

Benalla Rural City Council

Finance and Planning Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 1 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
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
	Joel Ingham	Acting Manager Development
	Jess Pendergast	Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.30pm 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 King / Cr Blore:

That apology 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 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.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were circulated to Councillors and posted on the Council website **www.benalla.vic.gov.au** pending confirmation at this meeting.

Cr Gunaratne / Cr Merkel:

That the Minutes of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on 27 August 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried



Business

1. Draft Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025-2029 – Hearing of Submissions

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

Submissions will be considered at the Finance and Planning Committee on 15 October 2025.

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

Cr King / Cr Tolliday:

That submissions on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2025-2029* be received.

Carried

2. Draft Benalla Rural City Council Road Management Plan 2025-2029 – Hearing of Submissions

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

It is noted that the following persons addressed the meeting in relation to their submissions:

- Anne Cahill Lambert
- Colin Squires
- Grant Donaldson

Submissions will be considered at the Finance and Planning Committee on 15 October 2025.

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

Cr Blore / Cr Merkel:

That submissions on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Road Management Plan 2025–2029* be received.

Carried



3. Daft Benalla Rural City Council Asset Plan 2025–2029 and Draft Asset Management Policy – Hearing of Submissions

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

Submissions on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Asset Plan 2025–2029* will be considered at the Finance and Planning Committee on 15 October 2025.

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

As no submissions were received and no further amendments are proposed, it is recommended that the Council adopt the Asset Management Policy.

Cr King / Cr Blore:

- 1. That submissions on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Asset Plan 2025-2029* be received.**
- 2. That the *Asset Management Policy* be adopted.**
- 3. That the *Asset Management Policy* be reviewed in October 2029.**

Carried

4. Draft Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2034/35

The report presented the *Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2034/35*.

As no submissions were received and no further amendments are proposed, it is recommended that the Council adopt the *Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2034/35*.

It is proposed that the Financial Plan be updated annually as part of the Council Budget development program.

Cr Blore / Cr Tolliday:

That the *Benalla Rural City Council Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2034/35* be adopted.

Carried



5. 2025/26 Quick Response Grants Program

The report presented funding applications for 2025/26 Quick Response Grants.

Cr Tolliday / Cr Merkel:

That a \$700 grant from the *2025/2026 Quick Response Grant program* be awarded to the Benalla Men's Shed.

Carried

6. Building and Planning Approvals – August 2025

The report detailed planning permit applications and building approvals for August 2025.

Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:

That the report be noted.

Carried

7. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Closure of Meeting

The Finance and Planning Committee Meeting closed at 7.05pm.

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

Signed:



Cr Peter Davis – Chair