

# YOUR COUNCIL *update*

## *Christmas greetings* from Mayor Des Noll

Christmas means different things to different people. For some, it's a joyous time of the year and for others, it is a time of reflection. As a richly diverse region of many people coming together, we continue to be a respectful and accepting community. Whatever Christmas means to you, I hope that we can all enjoy the special times the season brings and truly embrace the 'spirit' of Christmas.

Christmas is also a time to reflect and consider those within our communities who are less fortunate than ourselves. With the continuing increase in the cost of living and the rise of interest rates, we all know it is affecting many around us, so we will continue to support those in need and ensure that we leave no one behind. The Wattle Range Council region is fortunate to have so many groups, organisations, businesses, and volunteers who all contribute and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who continue to support our great community in your own special way.

2024 will undoubtedly hold challenges for us, but we will all work together to ensure our communities are a safe and prosperous place for all to live and work.

## Mayoral UPDATE

Over the past month the Mayor has represented Council at a range of civic and community meetings and engagements. This included hosting Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia the Hon Frances Adamson AM and her husband Mr Rod Bunten when they visited Millicent recently.

## Community DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS

At the December meeting, Council heard from David Wheaton and Lauren Oxlade of Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast and Kate Napper and Colin Byles of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association. Both organisations provided an update on their activities and regional statistics.

## Key PROJECTS

Following the first budget review for the 2023/24 financial year Council has 107 capital projects listed, valued at \$14.95 Million. As at November 30, 27% of these projects are completed, 34% are in the process of being delivered and 21% are in the procurement phase.

Key project updates include:

- The Millicent Swimming Lake floor has been temporarily repaired in preparation for use in the upcoming school holidays. The Aquatic Engineers have almost completed the design for the chlorination system which is being independently reviewed in the USA because of unusual nature of the asset. Preliminary calculations for the filter and pump sizing are also complete, as well as the preliminary design for the grading of the lake floor. Preparations are on track to go to tender in January 2024.
- The Council Service Centre tender documentation is anticipated for release in December with the tender period to close late January 2024.
- Development approval has been obtained to address the fire safety issues with the rear storage shed at the Beachport Museum. Quotations to complete the works are now being sought.
- The bunting has been removed from the Beachport Boat Ramp pontoon and it is now open for use. Several issues still require attention and are subject to contractual dispute with the supplier.



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- The female toilets in Arthur Street Penola are now finished and open to the public. The family room and disabled toilet will be completed early in the new year.

## Key DECISIONS

At the meeting, Council resolved to:

- thank Moira Neagle for her representation of the Corcoran Ward during her time as Councillor, and endorse a \$15,000 variation to the budget to hold a Supplementary Election to fill her vacancy;
- provide financial assistance of \$200 from Council's Youth Development Foundation to each of the following:
  - Emily Denton, Sebella Coghlan and Indiana Coghlan attending the Australian Junior Country Basketball Cup being held in Albury, NSW in January 2024;
  - Jack Haggett attending the 2024 Under 20 Australian Junior Basketball Championships in Ballarat, VIC in January/February 2024; and
  - Archer Virtanen attending the Victorian U16 Cricket Victoria Country Cup in Geelong and Melbourne, VIC in December 2023;
- endorse the revocation, operation and consultation of a number of Council policies and guidelines (details are available in the agenda/minutes);
- following consideration feedback received during community consultation, approve the progression of the closure and sale of a road reserve in Hatherleigh and an unmade walkway in Millicent to adjoining landholders;
- after hearing the successes of the 2023 program, endorse the continuation of Wattle Range Youth Advisory Council in 2024;
- undertake public consultation on the preferred placement of a craypot art installation in the township of Beachport; and
- support the position of the local community, the Lake George Management Committee and Beachport District Development Association, regarding community control of Lake George.

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