

Benalla Rural City Council

# Additional Finance and Planning Committee

## Minutes

Date: Wednesday 4 June 2025

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

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# Minutes

<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Peter Davis	
<b>Councillors</b>	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	
	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
	Councillor David Blore	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
	Councillor Nathan Tolliday	
<b>In attendance</b>	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Tracey Beaton	Acting 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

An apology was received from Cr Bernie Hearn and Cr Justin King.

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr Blore:**

**That the apologies be accepted.**

**Carried**

## Governance Matters

The 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 was made of the proceedings.

Members of the public can watch the recorded broadcast of the meeting at [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)

## Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

See item 1.

## Business

### 1. **Draft Benalla Rural City Destination Management Plan 2025-2029 – Hearing of Submissions**

The report presented submissions received on the draft *Benalla Rural City Destination Management Plan 2025-2029*.

It is noted that the following persons addressed the council in support of their submissions:

- Raelene Stratton
- Regina Laity-Plex
- Jenny Monger
- Benalla Business Network – Joel Spencer.

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr Tolliday:**

**That an extension of three minutes be given to Raelene Stratton.**

**Carried**

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr Tolliday:**

**That an extension of three minutes be given to Regina Laity-Plex.**

**Carried**

It is noted that Councillor Nathan Tolliday declared a material conflict of interest regarding the *Destination Management Plan 2025-2029* submission from Benalla Business Network and Councillor Nathan Tolliday left the meeting at 6.29pm.

**Cr Blore / Cr Merkel:**

**That the submissions be received.**

**Carried**

Councillor Nathan Tolliday returned to the meeting at 6.43pm.

## **2. Proposed *Benalla Rural City Council 2025/26 Budget* – Hearing of Submissions**

The report presented submissions received on the proposed *2025/26 Budget*.

It is noted that the CEO read a statement on behalf of John Wood regarding his submission.

It is noted that the following person addressed the council in support of their submissions:

- Hamish McPherson from Waminda Community House.

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr Blore:**

**That an extension of three minutes be given to Hamish McPherson.**

**Carried**

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr Blore:**

**That the submissions be received.**

**Carried**

## **3. Draft *Benalla Rural City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029* – Hearing of Submissions**

The report presented submissions received on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029*.

No submitters addressed the council on their submissions.

**Cr Tolliday / Cr Merkel:**

**That the submissions be received.**

**Carried**

## **4. Urgent Business**

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.



## Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.02pm

The minutes were confirmed on the eleventh day of June 2025.

Signed:   
Cr Peter Davis – Chair