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# Wakefield Regional WRAP

Winter/Spring 2023

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



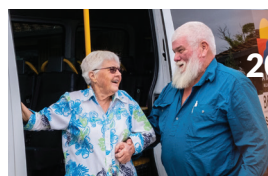
## Students help create a greener Wakefield

This year for National Tree day Council planted 900 trees across Brinkworth, Snowtown and Owen.

Working with the three local primary schools to get students out and about lending a hand to make Wakefield greener.

Pictured are Blyth Primary School students Carter Pengilly and Wil Warner planting native grasses on the Charles Street vacant block.

Have you read your native vegetation fact sheet included with your rates notice?



2023/24 Annual Community Plan  
Summary inside





## A farewell message from CEO Andrew MacDonald

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, council members and staff for your support over the past four years.

Together, we have achieved so much, including, improving our road network, upgrading main streets in Hamley Bridge and Balaklava, upgrading swimming pools in Owen, Balaklava and Hamley Bridge and the completion of the new council depot.

We also have a number of other major projects about to start which include, upgrades to South Terrace in Blyth, the redevelopment of Edward Street in Port Wakefield and the long awaited dredging of the swimming lagoon in Port Wakefield.

All of these projects are a direct result of community feedback, council member's determination to deliver for the community and council staff's enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment to their roles.

Once again, thank you for your support, confidence and encouragement.

Signing off,  
Andrew MacDonald

## Community Grants help activate our great spaces in Wakefield

Council's Community Grants have been announced for 2023/24 with the grants supporting \$100,000 in community initiatives to activate 12 projects for our local community groups.

Grants are nominated in either the Minor or Major category. Minor Grants fund projects up to \$2,000, while Major Grants fund projects from \$2,001 to \$25,000.

The largest project funded this year was \$25,000 for Brinkworth/Koolunga Cricket Club to secure designs and drawings to renovate the clubroom facilities at Brinkworth Oval.

Other exciting projects funded through the program this year included \$22,262.50 for the Owen Community Centre's new storage shed and \$20,000 for the Hamley Bridge Community and Sport centre's fencing upgrade for the netball/tennis courts.

Some of the great minor projects funded this year included \$1,800 towards new pathways for the Avon Town Hall, \$2,000 for additional equipment for the Port Wakefield Darts Club and \$1,404 for a new Youth Mural in Lochiel.

Mayor Rodney Reid highlighted that this year's round of grants injected funding



Brinkworth locals Sophie, Neville and Will Adams are excited by what the funding will offer for the Brinkworth Sporting Grounds.

into community hubs and spaces such as the Brinkworth oval, Lochiel Community Centre and Hamley Bridge Sporting Precinct.

"Once again we have seen our community groups support Council's vision of creating liveable communities, a thriving region and a sustainable future by activating these great community spaces," Mayor Reid said.

"The broad range of funding will contribute towards great initiatives in fields such as infrastructure, sport, art and culture to deliver great community outcomes for our region.

"Each year I'm excited by the outcomes this funding delivers for our community I cannot wait to see these projects come to fruition," Mayor Reid said.

### Minor Projects

Creating safer pathways around the Avon Hall  
(Avon Hall Committee)

Courthouse Gallery signage  
(Balaklava Courthouse Gallery Committee)

Creation of a Blyth History room  
(Blyth Management Committee)

Lochiel Youth Mural  
(Lochiel Progress Association)

Additional darts equipment  
(Port Wakefield Social Darts Association)

### Major Projects

Improving safety by transitioning to cordless tools  
(Balaklava men's shed)

Upgrading the Balaklava Town Hall's acoustics (Balaklava Town Hall Management committee)

Designs for the Brinkworth Community facility  
(Brinkworth Koolunga Cricket Club)

New fencing around netball/tennis courts  
(Hamley Bridge Community Sports Centre)

Lochiel community centre flooring  
(Lochiel Progress Association)

Community storage shed  
(Owen Community Centre Committee)

# 2023 - 2024 Annual Community Plan summary

## Message from the Mayor

Over the past three years, Council has made excellent progress with our strategic plan - Wakefield 2030. To date, Council has delivered enhancements to main streets in Balaklava and Hamley Bridge and completed major pool upgrades in Owen, Hamley Bridge and Balaklava. Council has also made strong progress on our road network and vegetation management.



Furthermore, Council has adopted a master plan for the Port Wakefield Township and will soon consider master plans for recreational and sporting precincts in Blyth, Hamley Bridge and Balaklava. The master planning process will ensure Wakefield is well positioned to take advantage of future grant funding opportunities.

In developing this year's Annual Community Plan and Budget, Council has remained extremely mindful of record inflation rates across Australia, the highest since 1990, and the increasing financial pressure on residential households and local businesses as a result of increasing interest rates and higher cost of living.

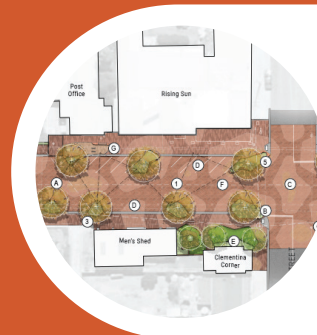
This year's annual plan delivers a conservative program of activities for 2023/24. The plan aims to responsibly balance economic pressures on our community with the continued delivery of Wakefield 2030 and the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.

Pleasingly, this year's annual plan does include major projects, including the upgrade and enhancement of Edward Street in Port Wakefield and South Terrace in Blyth. Both of these projects are able to proceed due to the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, which will contribute almost \$1M in funding.

Council members and I look forward to continuing to work closely with our dedicated staff, federal and state governments, neighbouring councils, business partners and importantly, our community, to position our region as a thriving and connected regional community known for its lifestyle, vibrant towns and economic prosperity.

Yours sincerely, Mayor Rodney Reid

## Major projects



**\$1.119M**

upgrading and  
beautifying  
Edward Street  
in Port Wakefield



**\$993K**

upgrading and  
beautifying  
South Terrace,  
Blyth



**\$200K**

dredging the  
Tidal Swimming  
Lagoon in Port  
Wakefield



**\$572K**

upgrading roads  
and stormwater  
within Townsvale  
Estate in Balaklava



## Budget for 2023/24

In delivering services and programs contained within this Annual Community Plan, Council is targeting an operating deficit of \$880K in 2023/24: resulting from operating revenues of \$18.85M and operating expenses of \$19.73M. The primary reason for this deficit is due to \$353K in increased road maintenance, \$200K to dredge the Tidal Swimming Pool in Port Wakefield, \$100K to repositioning the Balaklava and Port Wakefield Caravan Parks and \$105K in additional maintenance expenses for Council's Community Waste Water Management Systems. Furthermore, not increasing general rates directly in line with CPI has a negative financial impact of approximately \$135K for the year.

This Annual Community Plan outlines a total capital expenditure budget of \$11.24M, which consists of \$7.73M in renewal capital works and \$3.51M in new capital works.

Council will raise, net of mandatory rebates, \$10.51M in general rates for the 2023/24 financial year and annual service charges of \$2.16M (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 and waste transfer station fees), investment income, and State and Federal Government operating grants.



Total  
income

**\$18.85M**



Income from  
general rates

**\$10.3M**



Income from  
grant funds

**\$4.6M**



Total  
expenditure

**\$19.7M**



Total capital  
expenditure

**\$11.2M**

## Key achievements in 2023/24

- Renewal of approximately 72.12km of unsealed roads and 13.36km of sealed roads.
- Trimmed more than 81km of roadside vegetation across the region.
- Completed the redevelopment of the Balaklava Swimming Pool and upgrade of the Owen Swimming Pool.
- Partnered with the Hamley Bridge and Balaklava Pool Committees in the operation of both facilities including the development of new operating procedures, installation of safety signage and the provision of lifeguards.
- Completed detailed design for the Edward Street redevelopment in Port Wakefield and South Terrace redevelopment in Blyth.
- Completed detailed design for Townsville Estate stormwater solution.
- Delivered almost \$230,000 in grants supporting 16 local business (Small Business Incentives) and 24 community groups (minor/major grants, event sponsorships, water support program)
- Finalised master plans for Ralli Park, Railway Corridor and Apex Park in Balaklava and the Sporting Precinct in Hamley Bridge.

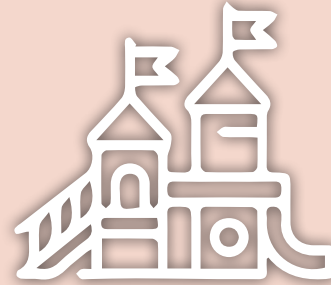


## How every \$100 of rates payment is spent



**\$58**

**Infrastructure assets**  
(Roads, footpaths and bridges)



**\$16**

**Public assets**  
(Parks, gardens and public facilities)



**\$5**

**Council governance**



**\$5**

**Community development  
and grants**



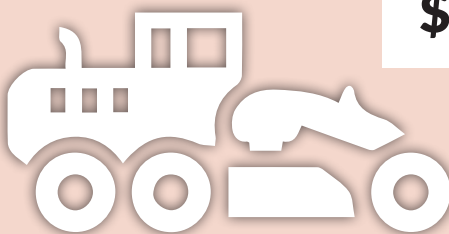
**\$4**

**Council finance department**



**\$3**

**Planning and regulatory services**



**\$5**

**Plant & equipment**  
(Graders, trucks, loaders & vehicles)



**\$4**

**Other costs**  
(Interest on borrowings, insurance,  
information technology and records  
management)



# Key 2023/24 initiatives

Council has highlighted the following key operating projects for 2023/24:

## Community Grants:

- \$161,000 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
  - \$18,000 water support program
  - \$15,000 sponsorships to support community events and celebrations aligned to Wakefield 2030 (including seed funding for new events)
- \$30,000 small business incentives program
- \$5,000 is also proposed for Council events to launch major projects and celebrate with the community

## Community & Growth Projects:

- \$2,500 youth week events
- \$15,000 for wellbeing and recreation program
- \$5,000 for further development of a youth strategy to engage under 25s across the region
- \$5,000 for a volunteer program to attract new volunteers
- \$10,000 for Public Health Plan implementation
- \$10,000 for Disability Access & Inclusion Plan initiatives, including a \$2,000 contribution to Disability Advisory Group
- \$81,500 for public swimming pool lifeguards
- \$15,000 for public swimming pool lifeguard supervision and coordination



## Revegetation Projects:

- \$30,000 to support direct seeding of Council cemeteries and walking trails (supported by \$10K funding from Landscape Board)
- \$16,000 to conduct a vegetation survey of unmade road reserves, in partnership with Landscape SA, to help identify sites requiring protection and sites presenting opportunities.
- \$5,000 to support school and community group revegetation activities

## Other Projects:

- \$25,000 for finalisation of a business prospectus and marketing portal
- \$6,000 building uplighting for Owen Town Hall
- \$25,000 Stage (2) of the heavy vehicle route assessment across Council's road network
- \$100,000 Port Wakefield and Balaklava Caravan Park business model repositioning (ticket machine, signage, new website, online bookings)
- \$20,000 to improve disability access to council owned buildings
- \$3,000 collaboration on pigeon control

# Rates in 2023/2024

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**  
\$0.374613 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (a) (Residential).
- > **Commercial (Shop, Office, Other)**  
\$0.380247 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)**  
\$0.369473 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of categories (e) (Industry – Light) and (f) (Industry – Other).
- > **Primary Production**  
\$0.227181 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (g) (Primary Production).
- > **Vacant Land**  
\$0.353423 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (h) (Vacant Land).
- > **Other**  
\$0.353423 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (i) (Other).

# 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:** ratepayer 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.





Keen community gardeners Ming Sumadi and Megan Couley at the Owen Community Garden

## Grab your gardening gloves and get green in a community garden

Have you got a green thumb or love being outside and in the garden?

We've got some great community gardens in our region who would love to have your help to tend the gardens and maintain these great community spaces.

Owen, Brinkworth and Balaklava are all home to community gardens and provide great ways for locals to get fresh produce.

These gardens create great community hubs for these towns and are always open and looking for new members.

If you'd like to join one of the community gardens in our region you can find all the contact details to the right.



### Always open to the public and welcoming new volunteers

**Owen Community Garden**  
Contact Megan on: 0458 911 006

**Balaklava Community Garden**  
Contact Kevyna on: 0438 621 761

**Brinkworth Community Garden**  
Contact Caitlin on: 8846 2132



## Do you need support to get from A to B?

MID North Community Passenger Network is a not-for-profit local community service that offers affordable community transfer services across the Mid North and metropolitan areas for medical and specialist appointments.

Friendly, accredited community volunteers support the service driving passengers to and from appointments with two cars available for use in our Region.

Thanks to the versatility of the passenger network, drivers can pick you up and drop you off from your door, getting you to your appointment in a timely manner.

The network maintains affordable pricing to make it as cheap as possible for those needing to use the service.

11 volunteers help drive the service in Wakefield with these volunteers readily available.

Extra drivers are always needed so if you're looking to volunteer your spare time get in touch with the Passenger Network and express your interest.

If you're looking to volunteer, contact the Mid North Passenger service team on 88421677 or their website [passengernetwork.com.au](http://passengernetwork.com.au)

## Stay mindful of the impact of smoke

WINTER'S here and we know you're feeling the cold, there's nothing better than standing around a fire pit or comfort fires to keep warm on the weekends, but have you thought about your neighbours?

It's important to be mindful of the impact smoke can have on the surrounding houses within townships when you're enjoying your fire or burning for fuel reduction.

Smoke can quickly become a nuisance to those around you especially if you're not burning the right materials.

Only dried garden materials, paper and timber can be burnt in townships.

Council's Community Safety Officer Michael Wilkin said people often forget you can't burn items such as green or wet garden materials, plastics, treated timbers and general rubbish.

"There are also restrictions to the times you can burn, any fuel reduction burning is only allowed from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 3pm and must be completely extinguished by 3pm," Mr Wilkin said.

"For comfort fire and cooking there are no restrictions as long as you keep the fire manageable and are using the correct burning materials including charcoal or dried timbers.

"If you're wanting to enjoy an evening around a bonfire or maybe you're looking to cook tea on some coals, it's your responsibility to ensure your activities don't create a nuisance for those around you.

Should you experience the impact of a neighbour's fire. First speak to your neighbour. If the issue continues contact Council so we can provide you with support.



# Locally sourced seeds renew railway corridor

\$5,000 in funding from Landscape SA has helped deliver our first sections of direct seeding at Snowtown.

2.5km of seeding was completed in early July along the Snowtown to Barunga Gap railway corridor sowing the corridor with native vegetation.

Direct seeding by Greening Australia helped sow native species such as acacias, native pines, senna, mallee trees and shea oak, with over 18 different species planted.

Seeds are hand collected from the areas where seeding will take place to ensure the native species match what is already a part of the landscape.

A Burgers Direct Seeder uses a single tine system to place seeds at a depth of 10cm with smaller seeds, placed at 5cm before being rolled with a press wheel.

Cemeteries in both Snowtown and Kybunga were also direct seeded around their perimeter edge.

## Have you registered your dog or cat for this financial year?

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

When renewing your pets registration online at [dogsandcatsonline.com.au](http://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 to 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.



## Let's keep in touch

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  
[wrc.sa.gov.au](http://wrc.sa.gov.au)



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## Your Quarterly Cut-Out



AUGUST						
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		

SEPTEMBER						
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

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 waste depot opening times

Owen, 386 Pinery Road  
Wednesday 10am - 11am  
Saturday 9am - 11am  
Sunday 11am - 12pm

Port Wakefield, 150 Shrike Road  
Thursday 10am - 11am  
Saturday 10am - 12pm  
Sunday 9am - 10am

Everard, 106 Hancock Rd.  
Tuesday 9am - 11am  
Saturday 9am - 11am  
Sunday 9am - 11am