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WAKEFIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wakefield Regional WRAP

Winter 2026

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



WINDA THE OWL TAKES CENTRE STAGE

A signature feature of the Indigenous Art Trail at Port Wakefield is Winda the Owl, a large-scale sculpture now installed on the corner of Port Wakefield Highway and Edward Street.

The sculpture was designed and constructed by leading Indigenous artist Harley Hall and South Australian artist Mike McInerney, who have collaborated on numerous projects across metropolitan and regional South Australia.

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Transfer Station Voucher 2026/27

Name:

Assessment:

Property address:

For waste information visit wrc.sa.gov.au

WAKEFIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL

Office use:

Your waste transfer station vouchers for 2026/27 are included inside this quarter's rates notice.

• Read more page 8

Message from the Mayor



Our Annual Community Plan is an excellent document showing how Council plans to operate over the upcoming financial year.

Outlining our key projects and the large capital program that Council will undertake over 2026/27, if you haven't yet read it, I encourage you to do so.

Alternatively, if the full document isn't for you, we've provided a four-page summary in this quarter's edition of the Wrap.

This summary will give the basics of what we plan to do and how we plan to achieve it.

As we release the Annual Community Plan, we've also been updated as to how Local Government Elections will be run at the end of this term.

In lieu of a November election, the Electoral Commission of South Australia has moved the elections to April 2027.

This will give ECSA time to prepare for the election, but it also means Wakefield's current elected body will serve an additional five months to cover the change of election date.

If you have an interest in nominating for the elections, head to the ECSA website to see what's involved, or if you see me out in your town, I'd be happy to talk to you about what's involved serving as a Council Member or Mayor.

It's amazing to see Winda the Owl as you drive into Port Wakefield. The statue is already becoming a recognisable landmark for Port Wakefield.

If you haven't yet pulled over to view Winda up close, you're missing out.

When you're up close, you'll see all the intricate details that are incorporated to make the statue, including car headlight eyes and excavator bucket claws.

This Wrap also updates you on how we'll be returning to transfer station vouchers. Your six vouchers for this financial year are included with your rates notice for this quarter.

We've seen large amounts of waste coming through our transfer stations since the implementation of free waste disposal.

Now the amounts are starting to stabilise for Council, we are bringing the voucher system back.

Enjoy this edition of the Wrap and don't forget to grab your waste vouchers in this quarter's notice.

Mayor Rodney Reid

Your Council Members



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Annual Community Plan summary 2026/27

In delivering services and programs contained within this Annual Community Plan, Council is targeting a break even operating result in 2026-27: resulting from operating revenues of $21.12M and operating expenses of $21.12M.

The primary reason for this result is from balancing rate increases with operating cost increases.

This Annual Community Plan outlines a total capital expenditure budget of $11.03M, which consists of $8.28M in renewal capital works and $2.75M in new capital works.

Council proposes to raise, net of rebates, $12.32M in general rates, with a 6.69% increase for the 2026-27 financial year.

This compares with the $11.55M of general rates raised last year. Annual service charges of $2.4M (Community Wastewater Management System and mobile garbage bins).

Apart from rate revenue, operating revenue is generated by statutory charges (development and building fees and dog registrations), user charges (caravan park, cemeteries), investment income and State and Federal Government operating grants.

Council also sources income in the form of non-recurring grants from the State and Federal Governments.

Usually this type of grant is for a specific project or initiative of Council.

Key achievements 2025-2026

The past 12 months have been extremely busy for Wakefield Regional Council and we are very proud of the following key achievements delivered in 2025-26:

- Renewal of approximately 49.62km of unsealed roads and 22.59km sealed roads
- Supported community groups through Council's grants program
- Council worked alongside local schools to plant trees across Wakefield
- We activated our town halls with free events, to get people out and active within Wakefield
- Appointed Belgravia as provider for Owen, Balaklava and Hamley Bridge Swimming Pools
- Secured $1.6 million in Federal funding under the Disaster Ready Fund (Round 3) to deliver Stage 1 of the Building Wakefield's Flood Resilience project.
- Secured $575,121 through the Federal Government's Black Spot Program to upgrade the high-risk intersection of Templeton Road, Black Range Road and Blyth Road at Everard Central
- Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) released its final tranche of Financial Advice to Local Government and recognised Wakefield Regional Council as 'mostly sustainable'
- A signature feature of Port Wakefield's Indigenous Art Trail Winda the Owl, a large-scale sculpture was installed on the corner of Port Wakefield Highway and Edward Street
- Completed renewal of the Edith Terrace roundabout in Balaklava
- Completed civil works on Edward Street Port Wakefield upgrade
- Trial of free waste disposal at transfer stations was ongoing until 2025-26



Key 2026/27 initiatives

Council has proposed the following key operating projects for 2026-27:

Community Grants:

- $173,000 for a revised community contributions program comprising:
  - $25,200 for town committee contributions
  - $100,000 community grants program (minor / major grants)
  - $2,800 town newsletter funding
  - $30,000 water support program
  - $15,000 sponsorships to support community events and celebrations aligned to Wakefield 2030 (including seed funding for new events)

Community & Growth Projects:

- $2,200 Youth Week events
- $10,000 for wellbeing and recreation program

Revegetation Projects:

- $5,000 to support school and community group revegetation activities

Support for ratepayers

Financial difficulties: Council supports ratepayers who are experiencing financial stress through the provision of flexible payment options. Support may be provided for ratepayers experiencing short term or ongoing payment difficulties. Contact Council for a confidential discussion with our Rates Officer if you are having difficulties paying your rates on 8862 0800.

Seniors: ratepayers who hold a State Senior's Card may be eligible to postpone a proportion of their rates. To apply to postpone payment of rates please contact the Council office on 8862 0800.

Rebates: Council considers discretionary rebates of up to 100% of rates for not-for-profit, sporting and community organisations upon application. These rebates recognise local groups and the positive community benefits they provide. Council also applies a range of mandatory rebates as required by legislation.

Major capital projects



$380K

Renew Kybunga Top Road Bridge & upgrade approach safety barrier



$1.6M

Townsvale Estate construction of sub base and flood mitigation



$600K

Blackspot intersection upgrade, intersection of Blyth Road and Black Range Road



$625K

Port Wakefield footbridge
(carried forward from 2025-26)

Overview of Council's service charges

Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) Levy

Council provides a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) to defined properties within the Wakefield region.

Council is required to recover the cost of operating and maintaining the service, as well as any capital expenditure, through the imposition of a service charge.

The total CWMS service charge reflects the cost of the service over its useful life. To achieve this, Council's CWMS service charge will be increased by 6% in 2026–27 to:

- $528 for each unoccupied property unit
- $684 for each occupied property unit

Council charges separately for this service as it applies only to particular properties. It would be unreasonable for all ratepayers to fund the CWMS use, maintenance, and replacement.

Mobile Garbage Bin Service Charge

Council provides a mobile garbage bin collection and disposal service within defined areas of the region.

The service charge is set in accordance with legislation to recover the cost of providing this service.

No additional cost over last year's service, which is a reflection of the green waste service reducing waste going to landfill.

- $288 for a two-bin service (commercial businesses)
- $325 for a three-bin service (residential and other)

Residential services consist of:

- Two 240-litre bins, (green and yellow)
- One 140-litre bin, (red)

Regional Landscape Levy

Council is required under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 to collect the Regional Landscape Levy on behalf of the Landscape Administration Fund, for distribution to the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board. Council does not retain this revenue or determine how it is spent.

The following levy applies for 2026–27 across the following land use categories:

Residential, Vacant and Other

Commercial

Industrial

Primary Production

The total Landscape Levy is $456,816.

This is based on a rate of 0.008549 cents in the dollar of rateable capital value.

Rates in 2026/27

Rates are the key source of income for Council as we seek to deliver the projects, services and actions outlined in our community plans.

Based on the most current capital valuations provided by the State's Valuer-General, Council will apply the following cents in the dollar for the differential land use categories:

Residential
$0.2895 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (a) (Residential).

Commercial (Shop, Office, Other)
$0.3680 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of categories (b) (Commercial – Shop), (c) (Commercial – Office) and (d) (Commercial – Other).

Industrial (Light, Other)
$0.3880 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of categories (e) (Industry – Light) and (f) (Industry – Other).

Primary Production
$0.1841 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (g) (Primary Production).

Vacant Land
$0.3100 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (h) (Vacant Land).

Other
$0.3500 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (i) (Other).



Dog regos due by August 31

Dog and cat registrations are now due across the state, with all renewals of registrations due by August 31.

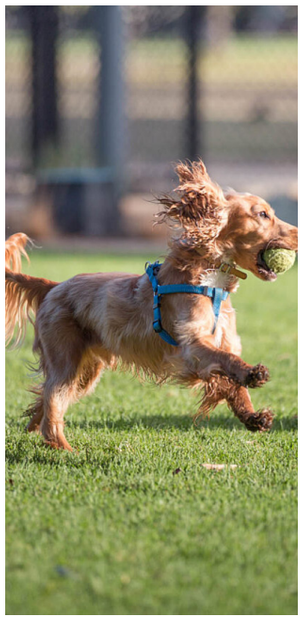
When renewing your pet's registration online at dogsandcatsonline.com.au, please check your details are up to date, as this enables your pet to be returned home should they become lost.

Concession card or assistance dog identification card holders are able to receive concession pricing when renewing – with proof of concession needed upon request.

Owners of working dogs also need to renew their dog's registration.

If your dog is registered as a working dog remember the dog must be working on rural land and be owned by someone who is a primary producer or engaged/ employed by someone who is a primary producer.

The dog must also be kept



primarily for the herding, droving, protecting and tending of stock. To validate your working dog and receive a concession, a property identification code issued by PIRSA may be required by Council.

If you require assistance to register your pet or have any questions, please contact Council for assistance.

Local Government elections postponed

The local government elections will now be held on **Wednesday 7 April 2027,** following changes to South Australian legislation that deferred the scheduled November 2026 elections.

The Electoral Commission of South Australia (ECSA) has released the official election timetable, with key dates including:

- Electoral roll closes: Monday 4 January 2027
- Nominations open: Tuesday 26 January 2027
- Nominations close: Tuesday 9 February 2027
- Voting closes: 5pm, Wednesday 7 April 2027

Voting in local government elections is your opportunity to have a say in who represents your community and helps shape the future of Wakefield Regional Council.

Residents are encouraged to check that their enrolment details are up to date before the electoral roll closes on 4 January 2027.

Following the April 2027 election, local government elections will return to their regular four-year cycle, with the next elections scheduled for November 2031.

For more information about the election timetable, enrolment and voting, visit www.councilelections.sa.gov.au.

Winda soars in to stay in Port Wakefield

• **From page 1**
Mr Hall is a proud Ngarrindjeri, Kokatha and Wirangu man, with strong Kaurna and Narungga bloodlines.

Winda is drawn from a Narungga dreaming story, originating from the cliffs north of Ardrossan, which are visible across Gulf St Vincent from Port Wakefield.

The sculpture also incorporates materials and design elements that reflect Port Wakefield's layered history.

Winda's beak is made from copper, and its excavator bucket feet reference the town's role as a working port that exported copper mined from Burra.

Headlight-style eyes acknowledge Port Wakefield's motorsport heritage, including the 1955 Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix and the influence of Possum Kipling through the Redex Round Australia Trials.

Feathers crafted from reclaimed windmill blades sourced from a Yorke Peninsula farm pay tribute to the region's agricultural origins.

Mayor Reid said Winda the Owl is already becoming a recognisable landmark.

"Winda brings together Narungga culture and Port Wakefield's working history in a way that is striking, meaningful and uniquely local," he said.

"It's a strong first step in what will become an engaging Indigenous Art Trail through the town."

Further artworks are planned along the remainder of Edward Street as part of the art trail, including smaller sculptures at key intersections and a large mural on the former CFS station opposite the Rising Sun Hotel.
Concept designs are currently in development, with community consultation underway on the mural.

These will include characters inspired by Kaurna dreaming stories, given the town is culturally significant for both nations with the eastern boundary of the Narungga Nation Native Title Claim dissecting the town along Walters Street.

Progress is also continuing with the remaining infrastructure projects.

Council has appointed Civil Tech as the lead contractor for the tidal pool dredging and footbridge replacement.

Construction is anticipated to be completed by late October.

Wakefield's returning to waste vouchers

Have your vouchers handy for your next trip to a transfer station.

COUNCIL'S trial of unlimited waste disposal at transfer stations will conclude after a two-year trial period.

Residents will return to using Council's transfer station voucher system. The 2026/27 vouchers have been issued with this quarter's rates notice.

Council resolved to return to the voucher system at the April 2026, Council meeting after waste disposal amounts began to stabilise following the two year trial.

The vouchers entitle you, as the property owner or occupier, to six free deliveries of waste/recyclables/ green organics from the property to Council's transfer stations at Everard, Owen and Port Wakefield during 2026/27.

One voucher is equal to one 6ft x 4ft (1.8 x 1.2m) trailer up to 0.5m high or equivalent quantity.

To use the vouchers, you will need to provide proof that you are the owner or occupier for the address on the voucher.



Acceptable proof will include:
- Current rates bill
- Utility bill
- Driver's licence

Vouchers will not be accepted without this proof of address.

If you currently rent or lease your dwelling and your landlord doesn't pass on your vouchers you can call Council to claim your six vouchers for the year.

If you use all six vouchers, any additional loads delivered will be charged at the prescribed rates. There is no pensioner concession rate or non-resident rate.

A full list of transfer station charges can be viewed on Council's website alongside opening hours.

Transfer station opening times are also directly below.

Let's keep in touch

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PO Box 167,
Balaklava SA 5461.

08 8862 0800
admin@wrc.sa.gov.au
visit our website for more information
wrc.sa.gov.au

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REGIONAL COUNCIL

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AUGUST

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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			

OCTOBER

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

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