

Benalla Rural City Council

# Council Meeting

## Minutes

Date: Wednesday 19 November 2025

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

## Contents

<b>Opening and Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Statement of Commitment</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Disclosures of Conflict of Interest</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Public Question Time</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Petitions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1 <i>Reopen the reserve located to the south of Willis Little Drive, Benalla</i> .....	<i>5</i>
<b>Record of Committees</b> .....	<b>6</b>
3.1 <i>Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee</i> .....	<i>6</i>
3.2 <i>Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees</i> .....	<i>6</i>
<b>Officer Reports</b> .....	<b>7</b>
4.1 <i>Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor</i> .....	<i>7</i>
4.2 <i>2025/26 Meeting Cycle for Council and Delegated Committee Meetings</i> .....	<i>9</i>
4.3 <i>Appointment of Council Representatives to Advisory Committees,     Peak Industry Bodies and Regional and Community-Based Committees</i> .....	<i>9</i>
4.4 <i>Benalla Rural City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029</i> .....	<i>12</i>
4.5 <i>Financial Report For The Quarter Ended 30 September 2025</i> .....	<i>13</i>
4.6 <i>Finance Department Activity Report For The Quarter     Ended 30 September 2025</i> .....	<i>13</i>
4.7 <i>Assets and Infrastructure Department Activity Report For The     Quarter Ended 30 September 2025</i> .....	<i>13</i>
4.8 <i>Capital Works Program Status As At 30 September 2025</i> .....	<i>13</i>
4.9 <i>Mayor and Councillors' Attendance At Conferences and Events</i> .....	<i>14</i>
4.10 <i>Council Actions Pending</i> .....	<i>14</i>
<b>5. Reports by Councillors</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>6. Notices of Motion</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>7. Notices of Rescission Motion</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>8. Urgent Business</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Confidential Business</b> .....	<b>16</b>
9.1 <i>Tender Report For Contract CM26.036 Benalla Art Gallery     Redevelopment Works</i> .....	<i>17</i>
9.2 <i>Tender Report For Panel Contract CM26.011 Provision of     Slashing Services – Council Roadsides and Reserves 2025-2027</i> .....	<i>17</i>
9.3 <i>Tender Report For Contract CM26.025 Shoulder Re-construction     And Sealing Works On Various Roads Within Benalla     Rural City Program 2025/26</i> .....	<i>18</i>
9.4 <i>Confidential Reports by Councillors</i> .....	<i>18</i>
9.5 <i>Confidential Council Actions Pending</i> .....	<i>18</i>
<b>10. Reopening of the meeting to the public</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Closure of the meeting</b> .....	<b>19</b>

# Minutes

<b>Councillors</b>	Councillor David Blore	
	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Bernie Hearn	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Justin King	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
<b>In attendance</b>	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Nilesh Singh	Manager Development
	Jess Pendergast	Governance Coordinator

The Chief Executive Officer Chaired the meeting until a Mayor was elected.

## Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chief Executive Officer 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

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](http://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](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)** pending confirmation at the meeting.

### **Cr Gunaratne / Cr Davis:**

**That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on Wednesday 15 October 2025, Wednesday 21 October 2025 and Wednesday 29 October 2025 be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.**

**Carried**

## 1. Public Question Time

It is recorded that Max Rankin tabled the below question:

*Why has the Council, for Confidential Business of Council Meeting 6 August 2025, and for each Item, ignored the requirements of the Local Government Act Section 66 (5) (a) and (b) to record in the Minutes the grounds for determining to close the meeting to Confidential Business and can it now comply? (a) the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public by reference to the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1); and (b) an explanation of why the specified ground or grounds applied.*

The Chief Executive Officer answered that Council has complied to the regulation with the following general statement in the meeting agenda:

“It is 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”.

However, your question has led to a review of our compliance under the *Local Government Act 2020*, and consideration of best practice. This review has identified opportunities to strengthen Council’s approach to confidential matters to improve transparency to the community.

To strengthen Council’s approach, we have implemented the inclusion of specifically reasoning for each item to be confidential in nature. This can be seen in our Council meeting agenda dated 19 November 2025.

**Cr Blore / Cr Hearn:**

**That the question and answer be noted.**

**Carried**

## 2. Petitions

### 2.1 Reopen the reserve located to the south of Willis Little Drive, Benalla

A petition containing 18 signatories was received requesting the Council reopen to the public the reserve situated to the southern side of Willis Little Drive, Benalla.

Refer **Appendix 1**.

**Cr Davis / Cr Merkel:**

- 1. That the petition be received.**
- 2. That a report be presented to the February 2026 Finance and Planning Committee.**

**Carried**

## Record of Committees

### 3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 and Wednesday 5 November 2025 were presented.

**Cr King / Cr Hearn:**

**That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 and Wednesday 5 November 2025 be adopted.**

**Carried**

### 3.2 Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees

Under Council's *Governance Rules 2020* the Chief Executive Officer is required to provide a written record of the Assemblies of Councillors at a scheduled Council Meeting.

The record of Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees were presented.

#### October 2025

<b>6 October</b>	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
<b>7 October</b>	Benalla Festival Advisory Committee Meeting
<b>8 October</b>	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review
<b>13 October</b>	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee
<b>21 October</b>	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
<b>27 October</b>	Benalla Festival Advisory Committee Meeting

**Cr Hearn / Cr Merkel:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

## Officer Reports

### 4.1 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) a Mayor is to be elected at a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council. The Council may resolve to establish the position of Deputy Mayor.

Subject to section 167, any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

#### Term of Appointment of the Mayor

Under Section 26 of the Act, before the election of the Mayor, the Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one-year or a two-year term.

**Cr King / Cr Davis:**

**That the term of appointment for the Mayor be for one year.**

**Carried**

#### Election of Mayor

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

**Cr Blore / Cr Davis:**

**That Councillor Bernie Hearn be nominated for the position of Mayor.**

**Carried**

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr :**

**That Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne be nominated for the position of Mayor.**

**Motion Lapsed**

Motion lapsed. No seconder received.

**Cr Blore / Cr Davis:**

**That Councillor Bernie Hearn be elected as Mayor of Benalla Rural City Council for the 2025/26 Council Year.**

**Carried**

The Chief Executive Officer declared Councillor Bernie Hearn elected as Mayor for the 2025/26 Council Year.

The Chief Executive Officer vacated the Chair, and the Mayor filled the Chair for the balance of the meeting.



## Establish the position of Deputy Mayor

**Cr Blore / Cr King:**

**That the position of Deputy Mayor be established.**

**Carried**

## Term of Appointment of the Deputy Mayor

Under Section 26 of the act, before the election of the Deputy Mayor, the Council must determine by resolution whether the Deputy Mayor is to be elected for a one-year or a two-year term.

**Cr Blore / Cr King:**

**That the term of appointment of the Deputy Mayor be for one year.**

**Carried**

## Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

**Cr Merkel / Cr Davis:**

**That Councillor Justin King be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.**

**Carried**

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr :**

**That Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.**

**Motion Lapsed**

Motion lapsed. No seconder received.

**Cr Merkel / Cr Davis:**

**That Councillor Justin King be elected as Deputy Mayor of Benalla Rural City Council for the 2025/26 Council Year.**

**Carried**

The Mayor declared Councillor Justin King elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2025/26 Council Year.

The Mayor made a ceremonial speech (refer **Appendix 1**). The purpose of the ceremonial Mayoral speech is to outline priorities for the year ahead based on the adopted Council Plan.



## Mayoral Ceremonial speech

What an incredible privilege to have been re-elected as Mayor of Benalla Rural City for my 4<sup>th</sup> term.

Serving this community has been a great honour. To have been entrusted with this responsibility again is something I do not take lightly.

Thank you to my fellow councillors for entrusting me with confidence and willingness, to work together to represent our amazing community in this important role.

I have enjoyed the working relationship and comradery that has grown throughout the last 12 months.

We have enjoyed a busy 1<sup>st</sup> year.

Appointing our new CEO Peter Keane.

Completing the new mandatory councillor training, and adoption of the Key plans for Council:

Including 10yr Financial Plan, Annual Report, Asset Management Plan & Policy and of course.

The Benalla Rural City Council Plan which will shape the next 4yrs with community in the forefront. This plan was facilitated by council but run and delivered by our whole community.

We have also adopted a Responsible Budget that coincides with our council plan and will lead and guide us through the next 4 years helping to ensure a sustainable future.

Looking ahead, we have important work to do.

With the commencement of our 3 Major Projects - Benalla Indoor Recreation Redevelopment, Benalla Art Gallery redevelopment & Fawkner drive precinct.

These major projects will ensure longevity into the future for our youth and our Town.

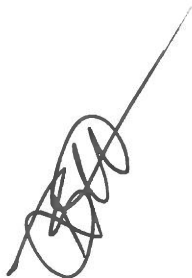
My commitment is to continue serving with transparency and respect. I will keep listening, engaging, and collaborating with residents, local organisations, and my fellow councillors to ensure our region remains a place where people feel connected, supported, and optimistic about the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

I am proud of what we've accomplished together, and I am equally inspired by what lies ahead. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in the strength of our community.

I would also like to thank my family Russell, Nick, Brad, Emma and Percy for their support without them by my side I would not be able to do this job with the compassion and effort required.

I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is stylized and appears to consist of several overlapping loops and lines, possibly representing the initials 'R' and 'P'.

**Cr King / Cr Davis:**

**That standing orders be suspended to allow for discussion.**

**Carried**

Standing orders were suspended at 6.16pm.

**Cr Davis / Cr Blore:**

**That standing orders resume.**

**Carried**

Standing orders resumed at 6.34pm.

#### **4.2 2025/26 Meeting Cycle for Council and Delegated Committee Meetings**

The report proposed a schedule of Council and Delegated Committee Meetings for the 2025/26 Council Year.

The schedule of Council and Committee meetings for the 2025/26 Council Year are attached as **Appendix 1**.

**Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:**

**That the meeting schedule for Council Meetings and Finance and Planning Delegated Committee meetings for the 2025/26 Council Year be adopted.**

**Carried**

#### **4.3 Appointment of Council Representatives to Advisory Committees, Peak Industry Bodies and Regional and Community-Based Committees**

Nominations of appointment for Council representatives to various committees, peak industry bodies and regional and community organisations in 2025/26 are detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1: 2025/26 Council Representatives to Advisory Committees, Peak Industry Bodies, Regional and Community-Based Committees**

<b>Advisory Committees</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Australia Day Advisory Committee	Cr Bernie Hearn Cr Justin King	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	Bi-monthly or as required 10am Friday
Benalla Airport Advisory Committee	Cr Bernie Hearn Cr Peter Davis	Manager Facilities and Information Technology	Quarterly 2pm Tuesday
Benalla Art Gallery Advisory Committee	Cr Puna Gunaratne Cr Jillian Merkel	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	Bi-monthly 6pm Tuesday

<b>Advisory Committees</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Benalla Festival Advisory Committee	Cr Justin King Cr Jillian Merkel	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	Monthly or as required 4pm Tuesday
Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee	Cr Jillian Merkel Cr Puna Gunaratne	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability	Monthly 5.30pm Monday
Communications Advisory Committee	Cr Bernie Hearn Cr David Blore Cr Peter Davis	Chief Executive Officer	Monthly

<b>Boards of Management</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
North East Victoria Tourism Board Incorporated	Chief Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer	Bi-monthly Thursday

<b>Community Asset Committees</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Benalla Sports and Equestrian Reserve Committee	Cr Bernie Hearn	Open Spaces Coordinator	TBC

<b>External Incorporated</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Benalla Family Research Group	Cr David Blore	Chief Executive Officer	Monthly 11am Wednesday
Benalla Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated	Cr Justin King	Open Spaces Coordinator	After hours
State Gliding Centre Committee of Management Incorporated	Cr Bernie Hearn	Manager Facilities and Information Technology	Saturday AM
Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated	Cr Justin King Cr Jillian Merkel	Open Spaces Coordinator	Bi-monthly 6pm Tuesday

<b>External Organisations</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Benalla Historical Society Incorporated	Cr David Blore	Chief Executive Officer	Monthly 4pm Wednesday
Benalla Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group	Cr Bernie Hearn	Manager Community	Bi-monthly 1.30pm first Monday

<b>External Working Groups</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee	Cr David Blore Cr Bernie Hearn	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Bi Monthly 2pm Monday
Live4Life Partnership Group	Vacant	Youth Development Coordinator	Bi-monthly Wednesday 2pm – 3pm

<b>Industry Associations</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative</b>	<b>2025/26 Proxy</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Municipal Association of Victoria	Mayor	Cr Puna Gunaratne	Chief Executive Officer	Quarterly 10am Thursday

<b>Internal Incorporated</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Benalla Gardens Oval Committee of Management Incorporated	Cr Peter Davis	Open Spaces Coordinator	After hours
Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management Incorporated	Cr David Blore Cr Bernie Hearn	Open Spaces Coordinator	After hours
United Friendly Society Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated	Cr Peter Davis Cr Bernie Hearn	Open Spaces Coordinator	After hours

<b>Reference &amp; Working Groups</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Accessibility Reference Group	Cr David Blore Cr Puna Gunaratne	Community Development Coordinator	Bi-Monthly 10.30am Tuesday
Waste Reduction Working Group	Cr David Blore	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	TBC – committee established. First meeting never held.
Heritage Advisory Working Group	Mayor	Manager Development	Monthly

<b>Regional Associations</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance	Cr David Blore	Environmental Sustainability Coordinator	Quarterly 1pm Thursday
Hume Region Local Government Network	Mayor	Chief Executive Officer	Quarterly 10am Thursday
Ovens Murray Regional Partnerships	Chief Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer	Monthly Thursday
North East Local Government Waste and Recycling Forum	Cr David Blore	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Quarterly

<b>Statutory Committees</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Audit and Risk Committee	(Chair of F&P Committee) Cr Puna Gunaratne	General Manager Corporate	4 times a year 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month.
Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee	All Councillors and Independent Advisor	General Manager Corporate	Quarterly
Municipal Emergency Management Committee	Mayor	Manager Development	Quarterly Thursday work hours

<b>Steering Committees and Project Control Groups</b>	<b>2025/26 Representative/s</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment project Steering Committee	Cr Peter Davis Cr Bernie Hearn	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Monthly Thursdays 11am
Benalla Art Gallery Project Control Group	Cr David Blore Cr Justin King	Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Monthly

**Cr King / Cr Blore:**

1. That the appointment of Council representatives to various committees, peak industry bodies, regional and community organisations for the 2025/26 Council Year as detailed in Table 1 be approved.
2. That the appointment of Council representatives to various committees, peak industry bodies, regional and community organisations for the 2025/26 Council Year be reviewed in February 2026.

**Carried**

**4.4 Benalla Rural City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029**

The report presented for consideration and adoption of the *Benalla Rural City Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029*.

**Cr Blore / Cr Davis:**

1. That the *Benalla Rural City Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029* be adopted.
2. That the *Benalla Rural City Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029* be forwarded to the Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.
3. That a letter of acknowledgement to be sent to public submitters outlining the result of their submission and thanking them for their contribution into the *Benalla Rural City Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029*.

**Carried**

#### **4.5 Financial Report For The Quarter Ended 30 September 2025**

The report presented the financial results compared to budget for first quarter ended 30 September 2025 and presents forecast outcomes to 30 June 2026.

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr Blore:**

- 1. That the report be noted.**
- 2. That the Council authorise a \$50,000 transfer from the Resort and Recreation Reserve as the Council's cash contribution toward the \$225,000 Saleyards Road Dog Park, Benalla project.**

**Carried**

#### **4.6 Finance Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 30 September 2025**

The report presented an overview of the functions of the Finance Department for the quarter ended 30 September 2025.

**Cr King / Cr Merkel:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

#### **4.7 Assets and Infrastructure Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 30 September 2025**

The report presented the activities of the Assets and Infrastructure Department for the quarter ended 30 September 2025.

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr Blore:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

#### **4.8 Capital Works Program Status As At 30 September 2025**

The report presented an update on the Capital Works Program as at 30 September 2025.

**Cr Davis / Cr Gunaratne:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**



#### 4.9 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance At Conferences and Events

The Mayor and Councillors attendance at meetings and events during the period 6 October 2025 to 9 November 2025 were presented.

It is noted that:

- Cr Gunaratne attended the Official Benalla Festival Launch event on Friday 31 October 2025.
- Cr Gunaratne did not attend the Day in the Gardens Market on Sunday 9 November 2025.
- Cr Blore did not attend the Tatong Market on Sunday 2 November 2025.
- Cr Davis attended the Diwali @ Mural event on Monday 3 November 2025.

**Cr Merkel / Cr Gunaratne:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

#### 4.10 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were presented.

**Cr Merkel / Cr Blore:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

#### 5. Reports by Councillors

Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor) reported on her attendance at:

- Peter Fitzsimmons Book Launch at Benalla Visitor Information Centre on Tuesday 28 October 2025.

Cr Justin King (Deputy Mayor) reported on his attendance at:

- Benalla Festival events held between 1 November and 9 November 2025.

Cr David Blore reported on his attendance at:

- Friends of Benalla Library Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 18 November 2025.



Cr Puna Gunaratne reported on his attendance at:

- Benalla Festival 'Benalla by the Lake' and fireworks display on Saturday 8 November 2025.
- Diwali @ Mural event on Monday 3 November 2025.
- Benalla Social Knitters Annual Christmas Crafting Day at Benalla CWA Hall on Saturday 15 November 2025

**Cr King / Cr Blore:**

**That the reports be noted.**

**Carried**

## **6. Notices of Motion**

No notices of motion were submitted to the meeting.

## **7. Notices of Rescission Motion**

No notices of rescission motion were submitted to the meeting.

## **8. Urgent Business**

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.



## Confidential Business

It is proposed that the following items be considered in confidential business pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2020* as they contain personal information and private commercial information that would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about a person, their personal affairs and expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking if released:

- 9.1 Tender Report For Contract CM26.036 Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment
- 9.2 Tender Report For Panel Contract CM26.011 Provision of Slashing Services – Council Roadsides and Reserves 2025-2027
- 9.3 Tender Report For Contract CM26.025 Shoulder Re-construction and Sealing Works on various Council Roads
- 9.4 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 9.5 Confidential Council Actions Pending

### Cr Davis / Cr Merkel:

That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with Sections 3(1) and Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* for the following items:

- 9.1 Tender Report For Contract CM26.036 Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment  
Item 9.1 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains information relating to private commercial information.
- 9.2 Tender Report For Panel Contract CM26.011 Provision of Slashing Services – Council Roadsides and Reserves 2025-2027  
Item 9.2 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains information relating to private commercial information.
- 9.3 Tender Report For Contract CM26.025 Shoulder Re-construction and Sealing Works on various Council Roads  
Item 9.3 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains information relating to private commercial information.
- 9.4 Confidential Reports by Councillors  
Item 9.4 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains information relating to council business information, being information that council prejudice Council's position.
- 9.5 Confidential Council Actions Pending  
Item 9.5 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains information relating to private commercial information.

Carried



The meeting was closed to the public at 7.09pm.

## 9.1 Tender Report For Contract CM26.036 Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Works

The report presented a summary of the evaluation of tenders received for Contract CM26.036 *Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Works*.

**Cr Davis / Cr Gunaratne:**

**That standing orders be suspended to allow for discussion.**

**Carried**

Standing orders were suspended at 8.12pm.

**Cr King / Cr Davis:**

**That standing orders resume.**

**Carried**

Standing orders resumed at 8.25pm.

**Cr Blore / Cr King:**

**That the debate on the matter be deferred until the Council Meeting on Wednesday 17 December 2025 to gather further information on the questions raised during the meeting.**

**Carried**

## 9.2 Tender Report For Panel Contract CM26.011 Provision of Slashing Services – Council Roadsides and Reserves 2025-2027

The report presented a summary of the evaluation of quotations received for Panel Contract CM26.011 *Provision of Slashing Services – Council Roadsides and Reserves 2025-2027*.

**The motion for item 9.2 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* in accordance with Sections 3(1) and Section 66(2)(a) as it contains information relating to private commercial information.**

### **9.3 Tender Report For Contract CM26.025 Shoulder Re-construction And Sealing Works On Various Roads Within Benalla Rural City Program 2025/26**

The report presented a summary of the evaluation of tenders received for Contract *CM26.025 Shoulder Re-Construction and Sealing Works on Various Roads within Benalla Rural City Program 2025/26*.

**The motion for item 9.3 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* in accordance with Sections 3(1) and Section 66(2)(a) as it contains information relating to private commercial information.**

### **9.4 Confidential Reports by Councillors**

No confidential reports were presented by Councillors.

### **9.5 Confidential Council Actions Pending**

Confidential Council Actions Pending were presented.

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr King:  
That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

## 10. Reopening of the meeting to the public

**Cr Blore / Cr Gunaratne:**

**That the meeting be reopened to the public.**

**Carried**

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8.37pm.

## Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 8.37pm.

The minutes were confirmed on the seventeenth day of December 2025.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Mayor Cr Bernie Hearn