www.berryforum.org.au

**Forum Meeting Held on 19 April**

57 people attended the meeting, including Clrs John Wells and Patricia White, and Director of Planning & Development, Phil Costello.

**Bangalee Motel DA**

Stuart Coughlan presented material provided by Berry Historical Society, which explained that the area surrounding the proposed development was the site of the original private town of Broughton Creek, which pre-dated the town of Berry. It is the oldest area of settlement and has some very significant heritage listed properties, along with the Pulman Street Heritage Conservation Area (HCA).

Council’s Heritage Advisor has stated that, with regard to the heritage context, the heritage significance of each of the surrounding heritage properties and the HCA is not adversely impacted by the proposed development. She has recommended approval of the application with no conditions.

Our view is that the heritage assessment is seriously flawed as it fails to consider the impact on the overall heritage context and setting within which the development will sit. It also disregards the significance of the site being the gateway to Berry, which Council had previously stated would be a critical element of its assessment.

**Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging proposal for Berry**

Amelia Starr presented on NRMA’s plans to spend $10 million creating Australia’s largest EV fast-charger network. It aims to connect key tourism routes to help drive business in local communities. Berry is seen as a key destination for enabling EV journeys and the preferred site is the parking area on the corner of Albany and Victoria Streets opposite the Showground.

**Berry Landcare projects and activities**

Jim Jefferis, Chairman of Berry Landcare, presented a summary of projects and activities in the Berry Surrounds. His presentation is available on the Forum website.

**Changes Proposed for Huntingdale Park Development**

The developer advised that the application would not be finalised prior to the Forum meeting. A separate meeting will be arranged for the developer to explain the application so that the community can make an informed assessment of the revised proposal.

**Council Special Rate Variation (SRV)**

Council is seeking IPART approval to retain the 13.2% SRV (approved as a one-off increase in 2017/18) as a permanent increase. Special variations are also being requested for the next three years - 5% in each year including the rate peg of 2.5%.

**Berry District Park**

Council is currently seeking nominations for the naming of the Park. To submit a name, fill in the form on Council's website before 30 April (forms are also available from Berry Public School and Berry Post Office). A shortlist of names will be displayed from 1 May and you will be able to vote for your favourite name between 1-14 May.

**Opal Cards**

Berry Music Centre is now the official Opal Card Retailer. New Adult & Child Opal cards are available as well as top ups of existing Adult, Child, Pensioner and Concession Opal Cards. Contact on 4464 1284 or berrymusiccentre@gmail.com

**Next Forum Meeting is 14 June 7.30pm at the School of Arts**