

sustainable. strong & vibrant communities

# Wakefield Regional WRAP

Autumn/Winter 2017

Keeping the region informed of Council progress, activities and topics of interest for the community.



\$7 million invested into  
Wakefield region

2



Concession changes for Community  
Wastewater Management Scheme

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Receive a 50% discount on your  
next dog registration fees

7





# Concession changes for Community Wastewater Management Scheme

Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) are changing the way they process and pay council sewerage concession for Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS).

Previously, DCSI assessed applications and advised council to apply the sewerage concession as a credit on the annual rate notice.

From 1 July 2017 DCSI are introducing a simpler more streamlined system.

- CWMS (Sewerage) concessions will be paid directly to the customer.
- CWMS (Sewerage) concessions will therefore not appear on annual rate notices.

In January 2017 DCSI wrote to all current customers receiving CWMS concessions on their Council Rate Notices, advising that from 1 July 2017 that these concessions will be paid directly to the customer.

**All concession enquiries should be directed to the DCSI Concessions Hotline 1800 307 758 or visit [www.sa.gov.au/concessions](http://www.sa.gov.au/concessions)**

This payment is in addition to the Cost of Living Concession (COLC) payment (where a customer is eligible and registered with DCSI). Concession holders will receive these payments via EFT into their bank account in late September.

Please note that Council has no part in approving or providing these concessions therefore you will need to contact the concessions hotline directly.

When concession holders receive their Annual Rates Notices, the CWMS concession will no longer appear on the account as it has done in the past and the full CWMS amount will be payable by concession holders. As such the amount payable will appear to be higher than in previous years because the concession amount is being paid directly to eligible households rather than to council.

It is therefore recommended that on receipt of the CWMS concession payment and the Cost of Living Concession payment, concession holders transfer those payments towards their rates account.

## Mayor Reid's Reflections

### Busy, busy, busy improving the community

Over the past few months Council Members have been busy attending informal gatherings to workshop Council's renewed Strategic Plan and to review Council by-Laws and policies to increase efficiencies. The collaboration between Council Members and staff has been fantastic; there is a great drive from all to gain the best for our Council.

In early April the State Government held their Country Cabinet within our region, in which all the Ministers made themselves available to speak with the community.

In preparation for the Country Cabinet the CEO and I met with various community members and visited several facilities. This equipped us with the knowledge to have discussions with the Ministers and focus on the needs and concerns of our region, with an emphasis on offering regional residents the same opportunities as metropolitan residents.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the efforts from our Council Members. They do far more than attend a meeting once per month, they dedicate many hours each week towards Council matters. As Mayor I am also kept very busy, my diary for February had me attend 16 different meetings! The reason Councillors and myself do this is because we care and are passionate about improving our communities and we want new and improved outcomes.

On a final note, enjoy the upcoming autumn days. I encourage you to get out and about in our own backyard and enjoy the many things that our area has to offer.





Did you know the region produces 40% of South Australia's poultry output?

## Local poultry farm finalising \$7 million project to expand



Following four months of development, Southern Free Range's multi-million dollar expansion is almost at a close offering a total of 30 operational sheds from four farms.

Southern Free Range will have the shedding required to produce an additional 2 million birds per annum, totalling to 9.5 million birds.

The self-funded project sourced contract labour for approximately 30 tradesmen for the duration of the expansion, resulting in economical benefits for the region.

Southern Free Range Operations Manager John Partington said, "It is anticipated the poultry industry will have a further 5 years in growth. When processing capacity increases, we are planning to build a further six sheds to cater for the demand."

Ideal climate and infrastructure has initiated over 205 poultry farms to be built within the Council region, leading to 40% of the State's total birds grown from our very own backyard.

Statistics show that Australians are expected to consume a huge 46.2 kg of chicken meat per person/per year, making us one of the largest consumers of chicken meat in the world!

Those who were around in the 1960s and 1970s may well be thinking - how did chicken go from being an occasional treat, consumed only on special occasions or at best as the odd Sunday roast lunch, to today eating the equivalent of almost a full kilo of chicken meat each and every week?

Australian Chicken Meat Federation states the chicken industry has been able to deliver a more affordable product because of significant improvements it has made in the efficiency of how chicken is produced, and overall improvements in productivity. These improvements have been passed on to consumers by way of reduced prices.

Combined with the consistency, affordability, versatility and ease of preparation, chicken is the ideal meat for today's consumers.

**"Australians are one of the largest consumers of chicken meat in the world!"**



Did you know Council Operators grade a total of 5,456kms per year to maintain the Wakefield Regional Council road network?

## Upcoming road works

Mid-April to mid-May, staff will be conducting roadworks on Bismark Valley Road near Nantawarra.

And you'll see more action on Avon Road, Avon and Eleventh Street in Snowtown in mid to late April, where staff will be finishing reconstruction.

Pareora Road near Port Wakefield will be upgraded following a shared funding agreement with P&L Composting. The upgrade will provide clear access to the newly developed P&L Mushroom Composting Processing Plant.

Over 7kms on Beaufort Road in Whitwarta will be resheeted during April, with one section already completed.

And at the end of April a section of Alma Road is scheduled to be resealed.

To receive further notifications on upcoming road works, download the My Local Services App.

## Major reconstruction of three local roads

Getting on top of last year's storm damage, road maintenance has had a chance to gain momentum.

In line with Council's annual plan, three local roads are facing major reconstruction being Avon Road in Avon, Eleventh Street in Snowtown and White Cliffs Road near Koolunga.

Motorists will notice a significant improvement in road conditions from the renewed surface.

An added bonus is White Cliffs Road will have better access, attracting more visitors to one of our region's tranquil hidden secrets - White Cliffs Reserve.

Infrastructure Services Manager David Hassett said, "This is a fantastic achievement, however we still have a long way to go. The work schedule was heavily affected due to our recent storm events taking priority." He added, "We will be assisted by contractors to achieve our road construction targets"

Scheduling road maintenance can be a complex process and many factors have to be considered when defining the priority. Each year, Council staff personally review road conditions and rate the surface, drainage and environs for assessment.

Following assessment Council staff go on to review the 10 year road renewal plan and Councillors adopt a three year program.

**Council has the fourth largest road network in South Australia, totalling 2728kms - the equivalent distance from Adelaide to Perth.**

# One way your rates benefit the community

Every year Council award grants towards many community projects. How has that funding helped the community?

Back in 2015/16, the Balaklava Sports Shooting Club had big plans for their range which included a lot of earth moving - and costs. Thankfully Council's Community Grants gave them the opportunity to move forward with their plans - think of Superman with his cape.

Having received funding from Council before, and following a workshop on grant writing held by Council, the Club submitted their application with great success. Luckily for the Club the 'Stronger Communities Program' initiated by the Federal Government were also funding similar projects, so the Club applied for that too...and succeeded!

**Balaklava Sports Shooting Club Secretary, Phil Edwards said, "The Club found the Council grant application process very easy and appreciated all of the support offered."**

Contributing 50% themselves, the Club secured over \$19,000 in joint funding. The number of shooting bays were expanded to 10 and another range for pistol and rifle shooting was expanded to cater for their 70+ membership. The region benefits from this expansion both economically and socially as the Club now has the facilities to host a Shooting State Championship, attracting 150+ people over three to four days.

Port Wakefield Community Management Committee is another proactive group which has recently been successful in receiving a Council grant towards the floor renovation of the beloved historic Town Hall.

The proactive Committee applied for a grant in 2015/16 to renovate the unsafe flooring and have since finished the project with great success. The renewed flooring looks fantastic and has received many positive comments from residents. Local children can participate in martial arts without any hesitation and school concerts, church carols and all other events can proceed with minds at ease. Next, the Committee plan to paint the Hall interior to improve the overall appearance, offering a place of grandeur for those special occasions.



## Need to see our staff about building? Sure, just let us know

Development regulations can be complex and difficult to understand and Council's development & planning staff are always happy to help when you have any queries.

By notifying development & planning staff in advance you wish to see them in person, they will have the opportunity to be more prepared for your query and consider all options in support of your plans.

Planning Officer Sonya Jones said, "By making an appointment, staff can ensure availability and you will receive their undivided attention."



## Download this App

Download the My Local Services App now, you won't regret it.

It offers bin collection reminders, waste transfer station opening times, upcoming road maintenance/road closures, info on events in the region, disaster recovery information, a direct link to CFS incidents, the latest news from Council and anything else you need to know - All for free too!

AND you can report an issue directly to Council using the extremely user-friendly 'Report It' feature.

It is available for download from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Do you at times forget when the green bin is due to go out, or if it's the week for the yellow bin to be collected?



Did you know, during 2015/16 Council has invested over \$315,000 towards community grants, buildings & halls and local committees?

## Single Farm Enterprise

Are you a farmer?

Do you have 2 or more pieces of rateable land in the area that is not adjoining?

Are these pieces of land all used as farm land/primary production?

And are these pieces of land owned or occupied by the same person/s?

Have you subdivided, purchased or sold land this financial year?

If you answered "YES" to the above questions – you may be eligible to apply to have your farm classified as a "Single Farm Enterprise". This means that your single farm enterprise would only attract the one fixed charge against all of your land.

If a single farm enterprise application has previously been approved and no changes as listed above have been made throughout this financial year, a new application is not necessary.

Applications will need to be received by Friday 26 May 2017 to be considered for inclusion in Council's 2017/18 rating. The single farm enterprise provision only applies after an application has been made to Council and granted.

Application forms are available from Council's website [www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au). If you any have any queries please contact our Customer Service staff on 8862 0800 or email [admin@wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au)

## Community grants up for grabs, start preparing now

Have a community project in mind? Great! Council can help fund it, you just need to be prepared.

Sustainable, strong and vibrant communities is what we all strive for and with the help of supportive and proactive community members it can be achieved.

Every year Council has put aside funding to help community groups achieve their plans in developing the region, namely the Community Grants Program - this is a tradition Council is eager to continue.

On that note, Council announce the 2017/18 Community Grants officially open for applications.

Coordinating a grant application can require preparation and commitment, however it is worthy of the time in order to succeed.

Grant applications need to demonstrate why your project requires support and the beneficial outcomes for the community. When it comes to writing the application, think quality versus quantity.

Visit the website [www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au) to apply online or view grant guidelines. For enquiries phone 8862 0800 or email [admin@wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au).

Applications close 5pm Friday 26 May.



## End the freeze!

The Financial Assistance Grant freeze has cost Wakefield Regional Council over \$180,000.

The Financial Assistance Grants are a payment from the Australian Government to local councils. The purpose of the grant is for councils to invest in maintaining services for local residents and ratepayers. Councils rely on this funding to provide their communities with much needed facilities and services including local roads, bridges, parks, swimming pools, libraries, community halls and more.

Help end the freeze by emailing your local Federal MP using the template available on the website <https://endthefreeze.good.do/restoreindexation/email/>

The Financial Assistance Grants were frozen as a result of the 2014 Federal Budget. Since the freeze (and removal of Supplementary Road Funding) it has cost the community and Wakefield Regional Council in excess of \$180,000. State-wide it has cost communities around \$90 million over the past three years.

Ceasing the freeze was indicated in last year's Australian Government Budget however, to date, the local government sector has not received guarantee grants will return in the upcoming 2017/18 Federal Budget.

Help end the freeze by emailing your local Federal MP using the template available on the website <https://endthefreeze.good.do/restoreindexation/email/>

## Receive a discount on dog registration fees

Have your dog de-sexed and microchipped by 30 June 2017 and you will receive up to 50% discount on dog registration fees.

Send your puppy to obedience school in addition to being de-sexed and microchipped, and you will receive a further discount!

Microchipping is a reliable way to identify your dog, there is a much higher chance of your dog being returned if they happen to get lost.

De-sexing your dog can reduce a range of health and safety issues, and potentially reduce aggression resulting in better social interactions (in other words, less hormonal!).

Furthermore, microchipping and de-sexing will become mandatory for cats and dogs beginning from early 2018 - therefore it may be best to start planning a trip to the vet for your furry friend soon.

State Parliament recently amended the Dog & Cat Management Act to enforce this law with exemptions only for breeders, working and security dogs.

For more information visit [www.dogandcatboard.com.au](http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au)



Dogs remain the most popular type of pet with almost two in five households owning a dog, that's 3.6 million households!

## Most people don't consider how every day life is improved by the many services Councils provide

Imagine your everyday life without street lighting, rubbish collection, or the maintenance of pavements, roadways, street trees and verges. Imagine no playgrounds or local parks, libraries, sports club facilities, community halls or seniors' services.

What would life be like without food inspections at local restaurants, rescue of stray animals, or provision of volunteer support programs?

Each year Council has to make important decisions about how to allocate rate payers funds to the vast range of programs and services it provides.

The formal consultation process takes place on the Draft Annual Business Plan. This plan, along with details of how to get involved, is planned to be available on Council's website in June. Alternatively you can contact Council on 8862 0800 or email [admin@wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au) and tell us what you want from Council.

Did you know councils receive less than 4% of your taxes?

## Change to Thursday bin collection times

Starting Thursday 4 May, Clare Valley Waste will alter their bin collection route on Thursdays to begin from Blyth then travel to Brinkworth, Snowtown, Lochiel, Bowmans and finish in Port Wakefield.

Residents are encouraged to place their bins on the kerbside on Wednesday evenings to ensure they do not miss the pickup on Thursday mornings.

For enquiries please contact Clare Valley Waste on 0438 884 340 or visit their website [www.clarevalleywaste.com](http://www.clarevalleywaste.com)



## Council waived rubbish fees for good cause

Participants for 2017 Clean up Australia Day had their waste transfer station disposal fees waived by Council.

Council fully supports the Clean up Australia Day initiative as it empowers community members to work together in conserving our environment. Not only are there aesthetic benefits, the event promotes friendships and enables a bond between communities.

Groups and individuals based within the Council area and registered as a participant for Clean up Australia Day had their waste disposal fees waived at Port Wakefield, Owen and Everard waste transfer stations.

CEO Jason Kuchel said, "Council is always keen to support community activities, especially those which take pride in our region by beautifying and taking care of the environment."

The waiver will also continue for the 2018 Clean up Australia Day event!

### Just a reminder about waste disposal

All residents can use their free access voucher to Council transfer stations to dispose of hard refuse. The vouchers can in fact be used for all types of disposal. For more information visit Council's website [www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au)



## Let's keep in touch

Wakefield Regional Council

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visit our website for more information  
[www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au)



**WAKEFIELD**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Your Quarterly Cut-Out

### 3 month bin collection

April						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

  

May						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

  

June						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Recycle Bin

Green Organics Bin

4th Quarter Rates Due

### Our waste depot opening times

Owen	Port Wakefield	Everard
386 Pinery Road	150 Shrike Road	1060 Hancock Road
Wednesday 10am - 11am	Wednesday 10am - 11am	Tuesday 1pm - 3pm
Saturday 10am - 12pm	Saturday 10am - 12pm	Saturday 9am - 11am
Sunday 10am - 11am	Sunday 1pm - 2pm	Sunday 1pm - 3pm