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WAKEFIELD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wakefield Regional WRAP

Spring 2026

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



TIDAL TIDY UP

Dredging and construction of the Port Wakefield Tidal Pool footbridge begins

Pictured above onsite at Port Wakefield is Council's Project Coordinator William Dickson with Mayor Rodney Reid at the Tidal Pool where work is progressing on the new footbridge, with Council contractor Civil Tech.

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Are you prepared for the upcoming fire danger season?

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Message from the Mayor

Spring is always a busy time across our region, and it is pleasing to see a number of important projects progressing alongside continued support for our local communities.

At Port Wakefield, work is well underway on the Tidal Pool footbridge, with construction of the piers progressing and maintenance dredging of the pool also planned. Dredging of the Port Wakefield Boat Ramp will follow once the Tidal Pool works are complete. Works will also resume on Koolunga Road at Brinkworth, with the remaining one-kilometre section to be completed.

It was also wonderful to see more than $98,000 awarded through Council's 2026/27 Minor and Major Community Grants program, supporting 16 projects across our region. These grants help our hardworking community organisations continue to improve local facilities, activities and opportunities.

Congratulations also to Tameika West, who was named Council's 2026 Vocational Education Student of the Year, along with all of this year's applicants, runners-up and highly commended recipients. It was encouraging to see the range of vocational pathways being pursued by young people across our region.

As we move towards summer, I encourage everyone to start preparing for the Fire Danger Season. Keeping properties maintained, reducing fuel loads and ensuring appropriate fire breaks are in place are important steps we can all take to help reduce bushfire risk.

Finally, nominations are open for our Citizen of the Year Awards. These awards provide an opportunity to recognise the people, groups and events that make a valuable contribution to our communities. I encourage you to consider nominating someone who deserves recognition.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Wrap and, as always, thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to making the Wakefield region such a great place to live, work and visit.

Rodney Reid
Mayor

Your Council Members



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Tidal Lagoon and Boat Ramp Dredging

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Civil Tech is now halfway across the pool with piers, making the most of a small window each day when tides are low enough for work to take place.

Once the piers have been installed, they will be trimmed to the final height of the footbridge.

Council will also install a temporary cap on the weir to help prevent water entering the pool during large tides.

Maintenance dredging will be undertaken within the tidal swimming pool to remove accumulated sand and silt deposits ranging from approximately 150mm to 400mm in depth.

A 35-tonne excavator will be used to excavate accumulated material from the pool.

Excavated spoil will initially be stockpiled along the western bank of the pool to allow drainage before being transported to Council's Everard Transfer Station for disposal.

Dredging works at the Port Wakefield boat ramp will also be undertaken once works on the Tidal Pool are completed.

Works on the boat ramp are anticipated to take two to three days, Council will provide notice of closures for the boat ramp when works are due to take place.

Works to resume on Koolunga Road, Brinkworth

WORKS will soon resume on Koolunga Road, Brinkworth with the remaining 1km section of road to be completed.

As part of the works, the Boucaut Road exit will be closed, with traffic lights in place to manage northbound and southbound traffic. A detour will also be in place along Boucaut Road.

The final stage of the project will include building the road embankments, followed by construction of the road layers and final spray sealing.

Motorists are asked to take care when travelling through the area and to follow traffic management.



Council Elections 2027: Have Your Say

COUNCIL elections are your opportunity to help shape the future of your local community by electing representatives who will make decisions on local services, facilities and projects.

Residents and business owners can get involved by either voting or nominating as a candidate. To be eligible, you must be enrolled on the South Australian electoral roll.

If you're enrolled, you'll automatically receive your ballot pack by mail.

Council elections in South Australia are conducted by postal vote, making it easy to participate from home.
Voters rank candidates in order of preference using the preferential voting system.

Thinking About Nominating?

Becoming a council member is a rewarding way to make a positive difference in your community and help shape local priorities for the future.

The nomination period for the 2027 Council Elections opens on Tuesday, 26 January 2027 and closes at 12.00 pm on Tuesday, 9 February 2027.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to prepare early by reviewing the nomination information available through the Electoral Commission of South Australia. Candidates are required to submit a profile of up to 1,000 characters outlining their background, experience and priorities. Candidate profiles, along with an optional photo, will be included in voter information.

Key Dates

- Nominations open: Tuesday, 26 January 2027
- Nominations close: 12.00 pm Tuesday, 9 February 2027
- Voting closes: 5.00 pm Wednesday, 7 April 2027
- Vote counting begins: Saturday, 10 April 2027

Whether you choose to vote or stand for election, council elections provide an important opportunity to have a direct impact on decisions that affect your local area.

For more information about voting, nominations and key election dates, visit www.councilelections.sa.gov.au or contact the Electoral Commission of South Australia on 1300 655 232.

Wakefield's Minor and Major grants deliver $98,000 in funding for 2026/27

COMMUNITY groups in Wakefield Regional Council will benefit from $98,000 in funding through Council's Minor and Major Community Grants program.

Each year, grants are awarded in the Minor and Major categories. Minor Grants fund projects up to $2,000, while Major Grants fund projects from $2,001 to $25,000.

This year, 16 community projects received funding across both grant categories.

The largest project in the Major Grants category was awarded to the Blyth Golf Club.

A total of $25,000 will enable the club to purchase a lawn mower.

Other significant projects awarded in the Major category included $20,000 for the Snowtown Community Progress Association's community bus and lawn mower storage shed and $15,650 for the Lochiel Progress Association's Courts Connect Project.

Eight Minor Grants were also awarded for projects ranging from $350 for fire equipment upgrades in Avon to $2,000 to support a review and upgrade of the Blyth Snowtown Football Club constitution.

WRC Mayor Rodney Reid said the grants provide support for community infrastructure, arts, culture and sporting initiatives that align with Council's Wakefield 2030 vision.

"Each year we support quality projects from across our region, enabling community groups to deliver their vision," Mayor Reid said.

"Regardless of the size of the project, Council always welcomes the opportunity to support our community groups. I look forward to seeing this year's projects come to fruition," Mayor Reid said.

Major	
Applicant	**Funded**
Balaklava Golf Club Inc.	$3,336.41
Blyth Golf Club Inc.	$25,000.00
Brinkworth Primary School Governing Council	$5,000.00
Brinkworth Yacka Community Sports Club Inc.	$7,581.90
Hamley Bridge Community Association Inc.	$5,398.40
Lochiel Progress Association Inc.	$15,650.00
Owen Basketball Club	$2,717.65
Snowtown Community Progress Association	$20,000.00
Minor	
Avon District Hall Inc.	$350.00
Balaklava Courthouse Gallery Inc.	$2,000.00
Balaklava Sports Club	$2,000.00
Blyth Bowling Club Inc.	$2,000.00
Blyth Snowtown Football Club Inc.	$2,000.00
Hummocks Watchman Eagles Football Club	$1,500.00
Port Wakefield Community Management Committee Inc.	$1,500.00
Snowtown Community Management Committee Inc.	$2,000.00
Total	**$98,034.36**

West Wins 2026 VET Student of the Year Award

BALAKLAVA High School's Tameika West has been awarded Wakefield Regional Council's Vocational Education Student of the Year for 2026 from a field of 14 applicants.

Tameika completed a Certificate II in Construction Pathways, a twelve-month course that helped her realise her passion for the construction industry.

Her love of being hands-on and building projects around her home with her dad has reinforced her goal of securing an apprenticeship in the construction industry.

Always striving to build to a high standard, Tameika enjoyed problem-solving and seeing the results of her projects while completing her Certificate II in Construction Pathways.

Tameika was a standout candidate for this year's judging panel, particularly due to her calm demeanour in her interview and her passion for carpentry and the construction industry.

The judging panel was also impressed by Tameika's range of woodworking projects she presented, including stools, a wooden fence, and a shoe rack.

Tameika also shared with the panel her research project, which focused on women working in male-dominated industries, highlighting the challenges, barriers, and discrimination that females may face.



VET Student of the Year students for 2026 Back Row: Mayor Rodney Reid, Kelly Reichelt, Madalyn Wandel (runner up), Harry Tiller, Frank Podiotan, Brianna Ciardiello, William Young (highly commended).
Front Row: Katelin Newton, Elleciea Hanrahan (highly commended), Bodhi Darby, Precious Distor, Tameika West (VET Student of the Year), Lorena Burford (runner up).

With such a large field of participants this year Council awarded two highly commended certificates, the first was presented to Balaklava High School's William Young for the completion of his Certificate II in Automotive Servicing Technology (Tailored for Diesel and Agriculture) and the second was presented to Riverton District High School's Elleciea Hanrahan for the completion of her Certificate II in Animal Care.

Two runners up were also awarded, the first was presented to Lorena Burford for her completion of a Certificate III in Dance and the second was presented to Balaklava High School's Madalyn Wandel for her completion of a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways.

Mayor Rodney Reid said this year's field of VET Award applicants showed the wide range of careers that could be pursued through vocational training. "Not everyone wants to go to university. Vocational education pathways provide so many people with excellent opportunities to pursue careers in a wide range of fields including construction, technology, agriculture, health or dance.

"Highlighting what can be achieved with a vocational education is an honour for Council each year as these fields are often left out of the limelight.

"I'd like to thank all the students that took the time to complete the application and sit through the interview with our panel," Mayor Rodney Reid said.

Mayor Reid also thanked Balco Australia for their continued support sponsoring the prize for the winner of the VET Student of the year.

Help keep your pets safe from bird flu

South Australians are being encouraged to take simple steps to protect their pets and backyard poultry from H5 bird flu.

Since the virus was first detected in South Australia in June, confirmed cases have been found in wild birds only. There have been no detections in poultry or livestock, and the risk to human health remains low.

Pet owners can help reduce the risk by preventing contact between domestic animals and wild birds. For backyard poultry, this includes covering feed and water sources, maintaining good hygiene practices, and keeping different poultry species separated where possible.

Cat owners are encouraged to keep pets indoors or in secure enclosures, while dog owners should keep their pets on a lead in wildlife areas and ensure they avoid contact with sick or dead birds.

Residents are reminded not to touch sick or dead birds or wildlife. Instead, record the location and details and report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

By staying vigilant and following simple biosecurity measures, the community can help protect South Australia's animals and wildlife from the spread of H5 bird flu.

Bushfire Management General Advice

WAKEFIELD Regional Council is committed to supporting residents to be bushfire ready. Under the Fire and Emergency Services Act, Council employs qualified Fire Prevention Officers who educate the community, inspect properties and undertake assessments across the district to assist in minimising the risk of fires spreading.

As the property owner, you are responsible for ensuring the preparation of your property for the fire danger season. This includes installing and maintaining fire breaks and reducing fuel loads on your property.

Properties must be prepared prior to the Fire Danger Season and maintained to a standard throughout the Fire Danger Season. Generally these dates are:

MID NORTH DISTRICT
NOVEMBER TO APRIL 2027

*Subject to change. To determine the precise dates for the Fire Danger Season each year please refer to the CFS website: www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Council's Fire Prevention Officers inspect properties prior to and throughout the Fire Danger Season. Inspections commence in September/October each year. If your property does not meet the requirements at this time, further action, including the issuing of legal notices and expiations may occur.

Knowing the fire danger rating may save your life

Fire Danger Ratings are now simpler and easier to understand. By using the latest science and technology, they provide a more clear and accurate rating to save properties and lives.

The Fire Danger Ratings give you an indication of the consequences of a fire, if a fire was to start. The higher the rating is, the more dangerous the conditions will be.

NO RATING

MODERATE

HIGH

EXTREME

CATASTROPHIC

TOTAL FIRE BAN

Asset Protection Zone

An asset protection zone is an area surrounding a building that is managed to reduce the bushfire hazard to an acceptable level.

Building assets such as houses, sheds and outbuildings are legally required to be protected by reducing the amount of flammable material around each building:

- No trees or tall shrubs within 2 metres of a building.
- No trees to overhang a building.
- Trees (crowns) are to be a minimum distance of 10 metres apart. A small group of trees may be treated as one crown.
- Remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and any other flammable materials close to buildings and sheds.
- Remove ladder fuels by pruning tree limbs less than 2 metres above the ground, within 20 metres of your home and any outbuildings.
- Slash and maintain weeds and grasses to below 100mm.

Reduce Fuel Loads and Hazard Mitigation

Fuel loads refer to the amount of flammable material available for a fire to burn. Low fuel loads can be achieved by undertaking the following steps throughout the fire danger season:

- Slash and maintain ground cover across the entire block to ensure combustible vegetation does not exceed 100mm in height. Be sure to remove cut material.
- Remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth especially under trees.
- Prune tree limbs that are less than 2 metres above the ground or overhanging your home and outbuildings.

Make a plan

Would you remember a plan that's just in your head if you're surrounded by smoke, heat and flames? Make a plan before a bushfire threatens.

2 Minute Traveller Bushfire Plan
Create your Traveller Bushfire Plan to know the level of risk in the areas you're travelling to and through, and what to do to keep yourself safe. Things to consider include:

1. What you will do on high fire danger days
2. Where your closest Bushfire Safer Place is
3. What you need to include in your emergency kit

5 Minute Bushfire Plan
Whether you're planning to leave early or stay and defend, your safety and survival during a bushfire will depend on how prepared you are. Things to consider include:

1. Who will your plan protect
2. What do you need to take with you
3. What will you do with your pets

Bushfire Survival Plan Template
Understand the 7 keys steps to surviving a bushfire to review as part of developing your Bushfire Survival Plan. Things to consider include:

1. Understanding bushfire behaviour
2. Recognising days of high fire danger
3. Consider your physical and emotional preparation

Planning works near a road, footpath or verge? Check with Council first

If you're planning to install or alter a driveway, undertake works on a verge, install infrastructure or make other changes that affect a Council road or footpath, you may need approval from Council before getting started.

Under Section 221 of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA), Council approval is required for alterations made in, on, across, under or over a Council road or footpath. A road extends from property boundary to property boundary and includes the carriageway, footpaths and verges.

Council's Authorisation to Alter a Public Road Permit Application is a one-off permit and must be approved before works commence. An application fee applies and proof of insurance cover must be provided with the application.



What types of work require approval?

A Section 221 permit may be required if you are planning to:

- Alter a road to provide or change access to a property, such as a driveway or crossover.
- Erect or install a structure, including pipes, wires, cables, fixtures or fittings, in, on, across, under or over a road.
- Change the construction, arrangement or materials of a road.
- Alter or remove infrastructure associated with a road.
- Plant, interfere with or remove trees or vegetation from a road or verge

What do I need to provide?

Applications need to include details of the proposed works and a plan drawn to an appropriate scale showing their precise location and relevant measurements.

Depending on the works, this may include existing and proposed crossovers, drains, electrical or water connections, Stobie poles, trees, buildings and other infrastructure.

Before commencing work

Before commencing proposed works, permit holders should contact Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) on 1100 to identify the location of underground services and determine whether any precautions are required.

Where works restrict traffic or pedestrian access, Workzone Traffic Management in accordance with AS 1742.3 is required and must be installed by a qualified person.

Trees or vegetation on Council-controlled infrastructure or land must not be removed to enable works to proceed unless Council approval has been granted beforehand.

All excavations and surfaces must also be reinstated in accordance with Council's excavation and reinstatement specifications. Reinstatement fees may apply where Council infrastructure requires reinstatement as a result of the works.

Responsibilities of the permit holder

Permit holders are responsible for complying with the conditions of the approved permit and for any damage caused to Council roads, footways, reserves, nature strips or other public property as a result of the works.

The permit requires public risk insurance of at least $20 million, with proof of cover provided to Council. If a contractor is undertaking the works, the permit holder must ensure the contractor has the appropriate insurance cover.

Ongoing maintenance of items covered by the permit, including damage and general wear and tear, is the responsibility of the landowner.

Get approval before you start

Importantly, submitting an application does not mean work can begin straight away.

The application must be approved in writing by Council and all applicable fees paid before any work proceeds. Notice must also be provided to the appropriate Council officer before approved works commence.

Once approved, you will receive a permit confirming the approved activity and applicable conditions. Unless otherwise approved, the permit is valid for six months from the date of issue.

Council must also be notified of completed works within seven days.

If you're considering works that may affect a Council road, footpath or verge, make sure you check the requirements and obtain the necessary approval before starting work.

Nominate now for Citizen of the Year Awards

IT'S that time of year again, where we recognise those in our communities who spend their time going above and beyond!

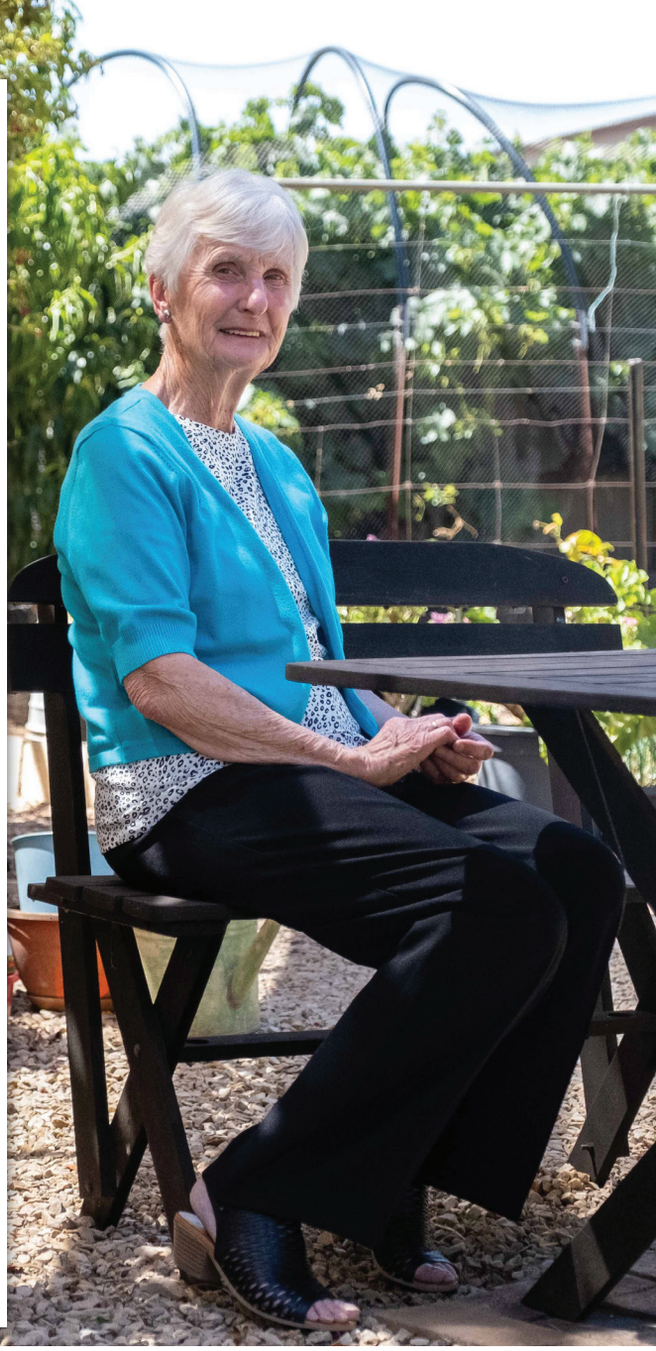
We're asking you to take the time to think of someone who deserves to be recognised in this year's awards and nominate them.

You can nominate across four different categories:

- Citizen of the Year (must be an Australian Citizen)
- Young Citizen of the Year (must be under 30)
- Community Event of the Year
- Active Citizen of the year (don't have to be a citizen)

Last year Kath Tiller (pictured) was awarded our Citizen of the Year Award, do you know someone like Kath deserving of recognition?

If you've got someone in mind to nominate or a favourite event from the past year that deserves to be recognised – visit the Australia Day Citizen of the Year website to nominate.



What to look for when nominating

Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year;
Significant contributions to the community, above and beyond employment duties. An inspirational role model within our community
The scope of impact an individual's contribution has on our local government area.

Community Event of the Year;
The quality of the event
The scope of impact the event has had on our area
The event's contribution to the community

Award for Active Citizenship;
A person or group delivering outstanding work on an event or project for the community. You don't have to be an Australian Citizen to win this award

Let's keep in touch

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visit our website for more information
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WAKEFIELD
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NOVEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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					

DECEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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		

JANUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31					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

Our transfer station opening times

Owen

Wednesday 10am -12 noon
Saturday 9am - 11am
Sunday 10am - 12 noon

Everard Central

Tuesday 9am -11am
Saturday 9am - 11am
Sunday 9am - 11am

Port Wakefield

Thursday 10am -12 noon
Saturday 10am - 12 noon
Sunday 9am - 11am