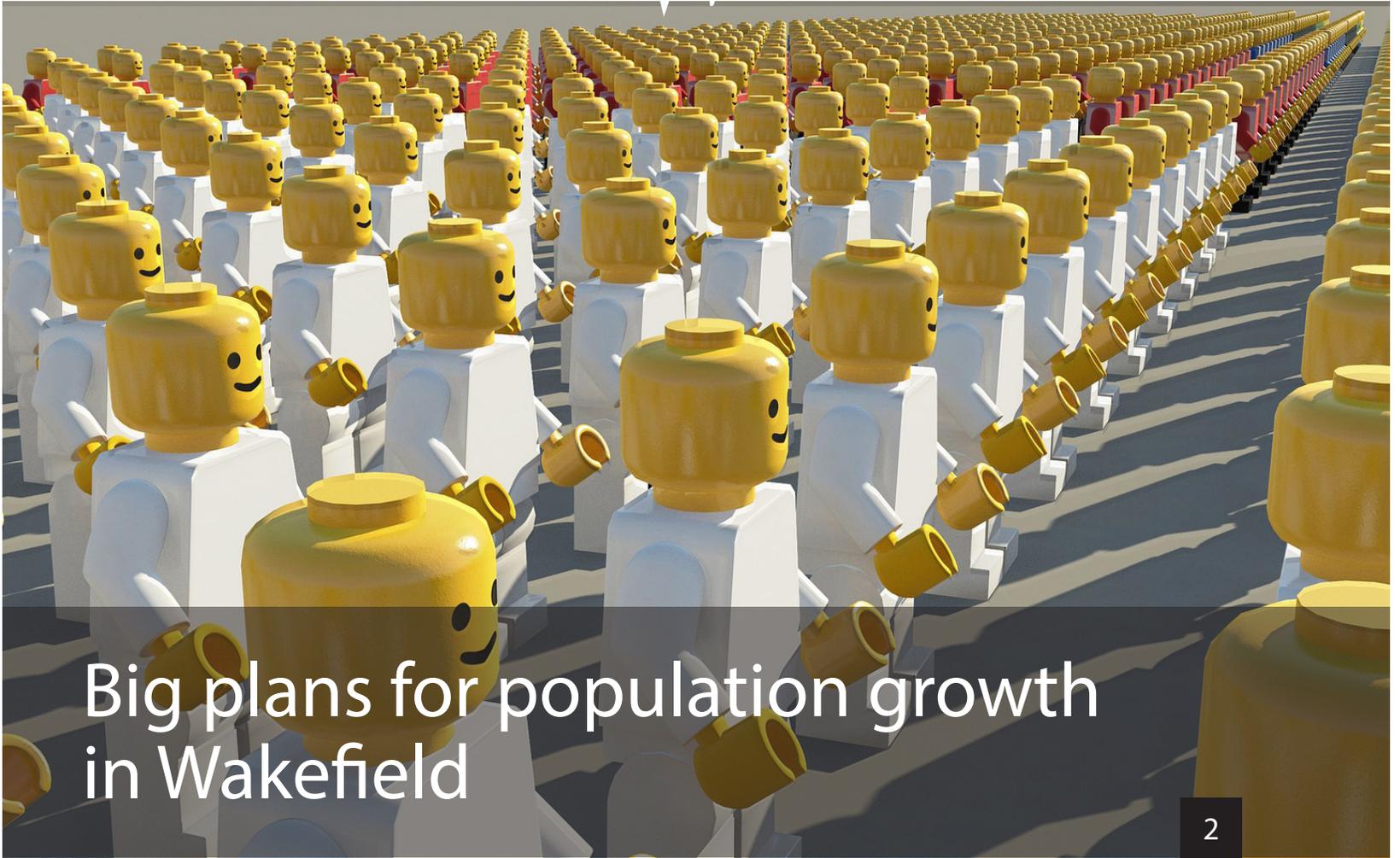


sustainable. strong & vibrant communities

# Wakefield Regional WRAP

Winter/Spring 2017

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



## Big plans for population growth in Wakefield

2



## New State laws for dogs and cats

3

## Help influence Council decisions from home

6





## Mayor Reid's Reflections

### Recapping our region

The Wakefield region is home to almost 7000 people according to the latest ABS statistics, but many more people pass through every week. This makes our Council region a key piece in the jigsaw puzzle called South Australia, and the gateway to the Yorke Peninsula, Clare Valley, Flinders Ranges and everything North and West.

Our region is renowned for agricultural produce and processing. There are more than 200 poultry farm sheds within the district. Our local hay processing plants, Gilmac and Balco, export hay to many countries and we also host numerous large grain terminals. Combined, our area influences food for the world.

Another key influence we have within South Australia is renewable energy. The Snowtown Windfarm is the second largest in Australia powering approximately 180,000 homes and produces 10% of the State's power consumption.

Not to mention our diverse and culturally rich communities.

Wakefield has a great deal to offer, with a vast potential for more.

*Mayor Rodney Reid*

## Big plans for population growth in Wakefield

The next five years will be action-packed for the Wakefield region according to the new draft Strategic Management Plan.

Private capital expenditure is expected to double or even triple over the next 5 years compared with the \$100 plus million invested in the past 5 years. Wakefield Regional Council plans to do what it can to ensure as much of that growth occurs and to capitalize on that for the benefit of the community.

Council's new Strategic Plan is built on 4 key objectives including economic development, quality infrastructure, meeting community expectations and for the first time population growth.

"Councillors identified early on that focusing on economic development was not enough, as job creation was not translating to people choosing to live within our region" said Mr Jason Kuchel, CEO of Wakefield Regional Council. "For this reason, Council has established population growth as a key pillar of the new Strategic Plan with a number of actions to remove the inhibitors that stop people moving into the area, including access to childcare and availability of lifestyle properties."

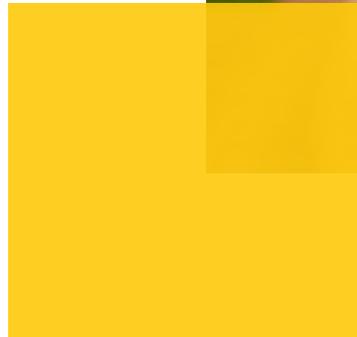
**"We are excited by the potential to bring more residents into our area which in turn will generate more jobs and security of social services" said Mayor Reid**

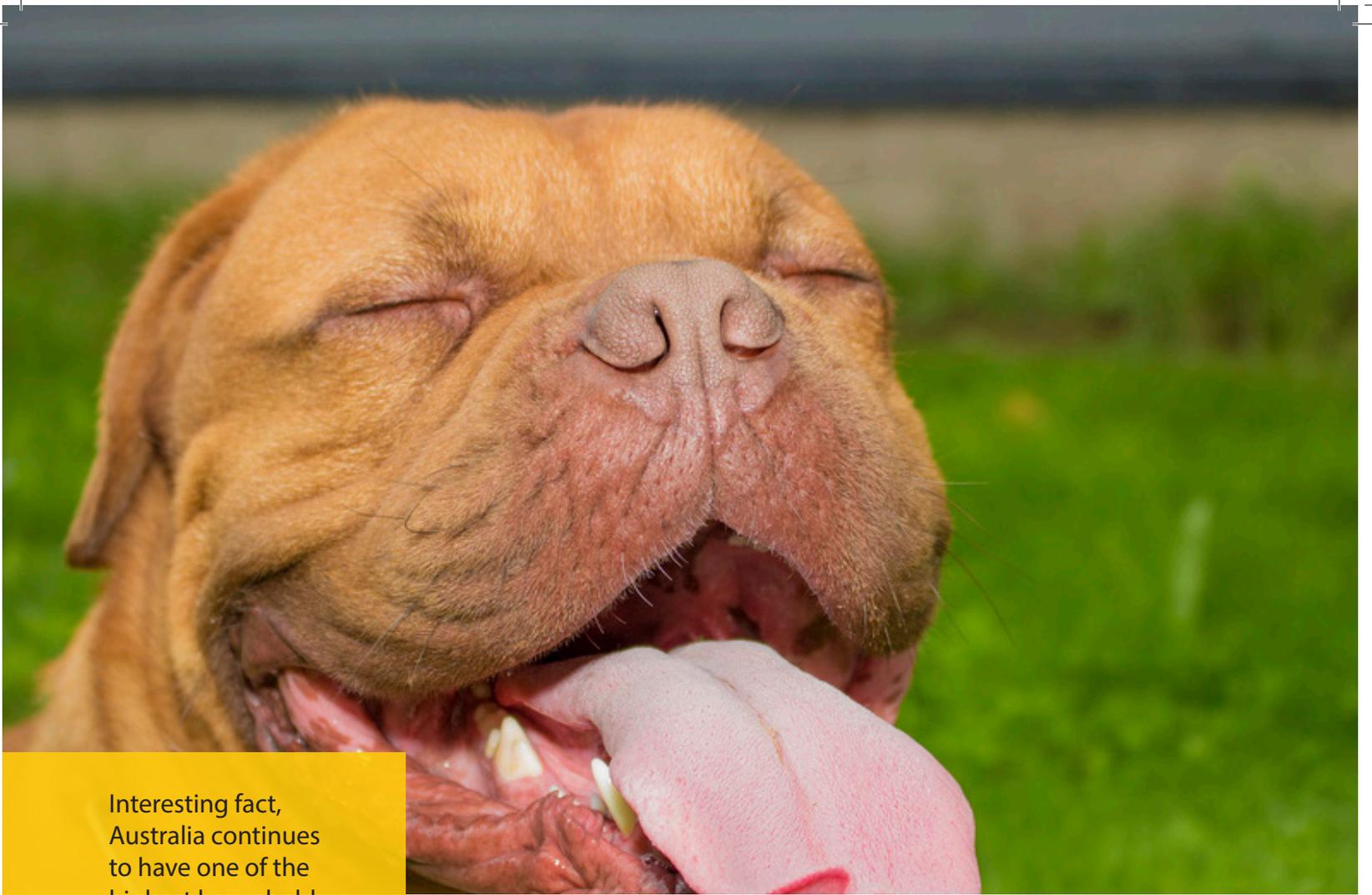
Mayor Rodney Reid added that "Potential residents also expect more green spaces and more street trees and that the first impressions of our towns are key to encouraging more people to choose to live here."

"We are excited by the potential to bring more residents into our area which in turn will generate more jobs and security of social services such as hospitals and schools, and more business services such as shops and cafes."

Following extensive workshops and deliberation and the valuable input from our community, the Strategic Management Plan for 2017-2022 has been developed and endorsed by Council.

Staff and Councillors are excited to get started on the Plan and achieve targeted outcomes, in turn developing a vibrant, enthusiastic and creative community.





Interesting fact, Australia continues to have one of the highest household rates of pet ownership in the world.

## New State law says cats & dogs must be microchipped and desexed

Some of you may already be aware, but for those who are not - State Parliament amended the Dog and Cat Management Act to enforce mandatory desexing for new generations of dogs and cats, and mandatory microchipping for all dogs and cats over a certain age.

This law will be enforced on 1 July 2018 with exemptions only for breeders, working and security dogs.

Additionally, a new online portal titled 'DACO' (Dogs and Cats Online) will be implemented in July 2018 to streamline dog and cat management in South Australia. The system will act as a 'one-stop-shop' for registration details, microchip and breeder information for each pet.

DACO will eliminate individual council registrations and in turn, save councils money as it delivers greater functionality and streamlines the process for owners to register their dogs and cats online each year.

The purpose for all of these changes are to reduce euthanasia for the 10,000 unwanted dogs and cats each year.

Council CEO Jason Kuchel said, "We welcome the changes implemented by the Dog and Cat Management Board as they will benefit the community on many levels, and streamline local government processes."

"Furthermore, microchipping is a reliable way to identify your dog, there is a much higher chance of your dog being returned to you 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."

For more information visit the Dog and Cat Management Board website at [www.dogandcatboard.com.au](http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au)

**"Microchipping is a reliable way to identify your dog or cat, and desexing can potentially reduce aggression."**





## Molly the local Maltese travels Australia...her own way!

This inquisitive maltese puppy took it upon herself to travel around Australia and still find her way back home.

Every now and then a dog feels the urge to break free and venture the world as a free canine. Molly the Maltese from Balaklava certainly felt that way on one particular day and took it upon herself to experience a new adventure...twice.

During her first travels, Molly was approached by a gentleman who adored dogs and agreed to jump into his car for a scenic ride to Whyalla. Holidaying in Whyalla sure did have its benefits. Molly was treated to a relaxing spa day, a glorious run in the park and a warm comfortable bed indoors. She also managed to learn a few tricks. However as it is with any holiday, its great to be there but its great to go home. A week later, Molly was chauffeured home by her lovely temporary carer and new life long friend - who still to this day continues to drop in and visit Molly on occasions.

### Luckily for Molly, she was registered and microchipped by responsible owners.

Now that Molly had the travelling bug, she decided to venture even further. In fact she travelled all the way to a small aboriginal community on the outskirts of Alice Springs! Wanting to experience city life, Molly captured a quick selfie with her new friends and continued her travels towards the township. Luckily Molly crossed paths with a caring vet nurse, who happened to be riding her horse at the time. The vet nurse contacted Molly's owners to let them know she was safe and well, and discussed a plan for Molly's return.

The vet nurse escorted Molly to a family in Alice Springs who were scheduled to travel past Balaklava in the next few days. They fell head over heels in love with her, and the young girl forever played with Molly until they could play no more. A marvellous week went by and it was time to head home. Molly ended her holiday on a high by taking a road train-road trip with her hosted family all the way home. Although she enjoyed her adventurous experience, she was ecstatic to be back.

Luckily for Molly she was registered and microchipped by responsible owners; providing the opportunity to be adventurous, make new friends and still find her way home.

## Wow, over 100kms of our road network was repaired during 2016/17

Council managed to repair over 100kms of the district's road network during the 2016/17 financial year.

A majority of the Capital Works Program for 2016/17 was completed. A commendable effort considering the unexpected storm damage and recovery.

Keep an eye out for the 2017/18 Capital Works Program soon to be adopted by Council and available from Council's website at [www.wrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wrc.sa.gov.au)

Council allocated over \$6 million towards road maintenance in 2016/17

# State Government roadworks welcomed

Council welcomes local road improvements by the State Government as part of the Upper Yorke Peninsula Regional Road Network Upgrade Program.

The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) is aiming to improve safety and efficiency for heavy vehicles, motorists and agricultural vehicles on the Upper Yorke Peninsula.

As part of the Upper Yorke Peninsula Regional Road Network Upgrade Program approximately 20kms of shoulder sealing will be undertaken on two local roads being Balaklava Road, between Port Wakefield and Auburn; and Traeger Road, between Hoskin Corner Road and Pinery Road. Widening of Traeger Road at the junction with Owen Road will also be undertaken to make it safer for vehicles travelling north to pass stationary vehicles preparing to turn right.

## Council considers the safety of our residents and visitors the upmost priority and therefore welcome the upcoming road improvements within the region.

Mayor Rodney Reid said "We have been advocating to make the intersection of the Owen and Traeger roads safer and I am thrilled that this key junction will be safer as a result of this upgrade"

Roadworks commenced Monday 15 May with an expectation to be completed by the end of July 2017, and will occur between the hours of 7am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 2pm on Saturday with speed restrictions in place.

Council CEO Jason Kuchel stated, "Council continues to work with the State Government to make our roads safer and we are pleased these shoulder resealing programs are being carried out as a priority for works within the region."

"Users of these roads should allow extra time when travelling on these roads during the scheduled road works and we ask that drivers watch carefully for the changed speed limits approaching and through the roadworks"



## Additional opportunities for DrumMuster collection

Agricycling is a local company that offers a supplement service to chemical users for the pick up and recycling of drums and plastics.

Noel Bubner of Agricycling, based from Owen, offers on farm collection for recycling, used and triple rinsed chemical containers and other plastics. Agricycling has been operating in recent years and collects around the Owen and surrounding areas.

Agricycling will collect chemical containers from anywhere within the Council region or neighbouring regions. If you would like to contact Agricycling phone Noel on 0477 521 014 or email [noel@agricycling.com.au](mailto:noel@agricycling.com.au)

Council continues to offer a DrumMuster collection service from Everard. Collection dates for 2017 are;

- Wednesday 19 July 2017
- Wednesday 25 October 2017

Should you wish to utilise the services offered at Everard, please contact the Council Office on 8862 0800 or email [admin@wrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wrc.sa.gov.au) to arrange a time.

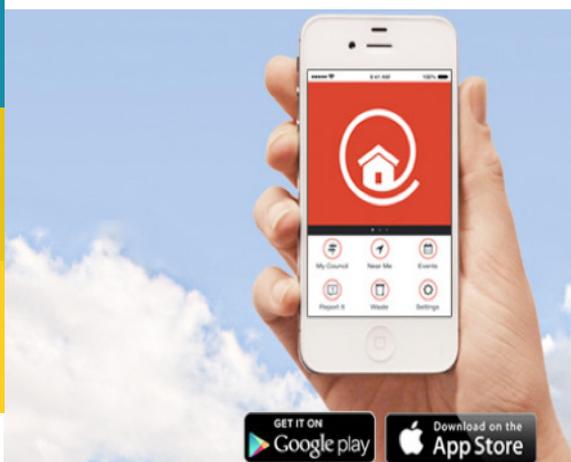
## Download this App

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?



The value of volunteering in South Australia equates to over 107,200 full-time jobs, worth \$4.9 billion each year.

## Record response to Council's free annual Volunteers event

Every year Council hosts an event to thank the priceless contribution from all volunteers within our region.

Quite often it is said, "What would we do without our volunteers?" Well, without volunteers many of our day-to-day community events and recreational sporting activities would not occur.

Our region is renowned for a highly driven community spirit. The people we have to thank for that spirit is our dedicated volunteers.

Council recognises the importance of volunteers and that it is essential to show appreciation. Each year Council organises a special dinner to say thanks, where roles can be reversed and volunteers can be pampered and catered for.

**"We have generations of community-minded families who have traditionally passed their community spirit onto their loved ones, it is important we continue to encourage the value of volunteering."**

This year the event was a record success with over 100 local volunteers in attendance representing many organisations and groups. The event was held at the Lighthouse Christian Centre in Balaklava which proved to be an ideal location, and the warm and inviting food was provided by the Royal Hotel. One highlight of the event included the digeridoo performance by local Port Wakefield resident, Nik Sumners, as an acknowledgement of Country and Reconciliation Week.

Council Community & Development Officer, Holly Cowan stated, "It is crucial to recognise volunteers. They are the core element in developing a thriving community."

"We have generations of community-minded families who have traditionally passed their community spirit onto their loved ones, it is important we continue to encourage the value of volunteering."

Council plans to continue to host the event annually. Local volunteers are encouraged to attend and use the opportunity to meet new friends and discuss ongoing projects and plans for their community.

## Help influence Council decisions!

We would love to have a greater understanding of what is truly desired within our communities.

We want direction when making decisions and the most appropriate direction should rightly come from members within our own community.

Join our Community Panel and voice your opinion - all from the comfort of your own home.

Your input will help Council understand community expectations.

Short surveys on council topics will be emailed to Panel Members every 6-8 weeks, and survey results will help influence the outcome.

Help us help you in developing our region into a place where community members can proudly say, "we contribute and we are being heard."

To join our Community Panel visit the Council website at [www.wrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wrc.sa.gov.au)

## Multi-million dollar disasters!

Recovering from the infamous September 2016 storm and subsequent December storms has resulted in an expenditure of over \$2 million for Council.

While the communities continue to recover from the storm and flood events, Council is also counting the cost. Calculations from Council's recent budget review have highlighted the true financial impact from the one-in-50-year storm in September 2016. Approximately 30% of the annual rate income has been consumed by disaster recovery costs.

While the communities continue to count the financial and personal impacts of the disaster, Councillors are grappling with how to recover the unexpected costs which were understandably not factored into the budget or long term financial plan.

Repairing local community infrastructure is still ongoing due to the drawn-out process of claiming disaster recovery funding and insurances. To be eligible to claim, Council is unable to conduct the repairs in-house and must adhere to specific lengthy processes when arranging contracted repairs.

CEO Jason Kuchel said, "Not only has there been significant financial impact, the community have also felt the affect."

"The shelter at Apex Park in Balaklava is a good example. A prime facility, used by many local residents, was destroyed as a result of the storm over 8 months ago. Regular users of the Lions Walking Trail in Balaklava have also been affected by the temporary closure due to large scale scouring. Both of these are yet to be fixed as we are required to wait until the insurance claims are accepted before we can proceed."

CEO Jason Kuchel said "The State Government Disaster Recovery Fund is expected to fund around \$430,000, leaving Council to cover the remainder of the costs, estimated at \$1.83 million, to repair damaged infrastructure and to mitigate future flooding."



Did you know, taxes collected by councils are only a fraction of the total taxes paid by Australians – less than 4% in fact?



## Weed control on road reserves - get the facts

It's true, it is illegal to remove or interfere with roadside vegetation unless you have approval from Council.

Council authorises land owners adjoining a road reserve (who would otherwise be responsible for the payment of costs and expenses of such removal to the Northern & Yorke Natural Resources Management Board) to remove declared plants from the road reserve which are pursuant to the Natural Resources Management Act, 2004.

Natural Resources Northern and Yorke staff are available to help you plan your approach to weed control.

However before removing roadside vegetation, the land owner must consult with the Northern & Yorke Natural Resources Management Board by phoning 8841 3400.

Additionally, the land owner must ensure that any weed control activity, including the use of chemicals /or spraying, does not interfere with/ or cause damage to the road reserve, other vegetation or in any way affect the property of any other person.

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact our friendly staff, phone 8862 0800 during business hours or email [admin@wrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wrc.sa.gov.au)

## Help kids see that life looks brighter outside!

Council knows the importance of guiding children towards a healthy direction in life. In support of this, Council recently joined the OPAL Network (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle), a program supporting children through families, businesses and communities to live an active healthy lifestyle.

OPAL is a fantastic initiative with a high focus on developing themes and activities for kids to encourage outdoor play and learn healthy eating practices. Active healthy children are happy children with more confidence, stronger bones, and at less risk of developing diabetes and cholesterol issues.

The most recent OPAL activity is the 'Life Looks Brighter Outside' theme with an aim to increase outdoor play in local parks and playgrounds. You will see promotional events occurring within local schools and childcare centres. Get involved and help keep our kids healthy!

OPAL is based on a proven community development and social marketing program operating in eight countries, reaching an estimated 20 million people.

## Need a lift to the shops?

Council's community bus service offers a variety of routes to assist our residents to do their shopping. Our bus covers ground from Balaklava, Pt Wakefield, Hamley Bridge, Owen to Munno Para and Elizabeth.

We offer fortnightly return trips from Hamley Bridge/Owen to Elizabeth, a monthly bus run from Balaklava to Munno Para and a bus for Port Wakefield residents to travel to Balaklava each fortnight. Our Balaklava residents can take the Balaklava Shuttle bus which can pick you up directly from your home (within the township of Balaklava) to take you to the Balaklava shopping precinct and this service is available every Thursday.

All residents are eligible and welcome to use our bus services.

Please contact our friendly customer service staff on 8862 0800 or email [admin@wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au) to book your place. You can also contact us to receive a Community Bus schedule.



## New amenities at the Rocks Reserve

The picturesque and peaceful Rocks Reserve located on the outskirts of Balaklava has new and improved public amenities to accommodate families, individuals and community events.

The original structure was demolished and a new structure was redeveloped with new plumbing, resulting in a modern and durable facility.

Community & Development Services Manager Christopher Parish said, "In accordance with our new Strategic Plan, staff plan to review all public amenities within the Council region to identify those in need of restoration."

"Modern, clean amenities are an expectation of the community. They help improve the region and encourage residents and visitors to happily utilise our local areas."

For further information on Council's new Strategic Management Plan 2017-2022, visit the Council website at [www.wrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wrc.sa.gov.au)

### Bin collection calendars now available

Kerbside bin collection calendars have been mailed to post boxes within the Council region. Alternatively you're welcome to collect a calendar from your local post office, the Council office, or print a calendar directly from the Council website at [www.wrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wrc.sa.gov.au)

## Let's keep in touch

Wakefield Regional Council

Scotland Place, Balaklava, South Australia  
PO Box 167, Balaklava SA 5461

08 8862 0800  
[admin@wrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wrc.sa.gov.au)

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



## Your Quarterly Cut-Out

### 3 month bin collection

July						
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					

August						
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		

September						
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



### 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