

YOUR COUNCIL *update*

Welcome to the March issue of the Wattle Range Council Newsletter

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of Council's key activities and any strategic decisions made that may affect our local communities. Additional information on Council's activities can be found on our website www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/wattlerangecouncil.

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 Local Government Association of SA's Principal Members forum in Adelaide; the AGM of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA), at which he was voted vice president; and participating in a LCLGA Strategic Planning Workshop held at the new Wulanda complex in Mount Gambier.

This month, we welcomed Cr Emma Castine back to the Chamber following the commencement of the Local Government (Casual Vacancies) Amendment Act 2023, which stated that her office should be taken to have never been vacant.

Mayor Noll also took the opportunity to observe a minutes silence in honour of former Councillor Barry Stoddart who passed away in February 2023.

Community DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS

At the March meeting, Council heard a deputation from Millicent & Surrounds Health Support Group representatives, Simone Berry and Ron Wood, requesting Council consider financial support for the Millicent Hospital Student Nurses Accommodation Refurbishment project in its 2023/24 budget deliberations.

Council also heard from ratepayer Don Gilbertson regarding the impact of low forestry land valuations on the calculation of primary production rating.

Key PROJECTS

Council has 115 projects worth \$14,526,476 in its 2022/23 Annual Business Plan. As of February 28, the combined expenditure rate for both carry over and current projects was 57%.

Key project updates from the ordinary council meeting include:

- Work on the upgrade to the Wendy's Walk stairway has begun and should be completed in May 2023.
- The wall recladding scheduled as part of the Penola Stadium upgrade is complete, and work to improve the toilet facilities, including the provision of a disabled toilet, is now being undertaken.
- The base and shoulder widening on the Dergholm Road project have been completed and the asphalt should be laid by the end of the month.
- The stormwater drainage project on South Terrace, Beachport has been delayed due to a change in scope to alleviate the need for an open drain in Foster Street. The contractor has had to source additional materials to accommodate.



- Consultants have visited both McLaughlin and McCorquindale Parks to undertake a fire safety review and will report on compliance requirements by the end of this month.
- Council took delivery of one new Zero Turn Mower and two graders which arrived in February.

Key DECISIONS

At the meeting, Council resolved to:

- revoke the resolution made at the 17 January 2023 Council meeting 'to negotiate with the State Government to take care and control of the former railway line between Cattle Bridge Road Millicent to the centre of Tantanoola';
- seek feedback from the community on the revocation of community land classification on two parcels of land, one in Millicent and the other Southend;
- defer the implementation of cat registration and further management of cats until the review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and the Animal Welfare Act 1985 are complete;
- adopt the Wattle Range Council Climate Change Action Plan;
- undertake community consultation on the draft Stormwater Asset Management Plan;
- continue to auspice the Millicent Shares A Plate initiative through to October 2023;
- engage with the community via survey, to assist in deliberations regarding the closure of the Millicent Saleyards; and
- defer any further expenditure on upgrades at the Millicent Saleyards until further notice.

Want to read more? Head to our website for full Council meeting agendas, reports and minutes.

Current CONSULTATIONS

Council resolved to consult the community on a number of issues over the past few months.

Specific details of the consultations, including how you can 'have your say', will be made available as the consultation periods commence, and can be found in hard copy at each of Council's offices or on our new online community engagement page at www.engage.wattlerange.sa.gov.au

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