

Benalla Rural City Council

Additional Finance and Planning Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 15 October 2025

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

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Minutes

Chair Councillor Peter Davis

Councillors Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)
Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor David Blore
Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne
Councillor Jillian Merkel
Councillor Nathan Tolliday

In attendance Peter Keane Chief Executive Officer
Robert Barber General Manager Corporate
Jane Archbold Manager Community
Joel Ingham Acting Manager Assets and Infrastructure
Nilesh Singh Manager Development
Greg Robertson Manager Facilities and Information Technology
Jess Pendergast Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting 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.

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 was made of the proceedings, 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.



Business

1. Draft *Benalla Airport Masterplan* – Hearing Of Submissions

The report presented submissions received on the draft *Benalla Airport Masterplan*.

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

- Michael Hedderman
- Shaun Driscoll
- Andy Davdison – Gliding Club of Victoria
- Paul Gibbs – Gold Rush Ballooning
- Francois Steyn – Balloon Association of Victoria (BAV)
- Mark Carr
- Martin Jacobson

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That submissions on the draft *Benalla Airport Master Plan* be received.

Carried

2. Draft *Benalla Rural City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029* – Hearing Of Submissions

The report presented submissions received on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029*.

No submitters spoke in support of their submissions.

Cr Gunaratne / Cr Tolliday:

That submissions on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029* be received.

Carried



3. Benalla Airport – Intention To Lease Land

The report finalised the matter of intention to lease land to Balloon Across Australia Pty Ltd, trading as Goldrush Ballooning, for the development of aircraft hangarage at the Benalla Airport.

Cr Merkel / Cr Blore:

1. In accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a lease agreement will be entered into with Balloon Across Australia Pty Ltd, trading as Goldrush Ballooning, for 19 Hangar Lane, Benalla for a term of five years commencing 1 December 2025 with an option for five further terms of five years.
2. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute lease documentation on behalf of the Council.

Carried

4. Draft Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025-2029 – Consideration of Submissions

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

The *Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025-2029* will be considered for adoption at the Council meeting on 29 October 2025.

Cr King / Cr Merkel:

That the report be noted.

Carried

5. Draft Benalla Rural City Council Road Management Plan 2025-2029 – Consideration of Submissions

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

The *Benalla Rural City Council Road Management Plan 2025-2029* will be considered for adoption at the additional Council meeting on 29 October 2025.

Cr Blore / Cr Hearn:

That the report be noted.

Carried


6. Daft Benalla Rural City Council Asset Plan 2025–2029 – Consideration of Submissions

The report presented submissions received on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Asset Plan 2025–2029* and draft *Asset Management Policy*.

The *Benalla Rural City Council Asset Plan 2025-2029* will be considered for adoption at the Council meeting on 29 October 2025.

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

Carried

7. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

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

Signed: _____
Cr Peter Davis – Chair

