

Benalla Rural City Council

Council Meeting

Agenda

Date: Wednesday 20 May 2026

Time: 6pm

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

Contents

Opening and Acknowledgement of Country	3
Apologies.....	3
Statement of Commitment	4
Disclosures of Conflict of Interest.....	5
Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting	5
1. Public Question Time	5
2. Petitions	6
3. Record of Committees	6
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>7</i>
4. Officer Reports	9
4.1 <i>Financial Report for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2026.....</i>	<i>9</i>
4.2 <i>Finance Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026.....</i>	<i>15</i>
4.3 <i>Capital Works Program Status As At 31 March 2026.....</i>	<i>19</i>
4.4 <i>Assets and Infrastructure Department Activity Report for The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026</i>	<i>23</i>
4.5 <i>Development Department Activity Report for Quarter Ended 31 March 2026.....</i>	<i>31</i>
4.6 <i>Community Department Activity Report for The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026...37</i>	<i>37</i>
4.7 <i>People and Performance Activity Report for The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026.47</i>	<i>47</i>
4.8 <i>Facilities and Information Technology Department Activity Report for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2026.....</i>	<i>55</i>
4.9 <i>Economic Development and Sustainability Department Activity Report for The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026.....</i>	<i>59</i>
4.10 <i>Mayor and Councillors' Attendance At Conferences and Events</i>	<i>69</i>
4.11 <i>Council Actions Pending</i>	<i>75</i>
5. Reports by Councillors	77
6. Notices of Motion	77
7. Notices of Rescission Motion.....	77
8. Urgent Business	77
9. Confidential Business	79
9.1 <i>Tender Report For Contract Panel CM26. 059 Supply of Quarry Products 2026-2030.....</i>	<i>81</i>
9.2 <i>Confidential Reports by Councillors</i>	<i>87</i>
9.3 <i>Confidential Council Actions Pending.....</i>	<i>87</i>
10. Reopening of the meeting to the public	89
Closure of the meeting	89

Agenda

Chair	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	
Councillors	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
	Councillor David Blore	
	Councillor Vince Branigan	
	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
In attendance	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
	Janine McMaster	Manager People and Performance
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Greg Robertson	Manager Facilities and Information Technology
	Nilesh Singh	Manager Development
	Tessa Petrides	Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair will open the meeting and recite 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 is noted that Councillor Peter Davis is requesting a leave of absence from Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026.

Recommendation:

- 1. That a leave of absence be granted to Councillor Peter Davis from Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026.**
- 2. That the apology/ies be accepted.**

Statement of Commitment

The Councillors will recite 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

This Council Meeting is conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020*.

Question Time and Public Submissions

Any person wishing to participate in Question Time or Public Submissions in accordance with Rule 7.2 and 7.3 of the *Governance Rules 2020* should contact the Council by emailing council@benalla.vic.gov.au or telephoning the Governance Coordinator Jess Pendergast on (03) 5760 2600.

Recording of Council Meetings

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Council Meeting will be livestreamed via the Council's website and an audio recording will be 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 live broadcast of the meeting at www.benalla.vic.gov.au

Behaviour at Meetings

Members of the public present at a meeting must remain silent during the proceedings other than when specifically invited to address the Committee.

The Chair may remove a person from a meeting for interjecting or gesticulating offensively after being asked to desist, and the chair may cause the removal of any object or material that is deemed by the Chair to be objectionable or disrespectful.

The Chair may call a break in a meeting for either a short time, or to resume another day if the behaviour at the Council table or in the gallery is significantly disrupting the Meeting.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Councillor must declare any Conflict of Interest pursuant to Section 130 of the Act in any items on this Agenda.

At the time indicated in the agenda, a Councillor with a conflict of interest in an item on that agenda must indicate they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- the item for which they have a conflict of interest;
- whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a Councillor must indicate to the Meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the Meeting.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 and Wednesday 13 May 2026 be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

1. Public Question Time

The Council's *Governance Rules 2020* provide the opportunity for members of the public to lodge written questions of broad interest to the Council and the community.

Questions of the Council will not be allowed during any period when the Council has resolved to close the meeting in respect of a matter under section 66 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

A question may be on any matter except if it:

- is considered malicious, defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial, or objectionable in language or substance;
- relates to confidential information as defined under the Act;
- relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer; or
- relates to any other matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

No more than two questions will be accepted from any person at any one meeting. All questions and answers must be as brief as possible, and no discussion may be allowed other than by Councillors for the purposes of clarification.

Like questions may be grouped together and a single answer provided. The Chair may nominate a Councillor, the Chief Executive Officer or another member of Council staff to respond to a question.

Recommendation:

That the question(s) and answer(s) be noted.

2. Petitions

No petitions were submitted to the meeting.

3. Record of Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2026 are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2026 be adopted.

Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee 6 May 2026

1. Planning Permit Application For Use And Development Of A Childcare Centre At 1 Salisbury Street North, Benalla

The report assesses a planning application received to use and develop the subject site at 1 Salisbury Street North, Benalla (Lot 1, PS815910) for a childcare centre. This land comprises an area of 1.14ha, is located on the north side of Duffy Street, Benalla west of Salisbury Street, Benalla east of the rail line and is irregular in shape.

It is noted that the following person made a submission:

- Hadrian Phillip made a submission in support of the planning application. The Chief Executive Officer read the submission aloud.

Cr Davis / Cr Gunaratne:

That an extension of three minutes be granted to the Chief Executive Officer to continue reading aloud the written submission received from Hadrian Phillip.

Carried

Cr King / Cr Hearn:

That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. P008-25 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* decides to refuse to grant a permit under the provisions of the Benalla Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as 1 Salisbury Street N, Benalla for the use and development of a childcare centre in accordance with the plans as lodged with the application dated 20/01/2026, Revision B) and subject to the following grounds:

- 1. The proposal is contrary to purposes of the General Residential Zone (Clause 32.08) of the Benalla Planning Scheme, including:**
 - a. The proposed development does not respond to the neighbourhood character of the area due to the bulk and scale of the built form.**
 - b. The subject site is not an appropriate location for the proposed use and development due to site constraints including flood and site contamination.**
- 2. The proposal is inconsistent with the purpose of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (Clause 44.04) of the Benalla Planning Scheme due to the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with the proposed use and development.**
- 3. The proposal is inconsistent with Clause 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 as does not meet the objectives of various clauses in the Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework of the Benalla Planning Scheme including:**
 - a. Clause 02.03-3 (Environmental Risk and Amenity) due to the flooding characteristics of the subject site and the application has not address bushfire risk.**
 - b. Clause 02.03-5 (Built Environment and Heritage) as the proposed development does not adequately respond to the prevailing neighbourhood character due to the scale and height of built form.**

- c. Clause 02.03-9 (Infrastructure) due to the lack of a connected footpath network for pedestrian and cyclists.
 - d. Clause 13.01-1S (Bushfire Planning) as proposal has not addressed the bushfire risk and the subject site is included in a designated bushfire prone area.
 - e. Clause 13.03-1S (Floodplain Management) as the 1 in AEP flood level will exceed the finished floor levels of the development and the development will potentially increase the flood impact.
 - f. Clause 13.04-1S (Contaminated Land) as the subject site is known to be contaminated and the proposed use is a sensitive use. The submitted material does not satisfactorily address the contamination risk and whether the proposed use as a childcare centre is an acceptable outcome.
 - g. Clause 13.07-1S (Land Use Compatibility) as the proposed use and development does not protect community amenity, human health and safety due to the site constraints of flooding and site contamination.
 - h. Clause 15.01-1S (Urban Design) as there is a lack of pedestrian and cyclist connectivity to support a safe, healthy and functional place.
 - i. Clause 15.01-2S (Building Design) as the proposed built form will result in bulk and height.
 - j. Clause 15.01-5S and Clause 15.01-5L as the proposal is inconsistent with the prevailing neighbourhood character due to the bulk and height of the proposed built form
 - k. Clause 19 (Infrastructure) as the proposed development is not easily accessible for pedestrians and cyclists.
4. The proposal is inconsistent with Clause 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as the environment may have significant effects on the use and development due to the risk of flooding and site contamination.
5. The proposal is inconsistent with Clause 65.01 of the Benalla Planning Scheme due to:
- a. significant effects the environment, including contamination of land may have on the use and development.
 - b. It does not represent orderly planning of the area.
 - c. The effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area due to flood risk, site contamination and being an incompatible land use with the surrounding residential development.
 - d. The unknown impact on native vegetation on the subject site.
 - e. The degree of flood associated with the location of the land and the proposed use and development.
6. The proposal is inconsistent with Planning Practice Note 30: Potentially Contaminated Land as it is not supported by either a Preliminary Risk Screen Assessment or Environmental Audit.

Carried

2. Building and Planning Approvals – March 2026

The report detailed planning permit applications and building approvals for March 2026.

Cr Davis / Cr Merkel:

That the report be noted.

Carried

3. Proposed Tesla Carpark Licence at Barkly Street, Benalla – Hearing of Submissions

It is noted that Cr Justin King declared a general conflict of interest with Item 3. A community member who is known to Cr King through his place of employment made a submission on the proposal. Cr King left the meeting at 6.23pm.

The report presented submissions received on the proposed *Tesla Carpark Licence* at Barkly Street, Benalla.

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

- Claire Grellman spoke in support of the proposal.
- Natalie O'Brien spoke in support of the proposal.
- Michael Hedderman spoke in support of the proposal.
- Andrew Bartram provided a written submission in support of the proposal that was read aloud by the Chief Executive Officer.

Cr Gunaratne / Cr Hearn:

That submissions be received.

Carried

Cr King returned to the meeting at 6.52pm.

4. 2025/26 Quick Response Grants Program

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

Cr Hearn / Cr Merkel:

That the Finance and Planning Committee, acting under its delegated authority of the Council:

Award \$750 grants from the 2025/2026 Quick Response Grant program to the Benalla Swimming Club Inc and the Moorngag Public Hall Committee Inc.

Carried

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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 are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Copies of the Minutes from the following meetings have been provided to councillors in the MS Teams folder.

April and May 2026

1 April	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review
22 April	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
22 April	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review
28 April	Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Control Group
29 April	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review
30 April	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee Meeting
4 May	Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee
5 May	Benalla Festival Advisory Committee
6 May	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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Record of Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees

April and May 2026

Assembly of Councillors – Business Review

6pm Wednesday 1 April 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	
Councillors	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
	Councillor David Blore	
	Councillor Vince Branigan	
	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
In attendance	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Elizabeth Lee	Acting Manager Finance
	Tom Arnold	Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
	Shannon Cooper	Resource and Recovery Coordinator
	Stephen Dowe	Senior Projects and Technical Services Engineer

Apologies: Cr Peter Davis**Conflicts of Interest disclosed:** Cr Branigan declared a conflict of interest on item 2.**Items discussed:**

1. Presentation: Friends of the Benalla Library
2. Recreation Reserve Committees of Management
3. Draft *Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030*
4. Draft *Active Transport Plan 2025-2030*
5. Glass Kerbside Collection Update
6. *Proposed 2026/27 Budget*
7. *Council Plan 2025-2029 Action Plan To 30 June 2027*

Communications Advisory Committee

Midday Wednesday 22 April 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Councillors	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	Councillor Representative
	Councillor David Blore	Councillor Representative
	Councillor Peter Davis	Councillor Representative
Acting Chair	Councillor Puna Gunaratne	Councillor Representative
In attendance	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Jane Archbold	Manager Community
	Grant Banks	Communications and Engagement Coordinator
	Tracey Beaton	Executive Coordinator
	Tess Petrides	Administration Officer Community

Apologies: Cr Bernie Hearn and Cr Peter Davis

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Review of Actions from the Previous Meeting
2. Terms of Reference
3. Current Communications and Community Engagement Projects
4. Challenges
5. Opportunities
6. General Business

Assembly of Councillors – Business Review

7.01pm Wednesday 22 April 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Councillors	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	
Acting Chair	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
	Councillor David Blore	
	Councillor Vince Branigan	
	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
In attendance	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance

Apologies: Cr Bernie Hearn

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Proposed 2026/27 Budget

Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Control Group

2pm Tuesday 28 April 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
Committee	Cr Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor Representative
	Cr David Blore	Councillor Representative
	Barber Alexander OA	Chair Benalla Art Gallery Advisory Committee
	Jason Brown	Browns Project Solutions
	Laura Benson	Browns Project Solutions
	Eric Nash	Benalla Art Gallery Director
	Travis Vincent	Regional Development Victoria
Invitees	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Briana Beggs	Administration Officer

Apologies: Cr Justin King, Jason Brown and Peter Keane

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Update
2. Benalla Art Gallery Advisory Committee Update
3. Funding Provider Update
4. Action Sheet Review
5. General Business

Assembly of Councillors – Business Review

6pm Wednesday 29 April 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)

Councillors Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor David Blore

Councillor Vince Branigan

Councillor Peter Davis

Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne

Councillor Jillian Merkel

In attendance

Peter Keane Chief Executive Officer

Robert Barber General Manager Corporate

Courtney Naughton Manager Economic Development and Sustainability

Nilesh Singh Manager Development

Nathan Gasperoni Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Joel Ingham Planning Coordinator

Apologies: Nil

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Benalla Art Gallery Undercroft
2. Draft *Benalla Rural City Council Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2026-2030*
3. Planning Permit Application For Use And Development Of A Childcare Centre At 1 Salsbury Street North, Benalla
4. Proposed *2026/27 Budget*

Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre (BIRC) Redevelopment Project Steering Committee

Midday Thursday 30 April 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room), 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair:	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
Committee:	Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	Councillor Representative
	Cr Peter Davis	Councillor Representative
	Wally Armstrong	Benalla Basketball Association
	Noel Baumgarten	Community Member
	David Booth	Community Infrastructure and Place, Sport and Recreation Victoria
	David Huxtable	Basketball Victoria
	Tom O'Connor	Basketball Victoria
	Terry Nowland	BIRC Committee of Management
	Simone Sammon	Community Member
	Jenny Sloan	Community Infrastructure and Place, Sport and Recreation Victoria
In attendance:	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Tom Arnold	Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
	Dean Steegstra	Open Space Coordinator
	Laura Benson	Browns Project Solutions
	Bree Glass	Administration Officer

Apologies: Noel Baumgarten and Wally Armstrong

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Project Opportunities
2. Project Design and Community Consultation
3. Key Decisions and Milestones
4. Information Sharing
5. Actions

Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee

1.30pm Monday 4 May 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
Committee	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	Councillor Representative
	Councillor David Blore	Councillor Representative
	Mel Walker	Victoria Police
	Representative	Victoria Police
	Lisa Atkinson	Victoria Police
	Kylie Cotter	Benalla P-12 College
	Joseph Mount	FCJ College Benalla
	Representative	Cooinda Village
	John Stafford	Regional Roads Victoria
	Mo Rasooli	Regional Roads Victoria
	Stephen Dowe	Senior Projects and Technical Services Officer
In attendance	Brianna Beggs	Administration Officer
Apologies:	David Morrow	

Not in attendance Benalla Highway Patrol Representatives and John Stafford

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Terms of Reference Review
2. Inland Rail Project Update
3. Review of Action Sheet
4. Project Updates
5. Opportunities to Work Together and General Business

Benalla Festival Advisory Committee

3.30pm Tuesday 5 May 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor Representative
Committee	Councillor Vince Branigan	Councillor Representative
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	Councillor Representative
	Caroll Bolitho	Community Representative
	Stephanie Brack	Community Representative
Invitees	Courney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Kate Nolan	Tourism and Events Officer
	Sara Bowie	Administrative Officer

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Chair Election
2. Activate Community Update
3. General Business

Assembly of Councillors – Business Review

6.58pm Wednesday 6 May 2026, Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room) 13 Mair Street, Benalla.

Chair	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	
Councillors	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
	Councillor David Blore	
	Councillor Vince Branigan	
	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
In attendance	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance

Apologies: Nil

Conflicts of Interest disclosed: Nil

Items discussed:

1. Proposed 2026/27 Budget

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4. Officer Reports

4.1 Financial Report for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2026

Ref: 198090245-2822

Cathy Fitzpatrick – Manager Finance
Robert Barber – General Manager Corporate

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the financial results compared to budget for the quarter ended 31 March 2026 and presents outcomes from the 2025/26 third quarter budget review

BACKGROUND

Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that at the end of each quarter of the financial year, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a meeting that is open to the public.

The budget report must include a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date and an explanation of any material variations. In addition, the second quarterly report of a financial year must include a statement by the Chief Executive Officer as to whether a revised budget is, or may be, required.

OPERATING RESULT

Year to date 31 March 2026 operating result compared to budget

The report contains the Standard Income Statement and Statement of Capital Projects. The operating result for the quarter ended 31 March 2026 was a surplus of \$7.088 million which was \$1.322 million more than the budgeted surplus of \$13.901 million as shown in Table 1 below.

The Council at its meeting on Wednesday 19 November 2025 reviewed the 2025-26 Budget at the first quarter 2025/26 Budget review. The half-year budget review is presented as Current Budget in table details throughout this report.

Full Year (30 June 2026) Forecast Operating Result compared to budget

The forecast operating result for the year ending 30 June 2026 has been updated to reflect the half-year budget review.

The forecast operating result for the year ending 30 June 2026 is a deficit of \$671,000 which is an unfavourable variance of \$4.650 million compared to the budgeted surplus of \$3.979 million as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Net Operating Result For the Period Ended 31 March 2026 and Annual Forecast Compared To Budget As At 30 June 2026

Income Statement	Notes	YTD Actuals '000	YTD Current Budget '000	YTD Variance '000	Annual Original Budget '000	Annual Current Budget '000	Annual Budget Variance '000
Income/Revenue							
Rates and charges	1	\$24,019	\$24,036	-\$17	\$24,013	\$24,171	\$158
Statutory fees and fines		\$380	\$377	\$3	\$457	\$459	\$2
User fees	2	\$2,991	\$3,041	-\$50	\$2,973	\$3,800	\$827
Operating grants	3	\$4,307	\$4,287	\$20	\$7,621	\$5,667	-\$1,954
Capital grants	4	\$997	\$1,012	-\$15	\$5,940	\$5,229	-\$711
Contributions	5	\$2,323	\$2,306	\$17	\$209	\$2,478	\$2,269
Other income	6	\$1,415	\$1,415	\$0	\$620	\$1,466	\$846
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		\$48	\$48	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue		\$36,480	\$36,522	-\$42	\$41,833	\$43,270	\$1,437
Expenses							
Employee costs	7	\$10,522	\$10,462	-\$60	\$14,914	\$14,219	\$695
Materials and services	8	\$11,706	\$12,506	\$799	\$14,393	\$18,183	-\$3,790
Depreciation amortisation & impairment	9	\$6,695	\$6,178	-\$517	\$7,789	\$10,692	-\$2,903
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14	\$0	\$14
Borrowing costs		\$49	\$60	\$11	\$120	\$120	\$0
Finance costs leases		\$5	\$5	\$0	\$16	\$17	-\$1
Other expenses	10	\$414	\$420	\$5	\$608	\$710	-\$102
Total expenses		\$29,392	\$29,630	\$238	\$37,854	\$43,941	-\$6,087
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		\$7,088	\$6,891	\$197	\$3,979	(\$671)	-\$4,650

Income Statement Notes:

1. EOY forecast favourable result \$158,000 due to supplementary rate revenue consideration of all objections to valuations are finalised.
2. Forecast results to 30 June favourable primarily due to Landfill Admission Charges \$431,000, Tourism \$31,000, Cinema sales \$61,000, and Drainage fees \$133,000.
3. Forecast results to 30 June unfavourable \$1.954 million primarily due to early payment of Financial Assistance Grants.
4. Forecast results to 30 June unfavourable impacted by timing of capital project delivery and grant recognition based on staging capital works completed:

Art Gallery redevelopment to date unfavourable	\$612,000
Part Pump Tack Project grant not required in 25/26 (unfavourable)	\$280,000
Dog Park grant (favourable)	\$150,000
Road project grants (favourable)	\$31,000

5. Forecast results to 30 June favourable \$2.269 million due to contributions gifted assets from Subdivision (non-monetary) \$1.985 million and several additional monetary contributions detailed below:

Visit Victoria – Benalla Street Art	\$150,000
Art Gallery – Ian Potter Foundation	\$70,000
Environmental Operations – Projects	\$58,475
Community – Alliance Funding	\$13,235

6. EOY forecast favourable \$846,000 due to greater earning on investments in 25/26 \$632,000 and reimbursement from insurance for Ceramic Mural \$212,500.
7. Forecast results to 30 June 2026 is expected to be favourable \$695,000 impacted by additional by savings due to budgeted vacant positions throughout the 2025/26 period and offset by additional costs associated with Emergency Events in the December / January period and implementation of Collaborative Digital Transformation Initiative (CODI) and ESVF implementation.

8. YTD favourable \$799,000 several timing variances for materials \$165,000, electricity costs \$106,000, carry forward items from grant funded projects and contributions still to be expended for acquittal of funds (2024/25) \$88,000, insurance costs \$84,000 and green waste mulching costs. Offset by additional grants projects in 25/26 resulting in higher contract payments \$449,000.

Forecast results to 30 June unfavourable \$3.790 million. Many service items have been impacted by 2024/25 delivery delays; accordingly additional carry forward expenditure is forecast in 2025/26 of \$1.829 million generated from grant funded projects and contributions requiring acquittal of funds in 2024/25. The significant items:

Contract Payment	\$1,052,451
EPA Levy	\$894,000
Materials and carry-forward items	\$957,623
Consultants General	\$311,812
Repairs and maintenance	\$203,704
Services non-contract	\$118,810.

Materials and Services expenditure to 31 March 2026 is detailed in **Appendix 1**.

9. Depreciation unfavourable YTD variance \$517,000 as 23/24 CAPEX building and infrastructure assets delivery delayed in 24/25 and has impacted YTD depreciation expense. Revaluation of assets 30 June 2025 also increased depreciation expenses in 2025/26.

Forecast result to 30 June 2026 is unfavourable \$2.9 million increase.

10. Forecast results to 30 June 2026 unfavourable budgeted variance \$116,000. Primarily due to community contributions as Council is the auspice for Ian Potter Foundation sponsorship of the Benalla Art Gallery Foundation \$70,000 (offset by grant income) and increased audit expenses \$21,000.

CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM RESULT

The Capital Projects Program result for the nine months ended 31 March 2026 was an expenditure of \$6.044 million which was \$563,884 less than the YTD Current Budgeted expenditure of \$6.608 million as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Capital Program result for the period ending 31 March 2026 and Forecast to 30 June 2026

Asset By Type	Notes	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budgets	YTD Variance	Full Year Budget	Annual Current Budget	Variance Full-Year Budget
Buildings – specialised	1	\$625,337	\$529,804	-\$95,533	\$2,229,030	\$2,056,485	\$172,545
Land Improvements		\$0	\$45,999	-\$45,999	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$0
Computers and telecommunications		\$23,900	\$15,500	-\$8,400	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0
Fixture fittings and furniture	2	\$215,632	\$170,241	-\$45,391	\$195,000	\$415,000	-\$220,000
Library stock		\$94,555	\$94,255	-\$300	\$96,000	\$96,045	-\$45
Plant and equipment	3	\$396,032	\$388,000	-\$8,032	\$860,000	\$1,134,000	-\$274,000
Aerodrome	4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$305,000	\$555,000	-\$250,000
Bridge	5	\$258,170	\$376,423	\$118,253	\$191,000	\$484,919	-\$293,919
Drainage	6	\$231,073	\$280,083	\$49,010	\$1,377,000	\$836,442	\$540,558
Footpath	7	\$711,968	\$751,432	\$39,464	\$252,000	\$905,000	-\$653,000
Parks open space and streetscapes	8	\$338,735	\$480,313	\$141,578	\$160,000	\$526,449	-\$366,449
Recreational, leisure and community	9	\$298,638	\$700,640	\$402,002	\$1,000,000	\$800,000	\$200,000
Roads		\$2,822,670	\$2,731,520	-\$91,150	\$4,278,000	\$4,183,230	\$94,770
Waste management	10	\$27,616	\$44,000	\$16,384	\$2,226,000	\$351,000	\$1,875,000
Total Capital Works		\$6,044,326	\$6,608,210	\$563,884	\$13,395,030	\$12,569,570	\$825,460

Variances in the Capital Works Program budget are explained in Agenda Item 4.3 Capital Works Program Status As At 31 March 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Significant additional carry forward items from 2024/25 Budget for both operating statement items and capital works projects have been forecast to spend throughout year.

As a result, carry forward items from 2024/25 Budget \$1.829 million for materials and services expenditure is included in the 30 June 2026 forecast in employee costs and materials and services, this is partly funded from unspent grant revenue recognised in the prior year.

The forecast result is based on the Council's status as at 31 March 2026 and reviewed projection during March 2026.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Materials and Services Expenditure to 31 March 2026

Materials and services expenditure	2025/26 YTD Actuals	2025/26 YTD Budgets	2025/26 YTD Variance
0400 - Advertising & Promotion	101,716	113,350	11,634
0401 - Audit / Monitoring costs Landfill	0	13,555	13,555
0402 - Bank Charges	22,722	40,960	18,238
0403 - Canteen Trading Purchases	26,852	22,000	-4,852
0404 - Carry Forward Expenditure	11,583	100,017	88,434
0405 - Catering & Refreshments	58,516	43,179	-15,337
0407 - Cleaning Expenses	188,427	225,957	37,531
0408 - Computer Support/Software	801,370	811,097	9,727
0409 - Consultants General	217,931	280,135	62,204
0410 - Contract Payments	3,892,370	3,443,325	-449,045
0411 - Contract Staff	70,705	26,028	-44,677
0412 - Contributions & Reimbursements	3,439	9,716	6,278
0414 - Councillors Training	3,355	11,667	8,312
0415 - Diesel Rebate (Negative Expense)	-52,338	-40,554	11,784
0417 - Domestic Animals Levy	12,399	11,049	-1,350
0418 - EPA Levy	1,388,058	1,390,000	1,942
0419 - Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging	12	0	-12
0420 - Electricity	315,550	422,453	106,903
0421 - Exhibitions	20,323	42,505	22,182
0422 - Functions & Receptions	14,504	23,335	8,831
0423 - Gas	17,859	26,740	8,881
0424 - Gas Monitoring - Landfill	17,100	11,109	-5,991
0425 - Goods Delivered (Contractual)	13,905	37,864	23,960
0426 - Green Waste Mulching	0	57,936	57,936
0427 - Insurance	580,582	664,994	84,412
0428 - Internal Charge - Expense	0	19,760	19,760
0429 - Internal Plant Hire Expense	-451	23,064	23,515
0430 - Landfill Daily Cover	0	2,499	2,499
0431 - Landfill Rock Supplied	11,264	15,000	3,736
0432 - Lease Payments	0	36,777	36,777
0433 - Legal Expenses	68,572	113,042	44,470
0434 - Machine Hire	79,084	84,717	5,633
0435 - Management Committees	47,665	114,720	67,055
0436 - Materials	609,452	774,472	165,020
0437 - Meeting Expenses	4,937	17,341	12,404
0438 - Membership & Subscriptions software	323,535	219,539	-103,996
0439 - Merchandise	42,516	49,891	7,375
0440 - Museum Fees	4,401	1,128	-3,273
0441 - Distributor Costs - Movies	59,279	48,750	-10,529
0442 - Performing Fees	1,118	0	-1,118
0443 - Postage & Freight	58,186	58,729	543
0444 - Printing Copying & Stationery	24,288	73,120	48,832
0445 - Registrations	23,566	19,524	-4,042
0446 - Rent	103,337	78,215	-25,122
0447 - Repairs & Maintenance	404,434	402,673	-1,761
0448 - Security Expenses	22,576	31,847	9,271
0450 - Services (Non Contract) To Council	1,017,581	1,260,579	242,998
0451 - Staff Training / Courses	94,382	141,222	46,840
0452 - Stores Issues	164,840	166,106	1,266
0453 - Telephone	78,185	114,147	35,962
0455 - Travel Expenses	4,500	4,085	-415
0456 - Tyres Purchased for Plant	5,021	27,492	22,471
0457 - Vandalism	2,135	6,858	4,723
0458 - Vehicle Expenses	21,056	169	-20,887
0459 - Vehicle Fuel	278,004	304,425	26,421
0460 - Vehicle Lease Payments	229,366	192,238	-37,128

Materials and services expenditure	2025/26 YTD Actuals	2025/26 YTD Budgets	2025/26 YTD Variance
0461 - Vehicle Maintenance - Repairs	104,438	112,098	7,660
0462 - Vehicle Maintenance - Standard	40,095	62,382	22,287
0463 - Volunteer (Internal Charge) expenses	0	80,628	80,628
0464 - Water Consumption	51,919	60,290	8,371
0465 - Workcover Expenses	243	0	-243
Expenditure Total	11,706,462	12,505,944	799,482

4.2 Finance Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026

Ref: 198090245-2823
Cathy Fitzpatrick – Manager Finance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents an overview of the functions of the Finance Department for the quarter ended 31 March 2026.

Finance

- Quarter 3 review of forecast result for 30 June 2026 considering impacts against budget phasing 2025/26.
- Released 2025/26 Budget Program and align with new finance system.
- Commence development of 4 year budget documentation requiring reconciliation of CAPEX 25/26 forecast results and 4 year CAPEX program.
- External Audit Preparedness program commenced - introduction of associated software for Financial Statement 2026 requiring remapping to new systems.
- Two Finance staff member attended Finpro training day – focus on Financial Reporting as at 30/06/2026.
- Revenue Management Association conference attended by Revenue, Property and Valuations Coordinator.
- Ongoing participation in North Eastern Digital Transformation Partnership (CODI) system implementation and training on new computer system.

Sundry Debtors

An analysis of the unpaid sundry accounts as at that date with comparative data for the previous year is as follows:

Debtors Balances:

Date	90 days	60 days	30 days	Current	Total
31/03/2026	\$203,159	\$46,103	\$83,439	\$716,068	\$1,048,769
31/12/25	\$214,193	\$129,600	\$155,765	\$176,935	\$676,493
30/09/25	\$287,155	\$44,825	\$219,398	\$210,445	\$761,823
30/06/25	\$81,853	\$125,759	\$190,679	\$705,702	\$1,103,993
31/03/25	\$5,733,543	\$7,601	\$250,034	\$484,545	\$6,471,176

Investment Portfolio

In accordance with the Investment Policy, details of investments held at 31 March 2026 are provided in the following table.

Table 1. Investments held at 31 March 2026

Bank	Short-term credit rating	Investment type	Amount invested \$'000	Interest rate	Term (days)	Maturity date
Rabo	A1+	TD	2,045	4.53%	182	12-Jun-26
Rabo	A1+	TD	2,044	4.41%	122	29-Apr-26
Westpac	A1+	TD	3,135	4.40%	119	29-May-26
Rabo	A1+	TD	4,188	4.51%	90	05-May-26
NAB	A1+	TD	3,534	4.15%	90	06-May-26
NAB	A1+	TD	3,143	4.45%	90	18-May-26
ANZ	A1+	TD	4,289	4.42%	89	24-May-26
NAB	A1+	TD	1,074	4.65%	90	18-Jun-26
Westpac	A1+	TD	2,350	3.75%	30	30-Apr-26
Subtotal			25,800			
CBA	A1+	Operating	10,471	4.3%		
Total			36,271			

**TD refers to general term deposits where the use of interest earned is not restricted.*

These funds are required to meet the Council's short-term commitments, including capital and operating supplier payments, employee payroll costs and loan repayments.

Loan Portfolio

Details of existing loans held at 31 March 2026 are attached in **Appendix 1**.

Loan terms are:

Loan Number	Type	Term
18	Fixed – principal and interest	10 years
19	Variable	10 years
20	Fixed	10 years
21	Fixed	10 years
22	Variable	10 Years

Revenue, Property and Valuations

- Third instalment notices issued to all ratepayers.
- E-notice stats:
 - EzyBill – 861
 - BPAY View – Cancelled service due to Banks phasing service out.

Rates and Charges Revenue

Third instalment notices were issued 23 January 2026 with payment due by 28 February 2026.

Valuation objections to the 2025 valuations have now all been processed by Valuer-General Victoria. In total, 21 objections were successfully lodged, reducing the total Capital Improved Value by \$ 7.7 million.

Procurement

Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation

The purpose of this sections is to inform the Council and Community of publicly advertised tenders which have been awarded under delegation for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.

Eight contracts were awarded for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.

Delegation of Procurement Authority to Chief Executive Officer

As per the *Procurement Policy*, instances where the Chief Executive Officer approved expenditure for statutory charges or other matters, generally consistent with the approved or revised budget, be reported quarterly.

The following table provides a summary of approvals.

Invoice Date	Type	Amount
1/1/2026	EPA Levy – Quarter 1 (1/10/25 to 31/12/25)	\$443,811

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029 ACTION PLAN

Leadership

Good Governance		
Strategy	Action	March Quarter Update
Deliver responsible budget outcomes linked to strategy that maintain financial sustainability and deliver value for money and rating fairness.	Ongoing development of <i>Financial Plan</i>	Preparation of third Quarter Year Budget review as at 30 June 26.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 March 2026.

	Notes	YTD Actuals '000	YTD Current Budget '000	Variance '000	Annual Original Budget '000	Annual Current Budget '000	Variance '000
Income							
Acquisition & Disposal of Council Properties		\$48	\$48	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property & Valuations	1	\$19,413	19,438	-\$25	\$19,385	\$19,586	\$201
Accounting Operations	2	\$2,528	\$2,507	\$21	\$4,219	\$3,109	-\$1,110
Income Total		\$21,990	\$21,994	-\$4	\$23,605	\$22,696	-\$909
Expenditure							
Acquisition & Disposal of Council Properties		\$1	\$0	-\$1	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property & Valuations	3	\$202	181	-\$21	318	219	\$99
Accounting Operations		\$774	791	\$17	1,135	1,175	-\$39
Expenditure Total		\$977	972	-\$5	1,454	1,394	\$60
Total		\$21,012	\$21,021	-\$9	\$22,151	\$21,302	\$849

Notes:

1. Additional rate and charges revenue supplementary rates and charges \$151,000, additional Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Management Grant funding 50,000 Forecast favourable result \$201,000 as valuation objections are finalised.
2. Unfavourable variance due to Victoria Grants Commission payment for 2025/26 being received in June 2024/25 year – General Purpose grant \$1.937 million. Offset by higher payment than budgeted extra \$183,000 2025/26 Victoria Grants Commission grant. Interest income YTD favourable variance due to higher interest revenue earned.
3. Additional staff costs associated with the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund administration (funded by grant).

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Loans held at 31 March 2026

Interest to be paid:

Loan Number	2025/2026 Year	2026/2027 Year	2027/2028 Year	2028/2029 Year	2029/2030 Year	2030/2031 Year	Total
18	\$1,372	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,372
19	\$4,459	\$1,595	-	-	-	-	\$6,054
20	\$8,303	\$4,796	\$1,763	-	-	-	\$14,862
21	\$6,299	\$4,343	\$2,565	\$716	-	-	\$13,924
22	\$50,904	\$39,319	\$30,859	\$22,224	\$13,677	\$5,130	\$162,112
Total Interest Payable	\$71,336	\$50,054	\$35,187	\$22,941	\$13,677	\$5,130	\$198,324

Principal to be paid:

Loan Number	2025/2026 Year	2026/2027 Year	2027/2028 Year	2028/2029 Year	2029/2030 Year	2030/2031 Year	Total
18	\$58,819	-	-	-	-	-	\$58,819
19	\$55,356	\$56,906	-	-	-	-	\$112,262
20	\$52,851	\$56,357	\$55,076	-	-	-	\$164,283
21	\$52,450	\$54,405	\$56,183	\$43,707	-	-	\$206,745
22	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$1,140,000
Total Principal Payable	\$409,475	\$357,668	\$301,259	\$233,707	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$1,682,109

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4.3 Capital Works Program Status As At 31 March 2026

Ref: 1573044422-1336

Adrian Gasperoni – Manager Assets and Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents an update on the Capital Works Program as at 31 March 2026.

BACKGROUND

Capital projects are funded from general revenue and grant funding. An update on the status of key capital projects is discussed below.

DISCUSSION

Capital Projects

Highlights for the year to date include:

- North Benalla Shared Pathway works were completed. Negotiations are ongoing with Metro Service Station to complete the path works.
- The works for The Culdesac drainage upgrade were awarded to Extons. The works are due to commence in early May 2026.
- *TAC Safe Local Roads \$2 Million Program* for Tarnook Road and Pagets Road intersection and Mitchell Street and Mackellar Street intersection tendered.
- Design process ongoing for the *Victorian Safe System Pedestrian Infrastructure Program Funding* (Bridge Street and Carrier Street pedestrian crossings).
- Design being finalised for blackspot funding at Goorambat-Thoona Road/Bungeet Road, Goorambat.
- Reseal preparation work commenced and are ongoing.
- Road resealing program for 2025/26 commenced, works due to be completed in May 2026.
- Gravel road re-sheeting and Shoulder Re-sheeting program for 2025/26 completed.
- Kerb and channel replacement program 2025/26 completed.
- Footpath construction program for 2025/26 completed.
- Asphalt pavement patching program for 2025/26 completed.
- Funding application submitted for the *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project*.
- Work on the draft *Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030* is ongoing.
- Work on the draft *Active Transport Plan 2025-2030* ongoing, due for completion in April 2026.
- The replacement of the Motor Grader was awarded to Williams Adams for supply of a CAT grader. Estimation for delivery is May 2026.
- Remaining Hino heavy truck fitted with tipper body was delivered in late March 2026.
- The Revaluation of Council Assets for financial reporting is ongoing.
- Drainage Assets Revaluation and Condition Assessment tendered. Tender closes April 2026.

- Conquest review of data with assistance from Tonkin Consultants ongoing.

A Capital Works Program Status Report is attached as **Appendix 1**.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital Program result for the period ending 31 March 2026 and Forecast to 30 June 2026

Asset By Type	Notes	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budgets	YTD Variance	Full Year Budget	Annual Current Budget	Variance
(A) Property							
Buildings – specialised		\$625,337	\$529,804	-\$95,533	\$2,229,030	\$2,056,485	\$172,545
Land Improvements		\$0	\$45,999	-\$45,999	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$0
(B) Plant and Equipment							
Computers and telecommunications		\$23,900	\$15,500	-\$8,400	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0
Fixture fittings and furniture	1	\$215,632	\$170,241	-\$45,391	\$195,000	\$415,000	-\$220,000
Library stock		\$94,555	\$94,255	-\$300	\$96,000	\$96,045	-\$45
Plant and equipment	2	\$396,032	\$388,000	-\$8,032	\$860,000	\$1,134,000	-\$274,000
(C) Infrastructure							
Aerodrome	3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$305,000	\$555,000	-\$250,000
Bridge	4	\$258,170	\$376,423	\$118,253	\$191,000	\$484,919	-\$293,919
Drainage	5	\$231,073	\$280,083	\$49,010	\$1,377,000	\$836,442	\$540,558
Footpath	6	\$711,968	\$751,432	\$39,464	\$252,000	\$905,000	-\$653,000
Parks open space and streetscapes	7	\$338,735	\$480,313	\$141,578	\$160,000	\$526,449	-\$366,449
Recreational, leisure and community	8	\$298,638	\$700,640	\$402,002	\$1,000,000	\$800,000	\$200,000
Roads		\$2,822,670	\$2,731,520	-\$91,150	\$4,278,000	\$4,183,230	\$94,770
Waste management	9	\$27,616	\$44,000	\$16,384	\$2,226,000	\$351,000	\$1,875,002
Total Capital Works		\$6,044,326	\$6,608,210	\$563,884	\$13,395,030	\$12,569,570	\$825,460

Notes

1. Forecast computers and telecommunications expenditure reallocated to fixture, fittings and furniture.
2. Truck purchased 2024/25 but delivered and paid for in 2025/26.
3. Runway renewal and upgrade project forecast expenditure more than budgeted.
4. Portion of Racecourse Road and Gillies Street Drainage upgrade projects charged to Bridges but budgeted under drainage.
5. West Main Drain upgrade works (\$655,000) to be delivered in 2026/27 offset by Culdesac, Benalla drainage works more than budgeted (\$189,000).
6. More than budgeted expenditure on North Benalla Shared Path project and unbudgeted expenditure on Lake Benalla Boardwalk Refurbishment project (grant funded).
7. Grant-funded Saleyards Road Dog Park project not originally budgeted for.
8. Fawckner Drive Precinct Pump Track project expenditure forecast to be less than budgeted. Unspent budget to be carried forward to 2026/27 for other Fawckner Drive Precinct works.
9. Area 2A rehabilitation works and majority of Cell 3B construction works deferred to 2026/27.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Benalla Rural City Council Project Status Report as at 8 May 2026

	Original Project Budget	Forecast Project Budget	Stage	Status	Notes
Tarnook Rd & Pagets Rd, Baddaginnie - Y-Intersection Removal/Reconfiguration		TBC	Planning and Design	Low	Contract awarded with works expected to be completed in 2026/2027.
Clarke St & Waller St, Benalla, Raised Intersection & Raised Priority Crossing		TBC	Planning and Design	Low	Planning and Design completed. Procurement commenced Total TAC allocation is \$2 Million for all 4 Projects.
Martin Pl, Benson St & Thomas St, Benalla - Roundabout & Raised Priority Crossings		TBC	Planning and Design	Low	Planning and Design completed. Procurement commenced Total TAC allocation is \$2 Million for all 4 Projects.
Mitchell St, Ackerly Ave & Mackellar St, Benalla - Roundabouts, LATM & Raised Priority Crossing		TBC	Planning and Design	Low	Contract awarded with works expected to be completed in 2026/2027.
Bridge Renewal Program	191,000	191,000	Planning and Design	Medium	Potential for minor works to be undertaken on several bridges. Total budget is not expected to be spent in 2026/2027.
Blackspot Funding - relocate splitter islands various Benalla locations	-	232,560	Planning and Design	Low	Design underway.
Kerb and Channel Renewal Program	190,000	190,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
Regulation Program - R2R	64,000	64,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
Crack Sealing - Council Funded Component	24,000	24,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
Sealed Roads Preparation for Resealing	200,000	200,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
Shoulder Resheet Program	1,098,000	1,098,000	Delivery	Low	Works reaching completion in May 2026.
Reseal Program - RTR	1,351,000	1,351,000	Delivery	Low	Works reaching completion in May 2026.
Sealing of Gravel Roads Program	50,000	50,000	Delivery	Low	Works reaching completion in May 2026.
Gravel Resheet Program	889,000	889,000	Delivery	Low	Works reaching completion in May 2026.
Footpath Renewal Strategy	100,000	100,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
Footpaths	102,000	102,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
New footpath Midland Hwy to Equestrian Precinct	103,000	382,500	Delivery	Medium	Works almost complete, bar a small section fronting the Metro Fuel Station, with negotiations underway to coordinate works.
Lake Benalla Boardwalk Refurbishment Project	205,000	205,000	Construction	Low	Works completed, awaiting Handover.
Drainage Strategy	1,244,000	345,000	Delivery	High	Works expected to be carried over into 2026/2027.
The Culdesac - Drainage	400,000	560,000	Delivery	Medium	Works commenced and expected to be completed before EOFY subject to weather.
Pits and pipes, CQ ID NA	74,000	74,000	Delivery	Low	Ongoing.
Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Roof Renewal	450,000	450,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
VIC Basement Concrete Sealing	50,000	50,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment	3,000,000	1,500,000	Delivery	Low	Works commenced with expected completion in April 2027.
Major Plant	630,000	630,000	Procurement	Low	New Grader ordered and expected delivery in May 2026. Plant Trailer currently under procurement.
Small Plant Upgrade	30,000	30,000	Delivery	Low	Ongoing.
Vehicle Replacement Strategy	200,000	200,000	Delivery	Low	Ongoing.
HVAC Renewal	32,000	32,000	Delivery	Low	Works on Civic Centre and Customer Service Centre to occur in coming weeks.
Community Christmas Tree	50,000	50,000	Completed	Low	Complete.
IT Projects - identified in service plan	180,000	180,000	Delivery	Low	Ongoing.
Library Purchases - Hub	96,000	96,000	Completed	Low	Complete.
Waste Management - Cell 3B Construction	951,000	951,000	Delivery	Low	Contract awarded. Site Works due to commence in May/June 2026.
Waste Management - Cell 2A Rehabilitation	1,250,000	-	Not Started	High	Project delayed to 2026/2027 inline with Masterplan
Pump Track (BMX) design / construction	1,000,000	750,000	Delivery	Low	Slight delay, however, works continuing, with expected completion in June 2026.
Playground Replacement Program	50,000	50,000	Procurement	Low	Priorities Developed.
Devenish Playground Fence Replacement	30,000	30,000	Completed	Low	Fence completed in 2024/2025.
McKellar St Playground Fence	80,000	80,000	Delivery	Low	Fence completed and Shade Sails works commenced with expected completion late in May 2026.
Saleyards dog Park (2)	250,000	250,000	Handover	Low	Completed.
Benalla Airfield Runway/Taxiway Lighting	250,000	250,000	Planning and Design	High	Project expected to be undertaken in 2026/2027.

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4.4 Assets and Infrastructure Department Activity Report for The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026

Ref: 1573044422-1332

Adrian Gasperoni – Manager Asset and Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the Assets and Infrastructure Department for the quarter ended 31 March 2026.

Assets and Infrastructure

Assets and Infrastructure department continued to provide maintenance throughout the municipality with a focus on gravel road grading and nature strip tree maintenance.

Highlights for the quarter are detailed below.

Operations

- Completed grading of 137 kilometers of gravel roads.
- Completed grading of 8.5 kilometers of sealed road shoulders.
- Replaced 10 square metres of concrete footpath in Munroe Avenue.
- Carried out urban kerb and channel cleaning of 360 streets with the street sweeper and collected approximately 81 tonnes of waste.
- Repaired 6 leaking fire hydrants throughout Benalla.
- Provided support to the Goomalibee fires in the form of supplying water trucks and graders and implementing road closures throughout the area.
- Changed the central business district banners and eastern gateway flags to the Street Art Festival “See The Art in Everything” banners.
- Carried out line marking renewal including repainting of car parks and intersections throughout the township.
- Carried out sealed road maintenance.
- Carried out routine rural drainage maintenance.
- Carried out rural carriageway tree pruning maintenance.

Depot

- 240 Tonne of 20-millimetre crushed rock for stock at depot (for gravel road and shoulder maintenance).
- 160 Tonne of 40-millimetre crushed rock for stock at depot (for gravel road and shoulder maintenance).
- 75 Tonne of 7-millimetre premix for stock at depot (for sealed road maintenance).
- 30 Tonne of 7-millimetre precoat for stock at depot (for sealed road maintenance).
- 40 Tonne of 10-millimetre precoat for stock at depot (for sealed road maintenance).
- 6,000 litres of bitumen emulsion for stock at depot (for sealed road maintenance).

Parks and Gardens and Open Spaces

- Installed new fencing at the Mackellar Street Playground. With the Shade cloth to be installed during May 2026.
- Carried out Level 3 Playground inspections, including the splash park and exercise equipment throughout the municipality and undertook repairs as required.
- Continued with the Collection of Tree Data in streets, parks and Council managed land.
- Commenced the Powerline Clearance Tender work for 2026.
- Completed the removal of eight trees throughout the municipality.
- Carried out the street tree watering program for new plantings and significant trees.
- Carried out routine urban tree clearing maintenance.
- Carried out routine roadside slashing of town entrances, parks and reserves.
- Carried out routine irrigation repair works and replacement at parks and reserves, including the Botanical Gardens.
- Carried out garden bed renovations at the Botanical Gardens.
- Carried out ongoing pest and fungicide treatment at the Botanical Gardens.
- Carried out graffiti removal in several locations around the Benalla township.
- Carried out mowing and garden bed maintenance at four Department of Housing estates.
- Carried out lawn maintenance of the Splash Park, Churchill Reserve, Botanical Gardens and Devenish Reserve.
- Carried out routine irrigation and repair works at the Benalla Showgrounds and Churchill Reserve.
- Attended Committee of Management meetings for the Benalla Showgrounds and Churchill Reserve.

Waste

- Prepared a draft Waste Management Financial Model.
- The tender for Cell 3B Landfill Construction Audit was awarded to Tonkin and Taylor.
- Provided additional waste management measures for the Goomalibee Fire. Over 1360 tonnes of waste from fire effected areas taken in so far.
- Construction process has commenced for Cell 3B, the variation has been approved by EPA for using majority clay for the soil protection layer with a small amount of sand, saving Council a significant amount of money over the life of the cell.
- Completed the review of the business cases for the Landfill Compactor, Transfer Station Hook Lift Truck and Bin.
- Completed the Kerbside contract review.
- Quarterly leachate ground water and landfill gas monitoring were completed.
- Commenced a review of the Waste Services Policy, a number of changes will be brought to Council for consideration along with community consultation.
- Landfill site slashing was undertaken.
- Transition from Landfills' original EPA Works Order to a new Development Licence was completed so now the Licence Amendment with the EPA can be assessed.

- CDS Diversion baskets have been ordered to put onto the side of the street bins to prevent damage being caused to the street bins from people looking for eligible containers, this was funded by a grant, a communications plan and partnership with local community waste and recycling group (Waste Wise) to champion the project.
- Green Waste and processed timber mulching.

Asset Management

- The Revaluation of Council Assets for financial reporting is ongoing.
- Drainage Assets Revaluation and Condition Assessment tendered. Tender closes April 2026.
- Conquest review of data with assistance from Tonkin Consultants ongoing.

The following table outlines requests for works received through the *Asset Edge – Reflect* program of inspection and *Customer Request Management System*.

Task	June 2025	September 2025	December 2025	March 2026
Defects overdue on roads and drains – safety only:				
Link roads	7	8	4	4
Collector roads	11	11	3	3
Access roads	29	8	14	10
Defects overdue on footpaths - safety only	1	0	0	7
Defects rectified – routine maintenance and safety – road, footpath and parks	144	301	142	184
Defects and maintenance – items outstanding – road, footpath and parks	251	207	90	232
Unsealed roads graded (km)	147	138	94	137
Sealed road shoulders graded (km)	41	24	62	8.5

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 March 2026

	Notes	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Original Budget	Annual Current Budget	Variance
Income							
Asset Management Services	1	\$1,985,586	\$1,985,586	\$0	\$0	\$1,985,586	\$1,985,586
Capital Projects Operations	2	\$997,441	\$1,010,653	-\$13,212	\$5,939,629	\$5,228,806	-\$710,823
Drainage	3	\$145,362	\$145,858	-\$496	\$12,858	\$145,858	\$133,000
Kerbside Waste		\$4,738,282	\$4,730,747	\$7,535	\$4,780,775	\$4,800,775	\$20,000
Landfill	4	\$1,998,886	\$2,137,278	-\$138,392	\$2,188,115	\$2,609,115	\$421,000
Operations Support	5	\$757,988	\$795,173	-\$37,185	\$2,033,911	\$1,110,278	-\$923,633
Recreation	6	\$44,240	\$44,894	-\$654	\$9,117	\$49,117	\$40,000
Income Total		\$10,667,785	\$10,850,189	-\$182,404	\$14,964,405	\$15,929,535	\$965,130

	Notes	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Original Budget	Annual Current Budget	Variance
Expenditure							
Asset Management Services	7	\$273,852	\$267,690	-\$6,162	\$350,278	\$550,278	-\$200,000
Bridges		\$15,425	\$100,354	\$84,929	\$160,977	\$170,634	-\$9,657
Capital Projects Operations	8	\$527,136	\$490,493	-\$36,643	\$600,111	\$1,025,485	-\$425,374
Drainage		\$402,188	\$418,420	\$16,232	\$546,004	\$546,004	\$0
Kerbside Waste	9	\$1,387,037	\$1,513,234	\$126,197	\$1,868,273	\$2,090,944	-\$222,671
Landfill	10	\$2,282,207	\$2,071,261	-\$210,946	\$1,803,219	\$2,832,214	-\$1,028,995
Mechanics Workshop		\$39,804	\$65,976	\$26,172	\$87,367	\$87,367	\$0
Operations Support		\$851,655	\$549,745	-\$301,910	\$730,869	\$761,968	-\$31,099
Parks and Gardens		\$712,644	\$886,566	\$173,922	\$1,177,807	\$1,177,507	\$300
Plant Operations		\$5,139,194	\$4,380,417	-\$758,777	\$7,329,121	\$8,496,447	-\$1,167,326
Recreation	11	\$250,019	\$208,943	-\$41,076	\$564,548	\$352,448	\$212,100
Roadsides	12	\$395,285	\$408,098	\$12,813	\$450,333	\$562,893	-\$112,560
Sealed Roads	13	\$402,545	\$434,956	\$32,411	\$721,153	\$557,223	\$163,930
Street Cleaning		\$33,765	\$46,646	\$12,881	\$84,126	\$84,116	\$10
Unsealed Roads		\$605,801	\$747,947	\$142,146	\$991,972	\$1,063,309	-\$71,337
Expenditure Total		\$13,318,557	\$12,590,746	-\$727,811	\$17,466,158	\$20,358,837	-\$2,892,679
Net Expenditure		\$2,650,772	\$1,740,557	-\$910,215	\$2,501,753	\$4,429,302	-\$1,927,549

Notes:

1. Asset Management Services income shows a variance of (\$1,985,000) from original to current budget due to the recognition of gifted assets from subdivision including sealed pavements, sealed surface, sealed formation, kerb and channel, footpaths and drainage.
2. Capital Projects Operations income shows a variance of \$710,823 from original to current budget. This is due to changes in the process and therefore the income recognition for grant funded capital projects resulting in a reduction in the recognition of funding for the Art Gallery Redevelopment State funding in 25/26 of \$1,112,035. and the Pump Track of \$280,000. This is offset by additional income recognition on the Saleyards Dog Park of (\$150,000), TAC projects including Tarnook Road, Clark Street, Martin Place and Mitchell Street of (\$31,212) and recognition of part of the Federal Art Gallery redevelopment project funding (\$500,000)
3. Drainage income shows a variance of (\$133,000) from original to current budget. This is due to the addition of drainage assets at Stablewood Estate subdivision (\$145,361).
4. Landfill income shows a variance of (\$421,000) from original to current budget. This is due to increase in commercial admission income of (\$151,000) offset by a decrease in steel income of \$25,000 and a reallocation of the Education Waste income of \$10,000, an increase in transfer station admission income of (\$40,000). As a result of the increase in admission income there is also an increase in EPA income of (\$265,000).
5. Operations Support income shows a variance of \$923,000 from original to current budget. Reduced income due to the early payment in 24/25 of the local roads portion of the Federal Assistance Grants.
6. Recreation income shows a variance of (\$40,000) from original to current budget. This is due to the receipt of (\$40,000) for the Recreation Reserve Master Plan.
7. Asset Management Services expenditure shows a variance of \$200,000 from original to current budget. This is due to allocation of budget for asset valuation program \$200,000.
8. Capital Projects Operations expenditure shows a variance of \$425,374 from original to current budget. This is due to the carry forward of \$590,374 from 24/25 for the scoping of future capital works projects offset by savings in salaries due to vacancy position (\$165,000).
9. Kerbside Waste expenditure shows a variance of \$222,671 from original to current budget. This is due to an increase in the current budget to reflect the current economic conditions and rate changes for the domestic collection contract.
10. Landfill expenditure shows a variance of \$1,028,995 from original to current budget. This is due to an increase in the EPA Levy that had been reallocated from the original budget in landfill operations (\$936,440) to an independent EPA Levy work order and adjusted to match the actual and the additional future expense of \$1,831,000. Expenditure was also adjusted for Machine Hire contracts, consultants and fuel totalling \$133,960
11. Recreation expenditure shows a variance of (\$212,100) from original to current budget. This is due to a reallocation of recreation operational expenditure of (\$352,100) to Parks and Gardens where expenditure had been allocated and the addition of \$140,000 for the Recreation Reserve Master Plan comprising \$40,000 from grant funding and \$100,000 of carry forward funds from the prior year.
12. Roadsides expenditure shows a variance of \$112,560 from original to current budget. This is due to a reallocation of labour budget from sealed roads to roadside works of \$70,539 and footpaths \$39,120

13. Sealed Roads expenditure shows a variance of (\$163,930) from original to current budget. This is due to the reallocation of labour budget from sealed roads to roadside works of \$70,539 and footpaths \$39,120 as well as a reallocation of expenditure for contract payments from sealed road pavement repairs to various work orders to offset additional costs in contract maintenance works (\$57,053).

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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4.5 Development Department Activity Report for Quarter Ended 31 March 2026

Ref: 2005329054-548
Nilesh Singh – Manager Development

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the Development Department for the quarter ended 31 March 2026.

Strategic Planning

- The Heritage Study is progressing with a meeting of the Heritage Working Group held on 20 October 2025. The meeting outlined the work undertaken on the Heritage Study to date including the completion of the draft heritage study with properties to be included into the study. It was advised at the meeting that any comments from the working group should be received within one month of the meeting. Comments from the working group have now been received and are with Council's Heritage Advisor to update the draft *Heritage Study* where required. It is then anticipated that the draft *Heritage Study* will be advertised to affected properties as per the *Heritage Study Engagement Plan* approved by the Council. The data extraction for the mail out to affected properties is currently underway with notification to take place in the month of June.
- The Benalla Planning Scheme Review amendment (C45) was approved at the Council Meeting held on 17 December 2025. The amendment was approved by the Minister for Planning on 13 March 2026. The amendment is now incorporated into the Benalla Planning Scheme.
- The *Benalla Growth Strategy* is progressing with three more studies including updated drainage strategy, a retail/commercial study and a service strategy being undertaken. A draft retail/commercial study has been completed and is currently being reviewed by Council Officers. The other two studies are in the process of having draft reports completed by the end of May.

Statutory Planning

- 37 applications received during the quarter.
- 24 applications decided during the quarter.
- 37.5 per cent of applications were decided within statutory timeframes.

Building Surveying

- 97 building inspections.
- 114 building certificates.
- 14 building permits issued.
- 96 private building permits issued.

Public Health

- An expression of interest was lodged for the placement of an applied science Environmental Health student from La Trobe University for 120 hours. This is unpaid and a position description was created for the student to give them a broad environmental health work experience and focus on a specific project that will assist Council. We hope the student can also contribute to the development of the Health and Wastewater Software being developed as part of the CODI project with 3 other Council's.

- A rooming house inspection detected breaches of both building department fire safety requirements and operation of a business not in accordance with the planning permit. Registration has been withheld until these issues have been rectified.
- Faults with a caravan park water supply system were identified where unsafe water may have been provided to residents and their visitors.

Compliance

- The compliance team impounded 79 domestic animals.
- Responded to 217 domestic animal related requests.
- 18 dogs and cats were returned to their homes.

Emergency Management

- The Science, Technology Against Natural Disasters (STAND) project roll out has commenced with one unforeseen hitch. Swanpool Community Hall has previously (and unknown to Council) already put in a similar system. STAND is a satellite-based phone system designed to give local communities phone and internet coverage should a major storm or fire take out mobile towers. BRCC won a grant system for ten (now nine) units to be installed across the Municipality.
- Council has received a request to nominate Molyullah Hall as a Neighbourhood Safer Place-Bushfire Place of Last Resort. (NSP-BPLR) The request has come from the Community via local CFA and has the backing of regional CFA and is well received by BRCC.
- The Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) Storm and Flood sub-plan (SES) has been forwarded to the Hume REMPC for assessment.
- The Fire Danger Period concluded on 7th April.

Manager Development

Septic Tanks

- 22 Permit to Install issued.
- 25 Certificate to Use issued.
- 108 septic inspections conducted.

Wastewater Referrals for Planning Permit

- 22 applications were referred for planning comments to Manager Development for wastewater comments for planning proposals.

Fee Dispensation

The Council supports community groups and not-for-profit organisations through fee dispensation or reduction and responding to other circumstances as warranted.

For the quarter ended 31 March 2026, six applications to the value of \$405 in fee dispensations were approved:

Fundraising	3
General	3
Food and/or accommodation premises	0
Planning Matters	0
Building Matters	0

Applications Received:

Applicant	Permit Type	Value
Brandon Robinson – Global Interactive Group	Fundraising	\$67.50
Benalla RSL Sub-Branch	General	\$67.50
Salvation Army Australia	Fundraising	\$67.50
Hume Region Girl Guides	Fundraising	\$67.50
Amanda Challis – Community Breakfast Flag Raising and Award Presentation	General	\$67.50
Devenish Market	General	\$67.50
Total		\$405.00

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating budget result for the period ending 31 March 2026.

	Notes	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budget	Variance	Annual Original Budget	Annual Current Budget	Variance
Income							
Building		\$157,587	\$174,473	-\$16,886	\$185,578	\$182,955	-\$2,623
Compliance	1	\$207,673	\$229,956	-\$22,283	\$117,001	\$305,915	\$188,914
Development Operations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Emergency Management		\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Environmental Health		\$33,476	\$69,743	-\$36,267	\$96,281	\$94,341	-\$1,940
Planning	2	\$390,542	\$246,465	\$144,077	\$215,541	\$362,731	\$147,190
Income Total		\$849,278	\$780,637	\$68,641	\$674,401	\$1,005,942	\$331,541
Expenditure							
Building	3	\$325,380	\$297,575	-\$27,805	\$491,733	\$442,364	\$49,369
Compliance		\$766,126	\$771,949	\$5,823	\$995,300	\$1,000,191	-\$4,891
Development Operations		\$189,298	\$218,892	\$29,594	\$303,783	\$302,970	\$813
Emergency Management		\$188,365	\$65,249	-\$123,116	\$82,107	\$88,761	-\$6,654
Environmental Health		\$142,247	\$168,030	\$25,783	\$223,101	\$223,101	\$0
Planning	4	\$351,245	\$362,029	\$10,784	\$457,067	\$786,921	-\$329,854
Expenditure Total		\$1,962,661	\$1,883,724	-\$78,937	\$2,553,091	\$2,844,308	-\$291,217
Net Expenditure		\$1,113,383	\$1,103,087	-\$10,296	\$1,878,690	\$1,838,366	\$40,324

Notes:

1. Animal Registration Due April 2026.
2. Fees income from permits and subdivisions.
3. Unfavourable variance due to building income being lower than expected and payment to contract building surveyors which expired in November 2025.
4. Variance due to carry forward from last financial year for the Benalla Urban Growth Study and Heritage Study.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the Community Department for the quarter ended 31 March 2026.

Community Development and Recreation

- Pump Track construction is progressing well, with the track footprint established and shaping works underway for riders of all ages and abilities. Playce has been engaged to commence detailed design for the next project stages, including footpaths, seating and undercover areas.
- Staff are working with SportENG and user groups to develop draft Recreation Masterplans for four reserves (Churchill, Friendlies, Gardens and Showgrounds), with further consultation planned for May and June.
- The annual Community Grants program opened on 2 March and closes at the end of April, supporting projects that strengthen connection, build capacity and improve wellbeing. Staff are assisting community groups with applications, and three Quick Response Grants were awarded this period.
- Staff have attended Committees of Management meetings across recreation reserves and are working through management models to support user groups and volunteers.
- Staff continue to attend the Benalla Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, now meeting bimonthly with shared resourcing across organisations. Aboriginal community Caucus meetings are also held prior to provide space for local discussion. Both groups are planning for National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.
- The Benalla Health and Wellbeing Partnership reviewed its Terms of Reference in February and heard updates on the Benalla Community Food Collective Strategy and Community Legal Service (Advancing Housing Justice). The March meeting featured speakers from Aboriginal programs supporting or operating in Benalla, alongside routine partner updates.
- Staff met with the Census Engagement Manager to discuss Council's role in promoting the 11 August Census, with a focus on engaging harder-to-reach community members.
- Staff attended the Goomalibee community thank-you event on 14 February, with over 100 community members present.
- The Free From Violence Coordinator attended PreventX 2026: Stories for Change in late March, Australia's leading family and gender-based violence prevention conference, focused on how storytelling can support lasting change.

Communication and Community Engagement

- The Communications team played a critical role in emergency and recovery communications during the high-risk summer bushfire period. Participation in the Hume Regional Relief Committee ensured alignment with timely regional messaging and resources following the Longwood fire event. Efforts to consolidate fragmented communication channels strengthened Council's ability to keep the community informed, supported by ongoing engagement with peak bodies such as the Municipal Association of Victoria.

- Communications planning supported the Benalla Art Gallery redevelopment as it transitioned to delivery. This included developing an Engagement and Communications Plan, Councillor key messages and FAQs, and preparing media and stakeholder communications to clearly outline project timing, impacts and community benefits ahead of construction.
- The team continued to embed communications governance across major projects, including the *Road Safety Strategy and Active Transport Plan*, providing guidance to ensure clarity, consistency and early integration of communications in planning and exhibition processes.
- A focus on building organisational capability included media and public speaking training for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO (23–24 March 2026), alongside coordination of team performance reviews and ongoing monitoring of sector trends to support continuous improvement.
- During the period, Council achieved 634 media mentions, with a potential reach of 4.88 million and an estimated Advertising Space Rate (ASR) value of \$2.86 million. Newspaper coverage accounted for 89.7% of total reach (4.37 million).
- Council's Facebook page grew by 343 followers, with a significant increase during the Longwood bushfire (8–9 January), reflecting reliance on emergency updates. A further late-March spike was driven by paid promotion, demonstrating effective targeting and increased engagement.

Youth Development

- Amplify (formerly FReeZA) activities included a school holiday screening of *Anaconda* on 20 January, recruitment of five new committee members, and ongoing meetings focused on planning 2026 events.
- On 25 February, 55 young people were inducted into the 2026 Live4Life Benalla Crew, including Australian Christian College students joining for the first time. The induction built understanding of the program, mental health advocacy, and upcoming planning, while fostering team connection.
- The Live4Life Crew Celebration Day was held on 29 March at Funfields, recognising members' contributions in 2025. Originally scheduled for January, the event was rescheduled due to the Longwood bushfires.
- The Live4Life Crew is actively preparing for the 2026 Launch on 6 May, developing a presentation to introduce Year 8 students to the program and mental health education through engaging activities.
- The Live4Life program continues to be supported by a strong partnership of local schools and service providers.
- In February, YDC met with Ed Space to explore their involvement in the Live4Life program. As a next step, Ed Space staff will undertake Youth Mental Health First Aid training prior to student participation in the Teen MHFA program.



Crew Induction



Crew Celebration Day

- The L2P program continued to perform strongly, with seven young people obtaining their licence during the period. An average of 17 mentors delivered over 740 hours of supervised driving, alongside 43 professional lessons. Demand remained high, with 17 new applications received and 22 learners on the waitlist.
- Mentor training was conducted in February with two new volunteers trained for Benalla.
- Three older drivers obtained their licence through the Independence to Drive program.
- A new application was submitted to the Department to maintain Benalla Rural City's 52 L2P program places.
- An L2P Governance Group was established to meet the new guidelines.



Two of the successful learners to gain their P plates over the quarter

Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG)

- SIAG has established a Food Cart in the Community Care Building, providing pantry staples and personal hygiene items on a 'no questions asked' basis. The initiative has experienced strong uptake, with usage monitored to guide ongoing restocking.
- Benalla SIAG hosted the final consultation with the CUBE evaluation team, focusing on outcomes achieved to date and projected future impacts. Evaluation findings are expected in June.
- Planning is underway for the annual Creating Community Connections Expo, to be held in partnership with Tomorrow Today's Come and Try Day on 11 October (10am–2pm) at

the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre. Expressions of Interest are being distributed to community groups.

- The SIAG Coordinator attended Monash University's Loneliness Heat Map stakeholder meeting, which highlighted areas of higher social isolation and supports targeted community connection and service planning.
- Several BRCC staff attended a Mental Wellbeing Masterclass delivered by the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit, with SIAG supporting the event through venue funding. The training focused on health promotion and practical strategies to strengthen community wellbeing.
- The SIAG Resource Library continues to expand, now including marquees, bean bags, tablecloths, an urn, projector screen, and a microphone/speaker system. Increased hire activity has been observed, with further promotion planned.
- Work is progressing on the community group starter kit, *A simple guide for starting and growing a community group*, including development of local case studies across informal, semi-formal, and formal groups.
- The Aboriginal Liaison Officer is working with Benalla Health and local Elders to prepare for National Reconciliation Week (27 May–2 June) and NAIDOC Week (5–12 July). Efforts are also underway to source Aboriginal artefacts for the SIAG Resource Library, supporting planned school sessions to promote cultural awareness.



Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

- 30 birth notifications were received this quarter, including 10 first-time mothers. 11 children transferred into the service from other areas, while 11 transferred out within Victoria. One enrolled child was born interstate.
- 456 children are currently enrolled in the MCH service, including 29 Aboriginal children. Of these, 215 children attended the service at least once during the quarter.
- The Enhanced MCH service supported 35 families this quarter. The period began with 42 active families, with 7 new families joining and 14 families exiting as they no longer required support.
- The MCH team has secured a room at Waminda Community House every second Tuesday, helping to ease space constraints at Community Care. The service expansion commenced in late March, aligning with Supported Playgroup sessions at Waminda.
- The MCH team continued professional development, with a focus on family violence training.
- An Early Years information session, hosted by Tomorrow Today, was held at Community Care in late February. La Trobe Community Health Service provided an overview of NDIS

services for preschool and early primary school-aged children, including referral pathways. The session was well attended by local kindergartens, schools, and service providers.

Integrated Family Services (IFS)

- Family Services and Family Liaison supported 39 families over the quarter.
- The Family Services funding target was exceeded, reaching 108% for the quarter, with the Family Liaison Officer operating at full capacity.
- Four flexible support packages were accessed through the Ovens Murray Child and Family Services Alliance, totalling \$4,579. Funded supports included counselling, visa medical examinations, fuel vouchers, and essential furniture.
- Supported Playgroup referrals have increased, with Tuesday sessions nearing capacity. Currently, 10 families (11 children) attend regularly across the two days.
- The Family Services team continues to engage with local service networks to advocate for the community and ensure programs respond to rural challenges, including limited public transport, employment barriers, community violence, childcare access, NDIS navigation, cost of living pressures (including fuel), shortages in allied health, long waitlists, and limited affordable mainstream healthcare.
- Rachel Coley acted as Team Leader for much of the quarter during Bec Mudd's leave, with team members supporting caseload coverage throughout this period.
- Practitioners across the sector are reporting increased client complexity.
- All practitioners are engaging in ongoing professional development to maintain contemporary practice. The Ovens Murray Alliance has also extended training opportunities to the Family Liaison Officer, recognising the program's contribution to the Alliance and broader community.

Age Friendly Benalla

- A facilitated planning session was held with the Age Friendly Benalla Reference Group (AFBRG) on 10 February to review annual action plan and discuss plans for reporting back to the broader community on the progress made on the group's previous action plan. The Age Friendly Benalla Community Forum has been scheduled for 25 May at Benalla Town Hall.
- AFBRG members also identified the difficulties they experience in navigating My Aged Care, these concerns were also substantiated with many other community members giving similar feedback. In response the Ageing Well Officer organised the My Aged Care Community Connections event on 4 March at Benalla Seniors and Community Centre. Several local service providers were invited to share information, answer questions, and connect attendees with appropriate services. Presenters on the day included Community Interlink, Elder Rights Australia, Services Australia, Gateway Health, The Salvation Army, Benalla Health, and Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation. The event drew 140 attendees, with 31 on the waitlist. Feedback was positive, with suggestions for improved sound, a longer session, and larger fonts on slides.
- A further My Aged Care Community Connections event is scheduled for Wednesday 1 July, due to demand and to accommodate those who missed out in March. Additional My Aged Care community support sessions are also being organised at the library beginning at the end of July. The Benalla My Aged Care Support Hub will provide monthly one-on-one assistance for community members. Supporting service providers include Elder

Rights Australia, The Salvation Army, Gateway Health, Cooina, Family Care, and Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation.

- The Victorian Seniors Festival collaboration meeting took place in Benalla on 11 March. The agenda included key deadlines, a departmental overview, evaluations, branding and design, festival feedback, and funding. This year, BRCC will receive \$3,200 in Active Living Grant funding in June 2026. In response bookings for the 2026 Benalla Seniors Festival have started, confirmed events to date include Reel History, CBA: Staying Safe Online, Know Your Mobility Scooter Workshop, Driving Well in the Senior Years, We Are Better Together (Ambulance Victoria), and CFA: Fire Safety—Inside & Out.



Presenters at the My Aged Care Community Connections event

Waminda

An agreement was signed last year between Waminda and Council for \$10,000, awarded as a budget bid this financial year. As part of this agreement Leeane Bullard from Waminda agreed to provide an update each quarter as part of the Community Department quarterly report to Council.

- Waminda remains committed to leading the Benalla Community Food Collective (BCFC) group which comprises community members, food relief providers and representatives from Council, Benalla Health, Benalla Homelessness Response Group and private enterprise, despite losing the funding for the program and its project officer. The BCFC Food Share Strategy developed and launched as part of the original project focuses specifically on how to achieve better food security outcomes for vulnerable people and households in Benalla. The BCFC has also developed a Food Security Framework which looks at how to strengthen the food system for the whole community.
- The BCFC has agreed to put out a statement regarding the unrelenting pressures of providing unfunded food relief to our community, particularly now with soaring fuel prices. Food relief demand at Waminda alone has increased by a staggering 66% this term compared to last year with over 1.5 ton of food having been handed out over the last 10 weeks - a record amount, double that of the 732 kgs handed out in Term 4 last year. Travel expenses incurred by volunteers collecting items from Foodshare in Mooroopna are also becoming untenable due to rising fuel costs and the fact that Waminda is awaiting further funding to support this expense. Other costs that Waminda absorb include the running of the commercial size refrigeration and freezer units, lighting, cooling and heating, cooking costs, staff wages, and some ingredients.

- The Free lunch that is provided on Thursdays during Food Relief are becoming increasingly popular. The lunch provides an opportunity for people to come together and socialise, reducing loneliness and providing an opportunity for people to find support. On average five volunteers and one staff member are involved in the Thursday food relief and lunch program.
- The new kitchen in the Activity Shed is due to be installed by the end of April, utilising last year's BRCC Community Grant for appliances and a further \$25,000 grant for new commercial grade benches, cupboards, handwashing facilities. The project will ensure Waminda has a more functional usable space and hopefully a springboard for some social enterprise activities.
- In Term 1 Waminda hosted The Reading Buddies program and some cooking classes. Supporting the families of Benalla West, it is great to see that Councils Supported Playgroup held at Waminda is growing in numbers. Particularly pleasing is that our existing multicultural Mums and Bubs and their extended families have engaged in Playgroup and use the visiting immunisation service. Waminda also welcomed the MCH Nurse from Council who supports the fortnightly visiting service at Waminda. The Link Up Social Inclusion and Art group still attracts solid numbers and will be meeting back at Waminda in Term 2, supported by the Flexi Learning students who make the coffee and serve morning tea.

Highlights

- 16 staff including most members of our Leadership Team attended the wawa biik Taungurung Cultural Experience tour at Nagambie on 3 March. The tour was led by Taungurung CEO Matt Burns.



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating budget result for the period ending 31 March 2026

	Notes	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budget	Variance	Annual Original Budget	Annual Current Budget	Variance
Income							
Community Development		\$1,500	\$19,500	-\$18,000	\$72,000	\$73,500	\$1,500
Community Operations	1	\$178,007	\$191,745	-\$13,738	\$411,810	\$240,313	-\$171,497
FCS Family & Children's Services	2	\$494,817	\$460,972	\$33,845	\$527,623	\$644,898	\$117,275
FCS Maternal Child Health		\$271,634	\$264,964	\$6,670	\$339,611	\$360,126	-\$20,515
Youth Programs		\$233,799	\$194,584	\$39,215	\$232,789	\$232,789	\$0
Income Total		\$1,179,758	\$1,131,765	\$47,993	\$1,583,833	\$1,551,626	-\$32,207
Expenditure							
Community Development	3	\$294,199	\$260,303	-\$33,896	\$315,247	\$476,964	-\$161,717
Community Operations	4	\$548,397	\$700,171	\$151,774	\$951,752	\$1,178,531	-\$226,779
FCS Family & Children's Services	5	\$464,806	\$521,142	\$56,336	\$637,691	\$740,110	-\$102,419
FCS Maternal Child Health	6	\$371,507	\$399,936	\$28,429	\$552,824	\$724,327	-\$171,503
Youth Programs		\$230,711	\$215,361	-\$15,350	\$282,340	\$311,469	-\$29,129
Communication & Engagement		\$250,166	\$284,590	\$34,424	\$379,762	\$388,192	-\$8,430
Expenditure Total		\$2,159,787	\$2,381,503	\$221,716	\$3,119,616	\$3,819,593	-\$699,977
Net Expenditure		\$980,029	\$1,249,738	\$269,709	\$1,535,783	\$2,267,967	-\$732,184

Notes:

1. Community Operations income shows a variance of \$171,497 from original to current budget due to the mapping error in the conversion of data from synergy to Altitude. This variance has been reported in previous quarterly report. The income was redirected to Compliance once the issue was discovered. The total amount reassigned was \$177,547. This variance is offset by change in the current budget to increase the SAIG funding by \$5,775 in line with the current funding variation from the funded agency channel (DHHS).
2. Family and Childrens Services income shows a variance of \$117,275 from original to current budget due to an increase of \$111,538 in grant funding for Family and Childrens Services and a reduction in the Supported Playgroups funding of \$8,174 as part of the updated variation to the funding agreement as provided by the funded agency channel (DFFH). There was also an addition of \$13,235 in funding from Alliance OMFCS for flexible funding packages for use of the FCS team for individual client needs that was not included in the original budget.
3. Community Development expenditure shows a variance of \$161,177 from original to current budget due to the carry forward additions for the Open Space Strategy project \$50,000, and the Free from Violence grant funding of \$103,475.
4. Community Operations expenditure shows a variance of \$226,779 from original to current budget due to the carry forward additions to the current budget for the SIAG program of \$190,713.32, the Kindergarten Central Enrolment Development project \$4,065, the Seniors Festival \$11,945, and the Seniors Community Program of \$5,254. The Increase in the SIAG funding variation agreement also resulted in an increase to the current budget of an additional \$5,775.00.
5. Family and Childrens Services expenditure shows a variance of \$102,419 from original to current budget due to the additional funding variations to Family and Childrens Services (FCS) programs and Supported Playgroups to reflect the grant funding variations, expenditure was increased by \$111,538 for FCS and reduced by \$8,174 for the Supported Playgroups program.
6. Maternal Child Health expenditure shows a variance of \$171,503 from original to current budget due to the carry forward additions for the Enhanced Maternal Child Health program of \$176,058.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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4.7 People and Performance Activity Report for The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026

Ref: 1138149297-13365

Janine McMaster – Manager People and Performance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the People and Performance Department for the quarter ended 31 March 2026.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS

- Over the past two months, the Customer Relations Team has managed the operational demands of running both the legacy and new finance systems during the animal registration renewal period. This has demonstrated the team's adaptability and professionalism while maintaining service delivery and progressing updates to the Name and Address Register in preparation for the successful integration of the animal module into Altitude.
- The Customer Relations Coordinator has been heavily involved in the complex configuration and integration of the Altitude customer portal, Citizen Central. This work has been undertaken alongside ongoing enhancements to the Customer Relations Management (CRM) and receipting modules, as well as continued improvements to the Bin Register.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Continued maintenance and administration of core Human Resources functions, including recruitment, interviews, inductions, organisation-wide training, and monitoring of the training budget.

Service	December 2025	March 2026
Recruitment	3	1
Turnover	3	1
Training Applications	238	35
Workplace incidents	2	6
Workcover claims	1	3

Six workplace incidents were reported during this quarter which resulted in three Workcover claims.

- One incident involved a back injury sustained while lifting a knapsack containing chemicals from a work vehicle. This resulted in a WorkCover claim and three days' lost time. The employee has since returned to full duties.
- A second incident involved a fall resulting in an ankle fracture. This led to a WorkCover claim and six days' lost time. The employee has returned to work on light duties while wearing a moon boot and using crutches.
- The third WorkCover claim arose from an incident where an employee was assaulted by a member of the public, resulting in jaw soreness and significant emotional distress. The employee was absent for three days and has since returned to full duties.

- The organisation is in the final stages of implementing the ELMO system. User Acceptance Testing (UAT) has been successfully completed for the end-to-end recruitment process, including the recruitment of a new staff member.
- The next phase involves onboarding, followed by a broader rollout of the system, supported by staff communications scheduled for the coming weeks.

PAYROLL

- Continued collaboration with Mansfield, Strathbogie and Murrindindi Shire Councils to improve consistency following the implementation of the new payroll system.
- An internal payroll audit has been conducted, with December, January and February pays sampled. Preliminary findings have been received, with the final report scheduled for presentation to Council in May.
- Ongoing support provided to staff by supplying historical pay information from the previous payroll system upon request.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Key Risk & Governance Activities

- Audit & Risk Committee meetings attended.
- Payroll checking support ongoing (incl. CODI meetings).
- Risk Management Working Group and People & Performance meetings were held as required.

Business Continuity and OHS Framework Development:

- Business Continuity Plan circulated for staff feedback following Leadership presentation.
- Minor updates underway prior to final endorsement.
- Business Continuity Policy approved.

Training & Upskilling

- Tailored “Managing Incidents & Claims” training delivered – 19 staff attended.

Work Health & Safety

- 46 incidents/near misses reported via Elumina.
- Three Lost Time Injuries recorded.
- Two WorkSafe notifiable incidents.
- Physical assault on staff.
- Serious ankle injury during event activity.

Health & Safety Representation (HSR)

- New/continuing HSRs appointed across key sites.
- Further HSR engagement required at Depot and Landfill.
- OH&S Committee Terms of Reference currently under review.

Project Work

- Lone Worker Duress system implemented for Family Services.
- Victoria Police engagement on staff safety and homelessness.
- Draft OHS Risk Register developed (Project AST).
- Elumina system enhancements progressing (incl. single sign-on).

Inductions & Workforce

- Two corporate OHS inductions completed.
- Corporate Risk Coordinator acted in Manager People & Performance role from 10 March – 10 April 2026.

OHS continues to be monitored through the following regular activities

- Scheduled workplace OHS site inspections.
- Designated Workplace Group meetings.
- Ongoing incident and hazard reporting and monitoring.
- Tracking and reviewing incident and hazard action lists.
- Reporting to the Leadership Team and the OHS Committee.
- Regular Risk Management Working Group meetings.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- The G Drive Project has commenced. Initial mapping tools are being developed for priority departments, with early information shared through the Corporate Champions Group. Team-based information sessions will be scheduled next to support a broader rollout.
- End-user guideline documents are currently being developed to support effective use of Microsoft Teams and Corporate Naming Conventions.

Statistics

- The volume of Information Management support requests continues to decrease as staff confidence with SharePoint improves. Current requests are largely limited to access permissions and new folder creation.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

Volunteer activity for the quarter:

Activity	Current 2026	
	Registered	Active
Arts & Tourism <i>(includes Cinema)</i>	51	35
Events and Festivals <i>(Includes Benalla Street Art 2026)</i>	44	34
Youth Programs <i>(Live4Life only)</i>	45	45
L2P <i>(Mentors only)</i>	40	34
Gardens maintenance and Litter Reduction	23	19
Specialist Committees & Steering Groups <i>(includes Age Friendly and ARG)</i>	49	41
RedB4 Bookshop	59	39
Benalla Library	7	7

Note: Some volunteers are in several groups.

Activity

- Street Art Festival volunteer applications processed.
- Five new L2P volunteer applications received.
- Eight new Street Art Festival volunteers onboarded.
- Ongoing processing of volunteer Expressions of Interest (approximately one – two per month).
- End-of-year volunteer data currently being collated for Finance reporting.

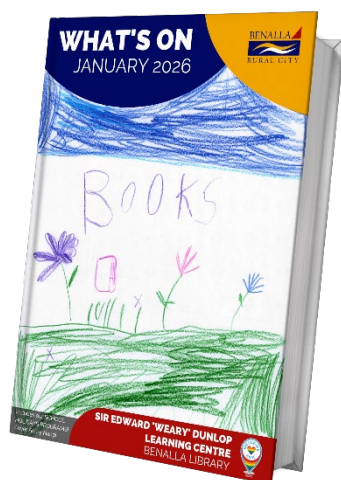
SIR EDWARD ‘WEARY’ DUNLOP LEARNING CENTRE (BENALLA LIBRARY)

During this quarter, the Benalla Library welcomed 15,711 patrons through our doors and loaned a total of 15,654 items.

2026	January	February	March	Total
Total Visits	4,757	5,090	5,864	15,711
Total Loans	5,547	4,967	5,140	15,654
Total Members	4,106	4,115	4,120	
New Members	66	55	65	186

January 2026

- Benalla Library welcomed Museums Victoria back to deliver Ocean Wonders, a school holidays program focused on aquatic life and geography. Children had the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning experiences, including patting preserved sharks and touching fossils.



- The library welcomed a new trainee to the team, who had previously completed work experience at the Benalla Library in 2025 and has since proven to be a valuable addition.
- In 2026, the library introduced the use of artwork submitted by local patrons for What's On guide covers. Multiple cover "editions" are produced when more than one artwork is submitted, showcasing community creativity and engagement.

February 2026

- Benalla Library completed its annual inventory.
- The team processed 19,158 items over two days. There was a very low loss rate, with only 28 items missing. The minimal number of missing items reflects the team's strong collection maintenance throughout the year.
- Staff attended a Public Libraries Victoria webinar focused on understanding and supporting the needs of patrons with autism.

March 2026

- Two of our staff members attended Oral History Preservation training to learn how to preserve our small collection of oral history cassettes into the future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 March 2026

	Notes	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Original Budget	Annual Current Budget	Annual Budget Variance
Income							
Library		\$196,801	\$184,071	\$12,730	\$186,998	\$186,998	\$0
Records Management		\$2,597	\$16,236	-\$13,639	\$21,651	\$21,651	\$0
Risk Management		\$1,682	\$0	\$1,682	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer Development		\$0	\$252	-\$252	\$107,504	\$107,504	\$0
Payroll and Overheads		\$12,949	\$34,329	-\$21,380	\$45,776	\$45,776	\$0
Income Total		\$214,028	\$234,888	-\$20,860	\$361,929	\$361,929	\$0
Expenditure							
Customer Relations		341,737	\$369,492	\$27,755	\$534,262	\$534,262	\$0
Library		499,328	\$475,572	-\$23,756	\$612,544	\$612,544	\$0
Library		0	\$0	\$0	\$96,029	\$96,029	\$0
People and Performance Operations		471,248	\$531,213	\$59,965	\$703,734	\$703,734	\$0
Records Management	1	254,047	\$234,732	-\$19,315	\$0	\$352,100	-\$352,100
Risk Management		717,740	\$799,323	\$81,583	\$868,110	\$868,110	\$0
Volunteer Development		30,570	\$119,612	\$89,042	\$159,205	\$159,205	\$0
Payroll and Overheads		20,940	\$0	-\$20,940	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditure Total		2,335,610	\$2,529,944	\$194,334	\$2,973,884	\$3,325,984	-\$352,100
Total		2,121,581	\$2,295,056	\$173,475	\$2,611,955	\$2,964,055	-\$352,100

Notes:

1. Unfavourable variance due to mapping of original budget for Records Management was keyed to Community Services in error. This was rectified in the Year End Forecast. This variance will impact both areas resulting in a zero overall impact.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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4.8 Facilities and Information Technology Department Activity Report for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2026

Ref: 1138149297-13081

Greg Robertson – Manager Facilities and Information Technology

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activities of the Facilities and Information Technology Department for the quarter ended 31 March 2026.

Facilities Management

- A large new colour LED pixel panel digital display sign was commissioned on the Mair Street side of the Customer Service Centre.
- The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) conducted a three-day audit of Benalla Airport in August 2025 against the Benalla Airport Manual. All audit findings are addressed. This quarter, particular focus was given to runway lighting inspections, between dusk and dawn, ensuring methodical documented inspections in preparation for the next audit.
- Due to a large increase in kangaroos at the airport, Airport Reporting Officers undertook operations to assist Air Ambulance Victoria by abating the animal hazard on runways just before landings and take-offs. A specialist wildlife controller was engaged to address the hazard. Twice-weekly late evening inspections are scheduled to monitor the issue over the next quarter. However, the control measures are observed as being successful.
- Hardwired airport frequency radios were installed in council vehicles used at the airport to complement the handheld radios. The hardwired radios broadcast at higher power to ensure vehicle movements on runways can be better communicated to aircraft over greater distances. This safety improvement came out of an incident investigation where a landing aircraft could not hear radio broadcasts made on a handheld radio. Formal incident details were lodged with the Air Transport Safety Bureau and CASA, with both agencies satisfied with the improvement action.
- Facilities staff worked to remove or cover graffiti on council owned buildings ahead of the Street Art Festival.
- Minimal vandalism damage was observed at council facilities during this quarter.
- Works commenced to network together CCTV at numerous council sites to allow remote CCTV monitoring and footage retrieval from a central location. This will allow staff to respond quicker to official police requests for CCTV footage.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

- The rollout of new antivirus and Virtual Private Network (VPN) software was completed on all laptops. The new VPN facilitates better remote access to Council's network.
- Firewall security devices thwarted all known external cyber-attacks directed at Council's network.
- Several old network aware storage devices were decommissioned. The devices are no longer needed as software moves to cloud-hosted platforms.
- Council currently operates 110 virtual servers hosted over four physical servers, on premises in the main server room. These virtual servers supported the old remote desktop network environment. Seventy (70) of the 110 virtual servers will be decommissioned over the coming quarter due to the move to cloud-based software through the CODI project.

- ICT arranged for the implementation of diverse paths for network data using a mix of fibre optic and low earth orbit satellite internet technology. If one data path fails, a second path using a different technology mix ensures sites remain connected and online.
- Continued rollout of software patches and security upgrades to production network servers.

Collaborative Digital Innovation (CODI) Project

- Citizen Central, the online public portal for Altitude, is on track for Go-Live mid-May. All four CODI Councils working on module styling and administration training underway.
- Animals and Infringements: Requirements gathering and configuration meetings are in progress. The app demo has been completed and installed for user testing and familiarisation, with a go-live date of 22 April.
- Revamp of Information Manager (IM) is in progress and nearly finalised. Feedback from the IM team for tweaks and changes was received. The software developer is reviewing and updating as per our requirements. Benalla has requested training documentation for go-live and a training rollout to all staff.
- Procurements and Contracts: The current workflow was obtained and discussed with our procurement team. Our Civica Account Manager was emailed for details on Altitude's procurements and contracts package. Information was received and is under review.
- Rates: Contract signed for Civica on-demand support service to allow priority support for the Rates and Property team.
- Receipting integration with Green Light: Configuration and coding are complete. Mailbox setup is complete. Testing is in progress, including finance codes.

Benalla Aquatic Centre YMCA

- General memberships totalled 432, an increase on the 400 memberships reported last quarter.
- Swimming lesson enrolments increased to 755, up from the 689 recorded last report.
- Safety performance remained strong throughout the month. There were no breaches of staffing requirements, one public first aid incident and one incident report recorded, with no major injuries or hospitalisations.
- Water quality compliance remained high across all pools, with chlorine levels at 100% and pH compliance between 96% and 100%, ensuring safe aquatic operations.

Highlight

The CODI project is firmly embedded in our network and operations, allowing ICT to move to decommission some on-premises hardware and a large number of virtual servers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 March 2026

	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budget	Variance	Annual Original Budget	Annual Current Budget	Variance
Income						
Benalla Airport	\$58,347	\$82,333	-\$23,985	\$88,159	\$88,159	\$0
Facilities	\$261,086	\$260,453	\$633	\$30,626	\$274,317	\$243,691
Saleyards	\$24,267	\$14,898	\$9,370	\$18,622	\$20,022	\$1,400
Geographical Information System	\$1,366	\$1,366	\$0	\$0	\$1,366	\$1,366
Income Total	\$345,067	\$359,050	-\$13,982	\$137,407	\$383,864	\$246,457
Expenditure						
Aquatic Centre	\$703,635	\$692,937	-\$10,699	\$923,918	\$923,918	\$0
Benalla Airport	\$205,530	\$197,324	-\$8,207	\$118,466	\$320,844	-\$202,378
Facilities	\$2,292,865	\$2,788,940	\$496,075	\$1,617,024	\$3,344,407	-\$1,727,383
Information Technology	\$1,651,363	\$1,526,891	-\$124,472	\$2,777,261	\$2,195,623	\$581,638
Saleyards	\$41,110	\$46,944	\$5,834	\$51,588	\$54,463	-\$2,875
Geographical Information System	\$63,908	\$61,621	-\$2,288	\$138,038	\$82,084	\$55,954
Expenditure Total	\$4,958,414	\$5,314,657	\$356,242	\$5,626,295	\$6,921,339	-\$1,295,044
Net Expenditure	\$4,613,347	\$4,955,607	\$342,260	\$5,488,888	\$6,537,475	-\$1,048,587

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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4.9 Economic Development and Sustainability Department Activity Report for The Quarter Ended 31 March 2026

Ref: 1545273666-247

Courtney Naughton – Manager Economic Development and Sustainability

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents the activity of the Economic Development and Sustainability Department for the quarter ending 31 March 2026.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Future of Benalla and District Project – Community Development Fund

- Benalla Migrant Camp feasibility study tender process was completed with Social Ventures Australia (SVA) appointed to complete the project, with the report due by 31 October 2026.
- Benalla Art Gallery undercroft feasibility study draft was received for review and feedback. Project due for completion with DEECA by 31 May 2026.
- Benalla Future Economy and Employment Precinct Innovation Working Group met on 15 January, 10 February and 10 March, facilitated by the appointed consultant Better Cities Group. A draft concept plan was received in early March for review.
- The Community Leadership Program, delivered by the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (ACRE), second workshop “Translating leadership into action”, was held on Thursday 12 March 2026, with 12 participants.
- Winton Motor Raceway feasibility study application was submitted for \$78,258 as part of the *Community Development Fund - Round 3 - Stream 2*. The project is led by Winton Motor Raceway.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The March quarter was marked by major external influences affecting the economic pressure.

The impact on Benalla’s core industries as a result of the Middle East war includes:

- Construction slow down – due to rising costs for fuel and materials (steel and bitumen) while chemical production is up 15 per cent, potentially stalling local building projects.
- Higher diesel and fertiliser costs are expected to lower meat and livestock production by nearly 7.6 per cent as producers absorb a 3-5 per cent rise in total production.
- Transport costs are forecast to jump 7.7 per cent next quarter, impacting every business which relies on freight.

Business Upskilling

There were 18 Business workshops and live webinars offered this quarter, which were promoted on Supporting Benalla Business’ Facebook events page and the monthly business e-newsletter to 1200 subscribers, plus a Business Skills Mentoring program was available through Business Victoria.

Topics included: Starting your Small Business, Winning Government Grants and Tenders, Generating Cashflow, social media and content marketing, Maximising your marketing,

Advanced strategies for taking your business online, Leveraging event technology to reshape regional business events

Business Networking

The monthly Coffee Connections organised by the Council continued this quarter, after a break in January.

Date	Venue	Guest speaker / Topic	Attendees
February 11	Stella Stella courtyard	Melissa Antony, Community Business Connect / AI tips for small business	15
March	Zeus Coffee Co	General news (BBN ran it)	25

Benalla Business Network (BBN)

A new Committee was appointed at the February AGM.

Elected members for 2026/207 are:

President: Dennis O'Brien

Secretary: Karen Nankervis

Treasurer: Nathan Tolliday

Marketing: Joel Spencer

Committee members:

Paul Pavlos, Melanie Brooks, Annie Gibbs.

*Raelene Stratton has been recruited since the AGM

The Business Networks Strategic Plan was also adopted at the AGM. A new Marketing and Communication Action Plan is being developed in the next quarter, currently the BBN has 80 financial members.

Ongoing recruitment is focused on big businesses and industry engagement with key stakeholder groups.

Investment

Meetings with investors this quarter included:

- Best Tyre recyclers.
- Winton Wetlands café – reopened in February.
- Witt Street Supacheap Auto development.
- Better Cities Group.
- European Energy.

Business visits

- Cafes: regarding Creative Cafes & Street Art support – The Earlybird Café, Spot 4 Coffee, Bertalli's Bakery, Hides Bakery, Zeus Coffee Co, Ruby Blue, The Merchant, Brew & Toasties, Heart of Art.

- Street Art Festival poster and program deliveries x180 central CBD.
- Sydney Road business visits – Mitre 10 and Middys.
- Piccadilly Laneway – re Brocante Market.
- Payroll on Demand – development of business workshops for local businesses.

Grants

Council was successful in securing several grants this quarter including.

- Multicultural Business Precincts Program \$250,000. Council must contribute \$50,000 for a total project spend of \$300,000. The project will celebrate the cultural diversity of Benalla's CBD precinct by transforming public spaces into vibrant, inclusive and story-rich environments which reflect the heritage and contributions of our multi-cultural business community. This includes outdoor furniture, public lighting, wayfinding signage, public art installations and shopfront exteriors improvements.
- Inland Rail Community Grant for \$4,000 for Benalla Street Art Festival.
- Tomorrow Today Stepping Stones for \$2,000 for Benalla Street Art Festival.

Street Art Festival 2026

This year's festival planning included:

- Sponsorship acquisition and grant applications.
- Co-ordination of signage.
- Organisation of KidzZone activities.
- Recruitment of businesses to host fringe events, workshops and exhibitions; development and delivery of the Creative Café's art box trail.
- Assisting with organisation of the new Artisans and Brocante markets.
- Development of café vouchers for artists and volunteers; recruitment of real estate sponsors for the live hub signage; distribution of car bumper stickers and posters; creating opportunities for local artists including the Rakali Treasure Hunt, chalk art mandalas vacant shop activation for David Laity's "Lost Dogs" series, recruitment and scheduling of buskers.

Busking

- Council waived the permit fee for busking during the Street Art Festival to encourage increased engagement. Fifteen busking applications were received, with about half being from young people (under 18).

VISITOR ECONOMY

Australia Day

Australia Day in Benalla is a celebration of community, connection, and pride. Its a time to come together to honour our nation and recognise the outstanding contributions of local residents. collaboration, and connection.

The Australia Day awards and Citizenship ceremony was held at the Lakeside Community Centre for the first time and was very well received by all attendees. Fifteen new citizens were welcomed and 10 award winners. Approx 150 people attended this free event. There were 10 District ceremonies held, including Benalla.

Australia Day celebrations foster pride, inclusion, and unity, inviting everyone to celebrate and connect. The day concludes with a family-friendly screening of Kangaroo at the Benalla Cinema, providing a fun and engaging way for the whole community to come together.

Event Applications

Seven event applications were processed in this quarter. There were no grant funding applications.

Applicant
Devenish Market
Australia Day – Mair Street
Lunar New Year - 2026
Molyullah Easter Sports
Benalla Clydesdale and Heavy Horse Driving Day
Benalla RSL Sub-Branch, 2026 Commemorations including ANZAC Day
Hume Region Cross Country Run

BENALLA CINEMA

Benalla Cinema commenced 2026 strongly, recording excellent patronage across the early months of the year.

As part of the Australia Day celebrations, the cinema hosted a free community screening of the Australian film *Kangaroo*, attracting a full cinema.

The cinema also delivered a range of special screenings, including:

- Jane Austen Wrecked My Life.
- World premiere screening: Everything Grows in Eden. The premiere was accompanied by a Q&A with local director Jack Johnson, who is also employed at Benalla Cinema. Both events were sell-outs

Cinema Comparison 2024/25 – 2025/2026

Month	Benalla Cinema	Patrons 2026	Benalla Cinema	Patrons 2025
January	145 sessions	2050	158 sessions	1915
February	112 sessions	976	117 sessions	914
March	106 sessions	698	111 sessions	614

**Some session weeks have overlapped into the next month. Numbers are dependent on movies.*

These results demonstrate continued community support for Benalla Cinema and reinforce its value as an accessible, high-quality local cultural experience.

TOURISM

Melbourne Caravan and Camping Show

In February, the Visitor Economy team travelled to Melbourne to represent Benalla at the 2026 Melbourne Caravan and Camping Show.

Attending the show supported delivery of Council's Destination Management Plan (DMP), with a strong focus on engaging our priority target markets:

Big Trippers: Visitors who prefer unhurried journeys and authentic 'real Australia' experiences, typically staying two to three days to enjoy heritage, nature-based and cultural attractions.

Weekend Chasers: Short-break travellers looking for fresh ideas, easy getaways and memorable new experiences.

The event provided an excellent platform to showcase Benalla's visitor offering and build anticipation for upcoming highlights, including the Benalla Street Art Festival and the Art of Flight Balloon Festival—both of which generated strong interest from attendees.

Delivered across five days, the show enabled the team to promote Benalla directly to prospective visitors, engaging with more than 450 people at the stand.



Benalla Street Art Festival

Event planning and finalisation is well underway for the 17, 18, 19 April festival. Wall finalisation has taken longer than expected. Marketing of the festival is going well with social media performing well.

Sponsorship has been secured for scissor lifts and paint. Signage is going up on Bus in Benalla and Wangaratta.

The program is looking good with a range of events on offer.

BENALLA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

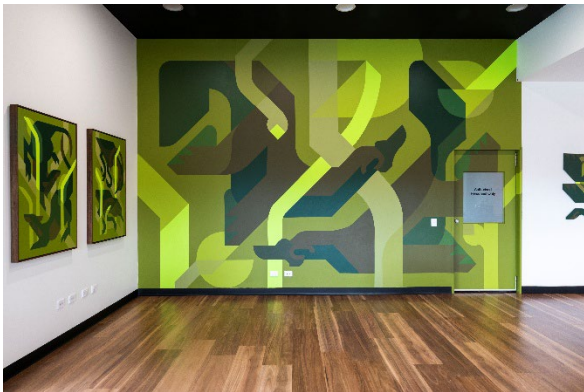
Visitor numbers for the quarter:

Month	Visitor numbers
January	1188
February	879
March	1157
Total	4021

*This is a decrease of approx. 3.75 per cent on the same quarter last year.

BENALLA ART GALLERY

- Benalla Art Gallery's first quarter exhibition attendance was 8,049 across multiple venues.
- Benalla Art Gallery delivered 31 education and public programs in this reporting quarter, for nearly 700 participants.
- Benalla Art Gallery unveiled two exhibitions in the lead up to the *Benalla Street Art Festival*, being *HA-HA: Street Art Bushranger*, and *Stephanie Cartledge: Shared Waters*, while also finalising plans for a satellite exhibition at the Benalla Town Hall, *Ling: The Allure of Gold – All that Glitters*.



- Benalla Art Gallery contributed significant resource to the development of the Benalla Street Art Festival in this period, particularly through graphic design services, encompassing press advertising, site signage, T-shirts, social media content, and the official printed program.
- Consultant Dan Koerner submitted a final draft of the Concept Design and Feasibility Study for the Gallery Undercroft, with the study funded through the Community Development Fund. Including highly realised renders and a 3D fly through of the opportunity, the study projected a year one revenue of \$563,000 if realised.



- Benalla Art Gallery will receive a changeover of Art Cases from the National Gallery of Australia in the first week of May. The National Gallery of Australia will meet with Benalla staff in the coming weeks to explore the opportunity to film delivery of the program in Benalla. Impressed with the engagement levels and outcomes in Benalla thus far, the National Gallery would utilise the film to seek continued funding for the project.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

- Ecosystems Management are currently undertaking a conservation value assessment of all Council managed roadsides in the LGA. A desktop analysis was completed in March before they began completing the observational assessments in April. The report will provide Council with a full inventory of the current of all rural roadsides in the LGA.
- Consultation for the intent to lease part of the Barkly Street carpark to Tesla for the installation of EV chargers has been undertaken. Council received 69 submissions over the course consultation.
- The Environment team has had Taree Fletcher (Benalla local) complete a student placement at Council over March and April. The placement was part of Taree's final subject of her environmental science degree at Deakin University.
- The design brief for the Powering Resilience in the Region Project (Library Battery) has been accepted by Council. Council will now need to decide on the commercial model for the battery before the installation, which is expected early in the 2026/27 financial year.
- As part of the Street Art Festival the team ran a colouring competition with this year's mascot, the Rakali as illustrated by Mimi Leung serving as the colouring sheet. There were 115 entries with 4 entries winning family passes to the Benalla Cinema. The entries were all put up on the CSC front windows.
- Council are working in collaboration with North East Water, the NE IWM Forum and Wave consulting on region wide project (*Enabling IWM in Development in the North East Region*) to understand the current IWM capabilities and potential opportunities for IWM in the future.
- Council has been working with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA) on the return of Cabomba in Lake Benalla. The plan will be to introduce the Cabomba weevil to try and reduce the amount of Cabomba present in the Lake. The CMA will assess where Cabomba is present using a drone survey, before working with CSIRO to procure and introduce the weevils.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Operating Budget result for the period ending 31 March 2026

	Notes	YTD Actuals	YTD Current Budget	Variance	Annual Original Budget	Annual Current Budget	Variance
Income							
Art Gallery	1	\$306,405	\$310,694	-\$4,289	\$297,282	\$385,474	\$88,192
Benalla Cinema	2	\$207,246	\$181,078	\$26,168	\$162,217	\$223,217	\$61,000
Business Development	3	\$50,111	\$50,000	\$111	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Economic Development and Sustainability Operations	4	\$353,000	\$340,000	\$13,000	\$0	\$340,000	\$340,000
Environmental Sustainability	5	\$99,840	\$80,347	\$19,493	\$0	\$99,840	\$99,840
Events		\$6,451	\$15,483	-\$9,032	\$18,650	\$20,150	\$1,500
Tourism	6	\$183,220	\$162,759	\$20,461	\$7,489	\$188,989	\$181,500
Income Total		\$1,206,273	\$1,140,361	\$65,912	\$485,638	\$1,307,670	\$822,032
Expenditure							
Art Gallery	7	\$820,767	\$837,013	\$16,246	\$929,545	\$1,130,281	-\$200,736
Benalla Cinema		\$290,636	\$326,356	\$35,720	\$401,845	\$427,845	-\$26,000
Business Development	8	\$101,152	\$134,401	\$33,249	\$176,834	\$226,834	-\$50,000
Economic Development and Sustainability Operations	9	\$391,361	\$395,067	\$3,706	\$371,637	\$573,825	-\$202,188
Environmental Sustainability	10	\$138,082	\$209,794	\$71,712	\$159,360	\$304,828	-\$145,468
Events		\$257,326	\$245,265	-\$12,061	\$326,079	\$326,079	\$0
Tourism	11	\$384,865	\$434,911	\$50,046	\$361,157	\$524,738	-\$163,581
Expenditure Total		\$2,384,190	\$2,582,807	\$198,618	\$2,726,457	\$3,514,430	-\$787,973
Net Expenditure		\$1,177,916	\$1,442,446	\$264,530	\$2,240,819	\$2,206,760	\$34,059

Notes:

1. Art Gallery income shows a variance of \$88,192 from original to current budget due to the Ian Potter Foundation funding \$70,000, the Community Heritage Grant Funding \$8,192 and the Strategic Partnerships Program Funding \$10,000 this funding was not included in the original budget and has been added to the current budget.
2. Benalla Cinema income shows a variance of \$61,000 from original to current budget due to YTD income exceeding the full year original budget there for the current budget was increased for cinema box office sales by \$57,000 and \$4000 for kiosk sales.
3. Business Development income shows a variance of \$50,000 from original to current budget due to the first instalment in the Multicultural CBD Business Precinct grant funding of \$50,000.
4. Economic Development and Sustainability Operations income shows a variance of \$340,000 from original to current budget due to the community development fund grants of \$340,000 which was not confirmed prior to budget adoption.
5. Environmental Sustainability income shows a variance of \$99,840 from original to current budget due to the receipt of Roadside Weeds and Pests funding of \$41,365 and \$58,475 from AusNet services as a contribution toward the completion of the mercury vapour streetlight changeover project.
6. Tourism income shows a variance of \$181,500 from original to current budget due to the addition of Visit Victoria street art funding of \$150,000, as well as \$25,000 in community sponsorship for this event. In addition, YTD actual general fees income had exceeded the original budget amount as a result the current budget was increased by \$6,500.
7. Art Gallery expenditure shows a variance of \$200,736 from original budget to current budget due to the addition of expenditure in the current budget for the funded programs Ian Potter Foundation funding \$7,000, the Community Heritage Grant Funding \$8,192 and the Strategic Partnerships Program Funding \$10,000. Carry forward expenditure additions to the Current Budget for the Art Therapy program of \$25,000 and carry forward of the Art Gallery CRMS project of \$9,715 as well as additions to the Current Budget to offset the expenses associated with the Art Gallery redevelopment impacting the cost of operations predominantly in rent \$52,000.00, materials \$5,947 and freight \$21,000.
8. Business Development expenditure shows a variance of \$50,000 from original budget to current budget due to the addition of expenditure in the current budget for the Multicultural CBD Business Precinct Revitalization grant funded project.
9. Economic Development and Sustainability Operations expenditure shows a variance of \$202,188 from original budget to current budget due to the addition planned expenditure in the current budget for the Forestry Transition Fund grant funded project \$261,748. The expenditure is offset by a savings in salaries and oncosts of \$58,846.
10. Environmental Sustainability expenditure shows a variance of \$145,468 from original to current budget due to the planned expenditure in the current budget for the Roadside Weeds and Pests funding of \$41,365 and \$58,475 for the AusNet mercury vapour streetlight changeover project. The variance also reflects the carry forward additions to the current budget for LRCI 4 funded native tree planting program \$12,965 and \$32,663 for the feasibility for Benalla Civic Solar - project.

11. Tourism expenditure shows a variance of \$163,581 from original to current budget planned expenditure in the current budget for the Visit Victoria street art funding of \$150,000. The operating expenditure YTD had exceeded the original budget for Electricity costs and was therefore amended with an addition of \$10,737 to the current budget. Merchandise purchases were also amended by \$4,000 in the current budget as a reflection of increase in sales there was need for additional stock.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

4.10 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance At Conferences and Events

Ref: 36167913-10161

Tracey Beaton – Executive Coordinator

The Mayor and Councillors attended meetings and events as detailed below during the period 6 April 2026 to 10 May 2026.

Mayor Councillor Bernie Hearn	
29 April	WIN News Interview
	Launch of 2026 National Heritage Festival
	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors - Business Review
30 April	Triple M Interview
	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project Steering Committee
	Benalla Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee Meeting
1 May	Benalla Art Gallery Launch - A creative partnership, by local artists Anita Laurence and Bill Young
2 May	Benalla Saints 2026 President and Sponsors Luncheon
3 May	Festival Finale - Benalla 2026 National Heritage Festival
4 May	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee Meeting
6 May	Live4Life Launch
	Tour of New Pump Track
	Councillor Only Time
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Deputy Mayor Councillor Justin King	
8 April	Art of Flight Festival - Welcome Reception
9 April	Radio Interview
10 April	ABC Interview
15 April	WIN News Interview
17 April	Official Opening Benalla Street Art Festival
21 April	Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Meeting
22 April	SEN Goulburn Valley Interview
	Councillor Only Time
	Council Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Business Review
23 April	Benalla P-12 College ANZAC Day Assembly
24 April	Benalla Art Gallery Giving Launch
25 April	Benalla RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Dawn Service
	Benalla RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day March and Service
28 April	Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Control Group Meetings
29 April	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors - Business Review
2 May	Benalla Saints 2026 President and Sponsors Luncheon
5 May	Benalla Festival Advisory Committee Meeting
6 May	Tour of New Pump Track
	Councillor Only Time
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Councillor David Blore	
8 April	Art of Flight Festival - Welcome Reception
22 April	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
	Council Only Time
	Council Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Business Review
24 April	Benalla Art Gallery Giving Launch
28 April	Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project Control Group Meeting
29 April	Launch of 2026 National Heritage Festival
	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors - Business Review
30 April	Climate Risk and Financing Resilience in-person forum and workshop
1 May	Benalla Art Gallery Launch - A creative partnership, by local artists Anita Laurence and Bill Young
3 May	Festival Finale - Benalla 2026 National Heritage Festival
4 May	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee
6 May	Goulburn Murray Catchment Authority Strategic Planning Committee: The Workshop
	Councillor Only Time
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Councillor Vince Branigan	
17 April	Official Opening Benalla Street Art Festival
22 April	Council Only Time
	Council Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Business Review
23 April	Benalla P-12 College ANZAC Day Assembly
24 April	Benalla Art Gallery Giving Launch
25 April	Benalla RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Service
29 April	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors - Business Review
1 May	Benalla Art Gallery Launch - A creative partnership, by local artists Anita Laurence and Bill Young
3 May	Festival Finale - Benalla 2026 National Heritage Festival
5 May	Benalla Festival Advisory Committee Meeting
6 May	Councillor Only Time
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Councillor Peter Davis	
17 April	Official Opening Benalla Street Art Festival
22 April	Council Only Time
	Council Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Business Review
24 April	Benalla Art Gallery Giving Launch
25 April	Benalla RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Dawn Service
29 April	Launch of 2026 National Heritage Festival
	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors - Business Review
3 May	Festival Finale - Benalla 2026 National Heritage Festival
6 May	Tour of New Pump Track
	Councillor Only Time
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
8 April	Art of Flight Festival - Welcome Reception
17 April	Official Opening Benalla Street Art Festival
22 April	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
	Council Only Time
	Council Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Business Review
24 April	Benalla Art Gallery Giving Launch
25 April	Benalla RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Service
29 April	Launch of 2026 National Heritage Festival
	Councillor Only Time
	Assembly of Councillors - Business Review
1 May	Benalla Art Gallery Launch - A creative partnership, by local artists Anita Laurence and Bill Young
2 May	Benalla Saints 2026 President and Sponsors Luncheon
6 May	Tour of New Pump Track
	Councillor Only Time
	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Councillor Jillian Merkel	
17 April	Official Opening Benalla Street Art Festival
21 April	Churchill Reserve Committee of Management Meeting
22 April	Council Only Time
	Council Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Business Review
25 April	Benalla RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Service
29 April	Assembly of Councillors - Business Review
5 May	Benalla Festival Advisory Committee Meeting
6 May	Finance and Planning Committee Meeting
	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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4.11 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

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Council Actions Pending

Appendix 1

Action No.	Meeting Name	Item	Action	Officer	Status/notes
1.	Council Meeting 13-Dec-23	4.4	Benalla Sports and Equestrian Reserve Committee That the debate on this matter be deferred until the Council Meeting on 14 February 2024 to allow the <i>Benalla Sports and Equestrian Reserve</i> user groups to endorse their representative on the <i>Benalla Sports and Equestrian Reserve Committee</i> and the <i>Instrument of Sub-Delegation from the Chief Executive Officer to Community Asset Committees</i> be updated.	CEO	Report to be presented to Assembly of Councillors briefing on 17 June 2026.

2.	Council Meeting 4-Mar-26	6.1	<p>Notice of Motion: Improved Parking Layout at Benalla Railway Station</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council notes the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rail travellers have enjoyed direct and immediate access to the Benalla Railway Station building and platform for well over a century. b. The current Inland Rail project will result in loss of this direct access. Disabled passengers will no longer enjoy the previous accessibility by way of the drop-off zone at the entrance and convenient parking spaces within 10 metres of the platform. c. Disabled parking spaces are now to be a minimum of 35 metres away. Public transport parking (buses and taxis) is further removed. d. The design for the station provides for substantial open space directly outside the station entrance. The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) (article in the Benalla Ensign dated 14 January 2026) is reported as asserting that the shift was driven by the community's desire for open space. e. A recent response letter from former members of the Benalla Working Group (BWG) established by the ARTC in 2020 rejected this assertion, stating that in the deliberations of the BWG it was never an either open space or parking situation immediately outside the station building. f. Substantial opportunities for open space development will be available for ARTC after the southern rail track and former Express Passenger Train (XPT) platform is removed, without impinging on opportunities for an improved parking layout. g. Provision of disabled parking spaces together with improved provision for emergency vehicle and public transport access can be readily achieved by using the existing concrete and asphalt pavement immediately in front of the station entrance. h. The proposed change will result in cost savings through not requiring current pavement to be excavated. 2. That the Council notes that the new northern platform to be developed as part of this project will experience significant passenger movements. A new northside car park for all patrons including public transport and disabled users will enhance the functionality and community acceptance of the changes. 3. That the Council has the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to write to the ARTC CEO (copies to Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Catherine King, State Minister for Transport Sonia Kilkeny, Annabelle Cleeland MLA, Member for Euroa and Helen Haines MP, Independent Member for Indi) in terms of the above points. 	CEO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. Completed 3. Completed
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3.	F&P Committee 25-Mar-2026	5	Event Funding Program Guidelines 1. That the budget for the <i>Event Funding Program</i> be increased to \$15,000 in the <i>2026/27 Budget</i> . 2. That the <i>Event Funding Program Guidelines</i> be adopted.	MEDAS	1. In progress 2. Completed
4.	F&P Committee 25-Mar-2026	8	Petition: Reopen The Reserve Located To The South of Willis Little Drive, Benalla 1. That the report be noted. 2. That Council officers meet with petitioners to further discuss public access to the Willis Little Drive Reserve. 3. That a report on outcomes from the proposed meeting be presented to the Council by 31 May 2026.	MAI	1. Completed 2. In progress 3. In progress
5.	Council Meeting 22 April 2026	4.1	Draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030 1. That the draft <i>Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2025–2030</i> be endorsed and placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.	MAI	1. In progress
6.	Council Meeting 22 April 2026	4.2	Draft Active Transport Plan 2025-2030 1. That the draft Active Transport Plan 2025–2030 be endorsed and placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.	MAI	1. In progress
7.	Council Meeting 22 April 2026	4.3	2025/26 Quick Response Grants Program 1. That a \$750 grant from the 2025/2026 Quick Response Grant program be awarded to Room at The Table.	MC	1. Completed
8.	Council Meeting 22 April 2026	4.4	2025/26 Event Funding Program 1. That a grant of \$2,000 from the 2025/26 Event Funding program be allocated to the Balloon Association of Victoria. 2. That a grant of \$1,958 from the 2025/26 Event Funding program be allocated to the Benalla Heritage Network. 3. That a grant of \$2,000 from the 2025/26 Event Funding program be allocated to the Austin 7 Club. 4. That \$2,958 be allocated from the Event Attraction budget to part fund these grants.	MEDAS	1. Completed 2. Completed 3. Completed 4. Completed

9.	Council Meeting 22 April 2026	4.5	Council Plan 2025-2029 Action Plan To 30 June 2027 1. That the actions detailed in Appendix 1 be incorporated into the Council Plan 2025-2029 Action Plan To 30 June 2027. 2. That quarterly updates on the status of the actions detailed in the Council Plan 2025-2029 Action Plan To 30 June 2027 be reported to the Council.	GMC	1. Completed 2. Completed
10.	F&P Meeting 6 May 2026	4	2025/26 Quick Response Grants Program 1. Award \$750 grants from the 2025/2026 Quick Response Grant program to the Benalla Swimming Club Inc and the Moorngag Public Hall Committee Inc.	MC	1. Completed

5. Reports by Councillors

Recommendation:

That the report(s) be noted.

6. Notices of Motion

7. Notices of Rescission Motion

8. Urgent Business

Business can only be admitted as urgent business by resolution of the council, and only then if it:

- relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
- cannot be deferred until the next Council Meeting without having a negative impact on the Council, the municipality or the local community; and
- cannot be addressed through the Customer Request Management System.

A Councillor proposing that a matter be admitted as urgent business must lodge it in writing with the Chief Executive Officer by 4pm on the day of the meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer will advise the Mayor of any matter that the Chief Executive Officer determines appropriate for the Council to consider admitting as urgent business.

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9. 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 Panel Contract CM26. 059 Supply of Quarry Products 2026-2030
- 9.2 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 9.3 Confidential Council Actions Pending

Recommendation:

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 Panel Contract CM26. 059 Supply of Quarry Products 2026-2030

Item 9.1 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains information relating to private commercial information.

9.2 Confidential Reports by Councillors

Item 9.2 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.

9.3 Confidential Council Actions Pending

Item 9.3 is confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains information relating to private commercial information.

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10. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Recommendation:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Closure of the meeting