

COUNCIL MEETING in Summary

STANDARD EDITION May 2026

Image Credit: Jeethu Susen Phillip

Welcome to the May 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, 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 the Beachport and Millicent ANZAC services in Beachport, Kalangadoo and Millicent and the Penola BBQ and Chat with Council.



Mayor Noll attended the 15 year celebrations for the Kalangadoo Farmers Market

Youth DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDED

A Youth Development Foundation Grant has been awarded to local teen Ms Perry to attend the YMCA SA Youth Parliament Residential Week held in Adelaide in July 2026.

Community DEPUTATIONS

At the May meeting, Council heard from Richard North and David Taylor of the Millicent Lions Club who presented regarding their expression of interest for the Millicent Rotary Club land and shed. Council also heard from Jason Wallace, Chief Executive Officer from Stand Like Stone Foundation who presented seeking ongoing sponsorship.

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 30 April 2026, 57% of the projects have been completed, 31% are in the process of being delivered, 4% are in the procurement phase and 5% are not yet started with 3% deferred. 76% of the budget for the financial year has been committed.

Key project updates include:

- Roadworks for the Southern Ports Highway reconstruction between the Southend Turn-off and Beachport outlet are progressing well, with Stage 2, 91% complete and Stage 3, 75% complete. The first 5 kilometres have received the final seal. Works will pause from June to August, when the road will reopen to the public. During this time, Council will complete guardrail, signage and verge works ahead of Stage 4, scheduled to begin in early September.

- The demolition of the former Council office building has been completed, with the site cleared, levelled and seeded. Fencing will remain in place until the lawn is established. Final works involve upgrades to the library façade, including the curved entrance feature, scheduled for early May. These will include kerbing, edging, pathways, paving, irrigation and lighting.
- Works have commenced on the Millicent RSL toilet upgrade, with completion expected in May.
- The 2.1km section of the Coonawarra Rail Trail between Ravenswood Lane and Maaoupe Road has been resurfaced.
- A number of projects that have begun and are expected to continue into the 2026-27 financial year (carry forward) include,
 - Council Service Centre Solar & EV
 - McCorquindale Park fire upgrade
 - Former Council Office Demolition stages 1 & 2
 - Childcare refurbishments.

Key DECISIONS

At the May meeting, Council resolved to:

- receive and note a letter from the Valuer General regarding aging windfarms valuations and the revision of site and capital values of properties that contain wind turbines in the Council area;
- note the report outlining the financial implications of fuel supplies and pricing on Council's current and future budgets, with further financial considerations to be evaluated and presented as part of the budget process;
- note the Council delegation report and endorse an increase to the Chief Executive Officer's financial delegation from \$150,000 to \$300,000 per acquisition. This change will support efficient Council operations, particularly during the caretaker period later in 2026;
- endorse the preparation of a ground lease between Council and the Millicent Lions Club for the former Millicent Rotary Club Storage Shed Site located within the Fifth Street community precinct; and
- refer the draft Dogs By-law and Cats By-law to the Dog and Cat Management Board for comment and endorse the following draft By-laws for community and stakeholder consultation.
 - By-law No.1 – Permits and Penalties
 - By-law No.2 – Movable Signs
 - By-law No.3 – Roads
 - By-law No.4 – Local Government Land By-Law
 - By-law No.5 – Dogs
 - By-law No.6 – Cats
 - By-law No.7 – Domestic Livestock Management.

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