

COUNCIL MEETING

Image credit: Isabella Angus

in Summary

STANDARD EDITION September 2026

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

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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 Kalangadoo BBQ and Chat with Council, the Limestone Coast Landscape Board Meeting at Penola and meeting with Naracoorte Lucindale Council Mayor Patrick Ross & CEO Kelly Westell regarding a Hydraulic Fracturing Strategy within the Limestone Coast.

Community DEPUTATIONS

At the September meeting, Council heard from Jason Virgo MP, Member for MacKillop who made a presentation in regard to his role as the Member for MacKillop.

Grants AWARDED

Funds were awarded to the following groups in the first round of Council's annual community grants programs:

Community Financial Assistance Grants totalling \$7,505 to:

- Millicent Community Access Radio - Upgrade of PC computers at Radio 5THEFM
- Coonawarra Penola RSL Inc - Replacement of the RSL Sub-Branch fridge/freezer
- Art Gallery Beachport - Develop Art Gallery Beachport website
- Hatherleigh Community Hall Inc. - Upgrade of kitchen and cleaning facilities
- Mount McIntyre Hall - Hall renovation.

Community Sport and Recreation Grants totalling \$16,250 to:

- Penola Football Club - Viewing/Shelter shed seating project
- Nangwarry Netball Club - Replacement of front windows for the Netball Club
- Millicent Football Netball Club - Behind goal netting
- Beachport Pony Club - Upgrade of jumps and maintenance equipment and purchase of storage shed
- Beachport Surf Lifesaving Club - Silver Salties & Youth Active Participation Program
- Glencoe & District Sports Ground Association - Install ceiling lining to the verandah of the football changerooms.

Community Infrastructure Grants totalling \$127,139 to:

- Hatherleigh Sport & Recreation Centre Inc - Lighting Upgrade
- Mt Burr United Football Club - Electronic scoreboard upgrade
- Millicent Bowling Club - Roof over bowling greens
- Millicent Golf Club Incorporated - Clubhouse roof replacement and rainwater harvesting system
- Millicent Lions Club - Kitchen Upgrade.

Key PROJECTS

Following adoption of the 2026/27 Budget, Council is delivering 94 projects worth \$11.4 million.

As of 31 August 2026, 4% of the projects have been completed, 22% are in the process of being delivered, 28% are in the procurement phase and 46% not yet started. 10% of the budget for the financial year has been committed.

Key project updates include:

- Reconstruction of the final 4 km section of the Southern Ports Highway has resumed, with the detour via Hatherleigh now in place. Completion is expected in mid-December, weather permitting.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations have been installed and operating from the Council Service Centre carpark.
- Finalisation of the Beachport boat ramp pontoons upgrade to improve safety and accessibility at low tide.
- The Millicent RSL toilet upgrade is now complete.
- Works continue on the Southern Ocean Tourist Park amenities block upgrade, with completion expected in late November.
- A local contractor has been engaged to relocate air-conditioning units at the Library enabling construction of a redesigned car park and improved access to the Millicent Gallery entrance.
- Underground works for the fire hydrant system at McCorquindale Park is nearing completion.

Key DECISIONS

At the September meeting, Council resolved to:

- note correspondence from Mayoral candidates for President of the Local Government Association of South Australia.
- note correspondence about Community Transport South Australia's services across the Riverland, Murray Mallee and Limestone Coast regions;
- endorse for public consultation the Development - Provision of Infrastructure policy. The Policy is associated with land divisions and provides a framework to ensure consistent standards are applied;
- note a report from the CEO on Homelessness in Millicent and acknowledge the role of the Millicent Services Networking Group and participating agencies in coordinating support for people experiencing homelessness or extreme vulnerability and support ongoing collaboration to assist vulnerable community members;
- adopt the updated Community Engagement Policy;
- accept responsibility for the management of Crown land surrounding the Beachport Cemetery from the Minister Climate, Environment and Water;
- authorise the use of the Millicent United Soccer Club grounds for the Millicent Kennel Club Championship Dog Show from 20 to 22 November 2026.

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