

Finance and Planning Committee

Agenda

Date: Wednesday 19 June 2024

Time: 5.30pm

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

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

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Agenda

Chair Cr Bernie Hearn

Councillors Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor)
 Councillor Peter Davis
 Councillor Don Firth
 Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne
 Councillor Justin King
 Councillor Gail O'Brien

In attendance Dom Testoni Chief Executive Officer
 Robert Barber General Manager Corporate
 Jane Archbold Manager Community
 Cathy Fitzpatrick Manager Finance
 Courtney Naughton Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
 Nilesh Singh Manager Development
 Greg Robertson Manager Facilities and Information Technology
 Tom Arnold Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
 Jess Pendergast Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgment 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

Recommendation:
That the apology/ies be accepted.

Governance Matters

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

Recording of Council Meetings

In accordance with the *Governance Rules 2020* clause 6.4 meetings of Council will be audio recorded and made available for public access, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda.

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 previous Meeting Minutes

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 Finance and Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 15 May 2024 and Wednesday 5 June 2024 be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Business

1. Proposed 2024/2025 Budget – Consideration of Submissions

SF/2485-09

Cathy Fitzpatrick – Manager Finance

Robert Barber – General Manager Corporate

Dom Testoni – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report considers submissions received on the proposed *2024/25 Budget*.

BACKGROUND

The Council at its meeting on Wednesday 1 May 2024 resolved:

- 1. That the proposed 2024/25 Budget be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days from 2 May 2024.*
- 2. That submissions relating to the proposed 2024/25 Budget be heard at a meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee on 5 June 2024.*
- 3. That the Council consider submissions relating to the proposed 2024/25 Budget at a Council meeting on 19 June 2024.*
- 4. That the Council consider the adoption of the 2024/25 Budget at a meeting of the Council on Wednesday 26 June 2024.*

Public notice of the proposed *2023/24 Budget* was given on the Council's website on 2 May 2024 and in the *Benalla Ensign* on Wednesday 15 May 2024.

Feedback was also sought via the Council's website and promoted on social media.

A community information session was held on Thursday 23 May 2024 at the Benalla Civic Centre.

The submission period closed 5pm Thursday 30 May 2024.

DISCUSSION

At the close of the submission period eight submissions had been received from:

- Trudi Eaton
- U3A Benalla Committee – Margaret Jenkins
- Roman Kaminski
- Churchill Recreation Reserve Committee Management – Kathryn De Fazio
- Munro Avenue Preschool – Michelle Lindsay
- Belinda Hoffman
- Benalla Art Gallery Foundation – Winsome McCaughey
- Friends of the Benalla Art Gallery – Jane Grimwade

Submissions are attached as **Appendix 1**.

In accordance with the Council’s *Governance Rules 2020*, submitters were invited to address the Finance and Planning Committee in support of their submissions. It is noted that Margret Jenkins and Winsome McCaughey spoke in support of their submissions.

A summary of submission and officer comments can be found in the table below:

No.	Name	Summary	Officer Comments
1.	Trudi Eaton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve old footpaths around town. ▪ Improve towns gutters. ▪ Improve parking in the CBD by having angle parking. ▪ Engage a youth development officer to find ways to stimulate and encourage young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2024/25 Budget includes a \$100,000 for footpath renewal works. ▪ 2024/25 Budget includes a \$132,000 to the Kerb and Channel renewal program. ▪ In 2023/24, \$296,000 of kerb and channel works funded by phase three of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. ▪ Limited space in road reserve to introduce angle parking. ▪ Council would need to work with VicRoads. ▪ Youth Development Coordinator and Youth Engagement already employed.
2.	U3A Benalla Committee – Margret Jenkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requesting a room which will accommodate 40 to 45 people with adequate nearby parking and appropriate facilities. ▪ Include building an extra room to accommodate groups of 40 – 45 members adjacent to the Benalla Seniors and Community Centre in the <i>Fawckner Drive Precinct Masterplan</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Options to be investigated. ▪ A capacity audit of the current facility should be conducted. ▪ U3A a potential future user of meeting space at BPACC.
3.	Roman Kaminski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritise open communication and provide detailed insights into budget allocations, particularly for projects that significantly impact taxpayers. ▪ Ensure that the BRCC budget reflects the needs and priorities of the community it serves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>2024/25 Budget</i> prepared in accordance with Victoria State Government’s Model Budget 2024-25. ▪ Community engagement is a key part of the budget development process.

No.	Name	Summary	Officer Comments
4.	Churchill Recreation Reserve Committee of Management – Kathryn De Fazio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In support of the development of a Masterplan for Churchill Recreation Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$100,000 allocation in proposed budget for Churchill Reserve Masterplan.
5.	Munro Avenue Preschool - Michelle Lindsay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assisted with maintaining grounds at Munro Avenue Preschool. ▪ Provide new signage at the end of Munro Avenue to notify community of Munro Avenue Preschool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ground maintenance a responsibility of tenants. ▪ Requested referred to Assets and Infrastructure department.
6.	Belinda Hoffman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put BBQ's in at Lake Nillachootie and some shades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management of Lake Nillachootie and surrounds is the responsibility of Goulburn Murray Water.
7.	Benalla Art Gallery Foundation – Winsome McCaughey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure funding for the <i>Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project</i> for Stage 2. ▪ Provide two years of funding for the licenses fees for the new integrated point of sale system at the Benalla Art Gallery. Licensing fees are \$13,000 per annum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project to be reported to the Council. ▪ Under consideration.
8.	Friends of the Benalla Art Gallery – Jane Grimwade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure funding for the <i>Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project</i> for Stage 2. ▪ Consider a budget allocation for one additional Benalla Art Gallery staff to bring up to the staffing ratio. ▪ Provide funding support the new integrated point of sale system at the Benalla Art Gallery beyond the 2024-2025 period to provide and demonstrate financial stability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment Project to be reported to the Council. ▪ Benalla Art Gallery Masterplan community engagement to be undertaken before any decision is made on future staffing of the gallery. ▪ Under consideration.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025**Leadership**

- *Good governance.*
- *High performance culture.*
- *Engaged and informed community.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Taking into consideration submissions received, no amendments to the proposed *2023/24 Budget* are recommended.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement has been undertaken at the 'Involve' level on the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

CONCLUSION

The *2024/25 Budget* will be considered for adoption at the Council meeting on 26 June 2024.

On adoption of the *2024/25 Budget*, all submitters will be advised in writing of the outcome of their submission.

Recommendation:**That the report be noted.**

Proposed 2024/25 Budget Online Submissions

No.	Name	Submission
1.	Trudi Eaton	<p>Dear Benalla council and councillors.</p> <p>I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment to our wonderful town of Benalla. It is indeed a beautiful part of the world.</p> <p>I would like to propose that the footpaths around the town are old, dilapidated and in need of repair. The new footpaths going out to the race course sounds a bit like a white elephant. And I feel money would be better spent improving the old footpaths around town. The town's gutters are in a poor state as well. Hanna street is just one example.</p> <p>I am concerned that we don't have sufficient parking in the CBD. Could this be improved by having angle parking? I'm excited that your goals are to promote a flourishing thriving business and tourism industry.</p> <p>I am concerned for our young people and the sense of hopelessness they feel which results in crimes and general bad behaviour. Could we engage a youth development officer to find ways to stimulate and encourage our young people. They are our future after all. I am happy with the waste management plans.</p> <p>Thank you kindly for your time and consideration</p>
2.	U3A Benalla Committee – Margret Jenkins	<p>Mayor, Councillors and CEO, In the Proposed 2024/25 Budget of Benalla Rural City Council (BRCC) strategic objectives of BRCC are stated as firstly Community: Council aspires to a healthy, safe and resilient community, and a connected, involved and inclusive community. This statement proceeds to say that Council supports “programs, services and activities and events that support, develop and connect community members of all abilities and lead the community to be age friendly and child and COVID safe.”</p> <p>Benalla has an ageing population. According to the 2021 census, 46% of Benalla's population are aged 55 years or older, as compared to 28% of the Victorian population and 29% of the Australian population. The Benalla Seniors and Community Centre is currently an excellent BRCC facility. It was built in the 1980's, and although it has had two refurbishments, has not been extended since it was built.</p> <p>U3A Benalla is an organisation for retired or semi-retired people aged 55 years or older. Currently U3A Benalla occupy two rooms at the Benalla Seniors and Community Centre and offer our 408 members 46 different activities. These activities provide entertainment, enjoyment, physical activity, mental stimulation and social interaction, all of which are important for our member's mental health.</p> <p>Each group or activity is organised by a volunteer Convenor who is passionate about the subject or group they are organising. In 2023 U3A Benalla realised that our Convenors, Committee, Newsletter and Website Manager contribute a total of 700 hours of volunteer work to our Benalla community each month.</p> <p>The two rooms that U3A Benalla occupy at the Benalla Seniors and Community Centre include the main room which is 14 m x 5m and will comfortably hold 30 people when tables are taken out of the room. The second room which is 5m x 5m will seat 10 people, and is useful for only the smallest U3A groups or one on one assistance in some programs.</p> <p>Enrolments in 2024 for some of the groups which use the larger room are Music Appreciation 44 members, Patchwork and Craft 39, Ukuleles 4 Fun 26 members, Meet and Mingle 62 and Be Connected Android 26 members.</p> <p>We are fortunate that U3A Benalla's largest groups are accommodated outside the two U3A rooms at the Benalla Seniors and Community Centre.</p>

No.	Name	Submission
		<p>These groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Garden Appreciation has 94 members (held at various gardens and outings by bus) ▪ Exercises for fun – 82 (held weekly in Auditorium of Benalla Seniors and Community Centre) ▪ Wine Appreciation – 67 (held at various wineries and lunch afterwards nearby) ▪ Easy Walks – 53 (various out door locations) ▪ Community Singing – 38 (held at the Hub Cooinda) ▪ Singing for Fun – 48 (held at the Hub Cooinda) ▪ Chat n Chew – 48 (held at various eateries in Benalla) ▪ Art Appreciation – 42 (held at Benalla Art Gallery) <p>Whilst U3A Benalla’s members are mostly from Benalla and the surrounding district, we are noticing an increase in people from outside localities joining our organisation. Examples of this is Wine Appreciation which has members from Albury, Wangaratta and Greta, the Creative Writing group which has members from Bonnie Doon and Wangaratta, whilst our Exercise group has members from Glenrowan and Wangaratta.</p> <p>U3A Benalla is a successful growing organisation which currently has 408 members. We had a 22 % increase in membership in 2023, and currently have a 2% increase in membership this year. We are providing 46 courses or activities which are enjoyed by our members.</p> <p>However, for U3A Benalla to keep expanding we require a room which will accommodate 40 to 45 people with adequate nearby parking and appropriate facilities. We cannot provide this ourselves.</p> <p>U3A Benalla were pleased to note that under Major Initiatives in the Proposed 2024/25 Budget of BRCC point 2 which states “Adopt and start implementation of the Fawckner Drive Precinct Masterplan”.</p> <p>U3A Benalla hope that in the Implementation of the Fawckner Drive Precinct Masterplan Benalla Rural City Council will include building an extra room to accommodate groups of 40 – 45 members adjacent to the Benalla Seniors and Community Centre.</p>
3.	Roman Kaminski	<p>BRCC Proposed Budget 2024-2025: Concerns and Call for Transparency.</p> <p>In the BRCC Proposed Budget 2024-2025 meeting on May 1, 2024, Cr Puna Gunaratne expressed his reservations about supporting the draft budget for community consultation. He emphasized the need to delve deeper into the budget's intricacies to fully understand its implications.</p> <p>During the discussion, Cr Davis urged Cr Gunaratne to consider reducing council services and staff, and even suggested the possibility of eliminating the landfill. However, it's noteworthy that there was no mention by Cr Davis of reducing council consultancy fees or re-evaluating the leasing of the Mayor's Tesla EV vehicle. Cr Gunaratne raised concerns about certain councilors prioritizing expensive consultancy services over concrete financial data, particularly in the case of a proposed cinema project. Despite the significant costs involved, there was a lack of transparent information regarding the budgetary impact of this venture. As an engaged ratepayer, I reached out to Cr Davis for clarification on the BRCC cinema project but received no response. This lack of communication is disappointing, especially considering Cr Davis's call for constructive input from ratepayers. Similarly, my inquiry to Cr Hearn regarding the proposed Midland Hwy project (footpath from town to the Benalla Racecourse at \$150,000) yielded vague information. While acknowledging the budgetary constraints, Cr Hearn's response lacked clarity on the project's funding structure and the extent of government involvement, example is it \$1 for \$1 with state or federal governments. As a member of the community, I</p>

No.	Name	Submission
		<p>advocate for greater transparency and accountability in council decisions. Ratepayers deserve clear and comprehensive information to make informed assessments of proposed projects and their financial implications.</p> <p>It's imperative that councilors prioritize open communication and provide detailed insights into budget allocations, particularly for projects that significantly impact taxpayers. Moving forward, I urge councilors to address these concerns and actively engage with constituents to foster a more transparent and inclusive decision-making process. Only through open dialogue and collaboration can we ensure that the BRCC budget reflects the needs and priorities of the community it serves.</p>
4.	Churchill Recreation Reserve Committee of Management – Kathryn De Fazio	<p>The Committee of Management for the Churchill Recreation Reserve supports, without reserve, the key initiative published in the 2024/2025 Rural City of Benalla Budget that proposes to Develop a Masterplan for Churchill Recreation Reserve.</p>
5.	Munro Avenue Preschool - Michelle Lindsay	<p>I would like to see Munro Avenue Preschool assisted in maintaining our grounds. The educators and parents help as much as we can, we all volunteer our time.</p> <p>Please help us maintain this hidden educational gem in Benalla.</p> <p>New signage at the end of our avenue would be appreciated, not many people know we are even here. We provide a high quality non-for-profit Early Childhood program with highly qualified staff.</p> <p>Please help our preschool built in 1971. I understand we are under a “peppercorn” lease and we appreciate this. However, we provide an invaluable service to some of our most vulnerable families in Benalla.</p>

The Benalla Art Gallery Foundation

28 May 2024

TO: The Mayor, The Councillors and The Chief Executive Officer,
The Benalla Rural City Council
Benalla, Victoria 3672

Dear Mayor, Councillors and CEO,

RE: Budget Submission on Securing a Sustainable Financial Future for Benalla Art Gallery

I write to on behalf of Benalla Art Gallery Foundation Directors to congratulate the Council on securing the \$3M grant from the Growing Regions Program (GRP) and to respectfully request the Council to consider associated Budget matters concerning future Budget years.

The \$3M grant from the GRP is great news for whole Gallery Redevelopment. Not only will it enable Council to complete Stage 1 and fix the most severe Gallery *building* problems. It lays the groundwork for Stage 2 of the Redevelopment, which is so critical to securing income for the Gallery's *operational* future. The fact that three levels of Government now support the Gallery is already instilling confidence in potential donors the Foundation is in touch with.

Redevelopment of Stage 2 is critical to securing Gallery's *operational* financial future.

Why? Because Stage 2 provides additional spaces for:

- Blockbuster Exhibitions – that the Gallery can then stage and charge entry. Other regional galleries advise us that Blockbusters generate around \$320k p.a. for them.
- Community Outreach Programs – that attract public, philanthropic and donor support.
- Restaurant and functions – that generate additional regular income from rent and hire.
- A real Gallery Shop – that will generate significant additional direct and on-line income.

The additional spaces will increase the number of visitors to the Gallery. Additional visitors mean more data on potential donors captured, and more income for Benalla businesses.

CRM & Point of Sale (POS) System is critical to securing the Gallery's financial future

The Gallery also needs an integrated POS/CRM System to secure its financial future- one that can capture the data and income generated from its 80,000 visitors – or 200,000 p.a. post Stage 2 of the Redevelopment. Additional income a CRM/POS will generate includes:

- **Commercial income** through increasing Gallery Shop sales - direct and on-line and POS tickets to major exhibitions and events; through hire of spaces - and more.
- **Membership Income** by following up visitors and encouraging them to join the Gallery.
- **Donor income** with the Foundation, by encouraging individuals to be annual donors.
- **Major Philanthropic income** with Foundation, by building on-line relationships with scores of public and private Trusts and Foundations and with high-net-worth individuals.

An integrated POS /CRM System can secure these financial benefits. Without it they cannot. The Directors of the Foundation are therefore pleased to advise the Council that, after exhaustive research by skilled consultants and detailed discussions with senior Council Officers, the Foundation has donated amounts that total \$27,500 to the Gallery, to enable Council to purchase an integrated CRM and POS System. FY 2025 licensing fees are covered by the donation. In discussions leading up to the decision, it was considered reasonable for licensing fees for a further two financial years to be covered by Council. Net fees p.a. to Council is anticipated to be some \$13k p.a. We hope this is acceptable, given the benefits.

In addition, the Directors of the Foundation are also pleased to advise that we are engaging PW Strategy as the **Business Development Team** to work with the Gallery, the Foundation and other supporters in raising additional capital and operational funds the Gallery needs from philanthropic sources and from establishing a Gallery Annual Giving Program. The Team involves two highly skilled professionals working part time. They have begun quietly in small ways and plan to be fully on-board by July 2024.

Thank you for your attention and kind regards

Winsome

Winsome McCaughey AO
Chair, Benalla Art Gallery Foundation.

To: CEO Dom Testoni, The Mayor and Benalla Rural City Councillors
Benalla Rural Council
Benalla. Vic 3672

Dear CEO, The Mayor and Councillors.

RE: Budget submission 2024-2025 in relation to Benalla Art Gallery's financial future.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Benalla Council on receiving \$3K grant from the Federal Growing Regions (GRP) program for the Benalla Art Gallery.

I write on behalf of the Friends of The Benalla Art Gallery, volunteers and members in asking the Benalla Council to consider and financially support the redevelopment project in their budget allocations for 2024 -2025.

To receive grants from both State and Federal Government's clearly indicates that Government at both levels has considerable faith in the future of the Benalla Art Gallery and the aim to bring it up to the standard of other regional Galleries in Victoria.

Stage 2. With this grant enabling the redevelopment to progress to Stage 2, building on Stage 1 it is a critical point in the redevelopment's operational future and of considerable benefit to the future of tourism visitations and the Benalla economy.

Stage 2 will provide the opportunity for additional the spaces, block buster and travelling exhibitions, philanthropic and donor support and return our gallery to the 'Jewel in the Crown' it once was.

Already we punch above our weight compared to other Galleries, the result of an exceptional hard-working team, volunteers and community support which is unsustainable without additional resources with the commitment and work load ahead.

I would like council to consider a budget allocation for gallery staffing that brings us up to the ratio determined by the value of our collection and in line with other regional galleries and allow the talented staff to continue to present a professional and viable Gallery.

The Gallery Director and his team have a major role in securing future funding as demonstrated by the combined application with Council to the Growing Regions funding application. Understaffing brings burnout and departure which we can ill afford and after receiving both state and federal Government grants, and support from the Director of the NGV Tony Wellwood, if we become unable to meet an acceptable level of competency it will destroy our credibility as a professional Gallery.

Budget recommendation.

I would like council to give consideration to this request for at least one additional staff member in the 2024-2025 budget to help maintain stability and lighten the work load.

The Foundation POS/CRM

The Formation of the Foundation and securing Government grants both Federal and State, the formation of a Business Development Team and an integrated POS /CRM system is critical to the Galleries financial future.

The CRM system enables the capture of data and income generated from the following sources. Commercial income, membership income, Donor income and Major Philanthropic income.

Budget recommendation. The Foundation has made a financial contribution to enable Council to purchase a system and I urge council to consider supporting this system in the budget beyond the 2024-2025 period to provide and demonstrate financial stability.

Philanthropic Relationships.

Philanthropists are shrewd investors with their giving and it takes considerable time to build these relationships based on the professionalism of the organisations and the benefits to those involved.

To quote the philanthropist, Rupert Myer AO, Art enriches our lives, unites our communities and ignites our economy.

Moving forward, with the support already received from government bodies, BRC Council and the public sector we are in a position to grow exponentially with the experts in our **PW Strategy Business Development Team** to work with donors, philanthropists and all stake holders in raising additional capital. This will enable the Foundation to present a totally professional organisation that will attract philanthropic relationships in support of the Art Gallery and subsequently enrich the Benalla Community.

Philanthropy is the lynch pin for securing the Art Galleries future and must be nurtured.

Gallery Tourism.

The visiting public today are constantly seeking different experiences in the tourism arena. They are seeking the unspoiled environment, health benefits, low cost and family orientated activities.

The Art Gallery position on the banks of lake Benalla situated in our beautifully maintained Heritage Botanical Gardens captures what tourists are currently looking for. Our Nature in natural form, i.e. lake walk and Botanical gardens, food, and culture has a captive audience.

The proposed café venue will provide a multitude of opportunities for dining, fund raising events, the Gallery shop to provide local artist exhibitions, quality merchandise all contribute to increased visitations, exposure to the area and to the financial security of the Gallery.

Thank you for considering this application with regard to funding in the 2024-2025 budget by supporting the Benalla Art Gallery to guarantee its viable future.

I am aware of the difficulty in allocating budget funds across the board but the Art Gallery and its situation is our greatest asset for attracting tourism that can then spread to the surrounding area.

Jane Grimwade

President of the Friends of the Benalla Art Gallery

Founder of the Benalla Art Gallery & Life Member

2. Draft Fair Access Policy – Consideration of Submissions

SF/265

Tom Arnold – Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
Jane Archbold – Manager Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report considers submissions received for the draft *Fair Access Policy*.

BACKGROUND

The Council at its meeting held Wednesday 24 April 2024 resolved:

That the draft Fair Access Policy be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

The public exhibition period was opened Friday 26 April 2024.

To promote and encourage community input the following activities were completed:

- Public notice of the draft *Fair Access Policy* was given on the Council's website on 26 April 2023 and via Council's social media.
- Advertised in the Benalla Ensign on Wednesday 1 May 2024.
- Direct emails, meetings and communications with sports clubs, recreation facility contacts and Committee of Management contacts.

The submission period closed 5pm Thursday 30 May 2024.

The draft *Fair Access Policy* seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure and applies to community sports infrastructure where the Council is the land manager and/or operator of the facility.

DISCUSSION

At the close of the submission period one submission was received from Simon Olsen (refer **Appendix 1**).

In accordance with the Council's *Governance Rules 2020*, submitters were invited to address the Finance and Planning Committee in support of their submissions. No submitters addressed the committee.

A summary of the submission and officer comments can be found in the table below:

No.	Name	Summary	Officer Comments
1.	Simon Olsen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who's actually going to engage with the women and the girls? ▪ If women aren't providing feedback, why? ▪ If there's going to be engagement with local sporting groups, the first part of that should be a review of their management to find out the percentage of women in leadership roles. Why aren't there more? What is being done about it? ▪ Prioritise girls and women when it comes to facilities, time slots, equipment and access. ▪ Amending this submission process to include age groupings and gender of the people responding; that to me is of critical importance. ▪ Who's going to listen to them? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fair Access is a shared responsibility and focus across all sporting bodies in Victoria. Council, clubs, leagues, State Sporting Associations, and Regional Sports Assembly's will all play an active role. ▪ Women and girls have been heavily involved in the creation of the policy. The policy template was designed by the Office for Women and Girls in Sport and Recreation. During the exhibition period informal feedback was received from women in support of the policy. ▪ Increasing women in leadership positions and upskilling women and girls is a key principle within the policy. ▪ This is a key outcome highlighted within the six Fair Access principles. ▪ Council is unable to amend the submission process once opened. ▪ It is the responsibility of Council, leagues, and clubs to consider and work through feedback received from women and girls regarding Fair Access.

Taking into consideration the results from the community engagement process there is community support for the draft *Fair Access Policy*.

There are no changes recommended for the draft *Fair Access Policy* following the community engagement period.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- *A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Livability

- *Vibrant public spaces and places.*

Leadership

- *Engaged and informed community.*
- *Effective and responsive advocacy.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council's *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that, due to administrative nature of the report, community engagement be undertaken at the 'Inform' level under the International Association for Public Participation's IAP2 public participation spectrum.

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of policy via media, website and social media. ▪ Report on the policy presented to the Council at a public meeting. ▪ Community update on the adoption of the policy via the 'Have Your Say' project webpage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of policies will be accommodated within the existing budget.

LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that the report is consistent with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

CONCLUSION

That the *Fair Access Policy* be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting on 26 June 2024.

Recommendation:
That the report be noted.

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Draft *Fair Access Policy* Online Submissions

No.	Name	Submission
1.	Simon Olsen	<p>I agree with the policy, however I'm curious as to how it's going to be implemented. The key, public facing roles within council when it comes to sport are predominantly men. The community sporting groups are dominated by men - and specifically men over 45 - in terms of their leadership and committee's. This is a problem. These aren't spaces for women. It's old, misogynist attitudes and behaviours.</p> <p>Who's actually going to engage with the women and the girls? Who's going to listen to them?</p> <p>If there's going to be engagement with local sporting groups, the first part of that should be a review of their management to find out the percentage of women in leadership roles. Why aren't there more? What is being done about it?</p> <p>A policy such as fair access is only going to be effective if men like myself commit to making a space and a place for girls and women.</p> <p>Boys in sporting club environments never question whether they're allowed to be on the court or the field; they just take the space. They don't look, they don't consider if there's girls already there. They've been conditioned and allowed to do this; that needs to stop.</p> <p>Girls have also been conditioned to be wait until they're given permission to take ownership of a space; that needs to change.</p> <p>You change behaviours by changing attitudes and that's going to be the biggest hurdle when it comes to implementing a policy like this.</p> <p>Girls and women need to be given priority when it comes to facilities, time slots, equipment and access.</p> <p>They need to be listened to.</p> <p>I would recommend amending this submission process to include age groupings and gender of the people responding; that to me is of critical importance.</p> <p>If women aren't providing feedback, why?</p>

3. Proposed Name Change of Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre

SF/265

Tom Arnold – Community Development Coordinator

Jess Pendergast – Governance Coordinator

Robert Barber – General Manager Corporate

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report considers feedback received in relation to the proposed name change for the *Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre*.

BACKGROUND

At the Assembly of Councillors briefing held on 30 August 2023, U3A Benalla representatives provided Councillors with a presentation on U3A activities. During the presentation U3A representatives proposed a name change for the *Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre*.

The proposed name change was that the Centre be renamed *Benalla Seniors and Community Centre*.

Subsequently, a letter was received from U3A and Senior Citizens Benalla to indicate support for the proposed name change from user groups of the centre. Further correspondence was received from U3A on 30 October 2023.

At the 6 December Finance and Planning meeting a report regarding the proposed name change was tabled with the recommendation:

That the proposal for the Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre to be renamed Benalla Seniors and Community Centre be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

The public exhibition period opened 17 January 2024 and closed 21 February 2024.

Feedback on the proposed name change was advertised through Council's website, social media and the Benalla Ensign. Additional printed information and surveys were available at the *Senior Citizens and Community Centre* and Council's Customer Service Centre. The Age Friendly Officer also presented the proposal to the Age Friendly Reference Group at their February Meeting.

DISCUSSION

At the completion of the exhibition period 46 surveys were received. 31 electronic and 15 paper.

- 31 submissions were in support. Three of the 31 included alternate suggestions.
- 14 submissions were against. Six of the 14 proposed alternate suggestions.
- One survey provided a comment with no vote.

General Themes

Those voting in the affirmative were in support as the new name was more inclusive of all users within the Centre.

Reasons for those who had voted against included, the process is a poor use of Council resources or that the proposed new name was either not required or not appropriate.

Four surveys requested that the word ‘and’ be removed from the name, making the name *Seniors Community Centre*.

Submissions are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Consideration of key themes in submissions

Theme	Officer Comment
Renaming the facility is a poor use of Council resources	There will be a minor financial impact related to signage updates and staff time to update files and records. This cost is estimated to be approximately \$1,820.
Alternative name suggestions	The Council was not seeking alternative proposals during this process. The majority of feedback received was in support of the proposed change.
The proposed name does not align with the <i>Naming Rules for places in Victoria</i> statutory requirements.	Council considers the proposed name to meet the requirements.
The proposed change is more reflective of the current use of the facility.	The request for the change was initiated by the two primary user groups of the facility (Benalla U3A and Benalla Senior Citizens Group).

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- *A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Livability

- *Vibrant public spaces and places.*

Leadership

- *Engaged and informed community.*
- *Effective and responsive advocacy.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that, due to administrative nature of the report, community engagement be undertaken at the ‘Inform’ level under the International Association for Public Participation’s IAP2 public participation spectrum.

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of name change via media, website and social media. ▪ Public report presented to Council. ▪ Community update via the ‘Have Your Say’ project webpage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be a minor financial impact related to signage updates and staff time to update files and records. This cost is estimated to be approximately \$1,820.

LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that the report is consistent with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*, *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* and *Naming Rules for places in Victoria*.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

CONCLUSION

Taking into consideration the results from the consultation process, the minimal financial and staff resources required and to make the change it is recommended that Council move forward with the required process to rename the facility to *Benalla Seniors and Community Centre*.

Recommendation:

1. That the Council rename *Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre* to *Benalla Seniors and Community Centre*.
2. That Geographic Names Victoria (VICNAMES) be advised of the name change.

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Appendix 1

Proposed Name Change of the Benalla Senior Citizens and Community Centre - Public Submissions Responses

Name	Voted in support of name change		My written submission
	Yes	No	
Len Jeffers	Yes		Seems to be a very logical change.
Richard Cotton	Yes		It is an outdated and specific name. We need to include all members of the community and make them feel welcome. I fully support the name change, it should have been done years ago. It is a great idea.
Julie McNeill	Yes		
Margaret Walshe	Yes		I support the proposed name change to Benalla Seniors and Community Centre as it will be inclusive to user groups and remain identifiable to the community.
David Blore	Yes		The Centre caters for a wide range of ages, whilst naturally catering in particular for senior citizens. This is better reflected in the proposed name change.
Margaret Jenkins	Yes		The new name would be inclusive of all groups which use the building, not just the Senior Citizens. U3A Benalla Inc. use the building extensively. Last year we had 401 members, and in 2024 as at 24 January 2024 we have 335 members enrolled. A copy of our 46 programs, the majority of which use the current Senior Citizens building is enclosed. The Benalla Bridge club use the building, and they have approximately 60 members. The Benalla Social Dance Group also use the building and they also have approximately 60 members.
Robyn Goudie	Yes		
Dorothy Webber	Yes		In the past, the building was used by the senior citizens club the past number of years it has become so much more The new name will indicate how the building is used now
Emma Warnock		No	Waste of money. Spend it on repairing our roads.
Kelly Macnamara		No	Benalla Seniors + is all it needs. Do away with names like community and centre.
David Palmer	Yes		
Jolly Mary-Ann	Yes		Agree with name change to Benalla Seniors and Community Centre.
Leanne Cleeland		No	I recommend a more neutral language to refer to older people as 'senior' is no longer appropriate as per ageism recommendations. I suggest 'Older People Community Centre' or instead 'Lowry Place Community Centre'.
Dominick Ahne	Yes		I think that Benalla Seniors and Community Centre is a much better name as it a a shorter name

Name	Voted in support of name change		My written submission
	Yes	No	
Alan POTTLE		No	Why waste council money on a name change that is so similar to the existing name? Total waste of council money and resources that surely could be better allocated elsewhere. Just another example of why ratepayers get so angry and disillusioned with Benalla Rural Council.
Denise Jarvis	Yes		
Michael Smith		No	How about this idea, leave it as it is, save the inevitable money that would be required for name change. The question has to be asked why take the word citizen out?
Susan Dwyer	Yes		This change of name is more reflective of the current users of the senior citizen centre. I currently attend a class for u3a and the inclusion of the word community is more inclusive and representative.
Anon.	Yes		I don't know why it just can't be "Benalla Community Centre" . The seniors are included in community, aren't they?
Anon.	Yes		There are many different groups who use this building. To have an open name includes all who currently use and allows for future use by different groups. The new name identifies exactly what it is used for and complies with many of the The Naming Rules for places in Victoria.
Anon.	Yes		I agree that the name change will better represent the groups primarily using the facility.
Anon.		No	This just costs money to rename everything; letterheads, signs etc. It would be a waste of money and an unnecessary expense. I would like to see the money spent on things that matter to the community!
Anon.	Yes		The new name sounds more inclusive, and if the users of the facility have requested it, I'm happy to vote yes
Anon.	Yes		I would also support changing the name to just Benalla Community Centre drop the senior part all together.
Anon.		No	
Anon.		No	The name is perfectly fine, and the new name isn't very different. Not worth the effort or the financial burden to accompany it.
Anon.		No	
Anon.		No	Why can't it just be Benalla community centre? This then would include all aspects of our community
Anon.	Yes		I support the name change , as we have other community centres needs to have seniors included, great choice
Anon.	Yes		I agree with the change as long as it isn't costly.
Elaine Cotton	Yes		I support the name change. It is more inclusive and does not discriminate. I feel it is time to make all members of the Benalla community feel welcome.
Corrie Witlox	Yes		The name is more inclusive for the whole community

Name	Voted in support of name change		My written submission
	Yes	No	
Anon.		No	<p>The consultation process for this proposal has started at the wrong point. If the council were doing this process properly, the consultation process should have started by asking whether the community wants the purpose of the building to change. The proposed name does not align with the principles outlined on page 1 of the document 'Proposed Name Change for the Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre', specifically: Principle B - Recognising the public interest. This consultation process is flawed and will not identify the public interest as the public haven't been asked whether they want the purpose of the facility to change. To change the purpose of the facility to align with the proposed name, significant resources would need to be provided to make the facility accessible to the entire Benalla LGA. There is no suggestion that the council has planned to allocate any resources to this proposal, so it is not in the public interest to change the purpose of the facility. Is the council proposing to move U3A out of the building to make way for storage for a playgroup? How could this facility accommodate a toy library? How would the council negotiate activities for competing groups that require fixed infrastructure and regular access? If this facility is to be a proper community centre, why not call it a community centre rather than retaining the tilt towards 'Seniors'. The community is currently able to hire the facility so it is accessible to residents in the Benalla region. The new name suggests that it is expected the facility will remain primarily for senior citizens. It is not in the public interest to spend council time and money going through a process to change the name of a facility when there will be no significant change to the way it is used. It is also not in the public interest to change the name of the building when there is no plan to move larger groups serving senior citizens who currently use the facility out of the building to make way for a broader range of groups serving the full age span of residents. Principle C - Linking the name to place; There is no plan to manage the facility so that it can be used across the full age span by people in the Benalla district. No funds have been allocated to change the purpose of the facility, there has been no explanation for how the facility will get the storage space needed for all of the groups who would use the facility for a range of activities, there has been no suggestion that there is a plan to manage competing groups who would want to access the facility. Without significant work and money, this facility will continue to remain a Senior Citizens Community Centre. The current name reflects the purpose of the facility and the link between the purpose of the facility and the name is very clear. Benalla needs a stand alone facility for senior citizens as our population age range is skewed towards older ages, and it is reasonable to retain this facility to serve that population. This is a confusing and poorly explained proposal, which is backed up by a consultation process that starts at the wrong point. Continuing with this proposal is a waste of council resources and will certainly create significant anger towards the council from residents and businesses in the long-term.</p>

Name	Voted in support of name change		My written submission
	Yes	No	
Kieran Smith		No	Delete the 'and' to read , Benalla Seniors Community Centre
Carmyl Winkler	Yes		U3A depends very much on this building but it would be good XXX as available.
Anon.	Yes		The building is used for than Senior Citizens activity.
Margaret Merriman		No	Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre - omit the 'AND'
Gwen Barnes		No	There are 46% aged 55 yrs or over according to 2022 census. Therefore the centre needs to be for seniors. Leave out the 'and' . Benalla Seniors Community Centre
Anon.	Yes		Without the 'and'. This encompasses all the groups that use it. 46% of our population are seniors.

Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
- No

BENALLA RURAL CITY COUNCIL			
- 1 MAR 2024			
FILE NO.	2	10	P

My written submission

FILE NO. 2 10 P

NOT ANOTHER WEARY DOWLOP.
SURELY THERE'S A FEMALE
ROLE MODEL FROM PAST.

Name: Beth Rander



Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

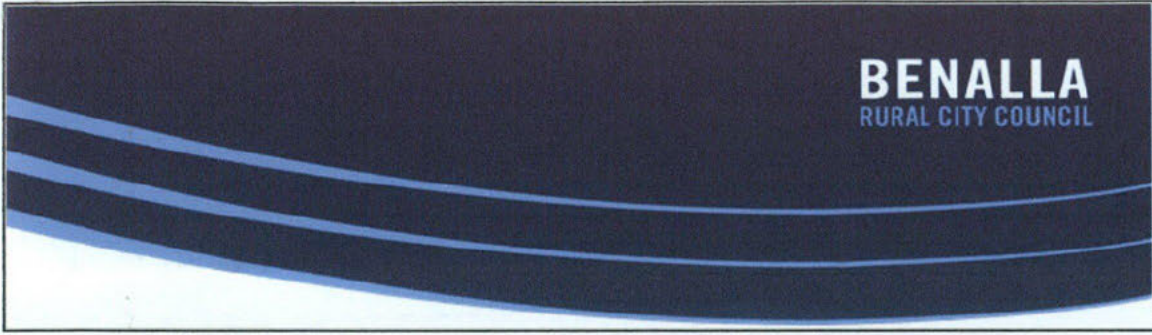
- Yes
- No

Please return to Customer Service Desk by **Friday 16 February 2024.**

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Benalla Rural City Council
 PO Box 227, 1 Bridge Street East
 Benalla Victoria 3671
 Phone: (3 5760 2600)
 Email: council@benalla.vic.gov.au
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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to *'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'*?

Yes
 No

BENALLA RURAL CITY COUNCIL	
29 JAN 2024	
FILE NO.	

My written submission

Much more inclusive name for all the community.

Name: Gayelene Arandall



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I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

Yes
 No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
- No

My written submission

BENALLA RURAL CITY COUNCIL			
- 6 FEB 2024			
FILE NO.	2	10	P

Name: SHIRLIE GILMEUR



Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes
- No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to *'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'*?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

Delete 'and' to read
Benalla Seniors Community Centre.

Name: Kieran South

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

V3 A depends very much on this building but it would be good to share this as available.

Name: Carmyl Winkler

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

There are 46 } aged 55 yrs or over,
according to 2022 census.
Therefore the centre needs to be for
seniors Leave out the and
Benalla Seniors Community Centre.

Name: Cwen Barnes

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre —
Omit the "AND"

Name: Margaret McErinman

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors ~~and~~ Community Centre'?

- Yes without the 'and'
 No

My written submission

This encompasses all the groups that use it.
46% of our population are seniors.

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

THE NAME IS MORE INCLUSIVE FOR THE WHOLE
COMMUNITY

Name: COBBIE WITLOX

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

I support the name change.
It is more inclusive and does not discriminate.
I feel it is time to make all members of the Benalla Community feel ~~at~~ welcome.
Elaine Cotton

Name: ELAINE COTTON

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required
 Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to *'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'*?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

- Yes
 No

My written submission

Name: IAN JENKINS

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

- Yes No

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Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – Proposed Name Change

Do you support the name change to 'Benalla Seniors and Community Centre'?

Yes

No

My written submission

THE BUILDING IS USED FOR MORE THAN
SENIOR CITIZENS ACTIVITY

Submitters will be identified in a public report that will become part of the public record. If you do not wish to be identified, please indicate this in your submission.

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report. Required

Yes

No

Please return to Customer Service Desk by **Friday 16 February 2024**.

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4. Proposal for a Mobile Phone Tower at Goorambat Recreation Reserve

SF/5635

Greg Robertson – Manager Facilities and Information Technology

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report discusses feedback received regarding the proposal to lease land for a Mobile Phone Tower at the Goorambat Recreation Reserve.

BACKGROUND

The Council received an initial briefing at an Assembly of Councillors meeting in August 2023 and a follow up briefing in February 2024 on a proposal for a Mobile Phone Tower at the Goorambat Recreation Reserve. The Manager Facilities and Information Technology, Greg Robertson presented the proposal and possible locations within the Goorambat Recreation Reserve for the tower.

Historically, phone reception in Goorambat has been poor.

DISCUSSION

The lease proposed is for a 20-year duration with all lease income proposed to be directed towards maintenance of the Council owned and managed Goorambat Recreation Reserve, and the associated community sporting facilities.

Ideally the funds would be granted to a Community Asset Committee, however there is no formal management committee at the reserve yet. The informal committee at the reserve have indicated they are looking to incorporate.

In lieu of a committee the Coordinator Open Space arranges maintenance at the reserve and is in regular contact with the individual sporting groups and in the informal Goorambat Recreation Reserve Committee.

The coordinator could allocate funds to any required work until such time as a committee is established for the reserve. The guaranteed annual allocation may prove an incentive to establish a formal Community Asset Committee.

The tower will be in a small 10m x 10m fenced compound on the western boundary of the reserve.

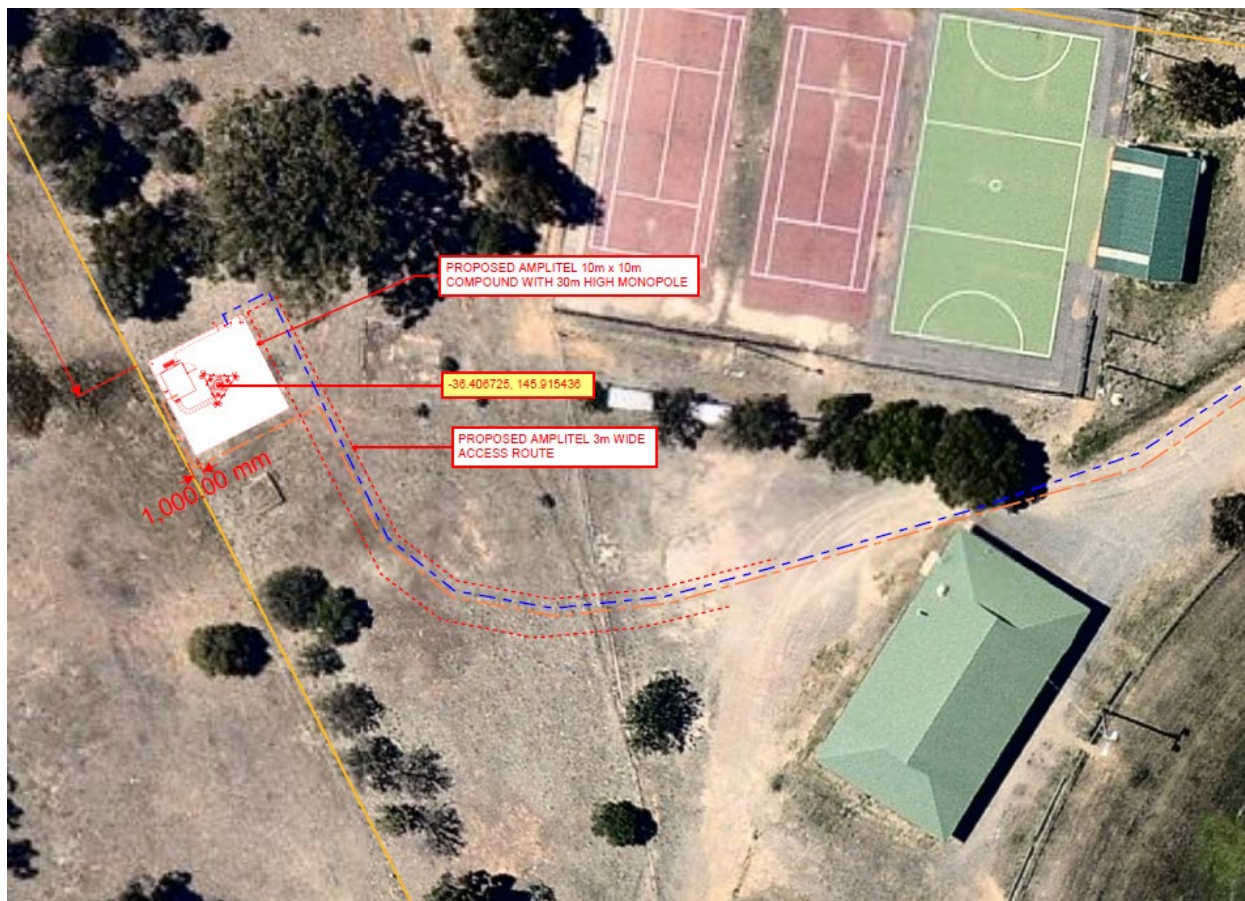


Image: proposed 10m x 10x fenced compound for the tower.

Community engagement on the proposal opened on Thursday 29 February 2024. A public notice was published in the *Benalla Ensign* and on Council’s website on Wednesday 6 March 2024.

The proposal and online submission form were published on the Council’s ‘Have Your Say’ website.

Twenty-three online responses were received via the Have Your Say website and one in-person response. Online submissions are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Community consultation closed on 27 May 2024.

CONSULTATION RESULTS AND THEMES

Positive Responses

Twenty-one responses were supportive of the proposal and many of these responses appear to be from submitters local to the Goorambat area. Written comments in-support include:

- Please go ahead with this. Mobile reception is so unimaginably poor in the Goorambat and Devenish areas. In past natural disaster and weather-related emergencies, we have been without mobile reception and internet access which at times has left us physically stranded with no way to verbally communicate with emergency services and family. Going ahead with this proposal is absolutely necessary, and a much-needed life line in our small community.

- The mobile phone tower is desperately needed to improve not only general communications and internet in the Goorambat township and surrounds but also for emergency communications. I would like to see the lease fees returned to the recreation reserve committee of management for use to maintain and improve facilities at the reserve for this small community.
- Doesn't impact the use of the reserve. Urgently needed infrastructure.
- My daughter works in Goorambat - we always worry they (sic) if anything happened on her trip home in the dark, she so would be completely stranded as its impossible to get any reception for most of her trip home.
- Goorambat desperately needs a telecommunications Tower as the mobile phone connection out here is extremely unreliable.
- I am very happy to have the tower as currently mobile reception is dismal. In this modern era telecommunications is everything for emergency services, business and general life.

Negative Responses

Two responses were opposed to the proposal, however, neither negative response was from a person local to the Goorambat community.

One negative respondent appeared to be confused about the location of the tower and provide comment that they did not want another mobile tower located in Benalla and money should be spent on youth activities.

The second negative respondent also appeared confused about the location of the tower, believing it would be in Benalla. This respondent was also opposed to 5g mobile services, believing them to be a health hazard and preferring that 4g mobile services only are used in Benalla.

Inconclusive Response

One response received contained no negative or positive submission, or comments, so has been disregarded.

In-person Response

The Manager Facilities and Information Technology spoke over the phone, and later in-person with the president of the informal Goorambat Recreation Reserve Committee. Initial concerns held by the committee included:

- The possibility of tower supporting cables impacting on parking.
- Access track reducing parking.
- Electricity supply being taken form the football clubs' power meter.
- Negative impact on plans to extend the clubs' septic system.
- A request for the lease funds to be directed back in the reserve.

In response to the concerns, it is noted that:

- the small tower compound will have no negative impact on parking and no supporting cables will be permitted under the lease. Supporting cables are not needed because the tower will be a concrete monopole.
- the access track will improve access by vehicles to the overflow parking area at the west of the reserve.
- the electricity supply will be independent and separately metered.
- works will not impact on future septic system upgrade and expansion plans.
- It would be appropriate that lease funds are directed back to the Goorambat Reserve. Initially funds would be managed via the Council’s Coordinator Open Space, in consultation with the informal Goorambat Reserve Committee. Once that committee incorporates and become a Community Asset Committee the funds could be directly managed by the committee.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that, due to administrative nature of the report, community engagement be undertaken at the ‘Inform’ level under the International Association for Public Participation’s IAP2 public participation spectrum.

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of Mobile Phone Tower via media, website and social media. ▪ Public report presented to the Council. ▪ Community update via the ‘Have Your Say’ project webpage.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- *A healthy, safe and resilient community.*
- *A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Leadership

- *Good governance.*
- *Engaged and informed community.*
- *Effective and responsive advocacy.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Lease negotiations have been undertaken using existing staff resources. The lease will generate a new income stream for council; however, it is proposed all lease income be directed towards the Goorambat Recreation Reserve, and not form part of consolidated revenue.

LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that the report is consistent with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

Recommendation:

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

- 1. That the Council enter into a lease of land with Amplitel Pty Ltd for a period of 20 years.**
- 2. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute contract documentation.**

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Have Your Say

Submissions - Proposal for a Mobile Phone Tower at Goorambat Recreation Reserve

Apr 24, 2024 - May 27, 2024

Project: Proposed Telecommunications Tower – Goorambat Recreation Reserve

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

While the community would welcome improvements to the phone network in Goorambat there are a few concerns/queries I would like to raise and have addressed please;

Could consultation please be made with the Goorambat Recreation Reserve Committee with regards to this new mobile phone base station. The Goorambat Recreation Reserve Committee are the committee of management at the proposed location and we would welcome an on-site meeting to discuss the proposal further.

is the size of everything associated with the new mobile tower ALL located within the 10m x 10m compound area? As we have local sport played at the recreation reserve and the area is currently used for car parking and warm ups. Is there any cables, paths or anything that may exceed the 10m x 10m compound area?

Will there be any noise associated with the new mobile phone base station? I.e humming, generators??

are there any health concerns with regards to this mobile phone base station, such as radiation?

Power supply, who pays for this?

there are water pipes etc and plans for a new septic to be installed by the recreation reserve committee. An on-site meeting would be beneficial with regards to this.

who would be responsible for on-going maintenance of the area as currently the grounds are well maintained by volunteers.

will there be any impacts during construction and if so what i.e trenching

Is there any money benefit to the Goorambat Recreation Reserve Committee should the mobile phone base be installed at this location, if so what/how much?

when is construction expected to commence should the proposal be approved? and what would the duration of construction be?

Do you get phone service if directly under the tower or in nearby houses?

Thank you. Look forward to hearing from you.

Response No:
2

Contribution ID: 2772
Member ID:
Date Submitted: May 26, 2024, 04:25 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Goorambat and District need and deserve this tower, not only to enable reliable and decent phone service, but also to allow us access to 4G!!

Name

Leanne Wells

Response No:
3

Contribution ID: 2770
Member ID:
Date Submitted: May 26, 2024, 11:21 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

In a town with beautiful silo art, a pub, a park and hopefully eventually the lovely cafe, it makes no sense why a tourist hot spot should have no telephone service. It is a hazard for all of the people running off satellite if power goes out. We need reliable service for tourists, residents and for the tradies who come to work here.

Response No:
4

Contribution ID: 2765
Member ID:
Date Submitted: May 23, 2024, 10:36 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

I think our community will greatly benefit from this tower as the phone reception in Goorambat is terrible, forcing people who live in the community to all get wifi as their only way to get any reception.

Both the pub & footy club have had to install boosters but these aren't really reliable & if you are with a service provider other than Telstra you can nearly forget about having any reception. In saying this, it won't only be local community benefiting from this tower it will also be any visitors coming through, which obviously we get a lot of with the silo art.

Response No:
5

Contribution ID: 2764
Member ID:
Date Submitted: May 23, 2024, 10:33 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Looking forward to having the tower erected, the mobile phone service in Goorambat is very unreliable.

Name

Ena Williams

Response No:
6

Contribution ID: 2715
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 25, 2024, 03:14 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Service around this area Goorambat/Devenish is atrocious. I imagine this lease will benefit service in the area whilst also bringing further revenue in for the council that I'd be hope will be used for funding services in smaller rural areas since not much gets earmarked for rural towns in this council area.

Name

Lauren

Response No:
7

Contribution ID: 2714
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 25, 2024, 08:41 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

No

My written submission

I say no because why do we need another phone tower
How about we do some productive for this town and start making infrastructure to not only support the older generation of benalla but also something for the kids to do like a arcade centre , something fun for the youth of benalla
Unless Benalla wants to b like Wangaratta who have a problem with youth crime

Name

Robert Burke

Response No:
8

Contribution ID: 2713
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 25, 2024, 07:28 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

We need this as part of the safety to the area. If a person cannot make an emergency call in todays times we should be ashamed of ourselves. We need this tower and the connectivity now.

Name

Paul Dingemans

Response No:
9

Contribution ID: 2712
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 25, 2024, 07:01 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

I am very happy to have the tower as currently mobile reception is dismal. In this modern era telecommunications is everything for emergency services, business and general life.

Name

Jon Hanley

Response No:
10

Contribution ID: 2711
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 25, 2024, 04:54 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

No

My written submission

I strongly oppose the erection of a 5 g tower in Benalla
The Australian govt has conducted an inquiry , SUB 430 (attached
I was unable to send the full document as your site was not equipped to accept a larger file.
Proving 5 g to be a health hazard to wildlife and the public.
The present 4 g available in Benalla is acceptable for service provided without the high risk to public health.

Response No:
11

Contribution ID: 2710
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 10:13 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

N/A

Response No:
12

Contribution ID: 2709
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 06:36 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Hurry up please

Name

Josh

Response No:
13

Contribution ID: 2708
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 05:52 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

As a resident of Devenish 3726, with a young family it has been a constant struggle for us with the limited mobile phone reception. Communication is a requirement of the world we live in, and being cut off from within our home and property is difficult.

Being able to communicate with family and friends, being able to receive emergency notifications, being able to reach emergency services, being able to work from home, these are just some of the difficulties we face with poor telecommunication services.

My family and I whole heartly believe the council should approve this proposal.

Name

Brenden Turley

Response No:
14

Contribution ID: 2707
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 05:06 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Goorambat desperately needs a telecommunications Tower as the mobile phone connection out here is extremely unreliable

Name

Ena Williams

Response No:
15

Contribution ID: 2706
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 04:36 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

It about time a big yes

Name

Dave

Response No:
16

Contribution ID: 2705
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 04:32 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Rural communities have the right to decent or even just reliable mobile phone service, especially since landlines in our area have also proven consistently unreliable. A new tower in our area is long overdue, I'm hoping that any new tower in our area will also boost our ludicrous reception in Devenish also. We need better service.

My daughter works in Goorambat - we always worry they if anything happened on her trip home in the dark, she so would be completely stranded as it's impossible to get any reception for most of her trip home.

Name

Cristie Fletcher

Response No:
17

Contribution ID: 2704
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 01:51 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

I agree for the mobile phone tower to go where proposed

Response No:
18

Contribution ID: 2703
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 01:06 PM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Much needed for the local community

Name

Leigh

Response No:
19

Contribution ID: 2702
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 11:31 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Doesn't impact the use of the reserve. Urgently needed infrastructure

Response No:
20

Contribution ID: 2701
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 11:19 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Please do, Telstra reception is useless here in Benalla. Optus has better reception.

My thoughts are, if you are going to graffitit the land with acres of solar panels, what's another tower.

Response No:
21

Contribution ID: 2700
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 10:55 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

Yes

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

The mobile phone tower is desperately needed to improve not only general communications and internet in the Goorambat township and surrounds but also for emergency communications.

I would like to see the lease fees returned to the recreation reserve committee of management for use to maintain and improve facilities at the reserve for this small community.

Name

Jay Martin

Response No:
22

Contribution ID: 2699
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Apr 24, 2024, 10:51 AM

I am happy to be identified in the public submissions report.

No

Do you agree with the proposed lease of land detailed above for the purpose of a Mobile Phone Tower?

Yes

My written submission

Please go ahead with this. Mobile reception is so unimaginably poor in the Goorambat and Devenish areas. In past natural disaster and weather related emergencies we have been without mobile reception and internet access which at times has left us physically stranded with no way to verbally communicate with emergency services and family. Going ahead with this proposal is absolutely necessary, and a much needed life line in our small communities.

5. Building and Planning Approvals – April 2024

SF/255

Sarah Ford – Building Coordinator
 Joel Ingham – Planning Coordinator
 Nilesch Singh – Manager Development

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report details planning permit applications and building approvals for April 2024.

Planning Permit Applications Determined under Officer Delegation

File No		Description	Property Address	Decision
1	DA2927	Construction of two outbuildings (carports)	59 Benson Street, Benalla	Approved
2	DA2075	Construction of an outbuilding	89 Centre Road, Molyullah	Approved
3	DA5987	Two lot subdivision	161 Mt Joy Road, Tatong	Approved
4	DA5710	Alterations and additions to the existing dwelling	398 Love Road, Stewarton	Approved
5	DA7607	Two lot subdivision	55 and 56 Stephens Road, Tatong	Approved
6	DA7529	Construct a building or carry out works for two industrial sheds	11 Bradley Court, Benalla	Approved
7	DA2154	Construction of a canopy	19 Bridge Street West, Benalla	Approved
8	DA7629	Construction of a dwelling	12 Willis Little Drive, Benalla	Approved
9	DA7542	Construction of a carport	80 Love Road, Stewarton	Approved

Planning Permit Amendments Determined Under Officer Delegation

File No		Description	Property Address	Decision
1	DA5957	Use of land for a restaurant	7 Park Street, Goorambat	Approved
2	DA165	Staged buildings and works and construction and display of a business identification sign associated with a residential aged care facility	1-37 Kilfeera Road, Benalla	Approved
3	DA7431	Construction of a dwelling and outbuilding	315 My Samaria Road, Samaria	Approved

Planning Permits Issued Under VicSmart

File No		Description	Property Address
1	DA2075	Construction of an outbuilding	89 Centre Road, Molyullah
2	DA5710	Alterations and additions to the existing dwelling	398 Love Road, Stewarton
3	DA7542	Construction of a carport	80 Love Road, Stewarton
4	DA2154	Construction of a canopy	19 Bridge Street West, Benalla

Planning Permit Applications Determined by the Council

There were no planning permit applications determined by the Council during the month of April 2024.

Planning Permit Amendments Determined by the Council

There were no planning permit applications determined by the Council during the month of April 2024.

Planning Permit Applications Withdrawn or Lapsed

There were no planning permit applications withdrawn or lapsed during the month of April 2024.

Notices of Decision

There were no Notice of Decisions issued during the month of April 2024.

A Notice of Decision (NOD) is issued when Council has decided to grant a planning permit when objection(s) are received regarding the application.

An objector may appeal to Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) against the decision to grant the permit within 21 days of a Notice of Decision being issued. After 28 days if no appeal has been lodged Council will issue the Planning Permit.

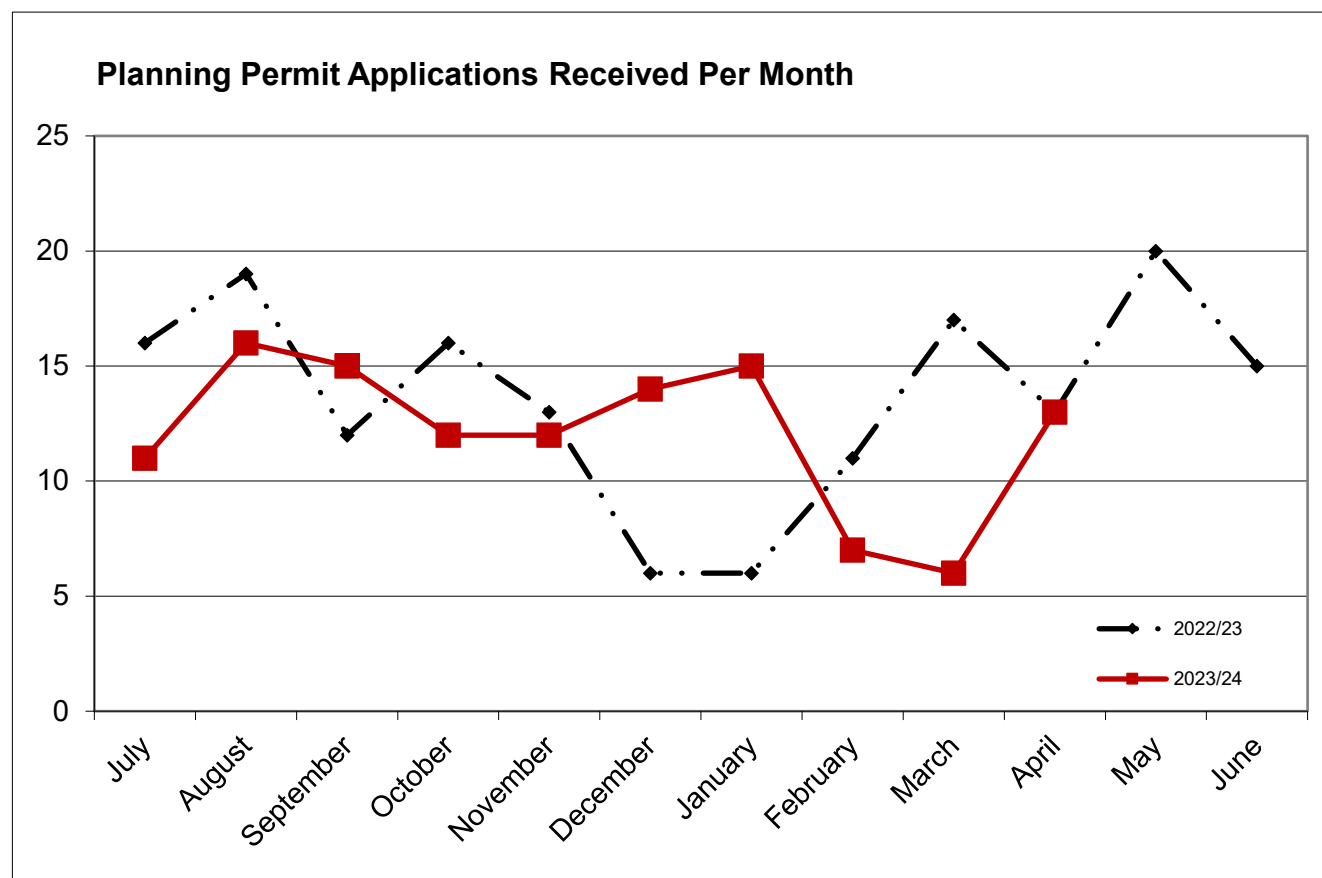
Planning Permit Applications Determined by VCAT

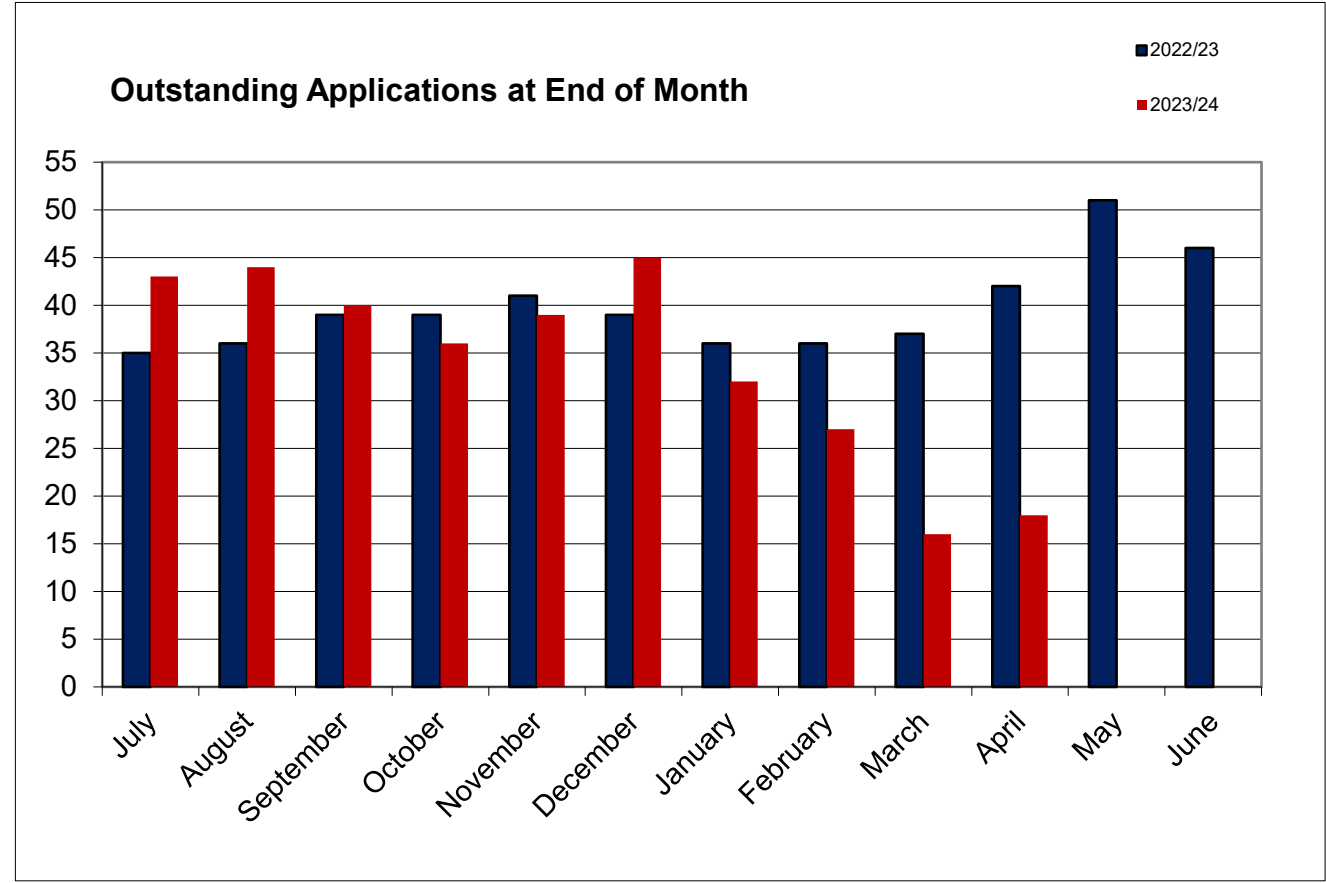
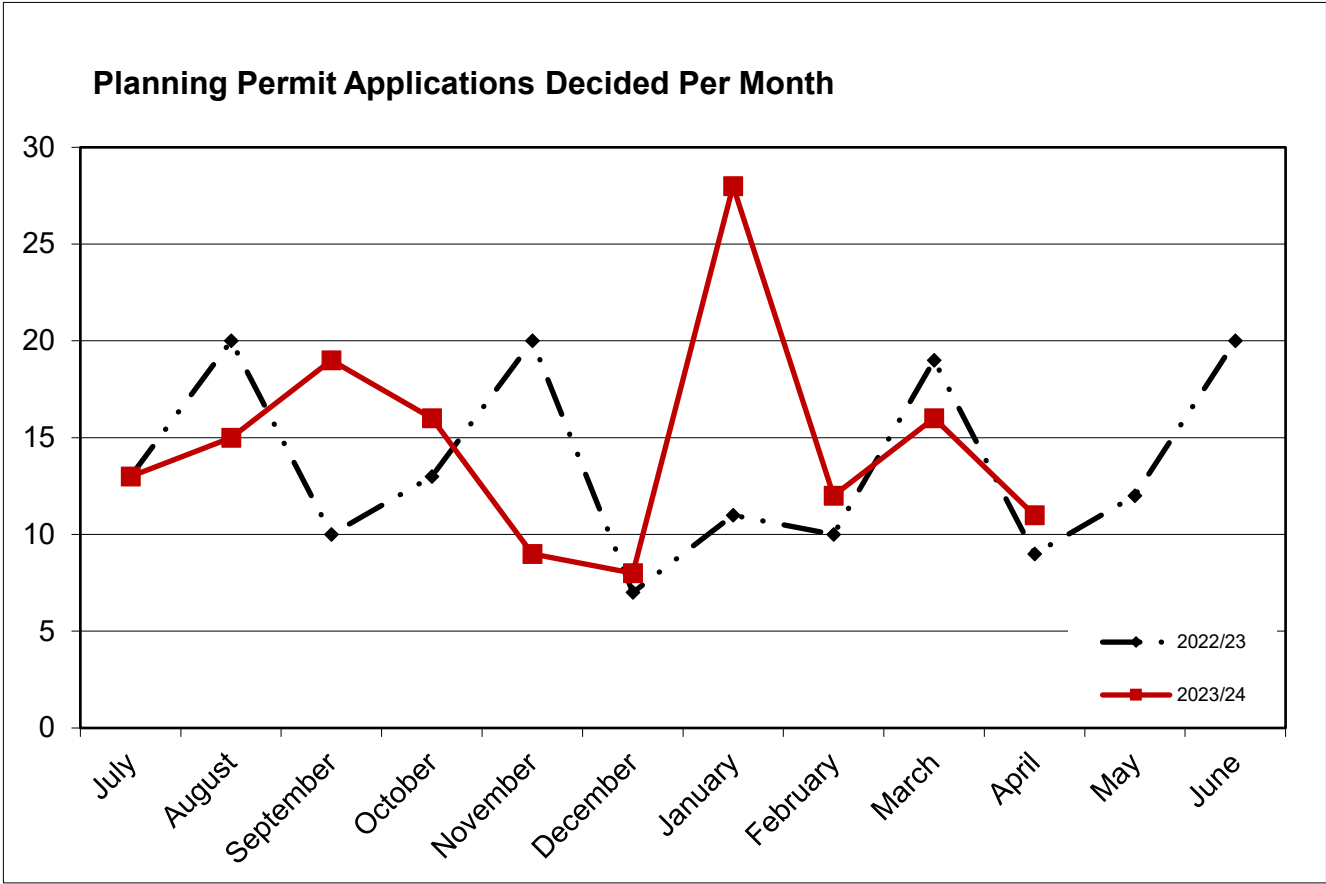
There were no planning permit applications determined by VCAT during April 2024.

Matters Before VCAT

DA5957	7 Park Street, Goorambat
Status	<p>Planning Permit No. P0142/23 was issued on 7 March 2024 for the use of land for a restaurant at 7 Park Street, Goorambat. The use has the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of food on premises for takeaway and eat in meals. ▪ Up to 20 patrons on site at any one time. ▪ Two to three staff at any one time. ▪ Hours of operation between Friday to Tuesday – 8am to 4pm and public holidays. ▪ Eight car parking spaces to be provided on site. <p>Conditions of the permit require the upgrade of the intersection with Park Street and Halls Road and a contribution to the maintenance of Park Street as a result of the proposed use. It is understood that the applicant is appealing these conditions of the permit, however, this has not yet been confirmed by the applicant or the Tribunal. The Tribunal hearing will be on 23 July 2024.</p>

Planning Permit Applications

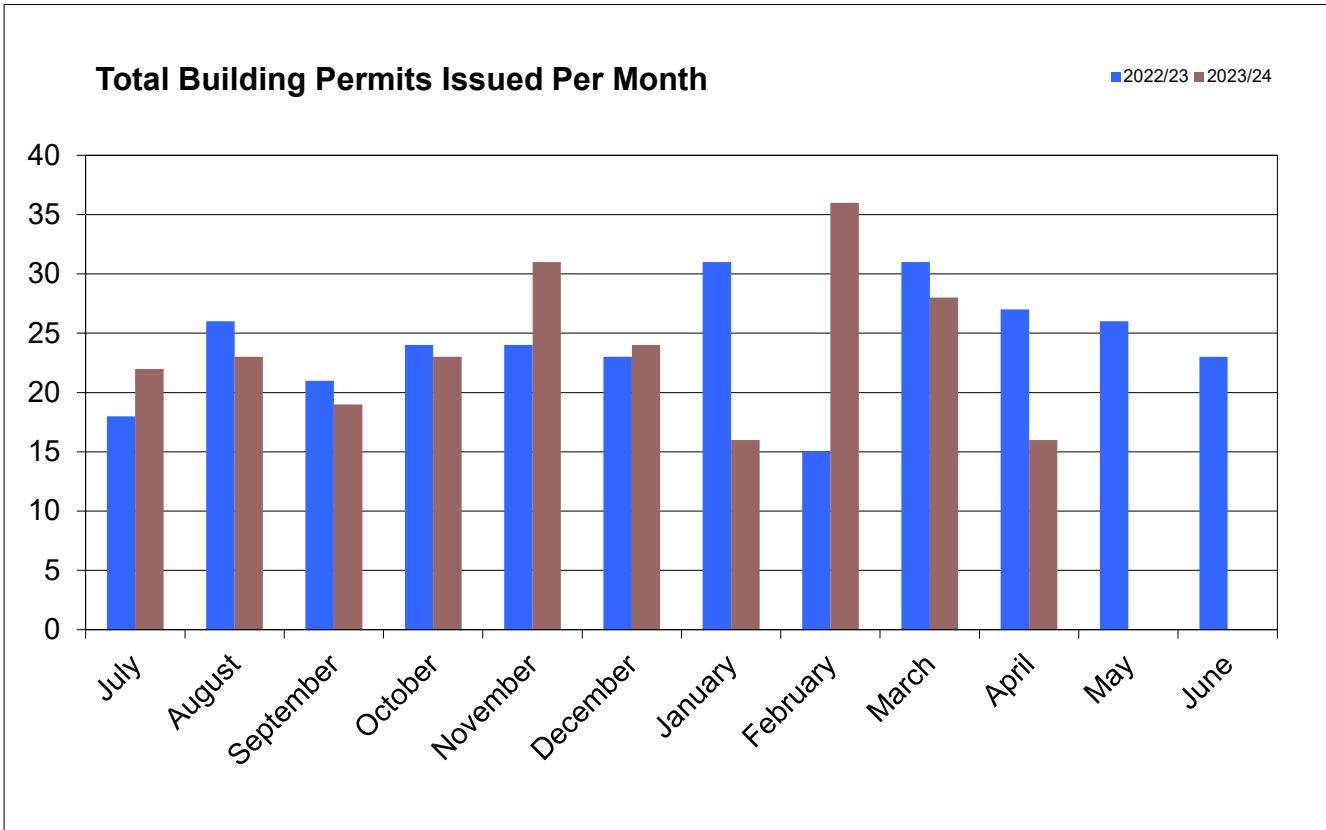
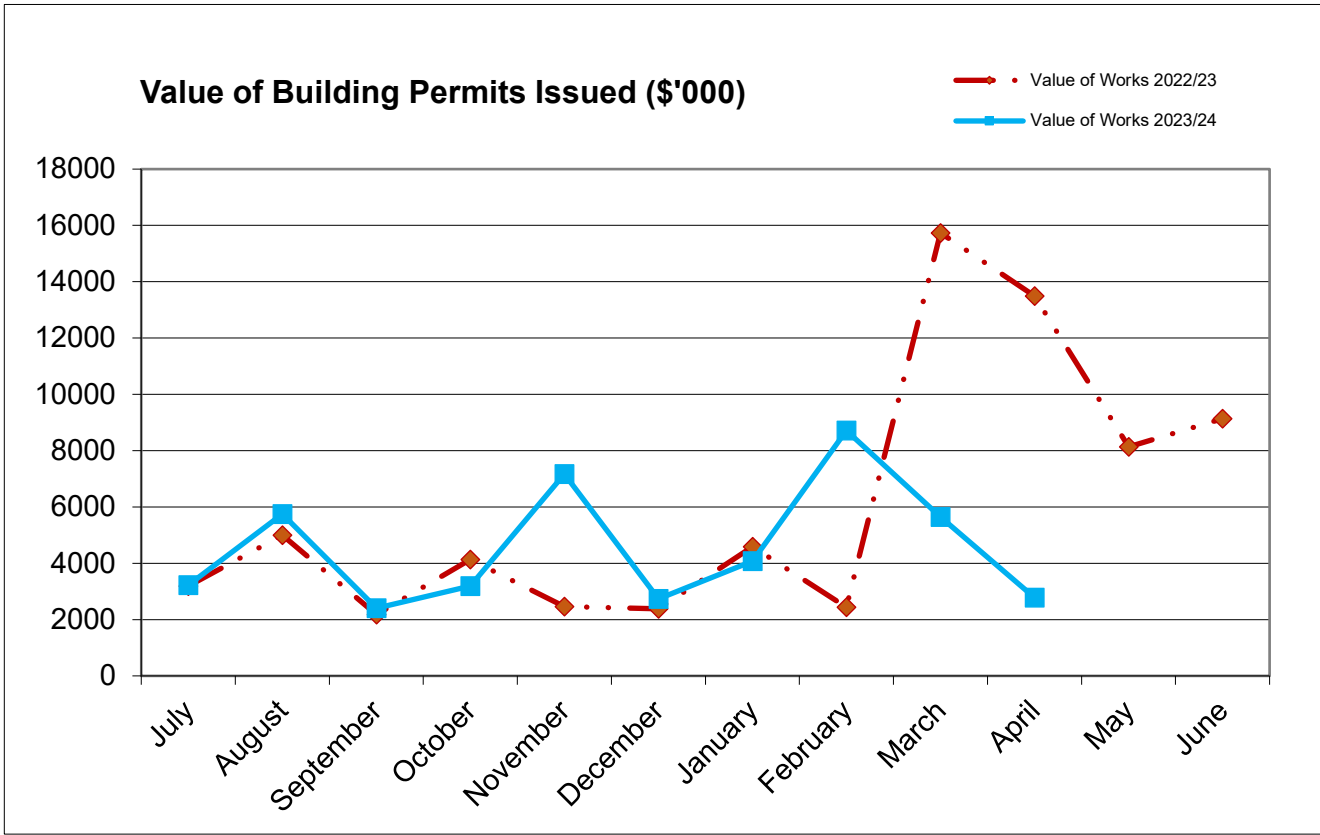


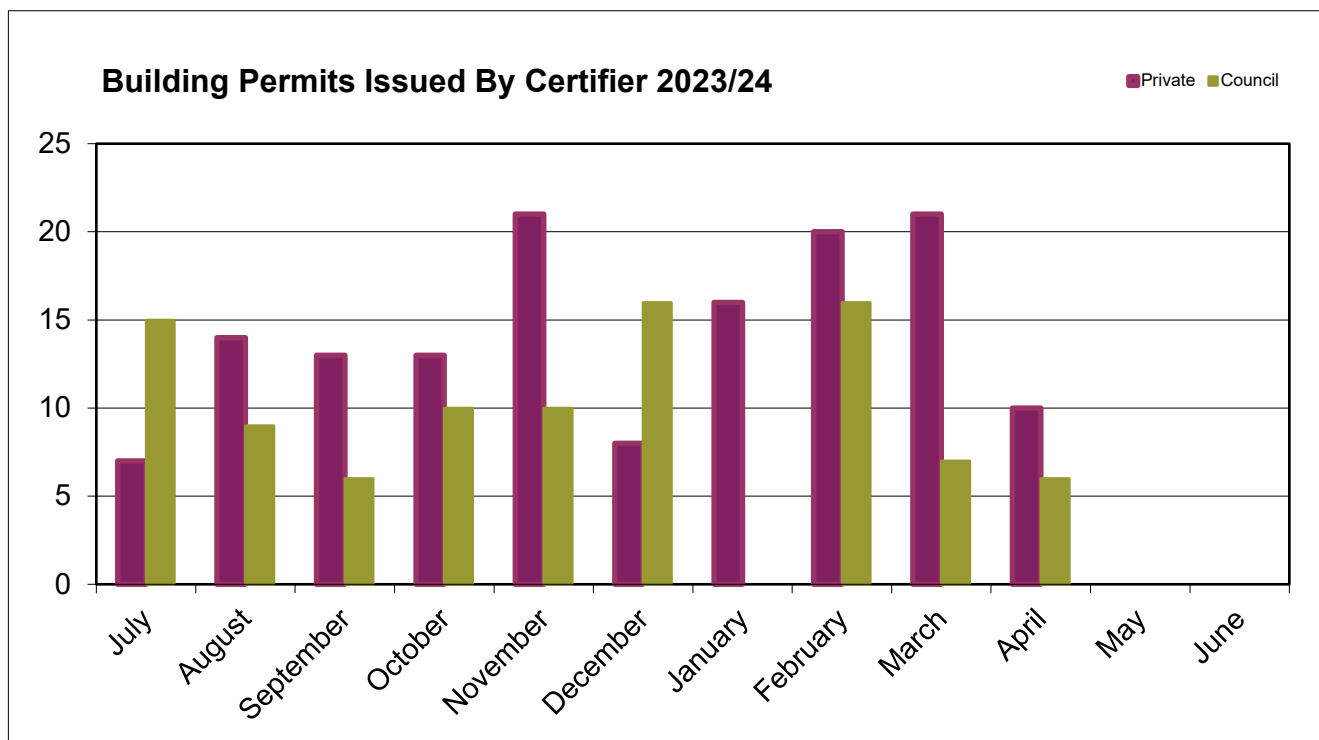


Building Approvals Issued by Council and Private Practitioners

File No		Description	Property Address	Value
1	DA6665	Construction of a shed and alfresco	76C Willis Little Drive, Benalla	\$35,000
2	DA6050	Relocation of a dwelling	13 Crammond Street, Benalla	\$5,100
3	DA7628	Construction of a shed	43 Kirby Street, Thoona	\$27,727
4	DA7592	Construction of a dwelling and shed	98 Inglis Road, Benalla	\$517,000
5	DA5805	Construction of a farm shed	3519 Midland Highway, Lima South	\$36,856
6	DA4195	Construction of a dwelling	20-22 Mary Street, Benalla	\$615,850
7	DA164	Completion of two detached units	117 Mackellar Street, Benalla	\$300,000
8	DA7099	Dwelling extension and alterations	7 Tower Road, Benalla	\$120,000
9	DA6642	Construction of a spa and safety barrier	503 Kilfeera Road, Benalla	\$7,200
10	DA5788	Construction of a dwelling and garage	19 Goodenia Drive, Benalla	\$344,428
11	DA7649	Construction of a dwelling and garage	30 Moran Street, Benalla	\$382,190
12	DA7595	Re-erection of a building	12 Kirkland Drive, Benalla	\$59,666
13	DA7490	Construction of a shed	26 Roynic Parade, Benalla	\$12,760
14	DA5663	Construction of a swimming pool and safety barrier	8 Noarana Drive, Benalla	\$66,795
15	DA7474	Change of use – from farm shed to residence and garage	557 Upper Ryans Creek Road, Upper Ryans Creek	\$2
16	DA5336	Construction of a dwelling and garage	10 Sir Edward Drive, Benalla	\$247,020
Total				\$2,777,594

Building Permits Issued by Certifier by Month





COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- A healthy, Safe and resilient community.
- A connected, involved and inclusive community.

Livability

- Vibrant public spaces and places.
- Connected and accessible roads, footpaths, transport and parking.

Economy

- Population growth.

Environment

- Healthy and protected natural environment.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

Recommendation:
That the report be noted.

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6. 2023/2024 Quick Response Grants Program

SF/2857

Tom Arnold – Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
Jane Archbold – Manager Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents funding applications for 2023/24 Quick Response Grants.

BACKGROUND

The Quick Response grant program enables local community groups, clubs and organisations to seek funding to increase their capacity to work in partnership with the Council and others to address local needs and enhance the local community.

The program distributes grants up to \$500 allowing local clubs, groups and organisations the opportunity to seek funds when the need arises.

DISCUSSION

Applications for consideration under the 2023/24 Quick Response Grant program are detailed in the table below.

Applicant	Details	Amount Requested	Proposed Assistance
Tatong Archery Club	The Archery Club are seeking funding for equipment to enable kids and beginners to come and try archery sessions without having to buy own equipment. The equipment includes three age and strength appropriate bows along with arrows, arm guards and finger tabs.	\$500	\$500
Swanpool & District Community Development Association Inc.	Magic Show in Swanpool Funding to support a school holiday activity featuring the maestro of mystery, Elio Simonetti Magic! Grant funding is to partially cover the cost of the Magician with the cost's shortfall being made up by ticket sales to the event. The aim of this activity is to provide a fun and entertaining activity for the young people of our region.	\$500	\$500
Lurg Hall and Reserve Committee of Management	2024 Lurg Hall Trivial Pursuit Night Funding will go towards purchasing various prizes and awards presented during the night. The Lurg Hall Trivial Pursuit Night will be held on 27 July 2024. The event is held annually and brings the local community together to raise funds for the Lurg Hall Committee to cover amenities and maintenance expenses.	\$500	\$500

Applicant	Details	Amount Requested	Proposed Assistance
Benalla Migrants Association Inc	Benalla Migrants Association is seeking funding to purchase two storage shelves and ten storage boxes to store some important items in the groups rented storage space. Items requiring storage include cultural decorations for annual events, items with cultural significance to the Benalla CALD community.	\$500	\$500
FCJ College Benalla	<p>The Let's Find Our Voice Program</p> <p>The wellbeing program fosters intergenerational connections by bringing community members together with students from FCJ College to form a community choir.</p> <p>A film documenting the process and the concert is produced.</p> <p>Funding will go towards the cost of hiring Benalla Performance Arts and Convention Centre for a day during the filming process.</p> <p><i>No funding offered due to the application not meeting guidelines – Council does not fund activities considered to be part of education curriculum.</i></p>	\$500	\$0
EdSpace Centre for Education & Training (Capability Building)	<p>Working closely with AI's Skate Co, EdSpace Senior students are building resilience & independence through tailored skateboarding lessons in an environment that focuses on a positive mental health message.</p> <p><i>No funding offered due to the application not meeting guidelines – Council does not fund activities considered to be part of education curriculum.</i></p>	\$500	\$0
U3A Benalla Inc.	<p>U3A Benalla Inc. are seeking reimbursement of a Test and Tag service which was carried out on all U3A electrical items.</p> <p>U3A Benalla are also seeking funding for a small Bar Fridge which was purchased from Mitre 10 in Benalla.</p> <p><i>No funding offered due to the application not meeting guidelines – Council does not fund activities already completed.</i></p>	\$500	\$0
Total		\$2,500	\$1,500

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Community

- *A healthy, Safe and resilient community.*
- *A connected, involved and inclusive community.*

Leadership

- *Engaged and informed community.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*, it is proposed that community engagement be undertaken at the ‘Inform’ level under the International Association for Public Participation’s IAP2 public participation spectrum.

Level of Public Participation	Promise to the community	Techniques to be used
Inform	We will provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of program via media, website and social media. ▪ Program presented in public reports to the Council. ▪ Outcomes advised directly to applicants. ▪ Outcomes detailed in Annual Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The *2023/24 Budget* allocates \$15,000 to the Quick Response Grant program. To date, \$6,400 in Quick Response Grant funding has been allocated.

Recipients of support throughout the financial year are detailed in the Annual Report.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

Recommendation:

That \$500 grants from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Tatong Archery Club, Swanpool & District Community Development Association Inc., Lurg Hall and Reserve Committee of Management and Benalla Migrants Association Inc.

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7. Urgent Business

Closure of Meeting