

2026/2027 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN Summary



CEO's message

Wattle Range Council's Annual Business Plan for 2026/27 provides an overview of the services, programs and strategic projects Council plans to deliver to the community.

It focuses on looking after existing assets, progressing major projects and continuing advocacy for safer, improved state-managed roads, including completion of the Southern Ports Highway reconstruction.

Council is proposing \$9.24M in capital works, including \$6.99M for renewing existing assets and \$2.25M for new and upgraded assets, with roads and buildings continuing as key priorities.

The Plan includes an operating budget of \$40.57M, supported by \$40.11M in operating income.

As costs such as fuel, energy and waste continue to rise faster than inflation, Council is proposing a 6.9% rate increase plus 0.28% growth from new properties to help maintain services and support long-term financial sustainability.

The 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget outlines a comprehensive capital works program, with full details in the document.

One of these strategies is the continuation of advocacy for improvements in the state roads within our district. Over the past year, Council commenced the reconstruction of 13.8KM of the Southern Ports Highway between Beachport and Southend with the finalisation of the works to be completed by the end of 2026.

Council will also deliver a number of initiatives from the Strategic Plan including:

- Increased investment and extension of services on Council's Road network,
- Further investment in the upgrade of major plant and equipment,

- Increased focus on the repair and optimisation of Council's building assets,
- Continued renewal of coastal infrastructure, and
- Furthering the strategies within Council's tourism and marketing strategy including direct management of the Beachport Southern Ocean Tourist Park.

Council will continue a number of initiatives that were implemented in prior years:

- Focus on generating economic stimulus to the greater community through major infrastructure projects,
- Continuation of the allocation of \$100,000 to enable community groups an opportunity to access these funds for major infrastructure projects, and
- Preparation of 'Shovel Ready' strategies that can be utilised to leverage future grant opportunities for major infrastructure projects.

In preparing the Annual Business Plan, Council considered a range of competing priorities, including community projects, escalating costs and ongoing asset renewal requirements.

The challenge for Council is to deliver a responsible budget that meets current and future expectations while limiting rate increases and minimising impacts on ratepayers.

For the forthcoming year, Council is focused on delivering services, programs and major projects to make Wattle Range a 'Great Place to Live and Work'.

Ben Gower
Chief Executive Officer

MAJOR 2026/27 PROJECTS

- Southend rock armouring and groyne realignment **\$1.8M**
- Various renewal projects for the Southern Ocean Tourist Park, Beachport **\$640K**
- Relocation of the Beachport Resource Recovery Centre **\$250K**
- Stormwater Drainage, Queen Street, Penola Road Upgrade **\$200K**
- Millicent Depot Office Building Refurbishment **\$583K**

RATES SNAPSHOT



- Total Council property capital valuation **\$8.15B**
- Total rateable properties **9,329**
- Rate increase **6.9% (+ growth 0.28% from new properties)**
- Waste management service charge increase **5.4%**
- CWMS charge increase **4.9%**
- Landscape Levy increase **2.3%**

Rates due by

QUARTER 1
9 September 2026

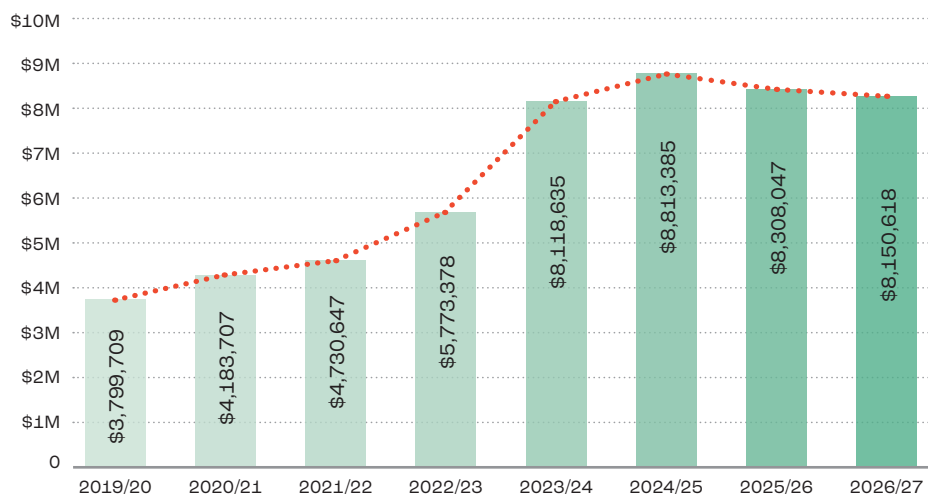
QUARTER 2
2 December 2026

QUARTER 3
3 March 2027

QUARTER 4
2 June 2027

RATES in summary

TOTAL CAPITAL VALUATIONS \$,000



RATES IN \$	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Primary Production	Vacant Land	Other Land
2026/27	0.3017	0.3017	0.3017	0.2463	0.4535	0.4535
2025/26	0.2992	0.2992	0.2992	0.2184	0.4485	0.4485
% change	0.84%	0.84%	0.84%	12.77%	1.11%	1.11%

Minimum Charge \$783 (applicable to 21.9% of rateable properties).

Other Charges

Waste Collection			Community Waste Water Management Scheme				
	2 BIN	3 BIN		Penola	Southend	Kalangadoo	Beachport
Full Rate	\$350	\$425	Occupied	\$806	\$806	\$806	\$914
Pensioner	\$260	\$305	Vacant	\$601	\$601	\$601	\$685

Regional Landscape Levy (State Government Tax)

Residential, vacant & other	Commercial	Industrial	Primary Production
\$100.60	\$149.80	\$226.70	\$430.70

For an explanation of the Landscape Levy, please contact the Limestone Coast Landscape Board via their website – lc.landscape.sa.gov.au

Operating Income

Council has budgeted to receive operating income of \$40.11M in 2026/27. 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.

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 2025/26 will continue to receive this rebate during 2026/27.

However, if you are eligible and did not receive this rebate during the 2025/26 year, you need 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, 2026.

Can I object to my valuation increase/decrease?

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

EVERY \$100 OF YOUR RATES is spent on...



\$6.76 PER \$100
Tourism and Events



\$40.91 PER \$100
Assets and Infrastructure



\$2.05 PER \$100
Economic Development, Regulatory Services, Environment and Planning



\$24.90 PER \$100
Governance, Communications and Administration



\$3.27 PER \$100
Libraries and Community Facilities



\$11.30 PER \$100
Waste and Recycling



\$1.43 PER \$100
Community, Health, Aged and Youth Services



\$9.38 PER \$100
Parks, Playgrounds, Pools, Sport and Recreation



CAPITAL expenditure

\$9.24M

Key capital expenditure projects for 2026/27

KERB & GUTTER \$224K
 (renewal)

FOOTPATHS \$322K
 (replacement and new construction)

UNSEALED ROADS
 (re-sheeting 30.6km of road)

\$1.2M

SEALED ROADS
 (16.3km of resealing and various sealed road upgrades)

\$1.47M

SOUTHEND COASTAL MANAGEMENT
 (rock armouring and groyne realignment)

\$1.8M

PLANT \$875K
 (new and replacement plant machinery, vehicles and equipment)

BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES
 (renewal and new construction)

\$2.72M

Key projects include:

- Partial renewal and upgrade of Millicent Depot **\$583K**
- Relocation of the Beachport Resource Recovery Centre **\$250K**
- Southern Ocean Tourist Park amenities block refurbishment **\$500K**

2025/2026 PROJECT highlights

Former Council Office Demolition and Landscaping \$300K

Demolition of the former Millicent Council Office has created a more open town entrance with improved access for the Library, Gallery and Civic and Arts Centre. Landscaping of the area has commenced with the final stages including lighting and parking upgrades to be completed in 2026/27.


Millicent Lions Park Playground Update \$137K

Millicent Lions Park has been transformed into an inclusive community space with a garden, new play equipment, accessible pathways and toilet facilities. The project is a partnership between Unity Housing tenants, Wattle Range Council and the Millicent Lions Club.


Nangwarry Swimming Pool Upgrades \$45K

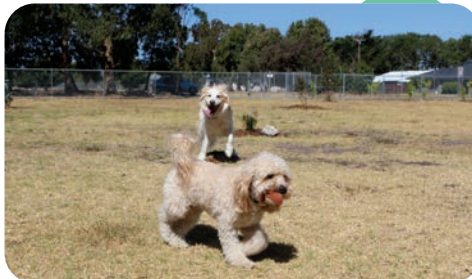
Resurfacing and treatment of leaks to the Nangwarry swimming pool has given the facility a much needed facelift, with both the kids' pool and main pool also repainted, including the addition of new swimming lane lines.


Millicent Library and Art Gallery Entrance \$85K

Repairs to the southern facade of the Millicent Library are completed, improving the precinct's appearance and aligning it with the adjoining Civic and Arts Centre.


Off-Leash Dog Area \$35K

The new enclosed off-leash dog park at McLaughlin Park, Millicent offers a safe space for dogs to exercise and socialise. Features include a water tank, shaded seating and secure double-gate 'airlock' entry.


SIGNIFICANT other project
\$11.3M*

Southern Ports Highway

Reconstruction of the 13.8km section of Southern Ports Highway between the Southend turn-off and Beachport Outlet is nearing completion, with more than 10km already completed and the remaining 3.8km expected to be finished by the end of 2026.

*Funded by the State and Federal Governments



Fire prevention is your responsibility

Fuel reduction is one of the most important preparations you can undertake. It is the responsibility of all landowners to take reasonable steps to prevent the outbreak of fire or the spreading of fire to or from your property under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

For information on your responsibilities when it comes to fire prevention, visit www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au or call Council's Fire Prevention Staff on 08 8733 0900. For further information, call SA Country Fire Service on 1800 362 361 or visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Remember, the lives of you and your family are irreplaceable

**CLEAN IT UP NOW
BEFORE A FIRE DOES!**

Did you know you can pay your rates online?

Simply visit our website at www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au and click on the 'Make a Payment' button on the home screen. It's a convenient and easy to use option that's available anytime. Grab a copy of your latest rates notice and try it out today. For a full list of payment options, see your rates notice.



Register your dog or cat online

Dog and cat registration details are maintained through Dogs and Cats Online, a central South Australian database of all dogs and cats. Dog and cat reforms require all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 to be registered, desexed and microchipped.

You can register, renew or update your details at www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au or at your nearest Council office. Fees apply, see Council's annual Fees and Charges Schedule.

It is the responsibility of the dog or cat owner to advise Council or update Dogs and Cats Online if the dog or cat is moved, sold, given away or deceased. If you need help with renewing your registration online, contact your nearest Council office for assistance.

Waste and Waste Initiatives

Council's waste transfer stations are operated by Veolia and all enquiries should be directed to (08) 8203 3504 or email sa.vloperations@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

Kerbside waste collection

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

Included with your First Quarter Rate Notice is Council's 2026/27 Kerbside Collection Calendar. A copy is also available to view on Council's website.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR BINS AT THE KERB BY 6AM



Have you received your waste disposal vouchers?

A waste disposal voucher, along with ID, is required at all of our Council Waste Transfer Stations and Resource Recovery Centres. Your 2026/27 vouchers have been included with your rates notice. eNotice recipients will receive their vouchers in the post shortly.

If you have lost your voucher, replacement application forms are available at any Council office or from the website.

Stay informed with the Antenno app for residents of Wattle Range

Get real time Council updates and report issues directly to us with photos and location.

The Antenno App for local residents is free to use and will notify you of bin collections, roadworks and so much more.

Dog on the loose? Graffiti on a fence? With the app you can report issues directly to Council.

Download the Antenno app now from the App Store or Google Play, add your locations, and receive updates that matter to you.



Antenno
Be informed. Get involved.

Download the Antenno app now from the App Store or Google Play



'Your Council Update' direct to your inbox

Our monthly, 'Your Council Update' email brings together the latest Council news, important notices, and community updates, including popular features like the latest 'Council Meeting in Summary'.

If you wish to receive the newsletter direct to your inbox visit www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au/community-newsletter

Join the conversation with Engage Wattle Range

Keep up with community projects on our engagement page and have your say on projects and matters planned for the community.

You can help shape your community by sharing your feedback and ideas, exploring consultations and subscribing for updates. Visit www.engage.wattlerange.sa.gov.au today.

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

