

Benalla Rural City Council

Additional Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Tuesday 21 October 2025

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

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Minutes

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	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Jess Pendergast	Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.33pm 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.



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.

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. **Draft Annual Financial Report, draft Performance Statement and Governance and Management Checklist For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

The report presented for in principle approval the draft Annual Financial Report and draft Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The report also presented the Benalla Rural City Council Governance and Management Checklist for adoption.

Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:

1. That Council approves in principle the *Benalla Rural City Council Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2025* and *Benalla Rural City Council Performance Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2025*.
2. That Mayor Cr Bernie Hearn, Cr Peter Davis and Chief Executive Officer Peter Keane authorised to certify the *Benalla Rural City Council Annual Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025* and *Benalla Rural City Council Performance Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2025* in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office have been made.
3. That Council adopts the *Benalla Rural City Council Governance and Management Checklist*.

Carried

2. **Urgent Business**

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.



Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 6.42pm.

The minutes were confirmed on the nineteenth day of November 2025.

Signed: 
Chair – Mayor Cr Bernie Hearn