

Benalla Rural City Council

Finance and Planning Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 9 April 2025

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

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Minutes

Chair	Councillor Peter Davis	
Councillors	Councillor David Blore	
	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
	Councillor Nathan Tolliday	
In attendance	Robert Barber	Acting Chief Executive Officer
	Nilesh Singh	Interim General Manager Corporate
	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 opened the meeting at 6pm and recited the following Acknowledgement of Country.

We, the Benalla Rural City Council, acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.

Apologies

No apologies were submitted to the meeting.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Cr Blore / Cr King:

That the Minutes of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on 5 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

Governance Matters

This Committee Meeting was conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Benalla Rural City Council *Governance Rules 2020*.

Recording of Council Meetings

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Committee Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website. 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.

Business

1. Building and Planning Approvals – February 2025

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

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

Carried

2. 2024/2025 Quick Response Grants

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

Cr Merkel / Cr Hearn:
That \$500 grants from the *2024/2025 Quick Response Grant program* be awarded to the Benalla Clydesdale and Heavy Horse Driving Day, Benalla Heritage Network, and Room at the Table Inc.

Carried

3. Annual Grants Program

The report presented proposed changes to the guidelines and funding allocations for the Quick Response Grant and Community Grant programs.

Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:

- 1. That allocations for Quick Response Grants and Community Grants be awarded as follows:**
 - **Quick Response Grants: up to \$750.**
 - **Minor Community Grants: up to \$3,000.**
 - **Major Community Grants: from \$3,001 to \$7,000.**
- 2. That the *Benalla Rural City Council Quick Response Grant Guidelines* be adopted.**
- 3. That the *Benalla Rural City Council Community Grant Guidelines* be adopted.**
- 4. That a review of the Community Grants Program be conducted in 12 months.**

Carried

4. Draft *Benalla Rural City Destination Management Plan 2025-2029*

The report discussed the draft *Benalla Rural City Destination Management Plan 2025-2029* and the *Benalla Rural City Destination Assessment Report*.

Cr Hearn / Cr Blore:

That the Finance and Planning Committee, acting under its delegated authority of the Council, resolve:

That the draft *Benalla Rural City Destination Management Plan 2025-2029* be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

Carried

5. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Closure of Meeting

The Finance and Planning Committee meeting closed at 6.38pm.

The minutes were confirmed on the ninth day of April 2025.

Signed: _____
Cr Peter Davis – Chair