

AUGUST 2024

# NEWSLETTER

Outback Communities Authority



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## NAIDOC celebrations bring community joy

The week of 8-12 July saw NAIDOC celebrations of Aboriginal culture and history held across Outback SA and the country.

Here on Barngarla country in Port Augusta, staff from the OCA office attended several great events, including the opening ceremony led by Uncle Vince Coulthard, which featured a beautiful song by proud Barkindji woman Nancy Bates. One of the most striking aspects of the opening event in Port Augusta was the display of flags representing the different Aboriginal nations living in the town. With close to 30 different nations represented, it was an incredible display of diversity and cultural richness, testament to Port Augusta's ongoing function as a meeting place and site of connection for people from many places.

In Copley, the Copley & Districts Progress Association hosted the 2024 NAIDOC celebration at the Copley Community Hall. The activities were organised by Anthony Brady and Kristie-lee Strangways and the event was enjoyed by over 40 residents from Copley and nearby towns. Kangaroo tails and damper were cooked in the fire pit, while the new BBQ was used to cook the remaining meat. Younger participants enjoyed basketball competitions, and indoors, kids and adults painted their own t-shirts with excellent results. It was a lovely and enjoyable afternoon, thanks to the additional support from Complete Personnel. Plans are already underway for a bigger and better event for next year!

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A small selection of the flags representing some of the Aboriginal nations of people living in Port Augusta.



Anthony Brady, Kai-Ree Kelly and Shannon Kelly



Tori Oldfield with a hand-painted Copley NAIDOC T-shirt



The basketball court is a hit with young people in the town

## Strategic Blueprint in focus - consultations are underway

On Friday 26 July, community consultations for the Strategic Blueprint commenced with an interactive meeting with the Iron Knob community at the Tourist Centre.

Facilitated by Nicole Halsey from URPS, the meeting provided an outline of the key themes and issues covered in the Blueprint, followed by a discussion with attendees about their concerns and how the Blueprint could address them. Attendees discussed a wide range of issues including waste management, security, energy and water. The OCA Director Marg Howard provided an overview of the OCA's current initiatives, such as the implementation of high-speed public WIFI in communities and a waste management strategy to address common issues experienced across the Outback.



The full draft Strategic Blueprint is available on the OCA website. It explores issues and opportunities relating to each of the themes listed in the boxes to the right.

These themes have emerged through prior consultations and conversations as key issues for people in Outback SA. They touch on all aspects of life in the Outback and represent considerable opportunities for cultural, social, environmental and economic change in the region.

- Services**
- Aged Care
  - Childcare
  - Emergency Management
  - Food Security
  - Governance of Outback SA
  - Health
  - Waste Management

- Culture and Development**
- Aboriginal Culture & Heritage
  - Economic Development
  - Heritage
  - Innovation & Technology
  - Population Dynamics
  - Social Wellbeing

- Environment**
- Animal Management
  - Climate Change and Resilience
  - Environmental Management
  - Tourism Management

- Infrastructure**
- Internet & Telecommunications
  - Energy
  - Housing
  - Planning
  - Transport

## Strategic Blueprint in focus - FAQ

### What is the Strategic Blueprint?

The Strategic Blueprint for Outback SA is currently in draft form for consultation. It has been developed by the OCA as a comprehensive profile of the environmental, social, cultural, economic, and infrastructural issues facing Outback SA. It will guide the Authority's projects, policies, and overall direction for the next 10 years.

### Why is the Blueprint being developed?

Recent research and consultations conducted by the OCA, particularly the Outback Futures Project and the Progress Association Forum held in Port Augusta in late 2023, highlighted many issues that are important to people living in Outback SA. The Blueprint is being developed to find ways of addressing those issues. This earlier research also identified the need for expanding the Authority's interactions with other government agencies and organisations that work in Outback SA.

### Who will you be consulting with?

We are holding over 20 consultation sessions around Outback SA to meet with as many residents as possible. Anyone with an interest in the future of Outback SA is welcome to attend. These sessions will be facilitated by Nicole Halsey or Anna Deller-Coombs from consultancy firm URPS. Concurrent with these community consultation sessions, we are meeting with representatives of key government and non-government organisations, so that the broader community of organisations that have some influence on life in Outback SA are able to consider the directions indicated by the Blueprint.

### What if I can't make it to one of the face-to-face consultations?

In addition to the face-to-face sessions, we will be holding online consultations in September; dates for these are yet to be determined but we will publicise them in subsequent newsletters and in email and social media. There is also a feedback survey available on the OCA website that anyone can fill out, whether you've attended a consultation session or not.

### What will happen after the consultations?

After consultations, the facilitators will prepare a report about feedback received for the Authority's consideration. This will inform a final draft Blueprint for presentation to our Board in October. Once the Board has approved the final draft of the Blueprint, it will be uploaded to our website, with stakeholders notified of the opportunity for any final comment (it is anticipated there will be a brief window for this stage of the process). Finally, the OCA intends to present the Strategic Blueprint to our Minister, the Hon Joe Szakacs MP, for his consideration in early December.

**HAVE YOUR SAY...**

...about the Future of Outback SA

**Fowlers Bay & Penong** 19-20 August

Join us in conversation and help shape the future of the Outback.

[www.oca.sa.gov.au](http://www.oca.sa.gov.au)

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**outbackSA**

THE STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT

DRAFT

Government of South Australia

Outback Communities Authority

**HAVE YOUR SAY...**

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**Mannahill & Yunta** Wednesday 14 August

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## Northern Flinders Tourism Infrastructure

The Northern Flinders Ranges is a significant tourism destination; hundreds of thousands of visitors travel through the region each year to experience the beauty of Adnyamathanha country, and to appreciate iconic destinations such as Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park and innovative tourism ventures like the Heritage Blinman Mine.

In the coming years this interest is expected to grow, driven by the pending consideration of the Northern Flinders Ranges region as a World Heritage site, increasing interest in the Nilpena Ediacara National Park, and the fact that in 2030, the Flinders Ranges will be one of the best locations in the country to experience the total solar eclipse.

Planning for infrastructure requirements necessary to support the expected visitor growth and major upcoming events is crucial. To address this, the Outback Communities Authority has commissioned Jensen PLUS to conduct a review. Based in Adelaide, Jensen PLUS is a consultancy firm specialising in town planning, landscape architecture, urban design and social planning. The review will consider current tourism trends, visitor experiences, environmental impact, sustainability, and stakeholder engagement.

As an initial step in the project, Patrick Iwanyshyn from Jensen PLUS, along with OCA team members Mark Brown and Rachael Schmerl, visited the region in early August. They met with tourism operators, accommodation providers, businesses and community members. Further updates will be shared as the project continues.



On 25 November 2030 around 6:50pm, the Flinders Ranges and other areas along the path shown on the right, will experience 111 seconds of total solar eclipse, where the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun and blocks all direct sunlight.



### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Applications for the next round of **Small Projects** and **Sponsorship** funding for 2024 both close **31 August**. Visit the OCA website at [oca.sa.gov.au](http://oca.sa.gov.au) for more info and to apply.

## Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Projects

In early June, successful applicants were announced for Phase 4 of the Australian Government's Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (LRCI).

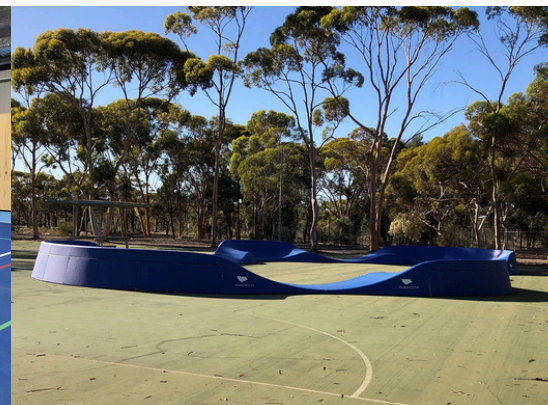
The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program is an Australian Government initiative aimed at supporting all Australian councils to deliver projects, create jobs and long-lasting benefits for communities. Commencing with Phase 1 in 2020, the Government committed \$3.25 billion across four phases, allocating funding to 150 electorates across Australia.

Over the past few years communities in Outback SA have used this funding to both upgrade and expand existing facilities and develop new community infrastructure. For Phase 4, the following projects have been approved, and are intended for completion by 30 June 2025.

- ➔ **Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association: \$571,900.**  
Andamooka Airstrip upgrade; new fencing, signage and access road repair.
- ➔ **Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association: \$98,610.**  
Completing the construction of the Andamooka Community Recreation Centre with extra spaces and facilities for community groups and training.
- ➔ **Fowlers Bay Progress Association: \$115,910.**  
Installation of a new solar system and battery storage at the Fowlers Bay Community Hall to increase the number of events and social activities the hall can host year-round.
- ➔ **Parachilna Community Association: \$499,000.**  
Parachilna Airstrip upgrade – surfacing required to complete airstrip and enable increased tourism and other opportunities.
- ➔ **Western United Tigers Incorporated, Penong: \$150,000.**  
Upgrading the lighting at Western Uniting Tigers Football Club to enable players to train safely in the winter months.



The Andamooka Rec Centre has a range of sporting and fitness facilities and will be expanded to support cultural, artistic and other community activities.



Previous phases of LRCI funding have supported facilities like this Pump Track in Leigh Creek.