

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 23 October 2024

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

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Council Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website and an audio recording was made of the proceedings.

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Contents

Opening and Acknowledgment of Country	3
Apologies	3
Disclosures of Conflict of Interest.....	4
Officer Reports.....	5
1. <i>Benalla Rural City Council Annual Report 2023/24</i>	<i>5</i>
2. <i>Councillors' Expenses For The Quarter Ended 30 September 2024.....</i>	<i>5</i>
Closure of the meeting	6

Minutes

Chair	Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor)	
Councillors	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Don Firth	
	Councillor Bernie Hearn	
	Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Justin King	
	Councillor Gail O'Brien	
In attendance	Dom Testoni	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Jess Pendergast	Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 6pm and recited the following Acknowledgement of Country.

We, the Benalla Rural City Council, acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.

Apologies

No apologies were submitted to the meeting.

Statement of Commitment

The Councillors recited the following Statement of Commitment:

*I declare, that as a Councillor of Benalla Rural City
I will undertake on every occasion
to carry out my duties in the best interests of the community
and that my conduct shall maintain the standards of our Councillor Code of Conduct
so that I may faithfully represent
and uphold the trust placed in the Council
by the people of Benalla and District.*

Governance Matters

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

Recording of Council Meetings

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Council Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website and an audio recording was made of the proceedings and made available for public access, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed to the Chair.

Officer Reports

1. *Benalla Rural City Council Annual Report 2023/24*

The report presented for consideration the *Benalla Rural City Council Annual Report 2023/24*.

The *2023/24 Financial Report* and *2023/24 Performance Statement* have been submitted to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office for final audit opinions.

Once received by the Council, the Annual Report will be professionally formatted and made available for public inspection on the Council's website, and at the Council's Customer Service Centre and the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre.

Cr Claridge / Cr Firth:

That the *Benalla Rural City Council Annual Report 2023/24* be received.

Carried

2. **Councillors' Expenses For The Quarter Ended 30 September 2024**

The report detailed expenditure associated with Councillors' mobile phone usage, attendance at professional development courses, conferences and seminars, and reimbursement of expenses incurred.

Cr King / Cr Davis:

That the report be noted.

Carried

Cr Claridge / Cr King:

That standing orders be suspended to allow for councillor discussion.

Carried

Cr Claridge / Cr Hearn:

That standing orders resume.

Carried

Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 6.34pm.

The minutes were confirmed on the twenty sixth day of November 2024.

Signed: _____