

COUNCIL MEETING

STANDARD EDITION December 2025

in Summary

Image credit. Liam Mills

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

Council is now emailing a new look '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 attending the Indigenous Garden and Yarning Circle Opening at the Millicent North Primary School, Wattle Range Council Youth Advisory Council workshop and Graduation Dinner, Local Government Association 2025 Conference and AGM and a meeting with the Hon. Tony Pasin MP and Southend Progress Association regarding the Southend Coastal Erosion Project.

Community PETITIONS

At the December meeting, Council received a petition seeking construction of a bitumen footpath connecting Walker Street and Sullivan Street in Millicent.

Council also received a petition for installation of a hydrotherapy pool in the local Wattle Range Council area.

Community Development HIGHLIGHTS

At the December meeting, the Community Development Team presented its quarterly update. Highlights include:

- Celebrate Seniors Week in October 2025 delivered a vibrant, diverse and well-attended program, featuring seven events across seven days and attracting a total of 512 participants.
- The Ageing Well Expo brought together six keynote speakers and 23 stallholders, providing a showcase of services and supports available locally to our senior community.
- The Spring Full Throttle in Wattle School Holiday Program delivered almost 40 events across the region, attracting hundreds of children over the two-week period.
- The Dog's Breakfast was held in Penola this year with 50 registered dogs and their families attending the event.
- The Beachport Tourism Working Group has continued to work with Council staff to implement strategies that support local tourism during the Southern Ports Highway detour period.
- Students from Penola Primary School and Kangaroo Inn Primary School attended a Council meeting, presenting their project on a boat launching facility at Beachport.
- The Wattle Range Photographic Exhibition drew over 150 attendees to the library for the unveiling of winning entries. With 575 entries and 130 junior submissions from 68 photographers and 20 young participants, the exhibition highlighted both established and emerging talent.

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 30 November, 23% of the projects were completed, 38% in the process of being delivered, 12% are in the procurement phase and 24% are not yet started. 46% of the budget for the financial year has been committed.

Key project updates include:

- Roadworks for the Southern Ports Highway reconstruction continue, but will pause over the Summer holiday season when the road will be reopened for general use.
- A contractor has been appointed for the supply and installation of the solar carports, battery and electric vehicle charging for the new Council Service Centre.
- An auction for the sale of Council's surplus plant and equipment which was held at the Millicent Sale Yards on 20 November 2025.
- Teagle Contracting has been awarded the contract for the demolition of the former Millicent Council Office building. A staff working group is exploring options for developing the space after demolition.
- The installation of the uplighting for the trees at Jubilee Park has progressed with finalisation anticipated mid-December.
- Completion of the upgrade to the waste compound at the Southern Ocean Tourist Park is expected mid-December.
- Repairs to the southern side facade of the Millicent Library to match the building to the Civic and Arts Centre have been completed.

Key DECISIONS

At the December meeting, Council resolved to:

- endorse the General Wattle Range Code Amendment changes to Site 9 (Beachport Rural Living) and the Glencoe Rural Living Area following community consultation and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the final Reports for submission to the Minister for Planning for a decision;
- endorse the Wattle Range Council Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 following a community consultation;
- approve the updated Community Land Management Plans following a community consultation;
- increase the 2025/26 Operating Budget by \$20,000 to allow for the emergency Southend erosion works and for additional fencing to make safe the caravan park and beach and defer further Southend erosion works to the 2026/27 Financial Year; and
- approve a budget amendment of \$550,000 to allow for the delivery of the fire services upgrade at the McCorquindale Park, Penola recreation reserve. The funding is dependent on receiving a co-contribution from the Penola Football Netball Club for the upgrade to the value of \$183,300 and the Department of Education for the works at the Penola Stadium to the value of \$92,000.

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