The Summary Annual Business Plan 2020/21 outlines the key priorities and changes for Council in the forthcoming year. Detailed within the summary is an overview of the capital and operational projects and Council’s key priorities for the forthcoming year including strategies surrounding Council’s COVID-19 response.

For the 2020/21 financial year Council expects to deliver an operational budget of $26.67M including operational projects such as $100,000 for the landscaping of both Bypass entrances to Penola along with a number of measures to combat the impact of the COVID-19 emergency including:

- Setting 0.0% general rates increase (plus growth from new developments of 0.56%);
- Providing a waiver of rating fines and charges for a period from 15 April 2020 until the 31 December 2020 and the waiving of rates under Council’s existing hardship provisions for those businesses that have been significantly affected by the pandemic;
- Lowering the Primary Production rating differential from 75% to 70% and continue to maintain a lower rating differential for Commercial and Industry at 85% of the residential rate;
- Waive all outdoor dining fees and charges for 2020/21;
- Freeze fees and charges for 2020/21 for the greater portion of applicable fees;
- Create employment opportunities within Council;
- Provision of a $100,000 fund for community groups to access for major infrastructure projects;
- Preparation of “shovel ready” strategies to leverage future grant funding opportunities.

Council will also deliver a $7.30M capital budget for 2020/21, including capital expenditure on roads (sealed and unsealed) of $2.99M. Projects include $783,000 various road re-sheeting projects, $1.1M on various road reseals, $110,000 on various intersection upgrades, $560,000 on shoulder widening of Kennedy Road in Glencoe and a $105,000 upgrade to the Southend Access Road from the Southern Ports Highway to Watson Street.

In addition, Council will also undertake a number of building and infrastructure projects that will deliver benefits to the community including $375,000 on various footpath and kerb and gutters in townships, $30,000 to upgrade the toilet facilities at Lake Leake and $55,000 for the installation of Penola Entrance Signage at both Bypass entrances to Penola.

The 2020/21 financial year will be another busy year. My team is looking forward to delivering the capital and operational project priorities for Council and the community whilst continuing to focus on our community’s recovery from the COVID-19 emergency. Over the next year we will have a focus on stimulating expenditure in our local community and businesses and attracting new businesses and investment into the Wattle Range area.
OPERATING INCOME

Council has budgeted to receive operating income of $26.22M in 2020/21, this income is derived from a number of different sources including; rates and charges, statutory and user charges, grants, subsidies and contributions, investment income and other income.

COUNCIL’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Waiver of fines & interest

At Council’s April 2020 meeting, Elected Members discussed a range of options for providing rating relief considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation. In recognition of this and given the financial hardship that some of our ratepayers, local businesses and their employees have faced, Wattle Range Council has waived all interest and fines on overdue rates from the 15 April until 31 December 2020.

The waiver applies to ratepayers who have less than 1 year in overdue rates and will apply to all ratepayers regardless of whether they are affected by the pandemic or not. We do, however, encourage all ratepayers who can pay their rates as and when they fall due to do so to avoid the risk of long-term debt.

We hope that the waiving of interest and fines on our rates provides some cash flow relief over the coming months as social distancing restrictions begin to ease. However, if ratepayers are experiencing financial difficulty at any time, they should contact Council’s Rates Officer to discuss payment arrangement options.

REBATES FOR PENSIONERS

Council will continue to provide a pensioner rebate for the waste collection service charge. The rebate will be provided to eligible pensioners who have either an Aged or Disability Pension or a Department for Veteran Affairs Card.

Ratepayers who had previously received this rebate in 2019/20 will continue to receive this rebate during 2020/21.

However, if you are eligible and did not receive this rebate during the 2019/20 year you will be required to fill out an application form and show proof of the appropriate pension card to Council staff. Applications will be received up to September 30, 2020.

CAN I OBJECT TO MY VALUATION INCREASE?

Yes, you can object to your valuation by making application to the Office of the Valuer General. Your objection can be made online or by post at the following address:

Office of the Valuer-General
GPO Box 1354
Adelaide SA 5001
This refurbishment involved the removal of the existing portico at the entry to the Centre and alteration of the roof. A new cantilevered entry portico was constructed and new facings to existing brickwork installed greatly enhancing the appearance of the building.

The upgrade to Penola’s Rymill Hall included the construction of disabled toilet and baby change facilities, disability access to the hall, fire safety upgrades, a new building entrance plus a full external repaint.

Stage 2 of the Penola Stormwater Upgrade project involved the completion of stormwater infrastructure in the Arthur Street catchment (from Portland Street to Church Street and along Church Street). Road reconstruction (1800 sqm) and new kerbing (450m) for Arthur Street Penola, between Ralston Street & Gordon Street, was also completed to complement and complete the first stage of the stormwater system constructed in the previous financial year.

Implementation of the Master Plan for the Millicent Domain Parklands & Civic Precinct began. This included the development of the ‘Rage Cage’ multi-sports area at the former Tennis Courts on Ridge Terrace, upgrade of paths and lighting, installation of security cameras, and the construction of a nature play space adjacent the existing playground. Preparations for the replacement Williams Road pedestrian bridge and artistic marker statement have also commenced. This project has been supported by both the Federal and State Governments. (Community Development Grants Program $400K & Planning & Development Fund Grant $268K)

The capital expenditure works program for 2020/21 is $7,303M. This year’s expenditure is $0.972M less than what was budgeted for 2019/20.
Have you received your Waste Disposal Vouchers?

A waste disposal voucher is required at all our Council Waste Transfer Stations and Resource Recovery Centres as well as some form of identification.

Your 2020/21 vouchers have been included with your rates notice. Ratepayers who have lost their vouchers may apply for replacement vouchers by completing the Lost Voucher & New Purchase Request Form and a Statutory Declaration Form available from any of Council’s offices or on the website.

Council’s waste transfer stations are operated by Veolia and all enquiries should be directed to 08 8724 8121 or email se.operations@veolia.com

Council has a number of waste initiatives such as our Community Mulch Days. For more information visit www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au/wasteinitiatives

New State-Wide Planning System Introduced

South Australia’s urban and regional planning system is currently undergoing its biggest reform in over 25 years.

The new Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA) (PDI Act) provides for the implementation of a new state-wide SA Planning Portal, a one-stop shop website for information, online services and community participation relating to the South Australian planning system.

The new planning system was set to be implemented for the regional Council, including Wattlerange, on 31 July 2020.

Regional South Australians will now have the planning information they need at their fingertips, and will be able to access the planning system anytime using their computer, phone or tablet.

REGISTER YOUR DOG ONLINE

Dog registration details are now maintained on the Dogs and Cats Online system, a central database of all dogs and cats that reside in South Australia.

All dogs must be registered at three months of age and then annually. Recent Dog & Cat Reforms require ALL new generations of dogs and cats, (born after 1st July 2018) to be desexed and ALL dogs & cats to be microchipped.

New registrations, renewals and any changes to registration details can be made at www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au or your nearest Council office.

Under South Australian legislation, dog registrations now fall under two simple categories: Standard Dog – a dog that is both desexed and microchipped; and Non-Standard Dog – all other dogs. Wattlerange Council has also chosen to apply discretionary rebates for some concession holders and owners of working dogs. Please refer to Council’s Annual Fees and Charges schedule for a list of fees.

It is also the responsibility of the dog owner to advise Council if the dog has moved, been sold, given away or if the dog is deceased. This can also be done online or by contacting Council directly.

Anyone experiencing issues renewing their registration online is encouraged to call in to their nearest Council office for assistance.

ePlanning will take the planning system online and will allow South Australians to:

▶ lodge development applications and pay development fees online
▶ easily monitor and track progress of development applications online
▶ receive decision notices electronically
▶ gain access to searchable and reliable planning information, publications, maps and data
▶ easily access the latest planning news and updates
▶ access online planning policy and spatial map information online

Detailed information on key features and implementation timing of the new, State-wide Planning System is located on the State Government Planning Portal at www.saplaningportal.sa.gov.au/

Methods of Payment to Council

Ratepayers can make arrangements to pay their rates via Direct Debit on a weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Direct Debit Request Forms are available from Council’s Offices or on the website.

BPAY is another easy and efficient method of payment when paying your rates. Those choosing this method are reminded that each property has its own unique BPAY number. These numbers need to be used in separate transactions in order to ensure your accounts can be identified and settled correctly.

Ratepayers are also able to access their rates notices electronically through eNotices. For further information on how to set up for this service please see your rates notice.

Kerbside Waste Collection Hotline

Council’s kerbside collection service is provided by Cleanaway. For all missed bins, contamination, lost, stolen or damaged bins, please call Cleanaway on 1300 410 896 or email wrc@cleanaway.com.au

For information on bin collection days/times visit www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au/kerbsidecollectionservice

Remember to tear off last year’s page from the kerbside collection calendar on your fridge to show the current 2020/2021 calendar. The calendar has information about the types of waste that can go in each bin and will be valid for another 2 years.

Please have your bins at the kerb by 6AM.

Stay Informed with Antenno

Wattlerange Council is excited to soon offer Antenno, a mobile app that will send you alerts and notifications for places and topics you care about, such as your home, work or school.

Antenno is free to use and will notify you of rubbish and recycling collections, council events and so much more.

Install Antenno now! it’s free!

Available today from the App Store or Google Play.

After Hours Contact

Did you know that you can contact Council 24/7 on 08 8733 0900?

Council provides urgent after hours assistance in the following areas:

• Animals • Roads • Trees • Council buildings and facilities