

COUNCIL MEETING

in Summary

Image: Don Sforcina

STANDARD EDITION July 2026

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

Our 'Your Council Update' which brings together the key Council news, important notices, event highlights, and community updates – plus a direct link to the latest 'Council Meeting in Summary'. Stay informed about what's happening, all in one place.

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Mayoral UPDATE

Over the past month, the Mayor has represented Council at a range of civic and community meetings and engagements.

This included attending the Hatherleigh BBQ and Chat with Council, the Geltwood Documentary Premiere and Penola Lions Club handover dinner.



Millicent Library

Community DEPUTATIONS

At the July meeting, Council heard from representatives from the Wattle Range Youth Advisory Council who presented their Strategic Plan.

Key PROJECTS

Following the 2025/26 Budget Review 3, Council is delivering 106 projects this financial year, with a total value of \$11.3M.

As of 30 June 2026, 70% of the projects have been completed, 22% are in the process of being delivered and 8% deferred. 80% of the budget for the financial year has been committed.

Key project updates include:

- More than 10km of the Southern Ports Highway has been reconstructed, with Stages 1 and 2 complete and Stage 3 now 97% complete. The road is now open to the public as works have paused until late August.
- Restumping of the Millicent Museum transportable building is now complete with all recommendations from the structural assessment addressed.
- The Millicent RSL toilet upgrade is nearing completion.
- The upgrade of the Southern Ocean Tourist Park Playground has begun.
- The Millicent Library façade upgrade is nearing completion.
- Kerb remediation around the library carpark and adjacent walkway is now complete. New lighting and irrigation will be installed in the coming months, and Council is exploring a commemorative stone sculpture using salvaged foundation stone and the former schoolhouse memorial plaque.

Youth Grants AWARDED

A Youth Development Foundation Grant has been awarded to Livvi Faulkner to attend the U16 National Junior Basketball Championships in Bendigo, Victoria in July.

Key DECISIONS

At the July meeting, Council resolved to:

- adopt the Wattle Range Council 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget and 2027–2036 Long-Term Financial Plan following submissions received and heard at a Special Council Meeting on 18 June 2026;
- adopt rates for the 2026/27 financial year based on the latest land valuations provided by the Valuer-General;
- release the draft Community Engagement Policy for public consultation;
- apply to the Liquor & Gambling Commissioner for the establishment of the annual dry areas in Beachport over the Christmas and New Year period;
- note the report regarding the deferral of the 2026 Council Elections to April 2027 and defer the community poll on the potential abolition of Millicent's Proclaimed Shopping District to the new election date;
- authorise the CEO to make a submission on the draft State-wide Flood Hazard Code Amendment, outlining the known temporary surface water bodies in our region and providing a copy of the Beachport and Southend Coastal Adaptation Strategies;
- note the report regarding the potential development of a new skate park at Centennial Park, Beachport;
- note correspondence from the Premier of South Australia, Hon Peter Malinauskas regarding hydraulic fracture stimulation in the South East and respond to the Premier requesting that nuclear energy be part of the State Government's energy options for reliable energy to power the State;
- note correspondence from Jayne Stinson MP regarding a Parliamentary Inquiry into the National Trust of South Australia and respond with a submission together with the four National Trust Branches within Wattle Range; and
- refer the issue of homelessness in Millicent to the Millicent Services Networking Group to identify and implement strategies to support homelessness and extreme vulnerability in the town.



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