

COUNCIL MEETING

Image credit. Angela Leech

in Summary

STANDARD EDITION June 2026

Welcome to the June 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 Country Cabinet in Mt Gambier and meeting with several Ministers to discuss matters of importance for the Wattle Range Council community.

Community Deputations

At the June meeting, Council heard from representatives from the Department for Energy and Mining regarding mineral and gas exploration and mining.

Youth Development Foundation Grants

A Youth Development Foundation Grant has been awarded to Madeleine MacGregor to attend both the Hockey Australia Under 14 Championships in Canberra and 12 Years and Under School Sport Australian Cricket Championships in Newcastle.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Highlights

Highlights from the Community Development team's quarterly update include:

- The Autumn Full Throttle in Wattle School Holiday Program attracted hundreds of children.
- The Rivoli Bay Jetties Junior Fishing Competition drew 371 registrations and 3,000+ entries.
- The Youth Week program delivered a number of inclusive opportunities for young people to participate in recreational and developmental experiences.
- The 2026 Wattle Range Youth Advisory Council (YAC) membership has been announced
- The 2026 Re-A-Range Sustainability Festival was held in late May featuring a program of events designed to invite residents to rethink their approach to sustainability.
- The Art Gallery, Beachport opened in the Beachport Visitor Information Centre with its inaugural exhibition 'Upwelling'
- Geltwood Festival Weekend with over 150+ participants
- The Library and Gallery continue to provide a vibrant and welcoming community space with programs for all ages, including author talks, STEM Club, Tech Savvy Seniors, Bounce and Rhyme Time, and Art Play sessions.

Key PROJECTS

Following the 2025/26 Budget Review 2, Council is delivering 106 projects this financial year, with a total value of \$11.75M.

As of 29 May 2026, 63% of the projects have been completed, 30% are in the process of being delivered, 1% are in the procurement phase and 6% deferred. 79% of the budget for the financial year has been committed.

Key project updates include:

- Roadworks for the Southern Ports Highway reconstruction is progressing with Stage 2 at 96% complete and Stage 3 at 88% complete. Works will pause from June to late August, when the road will reopen to the public.
- The curved brick structure at the front of the Millicent Library has been carefully demolished and removed from site. Pavers have been reinstated, and public access to the car park restored.
- Restumping of the Millicent Museum transportable building has commenced following structural assessment.
- The Millicent RSL toilet upgrade is nearing completion.
- Structural repairs to the upper floor supports at the Beachport Museum are complete.
- The Millicent Library façade upgrade is progressing.
- Beachport Cemetery irrigation works are on hold and may not be completed this financial year.

Key DECISIONS

At the June meeting, Council resolved to:

- oppose the State Government intention to introduce a bill to Parliament to remove the ban on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in South Australia's Limestone Coast;
- note correspondence from the Wattle Range Youth Advisory Council regarding fracking in the Limestone Coast and refer it to the Premier and Cabinet;
- refer an increase to the 2026/27 budget of \$7,060 to progress the Beachport Code Amendment;
- approve the Draft Beachport Coastal Adaptation Strategy to be released for public consultation;
- consider undertaking a site investigation report in 2027/28 for the development of Council land at Fifth St, Millicent;
- note correspondence from the Minister for Emergency Management regarding Council's unsuccessful grant funding application for Southend and Beachport coastal erosion;
- advocate to the Premier, Cabinet and local MPs in support of the Beachport integrated Education and Care Facility following a request from the Beachport Primary and Preschool Governing Council; and
- note correspondence from the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing regarding Football SA (FSA) and the Limestone Coast Football Association's (LCFA) competition rules, and invite representatives of the FSA and LCFA to address Council regarding Millicent Soccer Club's participation in the League.

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