was adopted by the Leadership Team its May 2024 meeting.

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Celebrate and promote history and cultural diversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create opportunities for new culturally diverse citizens to be actively involved in Council programs and activities. 	General Manager Corporate	Council continues to support a range of culturally diverse programs and activities, including Benalla Migrant Camp pop-up exhibition launch; Benalla Migrants Association's Siva Singh book launch; North East Multicultural Association's Benalla Harmony Day celebration; and the 2024 Korean Film Festival.
Continue to respectfully engage, include, celebrate and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement <i>Benalla Rural City Council Aboriginal Reconciliation Plan</i>. 	Manager Community	Manager Community resourced one meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group over the December 2024 quarter. The Aboriginal Advisory Group with the support of Social Inclusion Action Group funding held a successful NAIDOC week event in July 2024. Reconciliation Australia officially endorsed the Council's first <i>Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)</i> . Plans underway to launch the RAP and have copies available early in 2025.
Promote, support and actively engage with smaller rural communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement <i>Rural Township</i> plans. 	Manager Community	Township Plans were shared at <i>Social Inclusion Action Group</i> rural community events held during July to September 2024 to seek community feedback.

Theme 2: Liveability

Objective 2.1: Vibrant public spaces and places

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Maintain and develop sport and recreation facilities and reserves, parks, gardens, playgrounds, and walking and cycling paths to increase passive and active community participation and social connection.	▪ Deliver Mitchell Street Lakeside Park project.	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Mural Precent footpath works completed. Moria Reserve Aboriginal Park works completed.
	▪ Meet agreed key milestones of the <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment project</i> .	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	<i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project</i> is currently meeting agreed milestones.
	▪ Deliver <i>Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment project</i> .	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Project Control Committee has been established. Design to be finalised by 30 June 2025.
	▪ Adopt and start implementation of the <i>Fawkner Drive Precinct Masterplan</i> .	General Manager Corporate	Contract to install a flying fox awarded. Works to be undertaken in second half of the 2024/25 financial year. Procurement process for the design and construction of the new pump track to be undertaken by 30 April 2025.
Ensure open spaces and public places in existing and developing communities are thoughtfully planned, connected up, green, sustainable, accessible, engaging and inclusive and consider the needs of an ageing community.	▪ Develop a concept plan to link the Benalla Station Precinct and Benalla Central Business District.	Chief Executive Officer	Project on hold pending final design for Benalla Station Precinct.
	▪ Develop and adopt an <i>Open Space</i> strategy.	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Consultants were appointed in November 2024 to assist with the development the draft <i>Open Space Strategy 2026-2040</i> .

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install all abilities playground equipment. 	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Completed. An all abilities playground was installed at the McKellar Street Park in Benalla.
Beautify streetscapes, landscaping, signage and town entrances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Bridge Street Streetscape project. 	Chief Executive Officer	Currently planning to redevelop Bridge Street, Benalla through landscape and streetscape improvements. Ongoing focus with maintaining and improving entrances to townships through improved signage and streetscape work.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade town signage and entry gateways. 	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	Branding strategy to be developed in the 24/25 financial year and put out for community consultation.
Enhance and maintain key places of significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update <i>Benalla Airport Master Plan</i>. 	Manager Facilities and Information Technology	Extensive works underway to conserve BARC Hut 65. <i>Draft Airport Masterplan Review</i> , under final review prior to stakeholder engagement.
Advocate for and act on opportunities to protect, maintain and preserve heritage assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt <i>Benalla Rural City Heritage Study</i>. 	Manager Development	Consultant is working on the extension of the existing precinct's and creation of new areas.

Theme: Liveability

Objective 2.2: Connected and accessible roads, footpaths, transport and parking

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Deliver and maintain accessible and safe footpaths and cycle paths in existing and new neighbourhoods.	▪ Review and update <i>Pathways to the Future – Shared Path Project</i> strategy.	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Remaining priorities from strategy have been identified and expected to be delivered in 2024/2025.
	▪ Deliver Kerb and Channel Replacement program.	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Program commenced and will be completed in 2024/225 Financial year.
Maintain and improve drainage, bridges, parking and road networks to meet the needs of the current and future population.	▪ Implement <i>Benalla Rural City Council Drainage</i> strategy.	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Priority projects from the strategy identified and planning and scoping commenced, with early stage works expected to be completed in 2024/2025.
	▪ Finalise <i>Devenish Drainage Upgrade project</i> .	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Devenish Drain Upgrade Project has been completed.
Plan for population growth and accessibility for all.	▪ Develop <i>Benalla Rural City Growth</i> strategy.	Chief Executive Officer	Funding opportunities continue to be investigated.

Theme 3: Economy

Objective 3.1: Thriving business and industry

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Work together with key stakeholders to engage, support, strengthen, enhance and diversify local business.	▪ Develop the <i>Economic Diversification</i> plan.	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	Final Draft of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) completed. Second stage funding applied for to support the projects out of the LDS.
	▪ Develop a <i>Benalla Rural City Small Business Attraction and Assistance</i> program.	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	This will be an outcome of the Economic Development Strategy to be delivered in 24/25 Financial Year.
Attract new investment, business and industry to the Benalla Rural City to facilitate business growth and job creation.	▪ Develop an <i>Economic Diversification</i> plan.	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	The development of the Local Development Strategy will support and assist and attracting growth to Benalla.

Theme 3: Economy

Objective 3.2: Flourishing tourism

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Strengthen the visitor economy through growth of events and promotion of unique assets and experiences and visitor attractions.	▪ Review and update the <i>Events and Tourism</i> strategy.	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	The draft <i>Destination Management Plan</i> has been completed. The draft <i>Destination Management Plan</i> will be placed on public exhibition in mid-2025.
Grow, enhance and promote sports, arts and culture tourism opportunities.	▪ Reinvigorate and deliver the Benalla Street Art Festival.	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	Completed. The <i>Benalla Street Art Festival</i> was held in 2024 after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19. Planning for the <i>2025 Benalla Street Art Festival</i> is underway. The Festival will be held in April 2025.

Theme 3: Economy

Objective: 3.4 Population growth

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Proactively plan for new residential development to support increased population and growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to the State Government to complete the Benalla West masterplan. 	Chief Executive Officer	Advocacy continues.

Theme 4: Environment

Objective 4.1: Healthy and protected natural environment

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Partner with agencies and the community to manage and enhance our natural environmental assets, water quality and river health across Benalla Rural City and support the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Regional Catchment Strategy and other regional environmental strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, update and adopt the <i>Environment Strategy</i>. 	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	The draft <i>Benalla Rural City Climate and Environment Strategy</i> has been developed and will be presented to the Council in March 2025.

Theme 4: Environment

Objective 4.2: High quality, efficient and sustainable waste management

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Actively promote responsible behaviours to reduce waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement recommendations from the Waste Reduction Working group. 	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Review and Adoption of <i>Waste Policy</i> complete.
Provide efficient and sustainable waste management services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise disposal arrangements for environmentally sustainable disposal of kerbside-collected food organics and garden organics. 	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	New Contract with Rural City of Wangaratta for the disposal of kerbside – collected food organics and garden organics has been executed.

Theme 4: Environment

Objective 4.3: Sustainable practices

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Partner with business, industry and community to plan and implement local approaches and initiatives that respond to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, update and adopt <i>Environment Strategy</i>. 	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	The draft <i>Benalla Rural City Climate and Environment Strategy</i> has been developed and will be presented to the Council in March 2025.
Advocate, promote, support and encourage the use of renewable and clean energy and technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and facilitate the installation of more electric vehicle chargers in and around the Benalla CBD. 	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	Council is continuing to work with businesses to provide Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure within the municipality. Currently the Denny Street carpark has two charging stations.

Theme 5: Leadership

Objective 5.1: Good governance

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Deliver responsible budget outcomes linked to strategy that maintain financial sustainability and deliver value for money and rating fairness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually review, update and adopt the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Long-term Financial Plan</i>. 	Manager Finance	Preparation of BRCC Financial Statements as at 30 June 2025.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a Project Management framework. 	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Recruitment of Project Management Officer underway.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a best practice asset management approach. 	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Recruitment of Asset Management Officer underway.

Theme 5: Leadership

Objective 5.2: High performance culture

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Improve customer experience through timely, efficient, well planned, and accessible services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the <i>Customer Relations</i> strategy. 	Manager People and Performance	The <i>Benalla Rural City Council Customer Experience Strategy 2023-2025</i> was adopted by the Leadership Team at its May 2024 meeting.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, update and implement the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Information Technology and Communications</i> strategy. 	Manager Facilities and Information Technology	Finalisation of computing hardware replacement complete at all Council sites.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Lower North Eastern Digital Transformation Partnership (CODI). 	Manager Facilities and Information Technology	Preparation of training and computer network configuration to accommodate Records Hub has been complete.
Develop a skilled, efficient and high performing customer focussed workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt and implement a <i>Benalla Rural City Council Workforce</i> plan. 	Manager People and Performance	The <i>Benalla Rural City Council Workforce Plan 2021-2025</i> is current. Workforce planning workshops have been held with the Leadership Team and all managers are now developing their department plans.

Theme 5: leadership

Objective 5.3: Engaged and informed community

Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Status as at 31 December 2024
Create opportunities for deliberative engagement prior to decision making and actively improve and enhance Council's community engagement practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to improve community engagement processes and new ways to engage. 	Manager Community	<p>Focus on smaller rural communities over the quarter continued with remaining rural community events funded through SIAG. In total over 700 people attended the 11 events.</p> <p>Preparation for extensive engagement to be undertaken in the development of the <i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> is underway.</p>

4.4 Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – Report of Operations For Half Year Ending 31 December 2024

Ref: 795207869-5121
Robert Barber – Acting Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents half-year service performance indicator results under the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

BACKGROUND

The Council is required to prepare and publish a half-yearly report detailing its performance against service performance indicators under the State Government’s Local Government Reporting Framework.

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. It ensures that councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector.

The framework is made up of 58 measures from a range of service areas, including roads, planning, animal management and waste.

The Council’s full year report is published in its *Annual Report* and made available to the public via the Performance Report page on the *Local Government Victoria website*.

DISCUSSION

The *Benalla Rural City Council Local Government Performance Report of Operations as at 31 December 2024* is attached as **Appendix 1**. The report includes comments on material variances.

Please note that roads results have not been included due to issues with obtaining required data.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council’s *Community Engagement Policy* community engagement will 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 the used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Report to the Council.▪ Report published on Council’s website.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Leadership

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no material financial implications in the collation of the data and 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 the report be noted.

Aquatic Facilities										
Ref	Service Performance Indicators	Year End Results 2020/21	Half Year Results as at 31/12/21	Year End Results 2021/22	Half Year Results as at 31/12/22	Year End Results 2022/23	Half Year Results as at 31/12/23	Year End Results 2023/24	Half Year Results as at 31/12/24	Comments
AF2	Service standard Health Inspections of aquatic facilities	3	2	3	N/A	4	3	5	2	No material change.
AF6	Utilisation Utilisation of aquatic facilities	2.14	1.18	3.55	N/A	4.74	1.89	3.89	2.43	The result for this measure has increased due to a successful marketing campaign that aimed to increase enrolments in the Learn to Swim program and increase general membership numbers.
AF7	Service cost Cost of aquatic facilities	\$23	\$25	\$17	N/A	\$11	\$15.52	\$17.54	\$10.48	The result for this measure has decreased due to increased paying customer utilisation of the facility. This increase can be attributed to the general membership campaign, and the campaign to increase enrolments in the Learn to Swim program. Both campaigns resulted in increased fee-paying customer numbers, therefore lowering the per visit cost for this performance measure.

Animal Management										
Ref	Service Performance Indicators	Year End Results 2020/21	Half Year Results as at 31/12/21	Year End Results 2021/22	Half Year Results as at 31/12/22	Year End Results 2022/23	Half Year Results as at 31/12/23	Year End Results 2023/24	Half Year Results as at 31/12/24	Comments
AM1	Timeliness Time taken to action animal management requests	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	No material change.
AM2	Service standard Animals reclaimed	40%	55%	50%	59%	52%	39%	43%	41%	Increasing number of pet owners not prepared to pay pound release fees (second offence) to release pets.
AM5	Service standard Animals rehomed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No material change.
AM6	Service Cost Cost of animal management	\$18	\$11	\$25	\$13	\$27	\$14	\$29	\$17.32	The result for this measure has increased due to less registered animals and cost of pound services increasing.
AM7	Health and Safety Animal management prosecutions	100%	75%	60%	100%	100%	0%	100%	0%	There were no prosecutions in the period between 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Food safety										
Ref	Service Performance Indicators	Year End Results 2020/21	Half Year Results as at 31/12/21	Year End Results 2021/22	Half Year Results as at 31/12/22	Year End Results 2022/23	Half Year Results as at 31/12/23	Year End Results 2023/24	Half Year Results as at 31/12/24	Comments
FS1	Timeliness Time taken to action food complaints	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	No material change.
FS2	Service standard Food safety assessments	78%	35%	50%	16%	34%	18%	31%	49%	The result for this measure has increased due to increased operation of food premises.
FS3	Service cost Cost of food safety service	\$421	\$231	\$555	\$262	\$628	\$242	\$422	\$233	No material change.
FS4	Health and safety Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	No material change.
FS5	Service standard Food Safety Samples	New measure in 2023/24						100%	100%	No material change.

Governance										
Ref	Service Performance Indicators	Year End Results 2020/21	Half Year Results as at 31/12/21	Year End Results 2021/22	Half Year Results as at 31/12/22	Year End Results 2022/23	Half Year Results as at 31/12/23	Year End Results 2023/24	Half Year Results as at 31/12/24	Comments
G1	Transparency Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public	11%	9%	10%	12%	10%	5%	8%	13%	Increased from 2022/23 due to the number of tenders considered by the Council in 2023/24.
G2	Consultation and engagement Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	52/100	-	47/100	-	42/100	-	42/100	-	
G3	Attendance Councillor attendance at council meetings	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%	79%	96%	100%	No material change.
G4	Service cost Cost of elected representation	\$31,357	\$17,199	\$35,960	\$19,515	\$40,079	\$17,625	\$40,307	\$18,814	No material change.
G5	Satisfaction Satisfaction with council decisions	57/100	-	48/100	-	43/100	-	45/100	-	

Libraries										
Ref	Service Performance Indicators	Year End Results 2020/21	Half Year Results as at 31/12/21	Year End Results 2021/22	Half Year Results as at 31/12/22	Year End Results 2022/23	Half Year Results as at 31/12/23	Year End Results 2023/24	Half Year Results as at 31/12/24	Comments
LB2	Resource currency Recently purchased library collection	54%	56%	56%	56%	57%	56%	55%	30%	Decreased percentage due to increase of overall collection reported. Digital collection is now being recorded in this measure. Previous years have only included the physical collection data.
LB5	Service cost Cost of the Library service per population	\$30	\$24	\$44	\$24	\$42	\$22	\$44	\$27	No material change.
LB6	Utilisation Loans per head of population	New measure in 2023/24						10.93	\$6	New measure
LB7	Participation Library membership	New measure in 2023/24						27%	27%	New measure
LB7	Participation Library visits per head of population	New measure in 2023/24						\$4	\$2	New measure
LB1	Utilisation Physical library collection usage	2.19	1.24	2.6	1.52	2.91	1.37	N/A	N/A	Retired

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)										
Ref	Service Performance Indicators	Year End Results 2020/21	Half Year Results as at 31/12/21	Year End Results 2021/22	Half Year Results as at 31/12/22	Year End Results 2022/23	Half Year Results as at 31/12/23	Year End Results 2023/24	Half Year Results as at 31/12/24	Comments
MC2	Service standard Infant enrolments in the MCH service	100%	101%	102%	98%	99%	98%	102%	104%	No material change.
MC3	Service cost Cost of the MCH service	\$89	\$108	\$103	\$182	\$92	\$102	\$101	\$75	The result for this measure has decreased due to staffing challenges.
MC4	Participation Participation in the MCH service	78%	80%	88%	66%	85%	73%	83%	70%	No material change.
MC5	Participation Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children	75%	80%	89%	82%	96%	92%	95%	83%	Participation in the service has decreased due to less Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being born during the reporting period.
MC6	Satisfaction Participation in 4-week key Age and Stage visit	98%	90%	100%	81%	91%	97%	96%	102%	No material change.

Statutory Planning										
Ref	Service Performance Indicators	Year End Results 2020/21	Half Year Results as at 31/12/21	Year End Results 2021/22	Half Year Results as at 31/12/22	Year End Results 2022/23	Half Year Results as at 31/12/23	Year End Results 2023/24	Half Year Results as at 31/12/24	Comments
SP1	Timeliness Time taken to decide planning applications (days)	34	27	35	36	36	47	49	36	No material change.
SP2	Service standard Planning applications decided within required time frames	83%	90%	88%	83%	74%	80%	67%	70%	The result for this measure has decreased as time frames for planning applications have increased due to the complex nature of the applications received.
SP3	Service cost Cost of statutory planning service	\$1,009	\$1,263	\$1,452	\$1,655	\$1,748	\$2,168	\$2,472	\$2,859	The result for this measure has increased due to being short staffed which resulted in the need to use consultants which impacted on the cost of providing the service.
SP4	Decision making Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT	0%	33%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	No decisions were set aside by VACT in the period of 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Waste Management										
Ref	Service Performance Indicators	Year End Results 2020/21	Half Year Results as at 31/12/21	Year End Results 2021/22	Half Year Results as at 31/12/22	Year End Results 2022/23	Half Year Results as at 31/12/23	Year End Results 2023/24	Half Year Results as at 31/12/24	Comments
WC2	Service standard Kerbside collection bins missed	6.55	7.20	8.60	9.76	7.59	8.15	5.32	30.63	Missed bins has increased due to performance from the new kerbside collection contractor upon commencement of contract.
WC3	Service cost Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service	\$55	\$31	\$55	\$31	\$71	\$38	\$75	\$26	Measure has decreased due to new Kerbside Garbage contractor being cheaper than previous contractor.
WC4	Service cost Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service	\$82	\$44	\$87	\$50	\$99	\$49	\$101	\$44	No material change.
WC5	Waste diversion Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	61%	61%	60%	60%	59%	60%	58%	56%	No material change.
WC1	Satisfaction Kerbside bin collection requests	137.80	68.43	173.16	122.51	280.25	98.50	N/A	N/A	Retired

4.5 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance At Conferences and Events

Ref: 1138149297-12754

Tracey Beaton – Executive Coordinator

The Mayor and Councillors, listed in alphabetical order, attended meetings and events as detailed below during the period from 3 February 2025 to 2 March 2025.

Mayor Councillor Bernie Hearn	
3 February	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee Meeting
4 February	Tour of Emblem Benalla – 35 Gunn Road, Benalla
5 February	Councillor Only Time
	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Visit
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
10 February	Meeting with Gem Executive – Chief Executive Officer position
11 February	Australia Day Advisory Committee Meeting
	Meeting with Waminda Community House
	Councillors Induction Training – Statutory and Strategic Planning
12 February	Councillors Induction Training – Gender Equality
	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
17 February	Tomorrow Today - Visit from the Governors and Program Manager - The Ian Potter Foundation
20 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
21 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
	Benalla Social Inclusion Action Group's Creating Community Connections Expo
22 February	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Benalla Lakeside Market
26 February	Councillor Only Time
	Tour of the Benalla Police Station
	Assembly of Councillors
27 February	Country Women's Association Annual General Meeting
27 February	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee Meeting
	Meeting with Benalla Homelessness Group
	Launch for Winton Motor Raceway and Hi-Tec Oils Super Series Round 1
28 February	St Joseph's Primary School Leadership Badges Presentation
	Benalla Art Gallery Foundation 2025 Giving Launch
2 March	Boho – Stilo's Track Fire – Warrenbayne Community Meeting

Deputy Mayor Councillor Justin King	
5 February	Councillor Only Time
	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Visit
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
10 February	Meeting with Gem Executive – Chief Executive Officer position
11 February	Australia Day Advisory Committee Meeting
	Councillors Induction Training – Statutory and Strategic Planning
12 February	Councillors Induction Training – Gender Equality
	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
18 February	Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Control Group
	Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Meeting
20 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
21 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
	Benalla Social Inclusion Action Group's Creating Community Connections Expo
22 February	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Benalla Lakeside Market
26 February	Councillor Only Time
	Tour of the Benalla Police Station
	Assembly of Councillors
27 February	Meeting with Benalla Homelessness Group
	Launch for Winton Motor Raceway and Hi-Tec Oils Super Series Round 1
28 February	Benalla Art Gallery Foundation 2025 Giving Launch
1 March	HMAS Perth USS Houston Commemoration Service
2 March	Boho – Stilo's Track Fire – Warrenbayne Community Meeting

Councillor David Blore	
3 February	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee Meeting
4 February	Accessibility Reference Group Meeting
5 February	Councillor Only Time
	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Visit
	Benalla Historical Society Committee Meeting
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
7 February	Catherine Pianta An Exhibition 'On Beauty'
10 February	Meeting with Gem Executive – Chief Executive Officer position
11 February	Councillors Induction Training – Statutory and Strategic Planning
12 February	Benalla Business Coffee Connections
	Councillors Induction Training – Gender Equality
	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
18 February	Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Control Group Meeting
20 February	Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance Quarterly Board Meeting
	Chief Executive Officer Interviews

Councillor David Blore (Cont.)	
21 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
	Benalla Social Inclusion Action Group's Creating Community Connections Expo
22 February	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Benalla Lakeside Market
	Benalla Family Research Group Committee Meeting
	Councillor Only Time
26 February	Tour of the Benalla Police Station
	Assembly of Councillors
27 February	Meeting with Benalla Homelessness Group
	Launch for Winton Motor Raceway and Hi-Tec Oils Super Series Round 1
	Benalla Art Gallery Foundation 2025 Giving Launch
1 March	HMAS Perth USS Houston Commemoration Service
	Winton Motor Raceway and Hi-Tec Oils Super Series Round 1
2 March	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Devenish Market

Councillor Peter Davis	
5 February	Councillor Only Time
	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Visit
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
10 February	Meeting with Gem Executive – Chief Executive Officer position
11 February	Councillors Induction Training – Statutory and Strategic Planning
12 February	Councillors Induction Training – Gender Equality
	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
18 February	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
20 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
21 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
22 February	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Benalla Lakeside Market
24 February	Annabelle Cleeland - Discuss the Future of a Community Hub in Benalla
26 February	Councillor Only Time
	Tour of the Benalla Police Station
	Assembly of Councillors
27 February	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee Meeting
	Meeting with Benalla Homelessness Group
28 February	Benalla Art Gallery Foundation 2025 Giving Launch
1 March	HMAS Perth USS Houston Commemoration Service

Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
3 February	Benalla Health and Wellbeing Partnership Meeting
4 February	Accessibility Reference Group Meeting
5 February	Councillor Only Time
	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Visit
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
6 February	Benalla Art Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting
8 February	Commemoration of the 77th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka
10 February	Meeting with Gem Executive – Chief Executive Officer position
12 February	Councillors Induction Training – Gender Equality
	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
15 February	Benalla Migrants Association Chinese New Year Celebration
18 February	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
20 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
21 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
	Benalla Social Inclusion Action Group's Creating Community Connections Expo
22 February	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Benalla Lakeside Market
2 March	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Devenish Market

Councillor Jillian Merkel	
3 February	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
5 February	Councillor Only Time
	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Visit
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
6 February	Benalla Art Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting
10 February	Meeting with Gem Executive – Chief Executive Officer position
11 February	Councillors Induction Training – Statutory and Strategic Planning
12 February	Councillors Induction Training – Gender Equality
	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
17 February	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
20 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
21 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
	Benalla Social Inclusion Action Group's Creating Community Connections Expo
22 February	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Benalla Lakeside Market
26 February	Councillor Only Time
	Tour of the Benalla Police Station
	Assembly of Councillors
28 February	Benalla Art Gallery Foundation 2025 Giving Launch
2 March	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Devenish Market

Councillor Nathan Tolliday	
3 February	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
5 February	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Visit
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
10 February	Meeting with Gem Executive – Chief Executive Officer position
11 February	Councillors Induction Training – Statutory and Strategic Planning
12 February	Councillors Induction Training – Gender Equality
	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
17 February	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
18 February	Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Meeting
20 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
21 February	Chief Executive Officer Interviews
	Benalla Social Inclusion Action Group's Creating Community Connections Expo
22 February	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Benalla Lakeside Market
26 February	Tour of the Benalla Police Station
	Assembly of Councillors
27 February	Meeting with Benalla Homelessness Group
	Launch for Winton Motor Raceway and Hi-Tec Oils Super Series Round 1
28 February	Benalla Art Gallery Foundation 2025 Giving Launch
1 March	HMAS Perth USS Houston Commemoration Service
	Winton Motor Raceway and Hi-Tec Oils Super Series Round 1
2 March	<i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> Listening Post at the Devenish Market

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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4.6 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.	F&P Committee 5-March-25	5	Australia Day Advisory Committee Terms of Reference That the <i>Australia Day Advisory Committee Terms of Reference</i> be adopted.	MEDAS	Completed
2.	F&P Committee 5-March-25	4	2024/25 Major Event Funding Program That a \$2,000 grant from the 2024/25 Major Event Funding program be allocated to the Molyullah Recreation and Public Hall Reserve Committee.	MEDAS	Completed
3.	F&P Committee 5-March-25	3	2024/25 Quick Response Grants That a \$500 grant form the 2024/2025 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Swanpool and District Community Development Association.	MC	Completed
4.	Council Meeting 12-Feb-25	4.9	Appointment of Council Representatives to the Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Incorporate That Cr Nathan Tolliday and Cr Justin King be appointed as the <i>Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated</i> Council Representatives for the 2024/25 Council Year.	GMC	Completed
5.	Council Meeting 12-Feb-25	4.8	Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020 1. That the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020 (2025 Revision)</i> be adopted. 2. That the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020 (2025 Revision)</i> be reviewed in March 2026.	GMC	Completed
6.	Council Meeting 12-Feb-25	4.7	Recording of Council Meeting Policy 1. That the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Public Recording of Council Meetings Policy</i> be adopted. 2. That the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Public Recording of Council Meetings Policy</i> be reviewed in March 2026.	GMC	Completed
7.	Council Meeting 12-Feb-25	4.6	Public Interest Disclosure Policy 1. That the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Public Interest Disclosure Policy</i> be adopted. 2. That the <i>Benalla Rural City Council Public Interest Disclosure Policy</i> be reviewed in October 2028.	GMC	Completed
8.	Council Meeting 12-Feb-25	4.5	2024/25 Major Event Funding Program That \$2,000 grants from the 2024/25 Major Event Funding program be allocated to the Benalla Migrants Association, Albert Heaney Oval Reserve Committee of Management and the Austin 7 Club.	MEDAS	Completed
9.	Council Meeting 14-Feb-24	4.4	Fawckner Drive Masterplan 1. That the <i>Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan</i> be adopted. 2. That the <i>Benalla Fawckner Drive Masterplan Strategy Advocacy Document</i> be drafted.	MC	Completed

Action No.	Meeting Name	Item	Action	Officer	Status/notes
10.	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	Report to be presented to the Finance and Planning Committee 9 April 2025.
11.	Council Meeting 24-April-24	4.1	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project 1. That the Council give in principle support for the Benalla P-12 College Barkly Street Campus as the preferred site location for the <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment project</i> . 2. That the Chief Executive Officer negotiate with the Department of Education for the Council to acquire crown land at 51-54 Barkly Street, Benalla. 3. That the <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee</i> be established. 4. That the amended <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference</i> be adopted. 5. That Cr Don Firth and Cr Bernie Hearn be appointed as the Councillor representatives on the <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee</i> for the remainder of the 2023/24 Council year. 6. That invitations to join the <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee</i> be extended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hume Region Community Infrastructure, Place, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Basketball Victoria, President Benalla Basketball Association, Chair of the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management. 7. That an expression of interest process be undertaken to obtain two community member <i>Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee</i> representatives.	MAI	1. Completed 2. In progress 3. Completed 4. Completed 5. Completed 6. Completed 7. Completed

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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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 Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Nominations
- 9.2 Appointment of Chief Executive Officer
- 9.3 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 9.4 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*.

10. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Recommendation:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Closure of the meeting