

COUNCIL MEETING

in Summary

Image Steve Chapple

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Welcome to the October issue of the Wattle Range Council 'Meeting in Summary'

Mayoral UPDATE

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor represented Council at several civic and community events during the month, including the Coonawarra BBQ and Chat, a Citizenship Ceremony, and the National Police Remembrance Day Service in Mount Gambier.



Deputy Mayor Peter Dunicliff laid a wreath on behalf of Council at the National Police Remembrance Day Service in Mt Gambier

Community DEPUTATIONS

At the October meeting, Council heard from Brett Keatley, President and Colin Searle, Vice President of the Millicent AH & P Society Inc. regarding recurring event funding for the Millicent Show fireworks.

Key PROJECTS

Following adoption of the 2026/27 Budget, Council is delivering 94 projects worth \$11.4 million.

As of 30 September 2026, 10% of the projects have been completed, 33% are in the process of being delivered, 26% are in the procurement phase and 32% not yet started. 13% of the budget for the financial year has been committed.

Key project updates include:

- Reconstruction of the final 4 km section of the Southern Ports Highway is progressing, with the detour via Hatherleigh in place.
- Upgrade of staff facilities is progressing at the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre.
- EV charging stations at Council's Service Centre carpark are operational, with solar canopy construction set to commence following the delivery of steelwork mid October.
- Works continue on the Southern Ocean Tourist Park amenities block upgrade, with completion expected in late November.
- The Library air-conditioning system has been relocated to the drain side of the building, enabling construction of a redesigned car park.
- Two 144kL tanks have been installed as part of the fire system upgrade at McCorquindale Park.
- The Beachport Surf Beach toilet block curved roofing iron has been replaced.
- Water-damaged ceiling areas in the Millicent Civic and Arts Centre auditorium have been repaired and repainted.

Key DECISIONS

At the October meeting, Council resolved to:

- extend the terms of office of the Deputy Mayor, Peter Dunicliff and various Council committee members following the deferral of the 2026 Council Elections to April 2027 authorise for certification, the 2025/26 Draft Annual Financial Statements;
- endorse the Audit and Risk Committees Annual Report 2025/26 for inclusion in Council's Annual Report;
- approve funding of \$2,000 for the Millicent Show fireworks display annually for the next four years;
- consult with the Glencoe community on speed limits for Kirip Road following a speed limit review;
- undertake public consultation on a proposal to restrict the use of both bicycles and e-scooter/bikes on footpaths within the central business districts of Millicent, Penola and Beachport (excluding all Motorised Mobility Aids);
- endorse a \$4.5 million grant application to the Housing Support Fund for the Millicent Land Development project, with in-principle Council funding support of \$500,000 for the project, and referral of \$200,000 to the 2026/27 Budget to allow for the preparation of the planning application and development of business case for the project;
- note correspondence from the Libraries Board of SA on the development of the Board's Strategic Plan 2027-2032 and encourage Elected Members, staff and the community to participate in their online survey;
- write to Mr Michael Schultz thanking him for his many years of service as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee following his resignation;
- approve progressing the sale of a number of properties due to unpaid rates (in accordance with Section 184 of the Local Government Act 1999);
- authorise the CEO to negotiate annual plant hire contracts for up to six years;
- write to relevant State and Federal governments advocating for a review of funding arrangements, improved coordination between programs, funding certainty, and greater investment in transport solutions that support access to healthcare, aged care, disability services and community participation.



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