

2023/2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN *Summary*



Wattle Range
COUNCIL



CEO'S *Message*

The Summary Annual Business Plan 2023/24 provides a brief overview of Council's key priorities and changes for the forthcoming year.

In 2023/24 a key focus is on the renewal of existing assets and the implementation of strategies that capitalise on attracting residents and tourists to the Council area.

The following initiatives are a particular focus for 2023/24:

- Finalisation of designs and commencement of construction of the Council Service Centre,
- Increased investment and extension of services on Council's road network,
- Implementation of the Strategic Planning Zoning Review across the district,
- Continuation of increased focus on delivering tourism strategies, community events, support & activities council wide, and
- Commencement of the implementation of the wayfinding signage strategy across the district.

In addition, Council will continue a number of initiatives that were implemented as part of prior year's response to the COVID 19 emergency:

- Focus on generating economic stimulus to the greater community through major infrastructure projects;
- Continuation of the allocation of \$100,000 to enable community groups an opportunity to access these funds for major infrastructure projects; and
- Prepare "Shovel Ready" strategies that can be utilised to leverage future grant opportunities for major infrastructure projects.

In developing this Annual Business Plan, Council encountered many competing demands for community projects, annual cost increases, and the ongoing requirement for asset renewals; all which need to be prioritised.

The challenge for Council is to deliver a budget that meets current and future community expectations whilst limiting any rate increases and minimising the impact to ratepayers under the current circumstances. In consideration of this, Council is set to raise rates by 7.9% (plus growth of 0.59% from new properties).

The rate increase is in line with current Consumer Price Index (CPI) rates. It should be noted that inflation will continue to cause pressure on the operations of Council with increased pricing having direct impacts on the delivery of services and ratepayer affordability.

For the 2023/24 financial year, Council is seeking to deliver an operational budget of \$33.93 Million and a capital expenditure budget of \$10.77 Million. Within this budget, Council will continue to focus on increasing asset renewals. In 2023/24 \$6.42 Million has been allocated for the renewal of a wide range of existing facilities and infrastructure. Council has also committed \$4.35 Million for the upgrade and acquisition of new assets.

A strong focus of the capital budget is the funding of roads. \$1.33 Million has been allocated to re-sheet unsealed roads and a further \$1.53 Million for resealing roads across the district. In addition, Council is expending funds to purchase the replacement of \$1.63 Million of plant and equipment.

For the forthcoming year, Council is focused on delivering the strategies contained within the Annual Business Plan including delivery of an extensive capital works program.

Ben Gower

Chief Executive Officer

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Council capital expenditure for 2023/24 is set to be \$10.77M and key projects include:

- Council Service Centre (Stage 1 - Construction) **\$3M**
- Queen Street, Penola Stormwater (Stage 1 - Construction) **\$300K**
- Millicent Swimming Lake (Repair Concrete Shell Lining) **\$600K**
- Beachport Recreation Centre (Carpark Sealing) **\$165K**
- Implementation of Pedestrian Wayfinding Signage (Penola & Millicent) **\$100K**

OPERATING EXPENDITURE

Council operating expenditure for 2023/24 is set to be \$33.93M and key projects include:

- Strategic Planning & Zoning - (Planning Code Amendment) **\$30K**
- Funding (Stage 1 - Installation of Mobile Towers) Telstra Regional Connectivity Program **\$138K**
- Continued support and funding for various community events **\$46K**
- Removal of pine trees Southend Tennis Courts **\$15K**
- Dredging of the Beachport Boat ramp **\$100K**
- Survey and design plans for the renewal of infrastructure Petticoat Lane, Penola **\$20K**

Rates due by

QUARTER 1

13 September 2023

QUARTER 2

6 December 2023

QUARTER 3

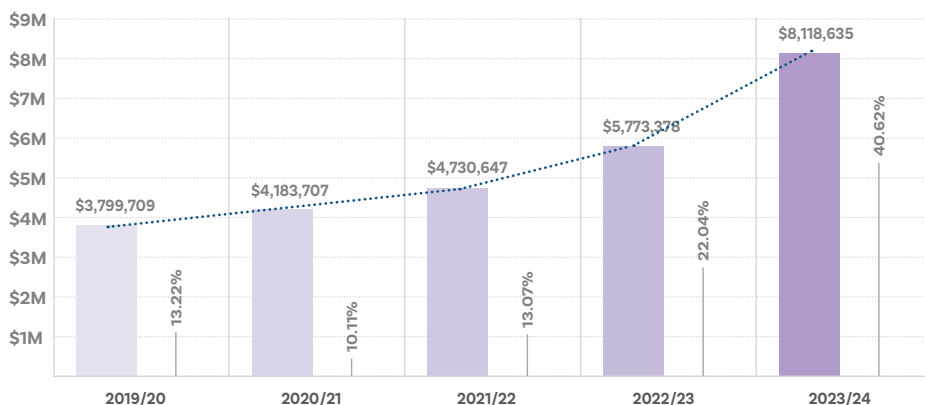
6 March 2024

QUARTER 4

5 June 2024

RATES *in summary*

Total Capital Valuation \$,000



RATE CODES	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Primary Production	Vacant Land	Other
RATE IN THE \$	0.3398	0.3398	0.3398	0.1858	0.5102	0.5102
% CHANGE	11.25% ↓	3.60% ↓	3.60% ↓	27.11% ↓	2.68% ↑	2.68% ↑

Minimum Charge \$650 (applicable to 22.7% of rateable properties).

Other Charges

Waste Collection			Community Waste Water Management Scheme (CWMS)				
	3 BIN	2 BIN		PENOLA	SOUTHEND	KALANGADOO	BEACHPORT
Full Rate	\$352	\$275	Occupied	\$720	\$720	\$720	\$817
Pensioner	\$232	\$185	Vacant	\$538	\$538	\$538	\$613

Regional Landscape Levy (State Government Tax)

Residential, Vacant & Other	Commercial	Industrial	Primary Production
\$90.30	\$135.25	\$211.70	\$389.30

For an explanation of the Landscape Levy, please contact the Limestone Coast Landscape Board at 11 Helen Street, Mt Gambier, email lc.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au or phone 08 8735 1204.

Operating Income

Council has budgeted to receive operating income of \$31.67M in 2023/24. This income is derived from a number of different sources including rates and charges, statutory and user charges, grants, subsidies and contributions, investment income and other income.

Rebates for Pensioners

Council will continue to provide a pensioner rebate for the waste collection service charge. The rebate will be provided to eligible pensioners who have either an Aged or Disability Pension or a Department for Veteran Affairs Card.

Ratepayers who had previously received this rebate in 2022/23 will continue to receive this rebate during 2023/24.

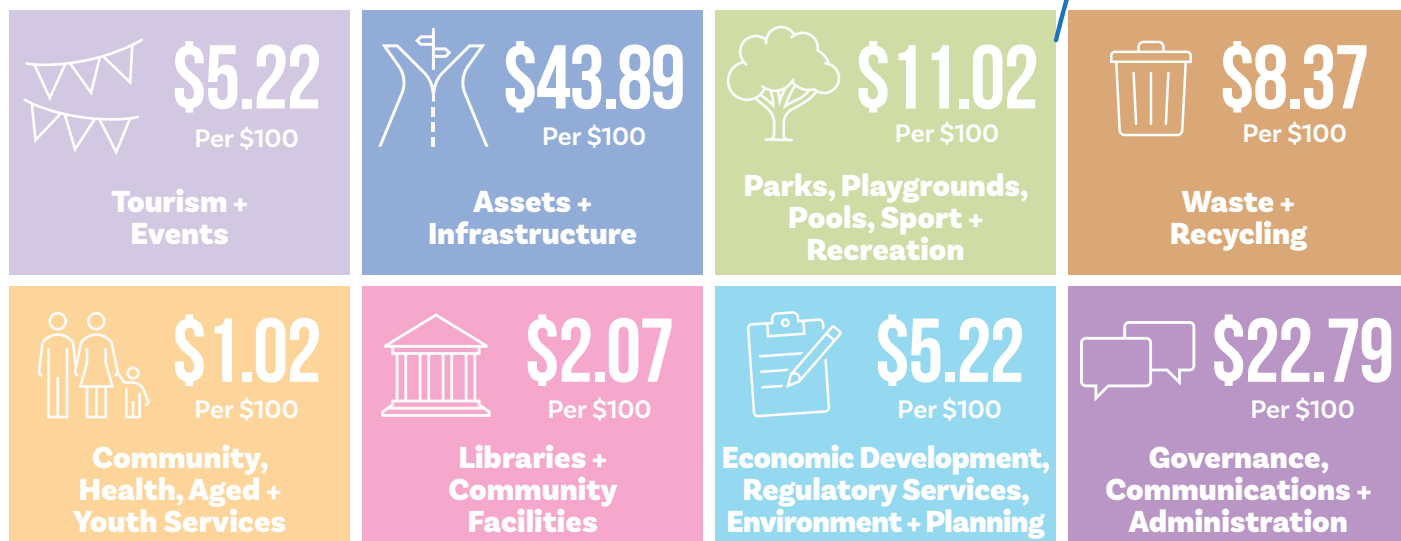
However, if you are eligible and did not receive this rebate during the 2022/23 year, you will be required to fill out an application form and show proof of the appropriate pension card to Council staff. Applications will be received up to September 29, 2023.

Can I object to my valuation increase?

Yes, you can object to your valuation by making application to the Office of the Valuer General. Your objection can be made online or by post at the following address:

Office of the Valuer-General
GPO Box 1354
Adelaide SA 5001

EVERY \$100 OF YOUR RATES *is spent on...*



CAPITAL expenditure

Capital Expenditure \$10.77M works program for 2023/24 (Key Expenditure Projects/Areas)

Council Service Centre (Stage 1 Construction) **\$3M**

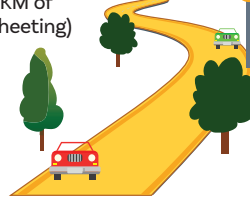


Kerb & Gutter (replacement of sections) **\$220K**

Footpath (replacement and construction of new) **\$226K**



Unsealed Roads (37.8KM of Re-sheeting) **\$1.33M**



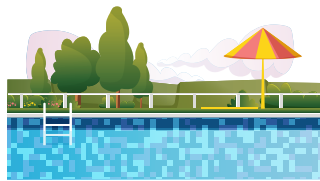
Sealed Roads (Resealing 27.2KM of Road, Carpark (Seals) and Road Design Works) **\$1.53M**



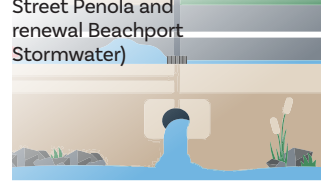
Halls & Other Buildings (partial repair and refurbishment), **Parks & Gardens/Playground Repairs** **\$1.82M**



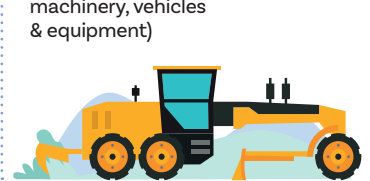
Swimming Lake (refurbishment of the concrete shell lining) **\$600K**



Stormwater (Stage I Construction Queen Street Penola and renewal Beachport Stormwater) **\$532K**



Plant (Purchasing replacement plant machinery, vehicles & equipment) **\$1.63M**



2022/2023 CAPITAL WORKS highlights

Coonawarra Rail Trail **\$2.065m**



Coonawarra Rail Trail is a shared walking & cycling trail using the disused railway line. The sealed section of the trail spans 18.7km from Riddoch Street, Penola to Glenroy-Bool Lagoon Road, Coonawarra. This project was made possible through the generous support of both the Federal and State Governments.

The official opening was held in November 2022 to coincide with the successful staging of the Coonawarra Running Festival.



Wendy's Walk Stairway, Beachport **\$200k**



A major upgrade to Wendy's Walk stairway that connects Foster Street to Bowman Scenic Drive. The new Wendy's Walk Stairway was opened by the Mayor on May 10, 2023 and is now a key tourist attraction for Beachport.

Dergholm Road Intersection Upgrade, Penola **\$150k**

Council received Special Local Roads Funding in order to upgrade and widen the intersection of Dergholm Road and Gordon Street, Penola; an intersection which is on a critical freight route for the region.

Replacement pontoons, Beachport Boatramp **\$135k**

The pontoons at the Beachport Boat ramp were replaced, along with the addition of gangways and handrails to improve user safety.



Koala Room Upgrade, Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre **\$120k**

The Koala / Babies Room at the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre has received an upgrade. This project included the renewal of the flooring, replacement of doors, updated kitchen facilities and extra storage space, along with painting and fitting of soundproof material on the walls.

Penola Stadium Upgrade **\$280k**

Upgrades to the Penola Stadium this year have included wall and roof re-cladding, and work to improve the toilet facilities and access; including the provision of a disabled toilet.



Have you received your waste disposal vouchers?

A waste disposal voucher is required at all our Council Waste Transfer Stations and Resource Recovery Centres as well as some form of identification.

Your 2023/24 vouchers have been included with your rates notice. eNotice recipients will receive their vouchers in the post shortly.

Ratepayers who have lost their vouchers may apply for replacement vouchers by completing the Lost Voucher & New Purchase Request Form and a Statutory Declaration Form available from any of Council's offices or on the website.

Council's waste transfer stations are operated by Veolia and all enquiries should be directed to 08 8724 8121 or email se.operations@veolia.com

Council has a number of waste initiatives such as our Community Mulch Days. For more information visit www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au/wasteinitiatives

Fire prevention is your responsibility

Under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 it is the responsibility of all landowners to take reasonable steps to prevent the outbreak of fire or the spreading of fire to or from their property. Know your responsibilities, take positive action to prepare for fires by taking simple steps around your home. Fuel reduction is one of the most important preparations you can undertake.

Council will commence inspections of properties for the level of preparedness and height of flammable undergrowth in October. Should it be noted that if fuel hazard reduction works have not been undertaken on your property, Council will take action necessary to ensure works are completed.

Remember the lives of you and your family are irreplaceable.

CLEAN IT UP NOW BEFORE A FIRE DOES!

For further information in relation to bushfire prevention measures, please contact Council's Fire Prevention Staff on 08 8733 0900, SA Country Fire Service on 1800 362 361 or visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Join the conversation with Engage Wattle Range

Join our new community engagement page Engage Wattle Range to keep up to date with, and contribute to, key projects planned for the community.

You can help shape your community by sharing your thoughts and ideas and giving your feedback to Wattle Range Council.

'Have your say' on current community consultations, find out more about recent opportunities and subscribe to projects updates.

Visit www.engage.wattlerange.sa.gov.au today.

Register your dog online

Dog registration details are maintained on the Dogs and Cats Online system, a central database of all dogs and cats that reside in South Australia.

All dogs must be registered at three months of age and then annually. Dog & Cat Reforms require ALL new generations of dogs and cats, (born after 1st July 2018) to be desexed and ALL dogs and cats to be microchipped.

New registrations, renewals and any changes to registration details can be made at www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au or your nearest Council office.

Under South Australian legislation, dog registrations now fall under two simple categories: Standard Dog - a dog that is both desexed and microchipped; and Non-Standard Dog - all other dogs. Wattle Range Council has also chosen to apply discretionary rebates for some concession holders and owners of working dogs. Please refer to Council's Annual Fees and Charges schedule for a list of fees.

It is also the responsibility of the dog owner to advise Council if the dog has moved, been sold, given away or if the dog is deceased. This can also be done online or by contacting Council directly.

Anyone experiencing issues renewing their registration online is encouraged to call in to their nearest Council office for assistance.

Did you know you can pay your rates online?

Simply visit www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au and click on the "Make a Payment" button on the home screen.

It's a convenient and easy to use option that's available anytime. Grab a copy of your latest rates notice and try it out today.

Also, with the introduction of Australia Post Billpay to replace Macquarie Bank's DEFT, payments can now be made using cash, cheque or EFTPOS at your nearest postal outlet (Note: You will need to bring your LATEST rates notice so that you have the barcode to scan).

For a full list of payment options see your rates notice.



After hours contact

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN CONTACT COUNCIL 24/7 ON 08 8733 0900?

Council provides urgent after hours assistance in the following areas:



- Animals
- Roads
- Trees
- Council buildings and facilities

Kerbside waste collection hotline

Council's kerbside collection service is provided by Cleanaway. For all missed bins, contamination, lost, stolen or damaged bins, please call Cleanaway on 1300 410 896 or email wrc@cleanaway.com.au

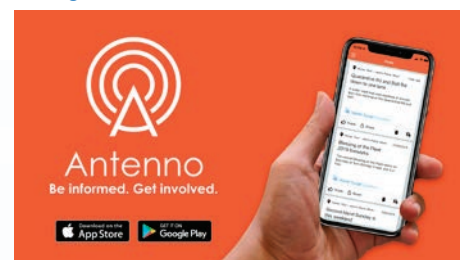
For information on bin collection days/times visit www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au/kerbsidecollectionservice

Council's Kerbside Collection Calendar is valid until the end of August 2025. Tear off the top calendar at the end of August to reveal the schedule for the next year. A copy is also available to view on Council's website.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR BINS AT THE KERB BY 6AM.



Stay informed with Antenno



Stay connected to your community - get the latest council notices and information from Antenno.

Antenno is free to use and will notify you of rubbish and recycling collections, council events and so much more.

COMING SOON! Dog on the loose? Graffiti on a fence? Soon you will be able to report these issues to Council through Antenno also.

Antenno is available for your Council alerts today from the App Store or Google Play.

Find us on

