



Outback SA: A New Identity for South Australia's Unincorporated Areas

Following overwhelmingly positive feedback at the Progress Association Forum held in Port Augusta last November, the Outback Communities Authority (the Authority) is proud to introduce a new Regional and Community Identity, "Outback SA," for the unincorporated areas of South Australia.

"Outback SA" features a comprehensive set of graphical assets, including a logo, colour palette, imagery, shapes, and more. These elements, inspired by the unique colours and landscapes of the Outback, are designed to authentically represent the region and its people. The new identity aims to unify outback communities, create a meaningful identity for residents and visitors, increase the area's visibility as a desirable place to live and visit, and enhance community pride through updated signage.

In addition, the Authority is developing a new website to modernise its appearance, reflect the Outback SA identity, and improve the user experience. This updated website will include an online platform for reporting infrastructure faults and submitting funding applications. It will also provide Outback communities and decision-makers greater access to information, while streamlining the Authority's operations for improved efficiency and effectiveness.



Image: Outback SA Logo



Image: Concept image of the Authority's new website landing page

Disposal of Waste Tyres across Outback SA



Australia faces a significant environmental challenge with approximately 18 million waste tyres generated each year. In Outback SA, a substantial number of waste tyres are either disposed of through landfills or stockpiled.

Waste tyres, when stored in large quantities, pose serious environmental risks. They are non-biodegradable, leach toxic chemicals over time, and are highly flammable. Additionally, the accumulation of rainwater in these tyres creates ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which can spread diseases like Ross River virus.

The Authority has initiated an audit of waste tyre quantities across the Outback and is exploring viable options for their removal and responsible disposal as part of a broader waste management strategy under development.

As part of this initiative, the Authority will use the Northern Flinders Region as a pilot study, with plans to transport the waste tyres to one of the two South Australian businesses that accept them. This initiative is a singular undertaking to evaluate the scale of the issue and obtain accurate detail on the cost of tyre removal.

The South Australian Outback Roads Consultative Forum

The inaugural meeting of the South Australian Outback Roads Consultative Forum convened on 22 May 2024, marking a significant step towards addressing critical road issues across Outback SA.

During the meeting, participants expressed an immediate need for road maintenance to address the deteriorating condition of Outback roads and their subsequent safety concerns. Recommendations put forward included revising speed limits in school zones and town centres, as well as enhancing signage to prevent theft, vandalism, and aid tourists in navigating the area more effectively.

Over the next few weeks, a comprehensive communique will be released and distributed to communities and stakeholders, providing an in-depth overview of the discussions during the forum.

Infrastructure Review for Increased Tourism in the Northern Flinders Ranges

The Northern Flinders Ranges region is experiencing a significant increase in tourism, driven by its unique geological formations, cultural heritage, and natural landscapes. Additionally, the region is expected to achieve World Heritage status in 2025, with SA Tourism Commission predicting an additional 2,000,000 visitors per year. This surge in visitors presents both opportunities and challenges for the region.

The Authority has initiated a comprehensive review of the region's infrastructure. This review includes evaluating current accommodation, transport, recreational facilities, and amenities to manage the anticipated increase in visitors. The project will also engage stakeholders, including local communities and tourism operators, to understand infrastructure and visitor management requirements.



The review aims to propose sustainable infrastructure improvements that enhance visitor experiences while preserving the area's natural and cultural integrity. Deliverables include a detailed infrastructure assessment, stakeholder engagement summary, visitor experience analysis, and an implementation roadmap with cost estimates. The project is scheduled to commence this financial year and conclude late 2024.

Managing unidentified cats in Marree



Unidentified cats in Marree have become a growing community and environmental concern over the past decade. Controlling unidentified cat populations is crucial to protecting native wildlife and to minimise the number of homeless cats which suffer starvation, disease and injury living in the wild.

The Authority, in collaboration with the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board and Adelaide University, has initiated an education and trapping program in Marree. The six-monthly trapping program will assess the extent of the unidentified cat population and monitor a reduction in numbers in and around the township until the population is minimised.

The Authority will continue efforts to educate and encourage cat owners to:

- Desex their pets to prevent breeding with unowned and semi-owned cats;
- Microchip and properly identify their pets with a collar and tag; and
- Keep their pets confined to their property, a cat enclosure or indoors.

Continuous monitoring will be implemented to evaluate the effectiveness of threat management initiatives in remote communities.

Record crowds flock to Yunta for the 2024 Gymkhana and Motokhana

The 2024 Gymkhana and Motokhana, proudly sponsored by the Authority, was an enormous success, boasting record crowds and competitor numbers. With something for everyone, the event featured all-day catering, various stalls, kid's activities, and the ever-popular sheep racing.

The Gymkhana kicked off early on Saturday, 20 April 2024, showcasing talented horse riders across various age groups. A major highlight was the Gymkhana Sprint race, where competitors impressed the crowd with their exceptional horse and rider skills.

In the afternoon, the Motokhana featured a record number of competitors with incredible riding skills. Spectators flocked to watch the thrilling tight turns, drag racing and mono competition. The main event, the Fastest Texan Barrel Horse vs, Motorbike, concluded the day with a motorbike narrowly winning by 0.77 seconds.

Rider of the Day Awards were presented to the winners of each age group, followed by an action that raised over \$10,000 for the Yunta community.

Evening celebrations continued with live music from 'Hold My Beer', who kept the crowd dancing until the early hours.



Images courtesy of Yunta Race Club