

Benalla Rural City Council

Additional Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 1 October 2025

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

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Minutes

Chair	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
Councillors	Councillor Bernie Hearn (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
	Tom Arnold	Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
	Marissa Batten	Community and Recreation Officer
	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

It was noted that Councillor Bernie Hearn is on an approved leave of absence from 24 September 2025 to 5 October 2025.

Cr Davis / Cr Blore:

That the apology be noted.

Carried

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.



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 was 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 recorded broadcast of the meeting at **www.benalla.vic.gov.au**

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

Officer Reports

1. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

2. Confidential Business

It was 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 Tender Report for CM25.067 Design and Construction Fawckner Drive Pump Track

Cr Blore / Cr Merkel:

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*.

Carried

The meeting was closed to the public at 6.03pm.



3. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Cr Tolliday / Cr Merkel:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Carried

The meeting was reopened to the public at 6.28pm.

Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 6.28pm.

The minutes were confirmed on the fifteenth day of October 2025.

Signed:


Deputy Mayor Cr Justin King