

COUNCIL MEETING

in Summary

STANDARD EDITION March 2026

Welcome to the March issue of the Wattle Range Council Meeting in Summary

'Your Council Update' 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 Millicent and Penola Lions Youth of the Year events and the Beachport BBQ and Chat with Council.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Highlights

Highlights from the Community Development Teams quarterly update include;

- The Summer Full Throttle in Wattle School Holiday Program activities attracted hundreds of children.
- A successful Celebrate Seniors Week Olympics event.
- Australia Day celebrations on 26 January in Beachport, Glencoe, Millicent and Penola including the official award presentations.
- Local schools took part in the Walking Together Art Competition, with T shirts featuring the winning design distributed at local Australia Day ceremonies.
- Events hosted by the Youth Advisory Council including a workshop with Elected Members to identify key issues affecting young people in the Council area.
- Celebrating its tenth year, the Wattle Range Art Exhibition, had a record 288 entries and the Art Gallery's *Remember to Dream*, group exhibition attracted approx. 150 attendees.
- Wattle Range Libraries continue to offer a full calendar of programs for all ages, including author talks, STEM Club, Tech Savvy Seniors, Bounce and Rhyme Time, and Art Play sessions.

Key PROJECTS

Council is delivering 111 projects in the 2025/26 financial year, with a total value of \$13.14M.

As of 28 February 2026, 48% of the projects have been completed, 31% are in the process of being delivered, 7% are in the procurement phase and 11% are not yet started. 58% of the budget for the financial year has been committed.

Key project updates include:

- Roadworks for the Southern Ports Highway continue and an additional 5km being prepared. The road is closed with detour via Hatherleigh from 7am to 5pm weekdays when crews are working on the road.
- Demolition works on the former Council Office building continue.
- Council installed 29 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices.
- The footpath linking the Rail Trail to Clarke Street in Penola has been completed.
- Roadworks on Border Road at Lake Mundi has been completed by Glenelg Shire. The road has been inspected by Council, prior to paying their 50% contribution to the works.



Key DECISIONS

At the March meeting, Council resolved to:

- note the Wattle Range Council Building Fire Safety Committee Annual Report from 30 June 2025, summarising inspections, building classifications and notices issued;
- to seek Expressions of Interest from community groups to lease the former Millicent Rotary Club site located within the Fifth Street Millicent community precinct, following advice from the Club of their intention to cease operation and transfer possession of its storage shed to Council;
- update the Community Grants, Scholarships and Sponsorship Guideline to provide increased accessibility;
- adopt the mid-year 2025/26 budget review (the second review since its adoption in July 2025);
- give in-principle approval for recurring funding in Council's Annual Budget for the Teagles ARB Pines Enduro, Penola Cup, Beachport New Year's Eve Fireworks, Penola Rodeo and Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival;
- rename the Millicent Art Gallery to the Janice Nitschke Art Gallery in recognition of her outstanding service to Council and the Community;
- note a report regarding the introduction of the Flying Start Program at the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre offering up to 15 hours per week of preschool education for eligible 3-year-olds led by qualified early childhood teachers;
- note a report on the upcoming review of Council's six by laws expiring on 1 January 2027 (Permits & Penalties, Moveable Signs, Roads, Local Government Land, Dogs and Foreshore) and provide in principle support to the development of a new By-law for the management and control of other animals such as livestock and poultry within townships across the Council area; and
- support LGA South Australia's position to seek a new funding agreement with the state government, noting that current state funding for public libraries has not kept pace with rising costs and service demands.



Wattle Range
COUNCIL

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