

COUNCIL MEETING in Summary

STANDARD EDITION February 2026

Image Credit: Ricky Knowles

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

Council is now emailing 'Your Council Update' which 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. Sign up today - www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au/community-newsletter

Mayoral UPDATE

Over the past month, the Mayor has represented Council at a range of civic and community meetings and engagements. This included the Millicent Australia Day breakfast award presentation, community breakfast and citizenship ceremony and the Millicent Community Conversation BBQ and Chat with Council.



The Millicent Australia Day event included the announcement of Citizen of the Year recipients and a Citizenship Ceremony for four new Australian citizens.

Community DEPUTATIONS

At the February meeting, Elected Members heard from Superintendent Trent Cox, Officer in Charge, Limestone Coast Region regarding Policing in the area, Michael Coonan regarding the Beachport Rivoli Bay Skate Park and Kurt Stephan and Mark Heemskerk from Teagle Excavations ARB Pines Enduro regarding sponsorship.

Key DECISIONS

At the February meeting, Council resolved to:

- provide in-principle approval for \$2,000 recurring financial support for the Coonawarra Running Festival event (for three years, subject to available future budgets);
- receive and note correspondence from Darryl Wicker, Chief Executive Officer of District Council of Grant regarding the Senate Inquiry on the State of Australia's Aviation Sector and write a letter of support to the District Council of Grant regarding the Mount Gambier Regional Airport;
- receive and note correspondence from Hon Joe Szakacs MP regarding amendments to the Local Government Elections Act;
- receive and note the report on the recently implemented Local Government Community Engagement Charter introduced by the South Australian Government.

Youth GRANTS AWARDED

Youth Development Foundation Grants have been awarded to Livvi Faulkner and Prudence Johnson (U16) and Kaia Green and Raven Johnson (U14) to attend the Australian Junior Country Basketball Cup in Albury, NSW, in January 2026.

Key PROJECTS

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

As of 31 January 2026, 41% of the projects have been completed, 31% are in the process of being delivered, 10% are in the procurement phase and 15% are not yet started. 55% of the budget for the financial year has been committed.

Key project updates include:

- Roadworks for the Southern Ports Highway have resumed with a closure and detour via Hatherleigh in place following a pause for the summer holiday season where the road reopened.
- Teagle Contracting has commenced demolition works on the former Council Office building. The demolition is being staged to ensure an efficient transition and to minimise disruption to the community with temporary fencing installed to secure the site.
- Contractors have now completed installation of the new dog park fencing at the McLaughlin Park complex. A park bench along with a rainwater storage tank located near the entrance/exit to provide drinking water for dogs has been installed.
- A new rear fence has been installed at the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre and trees have been pruned and removed. The work was completed during the Christmas break to minimise disruption.
- A switchboard upgrade has been completed at the Millicent Aerodrome bringing the systems up to current standards and improving safety and reliability for aerodrome operations.
- Various vehicles have been renewed or ordered as per Council's plant renewal program.

Several capital projects have been highlighted as at risk of not being delivered by the end of the financial year and are now subject to future budget considerations, including;

- Centennial Park Beachport Stormwater Pump (\$120k). The preferred contractor is unable to deliver the project within budgeted amount with a different strategy to be considered.
- Beachport Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) and pump station controller replacement (\$127k). Current controllers are no longer supported.
- Penola CWMS pump station pumps (\$10k).

Questions WITH NOTICE

Following a question from Cr Cox, Council invited SA Power networks to attend the Beachport Community Conversations to provide an update on the unreliable power supply at Beachport. They are unable to attend but will supply a handout for the 24 February event.

Want to read more?

Head to our website for full Council meeting agendas, reports and minutes.



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