

Wakefield 2030

February 2023 Report Card



We are committed to keeping the community updated on our Wakefield 2030 progress. Each year, Wakefield 2030 is updated to ‘close out’ any priority actions that have been completed and make any minor adjustments to reflect changes in our operating environment.

The February 2023 update of Wakefield 2030 is available on our website wrc.sa.gov.au and this report summarises the progress we have made in the second year of the plan against a set of strategic targets and the plan’s three key themes:



Wakefield is a great place to live, work and play. Our vibrant, attractive towns are full of energy and excitement, with places and spaces designed for people to pursue recreation, leisure and fun. Our communities are connected by social events, a sense of pride and belonging and quality infrastructure that serves them well.



Wakefield is open for business. Our region’s economic future is bright as existing businesses thrive and expand, while new businesses and industries put down local roots. Our population is growing as people recognise the affordable, quality lifestyle on offer, with new housing options enticing people to move to the area.



Wakefield has a clean, green future. Strong partnerships between Council, the community and other agencies have been formed as we come together to manage our environment in the best possible way. We are seen as a region that respects its natural assets and seeks sustainable outcomes for the community.



Timeline = when projects are due to be delivered: ● 1-3 years ● 4-6 years ● 7+ years ● Ongoing

Status:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Complete | ✓ |
| On track | OT |
| Monitoring | M |
| Behind | B |

| Outcomes | Key Strategies | Priority Actions | Timeline | Progress Comments | Status |
|---|--|---|----------|---|--------|
| LC1 - Our towns are vibrant and active | LC 1.1 Activate our main streets by providing safe, attractive and accessible places for people. | LC 1.1.1 - Deliver initiatives to rejuvenate the Blyth main street precincts by 2023, followed by Snowtown by 2024. | ● | Engineers are finalising designs ahead of construction commencing. | OT |
| | | LC 1.1.2 - Implement the masterplan for Port Wakefield, commencing with Stage (1) projects to position the town as a tourism and lifestyle destination. | ● | Detailed design to be considered by Council for adoption ahead of commencing projects outlined in Stage 1 in 2023. | OT |
| | | LC 1.1.3 - Develop a railway precinct plan for Balaklava. | ● | A draft licence agreement has been completed and a community consultation session on site was held to take on suggestions for the area. | OT |
| | | LC 1.1.4 - Deliver initiatives to rejuvenate the Brinkworth and Owen and main street precincts. | ● | Blyth Main Street upgrades to commence in 2023 with planning for Brinkworth and Owen to follow on completion of Blyth works. | OT |
| | LC 1.2 Activate Wakefield with events and celebrations. | LC 1.2.1 - Work with the community to design a program of community events and celebrations to activate our public spaces. | ● | Community team has reached out to relevant groups to develop calendar of events and identify options to supplement existing celebrations. | OT |
| | | LC 1.2.2 - Partner with town hall committees to activate the venues to attract new programs and boost revenue. | ● | Community team has contacted hall committees and visited each facility ahead of activation plan development in 2023. | OT |

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| LC2 - Our quality assets meet the community's needs | LC 2.1 Provide well-planned assets that meet the community's needs now and into the future. | LC 2.1.1 - Implement an infrastructure renewal program that aims to progressively close identified infrastructure gaps over the life of this plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">On roads – to less than \$5 millionOn buildings – to less than \$100,000On community wastewater systems, bridges and stormwater – to less than \$100,000 | ● | As at 30 June 2022, infrastructure gaps are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Roads: \$11.8M (a decrease of \$700,000 compared to the previous year).Buildings: \$1,366,000 (an decrease of \$782,800 compared to the previous year).CWMS: \$0Bridges: Remains at \$556,969Stormwater: \$292,494 (an increase of \$10,000 compared to the previous year). In past 12 months Council's <u>total</u> infrastructure gap has been reduced by \$1.5M. | OT |
| | | LC 2.1.2 - Work with the community to promote increased use of highly valued and viable Council buildings. | ● | Major review of Council buildings and their possible uses required. | M |
| | | LC 2.1.3 - Review use of Council-owned buildings and dispose of (or repurpose) underutilised assets. | ● | A review of all Council leases has been completed which confirmed the status of Council-owned assets. More work to be done on repurpose or sale. | OT |
| | LC 2.2 Provide accessible, viable and fit for purpose facilities. | LC 2.2.1 - Finalise stage 2 works for the new Balaklava works depot to meet Council's operational needs by 2022. | ● | Completed with the exception of material bays. | OT |
| | | LC 2.2.2 - Deliver community amenity upgrades (e.g. toilets, playgrounds) to promote the enjoyment of our region for all. | ● | New shade sails were installed on playgrounds at Hamley Bridge, Brinkworth and Blyth. New equipment at Lochiel Oval in June 2023. | OT |
| | LC 2.3 Promote active and healthy lifestyles through the provision of quality sport and recreation facilities. | LC 2.3.1 - Deliver Balaklava and Owen pool upgrades and work with the community to develop an operating strategy that maximises aquatic patronage numbers at all public pools. | ● | \$3.26M Balaklava Swimming Pool upgrade completed, Hamley Bridge pool opened, Owen Pool works to be completed by March 2023. Committees engaged on activation concepts in conjunction with Council-led initiatives. | OT |
| | | LC 2.3.2 - Develop 'spade ready' projects for the upgrade of key sport and recreation facilities across the region and seek external grant funding to support their delivery. | ● | Draft concepts have been developed for Ralli Park and Hamley Bridge but further refining required. Blyth Masterplan complete with detailed design work beginning on new clubroom facility. | OT |
| | LC 2.4 - Develop and promote Council's walking, cycling and leisure trail network. | LC 2.4.1 - Develop a district wide trails strategy for new development and promotion of Council's walking, cycling and leisure trail network. | ● | Economic Development Officer commenced reviewing strategies from neighbouring councils to identify possible links or partnerships when developing new walking/cycling trail strategy. | OT |

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| LC3 - Our community is healthy, safe and connected | LC 3.1 - Provide and support programs that promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our residents. | LC 3.1.1 - Deliver Council's Regional Health Plan to help improve the health and wellbeing of our community. | ● | Draft plan developed for review by Council management prior to distribution to SA Health for endorsement. | OT |
| | | LC 3.1.2 - Implement Disability Access & Inclusion Plan to help make Wakefield more inclusive and accessible for all. | ● | Rollout of initiatives in plan under way. Further queries left with LGA regarding utilising the DAIP Advisory Group as key reference point. | OT |
| | LC 3.2 - Encourage high levels of community participation. | LC 3.2.1 - Work with region's under 25s on a strategy to support young people to stay and flourish in Wakefield. | ● | Employment expo is being arranged for mid 2023 to encourage local youth employment. Youth survey completed with local reference group established. Strategy to be developed in 2023. | OT |
| | | LC 3.2.2 - Develop, with the community, a region-wide emergency risk management plan that emphasises the role of individuals, communities, Council & other agencies before, during and after an emergency. | ● | Council has adopted an Emergency Management Plan – further work to be undertaken in 2023 to work with community and embed the plan. | OT |
| | | LC 3.2.3 - Design a revitalised Volunteer Program that recognises and celebrates Wakefield's volunteers and promotes opportunities for participation through volunteering. | ● | Volunteer coordinator to complete further engagement training in early 2023. Currently creating volunteer database outlining volunteer opportunities in region and partnering with employment agencies to link job seekers and new residents with opportunities. | OT |
| | LC 4.1 - Invest in art, culture and history programs that promote community pride. | LC 4.1.1 - Collaborate with local arts, heritage and culture groups to develop a strategy to showcase our region's artistic reputation. | ● | Community team has contacted various art groups and galleries to identify what existing events and attractions need promoting and then identifying events on supplementing these attractions. | OT |
| LC4 - Our creative community participates in and values our art and culture | | LC 4.1.2 - Implement a new grants program to fund community-led arts events and programs across the region. | ● | Completed. | ✓ |



| Outcomes | Key Strategies | Priority Actions | Timeline | Progress Comments | Status |
|--|--|---|----------|---|--------|
| TR1 - Our economy is diversifying and growing | TR 1.1 - Entice new businesses, developers and industries | TR 1.1.1 - Develop a prospectus that promotes our region and the benefits of doing business in Wakefield. | ● | Draft concept created which will be factored into new economic development plan, with work starting third quarter of 2023. | OT |
| | | TR 1.1.2 - Develop an incentives strategy that details what Council can offer to new businesses. | ● | Round 2 of Small Business Incentive Grants launched Sep 2022. Council's draft Rating Policy provides provisions for rate incentives. | ✓ |
| | | TR 1.1.3 - Review zoning and consider changes to facilitate development. | ● | Not started | M |
| | | TR 1.1.4 - Advocate for the provision of more accessible fuel and retail services. | ● | Private developer has recently purchased key property parcel for potential development. | OT |
| | TR 1.2 - Encourage and support expansion of existing businesses and industries | TR 1.2.1 - Advocate for new projects that facilitate the expansion of local industries. | ● | Working closely with RDA on providing assistance where possible to secure plant protein processing expansion at Bowmans. | M |
| | | TR 1.2.2 - Partner with the RDA to advocate for a natural gas pipeline to extend from Auburn to Port Wakefield. | ● | Economic Development Officer has built close relationships with key RDA and AusIndustry personnel, outlining Council's desire for a gas supply in the region to unlock industrial growth. | OT |

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| TR2 - More people are calling Wakefield home | TR 2.1 -Leverage the quality, affordable lifestyle Wakefield has to offer to drive residential growth | TR 2.1.1 - Advocate for and support childcare service expansion across the region. | ● | Port Wakefield Childcare business case in development to be completed first quarter 2023. | OT |
| | | TR 2.1.2 - Expand residential land development opportunities within towns and across the region. | ● | Opportunities being discussed in Balaklava to support demand for local housing, plus ongoing work with existing Hamley Bridge and Port Wakefield development proposals. | OT |
| | | TR 2.1.3 - Develop a prospectus to promote Wakefield's towns as ideal quality lifestyle propositions. | ● | Once residential housing allotments become available work will begin to promote our region and lifestyle. | OT |
| | | TR 2.1.4 - Develop a promotional campaign to attract new residents by showcasing the affordable, quality lifestyle destinations within Wakefield. | ● | Draft concept created which will be factored into new economic development plan, with work starting third quarter of 2023. | OT |
| TR3 - Visiting tourists are enhancing our region | TR 3.1 - Position Wakefield as an important stepping stone for adventures in our region and beyond | TR 3.1.1 - Work with the SA Tourism Commission, State Government and other councils to provide tourist 'arrival and departure' opportunities at Port Wakefield. | ● | SA Tourism Commission has been engaged along with 25 councils north and west of Port Wakefield in developing information and promotional opportunities in the town. | OT |
| | | TR 3.1.2 - Create a tourism corridor through the region through the provision of quality signage, maps and promotional activities. | ● | Early discussions have been held with neighbouring council developing driving tourist route through major landmarks, attractions and townships. | OT |
| | TR 3.2 - Create a network of attractive and enticing tourist facilities to encourage travellers to stay longer | TR 3.2.1 - Implement the findings of the strategic review of the Port Wakefield and Balaklava caravan parks to increase viability of the assets. | ● | A review of the business model will take place in line with the delivery of key improvements highlighted in Port Wakefield Masterplan. | OT |
| | | TR 3.2.2 - Develop and promote new free or low/no cost RV site opportunities across the region. | ● | New branding has been delivered to Snowtown to commence ticketed trial. Branding for other town facilities complete and development of a RV map for the region to start in 2023. | OT |
| | | TR 3.2.3 - Review existing low/no cost RV sites and develop standardised approaches (including branding to promote an integrated network). | ● | As above. | OT |



| Outcomes | Key Strategies | Priority Actions | Timeline | Progress Comments | Status |
|---|---|--|----------|--|--------|
| SF1 - Our landscape and ecosystems are valued and protected | SF 1.1 - Safeguard and sustainably manage the environment. | SF 1.1.1 - Establish partnerships with the Landscape Board and community groups to promote and protect important local ecosystems. | ● | Key stakeholders including local support groups and Trees For Life already established with view to add Landscape Board to this network in 2023. | OT |
| | | SF 1.1.2 - Manage and maintain roadside vegetation to allow safe access for farming machinery while protecting remnant vegetation. | ● | The 2022/23 financial year has so far seen 60km of roads machine trimmed with work to continue in 2023. | OT |
| SF2 - Our resources are managed sustainably | SF 2.1 - Attract 'green' industries to the region. | SF 2.1.1 - Develop a prospectus that showcases the region's potential to host renewable energy and waste recycling industries. | ● | Draft concept created which will be factored into new economic development plan, with work starting third quarter of 2023. | OT |
| | | SF 2.1.2 - Develop an incentives strategy that details what Council can offer to new green businesses. | ● | To be built into economic development promotional tool, which has been drafted as part of new economic development plan process. | OT |
| | | SF 2.1.3 - Support the development of a community-based renewable energy incentive program to deliver cheaper electricity for Wakefield residents. | ● | Federal Government has started rolling out funding supporting this initiative but limited to specific councils as per election promises. | M |
| SF3 - Our region is recognised as a responsible environmental leader | SF 3.1 - Sustainably manage Council's water/waste operations. | SF 3.1.1 - Increase reuse of community wastewater treatment plant water to green more public spaces. | ● | Most, if not all, CWMS water is utilised for community use with the exception of Blyth, which is bound up by a commercial agreement. | M |
| | | SF 3.1.2 - Establish a program to reduce the community's waste to landfill. | ● | A community survey was completed in 2022 with results being compiled and a report to be presented to Council in 2023. | OT |

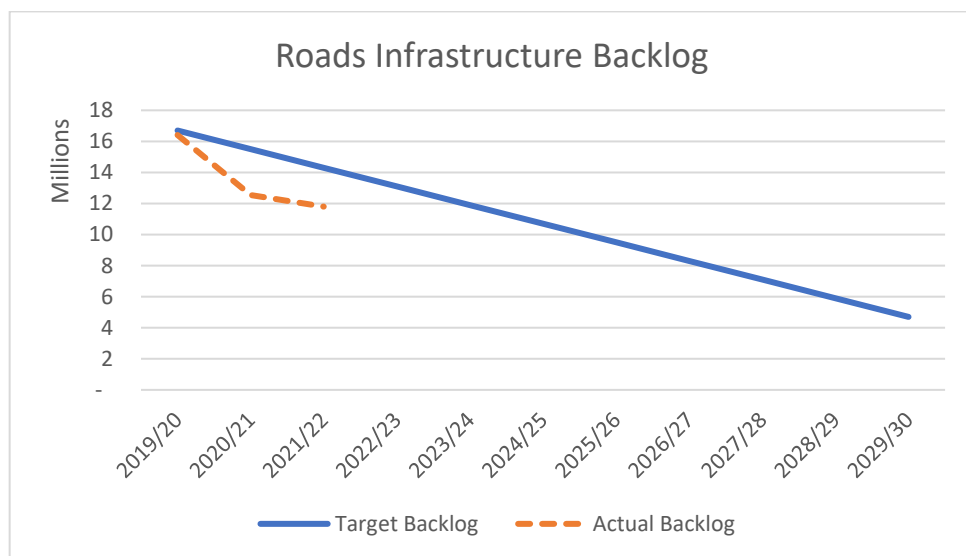
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| | SF 3.2 - Help the community prepare for, and adapt to, a changing climate. | SF 3.2.1 - Work with external agencies to develop a climate change adaptation plan for region. | ● | Review of existing Legatus Climate Change Action Plan ongoing. | M |
| | | SF 3.2.2 - Establish a program that supports community revegetation projects – on private and public land. | ● | A new tree planting program rolled out with first event on National Tree Day 2022 held at Halbury involving volunteers and local schools. | ✓ |

Strategic Targets

Wakefield 2030 has six strategic targets which are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-based; achieving these targets should ultimately achieve our vision. The information below shows Wakefield 2030 strategic targets and tracking as at November 2021:



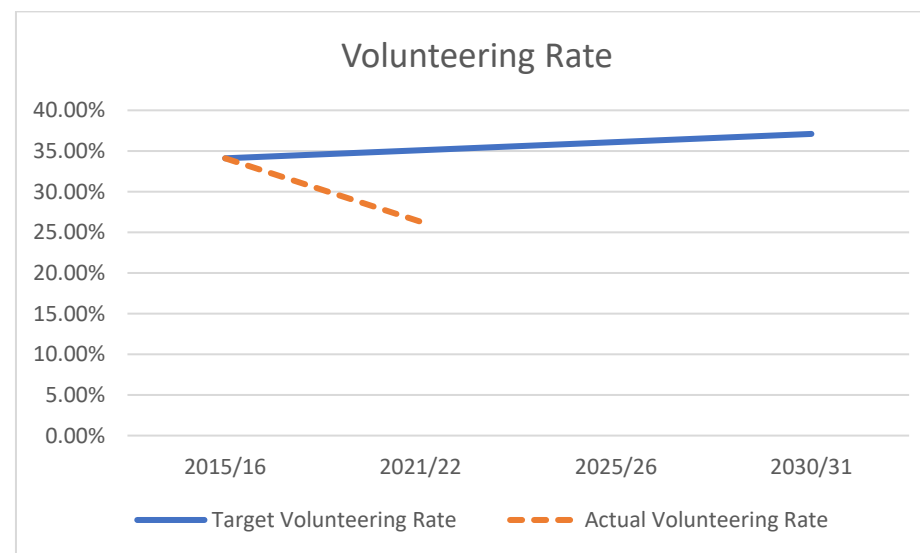
Target: The infrastructure gap on roads is reduced by a minimum of \$2 million/year to achieve a gap of less than \$1 million by 2030.



As at the 01 July 2022, Council's road backlog was \$11.8M, compared to \$12.5M as at 01 July 2021, a reduction of more than \$700,000. Over the past financial year, the infrastructure gap on sealed roads has marginally decreased, kerb and watertables has decreased from \$246k to \$239k (a decrease of \$7000) and footpaths reduced from \$95k to \$30k following extensive paving in Balaklava and Hamley Bridge main street projects.



Target: The volunteering rate for those aged 15 years and over has increased from 34.1% (2016 Census) to 37% by 2030.



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducts the Census every 5 years, which collects information of everyone in Australia. The Census data is used by governments to inform decisions on policy and planning issues that impact the lives of all Australians. Volunteer numbers for the 2021 Census declined in many parts of Australia due to lockdowns and COVID-19 distancing measures.



Target: Local businesses have increased from 670 (2019 figures) by a minimum of 1% (or 7 businesses) per year to achieve growth of 10% (67 new businesses) by 2030.

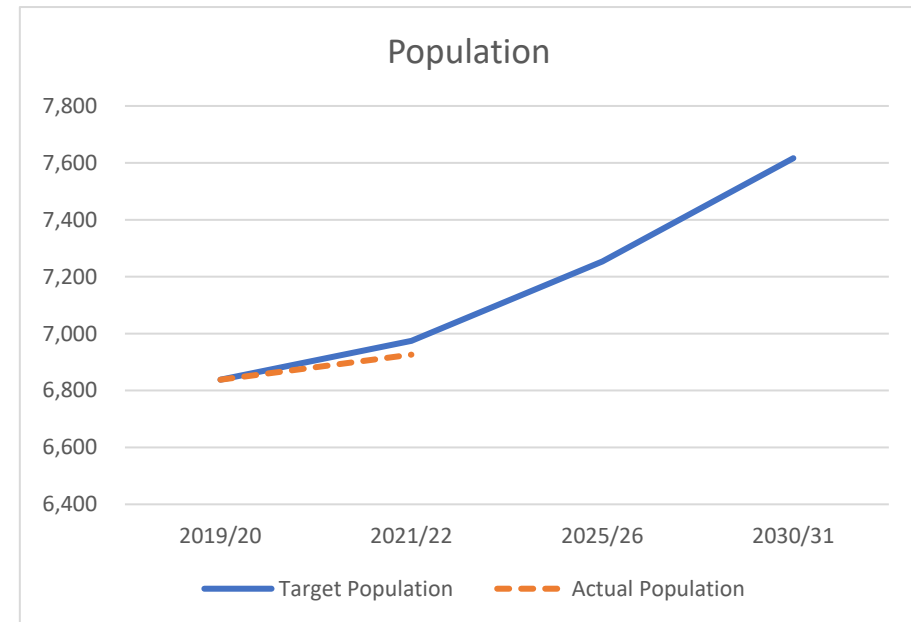


In 2020 there were 686 local businesses across WRC, which declined to 667 in 2021, a nett decrease of 19 businesses. A decline of 7 business related to the agriculture sector, while nine were lost in the manufacturing sector. Regional Development Australia has advised that this is likely due a consolidation of agricultural ABNs as opposed to actual lost businesses. Four new business opened up in the construction sector, while two were started in health care and social assistance, along with two in accommodation and food services.

Please Note: Economy ID data is adjusted each year, using updated employment estimates. Each release may change previous years' figures. Timelines for this graph have been adjusted to align with release of data.



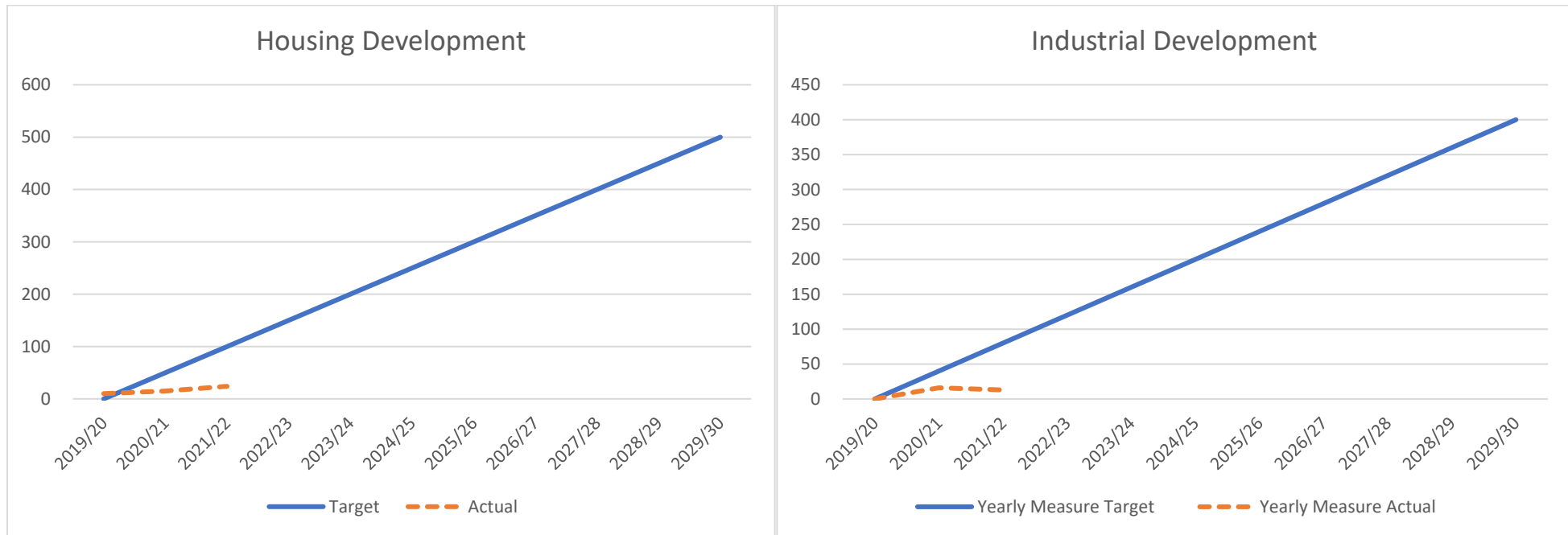
Target: Wakefield's population has grown from 6,838 (2019 figures) by a minimum of 1% (or 68 residents) per year to achieve growth of 10% (684 new residents) by 2030



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducts the Census every 5 years. Wakefield 2030 will use Census data from 2016, 2021, 2026 and 2031 to measure its progress. The above graph uses 2016 Census data as the reference point with 2021 data due to be released from June 2022.



Target: By 2030, the number and value of new development approvals has approx doubled on the 10 years to 2019/20 to: 500 new homes valued at \$90M; 400 new industrial developments valued at \$140M.

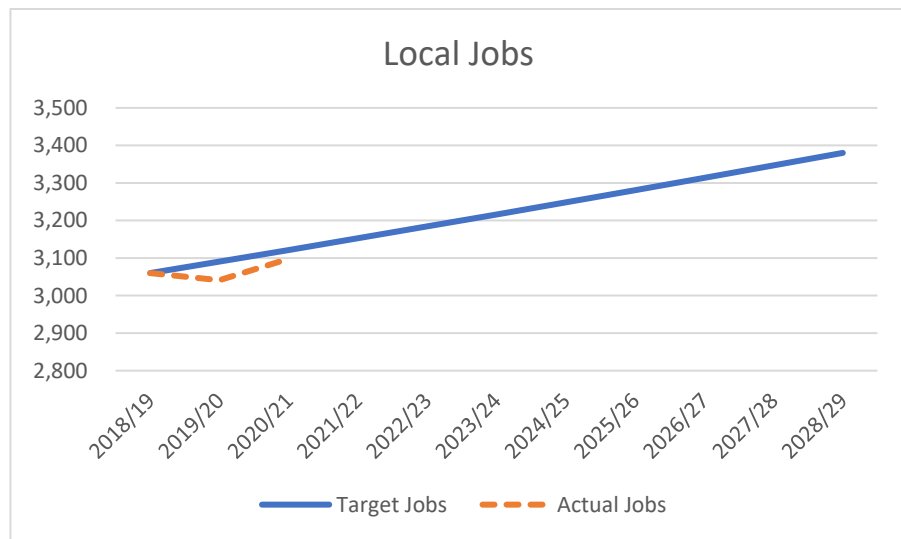


Modest growth on trend with previous years was once again recorded, with 24 new homes approved in the WRC area at a value of \$4.4M. To achieve Council's ambitious housing development target of 50 new homes per year, residential developments such as Seabreeze Estate in Port Wakefield and the vacant residential opportunity in Hamley Bridge must be progressed.

As at 30 June 2022, there were 13 industrial developments with a value of \$13M against a target of 40 new developments at a value of \$14M. This statistic includes agricultural and commercial developments which have primarily been new shed structures. The number of new developments in 2022 is down by three from 2021 but the value is significantly up by more than \$11M.



Target: Local jobs have increased from 3,009 (2018/19 figures) by a minimum of 1% (or 30 jobs) per year to achieve growth of 10% (300 new jobs) by 2030.



In 2019 there were 3060 jobs across WRC which declined to 3041 in 2020. There was slight recovery in 2021, up to 3098 local jobs, with the most growth in health care and social assistance (+53) followed by the agriculture sector (+45). With an ageing population and continued rollout of the NDIS, the health care and social assistance sector is expected to continue growing in the coming decade.