

Benalla Rural City Council

Additional Council Meeting

Notes

Date: Wednesday 30 April 2025

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

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Notes

Chair	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	
Councillors	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
	Councillor David Blore	
	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
	Councillor Nathan Tolliday	
In attendance	Robert Barber	Acting Chief Executive Officer
	Nilesh Singh	Interim General Manager Corporate
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Jess Pendergast	Governance Coordinator

Governance Matters

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

Recording of Council Meetings

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

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

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.

Statement of Commitment

The Councillors recited the following Statement of Commitment:

I declare,

that as a Councillor of Benalla Rural City

I will undertake on every occasion

to carry out my duties in the best interests of the community

and that my conduct shall maintain the standards of our 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

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

Officer Reports

1. Proposed 2025/26 Budget

The report presented for consideration the proposed *2025/26 Budget*.

Cr Blore / Cr King:

1. That the amended proposed *2025/26 Budget* be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days from 1 May 2025.
2. That submissions relating to the proposed *2025/26 Budget* be heard at an additional meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee on 4 June 2025.
3. That the Council consider submissions relating to the proposed *2025/26 Budget* at an additional meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee on 18 June 2025.
4. That the Council consider the adoption of the *2025/26 Budget* at a meeting of the Council on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

Carried

2. Draft *Benalla Rural City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029*

The report presents the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029*.

Cr King / Cr Davis:

1. That the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029* be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days from 1 May 2025.
2. That submissions relating to the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029* be heard at an additional meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee on 4 June 2025.
3. That the Council consider submissions relating to the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029* at an additional meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee on 18 June 2025.
4. That the Council consider the adoption of the *Benalla Rural City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029* at a meeting of the Council on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

Carried

3. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Closure of the meeting

The additional Council Meeting closed at 6.37pm.