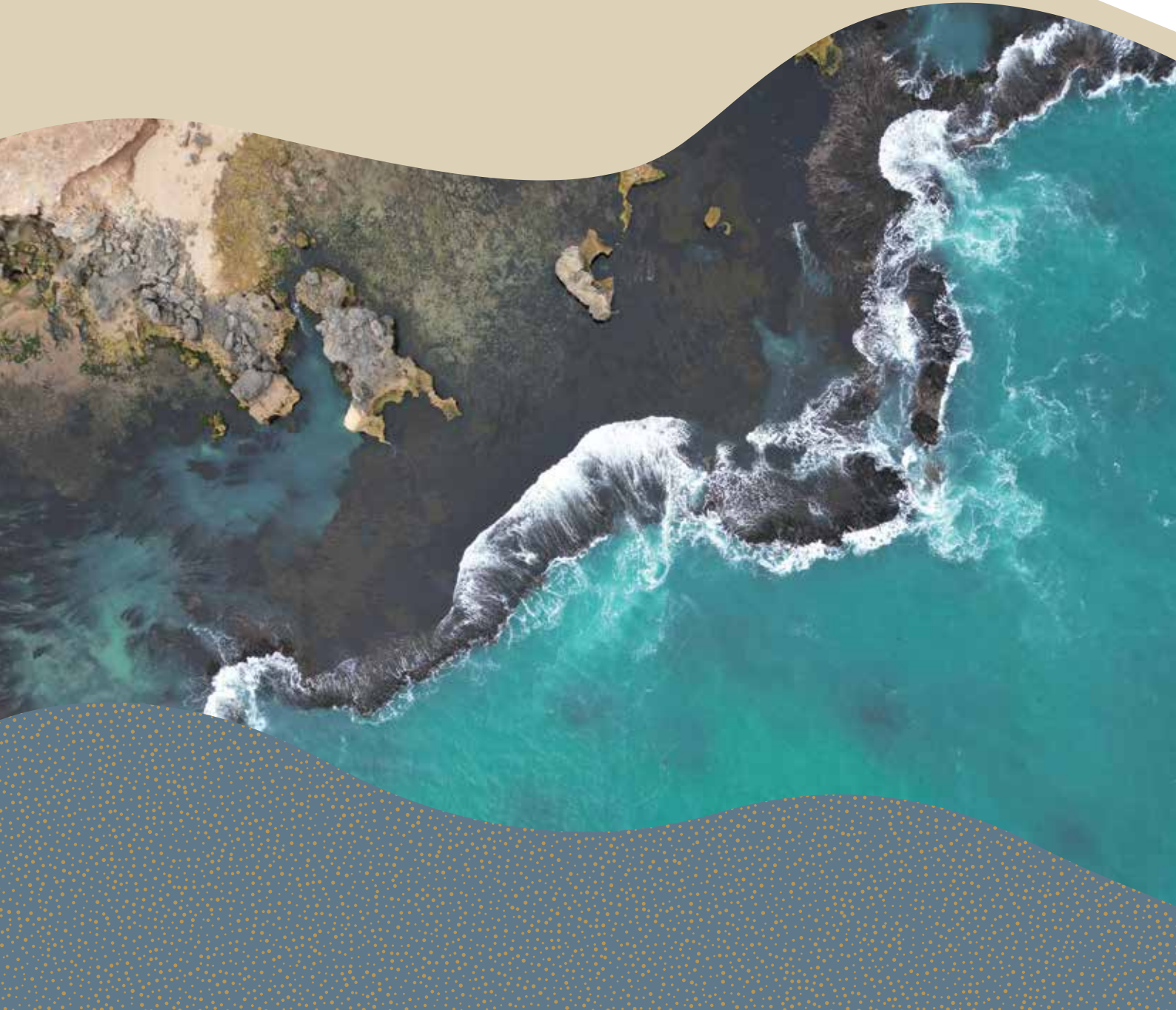




Wattle Range
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
2024/2025





*'Foggy Morning' -
Liam Mills.*

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this Annual Report is accurate. No responsibility or liability can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.

This document fulfils our obligations under the Local Government Act, 1999 which stipulates that all councils must produce an Annual Report (relating to the immediately preceding financial year) to be prepared and adopted by Council on or before 30 November. Information within this report is as prescribed by the legislation and as per the Annual Report Guidelines provided by the Local Government Association of South Australia.

Cover photo: Jasmin Stehbens.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As Mayor, I welcome you to the Wattle Range Council Annual Report for 2024/25. It has been another year of growth, development and community pride.

Council continues to direct its focus on innovation and efficiency, ensuring that it delivers services and infrastructure that makes a real difference for our residents.

As councils are the closest level of government to the people they serve, this can be challenging but is also a privilege to be able to speak face-to-face with those we assist and hear their feedback and opinions in an open and trusting way.

An innovative step forward was the introduction of Council's Community Visions. This process allows our community to engage with both Elected Members and staff and to record and share their ideas on Council's Engage Wattle

Range platform. Many of the community ideas that came from the 'Community Vision' sessions have found their way into the Strategic Plan. I was very pleased to be a part of this process.

The development of the Lions Park playground has created a real benefit to our community. This is a project that Council partnered with Unity Housing and the Lions Club of Millicent. Building partnerships with our community such as this, clearly demonstrates what collaboration can achieve and creates a culture of pride by working together for the betterment of our community.

The Wattle Range Youth Advisory Council continues to be successful. Young people are taking on the challenges of community and learning how Local Government works. I'm sure the benefits from this program will be long-lasting.

A transformation with information technology has evolved within the organisation, playing an important role in delivering a professional service and

assisting with the way Council conducts its business. The implementation of advanced technology will be an ongoing process in the future.

Council's Long-Term Financial and Strategic Plans continue to be the pathway forward for Council's decision making. Both of these plans are vital for building our community's future and knowing that developments are financially sustainable.

This year we saw our Council relinquish its membership of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association. This was not an easy decision for Council.

I am pleased to report that by relinquishing our membership, Wattle Range Council has not been disadvantaged at all. In fact, I believe it has made us stronger. Significant funding that has been conserved has been re-directed back into community projects.

Our Council continues to be financially secure and continues to be strong in its decision making, ensuring that service delivery and standards are maintained.

I continue to visit all corners of the Council region often alongside my wife Shari. It is a privilege meeting individuals and supporting community groups and listening to people's concerns. As Mayor, I find this extremely important as it has always been my desire to not leave anyone behind as every member of our community is valued.

Council staff continue to be innovative and professional in all areas of the organisation and for this I thank you.

Thank you also to the Elected Members for their dedicated work across the Council region.

I thank you for the privilege to serve as your Mayor, and as a Council we will continue to build communities that are great places to live and work.

May I recommend this annual report to you.



Des Noll OAM
Mayor

CEO'S MESSAGE

Yet another year has flown by full of both opportunities and challenges. 2024/25 was Council's biggest year yet when it comes to capital projects with the construction of over \$16.59 million in new or renewed infrastructure.

The largest and most complicated project was the construction and fit out of the new Council Service Centre. This functional, state of the art building has some impressive environmental credentials and was built with many locally sourced and manufactured materials. The project was completed both early and under budget which is a credit to Chapman Herbert Architects, Mossop Construction and Interiors and Council's Program Management team. The staff and I are extremely grateful to be working together under one roof for the first time since amalgamation almost 30 years ago.

Work continued throughout the year on the maintenance and construction of our local road network. We also established an important new partnership with the Department of Transport to upgrade elements of the State Government's road network within our Council area. We hope that this

partnership will continue to attract important state and federal grant funding to assist with the reconstruction of several other high priority roads in the future.

We also had a bumper year in relation to tourism and community events. Events were held all over the Council area celebrating the wonderful food, wine, locations and people that call Wattle Range home. This year also heralded the highest tourism visitation rates in South Australia outside of metropolitan Adelaide – a first for the region and a welcome boost to our local economy.

We continued to progress Council's Strategic Land Use Plan and its first tranche of Code Amendments. This work is being carried out in conjunction with the community and is a critically important step for the future growth and development of each of our 13 townships.

Council provides hundreds of other critical services to the community – too many to mention in an executive summary. All of these services are overseen and guided by a wonderful group of Elected Members who are connected to and passionate

about community. These services are also delivered by a wonderful team of local people that I have the privilege to work with every day. I am extremely proud of the work they do, their dedication to serving the community, and the passion and innovation they show each day to make Wattle Range a **Great Place to Live and Work**.



Ben Gower
Chief Executive Officer

OUR ORGANISATION

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OUR ORGANISATION

ABOUT OUR COUNCIL

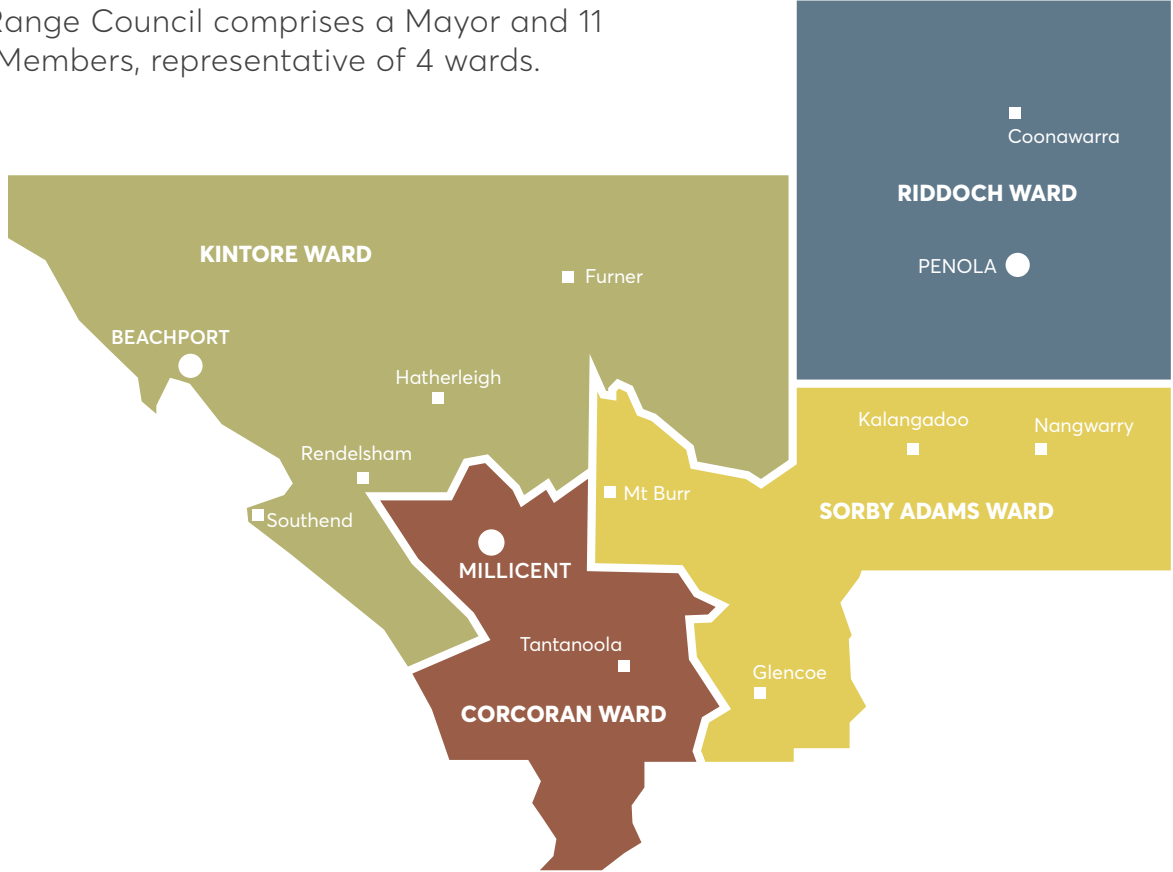
The Council extends from the coast to the Victorian border incorporating the seaside towns of Beachport and Southend, extending inland to Millicent as the major service centre and easterly across to the historic town of Penola and world-renowned wine region of Coonawarra.

Wattle Range Council is one of the most diverse and productive rural areas in South Australia. The Council comprises 13 townships and covers an area of 392,864 ha.



Ward Structure

Wattle Range Council comprises a Mayor and 11 Elected Members, representative of 4 wards.



OUR ORGANISATION
ELECTED MEMBERS



Pictured L to R: (Back) Cr. Chris Brodie, Cr. Richard Cassidy, Cr. Emma Castine, Cr. Deb Agnew, Deputy Mayor Peter Dunningcliff, Cr. Dennis Muhovics, Cr. David Walshaw, Cr. Dale Price.
(Front) Cr. Sharon Cox, Mr. Ben Gower (Chief Executive Officer), Mayor Des Noll, Cr. Moira Neagle (Resigned 2023), Cr. John Drew.
Inset: Cr. John Shelton (Elected 2024)

COUNCIL MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

26

Total meetings
of Council

6

Special
meetings

8

Information
briefings

12

Ordinary
meetings

464

Total resolutions on
a range of issues

135

No. of resolutions
made in confidence
30%

- [illegible]

- Greenrise Lake
Advisory Committee
- Limestone Coast
Southern Regional
Assessment Panel
- Rendelsham Commu
Hall Advisory Commi
- Lake McIntyre
Management
Committee

-  Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) Working Group
-  Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA)
-  Wattle Range Council Building Fire Safety Committee

-  Audit & Risk Committee

*** Resigned from the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) on 15/5/2024 and on 26/6/2025 Minister from Local Government, Hon Joe Szakacs approved the withdrawal of membership.*

Note: the figures shown indicate the number of meetings a Member attended out of the maximum they were eligible to attend during that term



*'Southend Glow' -
Kirby Wakelin.*

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

In addition to Elected Members being members of the full Council, appointments are made to a variety of Committees.

The following formal committees were in place during 2024/25:

SECTION 41 COMMITTEES

Section 41 Committees are in place to provide advice to Council and help with the management of particular land and assets.

Council has the power under section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999* to establish Committees to assist it with the performance of its statutory functions.



Greenrise Lake Advisory Committee 3 meetings

The Greenrise Lake Advisory Committee provides Council with advice on the use and development of the Greenrise Lake Recreation Area in accordance with the Penola Community Land Management Plan.



Lake McIntyre Management Committee 8 meetings

The Lake McIntyre Management Committee assists Council with the care, protection, management and improvement of the Lake McIntyre Reserve.



Rendelsham Community Hall Management Committee Did not meet in 2024/25

The Rendelsham Community Hall Management Committee provides advice to Council on the care, protection, operation and improvement of the Rendelsham Community Hall.

SECTION 43 COMMITTEES

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association is a regional subsidiary body established by the seven constituent Councils in the Limestone Coast under section 43 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Wattle Range Council formally resolved to withdraw its membership from the region's Local Government subsidiary, the Limestone Coast Local Government Association at its August 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

On 26 June 2025, Minister for Local Government, Hon Joe Szakacs approved Council's withdrawal of membership from the Association.

OTHER COMMITTEES



Audit & Risk Committee

7 meetings
37 resolutions
12 resolutions made in confidence

The Audit & Risk Committee is a legislative requirement of Section 126 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee is to provide independent assurance and advice to Council on accounting, financial management, internal controls, risk management and governance matters.

For the full Audit and Risk Committee 2024/25 Report as required under Section 126 (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, see the Governance Compliance section at the end of this report.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES



Limestone Coast Southern Regional Assessment Panel

8 meetings

2 notices issued

The Limestone Coast Southern Regional Assessment Panel (RAP) supports the Wattle Range Council, District Council of Grant, District Council of Robe and City of Mount Gambier in considering and making decisions regarding relevant development applications.

It is one of the Authorities that can make impartial and transparent development assessment decisions on more complex developments and on those matters which may be prescribed.

The RAP helps to satisfy the requirements of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, the *Planning and Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017*, and the *Planning and Design Code*. Council's Planning Officers work under delegation from the Regional Assessment Panel and refer relevant applications to the RAP for consideration.



Wattle Range Council Building Fire Safety Committee

4 meetings

2 notices issued

The Committee is established under section 157 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and designated as the 'appropriate authority' for the Council area. The Committee's responsibilities include:

- develop and maintain appropriate building fire safety inspection policies;
- scrutinise and inspect the fire safety of buildings that have been identified as, or are suspected of, having inadequate fire safety provisions;
- issue notices to building owners in accordance with section 157 of the PDI Act;

- forward information on notices issued to Council administration for the purposes of section 7 enquiries under the *Land and Business (Sale Conveyancing) Act 1994*; (which are made by a vendor when a building is available for sale or lease);
- assess and review performance solutions with a building owner to reduce fire safety risks to an acceptable level;
- initiate enforcement or other action to ensure a building owner complies with certain notices issued; and
- revoke or vary notices when appropriate.

Wattle Range - a great place to live and work.

OUR VALUES



Trust

Trust is the glue that binds us all together as a community. Doing what we say we are going to do and being honest and transparent in both our intentions and actions helps build trusted relationships.



Teamwork

Teamwork is the cornerstone of high performing organisations, embracing the diversity of thoughts and experiences that exist within a team generates a broader range of innovative ideas and leads to better decision making. Individuals perform better when they are a valued member of a team, they are more confident, they have more fun and they are more productive. We become more resilient when we know that someone is watching our back, and we are more likely to cope under stressful or difficult circumstances.



Fun

Fun, the importance of enjoying what we do and how we do it should never be underestimated. Having fun at work builds stronger teams and enhances relationships. Recognising and celebrating our successes - no matter how big or small they are - encourages the right behaviours in the workplace and ultimately enhances our performance.

CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Council's organisational structure provides for the management of Council's operations under an Executive Leadership Team (ELT), consisting of the Chief Executive Officer, three Departmental Directors and the Executive Support.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Chief Executive

9 staff

- Executive Leadership Team
- HR & Risk
- Executive support

Corporate Services

55 staff

- Governance
- Administration, Communications & Records
- Finance
- Information Technology
- Early Learning Centre

Engineering Services

72 staff

- Parks & Gardens
- Assets & Infrastructure
- Environmental Sustainability
- Waste Management

Development Services

33 staff

- Development Health & Compliance
- Economic Development
- Tourism & Events
- Libraries & Cultural Services
- Community Development
- Caravan Parks

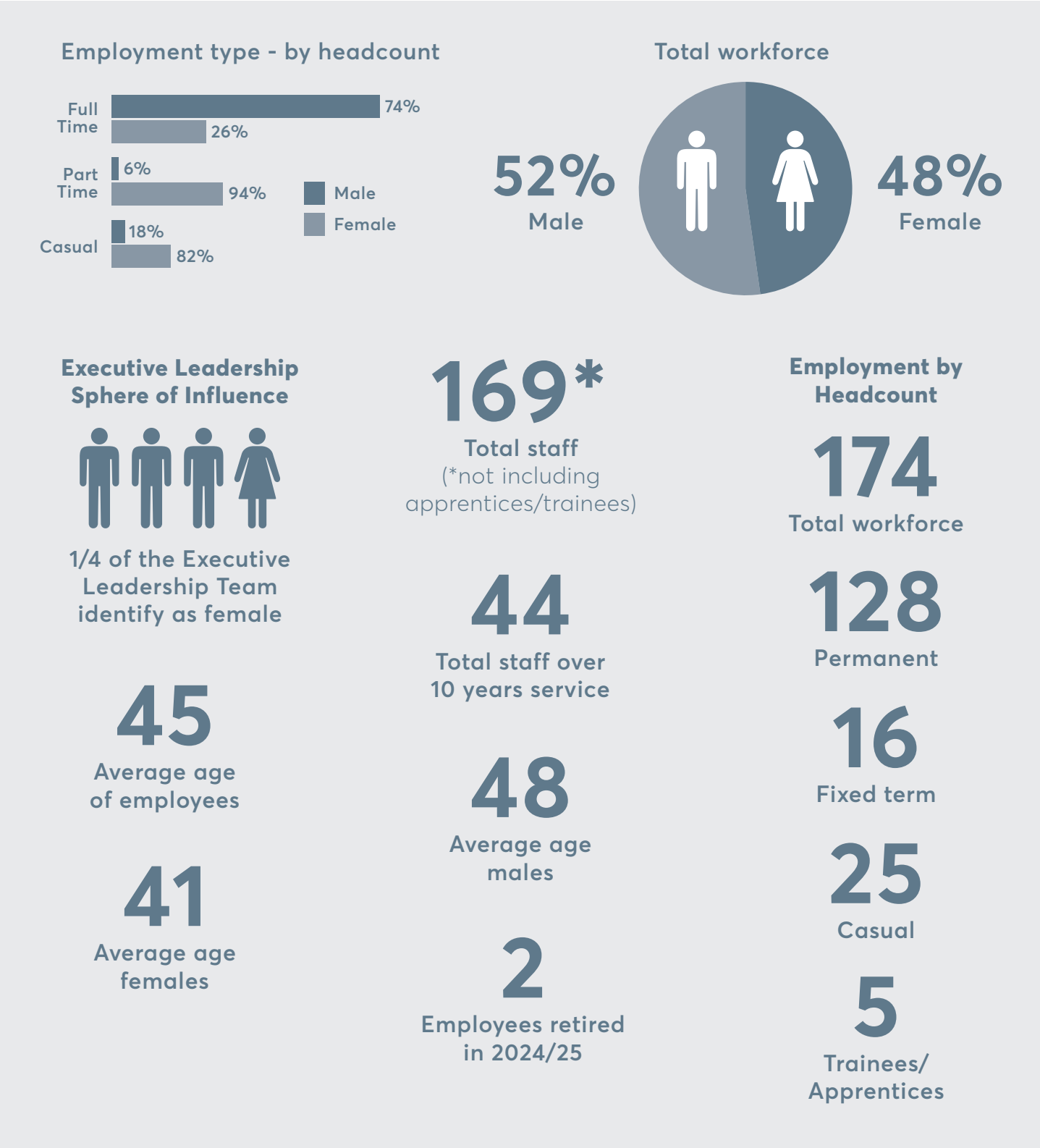
Traineeships & Apprenticeships

5 staff

- Parks & Gardens Trainees
- Mechanical Apprentice
- Administration Trainee
- IT Trainee

L to R: Ben Gower (Chief Executive Officer), Paul Duka (Director Corporate Services), Emma Clay (Director Development Services) and Peter Halton (Director Engineering Services)





INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology team has a number of key technology initiatives on it's to-do list, all aimed at making the Council's work more efficient and enhancing the services provided to the community.

The initiatives focused on enhancing the services we provide to the community through smarter, more efficient, and secure technology.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

- **Human Resource System Implementation:** Streamlined staff recruitment, onboarding, and performance management.
- **New Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System:** Improved management of customer interactions and service requests, ensuring residents and stakeholders receive faster, more responsive service.

- **New Mobile Fire Prevention Management System App:** Equipped field staff with a mobile tool for real-time fire prevention monitoring, helping safeguard properties, natural areas, and public spaces.
- **Implementation of Document filing system:** Enhanced document accessibility and collaboration across teams, leading to quicker decision-making.
- **Document Management System Architecture Design:** Established a secure and efficient document storage framework, supporting transparency, accountability, and better service planning for community initiatives.

- **Cyber Security System Enhancement:** Strengthened protections for community data and critical systems, ensuring residents' information and services remain safe and reliable.
- **Upgraded Phone System:** Improved communication and collaboration among staff, enabling faster responses to community inquiries and requests.

These technology initiatives directly benefit the Wattle Range community by improving service delivery, responsiveness, community safety, and trust in Council.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Council's communications and engagement activities supports a more connected, informed, and empowered community, leading to better outcomes for both the council and its residents.

Council's communication and engagement activities are important to build stronger relationships and trust with the Wattle Range community. Through delivering clear, consistent, and transparent messaging, Council is endeavouring to foster public trust, improve community engagement, and encourage meaningful participation in decision-making. This accountability promotes inclusivity across diverse groups, ensures that all voices are heard and respected and that Council reflect and responds to the community's needs.

Council's proactive communication also helps to manage issues or crises effectively, reduce misinformation, and maintain a positive reputation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

- **Fortnightly communications column in local print media,**
- **From May 2025 Council begun emailing a new look 'Your Council Update' community e-newsletter which brings together the key Council news, important notices, event highlights, and community updates – plus a direct link to the monthly 'Council Meeting in Summary',**
- **New 'website first' approach with core Council information placed on the website as a 'one source of truth' and then pushed out via the many communication and engagement platforms utilised by Council.**

*'Running The Distance' -
Melissa McIntosh- Kennedy.*



COMMUNICATION
FRAMEWORK

WATTLERANGE.SA.GOV.AU

215K page views
by 74K users

ENGAGE WATTLE RANGE

Over 17 community consultations
8.5K site visits
94 new registrations
2.2K total contributions via surveys, polls
and feedback opportunities

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

12 monthly Council Meeting in Review
12 monthly 'What's Going On
in Wattle Range'

MEDIA

(print, radio and publications)
Over 22 communication campaigns

EVENTS

(forums, community information
sessions, community celebrations)
Over 5 sessions held

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM

286 after hours 24/7 calls lodged
8,282 service requests entered into
Datscape system

APP FOR RESIDENTS

262 Antenno App users (up by 70%)
55 posts
37% average impression rate

SOCIAL MEDIA

(Instagram, Facebook, YouTube)
Wattle Range Council Facebook page
4.6K followers, 141K total reach, 3.6K link
clicks (up 24%), 10.9K content interactions

Beachport, Millicent and Penola Visitor Information Centres pages:

Facebook: total reach of 107K combined | Instagram: total reach of 4.2K combined

Re-A-Range Facebook page total reach of 6.7K

Rivoli Bay Jetties Junior Fishing Competition Facebook page total reach of 13.1K

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Councils are required, under the *Local Government Act 1999*, to consult with the community on a wide range of issues. Wattle Range Council's commitment to ensuring residents have the opportunity to be involved in the consultation and communication of topics of interest is outlined in our Community Engagement Policy.

Throughout 2024/25, Council has consulted with the community and sought feedback, from either key stakeholders or the wider community, on the following matters:

- Coastal Management (Community information session in Southend and Beachport)
- Riddoch Highway Coonawarra Speed Limit Review (285 survey responses)
- Millicent Retail Trading Hours (38 participants in initial stakeholder survey)
- Strategic Tourism Marketing Plan (2 submissions and 19 survey responses)
- Beachport Boat Ramp Pontoon (31 quick poll responses)
- Proposed Community Land Revocation - Saleyards Road Millicent (3 feedback submissions received)

- 2025 Stubble Burning Permits Review (10 participants in stakeholder survey)
- Council Service Centre hours of operation
- Community Land Management Plans (2 feedback submissions received)
- Future of Penola Community Library (45 survey responses)
- Railway Terrace, Beachport Carpark (67 survey responses received)
- Variation of the Beachport Golf Club Lease (1 feedback submission received)
- Lease of Community Land for the Beachport Institute
- 2025/26 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget (8 feedback submissions received)
- Township Community Visions (3 community forums held – Kangaroo Inn, Furner and Nangwarry – 73 new ideas submitted across 14 communities)
- Various event feedback

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION EVENTS

- Southend Public Information Sessions- Southern Ports Highway Roadworks June 2024
- Southend Coastal Management Community Information Session. Nov 2024

- Beachport Coastal Management Community Information Session. Nov 2024
- Furner Community Vision forum
- Kangaroo Inn Community Vision forum

COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS AND THEMES

Council endeavours to inform the Wattle Range community through a number of platforms and approaches, including;

- media releases
- news stories
- print media
- social media posts
- website
- 'Engage Wattle Range' updates
- resident app updates
- electronic and print newsletters.



COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Key communication themes and media releases covered in 2024/25 include:

- Beachport to Nora Creina 4WD track access
- Council's project updates
- Council withdrawal from LCLGA
- Australia Day celebrations and Citizen of the Year Awards
- Fire permit conditions
- Millicent Library and Art Gallery
- Re-A-Range Sustainability Festival
- Draft Limestone Coast Regional Plan
- Local resident App - Antenno
- Responsible dog ownership
- Council's Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget
- Wattle Range Youth Advisory Council
- Full Throttle in Wattle School Holiday Programs
- Council's Grant Programs and Scholarships
- Southern Ports Highway roadworks
- Penola - South Australian Ag Town of the Year
- New Council Service Centre
- Temporary road closures
- Mulch and waste initiatives
- Community Land Management Plans
- Council meetings in summary

*'Between Sand and Surf' -
Liam Mills.*





FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

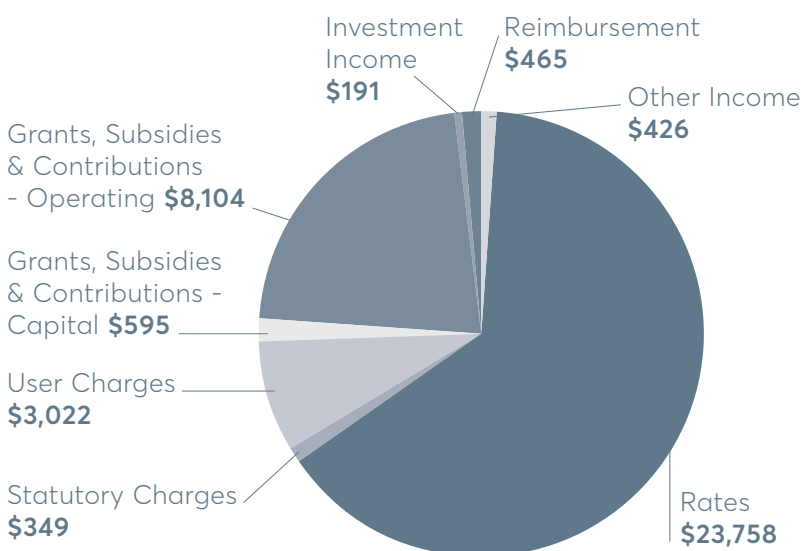
For the 2024/25 financial year, Council's Operating Surplus is \$1.959M. In years past, Council has received prepaid Federal Assisted Grant funds in advance of the year related to when they are intended to be paid in. For 2024/25, Council received a full yearly contribution of Federal Assisted Grants allocation plus a further prepayment of 50% of the 2025/26 Federal Assisted Grant Funds which has had a positive impact on grant income received.

In addition, Council has also received an increase in grant funds from other sources, which has resulted in an overall total increase in grant funds received comparative to 2023/24 of \$7.360M.

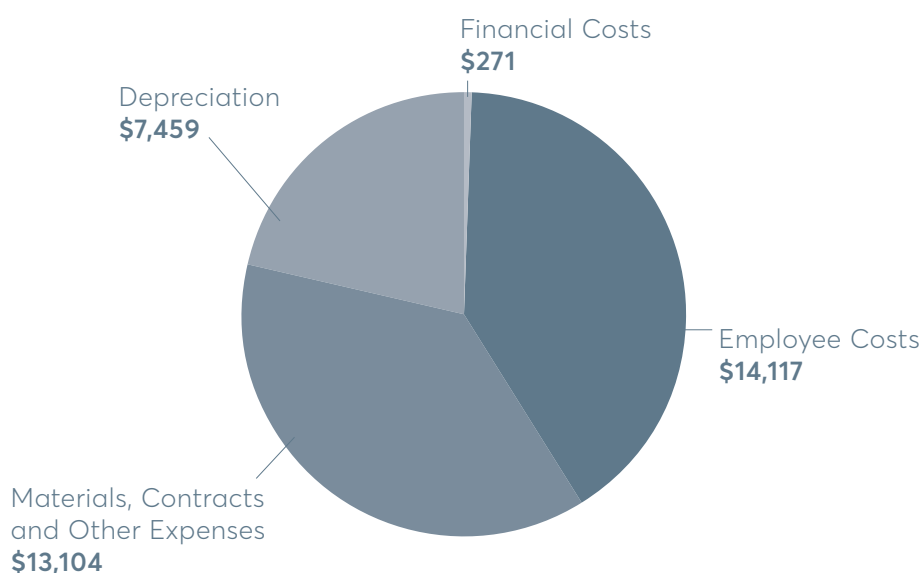
To a lesser extent, the increase in Operating Expenses has slightly impacted the Operating Surplus result. Above Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases in operational costs for insurance, fuel and materials, coupled with both superannuation guaranteed contributions and employee agreement increases, have resulted in Operating Expenses increasing by \$1.258M comparative to 2023/24.

Summary Comprehensive Income Statement (\$,000)	2025	2024
Operating Income	\$36,910	\$27,538
Operating Expense	\$34,951	\$33,693
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$1,959	(\$6,155)
Add Capital Adjustments	(\$873)	(\$2,275)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$1,086	(\$8,430)
Add Revaluation Adjustments	\$39,567	\$164
Total Comprehensive Income	\$40,653	(\$8,266)

2025 Operating Income \$,000s



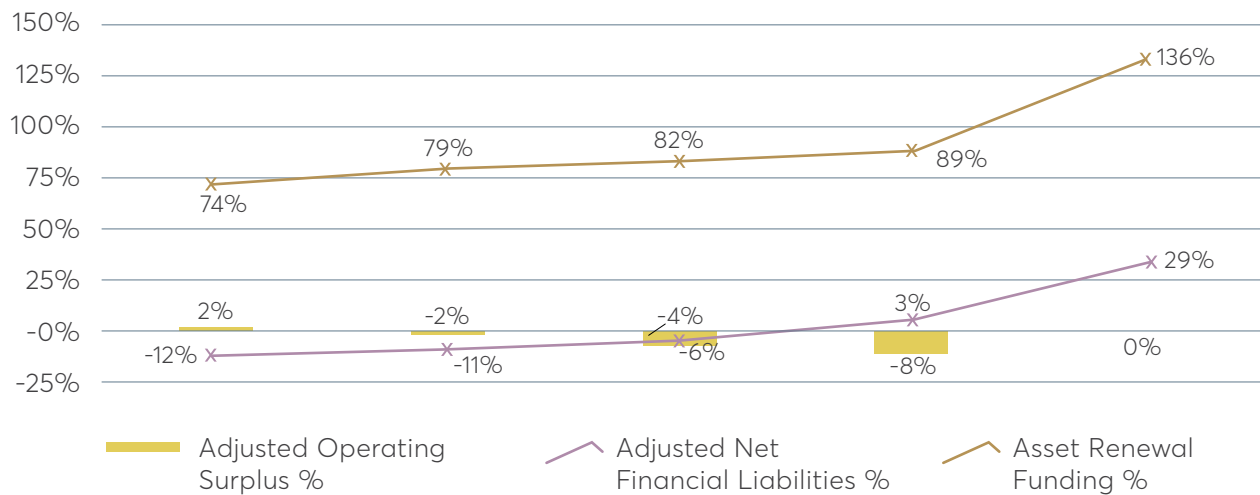
2025 Operating Expenditure \$,000s



OUR ORGANISATION

KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Council monitors its financial performance through three (3) Key Financial Indicators: the Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio, Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio and Asset Renewal Funding Ratio.



The Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio includes corrections for the timing issues related to the prepayment of the Federal Assistance Grants to better reflect the actual underlying performance. The result for 2024/25 is 0%, which is in-line with the target expectations of zero or above. The result was positively impacted due to the higher than expected income from grant funding received in 2024/25.

Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio is an indicator of Council's indebtedness. For 2024/25, the result is 29%. The result is within Council's target range of between 0% to 100% and signifies that Council's debt levels are low. The result is less than budget expectations, largely as a consequence of prepayment of 2025/26 Federal Assistance Grants in 2024/25.

Asset Renewal Funding Ratio is a key indicator of whether Council is renewing its assets when they fall due. Council's target range is between 80% and 110%. The result for 2024/25 is 136%, which is above the target range. Increased expenditure on renewals funded in part by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program has had a positive impact on the ratio.

With a longer-term focus of returning the operating result back to a greater than break-even position, the current financial performance of Council continues to be strong in relation to low indebtedness levels and increasing renewal expenditure of Council's existing assets.

ANNUAL AUDIT

Wattle Range Council's Annual Financial Statements for 2024/25 were audited by Council's auditors Dean Newbery & Partners Chartered Accountants who were appointed in April 2021, for a 5-year term, pursuant to Section 128 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Remuneration paid to Council's Auditors for the provision of audit services during 2024/25, pursuant to Section 129 of the *Local Government Act 1999* was \$23,992.

RATING STRATEGY

The rating strategy outlines Council's rationale for determining rates on an annual basis. Council reviews each year its rating strategy to assess if the previous rating decisions are appropriate or need to be amended for the coming year.

In 2024/25, Council resolved to continue to apply minimum rates of \$700 to eligible rateable assessments in the Council area. In addition, Council also calculates general rates revenue by applying differential "rates in the dollar" to the capital values of the property based on the different land uses of Residential, Commercial Office, Commercial Shop, Commercial Other, Industrial Light, Industrial Other, Primary Production, Vacant Land and Other Properties.

General Rates

For the 2024/25 financial year, Council adopted an increase in General Rate Revenue of Consumer Price Index (CPI), being 6.3% plus growth from new property developments of 0.41%.

Service Charges

Council raised service charges for the provision of Community Wastewater Management Schemes in the towns of Penola, Southend, Beachport and Kalangadoo.

CWMS Service Charges	Occupied	Vacant
Penola, Southend and Kalangadoo	\$751	\$561
Beachport	\$852	\$639

A domestic Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge was levied on properties in defined kerbside collection areas.

Waste Collection Service Charge	Charge Per Unit
3 Bins	\$395
2 Bins	\$308
3 Bins (Pension)	\$275
2 Bins (Pension)	\$218

Concession of \$120 for a 3 Bin service and \$90 for a 2 Bin service were provided to eligible pensioners.

Separate Levy

In 2024/25 Council raised a separate levy, based on land use, per rateable property for payment of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board levy of \$1,185,409. The land use charges are as follows:

Residential, Vacant & Other	\$93.75
Commercial	\$140.60
Industrial	\$216.70
Primary Production	\$397.75

The levy is collected on behalf of the State Government and is not retained by Council.

Mandatory Rebates

228 properties received Mandatory Rebates of General Rates totalling \$232,291.52.

Health Services	\$700.00
Community Services	\$172,731.84
Religious	\$26,111.30
Educational	\$32,748.38

Discretionary Rebates

64 Discretionary Rebates of General Rates were approved by Council totalling \$65,002.



YOUR RATES

Every \$100 of your rates is spent on...

TOURISM & EVENTS

- Community Events Support & Management
- Tourism & Marketing
- Visitor Information Services
 - Caravan Parks

\$2.45

per \$100 of your rates

WASTE & RECYCLING

- Kerbside Waste Collection
 - Public Waste Bin
 - Waste Initiatives

\$8.01

per \$100 of your rates

COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AGED & YOUTH SERVICES

- Community Support
- Youth & Aged Programs
 - Social Issues
 - Child Care

\$1.16

per \$100 of your rates

ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Asset Management
- Plant & Machinery
- Roads, Kerbs & Footpaths
 - Traffic Management
 - Stormwater
- Streetlighting • CWMS
- Coastal Management

\$53.83

per \$100 of your rates

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, REGULATORY SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING

- Building Regulation
- Planning & Development
- Public Order & Safety
- Fire Prevention • Parking
 - Dog Management
 - Environmental Health Services

\$5.27

per \$100 of your rates

GOVERNANCE, COMMUNICATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

- Governance & Legal Compliance
- Administration & Customer Service
- Financial Management
- Information Management
 - Communications

\$17.99

per \$100 of your rates

PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, POOLS, SPORT & RECREATION

- Parks & Playgrounds
- Pools & Swimming Lake
- Sport & Recreational Facilities
- Boat Ramp • Cemeteries

\$7.88

per \$100 of your rates

LIBRARIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Libraries
- Cultural Facilities
- Public Arts • Halls
- Public Conveniences

\$3.41

per \$100 of your rates

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

The Council Strategic Plan is a core document for guiding Council's future direction over the next four years. The plan takes into consideration Council's strategic planning framework and integrates the communities' and external stakeholder priorities. Wattle Range Council finalised and adopted the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 in April 2023.

The plan is structured using the following elements:



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

The Strategic Plan focuses on 4 main themes:

- Community Vibrancy & Presentation,
- Environmentally Sustainable,
- Infrastructure & Asset Sustainability, and
- Organisational Excellence.

The themes cover all aspects of Council's business. These themes and associated objectives were developed through a collaborative process, which involved engagement with the Council, staff and external stakeholders, including community and youth.

Invariably these four themes are all interrelated and will drive Council's ability to achieve its vision of 'Wattle Range - a great place to live and work'.

Throughout this report we will explore the actions included in the plan, demonstrating Council's progress in achieving these objectives. A table is included at the conclusion of each chapter.



Theme One

Community Vibrancy & Presentation

Objective: Generate and support community vibrancy through advocacy and maintenance of community services and enhanced public facilities.



Theme Two

Environmentally Sustainable

Objective: Protect the natural assets and infrastructure of the region by leveraging additional environmental programs that will protect the environment for future generations.



Theme Three

Infrastructure & Asset Sustainability

Objective: Provide functional, safe, fit for purpose assets that meet the changing needs of the community.



Theme Four

Organisational Excellence

Objective: A great place to work where innovation and efficiency is expected, and customers are our focus.

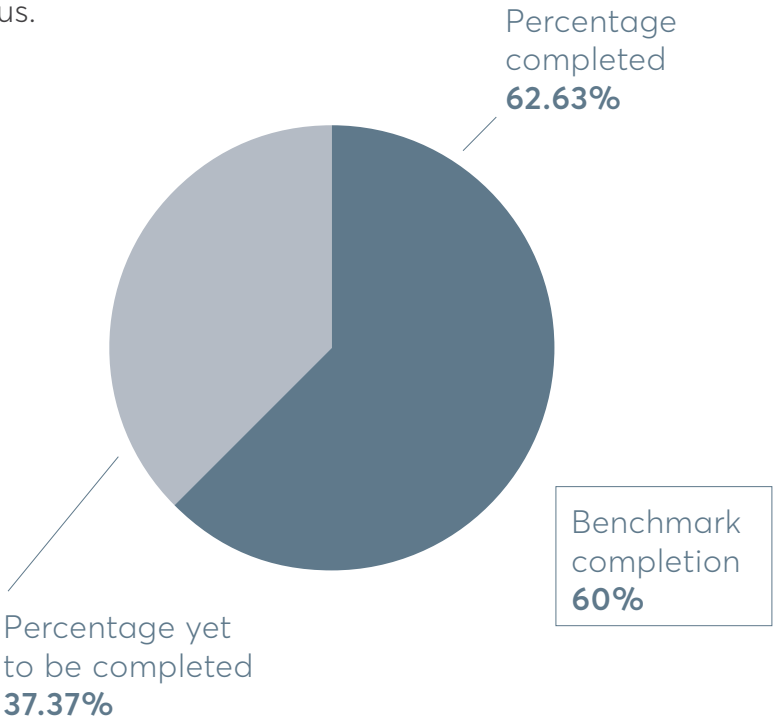
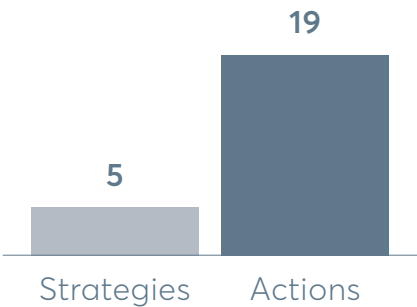


'Beachport Boatramp' - Don Sforcina.



KEY THEME:
ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Objective: A great place to work where innovation and efficiency is expected and customers are our focus.



PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING 2023 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Council's performance for 2024/25 year has been reported for each strategic action to demonstrate Council's progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

Council measures the progress and success through a variety of performance indicators both financial and non-financial. These are detailed to ensure the objectives of the Plan are met.

4.1 Streamline operational decision making processes through technology based improvements.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
4.1.1a Develop and deploy customised database and workflows to capture and manage information in order to improve decision making and operating efficiency.	Customised databases implemented.	Sharepoint and PowerBI softwares were utilised to assist in the creation of workflows and analysis of council information.	60%	

Completed Progress On Track Progress Below Benchmark Action Not Commenced

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 Streamline operational decision making processes through technology based improvements cont.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
4.1.1b Develop a standard suite of automated reports and dashboards to enhance analysis and decision making and consider sharing this information with the community via the Council website.	Options evaluated for improved information technology reliability.	Office 365 has been implemented and PowerBI reporting development has commenced.	60%	—
4.1.1c Conclude the transition to the Datascape Enterprise Software Solution and continue to evolve its capability with both the vendor and collaborating Councils.	Datascape implementation concluded.	The Customer Request Module (CRM) has been implemented and additional CRM functionality and completion of the regulatory modules to be completed in 2025/26.	75%	—
4.1.1d Develop an Internet of Things (IOT) capability that integrates smart sensors into Council's existing IT network and emerging networks.	IOT sensors deployed.	Preliminary investigation of options for IOT commenced in 2024/25 and implementation to commence in 2025/26.	10%	—
4.1.1e Pursue mobile IT solutions that improve remote connectivity and productivity in the field.	Mobile IT solution deployed.	Further mobile devices were purchased in preparation for rollout of Sharepoint to the organisation and further enhancements to the field worker application expected in 2025/26.	60%	—

4.2 Govern in a responsible and responsive way.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
4.2.1a Strengthen the internal control mechanism through the development, review and auditing of policies and procedures.	Internal auditing of policies and procedures undertaken.	Internal controls have been developed and are annually reviewed and monitored in Sharepoint. Policies and procedures are being updated and internal audit of Work Health & Safety procedures undertaken.	60%	—
4.2.1b Review Council's Business Continuity Plan through desktop exercises.	Business Continuity Plan developed and reviewed.	Cybersecurity desktop exercise completed and update to the Business Continuity Plan has commenced.	60%	—
4.2.1c Support and continue to develop the Risk Management Framework and comply with Council's Work Health and Safety Responsibilities.	Framework developed and complied with.	Skytrust and Sharepoint are used for maintenance of risk and safety systems. Throughout the year enhanced reporting has been developed to improve Council's risk and safety system monitoring	65%	—

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

4.2 Govern in a responsible and responsive way cont.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
4.2.2a Assist the South Australian Electoral Commission with the 2022 Council elections.	Council elections conducted successfully.	Preliminary training scheduled in preparation for the 2026 Elections.	10%	—
4.2.2b Undertake the elections and develop a training schedule and induction for the new elected Council.	Election and training of councillors conducted.	COMPLETED: Mid-term refresher training for all elected members.	100%	✓
4.2.3a Ensure all policies, procedures and delegations of authority are appropriately recorded and managed to ensure compliance with nominated review cycles.	Policies and procedures reviewed.	Policy and procedure review and system for monitoring developed, staged update of policies and procedures have now commenced.	85%	—

4.3 Increase Community input into Council decision making, through adoption of quality Community Engagement principles and practices.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
4.3.1a Evolve Council's website to ensure that it remains relevant to community needs.	Website reviewed.	The website is continually updated to maintain relevance and accuracy. Future changes are focused on improving the customer experience.	60%	—
4.3.1b Develop and promote the use of community engagement platforms.	Community Engagement platform implemented.	COMPLETED: Community engagement software has been implemented and engagement with the site has improved. Additionally, Council implemented use of the Brolly software to assist with social media record retention.	100%	✓

4.4 Optimise Council operation of businesses and assets, to ensure value for money is returned to the Community.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
4.4.1a Identify other key assets that don't have any significant community value or that would be better placed with an alternative organisation (public or private) for disposal and reinvest the capital in key community infrastructure projects.	Assets identified.	Various assets have been reviewed and a number have been earmarked for sale and or reinvestment.	90%	—
4.4.1b Investigate options to transfer ownership and/or management of CWMS to a water industry provider.	Options evaluated for transfer of ownership and or management of CWMS.	DEFERRED: Action deferred until 2027/28 due to resourcing.	0%	✗

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

4.5 Ensure Council has the right people to succeed in delivering outcomes.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
4.5.1a Develop an online performance development review system that aligns individual objectives with annual and strategic business plans and desired behaviours with Council's values.	Online performance development review system developed.	Council has partially implemented HR software including the performance management module. Final implementation of remaining modules in 2025/26.	85%	—
4.5.1b Develop an online induction capability for new employees, volunteers and contractors.	Online induction for employee's contractors and volunteers developed.	Council implemented the HR software which includes an online training module for inductions for employees/volunteers and contractors. Further development of the online training module is scheduled for 2025/26.	85%	—
4.5.1c Implement and optimise the use of a Human Resources (HR) Electronic Management System across the Organisation.	HR system implemented.	COMPLETED: Council has implemented the core HR software which includes recruitment and onboarding processes. Further refinement including implementation of other non-core modules to be completed in 2025/26.	100%	✓
4.5.1d Develop a formal succession plan that identifies critical positions developing short and long term solutions to back fill these positions when the need arises.	Succession plan developed.	Some preliminary works have commenced in establishing succession planning for managers and directors through scheduled filling in of roles by other staff whilst on leave.	25%	—

✓ Completed
 — Progress On Track
 — Progress Below Benchmark
 ✗ Action Not Commenced

'Lake George Impressionism' -
Leah Hamilton.



*'Tree in Twilight' -
Sajo Sam.*

LIVING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Events, Awards, Grants & Sponsorship	35
Community Development	47
Planning & Development	50
Tourism	52
Libraries & Gallery	54
Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre	58
Strategic Plan Achievements	60

'Beachport Town' -
Liam Mills.



HIGHLIGHTS

337

Rivoli Bay Jetties Junior
Fishing Competition
registrations

131

families serviced by the
Early Learning Centre

213

total developments
lodged

\$55.9M

spent by visitors to the area

118K

visits to the Library & Art Gallery



*'One Day I Will Be a Beautiful Butterfly' -
Vanessa Mikutta.*

EVENTS, AWARDS, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

SA YOUTH WEEK

Council proudly celebrated Youth Week 2025 alongside the Autumn School Holiday Full Throttle in Wattle Program, offering a dynamic program shaped by community, teacher, and local business input. Supported by a \$2,500 SA Youth Week grant, highlights included;

- Big Screen Movie Night at Kangaroo Inn,
- Participation in the All Voices Regional Tour,
- Women's Football Coaching Clinic,
- Beachport surf session,
- Game development workshops.

These events fostered creativity, confidence, and connection, bringing families and youth together across the many townships within Wattle Range.

FULL THROTTLE IN WATTLE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Over 900 young people from across Wattle Range participated in Council's free Full Throttle in Wattle School Holidays Program. This year activities were developed with focus on;

- Collaborating with local businesses who leveraged the events by offering specials, such as kids' meals and snack options, as an added bonus for families,
- Student led selection of activities,
- Themes catered to diverse youth interests, from active outdoor activities to game design and development, and arts and creativity,
- Representation across the townships within the area,
- Highlights included the Skate Park Leagues Competition at Millicent Domain, the All-Abilities Initiative co-designed with PACES students, Bush Buddies at Glencoe Hall, booked-out sessions at Noorla-Yo-Long, and Giant Kites at Beachport Surf Beach. The program continues to grow in

popularity for both locals and as a tourism draw card involving all of the community.

As part of the school holiday program, each autumn, Council holds the Rivoli Bay Jetties Junior Fishing Competition. In 2025 the competition set a new record with 337 young participants, both local and visiting, enjoying a week of fun, learning, and sustainable fishing. Participants received fishing gear and attended a launch workshop run by the Beachport Lions Club, with PIRSA providing guidance on responsible practices. The competition concluded with a lively presentation night attended by over 100 people, celebrating achievements and awarding prizes generously supported by local businesses. This community-focused event has become a highlight of the Autumn Full Throttle in Wattle Program and a key attraction for our coastal towns.



EVENTS, AWARDS AND SPONSORSHIP

CELEBRATE SENIORS

The Celebrate Seniors program ran throughout October 2024, attracting approximately 541 attendees across Glencoe, Nangwarry, Penola, Beachport, Tantanoola, and Millicent.

The month featured a mix of new and popular events, including:

- Open Days at Yallum Park, Millicent Hospital and Millicent Museum,
- Tours of the Glencoe Nursery and Lake McIntyre,
- Movies at the Beachport Cinema and Civic and Arts Centre Millicent,
- Bingo at the Southend Club,
- Craft and Sports Days with Resthaven,
- Singalongs and live music with Piano Man, Backroom Panic, SE Concert Band and Local Schools and Kindergartens.

Free bus transport was provided for selected events.

Feedback indicated that a full month of events can be tiring, and many suggested spreading activities throughout the year. Council plans to trial a Seniors Week in October 2025, launching a year-long program of 6–10 seniors-only events to improve participation, planning, and resource allocation.

SENIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mayor Des Noll presented the 2024 Senior of the Year Award to Wendy Thomson during the closing ceremony of the Celebrate Seniors week which was held at the Millicent Football Club.



AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

The Council has the privilege of conducting Citizenship Ceremonies on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs. There was a total of 8 Conferees who pledged their loyalty to Australia and its people to become Australian Citizens. The conferees were from the following countries:

India	1
United Kingdom	2
South Africa	2
Philippines	1
Hong Kong	1
(Peoples Republic of China)	
Sri Lanka	1



Mayor Noll and conferee Ivan Botha with his family.

AUSTRALIA DAY & CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

On Sunday, January 26, 2025, Wattle Range Council supported the official presentation of Australia Day Awards at breakfast functions in Beachport, Millicent, Kalangadoo and Penola. The weather was kind with great turn outs at each of the events.

Following a successful grant submission to the Australia Day Council, Wattle Range Council was able to offer updated signage and equipment as well as live music at each event. Southend and Tantanoola also hosted Australia Day events encouraging local communities to gather and socialise.

The annual Australia Day Awards were presented to several hardworking individuals who contributed service in the Wattle Range community. The Youth Recognition Awards sponsored by community partners were also included on the nomination process for 2025, with the winners also announced as part of the Australia Day celebrations across the region.

2025 Award Recipients included:

Citizen of the Year
Corcoran Ward Wendy Thomson
Kintore Ward Roger Smith
Riddoch Ward Anne-Marie Williams
Sorby Adams Ward Necia Matthews
Young Citizen of the Year
Corcoran Ward James D'onghia
Kintore Ward Sienna Sutherland
Riddoch Ward William Goodes
Sorby Adams Ward Yasmin Sedman
Active Citizen of the Year
Sorby Adams Ward Ian Matthews
Kintore Ward Dianne Roach

Community Event of the Year
Corcoran Ward Rock on the Rails
Kintore Ward Snakes and Envenomation Community Session
Riddoch Ward Agriculture Town of the Year Penola Showcase
Sorby Adams Ward Kalangadoo Hotel Show 'n Shine
Youth Recognition Awards
Contribution to the Community Chad Cockrum
Achievement through the Arts James D'onghia
Inspiration by Innovation Mary-Rose Vander Heul
Learning Success Yasmin Sedman
Learning Success Sienna Sutherland

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

EVENTS, AWARDS AND SPONSORSHIP



Penola Showcase Riddoch Ward - Community Event of the Year 2025.



Above: Mary-Rose Vander Heul won the Youth Recognition Award - Inspiration by Innovation 2025.



Above: Julie Moran and Linda Carter-Shepherd accepted the Community Event of the Year for Kintore Ward.



Di Roach won Active Citizen of the Year for Kintore Ward.



Australia Day BBQ celebrations in Beachport.



Wendy Thomson of Corcoran Ward won Citizen of the Year 2025.

COUNCIL SPONSORED AWARDS

Wattle Range Council and Flinders University - Hon Terry Roberts MLC Memorial Student Scholarships

The Terry Roberts MLC Memorial Student Scholarship has been established to assist students from the Wattle Range Council area to commence undergraduate study at Flinders University.

Council partners with Flinders University each year to award up to two scholarships valued at \$5,000 each.

No applications were received for the 2024/25 financial year. The University has confirmed it will offer these unallocated Scholarships next financial year.

Total amount available per financial year:	Funds allocated in 2024/25:
\$10,000	\$0

Wattle Range Council and UniSA - Study Grants

The Wattle Range Council UniSA Study Grant provides encouragement and support for talented students from the Wattle Range Council area as they commence a UniSA undergraduate degree program.

The grants are awarded to students who resided in the Wattle Range Council area during Year 12, or in the period immediately prior to lodging an application to study at UniSA. Two grants of \$2,500 are available each year.

Two scholarships were awarded in 2024 to Tayla Rowe who is studying a Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Sally Sapiatzer who is studying a Bachelor of Education (Honours).

Total amount available per financial year:	Funds allocated in 2024/25:
\$5,000	\$5,000

Secondary School Academic Achievement Awards

A Mayoral Award is presented annually to the three secondary schools in Wattle Range.

The 2024 Mayoral Awards of \$100 each were presented to:

- Kangaroo Inn Area School
Sienna Sutherland
- Millicent High School
Mika Job
- Penola High School
Cameron Braendler



'The View' -
Connor Murray.

WATTLE RANGE
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

Young individuals residing within the Wattle Range region that are participating in an event at state, national or international level are eligible to apply for financial assistance from the Council's Youth Development Foundation.

Grants of \$200 are awarded to compete at State/National events. Successful applicants were:



Mayor Noll congratulates Madeleine McGregor on her selection for 12 Years & Under School Sport Australian Hockey Championships.

Category	Recipient	Event
Tennis	Samuel Haase	Tennis Australia Teams Carnival held in Gold Coast, QLD from 14 to 18 December 2024.
Basketball	Jackson Bowden	Under 20 National Basketball Championships held in Ballarat, VIC from 28 January to 2 February, 2025.
	Emily Denton	U18 Australian Junior Country Basketball Cup held in Albury, NSW from 14 to 18 January, 2025.
	Lucy Crowe	U16 Australian Junior Country Basketball Cup held in Albury, NSW from 14 to 18 January, 2025.
	Scarlett Zalme	
	Livvi Faulkner	
Cricket	Ryder Lindner	School Sport Australia 15 Years & Under Cricket Championships held in Adelaide, SA from 29 March to 4 April, 2025.
Football	Sebella Coghlan	AFLW Under 16 National Development Championships held in Perth, WA on 6 April, 2025.
Girl Guides	Daisy Sunderland	Girl Guides Australia Jamboree 2025 (Bush 2 Beach) held at Murwillumbah, NSW from 28 September to 5 October, 2025.
	Chloe Stupple	
	Holly Lowndes	
Hockey	Jack Sharman	Australian Under 18 Hockey Championships held in Perth, WA from 2 to 13 July, 2025.
	Harrison De Garis	
	Madeleine McGregor	12 Years & Under School Sport Australian Hockey Championships held in Bendigo, VIC from 17 to 22 August, 2025.

A total of \$2,800 worth of grants were awarded to 14 recipients through the Wattle Range Youth Development Foundation.

Total amount available per financial year:	Funds allocated in 2024/25:
\$7,000	\$2,800

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Youth Leadership Development Program encourages young people who live and work/volunteer in the Council area to undertake leadership training which may assist in advancing their career in an existing Wattle Range business or advancing a community initiative within the Wattle Range region.

Council allocates up to \$10,000 per financial year to the program. Grants of up to \$1,000 may be awarded to facilitate a young person to undertake leadership training. Grants are awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$1,000 unless special circumstances apply.

No applications for the Program were received in 2024/25.

Total amount available per financial year:	Funds allocated in 2024/25:
\$10,000	\$0



'The Mark' -
Steve Chapple.

MAYORAL SPONSORSHIP

Mayor Noll is provided with discretionary Funds to assist various organisations through the Wattle Range Council district. During this period, he was able to assist the following:

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Coonawarra Soldiers Memorial Community Club Inc.	Small project work	\$500
Hatherleigh Community Hall Inc.	Small project work	\$600
Thoroughbred Sport Horse Association	Sponsorship of 4 Classes of Thoroughbreds at the Millicent Show	\$455
Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival	Assistance with the new Penola Art Gallery	\$1,000
Tantanoola Progress Association	Assistance with the Railway Station Shed Project	\$500
Millicent Christian Churches Association	2024 Community Christmas Appeal Hampers	\$1,000
Millicent United Soccer Club	Donation of Mayoral Trophy	\$100
Penola Pastoral Agricultural & Horticultural Society Inc.	Sponsorship for Horse Section	\$200
Alisha Cram	Assistance to attend the YMCA South Australian Youth Parliament	\$550
Penola Terra Rossa CWA Branch	Assistance with 16 frames for the Portraits of Penola	\$500
Beachport Rivoli Bay Lions Club	Donation	\$200
Lions Club of Kalangadoo	Donation	\$200
12 recipients received Mayoral sponsorship totaling		\$5,805

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Council operates two Community Financial Assistance Grant schemes which enable community and sporting groups and organisations within the Wattle Range Council area to access funding toward projects and events which provide a benefit to the community.

The Community Financial Assistance Grant Scheme is a broad scheme available to all community groups for projects, events and initiatives which provide a benefit to the local community. The Community Sport and Recreation Grant Scheme specifically aims to provide funding for Sport and Recreation Groups in our area, to foster the development of sport and recreation.

A total of \$55,000 is provided in two separate rounds with priority consideration being given to applicants who contribute at least 50% of the project cost from their own resources either cash or in-kind.



The 2024/25 recipients were:

Community Financial Assistance Grants

ROUND ONE		
Organisation	Project	Grant
Kalangadoo War Memorial Park & Community Sports Club Inc	Club kitchen renovation including new commercial oven/cooktop.	\$2,000
Glencoe Branch National Trust	Printing of stainless steel plaque and panel, limestone boulder, transport and crane hire for "The Story of Letitia Leake - the accidental heiress".	\$1,639
Penola Players Inc	Performance and associated costs of melodrama 'Don't get your Vicars in a Twist'.	\$1,536
Millicent AH & P Society	Purchase and installation of safety roller shutters for kitchen servery area and replacement kitchen door.	\$2,000
National Trust Beachport Museum	Purchase of video footage 'SS Euro Shipwreck' story to enhance current shipwreck display.	\$2,000
Total Round One		\$9,175

ROUND TWO		
National Trust Glencoe Woolshed Branch	Roof repair and maintenance at the Glencoe Woolshed.	\$2,000
Millicent Community Access Radio Inc	Outside broadcast setup.	\$2,000
Total Round Two		\$4,000

7 Community Groups received

\$13,175

to assist projects valued at \$32,130

Total amount available per financial year:	Funds allocated in 2024/25:
\$30,000	\$13,175

'Hay Bales' -
Ricky Knowles.

Community Sport and Recreation Financial Assistance Grants

ROUND ONE		
Organisation	Project	Grant
Millicent Cricket Club	Game and training cricket balls	\$1,780
Beachport Bowling Club	Purchase of laptop and software	\$950
Millicent Squash Club	Facility security access upgrade	\$2,000
McLaughlin Park Sports	Submersible Pump - McLaughlin Park Oval watering system	\$2,000
Tantanoola Netball Club	Purchase of laptop	\$697
Tantanoola Football Club	Upgrade of security system and alarms	\$2,000
Rendelsham Cricket Club	Removal and replacement synthetic grass cricket pitch	\$2,000
Total Round One		\$11,427

ROUND TWO		
Glencoe Football Club	Replacement football oval perimeter fence	\$2,000
Millicent United Soccer Club	Clubroom heating / cooling	\$2,000
Beachport Golf Club	Night golf equipment	\$1,355
Total Round Two		\$5,355

10 Sport & Recreation
Groups received

\$16,782

to assist projects
valued at \$61,620

Total amount available per financial year:	Funds allocated in 2024/25:
\$25,000	\$16,782

'Fairy Wren Jump' -
Michelle Thomas.

Community Infrastructure Grants

The annual Community Infrastructure Grants program is available to community and sporting groups to assist with co-funding major infrastructure projects.

A total of \$100,000 is provided in one annual funding round, with grants of up to \$50,000 awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Organisation	Project	Grant
Mount Burr Netball Club	Construction of a storage shed at the Netball Courts	\$25,386
Millicent Craft Group	Extension to Craft Group Shed	\$37,254
Glencoe Football Club	Upgrade of the toilet facilities at the Football Clubrooms	\$30,000
Penola Bowling Club	Fit out of cabinetry in the Wellness Room at the Bowling Club	\$1,700

Total amount available per financial year:	Funds allocated in 2024/25:
\$100,000	\$94,340

Local Events Support Grants

Council's Local Event Support Grants provide financial support for events, performances and festivals. Aimed to encourage and support community groups to host their own events within Wattle Range Council, helping to grow the diverse range of events on offer to both residents and visitors.

Events receiving recurring support under the program are:

Recipient	Event	Grant
Millicent Business Community Association	Lights Up Millicent	\$2,000
Penola Racing Club	Penola Cup	\$1,000
Millicent Racing Club	Millicent Cup	\$1,000
Geltwood Festival Committee	Geltwood Festival	\$310
Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival Committee	Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival	\$3,000
Beachport District Development Association	Beachport New Year's Eve Fireworks	\$5,000
Teagles Pines Enduro Committee	Teagles Pines Enduro	\$2,000
Penola Rodeo Committee	Penola Rodeo	\$3,000
Riddoch Business and Community Association	Penola Late Night Shopping Event	\$1,000
Riddoch Business and Community Association	Penola Street Christmas Party	\$1,000
Coonawarra Vignerons	Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations Bus	\$3,000
Coonawarra Vignerons	Coonawarra Vignerons Cup	\$1,750
Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council	Limestone Coast Wine Show	\$2,500



LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

EVENTS, AWARDS AND SPONSORSHIP

Events receiving seed or once-off support in 2024/25 were:

Applicant	Project	Grant
Rotary Club of Mount Gambier	Rotary Club Science and Engineering Challenge	\$1,000
Millicent Choral Society	Millicent Choral Society 50 Years Celebration	\$1,500
Penola Bowling Club	Volunteer recognition morning tea	\$500
Country Post and Bistro	The Shaka Project Workshop	\$1,400
Penola Winter Showdown Committee	Penola Winter Showdown	\$1,600

Seed Funding

Radio 5THEFM	Rock on the Rails	\$2,250
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Council also provides a range of in-kind services to local events throughout the year including discounted hall hire, event bins, event site and area preparation, traffic management and road closures, loan of equipment (the grandstand, parklet, disability kit, outdoor games, signage) or printing.

LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS

Council's Local Heritage Conservation Grant Fund was established to promote and support the conservation of Local Heritage places.

Property owners can apply for a contribution of up to \$2,500 towards the costs involved in retaining, reinforcing or re-installing their heritage significance.

No applications for the grants were received in 2024/25.

Total amount available per financial year: \$15,000	Funds allocated in 2024/25: \$0
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SHOP FAÇADE UPGRADE PROGRAM

Council's Shop Façade Upgrade Program supports one-off infrastructure projects that specifically upgrade and beautify shop fronts or make shops more disability friendly.

Business and property owners can apply for a contribution of up to \$4,000, awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis, to improve their business facade.

One applicant was successful in receiving a total of \$4,000 in support during 2024/25.

Total amount available per financial year: \$20,000	Funds allocated in 2024/25: \$4,000
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PUBLIC ART ON PRIVATE ASSETS GRANTS

Council's Public Art on Private Assets Grants aim to encourage business owners, organisations, and property owners to commission public art. Council allocates up to \$20,000 per financial year to the program.

Grants of up to \$5,000 may be awarded to businesses or property owners to commission public art that reflect the theme of wind and water.

No applications for the grants were received in 2024/25.

Total amount available per financial year: \$20,000	Funds allocated in 2024/25: \$0
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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Wattle Range Youth Advisory Council (YAC) continued to strengthen youth leadership and community engagement across the region. The group designed and delivered a successful Youth Leadership Camp, connecting young people with local volunteer organisations such as the CFS, Surf Life Saving, and the Men's Shed, while fostering teamwork, kindness, and leadership. The term concluded with a graduation celebration for ten members, acknowledging their valuable contributions.

This year saw a record 19 expressions of interest for participation, with 11 new members appointed. The new term launched with a Youth Round Table Dinner celebrating youth leadership and collaboration. YAC members also represented the region at the SA Youth Forum and All Voices Regional Tour, amplifying youth voices and strengthening regional connections.



2024 Wattle Range Youth Advisory Council Graduates.

LIQUOR LICENSING ACCORD

The Liquor Licensing Accord, a collaboration of local and state stakeholders, aims to address issues related to alcohol consumption and its impact on the community.

The Limestone Coast Liquor Licensing Accord meetings have been on hold while SA Police and affected members decide whether to align with the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) meetings.

Discussions are ongoing regarding incorporation of the Accord meetings into the Australian Hotels Association 6 monthly meeting. This reduces the number of times small business operators must leave their business and gives SAPOL a chance to build relationships with AHA members who don't regularly attend Accord meetings. It may also help AHA grow its membership.

DISABILITY ACCESS INCLUSION PLAN

Council continues to provide services and opportunities that support people with disabilities and their families to participate in all aspects of community life.

Council's Accessible Events Kit was hired for community events and festivals 13 times in 2024/25. The events kit includes:

- Roll-out mats (for wheelchairs)
- Kerb ramps
- Signage that identifies disability parking and accessible toilets
- Guide-dog station; and
- Disability identified tables and chairs.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On 3 December 2024, to celebrate International Day of People with Disability, Council funded an All-abilities Christmas party with live karaoke, gift swap and nibbles provided. The event was held at the Millicent Soccer Club.

In May 2025, Council sought expressions of interest from community members with disability, their families or representatives from organisations supporting people with disability, to join the Wattle Range Council Disability Access and Inclusion Co-design Group.

Co-design group members provide advice and guidance to Council in the development of the Wattle Range Council Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029.

The first Co-design Group Meeting was held on 22 May 2025.

PROBLEM BASED LEARNING IN SCHOOLS

The Problem-Based Learning initiative, delivered in partnership with the Department for Education, Kangaroo Inn Area School, and Penola Primary School, provided students with a real-world challenge: finding solutions to prevent sand build-up at the Beachport Boat Ramp. Through site visits, data collection, and creative problem-solving using tools such as TinkerCAD, Minecraft, and community consultation, students developed innovative proposals.

The project culminated in a presentation evening attended by families, Councillors, and staff, showcasing the students' confidence, teamwork, and ingenuity. The initiative strengthened links between Council, schools, and local industry, inspiring future engineers and community leaders.

Christmas party to celebrate International Day of People with Disabilities in December 2024.



Disability Events Kit for hire.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LIONS PARK

The Lions Park Upgrade project is a community led initiative working together to bring the Lions Park Upgrade Concept Design to life.

The Concept Design was endorsed by Council in November 2023. Since then, the Lions Park Working Group – comprising representatives from the Millicent Lions Club, Wattle Range Council, Unity Housing and community members who reside around the park has met regularly to discuss and coordinate the works.

Significant progress was made in the 2024/25 financial year, with Stage 1 of the Concept Design successfully completed.

Works completed include:

- Installation of underground reticulation piping,
- Planting of fruit trees,
- Installation of hybrid AFL/ soccer goal posts,
- Construction of community garden beds (fully funded by a grant

from OneFortyOne and constructed in partnership with the Millicent Lions Club and Millicent High School students),

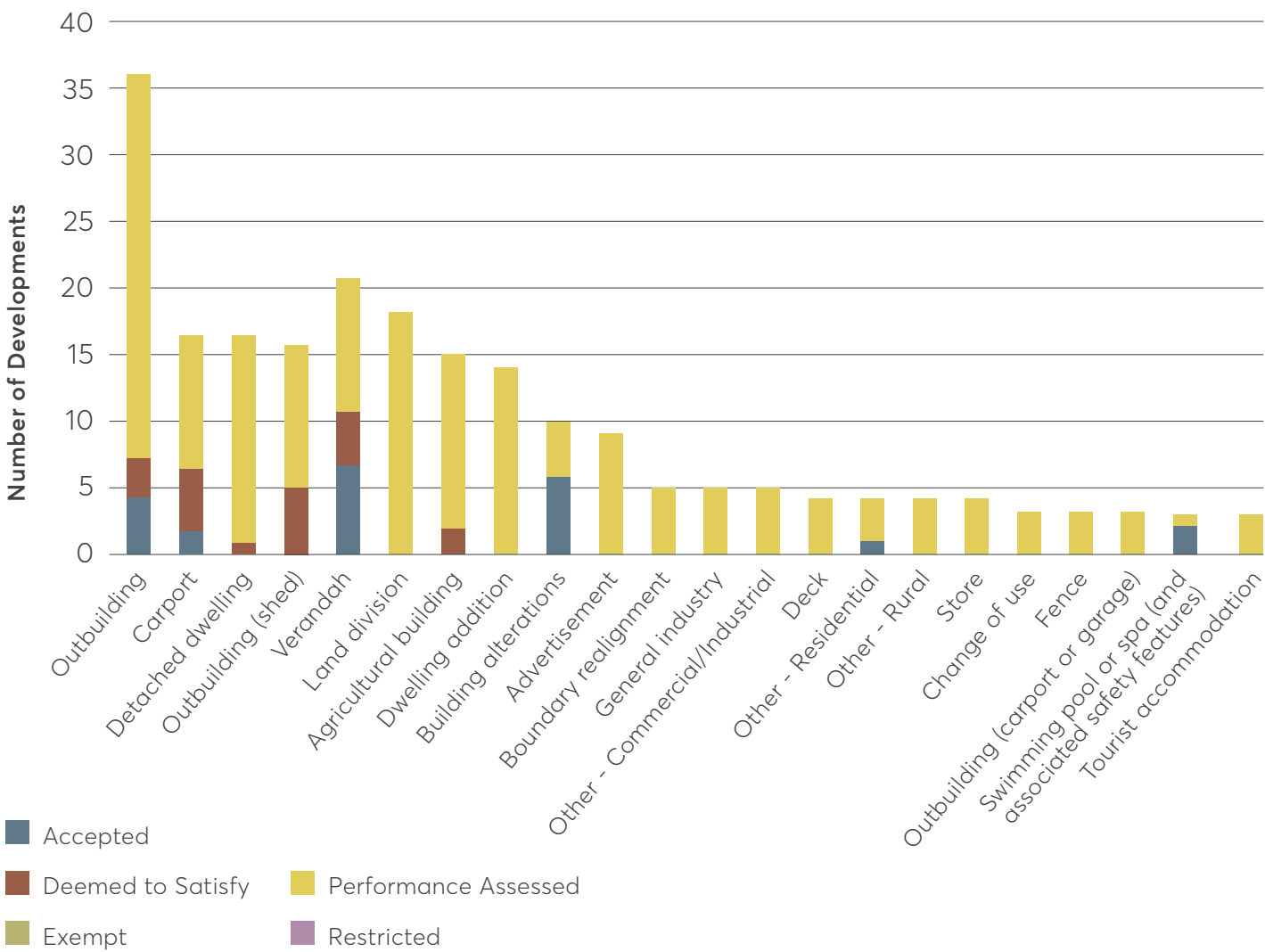
- Native indigenous plants were donated by Uncle Doug and Kathy. Vegetables and herbs donated by Holla Fresh and McCourt's Garden Centre were planted by high school students and children from Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre,
- Community members who live near the Lions Park planted vegetables donated by Banner Mitre 10 in the garden beds,
- Relocation of Tantanoola Primary School Playground equipment to the site.

In December 2024, the opening of the community garden beds was celebrated with over 120 families attending. The event featured a 26-meter inflatable giant slide and obstacle course along with the Girl Guides mobile games and activities for younger children.



DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

2024-2025 Top 20 Development Types with Assessment Pathway



DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE

213

Total developments lodged

\$29.68M

Total development cost

257

Building inspections undertaken

25 YEAR STRATEGIC LAND USE PLAN

The Wattle Range Council 25 Year Strategic Land Use Plan was endorsed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on 9 August 2022.

The Strategic Land Use Plan provides an effective and meaningful framework to ensure Council can proactively facilitate sustainable development and growth for the next 25 years and will be used to initiate future amendments to the Planning and Design Code (Code Amendments).

Council has commenced its first Code Amendment as a result of the Strategic Land Use Plan and met with the affected communities. Throughout the Code Amendment process, Council has provided information on what a code amendment is and how it will affect future development.

On 29 November 2024, the Draft Code Amendment was completed and submitted to the Department for Housing and Urban Development for approval to commence community engagement.

PLANNING PROJECTS

During September and October 2024 a UniSA Urban and Regional Planning student completed a four-week work placement at Wattle Range Council. During this placement the student developed a Coonawarra Masterplan connecting Memorial Drive to the Coonawarra Siding with the aim of enhancing safety, access and appeal. They learnt valuable community engagement skills in consulting community stakeholders to create the Plan.

PRE-LODGE MENT ADVICE SESSIONS

Council officers provide pre-lodgement advice to any person seeking to undertake development in the Wattle Range Council area. This service is generally available in the Millicent Office, with additional visits to Beachport and Penola monthly.



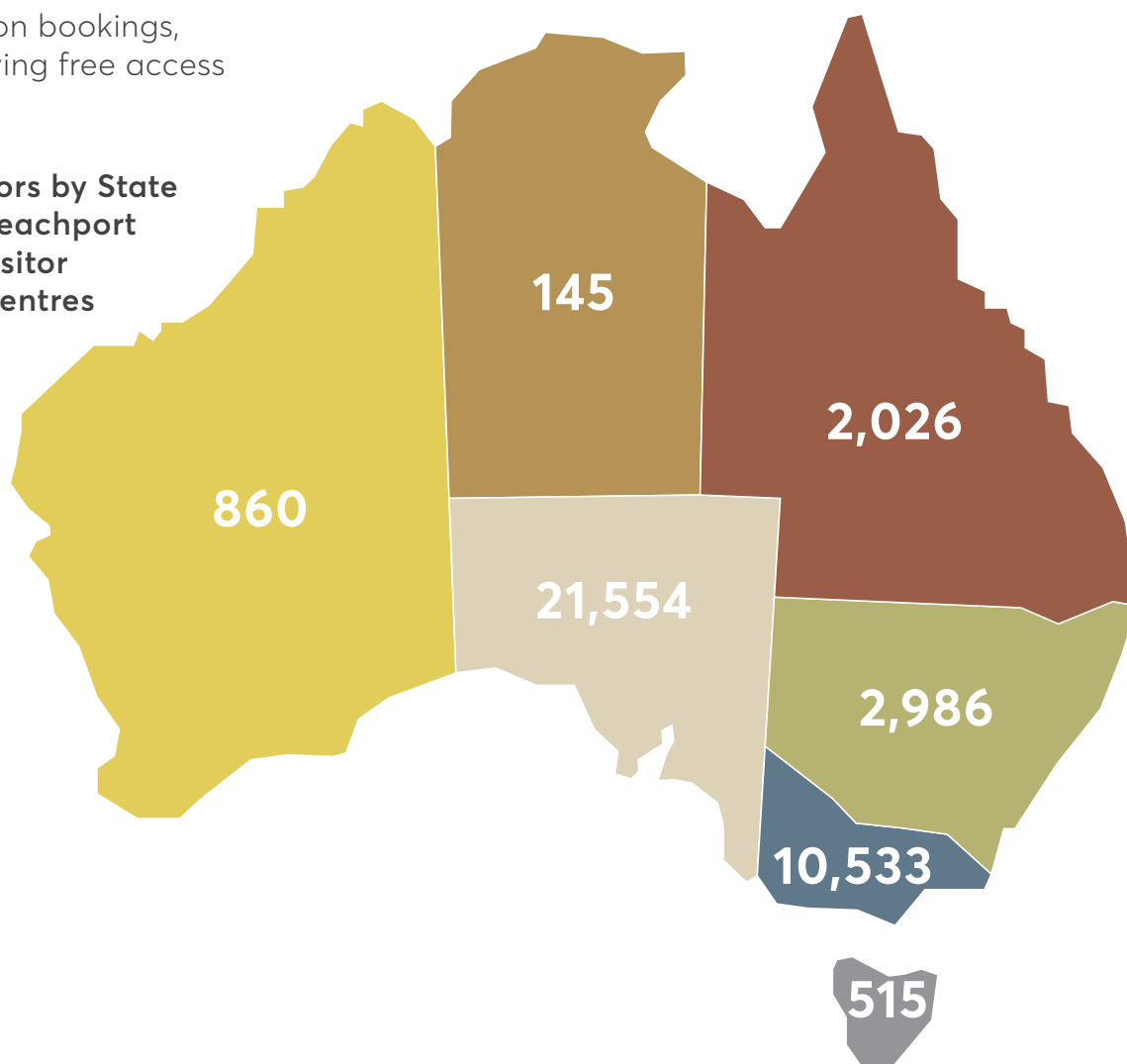
Wattle Range Council were the recipient of the 'Improving Planning Processes' Award at the National Planning Institute of Australia Awards.

TOURISM

The Wattle Range Council region attracted approximately 37,000 visitors through the three Visitor Information Centres located in Millicent, Penola and Beachport. This included over 21,000 South Australians touring their own backyard to discover what our beautiful state has to offer.

Visitor numbers to the Council region have shown a slight decline which mirrors tourism industry trends nationally. Travellers paying a visit to the Centres are provided with a great variety of information and advice on local services, attractions and accommodation bookings, whilst also having free access to internet.

National Visitors by State to Millicent, Beachport and Penola Visitor Information Centres



Beachport, Millicent and Penola Visitor Information Centre Highlights

46K

Total visitors

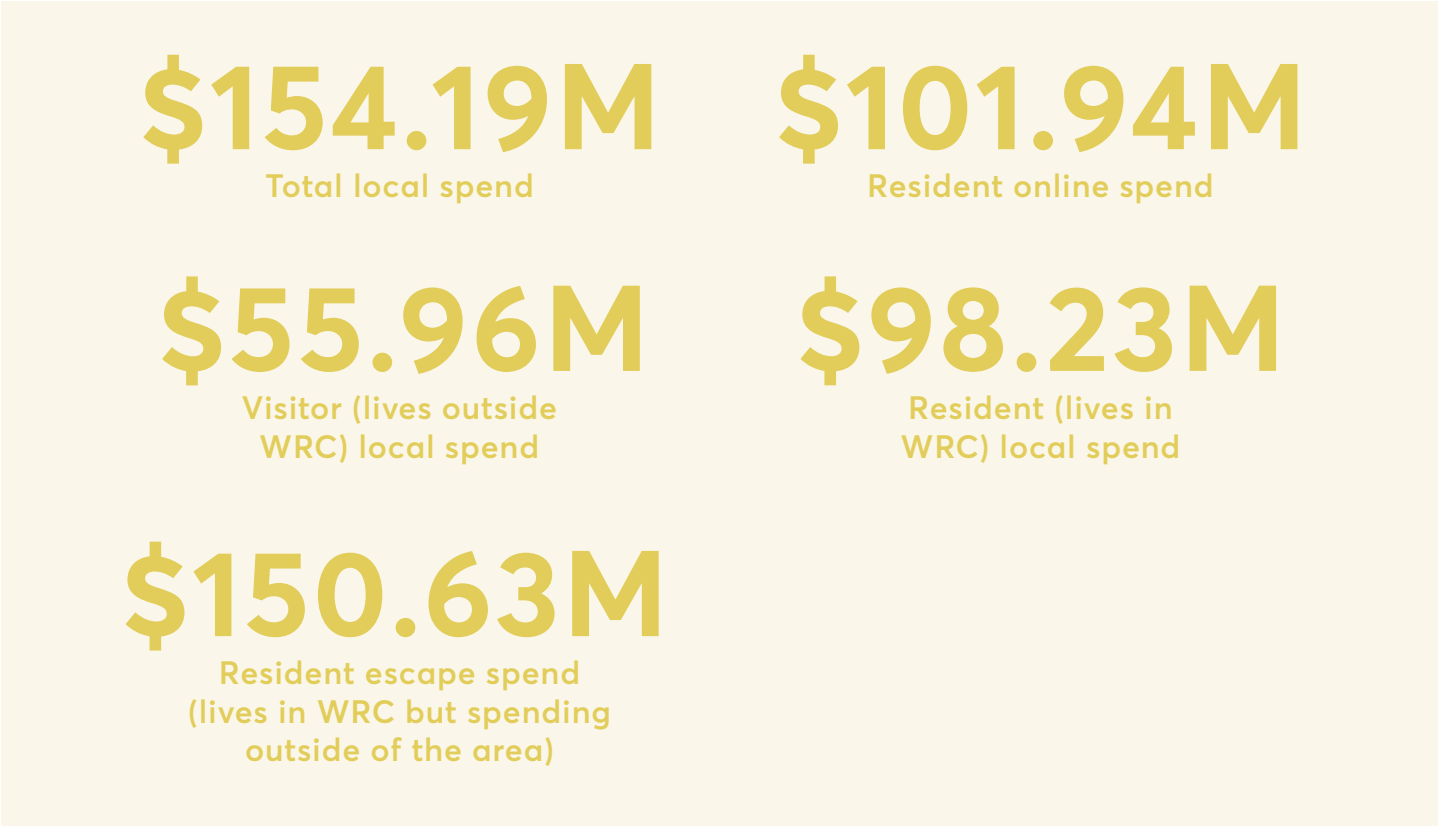
107K

Facebook reach

4.2K

Instagram reach

Resident and Visitor Spending Overview - July 2024 to June 2025



Spending figures in main townships

Town	Local Spend				Escape Spend		Resident Online Spend
	Total Local Spend	Resident Local Spend <i>(lives in the Town)</i>	Internal Visitor Local Spend <i>(lives elsewhere in WRC)</i>	External Visitor Local Spend <i>(lives outside WRC)</i>	Resident Internal Escape Spend <i>(lives in town but spending in other towns within WRC)</i>	Resident External Escape Spend <i>(lives in town but spending outside WRC)</i>	
Beachport	\$14.49 M	\$3.94 M	\$1.89 M	\$8.63 M	\$6.11 M	\$13.81 M	\$8.64 M
Millicent	\$97.34 M	\$55.16 M	\$19.89 M	\$22.28 M	\$2.79 M	\$63.17 M	\$49.43 M
Penola	\$26.38 M	\$10.17 M	\$2.18 M	\$14.03 M	\$1.30 M	\$24.89 M	\$16.10 M

Data source: Spendmapp by Geografia

GALLERY PROGRAM

Wattle Range Council continues to champion the arts, recognising their power to enrich lives and strengthen community. Across the region and particularly at the Millicent Gallery, artistic expression flourishes through exhibitions celebrating innovation, individuality and excellence.

The addition of Gallery 2 in the former Children's Library has increased Millicent Gallery's capacity, while gallery spaces at the Penola and Millicent Visitor Information Centres have broadened support for regional artists. With four active venues, Wattle Range Council is well placed to showcase local talent and deepen cultural engagement.

This year the Millicent Gallery presented three national touring exhibitions - *Australia Wide Nine* by the Oz Quilt Network, *The Tree of Us +1* by leading textile artists, and *JamFactory ICON: Jessica Loughlin - Of Light* - together drawing more than 2,800 visitors from across South Australia and Victoria.

The SALA Festival was again a highlight, with *Wide Horizons* by the Limestone Coast Art Collective attracting over 1,400 visitors. The SEAS Awards received more than 100 entries and welcomed over 1,000 people, while Gallery 2 hosted the All-Abilities Art Exhibition in

partnership with Unity Housing and ac.care. JoJo Spook's *A Different View*, and the Wattle Range Photographic Exhibition, which drew 465 entries from 59 photographers including 28 first-time entrants, further demonstrated the depth of local creativity.

With the Civic and Arts Centre closed for renovations, St Anthony's 125th anniversary celebration was hosted in Gallery 2, accompanied by an immersive exhibition created by students and staff.

The Wattle Range Art Exhibition set a new record with 255 entries, including 30 new artists. The Youth category grew strongly, supported by Penola High School. Dale Bishop won the Wattle Range Art Prize for *Stone Farm Buildings*, Dagny Strand took both Painting and Mixed Media, Libby Altschwager received the Mayoral Award and



Sophie Tilley won the Mayoral Youth Award for her pastel artwork 'Succulent'.

118,584

Library and Gallery
Visitors

37,379

Total participation in
programs inc. Gallery

Printmaking and Drawing for *Potato Diggers Hut*, Marg Hage won Art Textile and Sophie Tilley won the Mayoral Youth Award for her pastel *Succulent*.

The 2025 program opened with Jane McCumstie and Mark DeNys's *A Journey of Symbols and Meanings*, which drew over 200 attendees and high praise. DeNys described Wattle Range Council as "a leading regional council in support of the arts." Gallery 2 also hosted *A Tribute to the Company of Seven*, honouring the local theatre group's 75-year legacy alongside a display of Met Gala costumes. Student photography featured in *Limestone Coast Student Photography* (sponsored by OneFortyOne) and *Nature Through the Lens* by Tenison Woods College students.

The Gallery also hosted *Stranded Connections* by Mount Gambier artist Sandra Heenan.

On May 30, Selena Smith's *Imaginarium* opened - an immersive installation created with community help from recycled domestic waste, transforming discarded materials into a whimsical garden of flowers, insects and butterflies.

At the Penola Visitor Information Centre Gallery, exhibitions included JoJo Spook's *Wide Horizons*, selected works from *Snapshot of Wattle Range* and McCumstie and DeNys's *A Journey through Signs, Symbols and Meanings*, launched during the Penola Coonawarra Festival. The Millicent Visitor Information Centre Gallery featured highlights from the Sharon Davson Collection, the All Abilities Exhibition, Sandra Heenan's *Stranded Connections* and *Nature at its Best* by Chris Hollingsworth.



GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

- Development of Gallery 2 in Millicent and galleries and programs in the Penola and Millicent Visitor Information Centres
- 24 exhibitions – an extensive program of creativity and artistic talent
- 14,000 visitors to Millicent Galleries
- South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival – The Wide Horizons Exhibition – most successful ever over 1400 people through plus 200 to opening
- 465 entries Wattle Range Photography Exhibition, 59 photographers, 28 first time entrants
- 255 entries Wattle Range Art Exhibition 30 new artists drawn from throughout South Australia and Victoria

Local artist Libby Altschwager received the Mayoral Award and First Prize in Printmaking and Drawing for *Potato Diggers Hut*.

GALLERY AT A GLANCE

24

Exhibitions

14K

Visitors

465

Entries into Wattle Range Photographic Exhibition

59

Photographers Entered Photographic Exhibition

28

First-time Entrants in Photographic Exhibition

255

Entries in Wattle Range Art Exhibition, attracting 30 new artists from SA & VIC

1,400

Visitors to The Wide Horizons Exhibition

LIBRARY PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Wattle Range libraries have never been busier or more creative. From baby bounce sessions to VR headsets and local history talks, this service continues to be a vibrant place where people of all ages come to learn, connect and belong.

The library empowers people of all ages through digital literacy, community building and inclusive engagement. Programs ranging from holiday activities to VR, video content and gaming reflect strong community connections and provide safe, supportive spaces where innovation and learning thrive. After-school hours are especially vibrant as patrons explore technology and inclusive tools.

Family and Early Years Engagement

Family participation continues to grow through weekly Bounce and Rhyme on Tuesdays and Toddler Art and Play on Thursdays, complementing the national Words Grow Minds initiative for which the library received a \$5,000 grant. Staff also deliver these sessions into kindergartens, schools and early learning centre's across Wattle Range.

School Partnerships and STEM

Partnerships with schools flourish through visits from

Glencoe, Rendelsham, Mount Burr and Newbery Park and regular contact with Millicent North Kindergarten and Childcare. Outreach to outlying schools includes resource sharing and craft. The library's STEM programming, supported by the Little Big Bang Collection, draws students back with their families to enjoy VR, Switch and Xbox, making the library a unique hub for accessible technology.

Aged Care and Inclusive Technology

Aged-care residents visit the library and gallery to engage with exhibitions, history collections and technology. VR Goggles offer immersive experiences such as walking through Lake McIntyre or riding the Pines Enduro, while seated games like virtual tennis, golf and bowling bring joy and interaction. Technology is inclusive and accessed weekly by seniors and people with disabilities, who socialise and enjoy the library's facilities together.

Author Events and Literary Engagement

Events with Leonie Kelsall, Nicole Alexander and Wendy Altschwager, in conversation with Moira Neagle, resonated with our monthly book club. Children's Book Week spanned two weeks, engaging schools and kindergartens with costumes, parades and awards. During History Month a Local History Morning with Chris Parmenter

attracted 70 people to hear about the Chicory industry's role in the South East.

Summer Reading and Road Safety Programs

The Summer Reading Club ended with a lively party attended by over 40 children who collectively read 1,500 books. Evalie Schaefer, who read 152 books, was the winner overall. In December the Annual Road Safety School Program welcomed students from outlying schools for technology projects, art, craft and reading.

Digital Hub Development

The library's new Digital Hub has freed up computers for families and children and become a popular space during holidays and after school, especially for gaming and collaborative challenges. Balancing adult and child needs in shared spaces remains an ongoing focus, and the hub has proven a successful solution.

School Holiday Programs

Holiday programs continue to attract large numbers. In July 2024, inspired by Reading is Magic, over 2,000 children and families joined activities from paper flower making to Switch competitions. October drew more than 1,000 visitors each week, with daily activities and a session at the Penola School Community Library. The Library also joined 'A Day at the Lake' with author Kate

LIBRARIES & GALLERIES

Loftus, hosting Christmas and holiday-themed activities for more than 500 children and families. In April, the Library welcomed over 2,500 visitors for a Mini Mammoth gaming workshop, MARC Robots, augmented storytelling with Hero the Giraffe, new digital storybooks, Lego Club, VR and tech fun along with art and crafty activities.

Local History

Tuesdays are a celebration of Local History, as our dedicated volunteers respond to enquiries, collect stories, and document our region's rich past. At the same time, they are reviewing our 23,000 digital records to prepare for the exciting move from Portfolio to Recollect-Spindle.

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

- Development of Children's Library and successfully applying for a Words Grow Minds Grant of \$5,000, enabling us to support children's early development programs and resources
- Outstanding support of Holiday programs
- Development of a Digital Hub – support to our youth with access to a range of technology unique to Millicent – received a Digital Grant
- Inclusive services - We provide a neutral space for community members to connect, learn, and participate in various activities.
- Building community connections across Wattle Range

LIBRARIES AT A GLANCE

83,564

Library loans

GAMING /
TECHNOLOGY USES

6,124

VR headsets

13,616

Participants in
Library Programs

7,889

Nintendo Switch & X-Box

625

Author visit attendees

7,680

Gaming

3.1K

Volunteer hours
cataloguing history
collection

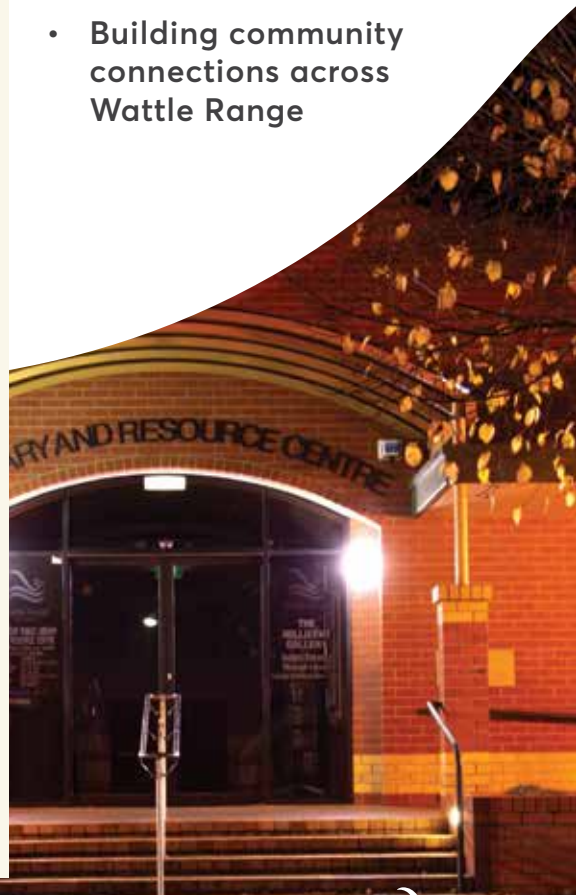
4,644

Adults provided with
technology support

13,927

Digital users

4,941

Full Throttle in Wattle
School Holiday Program
participants



Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre continues to be well utilised within the local community with 65 children attending the service most days, and children regularly being added to waiting lists.

The Centre provides a play based learning environment that supports children's natural interest to be curious, explore, and learn. A love of learning is cultivated and children are heard and their ideas shown to be respected and listened to.

Educators' prioritise nurturing relationships through culturally safe and responsive interactions. Collaborating with families and children, they provide support and enhance children's connections and capacity to be active citizens.

Children build a strong connection to 'Country' and learn about the importance of culture, especially the local Boandik people, their histories, stories, and language. Along with local elders, the children have worked on several projects, and unique collaborative pieces of artwork within the rooms.

Community connections are embedded within the curriculum with regular visitors to our Centre coming to share their knowledge, skills and supporting children's learning. In the last year this has included regular visits from the local dentist, Italian cooking and language



classes, library visits, Mrs. Walker's music sessions and wildlife/pet visits. With excursions to the local creative arts and musical concerts and veterinary visits.

The children engage in community projects in our local area including being involved in the nearby Lions Park Upgrade project with the local residents. They have shared their ideas and participated in the planting of fruit trees and vegetables in planter boxes.

Regular visits to and from the local education sites including Kindergartens, Primary Schools and High School strengthen children's sense of belonging to their community and build relationships to help transitions to the next step in their learning journey.

Educators place a strong emphasis on children in growing, harvesting and preparation of meals from our own backyard to encourage healthy and nutritional food choices. As a member of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, educators continue to provide an engaging environment to foster a love of gardening, which combines the focus of healthy eating opportunities.

Capital works projects for 2024/25 included the upgrading project of the Emu Room and the delivery of new bark and sand in the play area.

GLADYS SMITH EARLY LEARNING CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

- **First aid training 3 to 5 year olds**
- **Music and dance with Mrs Walker and her piano**
- **Millicent High School students worked with the children to design and construct new vegetable beds within the centre**
- **Year six students from Millicent North Primary School and Mt Burr Primary School regularly visiting and connecting with the children**
- **Attended the science fair at Newbery Park Primary School**
- **Visit from local author and illustrator Bianca Richardson who demonstrated her skills with drawing and writing.**

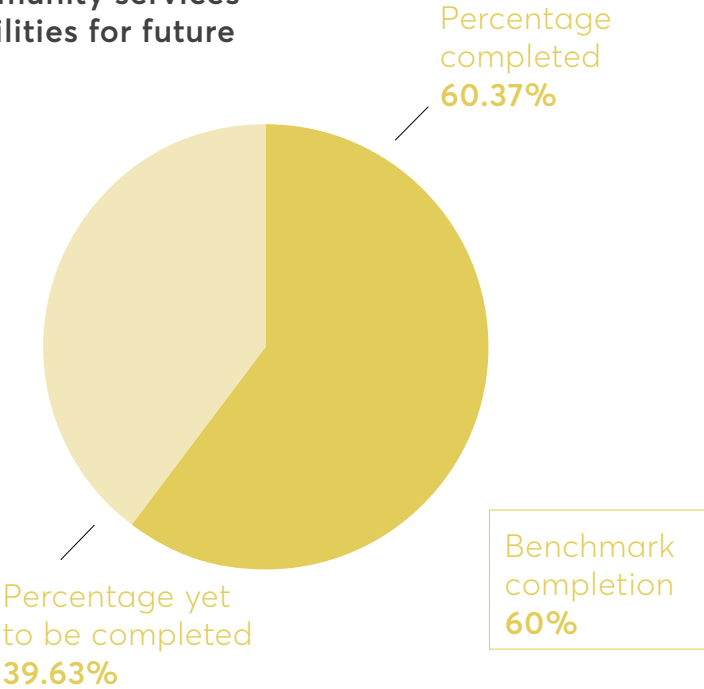
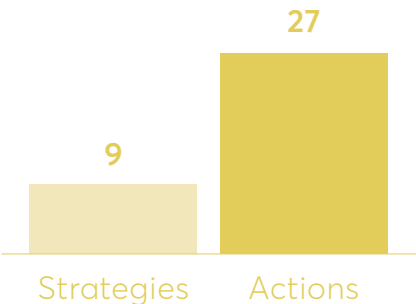
Servicing
185
children from
131
families
with a Full Time
Equivalent average of
60
children per day





KEY THEME:
COMMUNITY VIBRANCY
AND PRESENTATION

Objective: Generate and support community vibrancy through advocacy and maintenance of community services and enhanced public facilities for future generations.



PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING 2023 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Council's performance for 2024/25 year has been reported for each strategic action to demonstrate Council's progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

Council measures the progress and success through a variety of performance indicators both financial and non-financial. These are detailed to ensure the objectives of the Plan are met.

1.1 Maintain and enhance public space areas including parks, public places, car parking, street lighting and streetscapes to provide vibrant, attractive areas.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.1.1a Develop master plans for Council's more significant parks and gardens.	Develop plans.	Millicent Lions Park masterplan completed, and work commenced on staged implementation. Community garden and playground installed in 2024/25 and footpath construction scheduled for 2025/26.	60%	—

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.1.1b Develop a hierarchy of Parks and Gardens and determine appropriate service standards for each asset, including mowing, nature strips, garden beds and other amenities.	Hierarchy of parks and gardens developed.	Mowing program established.	50%	—
1.1.2a Review Council's Community Lands Register and work with other Government agencies to identify opportunities to develop any Crown Land.	Community Land Register is reviewed.	COMPLETED: Finalisation of adoption of the new Community Land Management Plans for both Crown and Council land holdings occurred in 2024/25.	100%	✓
1.1.3a Retrofit street lighting to LED, and mandate LED lighting for all new developments.	LED lights installed.	Continue to transition to LED lighting as part of maintenance of the network by South Australian Power Networks (SAPN).	0%	✗
1.1.3b Review current street lighting network and identify any priority black spot areas for infill and/or expansion.	Blackspot lighting areas identified and lighting installed.	Lighting audit has been completed to prioritise areas for new/upgrade. Upgrade commenced lighting Millicent Road, Beachport, further upgrades scheduled for 2025/26.	60%	—
1.1.4a Implement key elements of the Millicent and Penola Main Street master plans.	Main Street master plan implemented.	DEFERRED: Detailed designs for Stage 1 Millicent and Penola Main Street Masterplans completed.	20%	—

1.2 Through appropriate planning, develop vibrant, presentable townships throughout the Wattle Range area.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.2.1a Mature the Community Town Plan development and consultation process.	Township Plans developed for all townships.	COMPLETED: Community Township Plans process replaced with Community Vision sessions. 100% of township sessions have been completed in 2024/25.	100%	✓
1.2.2a Review places of Heritage and Character significance for the Council area and ensure that all places of significance are recorded in the new State Government planning system.	Heritage reviews completed and properties of significance recorded.	Beachport heritage review completed and a heritage code amendment to be completed in 2025/26.	20%	—

 Completed
  Progress On Track
  Progress Below Benchmark
  Action Not Commenced

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

1.2 Through appropriate planning, develop vibrant, presentable townships throughout the Wattle Range area cont.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.2.2b Incentivise economic development, investment and growth through the implementation of appropriate planning code amendments.	Planning code amendments completed.	25 Year Strategic Land Use Plan was adopted, and Code Amendments have progressed with consultation with affected communities. Technical investigations on Code Amendment commenced in 2024/25, finalisation of Code Amendment in 2025/26.	80%	—
1.2.3a Continue the development of a scheme to incentivise the upgrade of shop façade's.	Shop facade upgrade applications approved.	Shop façade incentivisation program has commenced. Total of five applications have been received and funded in prior years, 1 application was funded in 2024/25	60%	—

1.3 Continue to provide sustainable, vibrant community facilities.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.3.1a Continue to evolve Council's Libraries into community information, technology and learning hubs.	Library Services evolved into community information technology and learning hubs.	Various activities and programs undertaken throughout the year including school holiday activities, virtual reality and augmented reality programs.	60%	—
1.3.2a Optimise the utilisation of both the Penola and Millicent Art Galleries through the development of annual schedule of events that showcase local arts and culture.	Annual schedule of art and culture events compiled.	Several gallery exhibitions were held, and an annual review of scheduled exhibitions was completed.	60%	—
1.3.2b Promote and support the development of both private and public community arts projects throughout the Council area.	Private and public community arts projects supported.	Support provided for mural projects across the district. No applications were received for 2024/25.	60%	—
1.3.3a Review, rationalise and develop a Playground Maintenance and Renewal Plan that is aligned with community needs.	Renewal Plan for playgrounds developed.	Management of the Parks & Gardens Assets are included in asset management plans. Maintenance work was undertaken on various playgrounds including part replacement of the softfall in Millicent's Domain Playground.	60%	—
1.3.4a Continue the staged renewal and/or upgrade of the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre facility.	Upgrades completed at the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre.	Completed the refurbishment of the Emu Room at the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre.	60%	—

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

1.4 Advocate and where possible collaborate for the expansion of healthcare, education, community and welfare services throughout the Wattle Range area.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.4.1a Advocate for continued State and Federal funding and support for improved healthcare services and wellbeing across the Council area.	Advocacy of healthcare services undertaken.	Meetings held with healthcare agencies and State Ministers advocating for improved healthcare services in Wattle Range.	60%	—
1.4.1b Advocate for continued State and Federal funding and support for improved education services across the Council area.	Advocacy of education services undertaken.	Meetings held with education agencies Uni SA local High Schools and State Ministers advocating for improved education in Wattle Range.	60%	—
1.4.1c Advocate for continued State and Federal funding and support for improved welfare services across the Council area.	Advocacy of welfare services undertaken.	Meetings held with welfare agencies Unity Housing and State Ministers advocating for improved welfare services for Wattle Range.	60%	—

1.5 Support Community Events that are sustainable and provide longer term benefit to the Community & Visitors.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.5.1a Promote and support sustainable community events that enhance community vibrancy, healthy lifestyles and provide an economic benefit to the community.	Provision of support for community events.	A new Event Toolkit was developed to support event management and a review of Special Event Permit processes has commenced. In total 19 events were funded and supported in event management.	60%	—

1.6 Promote and support the establishment of strong, sustainable clubs and volunteer organisations throughout the Wattle Range Area.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.6.1a Advocate for sporting and community clubs to maximise future infrastructure grant opportunities.	Grant opportunities created for sporting and community clubs infrastructure.	Council supported the Community Infrastructure Grants program with the following clubs' applications supported, Mount Burr Netball Club, Millicent Craft Group, Glencoe Football Club, Penola Bowling Club.	60%	—
1.6.2a Advocate for improved governance across all sporting clubs to ensure that they are managed sustainably.	Advocacy for improved governance and sustainability.	COMPLETED: Star Club Accreditation has ceased and was replaced with "Play by the Rules" website which assists clubs now in their governance issues.	100%	✓



Completed



Progress On Track



Progress Below Benchmark



Action Not Commenced

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

1.7 Support and advocate for improved infrastructure that enhances and creates economic and business opportunities.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.7.1a Advocate for public and private investment into additional green energy infrastructure.	Advocacy of additional green energy infrastructure.	Various advocacy occurred including meetings with those interested in green manufacturing and hydrogen generation opportunities.	60%	—
1.7.2a Advocate for and co-invest in the development of expanded telecommunications infrastructure.	Advocacy for telecommunications infrastructure.	COMPLETED: Council in conjunction with Limestone Coast LGA was successful in advocating for installation of 8 telecommunications towers within the Council area and a total of 27 towers across the Limestone Coast district.	100%	✓

1.8 Promote Wattle Range as a Tourism destination through provision of appropriate tourist facilities and advocacy.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.8.1a Develop and implement a standard Wayfinding signage strategy for the broad range of tourism assets on offer in the Council area.	Wayfinding strategy developed.	Wayfinding Strategy completed, installation of wayfinding signage commenced and is due for completion in 2025/26.	80%	—
1.8.1b Develop a strategic management plan for the future development and enhancement of the Southern Ocean Tourist Park.	Strategic management plan developed.	Contracted Management of the Southern Ocean Tourist Park concludes at the end of 2024/25. Development of strategic management plan to commence in 2025/26 with longer term strategy to lease the facility.	20%	—
1.8.1c Commence the evolution of Council's Visitor Information Centres (VIC), into community hub facilities that allow for best practices in visitor service models, enhancing visitor destination experiences and provide a functional space for local community members to enjoy.	Visitor Information Centres evolved into community hubs.	SA Tourism Information Centre status was reviewed and rationalised. Designs for the upgrades to the Penola and Beachport Visitor Information Centre (VIC's) has commenced.	60%	—



Completed



Progress On Track



Progress Below Benchmark



Action Not Commenced

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

1.9 Strengthen and support the retention of youth and job creation opportunities for the area.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
1.9.1a Continue to invest in local Tertiary Education and Traineeship programs to provide employment and developmental opportunities to youth and retain them in the region.	Tertiary education & traineeship programs invested in.	Parks & Gardens & Administration traineeships have continued and connection with UniSA Finance, Planning and Child care students have been furthered with onsite internship opportunities provided.	60%	—

'Start of the Season' -
Steve Chapple.





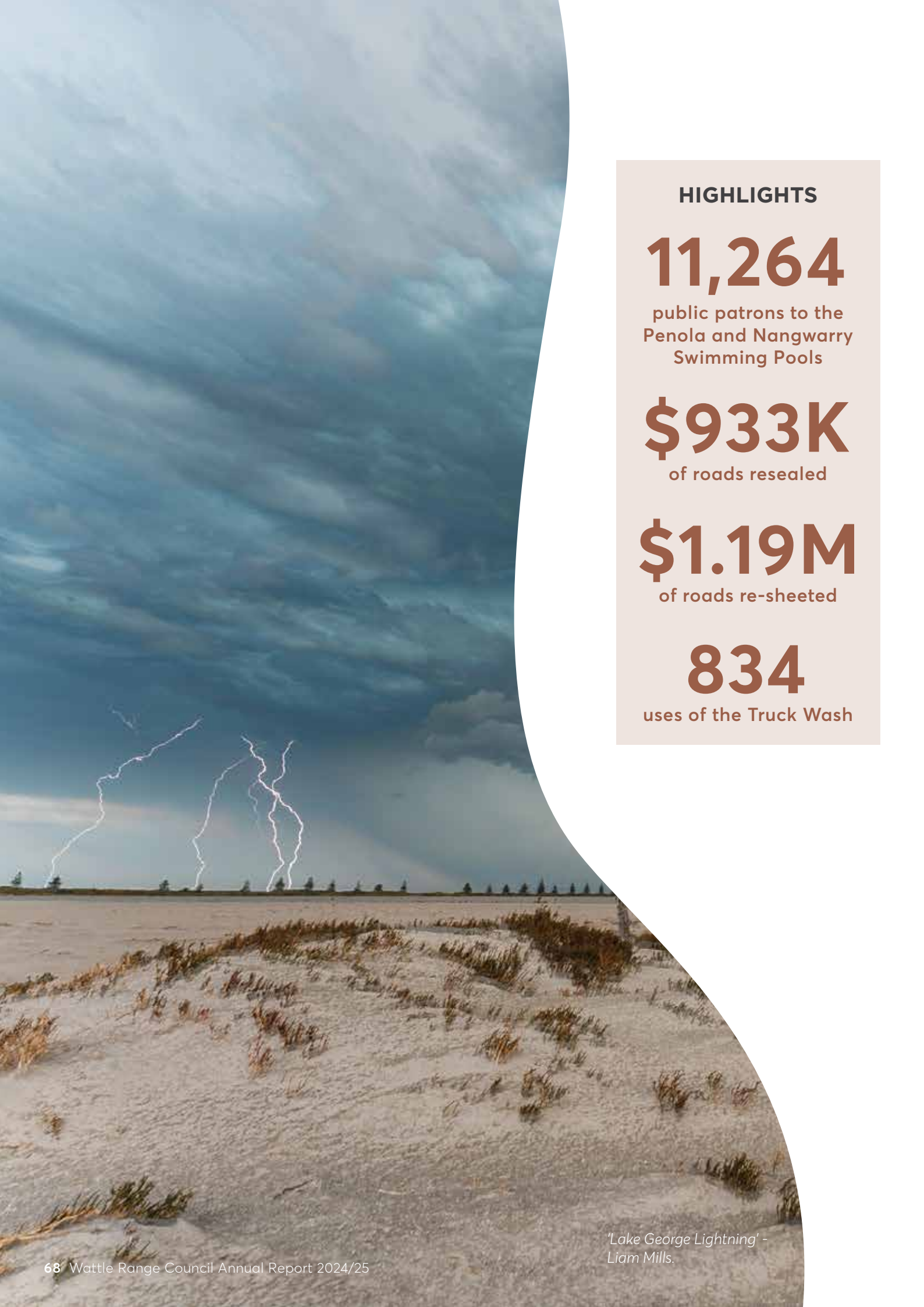
*'The Giant's Ladder' -
Jarvis Gurney.*

OUR STREETS AND PLACES

Capital Works	69
Major Projects	69
Parks and Gardens	73
Swimming Facilities	74
Millicent Truck Wash	75
Strategic Plan Achievements	76



'Airborne - The Pines Enduro' -
Steve Chapple.



HIGHLIGHTS

11,264

public patrons to the
Penola and Nangwarry
Swimming Pools

\$933K

of roads resealed

\$1.19M

of roads re-sheeted

834

uses of the Truck Wash

OUR STREETS AND PLACES CAPITAL WORKS

The 2024/25 capital works program consisted of 109 projects valued at \$18.9M. The new Council Service Centre at \$9M made up half of the total expenditure. Two other major projects were the Tower Road upgrade and the Civic and Arts Centre roof, both close to \$1M each.

OUR STREETS AND PLACES MAJOR PROJECTS

COUNCIL SERVICE CENTRE - \$9M

Mossop Construction & Interiors were awarded the contract to construct the new Wattle Range Council Service Centre at 12 North Terrace, Millicent. The project was completed ahead of schedule and within budget. The purpose-built facility is now the Council's principal office. The building brings all of Council's teams under one roof.

Designed with energy efficiency in mind, the facility features a rainwater capture system and incorporates locally sourced materials such as timber for structural beams showcasing the best the Limestone Coast has to offer.



The Wattle Range Council Service Centre.

OUR STREETS AND PLACES

MAJOR PROJECTS

MILLICENT CIVIC & ARTS CENTRE ROOF REPLACEMENT - \$844K

The entire roof of the Millicent War Memorial Civic & Arts Centre was replaced, with work undertaken by local contractors. All gutters, flashings, downpipes, rain heads, capping and roofing iron was replaced. Engineers were engaged to inspect the condition of the structure, and all asbestos was also removed in the process.

TOWER ROAD UPGRADE - \$600K*

The upgrade of a 1.7km section of Tower Road, Penola is in its final stages. The project involves full reconstruction, widening and sealing of the road. **Project is in progress, total budget \$850K.*

CAPE BUFFON DRIVE FOOTPATH - \$148K

400m of new footpath was constructed in Southend and now extends from the drain bridge to the intersection of Cape Buffon Drive and Bridges Drive, Southend.

MILLICENT SWIMMING LAKE SURFACE - \$123K

The aging floor of Millicent Swimming Lake was refurbished prior to the 2024/25 summer swim season. The lake was emptied and dried with a new three-layer road seal base applied.

GLADYS SMITH EARLY LEARNING CENTRE, EMU ROOM UPGRADE - \$78K

The Emu Room at the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre has received an upgrade. The project, which was undertaken by Council's Building Maintenance team, included the renewal of flooring, door replacement, updated storage cabinetry, along with soundproof material for the walls and a fresh coat of paint.

BEACHPORT MUSEUM FIRE SAFETY UPGRADE - \$52K

Local contractors have built a new wall along the coastal side of the tractor shed at the rear of the museum. The new wall means the museum now achieves compliance with the National Construction Code for fire safety of boundary walls.



Millicent Civic & Arts Centre roof replacement.



The resurfaced Millicent Swimming Lake.

OUR STREETS AND PLACES

MAJOR PROJECTS

LIONS PARK PLAYGROUND UPGRADE - \$45K

The Lions Park in Millicent has received a playground upgrade using repurposed play equipment from the Tantanoola Primary School. Council undertook the project which incorporates a variety of play equipment and large soft fall area with timber edging treatments.

MILLICENT LIBRARY ROOM REFURBISHMENT - \$34K

A brand-new space has been created in the Millicent Library. Used as a second art gallery and community meeting room, the refurbishment also features much needed storage space. New sliding doors, timber soundproofing and storage shelving have all been installed as part of the project.

New Art Gallery space at the Millicent Library.



The Millicent Park Playground.

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED

Roads resealed - \$933K

- Beachport Visitor Information Centre Carpark
- Blacketer Street, Beachport
- Eyre Street, Southend
- Foster Street, Beachport
- Lake George Road, Beachport
- Main Road 300, Rendelsham
- McArthur Place, Beachport
- McIntyre Road, Millicent
- Parklands Terrace, Beachport
- Peters Street, Tantanoola
- Poonada Road, Tantanoola
- Railway Terrace, Beachport
- Saleyards Road, Millicent
- Smith Road, Maaoupe
- Southend Caravan Park - Internal Road
- St Clair Road, Millicent
- Aberle Road Link, Millicent
- Aberle Street, Millicent
- Belt Road, Millicent
- Boandik Drive, Millicent
- Brennan Court, Millicent
- Millicent Swimming Lake Car Park
- Mulgourie Court, Millicent
- Park Terrace, Millicent
- Walkers Tin Hut Road, Millicent

Roads re-sheeted \$1.19M

- Catalpa Lane, Furner
- Kiely Road, German Flat
- Lynch Road, Wattle Range
- McBain Road, Coonawarra
- Tricia Reschke Road, Coonawarra
- V&A Lane, Maaoupe
- Wepar Road, Wepar
- Woakwine Cutting Road, Magarey

Footpaths - \$69K

- Foster Street, Beachport (Cul de sac to end of new subdivision development)
- Mount Burr Road, Millicent – (High School footbridge towards High School entrance)
- Church Street, Penola (Arthur Street to Young Street)
- Arthur Street, Penola – (Alfred Street to Portland Street)

Kerbing \$160K

- Railway Terrace, Beachport (Millicent Road to Golf Course Road)
- Beach Road, Beachport (Railway Terrace to Opposite French Street - spoon drain)
- Memorial Drive, Coonawarra (Coonawarra Store - spoon drain)
- Railway Terrace Roundabout, Beachport

- Adelaide Street, Kalangadoo (John Street to end of kerb North East Terrace)
- Bennett Street, Kalangadoo (Bott Street to end of kerb)
- Willshire Street, Millicent (Walker Street to Stark Avenue)
- McDonald Street, Millicent (Bryant Street to Hart Street)
- Stark Avenue, Millicent (Mullins Street to Inns Street)
- Inns Street, Millicent (Stark Avenue to Brooks Street)
- Bowering Street, Millicent (Bridges Street to end of road)
- Parklands Terrace/Railway Terrace intersection, Beachport
- Brooks Street, Millicent (Bonshor Street to Holzgreffe Street)

This year has seen the Parks and Gardens team busy with many projects.

One of the year's highlights was transforming the former Tantanoola Primary School playground - donated to Council by the Department for Education, into a valuable community asset. The refurbished equipment was installed at the Lions Park in Millicent. In collaboration with the Lions Club and the Millicent High School this park now boasts an excellent playground and community vegetable gardens with more projects to follow in 2025/26.

In addition to the many projects the Parks and Gardens team have planted hundreds of trees and continue to increase the tree canopy within the Wattle Range townships.

PARKS AND GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

- **Replacement of rubber soft fall at the Domain Playground, Millicent**
- **Millicent Lions Park Playground and Community Gardens project**
- **Kalangadoo Lions Park swing set and springer play equipment refurbishment**
- **Installation of new double swing set at Railway Park in Kalangadoo**
- **Installation of new log scramble at the Domain Nature Playground**
- **Beachport foreshore irrigation upgrade**
- **Design and installation of irrigation at Council's new Service Centre**



OUR STREETS AND PLACES SWIMMING FACILITIES

MILLICENT SWIMMING LAKE

The Millicent Swimming Lake facility was open for public use from 22 November 2024 through to the start of April 2025. Patrons once again enjoyed the popular inflatable obstacle course, which was featured at each of Council's swimming facilities from 7 December 2024 to 16 February 2025.

Capital projects at the lake this year included the renewal of the shade sails along with the resealing of the Lake's flooring.

PENOLA SWIMMING POOL

The Penola Pool was well utilised throughout the season for a range of activities, including public swimming, school swimming lessons, swim club training and events and lap swimming.

Due to strong demand and the ability to heat the water, the pool opened for swimming lessons and swim club training, lap swimming and public swimming from 1 November 2024, with the season concluding on 4 April 2025. The Vacs Swim program was once again successfully delivered, receiving positive feedback from participants.

The Penola pool received a new pool cleaner and an upgrade to the chemical dosing system.

PENOLA

141

public open days

60

public patrons (average)

26

days with 100+ swimmers

14

days with <10 swimmers

8,578

total of public patrons

Penola Swimming Pool.



NANGWARRY SWIMMING POOL

The Nangwarry Pool had a total of 2,686 patrons for the season which saw the pool opened to the public from 11 November 2024. The Nangwarry Pool opens only on days when the forecast temperature is 23 degrees and above as the pool does not have the ability to heat water.

In addition to public swimming, the Nangwarry Pool hosted the popular Vacswim program, a school swimming event, and was hired for a Christmas function for disadvantaged children.

The Nangwarry pool received a renewal of timber rafter beams within the toilet block at the facility.

In addition to public swimming, the Nangwarry Pool also hosted the popular Vacswim program, a school swimming carnival, and was booked as the venue for a Christmas function held for disadvantaged children.



The Truck Wash located at the former Millicent Saleyards facility has remained in operation following the closure of the Millicent Stock Transfer Facility in March 2024.

During the 2024/25 financial year, 53 customers used the Truck Wash a total of 834 times.

Council throughout the year continued to review the ongoing requirement for the former Millicent Saleyards lands and Council has resolved to undertake an expression of interest for the lands in the 2025/26 financial year.

*Note. Truck wash hours of operation reported in the adopted 2024/25 Annual Report were subsequently identified as incorrect and have been removed from this published version. Truck wash usage and customer figures remain correct.

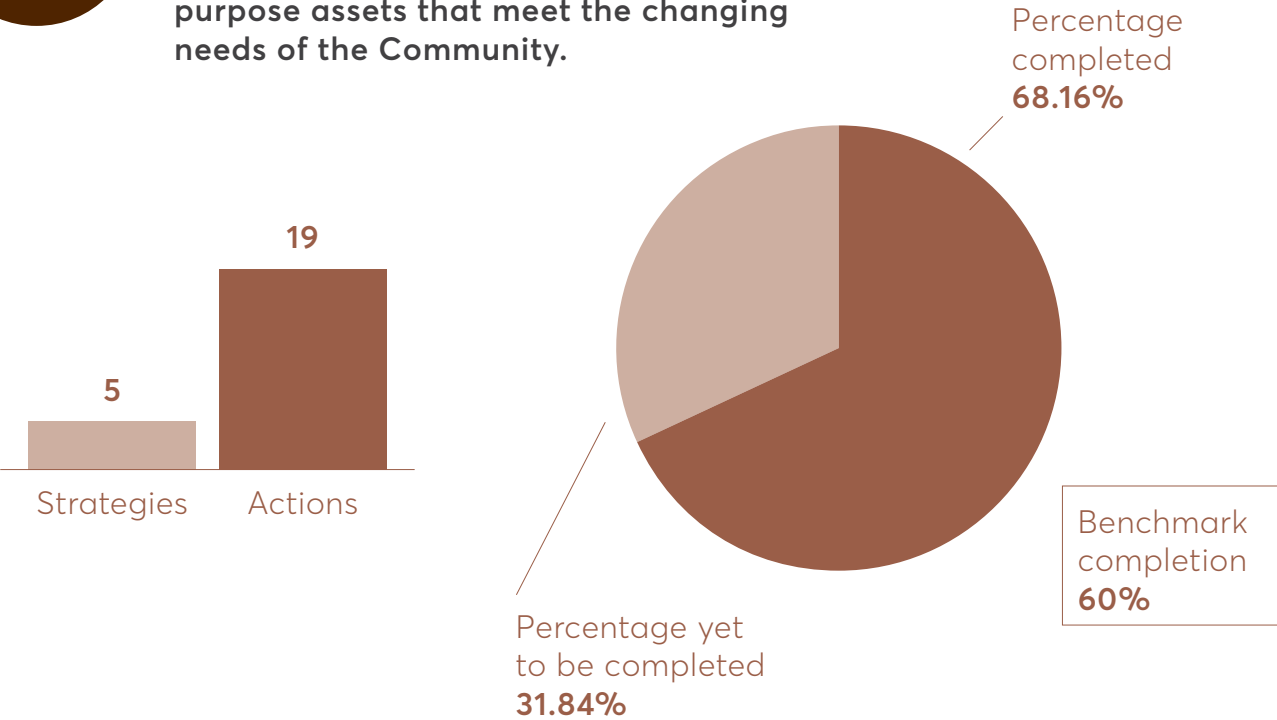
At a Glance - Visitors to our Nangwarry and Penola Swimming Pools

Facility	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Nangwarry Pool	1,716	1,645	2,686
Penola Pool	7,076	8,831	8,578



KEY THEME:
INFRASTRUCTURE AND
ASSET SUSTAINABILITY

Objective: Provide functional, safe, fit for purpose assets that meet the changing needs of the Community.



PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING 2023 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Council's performance for 2024/25 year has been reported for each strategic action to demonstrate Council's progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

Council measures the progress and success through a variety of performance indicators both financial and non-financial. These are detailed to ensure the objectives of the Plan are met.

3.1 Create a sustainable stock of assets, with appropriate long term asset planning and optimal use.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
3.1.1a Review, Update and Implement Asset Management Plans for all major asset classes.	Review & update completed.	The Road, Footpath and Kerb Asset Management was reviewed and adopted and Building and Structures Asset Management Plan review commenced.	60%	—
3.1.2a Review the Swimming Facilities Strategic Plan every 4 years.	Review completed.	DEFERRED: The review is to commence in 2025/26.	0%	×

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Create a sustainable stock of assets, with appropriate long term asset planning and optimal use cont.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
3.1.2b Develop and implement the Cemetery Master Plan, considering future requirements and expansion options as required	Development and implementation completed.	COMPLETED: Cemetery Plan for Millicent Cemetery undertaken.	100%	✓
3.1.2c Review and update the Millicent Airfield Emergency Management Plan every 4 years and develop an operational plan for the site	Review and update completed.	COMPLETED: Review undertaken.	100%	✓
3.1.3a Review and implement the operation, irrigation and monitoring plans for all four Community Wastewater Management Schemes (CWMS).	Plan developed and implemented.	Renewal works completed with replacement of sprinkler heads at Beachport and Penola and some pump stations at Southend and Beachport.	60%	—
3.1.4a Ensure that the Millicent Saleyards are maintained to a safe, compliant and sustainable standard, and that their ongoing use is actively promoted by the Stock Agents that are licenced to operate it.	Millicent saleyards are maintained in safe, compliant and to a sustainable standard.	CANCELLED: Saleyards closed by resolution of Council due to long term unviability of the service.	100%	✗

3.2 Plan and provide for a safe local road network that meets the future and current needs of our Community.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
3.2.1a Update the Regional Transport Plan to include local significant roads that currently have high or proposed high future traffic usage.	Update of the Regional Transport Plan is completed.	Update to the Plan to be completed in 2025/26.	0%	✗
3.2.2a Review and update the current Roadside Vegetation Plan to meet with changed conditions and native vegetation requirements.	Review of the Roadside Vegetation Plan is completed.	CANCELLED: There is no longer a requirement to maintain a Roadside Vegetation Plan.	100%	✗
3.2.3a Review and update the rolling program of dust mitigation works for rural road residents.	Review of dust mitigation on rural roads completed.	Dust mitigation works completed on Poonada Road.	60%	—



Completed



Progress On Track



Progress Below Benchmark



Action Not Commenced

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

3.3 Advocate for safe and trafficable network of State Roads.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
3.3.1a Advocate for the upgrading of Mile Hill, Kangaroo Flat, Hatherleigh, Wattle Range, Kalangadoo Roads and the Princes and Southern Ports major intersections.	Advocacy for the upgrade of state government roads.	Meetings held with Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and State / Federal Members regarding State Roads and improvement works to the Southend turnoff Southern Ports Highway.	60%	—

3.4 Plan for and optimise Council's stock of building assets whilst meeting the future and current needs of community.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
3.4.1a Conduct a comprehensive review of the ongoing maintenance requirements for the Library, Civic and Art Centre.	Review completed of the Library and Civic and Arts Centre building.	Renovation and refurbishment of the old children's library area into a multi-functional room. Library façade renewal scheduled for 2025/26	60%	—
3.4.1b Improve the utilisation of the Millicent Civic Centre and the smaller community halls by facilitating a range of Council events and by encouraging use of the facilities by the community.	Events at halls facilitated.	Works completed on the Civic and Arts Centre roof replacement including relocation of various air-conditioning units. Ceiling renewal is scheduled for 2025/26.	60%	—
3.4.2a Review, improve, retrofit Council's halls	Review completed and halls improved/retrofitted.	Renewal works completed on Penola and Beachport Stadiums. Renewal works also completed at Rendelsham and Tantanoola. Millicent RSL Hall renewal works scheduled for 2025/26.	40%	—
3.4.3a Conclude the design, procurement and construction phases of the new Council Service Centre Office	Design, procurement and construction completed.	COMPLETED: Construction of the Council Service Centre was completed in 2024/25	100%	✓
3.4.4a Review the current public toilet facilities and identify opportunities for improvements, rationalisations and/or additions.	Review completed.	Renewal works completed for Arthur Street Penola, Lake McIntyre and Beachport Boatramp toilets. Design work for Surf Beach, Beachport and Southend Boat Ramp toilet blocks scheduled for 2025/26.	60%	—
3.4.5a Develop a masterplan for the upgrade of the Engineering Depots.	Plan developed.	Completion of the upgrade to the Beachport Depot. Design works scheduled for Millicent Depot Office upgrade scheduled in 2025/26.	75%	—
3.4.6a Schedule the staged removal of asbestos from all Council buildings.	Staged removal of asbestos from Council buildings completed.	Staged removal of asbestos in Council buildings is continuing, with removal undertaken at the Civic & Arts Centre.	60%	—

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

3.5 Plan for the expansion and replacement of Council's stock of footpaths, walkways and trails, to meet the future and current needs of our Community

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
3.5.1a In conjunction with South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and the Coonawarra Vignerons Association, pursue funding opportunities to construct a walking/cycling trail within the rail corridor between Penola and Coonawarra.	Options evaluated for the development of a walking/cycling trail.	COMPLETED: Walking/ bike trail between Penola and Coonawarra was completed. Installation of interpretative signage installed in 2024/25.	100%	
3.5.1b In conjunction with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC), develop the Millicent Railway corridor as an open space area including the development of a linear trail.	Linear trail and open space plan developed.	CANCELLED: Preliminary meeting held in early 2023, however project cancelled due to competing priorities and financial resources required	100%	



Completed



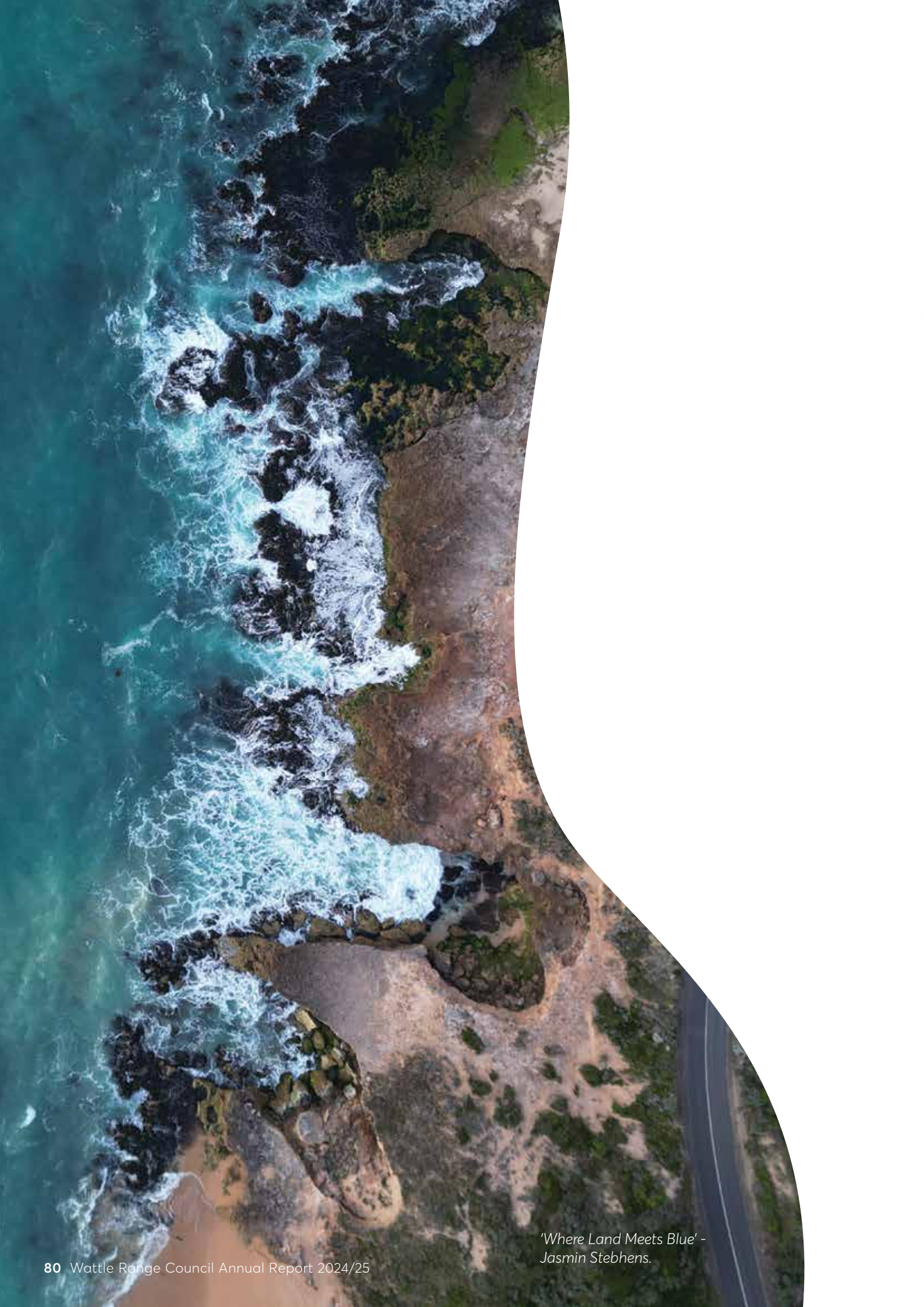
Progress On Track



Progress Below Benchmark



Action Not Commenced



KEEPING THINGS CLEAN & GREEN

Waste Management	83
Environmental Initiatives	85
Public Health	88
General Inspectorate	88
Strategic Plan Achievements	90

'Flocks In Dawn' -
Susen Philip.



HIGHLIGHTS

5,273

properties serviced by
kerbside bin collection
program

711

loads of free mulch
collected by community

3,944

animals registered

Over **41K**

visits to Council's
waste disposal sites

94%

of registered dogs
are microchipped

255

permits issued for
burning grass or stubble

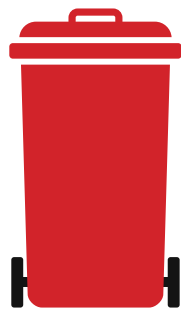


'Lake George Lightning' -
Liam Mills.

KERBSIDE COLLECTION

In 2024/25 Council’s kerbside collection service provided 5,273 properties with weekly general waste collection and fortnightly co-mingled recycling collection.

General Waste Bin



Average bin weight 11.01kg
Total annual weight collected 2556.9 tonnes
Weekly participation rate 88% of general waste bins are placed out each week

Recycling Bin



Average bin weight 7.4kg
Total annual weight collected 907.7 tonnes
Fortnightly participation rate 67% of recycling bins are placed out each fortnight

Green Organics Bin



Average bin weight 22kg
Total annual weight collected 1236.3 tonnes
Fortnightly participation rate 53% of green organics bins are placed out each fortnight

RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRES & WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

Usage across all sites continues to increase with a total of over 41K visits over 2024/25:

	2023/24 visits	2024/25 visits
Millicent	20,777	24,309
Penola	7,996	9,115
Beachport	3,234	3,590
Furner	2,042	2,248
Glencoe	2,265	2,424

Usage across all
Resource Recovery
Centre and Waste
Transfer Stations

41K
visits

WASTE WATER SYSTEMS

SYSTEMS AT
A GLANCE

Community Waste Water
Management System
connections by township:

483
Beachport

189
Kalangadoo

820
Penola

195
Southend

WASTE WATER CONTROL

Summary of waste water
applications:

Aerobic wastewater treatment systems	6
Septic tank installations	17
Worm waste treatment system	0
New Beachport sewer connections	1
New CWMS connections	6



DrumMUSTER

In 2024/25 over 13K of drums were collected through Council facilities. At Penola, a total of 5,096 drums were collected, and Millicent totalled 8,191 drums.

FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

To help residents prepare for the Fire Danger Season, Council continued to support free green waste disposal at Beachport, Millicent and Penola without the need for a waste disposal voucher.

FREE COMMUNITY MULCH DAYS

Free community mulch days were again held in Millicent and Penola. The mulch is produced by tub-grinding green waste and untreated timber collected at the Resource Recovery Centres and Waste Transfer Stations. In support of a circular economy, these materials are processed on site and returned to the community free of charge for use in gardens.

In Millicent, 298 residents collected 711 loads of mulch across seven community mulch days. In Penola, 22 residents collected 54 loads of mulch across two community mulch days.

A total of 765 loads of mulch was collected by residents from both sites.



Green waste only loads disposed of during the free green waste disposal program:

	2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
Beachport	48	67	82	62	84	76
Millicent	461	581	587	541	632	637
Penola	176	206	217	172	247	344
	685	854	886	775	963	1,057

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

TAKING CHARGE OF RECYCLING

Council continues to collect car batteries for recycling at eligible waste disposal sites. Household batteries are no longer accepted by Council; however, residents can recycle them through EcoBatt collection boxes located at IGA, Fosters Foodland, and Woolworths.

Batteries must not be disposed of in kerbside general waste or recycling bins. Damaged batteries pose significant risks, including the leakage of hazardous chemicals, potential fire hazards in collection vehicles, safety risks to staff at recycling facilities, and long-term environmental harm if disposed of in landfill.

8.78

tonnes of batteries have been deposited by residents for recycling

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Council's Climate Change Working Group help guide Council's strategic direction and drive initiatives that align to Council's Climate Change Action Plan such as the Repair Café and Re-A-Range Sustainability Festival.

The working group meet on an adhoc basis and one meeting was held in 2024/25.

Repair Café

The Repair Café is a collaboration between the Millicent Men's Shed and the Millicent Craft Group and is hosted at the Men's Shed. Members of the public can bring items from their homes that are broken and seek assistance from the volunteers with how to fix them at the Repair Cafe. This prevents items being landfilled and encourages people to think about other things that are repairable and get greater longevity from the items in their homes.

The Repair Café also offers hot drinks and sweet treats, encouraging people to stay for a cuppa, have a chat and build social connections within the community. Repair Café sessions occurred on the third Saturday every month between 10am and 12pm and averaged 5 items being repaired each session, ranging from furniture to clothing to utensils.

Re-A-Range Sustainability Festival

Council's second ever Re-A-Range Sustainability Festival was held from the 28 May to the 1 June 2025. Attracting over 150 attendees, the festival was held in partnership with a number of community groups and included workshops, tours, markets, and interactive installations promoting sustainable living and local initiatives.

A festival highlight was the sold-out Millicent MET Gala on 30 May, featuring a wearable art fashion parade of recycled-material garments, live music, and local arts and crafts, attended by over 200 people.

Both events successfully celebrated sustainability, creativity, and community participation, with planning for next year already underway and opportunities for community involvement being welcomed.

The 2025 Re-A-Range Sustainability Festival included;

- Tour of the Biogro facility, the Mount Gambier Waste Transfer Station and Caroline Landfill
- Selena Smith's "Imaginarium" exhibition, with artworks made from discarded materials

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- Sustainability-themed Millicent Met Gala had 25 entries made entirely from recycled materials
- Nature photography workshops
- "Well Preserved" event with home preserves, classic cars and steam engines
- The Repair Café, Men's Shed, and Community Garden Open Day
- Live blacksmithing demonstration at the Millicent Museum
- "All Things Bee and Beer" event at Thyme Cottage in Hatherleigh
- Needle felting workshop
- Lake McIntyre guided tours
- "Mulch Party" at Kymelia Park in Rendlesham
- Sustainable Home Tours
- Screening of Rachel's Farm, a film about regenerative agriculture.



Mulch Party at Kymelia Park, Rendlesham.

Participant feedback included:

"This was my first Re-A-Range event and I had a blast! I didn't know what to expect but it blew me away! The talent of the other competitors and the amazing models, the beautiful musician, everything was incredible. It was such a lovely and fun evening! I was so proud to be involved."

Cases reported from the
Communicable Disease
Control Branch in 2024/25:

Campylobacter	26
Influenza	102
Salmonella	9
Chicken Pox (Varicella Virus)	17
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	35
COVID-19	65
HIV	2

**Please note: COVID case numbers only include PCR positive results. Self-reported rapid antigen test numbers are not included in this report.*

GENERAL INSPECTORATE AT A GLANCE

Expiations

- Dog 82
- Local Nuisance & Litter 2
- Fire 7
- Camping 1
- No boat ramp permit 1

Stock On Roads

- Complaints received 23
- Animals Impounded 6

Abandoned Vehicles

- Complaints received 11
- Vehicles impounded 3

Parking

- Parking expiations issued 2

Bushfire Safety

- Stubble burning permits issued 213
- Permits to burn piles 12
- Fire prevention (105F) notices sent 403
- Non complianceof notices issued 24
- 105F Fire Expiations 7*
- *All 7 required a reminder notice to be sent*

Local Nuisance and Litter

- Unsightly properties complaints 42
- Illegal dumping complaints 25
- Expiations issued for non-compliance with notices 2
- Both required a reminder notice to be sent
- Enforcement notices 2

3,944 total animals registered
Dogs **3,537** and cats **407**

DOG STATISTICS

94% of dogs are microchipped
58% of dogs are desexed
142 dogs collected by Council
57 dogs were impounded
85 dogs were returned to owners immediately
20 dogs were rehomed to new owners
12 reports of dog harassment
(Human **10**, other animals or dogs **2**)
13 reported dog attacks
Human **1**, animals **12**
50 barking dog complaints
47 wandering dog complaints
82 dog related expiations
(of which 56 required a reminder notice)
3 enforcement notices

Top 5 most popular dog names in Wattle Range

Bella
Molly
Ruby
Buddy
Max

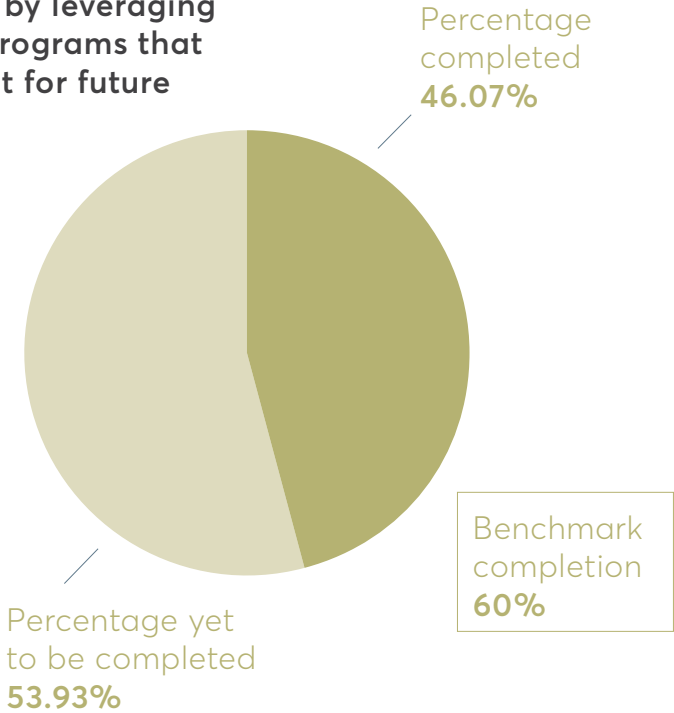
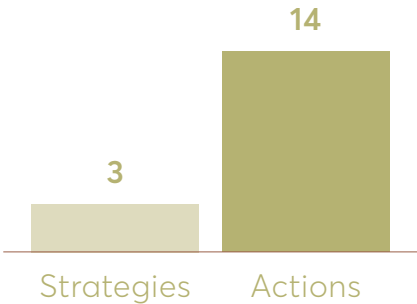
Top 5 breeds

Kelpie
Maltese
**Jack
Russell**
Labrador
**Border
Collie**



KEY THEME:
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

Objective: Protect the natural assets and infrastructure of the region by leveraging additional environmental programs that will protect the environment for future generations.



PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING 2023 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Council's performance for 2024/25 year has been reported for each strategic action to demonstrate Council's progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

Council measures the progress and success through a variety of performance indicators both financial and non-financial. These are detailed to ensure the objectives of the Plan are met.

2.1 Protect Council's natural assets, through proactive planning in climate adaptation and structured infrastructure replacement and enhancements.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
2.1.1a Develop and implement a Council specific Climate Action Plan.	Climate Action Plan developed and implemented.	Climate Action Plan implementation has commenced, purchase of electric vehicle and installation of a charge point.	75%	—
2.1.2a In conjunction with the State Government, develop and implement agreed action plans for the renewal of coastal infrastructure including groynes and revetment works in Rivoli Bay.	Action plan for renewal of groynes undertaken.	Completion of the sand relocation works at Southend as part of the Coastal Protection Grant, Groyne renewal works commenced.	60%	—

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
2.1.2b Retreat from coastal erosion at the Salmon Hole and Post Office Rocks and re-align Scenic Drive around the Pool of Siloam, Beachport.	Undertake realignment of Scenic Drive, Beachport.	Design works commenced with appointment of Consultant Engineers for the re-alignment designs of Scenic Drive Beachport.	50%	—
2.1.3a Transition Council's light vehicle fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles when it is economically viable to do so.	Light vehicle fleet transitioned to hybrid and electric cars.	Electric and hybrid vehicles currently in fleet, and electric charging station installed at Council's main office.	50%	—
2.1.3b Install green energy generation and storage systems on Council's building assets where it is economically viable to do so.	Installation of green energy and storage systems completed.	Preliminary design planning completed to construct for solar power for the new service centre building.	50%	—

2.2 Maintain strong and positive relationships with Federal and State Government Departments, advocating for increased investment in Coastal and Environmental protection within the Council area.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
2.2.1a Lobby the Limestone Coast Landscape Board (LCLB) for additional resources and funding towards environmental projects in the Council area.	Lobbying undertaken.	Meeting was held with LCLB to advocate for increased funding and resources on environmental projects within the Council area.	50%	—
2.2.1b Actively participate in environmental projects in the Council area including re-vegetations works, volunteering and coastal projects.	Environmental projects participated in.	DEFERRED: Environmental projects were discussed with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board (LCLB) but deferred due to resources.	0%	×
2.2.2a Lobby Department of Infrastructure & Transport (DIT) to construct the proposed groyne in the vicinity of the Beachport Jetty.	Lobbying undertaken.	Meetings with state government continuing representatives to advocate for the construction of a groyne near the Beachport jetty, preliminary works commenced on the development of a design for the new groyne for consideration by the state government.	60%	—
2.2.2b Lobby the South East Water Conservation Drainage Board (SEWCDB), Department for Environment & Water (DEW) and Limestone Coast Landscape Board (LCLB) to minimise the impact of coastal erosion as a result of outflows from the Southend Drain.	Lobbying undertaken.	Meetings held with state government representatives and LCLB to advocate for minimisation of impact of outflows from the Southend drain.	60%	—



Completed



Progress On Track



Progress Below Benchmark



Action Not Commenced

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

2.2 Maintain strong and positive relationships with Federal and State Government Departments, advocating for increased investment in Coastal and Environmental protection within the Council area cont.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
2.2.3a Lobby Department for Environment & Water (DEW), the South East Water Conservation Drainage Board (SEWCDB) and the Limestone Coast Landscape Board (LCLB) to investigate and implement improvement strategies to the flows and health of Lake George.	Lobbying undertaken.	Council participated in the review of the Lake George Conservation Park. Meetings were held with state government representatives and LCLB to advocate for implementation of strategies for improved flows and health of Lake George.	60%	—

2.3 Minimise the financial impact of Waste Management on the Community and provide a service that meets the current and future needs of the Community.

Actions	Measure	Progress	% Complete	
2.3.1a Advocate for funding to implement Limestone Coast Waste Infrastructure Plan.	Advocacy for funding of the implementation of the plan undertaken.	Advocacy through the Limestone Coast LGA who are applying for funding via the Local Government Association Research and Development Fund to assist in funding the progression of the Regional Waste Management Infrastructure Strategy.	60%	—
2.3.1b Update Council's Waste Management Strategy.	Update to strategy completed.	Update scheduled to occur in 2025/26.	0%	×
2.3.2a Design and construct a new waste transfer station at Beachport.	Design and construction completed.	Concept design and development approval completed. Detailed design to occur in 2026/27 and construction completed in 2027/28 subject to successfully obtaining matching grant funding.	10%	—
2.3.3a Lobby the State Government to limit the financial and resourcing impacts of proposed waste reforms including; increases to the Solid Waste Levy, increased reporting and greater infrastructure requirements.	Lobbying undertaken.	Advocacy through meetings with the Local Government Association, Limestone Coast LGA Councils regarding strategies for the Solid Waste Levy.	60%	—



Completed



Progress On Track



Progress Below Benchmark



Action Not Commenced

GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

Allowances Gifts & Benefits	95
Member Integrity & Behaviour	96
Council Member Training & Development	97
Elector Representation	99
Meetings & Confidentiality Provisions	100
Equal Opportunity	103
Risk Management/Work, Health & Safety	103
Executive Leadership Team	104
Freedom of Information Applications	104
Competitive Purchasing	104
Review of Internal Decisions	105
Credit Card Expenditure	105
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*'Furner Aurora' -
Mary Whitehead.*





HIGHLIGHTS

11

training sessions attended
by Elected Members

9,086

electors represented by
11 Elected Members

1

Freedom of Information
application

*'Stunning Southend' -
Alishia Thwaites.*

ALLOWANCES, GIFTS & BENEFITS**ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES & BENEFITS**

Allowances and benefits are paid to Council Members in accordance with Part 5 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the Council Member Allowances and Benefits Policy.

In addition to prescribed allowances and benefits, all Council Members are provided with a portable computer, a \$300 per annum telecommunications allowance and reimbursement of approved professional training and development expenses to assist Members with the conduct of their official duties.

The Mayor is also provided with a fully maintained motor vehicle, a mobile phone cost contribution of \$100 per month, office space and limited administrative support.

The total allowances, including travel time, and re-imbursement of expenses paid to Council Members during 2024/25 are shown in the table below:

Council Member	Allowance	Internet/ Telephone	Mayor Telephone Allowance	Travel Time Allowance	Reimburse- ment of Expenses	Total
Cr Chris Brodie	\$16,689.51	\$300.00		\$847.00	\$109.50	\$17,946.01
Cr Dale Price	\$16,689.51	\$300.00		\$496.00		\$17,485.51
Cr David Walshaw	\$16,689.51	\$300.00				\$16,989.51
Cr Deb Agnew	\$16,689.51	\$300.00				\$16,989.51
Cr Dennis Muhovics	\$16,689.51	\$300.00				\$16,989.51
Cr Emma Castine	\$16,689.51	\$300.00		\$847.00		\$17,836.51
Cr John Drew	\$16,689.51	\$300.00				\$16,989.51
Cr John Shelton	\$16,689.51	\$300.00			\$770.82	\$17,760.33
Mayor Des Noll	\$66,758.04		\$1,200.00			\$67,958.04
Cr Sharon Cox	\$16,689.51	\$300.00		\$496.00		\$17,485.51
Cr Peter Dunnicliff*	\$20,861.92	\$300.00			\$978.14	\$22,140.06
Cr Richard Cassidy	\$16,689.51	\$300.00				\$16,989.51
Totals	\$254,515.06	\$3,300.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,686.00	\$1,858.46	\$263,559.52

Note: No Council Members received sitting fees for Committees in this reporting period.

* Served as Deputy Mayor.

TRAVEL

Pursuant to Schedule 4 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Regulation 35 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013*, Council is required to provide a summary of the details (including the cost) of any interstate and international travel (excluding prescribed interstate travel) undertaken by Elected Members or staff funded in whole or in part by the Council.

The following interstate travel was taken by staff in the 2024/25 financial year:

- One staff member attended the Planning Institute of Australia National Planning Congress, including National Awards for Planning Excellence, for which Wattle Range Council was a nominee, in Darwin from 28 May to 1 June 2025. Total cost was \$4,449.82.
- Two staff members attended an Early Childhood Australia National Conference in Brisbane from 17 to 20 September 2024. Total cost was \$6,326.33.

The following interstate travel was taken by Elected Members in the 2024/25 financial year:

- Two Elected Members attended an Australian Local Government Association Conference at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 1 to 5 July 2024. Total cost was \$7,719.72.

COUNCIL FUNDED ALLOWANCES & BENEFITS

Pursuant to Schedule 4 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council is required to provide a summary of the details (including the cost) of any gifts over the value of \$50 provided to Members of the Council and employees that are funded in whole or part by the Council.

In the 2024/25 financial year, seven employees received gift vouchers to recognise their years of service with Council. The value of the gift vouchers provided to staff was \$1,100 as set out in the table below.

Years of service	Number of recipients	Amount/voucher
10 years	5 employees	\$100
20 years	1 employee	\$200
40 years	1 employee	\$400
Total	7 employees	\$1,100

Pursuant to Clauses 1(d), and 2(f) of Schedule 4 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council is required to provide reports relating to any contraventions of Chapter 5 Part 4 Division 2 (Member behaviour), and any contraventions of Chapter 5 Part 4, Division 3 (Health and Safety Duties), by Elected Members during the financial year.

There were no contraventions of requirements specified under Chapter 5, Part 4, Division 2 (Member behaviour), or Division 3 (Health and Safety Duties) by Elected Members during the financial year.

No costs were incurred by Council in relation to dealing with complaints alleging a breach of these requirements, and no complaints were referred to the Behavioural Standards Panel.

COUNCIL MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

The following training courses were attended by Council's Elected Members:

Course	Mayor Noll	Deputy Mayor Dunnicliff	Cr Agnew	Cr Brodie	Cr Cassidy	Cr Castine	Cr Cox	Cr Drew	Cr Muhovics	Cr Price	Cr Shelton	Cr Walshaw
Mandatory Training												
Mid Term Refresher <i>Local Government Association of SA</i> Effective Working Relationships - Leadership 16 July 2024	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Mid Term Refresher <i>Local Government Association of SA</i> Legal Responsibilities 6 August 2024	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Mid Term Refresher <i>Local Government Association of SA</i> Effective Council Meetings and Procedures 6 August 2024	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mid Term Refresher <i>Local Government Association of SA</i> Financial Responsibilities 6 August 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mayor Forum <i>Local Government Association of SA</i> 21 November 2024	✓											
Deputy Mayor's Forum <i>Local Government Association of SA</i> 21 February 2025		✓										
Catch-up Mid Term Refresher <i>Local Government Association of SA</i> Civic & Legal 28 March 2025					✓							
Catch-up Mid Term Refresher <i>Local Government Association of SA</i> Behaviour, Civic & Legal 28 March 2025				✓								

GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

COUNCIL MEMBER

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Course	Mayor Noll	Deputy Mayor Dunnicliff	Cr Agnew	Cr Brodie	Cr Cassidy	Cr Castine	Cr Cox	Cr Drew	Cr Muhovics	Cr Price	Cr Shelton	Cr Walshaw
Mandatory Training												
Count Back Mandatory Training Local Government Association of SA Civic & Legal; Behaviour 28 March 2025											✓	
Catch-up Mid Term Refresher Local Government Association of SA Financial Management, Civic & Legal 28 March 2025						✓						
Disability Inclusion Training Purple Orange 3 June 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

Section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to undertake a review of its Elector Representation as determined by the Minister.

Council's last Elector Representation Review was finalised in August 2021 where the following Council structure was approved:

- Mayor as the principal member of Council, elected at large by the community
- 4 wards with a total of 11 Councillors, consisting of:
 - Corcoran Ward - 5 Councillors
 - Kintore Ward - 2 Councillors
 - Riddoch Ward - 2 Councillors
 - Sorby Adams Ward - 2 Councillors

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION QUOTA

Schedule 4 of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to provide in its annual report a statement of the Council's representation quota, the average representation quota for councils of a similar size and type, and when Council is next required to conduct an Elector Representation review.

Wattle Range has been categorised by the Local Government Grants Commission as a 'Rural Agriculture Very Large Council'. The current representation quota (Electors per Councillor) in comparison to other councils within this group is shown in the following table:

Council	Total Members (Inc. Mayor)	Number of Electors	Representation Quota
Berri Barmera	9	7,772	863
Copper Coast	10	12,983	1,298
Light	10	12,140	1,214
Loxton Waikerie	11	8,580	780
Port Pirie	10	13,286	1,328
Wattle Range	12	9,086	757
Yorke Peninsula	12	9,475	789

** Information provided by the Electoral Commission of SA. Councils throughout the state are placed in groups of similar size and type.*

For this reporting period, Wattle Range Council has 9,086 electors represented by 11 Elected Members plus the Mayor, resulting in a representation quota of 757.

The average representation quota for the above listed councils was 1,004 and the statewide average representation quota was 1,944.

Council's next Elector Representation review is due to be conducted in 2029.

MEETINGS & CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Summary of Section 90 Orders of the *Local Government Act 1999*:

Total orders made to exclude the public pursuant to Section 90(2)	30
Orders to hold information in confidence pursuant to Section 91(7)	26
Orders that expired, ceased to apply or were revoked	15
Orders that remained operative at the end of the financial year	41

Reasons used to exclude the public and receive, discuss or consider information in confidence pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Personal affairs – Section 90(3)(a)	10
Commercial advantage – Section 90(3)(b)	11
Commercial information of a confidential nature – Section 90(3)(d)	8
Matters affecting security and safety – Section 90(3)(e)	5
Legal advice – Section 90(3)(h)	4
Litigation advice – Section 90(3)(i)	1
Tenders – Section 90(3)(k)	9



Council



Audit & Risk Committee

Date	Subject	Orders to Exclude the Public Section 90(2)	Orders to Hold Information in Confidence Section 91(7)	Orders Remaining in Operation at EOFY
15/01/2019	Review of Eligible Section 184 - Sale of Properties for Unpaid Rates	×	×	×
09/04/2019	Verbal Complaint Report	×	×	×
10/12/2019	Unreasonable Customer Conduct	×	×	×
10/12/2019	Review of Eligible Section 184 - Sale of Properties for Unpaid Rates	×	×	×
14/09/2021	Freedom of Information (FOI)	×	×	×
12/10/2021	New Administration Building - Architectural Services	×	×	×
09/11/2021	New Administration Building - Subconsultants Services	×	×	×
09/08/2022	Significant Enforcement Action Update	×	×	×
11/10/2022	Significant Enforcement Action Update	×	×	×
14/02/2023	Significant Enforcement Action Update	×	×	×

MEETINGS & CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Date	Subject	Orders to Exclude the Public Section 90(2)	Orders to Hold Information in Confidence Section 91(7)	Orders Remaining in Operation at EOFY
02/05/2023	Southern Ocean Tourist Park - REOI Evaluation	×	×	×
13/06/2023	Southern Ocean Tourist Park - Management Agreement	×	×	×
13/06/2023	Review of Visitor Information Centre Operating Hours	×	×	
13/07/2023	Prudential Management Review	×	×	×
13/07/2023	Prudential Management Review	×	×	×
10/10/2023	Litigation – HWL Ebsworth	×	×	×
12/12/2023	Vibratory Roller	×	×	
12/12/2023	Grader	×	×	
12/12/2023	Backhoe	×	×	
12/12/2023	Asset Valuation Service Tender	×	×	
16/01/2024	Significant Enforcement Action Update	×	×	×
13/02/2024	Write Off Debt - Subscribe HR	×	×	
26/03/2024	Council Service Centre - Tender Evaluation	×	×	×
14/05/2024	Matters Arising from the Minutes - Audit & Risk Committee - 9 May 2024	×	×	×
14/05/2024	Beachport Scenic Drive Upgrade Design - Tender Evaluation	×	×	
14/05/2024	Expression of Interest Proposal / Tender - CEO Annual Performance Review 2024	×	×	
14/05/2024	Roads Footpath and Kerbs Condition Assessment	×	×	
11/06/2024	Evaluation of Tenders and approval of a Medium Ridged Tipping Truck	×	×	
28/06/2024	Correspondence from the President of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association - Late Item	×	×	×
9/07/2024	Wayfinding Signage Fabrication - Millicent and Penola - Tender Evaluation	×	×	×
9/07/2024	Southern Ocean Tourist Park – Management Agreement	×	×	×
26/07/2024	Cyber Incident Update	×	×	×
13/08/2024	Motion on Notice - Limestone Coast Local Government Association	×	×	×

MEETINGS & CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Date	Subject	Orders to Exclude the Public Section 90(2)	Orders to Hold Information in Confidence Section 91(7)	Orders Remaining in Operation at EOFY
13/08/2024	CEO Annual Performance Review	x	x	x
24/09/2024	Millicent Civic and Arts Centre Roof Upgrade – Tender Evaluation	x		
24/09/2024	SharePoint Content Audit, Design and Migration Service (Architecture) Project	x	x	x
7/11/2024	Cyber Security Recommendations Report	x	x	x
26/11/2024	Evaluation of Tenders and approval of a Medium Ridged Tipping Truck	x	x	x
26/11/2024	Evaluation of Tenders and approval of a Streetsweeper	x	x	x
26/11/2024	Buildings and Structures Condition Assessment - Tender Evaluation	x	x	x
10/12/2024	Cyber Security Recommendations Report	x	x	x
21/01/2025	Safety Equipment and Services Compliance Tender	x		
21/01/2025	Internal Review of Decision by Chief Executive Officer - Section 105F Notice, Fire and Emergency Services Act	x	x	x
21/01/2025	Written Complaint Report	x	x	x
21/01/2025	Limestone Coast Local Government Association	x	x	x
11/02/2025	Southern Ocean Tourist Park - Management Agreement	x	x	x
06/03/2025	State Road Construction	x	x	x
11/03/2025	State Road Construction	x	x	x
08/04/2025	2025 Annual Review Confidential Orders	x		
08/04/2025	Internal Review of Decision by Chief Executive Officer - Section 105F Notice, Fire and Emergency Services Act	x	x	x
08/04/2025	Expression of Interest Proposal / Tender – CEO Annual Performance Review 2025	x	x	x
08/04/2025	Coonawarra Rail Trail Signage Installation	x	x	x
29/04/2025	State Road Construction	x	x	x
13/05/2025	Review of Eligible Section 184 - Sale of Properties for Unpaid Rates	x	x	
13/05/2025	2025 Annual Review Confidential Orders	x		
10/06/2025	State Road Construction	x	x	x

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program is a comprehensive initiative aimed at promoting fairness and preventing discrimination within the workplace.

Its primary objective is to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their race, colour, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or other protected characteristics, have equal access to employment opportunities.

This includes both the hiring process and advancement within an organisation.

Council closely monitors its risk profile, which involves assessing potential risks and vulnerabilities. This monitoring is done by both the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the Audit and Risk Committee. The risk profile is a collection of identified risks that the council may face.

The Council's risk profile is integrated into its Risk Register and Business Continuity Plan. This integration ensures that identified risks are appropriately tracked and managed and that plans are in place to ensure business continuity in case of any disruptions.

The Risk Register and Business Continuity Plan are continuously developed and improved upon with input at all staff levels. This collaborative effort ensures that risk management strategies are effective and up-to-date. The ELT has a high level of involvement and commitment of continuous improvement.

The Council collaborates with LGAWCS (Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme) and LGRS (Local Government Risk Services) to support a safe environment for all workers. This involves sharing best practices, resources, and knowledge to improve safety measures and achieve strategic outcomes.

The Health and Safety Committee meets quarterly to monitor Council's safety profile. This Committee discusses and reviews various safety-related aspects within the organisation.

Council is committed to developing a strong safety culture across the organisation. This includes providing training and development opportunities related to work health and safety practices.

The Council utilises risk incentive funding from LGRS to improve specific tasks related to manual handling, such as introducing safer equipment and tools. Council has also used the funding to improve safety documentation and accessibility.

Safety incidents are monitored and reported at both ELT and team meetings. This suggests a proactive approach to identifying incidents, analysing their causes, and implementing corrective actions.

Overall, the above highlights the Council's comprehensive approach to risk management, safety culture, and health and safety improvement. It underscores the importance of collaboration, continuous improvement, and senior leadership involvement in creating a safe and productive work environment.

EXECUTIVE
LEADERSHIP TEAM

Council's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) comprises the Chief Executive Officer, three Departmental Directors and the Executive Assistant. Council's Chief Executive Officer and Directors are employed on individual performance-based fixed term contracts.

Allowances paid to members of the ELT (excluding the Executive Assistant) include provision of a motor vehicle for private use, mobile telephone, income protection insurance and statutory superannuation.

	Male	Female	Salary
Chief Executive Officer	1	0	\$233,286
Directors	2	1	\$171,544 - \$181,009

FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION
APPLICATIONS

Council received and determined one application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act) in 2024/25, summarised below:

Applications received in 2024/25	1
Applications carried over from 2023/24	0
Full access granted	0
Partial access granted	0
Applications refused access under Schedule 2 of FOI Act	0
Applications withdrawn*	1
Determination incomplete (at 30 June 2025)	0

* Withdrawn following provision of document schedule and fee to access documents.

COMPETITIVE
PURCHASING

Council delivers its services in a variety of ways including in-house provision, contract for service, competitive tendering and resource sharing, and has adopted a service provision policy to "provide quality services that meet customer needs by utilising resources (physical, financial and human) efficiently and effectively".

Council has a Procurement Policy which was developed to provide transparency and accountability in purchasing and acquisition of goods and services.

The underlying principle of the policy is to ensure that Council purchases deliver best value for money considering the efficiency of the process and an acceptable level of commercial risk. Council utilises local providers of goods and services where practicable when offering equivalent value for money at an acceptable level of risk relative to other providers.

GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

REVIEW OF INTERNAL DECISIONS

In accordance with section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council has an Internal Review of Decisions Procedure that enables members of the public to seek a review of a decision of Council, its employees or other persons acting on behalf of Council. The procedure is part of Council's commitment to transparent decision making and its customer focused approach to service delivery.

Section 270(8) of the Local Government Act requires Councils to prepare a report each year on the number of internal review applications received, the kinds of matters the applications related to, and the outcome of the applications. Regulation 35(2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013* further requires that this information is included in Council's Annual Report.

One application was received in 2024/25 for a section 270 internal review of a Council decision. The review application concerned an administrative decision of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The review was conducted by the Elected Members of Council and the review findings upheld the CEO's original decision.

GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE

In the 2024/25 financial year, the total expenditure via credit cards was \$68,338. A total of 5 cards are issued to employees with allocated limits and expenditure is tightly controlled and in accordance with Council policies and procedures.

GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

INFORMATION STATEMENT

Council has prepared an Information Statement in accordance with the requirements of section 5 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* and it is published on Council's website as specified in Regulation 5 of the Freedom of Information (General) Regulations 2017. The Information Statement is reviewed annually.

LEGAL FEES

In the 2024/25 financial year, Council incurred legal costs totalling \$88,862.

This was made up of:

Enforcement	\$31,300
General Advice	\$12,997
Contract & Procurement	\$4,690
Human Resources	\$27,941
Property Land & Lease	\$8,464
Native Title	\$3,470

Council has an obligation under Clause 7 of the National Competition Policy to include certain relevant information pertaining to the application of competition principles in its Annual Report.

Pursuant to Clause 7:

- Council has determined that it has the following 'Significant Business Activities':

Category One – (Business activities with an annual revenue in excess of \$2 million, or employing assets with a value in excess of \$20 million)

Business Activity	Category*	Comments
Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre	Cost Reflective Pricing	Operation of childcare for community benefit

**Category options for Competitive Neutrality – Cost Reflective Pricing, Commercialisation or Corporatisation*

Category Two – (all other significant activities)

Nil.

- Council has no by-laws that restrict competition.
- No complaints alleging a breach of competitive neutrality principles were received in 2024/25.
- Council has not been involved in any structural reform of public monopolies in 2024/25.

Council is required to have in place Community Land Management Plans for all land that is classified as 'Community Land' in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Any land acquired or purchased by Council is automatically classified as community land unless excluded prior to acquisition. Typically, any land purchased or held for operational purposes (e.g. carparking, depots) is excluded from the Community Land classification.

During the year, Council developed a set of new Community Land Management Plans. The process for development of the plans was iterative and involved consultation with both the public and Crown Lands Department prior to adoption.

Council adopted the following Community Land Management Plans in February 2025:

- Active Recreation Reserves – Council Owned Land (CLMP No.1)
- Active Recreation Reserves – Crown Land (CLMP No.2)
- Passive Recreation Reserves – Council Owned Land (CLMP No.3)
- Passive Recreation Reserves – Crown Land (CLMP No.4)

GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

- Community Facilities – Council Owned Land (CLMP No.5)
- Community Facilities – Crown Land (CLMP No.6)
- Cemetery Reserves – Council Owned Land (CLMP No.7)
- Cemetery Reserves – Crown Land (CLMP No.8)
- Corporate Resources – Council Owned Land (CLMP No.9)
- Corporate Resources – Crown Land (CLMP No.10)
- Millicent Aerodrome – Council Owned Land (CLMP No.11)
- Millicent Aerodrome – Crown Land (CLMP No.12)

The Audit & Risk Committee is a legislative requirement of Section 126 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee is to provide independent assurance and advice to Council on accounting, financial management, internal controls, risk management and governance matters.

Functions of the Audit and Risk Committee are as follows;

- Review the Council's annual financial statements to ensure they fairly represent Council's financial position.
- Provide input into reviews of the Council's strategic management and annual business plans.
- Monitor how effectively the Council responds to audit and risk-assessment recommendations.
- Propose and review the use of investigation powers under section 130A of the Act.
- Liaise with the Council's auditor as required by regulations.
- Regularly review the adequacy of the Council's accounting, internal control, reporting and financial management systems.
- Review and comment on the Council's annual report regarding internal control policies and processes.

- Regularly assess the effectiveness of the Council's risk-management policies, systems and procedures.
- Review any prudential reports obtained under section 48(1).
- Perform any other functions assigned by the Council or prescribed by regulation.

MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

The Committee convened meetings on seven (7) separate occasions in 2024/25.

Below are details of the attendance by the Presiding Member, Independent and Elected Members:

PRESIDING MEMBER MICHAEL SCHULTZ*

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 7/7

MAYOR DES NOLL

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 7/7

CR JOHN DREW

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 7/7

ASHISH AGGARWAL

Independent Member

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 5/7

LUCY PETERS

Appointed 9 July 2024

Independent Member

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 7/7

**The Presiding Member is an independent member of the Committee. Membership is reviewed every four years in line with Council elections.*

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBER ALLOWANCES

During 2024/25, the Independent Members received an allowance of \$426 per meeting and the Presiding Member \$479 per meeting.

ANNUAL WORK AND PERFORMANCE

Reports	Legislative reference	Meeting Date	Action Taken
Audit and Risk Work Plan	Section 126(4) (a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j)	17 October 2024 6 March 2025 13 May 2025	Reviewed and assessed progress on legislative requirements of the Audit & Risk Committee including monitoring the recommendations for improvement based on previous audits and risk assessments raised by the auditor.
Quarterly Budget Review 1	Section 123 Section 126(4)(b),(f)	17 October 2024	Reviewed the proposed budget changes and assessed variations and recommended to Council to adopt.
2024 Interim Audit Management Letter	Section 126 (4)(c),(e)	17 October 2024	Reviewed the Auditors Interim Audit findings
(Draft) Annual Financial Statements 2023/24	Section 126(4)(h)	7 November 2024	Reviewed to assess that they were a true and fair account of the past year. Recommended to Council that the Annual Financial Statements be certified as true and fair account of the past year.
Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report 2023/24	Section 126(4)(j) & 8(b)	7 November 2024	Reviewed the Audit and Risk Committee's annual performance against legislative requirements.
Internal Controls	Section 126(4)(f)	7 November 2024	Reviewed the Internal Controls of Council and reviewed high and extreme risks.
Guarantee of Community Loans Update	Section 134	7 November 2024	Reviewed current balances and adherence to Council Policy.
Council Investments & Loans	Section 134 and 140	7 November 2024	Reviewed current balances, performance and adherence to Council Treasury Management Policy.
Confidential - Cyber Security Recommendations Report	Section 126(4)(f)	7 November 2024	Reviewed the report and supported the implementation of recommendations from the future strategy.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

Reports	Legislative reference	Meeting Date	Action Taken
Annual Financial Statements 2023/24	Section 126(4)(h)	20 November 2024	Reviewed the Audit Completion Report, assessed the Annual Financial Statements that they were a true and fair account of the past year and recommended to Council that the Annual Financial Statements be adopted.
Quarterly Budget Review 4	Section 123 Section 126(4)(b),(f)	20 November 2024	Reviewed the adopted budget comparative to actual outcome and assessed variations. Recommended to Council to adopt the budget review.
Quarterly Budget Review 2	Section 123 Section 126(4)(b)	6 March 2025	Mid-Year budget review of the proposed Budget changes and assessed variations. Recommended to Council to adopt the budget review
Guarantee of Community Loans Policy	Section 134 Section 126 (4)(h)	6 March 2025	Reviewed adequacy of the current Policy and suggested changes. Recommended to Council to adopt the amended policy.
Prudential Management Policy	Section 126 (4)(h)	6 March 2025	Reviewed adequacy of the current Policy and suggested changes. Recommended to Council to adopt the amended policy.
Risk Register	Section 126(4)(h)	6 March 2025	Reviewed and assessed the extreme and high, strategic and organisational risks of Council.
Confidential – State Road Construction	Section 126(4)(j)	6 March 2025	Reviewed proposal to undertake the project
Quarterly Budget Review 3	Section 123 Section 126(4)(b),(f)	13 May 2025	Reviewed the proposed Budget changes and assessed variations. Recommended to Council to adopt the budget review.
Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 (Assumptions)	Section 122 Section 126(4)(b)	13 May 2025	Reviewed and adopted the underlying assumptions for the draft Long Term Financial Plan.
Application for a new Cash Advance Debenture Loan	Section 134	13 May 2025	Reviewed the loan proposal with reference to Long Term Financial Plan and the Treasury Management Policy. Recommended to Council to endorse and establish a \$5 Million Cash Advanced Debenture Facility.
Internal Audit	Section 126(4)(g) (i, ii)	13 May 2025	Reviewed the internal audit function and resolved for Council Officers to bring back a report in 2025/26 regarding options.
Confidential - 2025 Annual Review Confidential Order	Section 90	13 May 2025	Reviewed the existing reports with confidential orders and determined to extend or not the confidential order.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

Reports	Legislative reference	Meeting Date	Action Taken
2025/26 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget	Section 123 Section 126(4)(b)	3 June 2025 17 June 2025	Reviewed the draft Annual Business Plan 2025/26 prior to adoption and recommended to Council to progress to public consultation.
Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026/2036	Section 122 Section 126(4)(b)	3 June 2025 17 June 2025	Reviewed the draft Annual Business Plan 2025/26 prior to adoption and recommended to Council to progress to public consultation.

PUBLIC REGISTERS & CODES

S44	Record of Delegations
S68	Register of Interests (Members)
S72A	Gifts and Benefits Register (Members)
S79	Register of Allowances and Benefits (Members)
S80A	Training and Development Register (Members)
S92	Public Access to Council and Committee Meetings and Associated Documents Code of Practice
S105	Register of Remuneration, Salaries and Benefits for Employees (Salaries Register)
S116	Register of Interests (Officers)
S119A	Gifts and Benefits Register (Employees)
S207	Register of Community Land
S231	Register of Public Roads
S252	Register of By-laws
Sch 1B, cl 13	Register of Building Upgrade Agreements
Reg 6(1)	Meeting Procedures Code of Practice*

**The Meeting Procedures Code of Practice is not mandatory and was adopted at the discretion of Council.*

These documents are available to view on Council's website at: www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au

APPENDIX 1
**ANNUAL FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS 2024/25**



*'Fairy Umbrellas' -
Diana Vine.*

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Wattle Range Council

General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Certification of Financial Statements

We have been authorised by the Council to certify the financial statements in their final form.

In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards,
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year,
- internal controls implemented by the Council provide a reasonable assurance that the Council's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year,
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Council's accounting and other records.



Ben Gower
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 14/10/2025



Des Noll
Mayor

Date: 14/10/2025

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

\$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Income			
Rates	2a	23,758	22,219
Statutory charges	2b	349	365
User charges	2c	3,022	2,852
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	2g	595	547
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2g	8,104	792
Investment income	2d	191	392
Reimbursements	2e	465	96
Other income	2f	426	275
Total income		36,910	27,538
Expenses			
Employee costs	3a	14,117	13,536
Materials, contracts and other expenses	3b	13,104	12,673
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	3c	7,459	7,237
Finance costs	3d	271	247
Total expenses		34,951	33,693
Operating surplus / (deficit)		1,959	(6,155)
Physical resources received free of charge	2h	271	181
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	4	(1,144)	(2,456)
Net surplus / (deficit)		1,086	(8,430)
Other comprehensive income			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
Changes in revaluation surplus - I,PP&E	9a	39,567	164
Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result		39,567	164
Total other comprehensive income		39,567	164
Total comprehensive income		40,653	(8,266)

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2025

\$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalent assets	5a	1,295	6,037
Trade and other receivables	5b	5,838	1,583
Inventories	5c	706	307
Total current assets		7,839	7,927
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	6	102	110
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7	304,886	257,307
Total non-current assets		304,988	257,417
TOTAL ASSETS		312,827	265,344
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8a	8,196	3,201
Borrowings	8b	2,084	388
Provisions	8c	2,813	2,492
Total current liabilities		13,093	6,081
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	8b	2,185	2,413
Provisions	8c	288	242
Total non-current liabilities		2,473	2,655
TOTAL LIABILITIES		15,566	8,736
Net assets		297,261	256,608
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		59,291	58,497
Asset revaluation reserves	9a	234,629	195,062
Other reserves	9b	3,341	3,049
Total council equity		297,261	256,608
Total equity		297,261	256,608

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

\$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
2025					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period		58,497	195,062	3,049	256,608
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		1,086	–	–	1,086
Other comprehensive income					
- Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E	7	–	39,567	–	39,567
Other comprehensive income		–	39,567	–	39,567
Total comprehensive income		1,086	39,567	–	40,653
Transfers between reserves	9b	(292)	–	292	–
Balance at the end of period		59,291	234,629	3,341	297,261
2024					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period		67,059	194,898	2,917	264,874
Restated opening balance		67,059	194,898	2,917	264,874
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		(8,430)	–	–	(8,430)
Other comprehensive income					
- Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E	7	–	164	–	164
Other comprehensive income		–	164	–	164
Total comprehensive income		(8,430)	164	–	(8,266)
Transfers between reserves	9b	(132)	–	132	–
Balance at the end of period		58,497	195,062	3,049	256,608

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

\$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Cash flows from operating activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates		23,550	22,117
Statutory charges		349	365
User charges		3,022	2,852
Grants, subsidies and contributions (operating purpose)		8,104	1,339
Investment receipts		191	392
Reimbursements		465	96
Other receipts		1,434	442
<u>Payments</u>			
Payments to employees		(14,096)	(13,517)
Payments for materials, contracts and other expenses		(13,171)	(11,619)
Finance payments		(271)	(247)
Net cash provided by (or used in) operating activities	10b	<u>9,577</u>	<u>2,220</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Grants utilised for capital purposes		595	—
Sale of replaced assets		203	218
Sale of surplus assets		—	400
Repayments of loans by community groups		8	7
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(6,282)	(6,162)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(10,265)	(1,622)
Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities		<u>(15,741)</u>	<u>(7,159)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from bonds and deposits		—	5
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayment of bonds and deposits		(46)	—
Repayments of borrowings		(388)	(356)
Repayment of lease liabilities		—	(8)
Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities		<u>(434)</u>	<u>(359)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(6,598)	(5,298)
plus: cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		6,037	11,335
Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period	10a	<u>(561)</u>	<u>6,037</u>

Additional information:

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(1) Basis of preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis using the historical cost convention in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

1.2 Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies.

The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of these Notes.

1.3 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand (\$'000).

(2) The local government reporting entity

Wattle Range Council is incorporated under the South Australian Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at 12 North Terrace, Millicent. These financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

(3) Income recognition

Wattle Range Council recognises revenue under *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058) or *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

In recent years the payment of untied grants (financial assistance grants / local roads / supplementary grants) has varied from the annual allocation as shown in the table below:

	Cash Payment Received	Annual Allocation	Difference	Net Timing Adjustments
2019/20	\$3,756,816	\$4,367,514	- \$610,725	+\$55,979
2020/21	\$3,891,737	\$3,745,312	+ \$146,425	+\$140,186
2021/22	\$4,117,718	\$3,580,933	+ \$536,785	+\$1,005,128
2022/23	\$4,929,648	\$3,777,306	+ \$1,152,342	+\$967,290
2023/24	\$323,608	\$4,165,753	-\$3,842,145	-\$3,842,145
2024/25	\$ 5,943,427	\$3,972,288	+ \$ 1,971,139	+ \$1,971,139

The net timing adjustment is calculated by the sum of advance payment received less advance payment received prior financial year.

Because these grants are untied, the Australian Accounting Standards require that payments be recognised upon receipt. Accordingly, the operating results of these periods have been distorted compared to those that would have been reported had the grants been paid in the year to which they were allocated.

The Operating Surplus Ratio disclosed in Note 13 has also been calculated after adjusting for the distortions resulting from the differences between the actual grants received and the grants entitlements allocated.

(4) Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition, except for trade receivables from a contract with a customer, which are measured at the transaction price. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of Note 11.

(5) Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

(6) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

6.1 Initial recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets in Note 7 and transferred to relevant infrastructure, property, plant & equipment asset categories when completed ready for use.

6.2 Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life.

Examples of Capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are given in Note 7. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

6.3 Subsequent recognition

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 7.

6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown in Note 7. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

6.5 Impairment

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

(7) Payables

7.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts other than grants received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

(8) Borrowings

Borrowings are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates, and is recorded as part of "Payables".

(9) Employee benefits

9.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Weighted avg. discount rate 4.02% (2024, 4.05%)

Weighted avg. settlement period 1 year/s (2024, 1 year)

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

9.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Hostplus Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. No changes in accounting policy have occurred during either the current or previous reporting periods. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council's involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 17.

(10) Leases

The Council assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

10.1 Council as a lessee

The Council recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

i) Right-of-Use-Assets

The Council recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease. Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received and the estimate of costs to be incurred to restore the

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

leased asset. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

Buildings	3 years
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The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment. Refer to the accounting policies above - Impairment of non-financial assets.

ii) Lease Liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Council recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Council uses its incremental borrowing rate or the interest rate implicit in the lease.

iii) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Council applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date). It also applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(11) GST implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 *"Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"*

- Receivables and creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

(12) New accounting standards and UIG interpretations

The AASB has issued Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations which are not mandatorily effective at 30 June 2025, these standards have not been adopted by Council and will be included in the financial statements on their effective date. Where the standard is expected to have a significant impact for Council then further information has been provided in this note.

Council has assessed all the standards / interpretations currently issued which are not yet effective and have determined that there is no expected material impact on the reported financial position or performance.

(13) Comparative figures

To ensure comparability with the current reporting period's figures, some comparative period line items and amounts may have been reclassified or individually reported for the first time within these financial statements and/or the notes.

(14) Disclaimer

Nothing contained within these statements may be taken to be an admission of any liability to any person under any circumstance.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income

\$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Rates		
General rates		
General rates	19,360	18,164
Less: mandatory rebates	(232)	(195)
Less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs	(65)	(66)
Total general rates	19,063	17,903
Other rates (including service charges)		
Landscape levy	1,185	1,127
Waste Collection & Disposal	1,910	1,680
Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS)	1,483	1,413
Total other rates (including service charges)	4,578	4,220
Other charges		
Penalties for late payment	117	96
Total other charges	117	96
Total rates	23,758	22,219
(b) Statutory charges		
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act fees	188	184
Health and septic tank inspection fees	20	20
Animal registration fees and fines	139	153
Other licences, fees and fines	2	8
Total statutory charges	349	365
(c) User charges		
Aerodrome Fees	47	38
Beachport Boatramp	24	24
Cemetery Fees	175	189
Childcare Fees	2,064	1,851
Caravan Park Fees	491	532
Hall Hire	8	17
Livestock Saleyards	19	20
Rental / Lease Fees	123	115
Sundry	71	66
Total user charges	3,022	2,852

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2025	2024
(d) Investment income		
Interest on investments		
- Local Government Finance Authority	188	389
- Loans to community groups	3	3
Total investment income	191	392
(e) Reimbursements		
Private works	20	29
Other	445	67
Total reimbursements	465	96
(f) Other income		
Insurance & Other Recoupments	191	50
Sundry	235	225
Total other income	426	275
(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions		
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - capital		
Roads to Recovery	595	547
Total Other grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	595	547
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions		
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant	4,822	324
Supplementary Local Road Funding	2,918	267
Library and communications	29	39
Sundry	14	8
Coastal Protection	272	80
Waste	49	34
Building	—	40
Total other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	8,104	792
Total grants, subsidies and contributions	8,699	1,339

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2025	2024
(i) Sources of grants		
State Government	8,699	1,298
Other	–	41
Total	8,699	1,339

On 30 June 2023, Council received payment of the complete payment of the 2023/24 Grant Commission (FAG) grant. In 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2022/2023 a prepayment of FAG grants was made.

No prepayment of FAG grants was made during the 2023/24 financial year. Prepayment was again received in 2024/25 financial year.

\$ '000	2025	2024
(h) Physical resources received free of charge		
Sealed Roads	271	–
Stormwater drainage	–	18
Structures	–	44
Kerbs	–	52
CWMS	–	67
Total physical resources received free of charge	271	181

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Expenses

\$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(a) Employee costs			
Salaries and wages		11,087	10,925
Employee leave expense		1,563	1,328
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	16	1,258	1,186
Superannuation - defined benefit plan contributions	16	113	98
Workers' compensation insurance		397	386
Income Protection Insurance		275	199
Less: capitalised and distributed costs		(576)	(586)
Total operating employee costs		14,117	13,536
Total number of employees (full time equivalent at end of reporting period)		147	140
(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses			
(i) Prescribed expenses			
Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		24	25
Bad and doubtful debts		(1)	(8)
Elected members' expenses		293	297
Election expenses		27	4
Subtotal - prescribed expenses		343	318
(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses			
Contractors		6,177	5,373
Energy		594	580
Legal expenses		89	172
Levies paid to Government - Landscape levy		1,163	1,129
Sundry		68	68
Materials		1,672	1,865
Fuel		705	778
Insurance		801	714
Telephone		117	127
Water		102	112
Subscriptions		247	283
Financial Assistance		196	272
Licence Fees		631	668
Advertising		30	49
Postage		41	42
Registration		128	123
Subtotal - Other material, contracts and expenses		12,761	12,355
Total materials, contracts and other expenses		13,104	12,673

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

\$ '000	2025	2024
(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		
(i) Depreciation and amortisation		
Infrastructure		
- Sealed roads	1,789	1,710
- Unsealed roads	1,453	1,330
- Kerb & Gutter	481	369
- Stormwater	126	125
- CWMS	819	811
- Footpaths	233	367
Right-of-use assets	12	2
Plant and equipment	948	952
Furniture and fittings	7	7
Buildings	953	972
Structures	426	592
Other Structures	212	—
Subtotal	7,459	7,237
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment	7,459	7,237
(d) Finance costs		
Interest on loans	271	247
Total finance costs	271	247

Note 4. Asset disposal and fair value adjustments

\$ '000	2025	2024
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
(i) Assets renewed or directly replaced		
Proceeds from disposal	203	218
Less: Carrying Amount of Assets Sold & Disposed	(1,261)	(1,059)
Other Amounts relating to the sale of renewed or directly replaced assets	—	(14)
Gain (loss) on disposal	(1,058)	(855)
(ii) Assets surplus to requirements		
Proceeds from disposal	—	400
Less: Carrying Amount of Assets Sold & Disposed	(86)	(1,981)
Other amounts relating to the sale of surplus assets	—	(20)
Gain (loss) on disposal	(86)	(1,601)
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	(1,144)	(2,456)

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Current assets

\$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	1,260	209
Short term deposits and bills, etc.	35	5,828
<u>Total cash and cash equivalent assets</u>	<u>1,295</u>	<u>6,037</u>

(b) Trade and other receivables

Rates - general and other	1,138	930
Accrued revenues	–	20
Debtors - general	2,182	294
GST recoupment	127	260
Prepayments	2,394	83
Loans to community organisations	7	7
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>5,848</u>	<u>1,594</u>
Less: provision for expected credit losses	(10)	(11)
<u>Total trade and other receivables</u>	<u>5,838</u>	<u>1,583</u>

(c) Inventories

Stores and materials	706	307
<u>Total inventories</u>	<u>706</u>	<u>307</u>

Aggregate write-downs and other losses recognised as an expense, and reversals of these, were not material in amount in either year. All such reversals occurred principally as a result of inaccuracies during stores operations.

Note 6. Non-current assets

\$ '000	2025	2024
Trade and other receivables		
Receivables		
Loans to community organisations	102	110
<u>Total receivables</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Total financial assets</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>110</u>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

	Fair Value Level	as at 30/06/24				Asset movements during the reporting period							as at 30/06/25				
		At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	Asset Additions Renewals	WDV of Disposals	Depreciation Expense (Note 3c)	WIP Transfers & Transfers	Adjustments	Physical Resources Received Free of Charge	Revaluation Increments to Equity (ARR) (Note 9)	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount
\$ '000																	
Capital work in progress																	
Land	3	–	3,833	–	3,833	9,774	544	–	–	(2,228)	(48)	–	–	–	11,875	–	11,875
Land - other	2	11,893	–	–	11,893	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11,893	–	–	11,893
Infrastructure		9,322	–	–	9,322	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9,322	–	–	9,322
Sealed roads	3	147,998	2,308	(51,424)	98,882	210	1,549	(177)	(1,789)	51	(618)	271	23,483	170,939	1,759	(50,836)	121,862
Unsealed roads	3	34,948	2,738	(17,377)	20,309	–	1,189	–	(1,453)	–	618	–	10,444	43,165	1,189	(13,247)	31,107
Kerb & Gutter	3	25,237	336	(11,292)	14,281	43	156	(43)	(481)	–	–	–	7,715	33,471	199	(11,999)	21,671
Stormwater	3	14,322	319	(4,915)	9,726	9	21	(2)	(126)	–	–	–	–	14,319	349	(5,040)	9,628
CWMS	3	45,158	109	(13,695)	31,572	–	150	(34)	(819)	83	–	–	–	44,682	259	(13,989)	30,952
Footpaths	3	11,178	2,398	(5,460)	8,116	114	21	(2)	(233)	31	–	–	710	12,356	166	(3,765)	8,757
Right-of-use assets		67	–	(32)	35	–	–	–	(12)	–	–	–	–	67	–	(44)	23
Plant and equipment		–	14,854	(6,813)	8,041	–	1,240	(308)	(948)	17	–	–	–	–	15,379	(7,337)	8,042
Furniture and fittings		–	395	(291)	104	13	–	–	(7)	–	–	–	–	–	408	(298)	110
Buildings	2	143	20	(13)	150	–	–	–	–	–	(150)	–	–	–	–	–	–
Buildings	3	42,601	731	(15,401)	27,931	24	1,145	(751)	(953)	1,855	(145)	–	(1,706)	51,840	3,024	(27,464)	27,400
Structures	3	20,033	484	(7,405)	13,112	62	195	–	(426)	177	(3,550)	–	(1,079)	18,152	434	(10,095)	8,491
Other Structures	3	–	–	–	–	16	120	(30)	(212)	14	3,845	–	–	–	6,571	(2,818)	3,753
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		362,900	28,525	(134,118)	257,307	10,265	6,330	(1,347)	(7,459)	–	(48)	271	39,567	410,206	41,612	(146,932)	304,886

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (continued)

Valuation of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

Valuation of assets

General Valuation Principles

Accounting procedure: Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with AASB 13 Fair Value.

Measurement: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, fair value is taken to be the current replacement cost.

Highest and best use: For land which Council has an unfettered right to sell, the "highest and best use" recognises the possibility of the demolition or substantial modification of some or all of the existing buildings and structures affixed to the land.

Much of the land under Council's care and control is Crown land or has been declared as community land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Other types of restrictions also exist.

For land subject to these restrictions, the highest and best use is taken to be the "highest and best use" available to Council, with a rebuttable presumption that the current use is the "highest and best use". The reason for the current use of a large proportion of Council's assets being other than the "highest and best use" relates to Council's principal role as the provider of services to the community, rather than the use of those assets for the generation of revenue.

For buildings and other structures on and in the land, including infrastructure, "highest and best use" is determined in accordance with the land on and in which they are situated.

Information on valuations

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations - Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land - Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets - There is no known market for buildings, infrastructure and other assets. These assets are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

- The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.
- The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (continued)

Capitalisation Thresholds

	2025	2024
Buildings	\$5,000	\$5,000
Structures - Major	\$5,000	\$5,000
Other Community Assets - Minor	\$5,000 - \$85,000	\$5,000 - \$85,000
Road construction & reconstruction	\$5,000	\$5,000
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	\$1,000	\$1,000
Stormwater	\$1,000	\$1,000
CWMS	\$2,000	\$5,000
Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other Plant & Equipment	\$2,000	\$2,000
Other Assets	\$1,000	\$1,000

Estimated Lives

<i>Plant, Furniture & Equipment</i>	2025	2024
Office Equipment	5 to 10 years	5 to 10 years
Office Furniture	5 to 20 years	5 to 20 years
Vehicles and Road-making Equipment	5 to 20 years	5 to 20 years
Other Plant & Equipment	1 to 25 years	1 to 25 years

Building & Other Structures

Sub Structure	5 to 100 years	5 to 200 years
Super Structure	15 to 100 years	10 to 200 years
Roof	40 to 60 years	40 to 150 years
Services (Electrical)	10 to 80 years	10 to 80 years
Services (Fire)	10 to 40 years	10 to 40 years
Services (Hydraulics)	30 to 80 years	30 to 80 years
Services (Mechanical)	10 to 40 years	10 to 40 years
Services (Security)	20 to 40 years	20 to 40 years
Services (Transport)	25 to 50 years	25 to 50 years
Site Infrastructure	40 to 90 years	45 to 90 years
Site Services	30 to 60 years	30 to 60 years
Fitouts & Fittings	30 to 40 years	30 to 60 years
Fitouts (Floor Coverings)	8 to 60 years	8 to 60 years
Sheds/Shelters	40 to 80 years	40 to 120 years
Playground Equipment	20 to 40 years	20 to 40 years
Lighting	25 to 50 years	25 to 50 years
Effluent Disposal Point	30 to 60 years	30 to 60 years
Fencing	25 to 100 years	25 to 100 years

Infrastructure

Sealed Roads - Surface	20 to 50 years	20 to 100 years
Sealed Roads - Pavement /Sub Base	100 to 625 years	120 to 560 years
Unsealed Roads	30 to 125 years	30 to 140 years
Bridges - Concrete	80 to 100 years	80 to 100 years
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	25 to 625 years	15 to 560 years
Drains	80 to 100 years	80 to 100 years
Culverts	50 to 75 years	50 to 75 years
Bores	10 to 40 years	10 to 40 years
Stormwater - Pipes	100 to 125 years	100 to 125 years
Stormwater - Other	15 to 125 years	15 to 125 years

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (continued)

CWMS – Pipes	25 to 100 years	25 to 100 years
CWMS – Mechanical & Electrical	25 to 50 years	25 to 50 years
CWMS – Other	25 to 100 years	25 to 100 years
<i>Other Assets</i>		
Various Other Assets	5 to 50 years	5 to 50 years

Land

Council being of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably to qualify for recognition; land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

Freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title, is recognised on the cost basis. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Land is recognised at Fair Value. The last revaluation was derived by utilising the valuations as at 30th June 2023 by the Valuer Generals Office. Additions are recognised on the cost basis.

Buildings & Other Structures

Building and other structures assets were valued by Sproutt Pty Ltd at market and depreciated current replacement cost as at the 1st July 2024. Effect on depreciation as a result of this valuation is \$5,000. All acquisitions made after the respective date of valuation are recorded at cost.

Infrastructure

Unsealed road and Sealed road assets were valued by Council officers & iinSights Pty Ltd based on a condition assessment completed by Infrastructure Management Group Pty Ltd (IMG). The condition assessment and assets were valued at depreciated current replacement cost as at the 1st July 2024. The effect on depreciation as a result of this revaluation is an increase in depreciation on Sealed Roads of \$62,161 & an increase on depreciation on Unsealed Roads of \$93,148. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Kerb & Gutter assets were valued by iinSights Pty Ltd at depreciated current replacement cost during the reporting period beginning 1st July 2024. The effect on depreciation as a result of this revaluation was an increase of \$107,565. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Footpath assets were valued by iinSights Pty Ltd at depreciated current replacement cost during the reporting period beginning 1st July 2024. The effect on depreciation as a result of this valuation is a decrease of \$164,412. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Stormwater Drainage assets were valued by Tonkins at depreciated current replacement cost during the reporting period beginning 1st July 2020. Stormwater Drainage assets were indexed 9.2% as at 1st July 2022 by Assetc Pty Ltd. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost. Revaluations are to be undertaken 1st July 2025 by external parties.

Community Wastewater Management Schemes (CWMS) were valued by Council Staff, and peer reviewed by HDS Australia, at depreciated current replacement cost as at the 1st July 2020. CWMS assets were indexed 9.2% as at 1st July 2022 by Assetc Pty Ltd. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost. Revaluations are to be undertaken 1st July 2025 by external parties.

Plant, Furniture & Equipment

These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

All other assets

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (continued)

These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 8. Liabilities

\$ '000	Notes	2025 Current	2025 Non Current	2024 Current	2024 Non Current
(a) Trade and other payables					
Goods and services		4,237	—	1,455	—
Payments received in advance		3,462	—	718	—
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		137	—	116	—
Accrued expenses - other		243	—	749	—
Deposits, retentions and bonds		117	—	163	—
Total trade and other payables		8,196	—	3,201	—

(b) Borrowings

Short term draw down facility		1,856	—	—	—
Loans		209	2,185	378	2,394
Lease Liabilities	15	19	—	10	19
Total Borrowings		2,084	2,185	388	2,413

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council

(c) Provisions

Annual Leave - (including on costs)		1,089	—	993	—
Long Service Leave - (including on costs)		1,724	288	1,499	242
Total provisions		2,813	288	2,492	242

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Reserves

	as at 30/06/24				as at 30/06/25
\$ '000	Opening Balance	Increments (Decrements)	Transfers	Impairments	Closing Balance
(a) Asset revaluation reserve					
Land	11,457	–	–	–	11,457
Land - other	1,178	–	–	–	1,178
Infrastructure					
- Sealed roads	71,286	23,483	–	–	94,769
- Unsealed roads	30,655	10,444	–	–	41,099
- Kerb & Gutter	4,727	7,715	–	–	12,442
- Stormwater	9,803	–	–	–	9,803
- CWMS	23,330	–	–	–	23,330
- Footpaths	6,359	710	–	–	7,069
Buildings	28,914	(1,706)	–	–	27,208
Structures	7,353	(1,079)	–	–	6,274
Total asset revaluation reserve	195,062	39,567	–	–	234,629
Comparatives	194,898	164	–	–	195,062

	as at 30/06/24				as at 30/06/25
\$ '000	Opening Balance	Tfrs to Reserve	Tfrs from Reserve	Other Movements	Closing Balance
(b) Other reserves					
Waste Management Reserve	1,400	1,901	(1,757)	–	1,544
Community Waste Water Scheme Reserve	1,405	863	(718)	–	1,550
Other Reserves	125	1	–	–	126
Land Development	92	–	–	–	92
Service Station	27	2	–	–	29
Total other reserves	3,049	2,767	(2,475)	–	3,341
Comparatives	2,917	2,593	(2,461)	–	3,049

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Reserves (continued)

Purposes of reserves

Asset revaluation reserves

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

Waste Management Reserve

The Waste Management Reserve is used to record transactions related to income and expenses for waste collection/disposal. The funds in this reserve are available for future maintenance of waste collection/disposal.

Community Waste Water Scheme Reserve

The Community Waste Water Scheme Reserve is used to record transactions related to income and expenses for Councils Community Waste Water Schemes (CWMS). The funds in this reserve are available for future maintenance of CWMS.

Other Reserve

Other Reserve consists of a number of miscellaneous reserves that have been in existence for a number of years for a multitude of activities. Over the next twelve months these reserves will be reviewed and the number of specific items reduced.

Land Development

This reserve holds the funds received (net of expenditure) following the sale of Mount Burr House.

Service Station Sinking Fund

As per the Lease with the Service Station a contribution can be charged which will be used for future works associated with the Service Station, Millicent.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

\$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
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(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Total cash and equivalent assets	5	1,295	6,037
Less: short-term borrowings	8	(1,856)	—
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows		(561)	6,037

(b) Reconciliation of Operating Result

Net surplus/(deficit)		1,086	(8,430)
Non-cash items in income statements			
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		7,459	7,237
Non-cash asset acquisitions		(271)	(181)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity		(595)	—
Net (gain)/loss on disposals		1,144	2,456
		8,823	1,082
Add (less): changes in net current assets			
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables		(4,254)	(193)
Change in allowances for under-recovery of receivables		(1)	(8)
Net (increase)/decrease in inventories		(399)	108
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		5,041	1,186
Net increase/(decrease) in other provisions		367	45
Net cash provided by (or used in) operations		9,577	2,220

(c) Financing arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:

Corporate credit cards	17	17
LGFA cash advance debenture facility	7,760	7,760

Council has immediate access to a short-term draw-down facility, and variable interest rate borrowings under a cash advance facility, both from the Local Government Finance Authority of SA.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 11. Financial instruments

Recognised financial instruments

Bank, deposits at call, short term deposits

Accounting Policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost; interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & Conditions:

Short term deposits an average interest rate between 4.15% and 4.65% (2024: 4.30% and 4.55%).

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - rates and associated charges (including legals and penalties for late payment)

Accounting Policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & Conditions:

Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 0.76% (2024: 0.75%). Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - fees and other charges

Accounting policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:

Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government

Accounting policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:

Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

Liabilities - creditors and accruals

Accounting policy:

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

Terms and conditions:

Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - interest bearing borrowings

Accounting Policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

Terms & Conditions:

Secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable (2 repayments per year with a fixed term of 20 years); interest is charged at fixed rate of 5.80% (2024: 5.80%).

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - leases

Accounting Policy:

Accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in Note 15.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

\$ '000	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year and ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
2025					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,295	–	–	1,295	1,295
Receivables	3,649	8	5	3,662	5,940
Total financial assets	4,944	8	5	4,957	7,235
Financial liabilities					
Payables	4,237	–	–	4,237	4,237
Current borrowings	2,220	–	–	2,220	2,084
Non-current borrowings	–	1,726	1,036	2,762	2,185
Total financial liabilities	6,457	1,726	1,036	9,219	8,506
Total financial assets and liabilities	11,401	1,734	1,041	14,176	15,741
2024					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	6,037	–	–	6,037	6,037
Receivables	1,695	10	6	1,711	1,693
Total financial assets	7,732	10	6	7,748	7,730
Financial liabilities					
Payables	1,455	–	–	1,455	1,455
Current borrowings	536	–	–	536	388
Non-current borrowings	–	1,726	1,381	3,107	2,413
Total financial liabilities	1,991	1,726	1,381	5,098	4,256
Total financial assets and liabilities	9,723	1,736	1,387	12,846	11,986

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

\$ '000	2025		2024	
	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Other variable rates	5.50%	1,856	0.00%	–
Fixed interest rates	5.80%	2,413	5.81%	2,801
		4,269		2,801

Net fair value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

Risk exposures

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Council investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Notes 5 and 6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor **currency risk** apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

Note 12. Capital Expenditure

\$ '000	2025	2024
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Capital commitments

Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

Buildings	430	9,176
Infrastructure	176	2,312
Plant and equipment	787	557
	1,393	12,045

These expenditures are payable:

Not later than one year	1,393	11,076
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	–	969
	1,393	12,045

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 13. Financial indicators

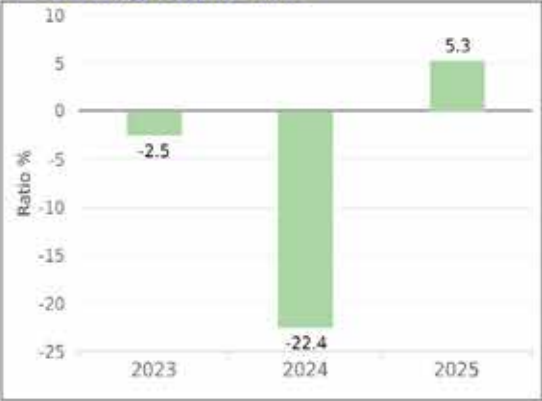
	Indicator 2025	Indicators 20242023	
Financial Indicators overview			
These Financial Indicators have been calculated in accordance with Information paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia.			
1. Operating Surplus Ratio			
Operating surplus	5.3%	(22.4)%	(2.5)%
Total operating income			
This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.			
2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio			
Net financial liabilities	23%	4%	(16)%
Total operating income			
Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses). These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.			
Adjustments to Ratios			
In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30th June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants, as explained in Note 1. These Adjusted Ratios correct for the resulting distortion in key ratios for each year and provide a more accurate basis for comparison.			
Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio			
Operating surplus	0.0%	(8.4)%	(5.5)%
Total operating income			
Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio			
Net financial liabilities	29%	3%	(4)%
Total operating income			
3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio			
Asset renewals	136%	89%	82%
Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan required expenditure			
Asset renewals expenditure is defined as capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets relative to the optimal level planned, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.			

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 13. Financial indicators (continued)

Financial indicators - graphs

1. Operating Surplus Ratio



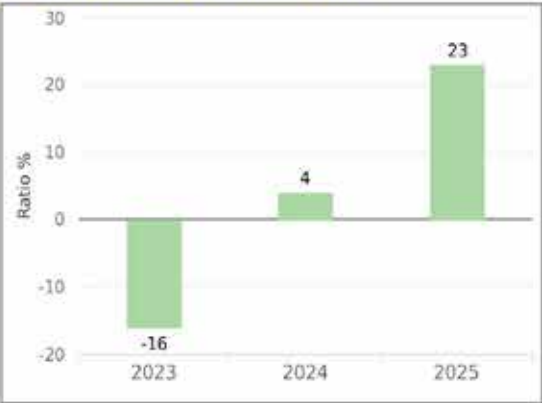
Purpose of operating surplus ratio

This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue varies from operating expenditure

Commentary on 2024/25 result

2024/25 ratio	5.3%
The operating surplus ratio is higher than the previous year associated with the recommencement of the prepayment of the Financial Assistance Grants	

2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio



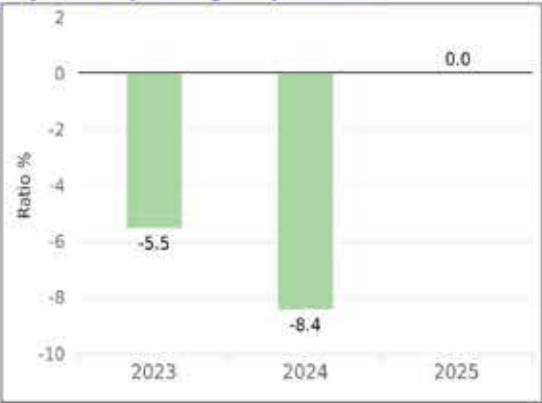
Purpose of net financial liabilities ratio

This indicator shows the significance of the net amount owed to others, compared to operating revenue

Commentary on 2024/25 result

2024/25 ratio	23%
The 2025 ratio is higher than the previous year due to the requirement to access cash advance debenture loans to fund large capital projects.	
The ratio is between Councils target range of between 0% - 100%.	

Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio



Purpose of adjusted operating surplus ratio

This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue (adjusted for timing differences in the Financial Assistance Grant) varies from operating expenditure

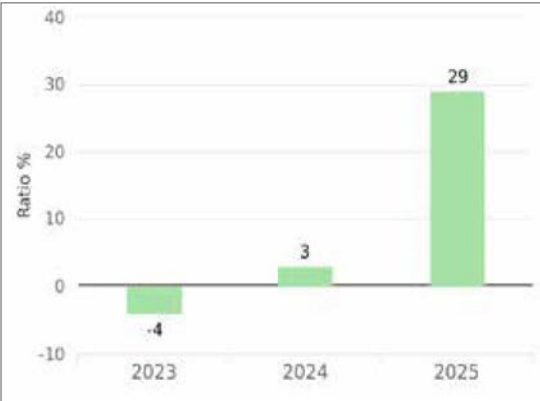
Commentary on 2024/25 result

2024/25 ratio	0.0%
The adjustment operating ratio is in line with Councils budget following the adjustment of prepaid Financial Assistance Grants.	

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 13. Financial indicators (continued)

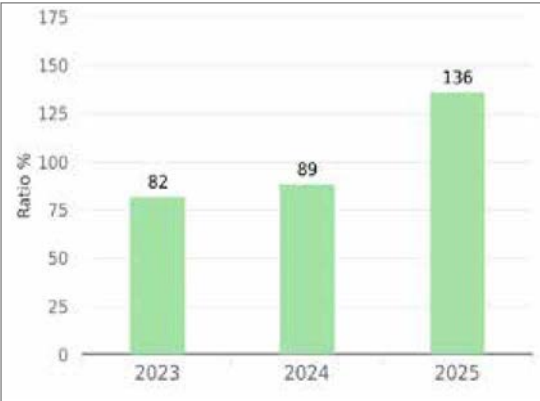
Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio



Purpose of adjusted net financial liabilities ratio
This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue (adjusted for timing differences in the Financial Assistance Grant) varies from operating expenditure

Commentary on 2024/25 result	
2024/25 ratio	29%
Aligned with the unadjusted Net Financial Liabilities ratio above, the movement in the ratio is driven by the adjustment of Financial Assistance Grants again prepaid in 2025.	

3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio



Purpose of asset renewal funding ratio
This indicator aims to determine if assets are being renewed and replaced in an optimal way

Commentary on 2024/25 result	
2024/25 ratio	136%
Council develops Asset Management plans for its different asset categories which are reviewed to help provide guidance as to how much and when funds need to be expended to maintain Council's current infrastructure. Disruptions and supply shortages including equipment, materials and labour in previous years had impacted the timing on delivery of planned works leading to a backlog completed in 2025 with the aid of additional grant funding. The result is outside Councils target range of 80% - 110%	

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 14. Uniform presentation of finances

\$ '000	2025	2024
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The following is a high level summary of both operating and capital investment activities of the Council prepared on a simplified Uniform Presentation Framework basis.

All Councils in South Australia have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis.

The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances.

Income

Rates	23,758	22,219
Statutory charges	349	365
User charges	3,022	2,852
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	595	547
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	8,104	792
Investment income	191	392
Reimbursements	465	96
Other income	426	275
Total Income	36,910	27,538

Expenses

Employee costs	(14,117)	(13,536)
Materials, contracts and other expenses	(13,104)	(12,673)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(7,459)	(7,237)
Finance costs	(271)	(247)
Total Expenses	(34,951)	(33,693)

Operating surplus / (deficit)

Net timing adjustment for general purpose grant funding	(1,971)	3,842
Less: grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	(595)	(547)
Adjusted Operating surplus / (deficit)	(607)	(2,860)

Net outlays on existing assets

Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	(6,282)	(6,162)
Add back depreciation, amortisation and impairment	7,459	7,237
Add back proceeds from sale of replaced assets	203	218
	1,380	1,293

Net outlays on new and upgraded assets

Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(10,265)	(1,622)
Add back grants, subsidies and contributions - capital new/upgraded	595	547
Add back proceeds from sale of surplus assets (including investment property, real estate developments and non-current assets held for resale)	–	400
	(9,670)	(675)

Annual net impact to financing activities (surplus/(deficit))

	(8,897)	(2,242)
--	----------------	----------------

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 15. Leases

(i) Council as a lessee

Terms and conditions of leases

Asset Class Buildings

Council entered a contract as a lessee for the 12 Ridge Terrace, Millicent office.

Set out below are the carrying amounts of right-of-use assets recognised within Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment and the movements during the period:

(a) Right of use assets

	Ridge Terrace Council Office
\$ '000	
2025	
Opening balance	29
Additions to right-of-use assets	–
Depreciation charge	(10)
Balance at 30 June	19
2024	
Opening balance	37
Additions to right-of-use assets	–
Depreciation charge	(8)
Balance at 30 June	29

(b) Lease liabilities

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities (included under interest-bearing loans and borrowings) and the movements during the period:

	2025	2024
\$ '000		
Balance at 1 July	29	37
Payments	(10)	(8)
Balance at 30 June	19	29
Classified as:		
Current	19	10
Non-current	–	19

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is included in Note 12.

The Group had total cash outflows for leases of \$6K.
The following are the amounts recognised in profit or loss:

Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	(12)	(2)
Total amount recognised in profit or loss	(12)	(2)

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 16. Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to Hostplus Super (formerly Statewide Super). There are two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector with Salarylink benefits prior to 24 November 2009 have the option to contribute to the Accumulation section and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to the Accumulation section.

Accumulation only members

Accumulation only members receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (11.50% in 2024/25; 11.00% in 2023/24). No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

Salarylink (Defined Benefit Fund) members

Salarylink is a defined benefit scheme where the benefit payable is based on a formula determined by the member's contribution rate, number of years and level of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Fund's Trustee based on advice from the appointed Actuary. The rate is currently 6.3% (6.3% in 2023/24) of "superannuation" salary.

In addition, Council makes a separate contribution of 3% of ordinary time earnings for Salarylink members to their Accumulation account. Employees also make member contributions to the Salarylink section of the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Salarylink section of the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink section is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Salarylink section's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by each employer, and employees may transfer to another employer within the local government sector and retain membership of the Fund, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided by AASB 119.32(b), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The most recent actuarial investigation was conducted by the Fund's actuary, Louise Campbell, FIAA, of Willis Towers Watson as at 30 June 2023. The Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Salarylink liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.

Contributions to other superannuation schemes

Council also makes contributions to other superannuation schemes selected by employees under the "choice of fund" legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 17. Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but knowledge is considered relevant to the users of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

1. Land under roads

As reported in the Financial Statements, Council is of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably for these assets to qualify for recognition, and accordingly land under roads has not been recognised in the reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

At reporting date, Council controlled 1,795 km of road reserves of average width 20 metres.

2. Potential insurance losses

Council is a multi-purpose organisation providing a large range of building, parks infrastructure, playgrounds and other facilities accessible to the public. At any time, it is likely that claims will have been made against Council that remain unsettled.

Council insures against all known insurable risks using a range of insurance policies, each of which is subject to deductible "insurance excesses", the amount of which varies according to the class of insurance.

Council has recognised the potential losses arising from claims known at reporting date based on average historical net cost (including insurance excess) of similar types of claims. Other potential claims not reported to Council may have existed at reporting date.

3. Bank guarantees

Council has guaranteed certain loans and other banking facilities advanced to community organisations and sporting bodies, amounting to \$266,727 (2024: \$266,727) at reporting date.

Council does not expect to incur any loss arising from these guarantees.

4. Legal expenses

Council is the planning consent authority for its area under the Development Act 1993 (as amended). Pursuant to that Act, certain persons aggrieved by a planning decision of the Council may appeal. It is normal practice that parties bear their own legal costs. At the date of these reports, Council had notice of 0 appeals against planning decisions made prior to reporting date. All known costs have been recognised, but the amount of further costs cannot be known until the appeals are determined.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 18. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Transactions with key management personnel

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Mayor, Councillors, CEO and certain prescribed officers under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1999. In all, 50 persons were paid the following total compensation:

\$ '000	2025	2024
The compensation paid to key management personnel comprises:		
Salaries, allowances & other short-term benefits	4,697	3,678
Total	4,697	3,678

Receipts from key management personnel comprise:

Other than amounts paid as ratepayers or residents (e.g. rates, swimming pool entry fees, etc.), Council received the following amounts in total:

Planning and building application Fees	–	5
Total	–	5

Key Management Personnel (KMP) and relatives of KMP's own a retail business from which various supplies were purchased as required either for cash or on 30-day account. Purchases from this one business was \$37,925.65 during the year on normal commercial terms.

Four (4) close family members of key management personnel are employed by Council in accordance with the terms of the Award, and as recorded in the public Register of Salaries maintained in accordance with section 105 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Independent Auditor's Report**To the members of the Wattle Range Council****Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the Wattle Range Council (the Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Certification of the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 2011* and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described as in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (Including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and for such internal control as Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Council is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that the audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Council.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEAN NEWBERY



SAMANTHA CRETEN
Director

22 October 2025

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Dean Newbery
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INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE INTERNAL CONTROLS OF THE WATTLE RANGE COUNCIL

Opinion

In our opinion, the Wattle Range Council (the Council) has complied, in all material respects, with Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls established by the Council relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities so as to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of the Council have been conducted properly and in accordance with law for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Basis for opinion

We have audited the Internal Controls of the Council under the requirements of *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements *ASAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and *ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The Council's Responsibility for the Internal Controls

The Council is responsible for implementing and maintaining an adequate system of internal controls, in accordance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and incurring of liabilities have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements, and applying Auditing Standard *ASQC 1 Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Review of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements* in undertaking the assurance engagement.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Council's compliance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

ASAE 3150 requires that we plan and perform our procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the control objectives and the controls operating effectively through the period. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements for the Australian professional accounting bodies.

An assurance engagement to report on the design and operating effectiveness of controls involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the control objectives and the operating effectiveness of the controls throughout the period. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the assessment of the risks that the controls are not suitably designed or the controls did not operate effectively. Our procedures included testing the operating effectiveness to the controls that we consider necessary to achieve the control objectives identified. An Assurance engagement of this type also includes evaluating the suitability of the control objectives.

Limitation on Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Council in accordance with *Section 129(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Council, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected.

An assurance engagement on operating effectiveness of controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

DEAN NEWBERY



SAMANTHA CRETEN
Director

22 October 2025

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Certification of Auditor Independence

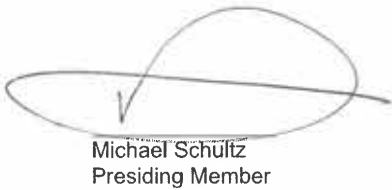
To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Wattle Range Council for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Council's Auditor, Dean Newbery has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.



Ben Gover
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 13 October 2025



Michael Schultz
Presiding Member

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Certification of Auditor's Independence

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of the Wattle Range Council for the year ended 30 June 2025, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Part 4A, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (5) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.



SAMANTHA CRETEN

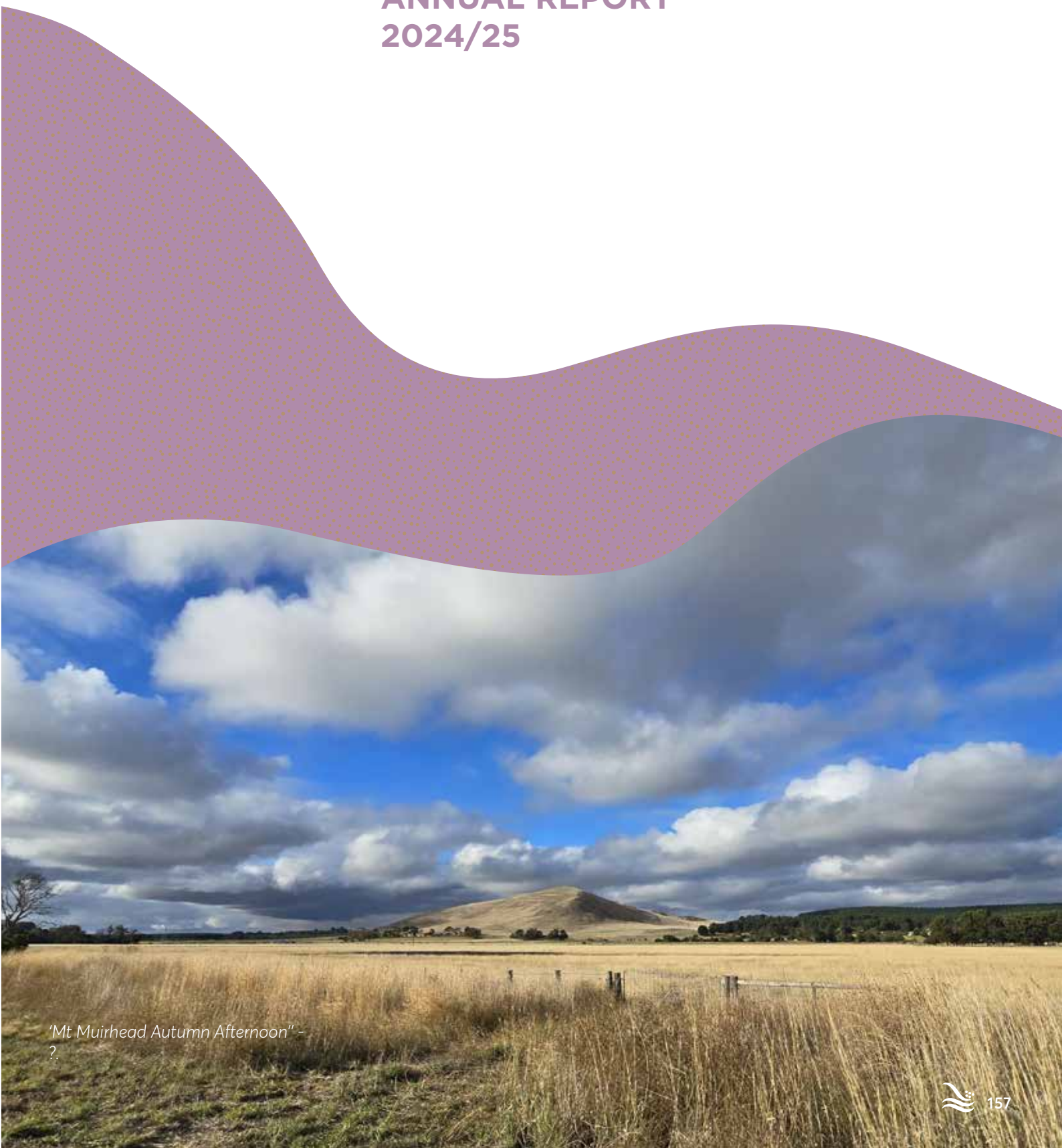
Director

DEAN NEWBERY

22 October 2025

APPENDIX 2

**LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2024/25**



*'Mt Muirhead Autumn Afternoon' -
?.*

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Naracoorte Swimming Lake Naracoorte Lucindale Council



July 2025 marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) following significant changes to our structure to realign with our core purpose. Charlotte Edmunds joins the LCLGA as Executive Officer to lead our collaborative advocacy agenda under the new model.

The LCLGA Board comprising Mayors Liz Goosens (Vice President), Kylie Boston, Jeff Pope, Patrick Ross, Lisa Ruffell and myself, look forward to working with Charlotte to deliver outcomes for the Limestone Coast region, its member councils and communities. As we continue work to define our strategic priorities under the new structure, the 2025/26 year will see a strong focus on tourism through the development of the new Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan, along with taking an active part in the South Australian Tourism Commission's Regional Tourism Review. Enabling infrastructure for growth and connecting communities within and to our region will also be a key focus.

We will continue to work with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast on the recently adopted Regional Growth Strategy and the Drought Resilience Plan.

As a result of the new LCLGA model, the delivery of some programs will change. The Limestone Coast Sporting Academy will transition into a standalone not-for-profit organization and the Connected and Active Communities Program will be auspiced through a member Council.

On behalf of the Board I thank Colin Byles for once again stepping into the role of Interim Executive Officer and for his guidance and commitment to transitioning the LCLGA to its new governance model.

I also acknowledge the LCLGA staff, who through the re-structuring process will no longer be employed by the organization and thank them for their dedication and commitment to the LCLGA during their tenure.

We acknowledge the productive working relationship we enjoy with Federal Member for Barker Mr Tony Pasin MP, Member for Mount Gambier Mr Troy Bell MP and Member for McKillop Mr Nick McBride MP.

The historic investment in mobile telecommunications infrastructure in the Limestone Coast as a result of a partnership between Telstra, the LCLGA, Federal and State Governments and industry will not only make the Limestone Coast the most connected region in South Australia, but it also serves as a reminder about the power of collaboration.

The LCLGA recognises that working with stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of South Australia, the South Australian Tourism Commission, Government Ministers and Departments Members of Parliament and our member Councils is paramount to ensuring the long-term social and economic sustainability of our region.

My thanks go to my fellow Mayors, Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers for their ongoing support and commitment to make the 'Limestone Coast Better Together' as we begin this new phase of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association.

On behalf of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association, I am pleased to present the 2024/25 Annual Report.

Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM)

President LCLGA



This document is the Annual Report of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) Inc. for the period 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025 and was prepared pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 to report to Constituent Councils on the work and operation of the Association for the preceding financial year.

This report details the activities of the Association to represent and serve the six Constituent Councils and to advance the Limestone Coast communities through effective advocacy, facilitation, project delivery and innovation.

Our Association

LCLGA was established as a regional body on 6th October 1885. LCLGA is a regional subsidiary representing its Constituent Councils and is established pursuant to Section 43 of the Local Government Act 1999 by the Constituent Councils.

The Association is comprised of the following Constituent Councils:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. City of Mount Gambier | 3. Kingston District Council | 5. District Council of Robe |
| 2. District Council of Grant | 4. Naracoorte Lucindale Council | 6. Tatiara District Council |

Under its Charter, LCLGA's objectives are to:

- > Work in Association with both the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) and the Australian Local Government Association.
- > Undertake co-coordinating, advocacy and representational roles on behalf of its Constituent Councils at a regional level.
- > Facilitate and coordinate activities of local government at a regional level related to social, environmental and community development with the object of achieving improvement for the benefit of the communities of its Constituent Councils.
- > Develop, encourage, promote, foster and maintain consultation and co-operation and to strengthen the representation and status of local government when dealing with other governments, private enterprise and the community.
- > Develop further co-operation between its Constituent Councils for the benefit of the communities of its region.
- > Develop and manage policies which guide the conduct of programs and projects in its region with the objective of securing the best outcomes for the communities of the region.
- > Undertake projects and activities that benefit its region and its communities.
- > Associate, collaborate and work in conjunction with other regional local government bodies for the advancement of matters of common interest.
- > Implement programs that seek to deliver local government services on a regional basis; and
- > To effectively liaise and work with the State and Commonwealth Government and instrumentalities on a regional basis for the general enhancement of the region.

THE LCLGA BOARD

The LCLGA Board as at 30 June 2025

The LCLGA Board comprises nominated representatives from each of the Constituent Councils and is chaired by the LCLGA President. Each Constituent Council can nominate up to two Deputy Board Members.

LCLGA Board Members

Council	Delegate	Deputy Board Member/s
City of Mount Gambier	President Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM)	Deputy Mayor Josh Lynagh
Tatiara District Council	Vice President Mayor Liz Goossens	Deputy Mayor Lynton MacKenzie
District Council of Grant	Mayor Kylie Boston	Deputy Mayor Brad Mann
Kingston District Council	Mayor Jeff Pope	Deputy Mayor Jamie Parkins
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	Mayor Partick Ross	Deputy Mayor Abigail Goodman
District Council of Robe	Mayor Lisa Ruffell	Deputy Mayor Nick Brown

The Board held six ordinary bi-monthly General Meetings, and The Annual General Meeting during 2024-25. Meetings are hosted by Constituent Councils on a rotational basis.



Office Bearers 2024-2025

In accordance with the LCLGA Charter, the positions of LCLGA President and Vice President are appointed at the Annual General Meeting, held in February.

At the Annual General Meeting in February 2025, Mayor Lynette Martin was elected as LCLGA President, to serve in the position for a period of 12 months. Mayor Liz Goossens was elected as LCLGA Vice President.

During 2024-2025, Deb Brokenshire was appointed Interim Executive Officer from 1st July 2024 to 12 September 2024. Colin Byles was appointed Interim Executive Officer from 13 September 2024 to 30 June 2024. Charlotte Edmunds was appointed Executive Officer from 23 June 2025 onwards.

Dean Newbery and Partners are the appointed Auditor.

LCLGA Staff

During 2024-2025, LCLGA engaged the following staff to deliver regional programs:

Position	Staff Member	Period
Interim Executive Officer	Deb Brokenshire	1 July 2024 - 12 September 2024
Connected & Active Communities Officer	Tony Elletson	30 June 2025
Destination Development Manager	Kate Napper	30 June 2025
Destination Development Co-ordinator	Emma Herring	30 June 2025
Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Administrator	Rhiannon Zammit	30 June 2025
Corporate Services Officer	Paul Manfrin	19 September 2024
Interim Executive Officer	Colin Byles	13 September 2024 - 30 June 2025
Executive Officer	Charlotte Edmunds	23 June 2025- 30 June 2025

Delegates to the Local Government Association of South Australia

Under the Constitution of the LGASA, regions are represented via appointed members to serve on the LGA Board and the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).

Representatives

	LCLGA Representative
SAROC	Mayor Lynette Martin OAM Mayor Liz Goossens (proxy)

SAROC is an important LGA committee for non-metropolitan Councils.

Membership is drawn from each of the six non-metropolitan Regional Local Government Associations with members meeting bi-monthly to discuss the key issues affecting non-metropolitan Councils.



Association Committees and Working Parties

To undertake specific projects or fulfil areas of operational responsibility, LCLGA convenes a number of committees and working parties. LCLGA acknowledges the work of all who have contributed to the following committees and working parties throughout 2024-2025.

Representatives as at 30th June 2025

LCLGA Roads and Transport Management Group

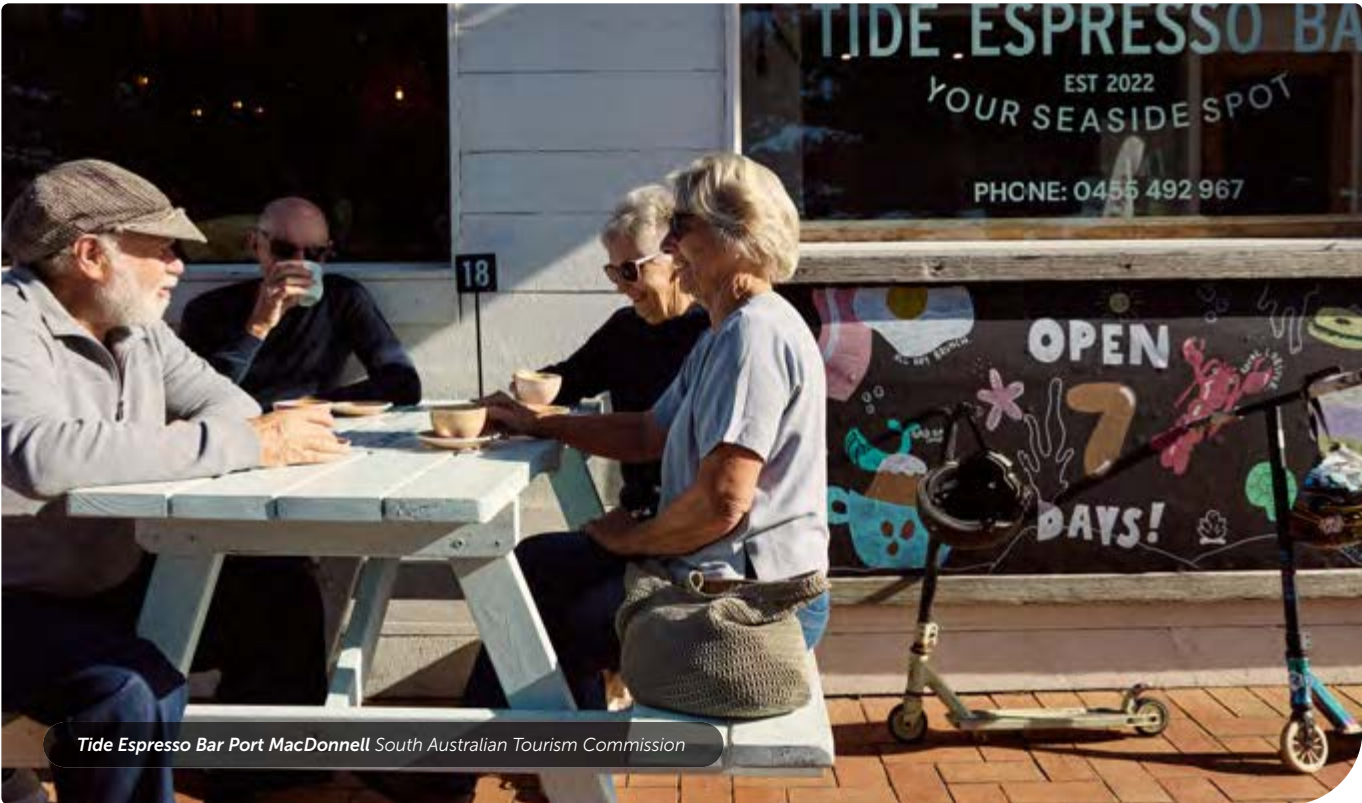
Current Appointment	Council
Mr Aaron Hillier	Tatiara District Council
Mr Abdulah Muhmud	City of Mount Gambier
Mr Daniel Willsmore	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Mr Dave Worthley	District Council of Robe
Mr Peter Halton	Wattle Range Council
Mr Tony Jordan	District Council of Grant
Mr Brett Holmes	Kingston District Council
Mr Colin Byles	Interim Executive Officer LCLGA

LCLGA Audit & Risk Committee

Current Appointment	Council
Mayor Lisa Ruffell	District Council of Robe
Mayor Jeff Pope	Kingston District Council
Anna Champness (CEO)	Tatiara District Council
Darryl Whicker (CEO)	District Council of Grant
Independent Member - vacant	

Tourism Management Group

Current Appointment	Council
Ms Amanda Stevens Ms Biddie Shearing	City of Mount Gambier
Ms Rebecca Perkin	District Council of Grant
Ms Tess Armfield	Kingston District Council
Ms Josie Collins	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Ms Camille Lehmann	District Council of Robe
Ms Kelly Hutchinson	Tatiara District Council
Ms Emma Clay Ms Nicole Croser	Wattle Range Council
Ms Kate Napper Ms Emma Herring Mr Colin Byles	LCLGA



Tide Espresso Bar Port MacDonnell South Australian Tourism Commission

Association Representation – Outside Organisations as at the 30 June 2025

LCLGA has numerous representatives on working parties, boards and committees including State Government boards, cross border bodies and regional boards and committees. This representation allows LCLGA to keep in touch with communities and contribute to new and existing initiatives.

During 2024-2025, LCLGA made or continued the following appointments to other organisations.

South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA)

Current Appointment	Council
Mayor Kylie Boston	District Council of Grant
Mayor Lisa Ruffell (Proxy)	District Council of Robe

Green Triangle Freight Action Plan

Current Appointment	Council
Kylie Boston	District Council of Grant
Mr Colin Byles	Interim Executive Officer LCLGA



Padthaway Landscape Sarah Densley

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT



Destination Development continued as a strategic function of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) throughout the 2024–25 financial year, with a focus on building a sustainable and high-performing visitor economy for the region in partnership with constituent councils and the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC).

The Limestone Coast tourism region recorded \$662 million in visitor expenditure for the year ending December 2024; the highest of any South Australian region outside of Adelaide, and an increase of \$136M on the prior year. This is consistent with an upward trend in visitation and expenditure experienced over the past decade (with the exception of COVID-19 impacts). While influenced by many factors, these results underscore the relevance of the visitor economy to the region and the opportunities for continued growth.

The 2024-25 year saw the conclusion of Destination Development as a project undertaken and funded by the LCLGA, as we embark upon transition to a new tourism model in response to the recommendations of the South Australian Regional Tourism Review.

Furthermore, the refreshed South Australia Tourism Plan 2030, published by the State Government in June, outlines a strategy to grow regional tourism from \$4 billion to \$5.1 billion. The Limestone Coast stands in a strong position to contribute to this goal.



Lacepede Seafood South Australian Tourism Commission

Strategy in Action 2024-25

Throughout the year the LCLGA remained focused on delivering outcomes aligned with the Destination Development Strategy 2025 - a regional framework established to guide coordinated action across marketing, experience development, industry capability, advocacy, and collaboration.

Destination Development highlights delivered during the reporting year included:

Limestone Coast Marketing and Storytelling

- @limestonecoast Facebook and Instagram reached a combined organic audience of 2.86 million, with strong engagement and follower growth (+30% on Facebook, +5.3% on Instagram). This reach was further amplified through reposting by prominent accounts - including @southaustralia, Glam Adelaide, and South Aussie with Cosi - extending visibility to an audience of millions.
- The Limestone Coast Destination Website (visitlimestonecoast.com.au) attracted over 183,000 page views and more than 79,000 new users, with strong engagement driven by long-form blog content that highlights visitor experiences and supports trip planning. Blogs generated 56,632 views, with users spending an average of 52 seconds per post - nearly double the site-wide average. Top-performing topics included Sinkholes and Swimming Hotspots of the Limestone Coast and Fishing in the Limestone Coast.
- Maintained regular quarterly e-newsletters to prospective visitors, sharing seasonal inspiration and 'what's on' information - helping drive traffic to the website and increase blog engagement.
- The Website also delivered over 6,700 direct leads to Limestone Coast businesses via Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) listings.

Regional Representation & Advocacy

- Represented the Limestone Coast at state and national tourism forums, including Destination Australia, the national Regional Tourism Organisation Forum (March 2025), and the South Australian Tourism Conference (June 2025).
- Ongoing engagement with cross-border and state-level tourism partners to represent regional priorities and foster collaboration
- Supported a week-long digital content shoot in the region led by the SATC (March 2025), contributing to the Limestone Coast's presence in the new Simple Pleasures destination brand platform
- Assisted with the delivery of SATC-funded regional marketing initiatives, including South Aussie with Cosi and Hello SA TV campaigns

Tourism Insights & Communication

- Continued distribution of a bi-monthly Limestone Coast Tourism Industry Updates e-newsletter to industry contacts, and management of the regional tourism industry Facebook group with more than 670 members.
- Maintained investment in monthly tourism data snapshot reports (prepared by Localis Analytics) to provide up-to-date regional insights and performance comparisons with neighbouring regions such as the Great Ocean Road and Grampians.

Industry Development & Support

- Facilitated strong operator engagement in SATC's Experience Development Program and the Tourism for Good storytelling workshop co-hosted with TiCSA and The Tourism Collective in Mount Gambier
- Supported and strengthened regional input into the Gather Round Festival of Footy campaign and associated road trip promotions
- Coordinated a comprehensive content refresh of the Limestone Coast regional visitor guide
- Supported the delivery of two online ATDW workshops specifically for Limestone Coast businesses

Destination Management Planning

The next phase of regional tourism strategy commenced during the 2024–25 reporting period, with consultation on a new Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan (DMP) progressing across the region. The DMP is being developed in partnership between the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) and the South Australian Tourism Commission and is intended to provide a shared framework to guide regional tourism priorities and investment through to 2030.

The DMP also presents an opportunity to reaffirm regional needs and build on the strong foundations laid through the Destination Development function. Work on the DMP will continue into the latter half of 2025, progressing alongside a broader period of transition for regional tourism in South Australia - including a statewide review of how tourism is structured and funded. The DMP provides an important opportunity to reaffirm the Limestone Coast's regional priorities and will help inform the region's focus areas moving forward.

LCLGA remains the appointed Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the Limestone Coast, with coordination support provided through a part-time Regional Tourism Manager appointed through to 30 June 2026 funded by the South Australian Tourism Commission.



Tourism for Good storytelling workshop, co-hosted by TICSA and The Tourism Collective, Mount Gambier



Destination Development Manager represents Limestone Coast at Destination Australia 2025 and Regional Tourism Organisation Forum hosted by Tourism Australia pictured with fellow regional tourism managers from Barossa, Adelaide, Fleurieu Peninsula, and Kangaroo Island regions.



Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan consultation workshops, delivered in partnership by LCLGA and SATC, held in Robe and Mount Gambier

Destination Development 2020–2025: Reflections and Highlights

The conclusion of the Destination Development function on 30 June 2025 marks the end of a defined period of strategic, regionally coordinated tourism activity - shaped by sustained council and SATC investment, and guided by the Destination Development Strategy 2020–2025. With this transition, it is timely to reflect on the broader shifts and outcomes delivered throughout the life of the Strategy.

When the Strategy was adopted, 2018 tourism statistics were used to establish targets across core areas including visitor expenditure, visits, and nights. These benchmarks were set before the onset of COVID-19, which brought ongoing challenges throughout the Strategy's implementation.

Despite this, the Limestone Coast tourism region recorded several notable outcomes:

- › Visitor expenditure increased from \$337 million to \$662 million over the life of the Strategy - exceeding the 2025 target of \$479 million.
- › For the year ending December 2024, the Limestone Coast recorded the highest visitor expenditure and highest total visitor numbers of all South Australian regions outside of Adelaide.
- › Overnight visits rose from 617,000 to 807,000, and visitor nights from 2 million to 2.26 million - nearing target.

A regional legacy has also been created through sustained investment in digital storytelling, which has helped elevate the profile of the Limestone Coast and inspire visitation by promoting events, attractions, and experiences across the region.

This work spanned the introduction of Limestone Coast social media platforms, development of a regional destination website, and region-wide curated content creation.

Since their founding in 2020, and through to June 2025, the @limestonecoast Facebook and Instagram channels have collectively:

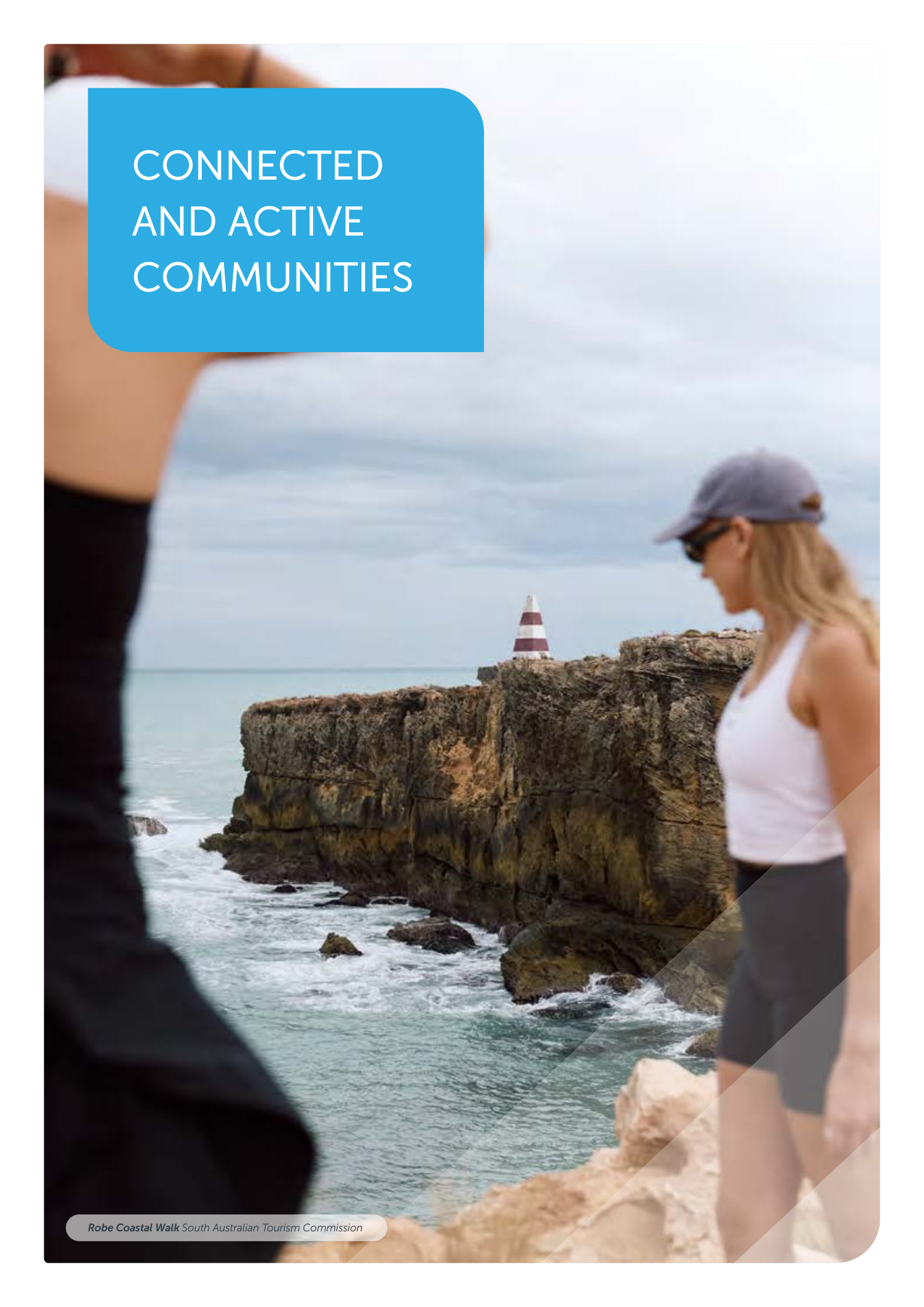
- › Reached a combined organic audience of over 7.5 million
- › Published 2,353 posts
- › Grown their follower base by 882% on Facebook and 2,715% on Instagram
- › Maintained high engagement rates - 6.2% on Facebook, 8.4% on Instagram
- › Been amplified by major media and tourism partners, including Tourism Australia, SATC, ABC, Glam Adelaide, Adelady, and South Aussie with Cosi

In just over three years (website analytics were first implemented in June 2022), the Limestone Coast Destination Website - visitlimestonecoast.com.au - has recorded:

- › More than 187,000 unique visitors
- › Over 397,000 total page views
- › An average of 11 direct leads per day to Limestone Coast businesses via ATDW listings - totalling over 12,000 leads.

This sustained focus on regional storytelling has played a valuable role in elevating the Limestone Coast's visibility and profile as a destination. In 2023, the region was named one of SATC's top-performing destinations on social media - a milestone that reflected the cumulative impact of consistent, high-quality content creation and digital coordination at a regional level. The @limestonecoast social channels have contributed to broader promotion by showcasing optimised, engaging content that aligns with state-wide destination marketing efforts and encourages further content creation and amplification.

More recently, the Limestone Coast was recognised as Australia's number one destination in Australian Traveller's Top 100 Greatest Getaways (May–July 2025 edition) - a reflection of the region's growing appeal and momentum, and a positive marker as the current strategy period draws to a close.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey baseball cap, sunglasses, and a white tank top, is walking along a rocky coastal path. In the background, a small red and white striped lighthouse sits atop a dark, layered rock cliff. The ocean is visible below the cliff, with white foam from the waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. A blue rounded rectangle is in the top left corner, and a grey rounded rectangle is in the bottom left corner.

CONNECTED AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

The Connected and Active Communities (CAC) Project is a place-based approach that aims to address poor levels of physical activity participation at a local level by investing in the strengths of our communities through a partnership approach.

Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) and The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) recognises that those living within our regional communities are the experts in their own lives, and through proactive engagement aim to work with and harness this expertise to inform, co-design and implement initiatives that have lasting impact.

By partnering with local communities, the CAC Project identifies opportunities to elevate the capacity of volunteers, decision makers and local leaders to create and deliver innovative and effective sport and recreation initiatives.

Harnessing diversity as a key strength of our region, the CAC Project connects and leverages traditional and non-traditional networks to bring communities together and positively impact physical activity participation rates through locally tailored solutions.

The CAC Project has delivered the following in the reporting period;

Young Leaders Program

11 students between the ages of 15 and 17 from across Limestone Coast have started the journey to participate in the inaugural Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and Duke of Edinburgh Awards Young Leaders Program. This is a fully subsidised program with no cost to the participant.

Key highlights of the Young Leaders Program include:

- › Learn Understand the inner workings of a sporting club, the issues affecting sport and how to make sporting clubs more accessible to the community.
- › Develop your communication skills, leadership and emotional intelligence and undertake sporting medical support training.
- › Experience - Get first-hand experience within a community sporting club and apply your skills & learning practically.

The course consists of –

- › **Physical Recreation** 6 months of Physical Activity (1 hour per week for 6 months)
- › **Voluntary Service** 3 months of volunteering at a community organisation/sporting club (1 hour per week for 3 months)
- › **Skill Development** - 5 workshops:
 - *How to increase participation in sport (delivered by ORSR)*
 - *How does a sporting club run (delivered by ORSR)*
 - *Improving your communication (delivered TBC)*
 - *Developing your life skills and emotional intelligence (delivered by Global Community Sports)*
 - *Maintaining your members health (delivered by SA Sports Medicine Association)*
 - *Communication workshop, focussing on the following areas:*
 - *Confidence, running a meeting, Grant writing, Having difficult conversations, How to influence, Social media training.*

Young Leaders Program

Plus 1 of either:

- › Community Coaching Essential Skills (Delivered by Australian Sports Commission) Community Officiating Essential Skills (Delivered by Australian Sports Commission).
- › Adventurous Journey Overnight stay at AFL Max (TBC) Tour of new ORSR/SASI Cultural Awareness Training (delivered by Tjindu Foundation).

This program is free of costs to the participants, and they are able to gain a minimum of 10 SACE Points, by completing the program. We have at least 1 person from all 7 council areas in the program

Regional Workshops Delivered

The CAC Program delivered Child Safe Officer, Responsible Service of Alcohol, Grant Writing, Grant Readiness, Cultural Inclusivity and Food Safety Supervisor workshops across the region in the reporting period.

The Power of Her Sport Awards

The CAC Officer was apart of the selection Panel for the inaugural Power of Her Sport Awards and attended the Award Ceremony on the 12th March. The Naracoorte Little Athletics Club was successful in the Champion Local Club – Regional section and Chloe Mackenzie was a joint winner in the emerging leader category.

Chloe created the very first South-East junior girl's cricket group to assist in the development of junior girls as well as to give them an opportunity to play and train with only other girls. Previously, junior girls in the south-east were only able to play cricket in a mixed gender competition, so Chloe created a 'Girls only' group to support and encourage them early on in their cricket journey.

By conducting training sessions at various cricket grounds in the Limestone Coast region eg. Naracoorte, Penola and Mt Gambier, Chloe ensures 'girls only' cricket is inclusive and accessible at regional local cricket clubs. Sometimes she travels over 200kms after her working day just to conduct a 'girls only' training session.

Support for Community Clubs

- › The CAC Officer has worked with multiple clubs on a range of Funding Programs.
- › The CAC Officer worked with the EQUIPP Project through Uni SA on Co-designing an educational campaign for people living with chronic pain in the Limestone Coast and Western Victoria. The aim of this study, EQUIPP: Co-design Workshops, is to engage with locals to co-design a chronic pain-targeted educational intervention that is specific to your community.
- › For this study, we are running a workshop with people who live and/or work in the Limestone Coast. EQUIPP is a research project with a bold vision: to change the way Australians understand pain.
www.equipp.org.au

Sports Programs Supporting Migrants

Project based around soccer and migrants. We are supporting soccer in the Tatiara, with a focus on the migrant community's needs, by exploring ways in which the strengths of the community can be leveraged to create positive physical activity outcomes to establish active lives and connected communities.

There are currently multiple forms of informal Soccer participation occurring in the community. We have supported Senior Soccer with equipment and Governance support. This program has now expanded into having a Basketball component to it. This is proving to be very successful.



Tatiara Migrant Program



Tatiara Migrant Program

Paralympic and Disability Sport Initiatives

The CAC Officer worked with the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) Paralympic section to activate Physical Activity opportunities for people in the Limestone Coast. SASI have agreed to come down for a 4-day initial visit to work with clubs, councils and schools to look at setting up sustainable and ongoing disability sport programs for young and old in the region.

These programs will be supported by and managed by the SASI Paralympic team and the CAC program. They will be grass root programs open to young and old. There will also be Talent Identification Testing run for young athletes with a disability with a hope to add a Paralympic section to our local Academy.

The Power of Her Event

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (through the Connected and Active Communities Program), in partnership with the Office for Recreation Sport and Racing, The City of Mount Gambier and University of SA Mount Gambier Campus was proud to present 'The Power of Her' - an inspiring event dedicated to celebrating and empowering females in sport. The event was held at Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre on Thursday 21st November.

The Power of Her brought together influential voices, thought leaders and change makers for an unforgettable day and night of connection, learning and growth.

The event was held in two parts.

The first, a Schools specific session, for female students, held in the morning that discussed topics relevant to those in attendance, not only in sport but in everyday life. Topics such as, Body Image, Leadership, what it takes to reach their goals and How to navigate life changes that happen to them as they grow.

The students then heard from Paris Olympic Bronze Medallist Caitlin Parker, in an inspiring talk about breaking down stereotypes and overcoming barriers. Then a keynote address from Former Australian Diamond Captain Natalie Von Bertouch and current Thunderbird Premiership Captain Hannah Petty, which engaged the crowd and involved them in the discussion.

Questions from the students were then forthcoming, and so engaged where the students, we ran out of time for all the questions. Students were able to approach the presenters for photos and to discuss things personally before they left.

The second session saw keynote addresses from Natalie Von Bertouch and Caitlin Parker, along with a panel discussion with Natalie, Caitlin, Nicola Jensen (Pelvic Pain Foundation), Holly Bailey (Play Like a Girl Foundation), Hannah Petty, Lorraine Pitman (The Embrace Collective) and former Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy member and current South Australian Sports Institute Cycling athlete Sarah Dally.

The event was packed with powerful ideas and insights, engaging presentations, lively conversations and personal stories. Not to mention highly practical tools to empower change in gender equality. Both sessions were superbly led by Limestone Coast born, Channel 9 News Presenter Alice Monfries as MC.

Never before have we seen such a collection of sporting legends and leaders in significant female focused areas come together on the Limestone Coast in one setting. Over 200 people came to both sessions.



Holly Bailey and Caitlin Parker



Caitlin Parker

Mental Health Support – Switch The Play Program

The CAC program worked with Feel Better (Mental Health Professionals) to develop and roll out the Switch The Play: A Grassroots Mental Health Program for Sporting Clubs.

Switch The Play is an innovative grassroots mental health program designed by FeelBetter Limestone Coast for implementation within sporting clubs. The program aims to provide ongoing, consistent, and accessible mental health and well-being support to club members and the broader community.

The program provides localised easily accessible mental health support for sporting clubs, with support being long term and ongoing in nature to avoid the gap often experienced with fly-in-fly-out mental health models which provide information however do not provide the tangible mental health support that clubs need at the times when it is needed.

Not having ongoing accessible support is viewed as a barrier to clubs embedding mental health and wellbeing as a natural part of their operations, as clubs are already normally overburdened with role responsibilities being managed mostly by volunteers.

Having access to accredited mental health social workers to support and guide designated club wellbeing support persons will enable reduction of the fear and responsibility likely associated with a person agreeing to take on a volunteer role of this kind.

Understanding that support will be readily available to the volunteer within the wellbeing role will we envisage make it much easier clubs to present the role to their club and for a club person to agree to being attached to the role.

Program Objectives:

1. Reduce stigma surrounding mental health support-seeking
2. Reach a wide demographic, particularly adult males and young men
3. Address high male suicide rates in rural and remote South Australia
4. Provide informal, less confronting support at a grassroots level
5. Normalise mental health discussions within sporting communities

Program Design:

- > Implementation within sporting clubs
- > Dedicated wellbeing role attached to each club
- > Access to accredited mental health social workers – FeelBetter Limestone Coast
- > Online group sessions for wellbeing club contact available
- > Individual consultations for wellbeing contact available
- > Website materials and resources on mental health topics available at any time
- > Critical incident support available provided by AMHSW FeelBetter Limestone Coast

Supporting At-Risk Youth

Partnered with Department of Child Protection and are in the early phase of running a project that will provide children at risk with opportunities to participate and benefit from sport they choose to be involved in. Children and Sports have been selected and are being supported through the CAC program to be able to attend trainings and games and to be able to do so safely.

Facility Planning and Governance Support

Delivered a Facility Analysis report which will provide valuable data in partnership with Naracoorte Lucindale Council about the viability and future of facilities in their council area.

The CAC Officer also continued to provide many clubs across the region with Governance and off field support, including, Constitution, Strategic Planning and Grant/Funding support.

LIMESTONE
COAST REGIONAL
SPORTING ACADEMY



GOLD

U20 Women's Heptathlon

Leila Croker

In partnership with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and the LCLGA, the Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy (LCRSA) inducted its first Inductees in October 2017 and commenced working with these Athletes in November, as part of a Pilot Program.

Since then, the LCLGA have been successful in meeting certain requirements from the ORSR and have continued to obtain funding to run the program ongoing. Once again, the LCLGA partnered with the ORSR and the seventh year of the LCRSA was launched in October 2023. The program was also supported through the Local Government Research and Development Scheme funding program.

We were pleased to welcome back Hockey SA, Tennis SA, SASI Cycling, Swimming SA, Mount Gambier Pioneers, SA Country Basketball and Athletics SA as official partners of the Academy. We also welcomed for the first time Glenelg Football Club as a partner in a new AFLW Program.

We were able to offer skill-based sessions for athletes in these sports and coaching development for local coaches as well. We also continued to offer a Lonestar program for athletes from any sporting background.

The LCRSA inducted 82 athletes into the Academy for the 2024/25 iteration.

These athletes are provided with a 12-month Gym membership, a 12-month Elite Athlete Strength and Conditioning Program (2 sessions a week at the gym

and an at home program), Coaching, Educational Sessions (Sports Psychology, Media Training, Coping with Pressure, Sporting Routines and Sports Nutrition), and High-level testing at the University of SA's High Performance Centre in Adelaide.

We are also able to live stream our Education sessions to athletes across the region who are unable to attend due to travel.

The program has given the athletes the chance to understand the training and preparation requirements to become an elite athlete, as well as improve their performances at school as well as on the field or track.

We also continued our partnership with Uni SA, who provide us with the venue for our Education sessions and Testing. The LCRSA is extremely pleased to also be supported by the M & G Hotel Group, who have provided us with 30 nights of free accommodation for athletes and families, as well as a reduced rate for athletes and families on an ongoing basis.

The LCRSA has four main objectives



To identify regional sporting talent



To educate and develop youth in the region



To provide pathways to State and national representation



To develop the skills of regional coaches

Outside of these four main sporting objectives, our key goal is to help young people become leaders in our communities.

The Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy (LCRSA) has officially adopted an independent governance structure, marking its evolution from being managed by the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA). This pivotal development represents a major step forward for athlete development in South Australia, enhancing the support available to emerging sports talent across the region.

The LCRSA is set to become the first regional academy in South Australia to operate under an independent governance model. This transition has been carefully considered by the LCLGA, with thorough due diligence conducted to assess the benefits of independent operations. The Academy will now be managed and operated locally, with strategic and operational support from Regional Academies of Sport Ltd (RAS Ltd), its parent organisation, which provides expertise in governance, strategy and risk, finance, marketing and more.

The move to independence will allow the LCRSA to access a broader network of expertise, resources and support, while continuing to deliver tailored programs that reflect the region's sporting culture and aspirations.



With the Brisbane 2032 Olympics on the horizon, now is the time to invest in the next generation of regional talent. Programs delivered in the Limestone Coast, and those still to be developed, will not only nurture future sporting stars but also help shape a stronger, more resilient generation, equipped for life beyond the playing field. It's an incredibly exciting time to be an emerging athlete in South Australia.

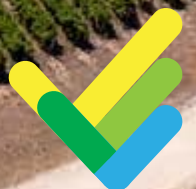


LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORTS

30 JUNE 2025

Farmers Leap Padthaway Sarah Cunningham

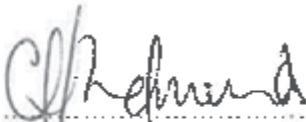


Limestone Coast Local Government Association
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been authorised by the Association to certify the financial statements in their final form. In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards.
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Association's financial position at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.
- internal controls implemented by the Association provide a reasonable assurance that the Association's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year.
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Association's accounting and other records.


Charlotte Edmunds
Executive Officer


Mayor Lynette Martin
President

Date: 8/8/25

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions	2	915,891	874,335
Other Contributions	2	40,000	40,000
Other Income	2	80,997	114,681
Project Income	2	371,024	378,368
Total Income		1,407,912	1,407,384
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses	3	187,053	201,624
Employee Costs	3	584,805	638,542
Project Expenditure	3	532,627	625,676
Total Expenses		1,304,484	1,465,842
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)			
transferred to Equity Statement		103,428	(58,458)
Other Comprehensive Income			
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>			
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		-	-
Total Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		103,428	(58,458)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	594,504	636,311
Trade and Other Receivables	4	7,178	9,201
Total Assets		601,682	645,512
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	5	239,415	70,923
Provisions	5	7,403	70,089
Other Liabilities	5	-	252,405
Total Current Liabilities		246,817	393,417
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	5	-	658
Total Non-current Liabilities		-	658
Total Liabilities		246,817	394,075
NET ASSETS		354,865	251,437
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		354,865	251,437
TOTAL EQUITY		354,865	251,437

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY for the year ended 30 June 2025

		Accumulated Surplus	TOTAL EQUITY
2025	Notes	\$	\$
Balance at end of previous reporting period		<u>251,437</u>	<u>251,437</u>
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		103,428	103,428
Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of period		354,865	354,865
2024			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		309,895	309,895
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(58,458)	(58,458)
Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of period		251,437	251,437

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS for the year ended 30 June 2025

		2025	2024
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Local Government Council Contributions		915,891	874,335
Other Contributions		40,000	40,000
Other Income		80,997	114,681
Project Income		120,642	240,332
Payments			
Operating Expenses		(151,508)	(173,162)
Employee Costs		(667,078)	(613,228)
Project Expenditure		(380,751)	(625,676)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	6	(41,807)	(142,718)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		-	-
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		-	-
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		(41,807)	(142,718)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		636,311	779,029
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	4	594,504	636,311

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1 - MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates, and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Limestone Coast LGA's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar (\$).

2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

Limestone Coast Local Government Association (Association) is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at Level 1, 9 Bay Road, Mount Gambier, SA, 5290. These financial statements include Limestone Coast Local Government Associations direct operations and all entities through which Limestone Coast Local Government Association controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on Limestone Coast Local Government Association as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

3 Income recognition

The Association recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

Income from Local Government Council Contributions includes income for "pass-through" expenditure for Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC), SA Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA) and the provision of heritage services.

4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and other Financial Instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Limestone Coast Local Government Associations option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1 - MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (con't)

5 Payables

5.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

5.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

6 Employee Benefits

6.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based on costs) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based on costs) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Weighted average discount rate	3.927% (2024 3.929%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2024, 1 year)

No accrual is made for sick leave as Limestone Coast Local Government Associations experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. The Association does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

7 GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

8 Leases

At the inception of a contract, the Association assesses if the contract is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right of use assets and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Association where the Association is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (lease with remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

9 New Accounting Standards and UIG interpretations

The Association has assessed all the standards / interpretations which are not yet effective and have determined that there is no expected material impact on the reported financial position or performance.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
NOTE 2: INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions			
City of Mount Gambier		252,677	241,162
District Council of Grant		112,556	107,456
Wattle Range Council		191,873	183,140
Naracoorte Lucindale Council		129,504	123,628
District Council of Robe		60,867	58,140
Tatiara District Council		109,867	104,890
Kingston District Council		58,547	55,919
Total		915,891	874,335
Other Contributions			
LGA SA		40,000	40,000
Total		40,000	40,000
Other Income			
Interest		36,352	42,894
Participant Contribution		26,421	26,027
Other		18,225	45,760
Total		80,997	114,681
Project Income			
Tourism (Includes SA Tourism Commission payments)		80,840	52,198
Connective Active Communities (Office of Sport and Rec payments)		155,000	155,000
Sports Academy & Connective Active Communities (Office of Sport and Rec payments)		80,600	100,000
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		54,584	71,170
Total		371,024	378,368

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
NOTE 3: Expenditure			
Operating Expenses			
Audit Fees (2023/2024 & 2024/2025)		8,450	4,018
Accounting Fees		23,684	25,350
Computing and IT		15,641	27,108
Rent		24,735	20,824
Insurance		19,030	18,247
Vehicles		27,305	30,048
Chairperson Allowance		9,380	9,160
Travel, Accommodation and Meals		25,096	13,455
Relocation Costs		3,884	-
Other		29,847	53,415
Total		187,053	201,624
Employee Costs			
Salaries and Wages		549,128	540,561
Workcover		6,890	6,241
Superannuation		59,063	57,530
Leave Provision Movement		(38,835)	27,262
FBT		8,557	6,949
Total		584,805	638,542
Project Expenditure			
Tourism		105,781	102,126
Connective Active Communities		40,549	51,047
Sports Academy		95,926	158,063
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		73,450	79,577
Other		216,921	234,862
Total		532,627	625,676

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
NOTE 4: Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Cash at Bank		594,504	636,311
Total		594,504	636,311
Trade and Other Receivables			
Trade Debtors		5,040	10,220
Provision for Doubtful Debts		-	(2,980)
Accrued Interest		2,138	1,961
Total		7,178	9,201
NOTE 5: Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables			
Goods and Services		226,352	42,287
Accrued Expenses		7,231	26,159
Other		5,831	2,476
Total		239,415	70,923
Provisions - Current			
Employee Entitlements including On-Costs		7,403	70,089
Total		7,403	70,089
Provisions - Non-Current			
Employee Entitlements including On-Costs		-	658
Total		-	658
Other Liabilities			
LC Regional Sport Academy		-	100,000
Connected and Active Communities (CAC)		-	135,600
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		-	16,805
Total		-	252,405

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
NOTE 6: Reconciliation of Cash Flow Statement			

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Total cash & equivalent assets	4	594,504	636,311
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		594,504	636,311

(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

Net Surplus (Deficit)	103,427	(58,458)
Non-cash items in Income Statement		
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits	(63,345)	25,314
	40,082	(33,144)
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
Net (increase) decrease in receivables	2,023	2,127
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables	168,492	28,462
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities	(252,404)	(140,164)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations	(41,807)	(142,719)

(c) Financing Arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:

Corporate Credit Cards	5,000	11,024
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LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

NOTE 7: Financial Instruments

All financial instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables*.

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits	Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, interest is recognised when earned Terms & conditions: Deposits are returning interest rates between 4.15% and 4.55% (2024: 4.30% and 4.55%). Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
Receivables - Fees & other charges	Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method Terms & conditions: Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although the association is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Receivables - other levels of government	Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method. Terms & conditions: Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments. Carrying amount: approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	Accounting Policy: Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Association. Terms & conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms. Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7: Financial Instruments (Cont.)

Liquidity Analysis

2025	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	594,504	-	-	594,504	594,504
Receivables	7,178	-	-	7,178	7,178
Total	601,683	-	-	601,683	601,683
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	235,203	-	-	235,203	235,203
Total	235,203	-	-	235,203	235,203

2024	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year < 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	636,311	-	-	636,311	636,311
Receivables	9,201	-	-	9,201	9,201
Total	645,512	-	-	645,512	645,512
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	54,338	-	-	54,338	54,338
Total	54,338	-	-	54,338	54,338

The following interest rates were applicable to Limestone Coast LGA at balance date:

	30 June 2025		30 June 2024	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$
At Call	4.15	594,504	4.55	636,311
Term Deposits		-		-
		594,504		636,311

Net Fair Value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of Limestone Coast Local Government Association.

Risk Exposures:

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Association is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. Except as detailed in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Limestone Coast LGA boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of the Associations financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that the Association will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Association has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate investments.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

NOTE 8: Uniform Presentation of Financial Statements

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions		915,891	874,335
Other Contributions		40,000	40,000
Other Income		80,997	114,681
Project Income		371,024	378,368
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses		(187,053)	(201,624)
Employee Costs		(584,805)	(638,542)
Project Expenditure		(532,627)	(625,676)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital Amounts		103,428	(58,458)
Less Net Outlays in Existing Assets			
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets		-	-
Add Back Depreciation Amortisation and Impairment		-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets		-	-
		-	-
Less Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets			
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets		-	-
Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets		-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets		-	-
		-	-
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year		103,428	(58,458)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2025, the Association is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in the this financial report.

Note 10 – Capital Commitments

At 30 June 2025, the Association is unaware of any capital or leasing commitments which have not already been recorded elsewhere in the this financial report.

Note 11 – Events after the end of the reporting period

There were no events subsequent to 30 June 2025 that need to be disclosed in the financial statements.

Note 12 – Economic Dependence

Limestone Coast Local Government Association is dependent on the Local Councils within its jurisdiction and other funding bodies for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the Board believe that the Local Councils and other bodies will continue to fund the Association.

Note 13 – Capital Management

The Board controls the capital of the entity to ensure that adequate cash flows are generated to fund its programs and that returns from investments are maximised within tolerable risk parameters. The Board ensure that the overall risk management strategy is in line with this objective. The Board operates under policies approved by the board. Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the Board on a regular basis. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements. The entity's capital consists of financial liabilities supported by financial assets. There has been no changes to the strategy adopted by the Board to control the capital of the entity since the previous financial year.

Note 14 – Related Party Disclosure

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Board of Management and Executive Officer. In all, four people were paid the following total compensation:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Salaries, allowances & Other Short Term benefits	\$ 172,393	\$ 178,849
Post-Employment Benefits	\$ 905	\$ 15,875
TOTAL	\$ 173,298	\$ 194,724

The specific banding of key management personnel and Board of management from the Limestone Coast Local Government Association Incorporated during the year was as follows;

\$	2025	2024
Under \$50,000	3	1
\$50,000 to \$100,000	0	2
\$100,001 to \$150,000	1	0
\$150,001 to \$200,000	0	0

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Other related parties includes close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel individually or collectively with their close family members.

Note 14 – Related Party Disclosure (Cont.)

There were no transactions with other related parties.

Related Party Entity	Amounts received from Related Party during the Financial Year
	2025
	\$
City of Mount Gambier	278,944
District Council of Grant	123,812
Wattle Range Council	211,060
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	142,454
District Council of Robe	66,954
Tatiara District Council	120,854
Kingston District Council	64,402
TOTAL	1,008,480

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (the Authority), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statements of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory information and the Certification of the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*, *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described as in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*, and for such controls as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that the audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by those charged with governance.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEAN NEWBERY



SAMANTHA CRETEN
Director

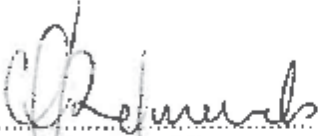
19 August 2025

Limestone Coast Local Government Association
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Limestone Coast Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Association's Auditor, Dean Newbery, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

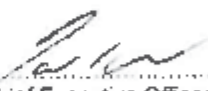
This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

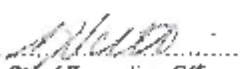

Executive Officer
LC Local Government Association


President
LC Local Government Association

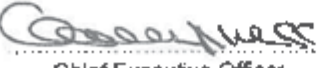

Chief Executive Officer
District Council of Grant


Chief Executive Officer
City of Mount Gambier


Chief Executive Officer
Kingston District Council


Chief Executive Officer
Naracoorte Lucindale Council


Chief Executive Officer
District Council of Robe


Chief Executive Officer
Tatiana District Council

Date: 8/8/25

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Dean Newbery
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Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 22 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 to the Limestone Coast Local Government Association

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2025, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Part 4A, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (5) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.



SAMANTHA CRETEN
DIRECTOR

19 August 2025

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) extends its sincere appreciation to its constituent councils for their continuing support and collaboration.

We acknowledge the valuable contributions and guidance of all board Members over the 2024-25 year: President Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM) - City of Mount Gambier, Vice President Mayor Liz Goossens - Tatiara District Council, Mayor Kylie Boston - District Council of Grant, Mayor Jeff Pope - Kingston District Council, Mayor Patrick Ross - Naracoorte Lucindale Council and Mayor Lisa Ruffell - District Council of Robe.

The 2024-25 year has been one of significant change for the Association as we have embarked upon a shift towards an advocacy focused structure.

The transition period of the LCLGA during 2024-25 was led by highly experienced and capable leadership. Deb Brokenshire served as Interim Executive Officer from June 2024 for a three-month term whilst the strategic direction was established. Colin Byles then took over the interim position to lead the Association's structural transition including the recruitment of a new Executive Officer to lead the new advocacy-focused organisation going forward. We wholeheartedly thank Deb and Colin for their collective efforts over the past 12 months.

Equally, each of the LCLGA staff members have demonstrated integrity and professionalism of the highest regard during the transition period ensuring programs continued seamlessly throughout the various changes and challenges that comes with organisational restructure.

Immense appreciation and respect is extended to Tony Elletson, Connected & Active Communities Officer; Kate Napper, Destination Development Manager; Emma Herring, Destination Development Coordinator; Rhiannon Zammit, Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Administrator; and Paul Manfrin, Corporate Services Officer.

The Australian Local Government Association, the Local Government Association of SA (including support via the Regional Capacity Building Program, which funded both regional tourism marketing activities and the Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy), and the five other regional local government associations in SA continue to provide guidance and support to the LCLGA, for which we extend our gratitude.

Our strong working relationship with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast board members and staff also remains an invaluable component in advancing the region's interests and strengthening our economic future. We look forward to continuing to partner with RDALC towards achieving our shared goals.

While the 2024-25 period has been one of transition, the founding principles have remained at the forefront of decision making and continue to guide us into the next chapter of our 140-year-old Association. While each council is unique in its circumstance and situation we are united in a shared responsibility and vision for the future of our region. We are committed to continued regional collaboration that crosses council boundaries to ensure effective solutions and shared burdens.

Our potential for growth is strengthened by local government cooperation to drive the social, environmental and community development goals, always ultimately advocating for the region's best asset - its people.

We look forward to the LCLGA continuing to play a vital role in shaping and supporting the future of our region as we have done since 1885.

Better Together.

Charlotte Edmunds

Executive Officer LCLGA





Wattle Range
COUNCIL

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