



Image: Sunset at Beltana

Minister visits the West Coast

Hon Geoff Brock MP, local Member for Stuart, Minister for Local Government, Regional Roads and Veterans Affairs visited several communities along South Australia's West Coast last month. Reflecting on his visit, Minister Brock emphasized, *"This trip was about talking to local communities, listening to issues raised and seeing first-hand completed projects and ongoing works across the West Coast."*

He met with Progress Association members and residents from Coorabie, Fowlers Bay and Penong, with discussions focused on local road conditions, water availability, waste management challenges and the condition of the Coorabie airstrip.

Following health challenges last year Minister Brock said it was a long-awaited trip out west to meet people and hear their concerns. Expressing gratitude for the discussions, he remarked, *"Thank you to all those who took the time to meet me and for their generous hospitality, and I look forward to working with the OCA to explore opportunities to improve the road network and other outback services."*



Minister Brock enjoying morning tea at Coorabie Farm with members of the Coorabie Progress Association

Applications for Small Projects Funding and/or Sponsorship

Small Projects Funding

Small Projects Funding supports the implementation of specific small projects that do not require ongoing funding.

These projects include small infrastructure projects, acquisition of plant and machinery, and public art initiatives.

To apply for funding, please visit our website www.oca.sa.gov.au or click [here](#):

Sponsorship

Sponsorship may be provided in the form of financial assistance, in-kind support, or advance payments for specific items.

The Authority may consider sponsorship requests for community, sports or cultural events, participation by teams or individuals in regional or state competitions, and initiatives aimed at providing assistance to disadvantaged individuals living in the outback.

To apply for sponsorship, please visit our website www.oca.sa.gov.au or click [here](#):

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Applications for Small Projects Funding and/or Sponsorship close **Sunday, 31 March 2024**

The next round will close 31 August 2024

Outback SA Drought Resilience Plan



Come and share your experience and ideas and contribute to the preparation of the Drought Resilience Plan for Outback SA.

Workshops and Drop-in Sessions are being held across the region throughout March and April 2024.

SCAN THE CODE

For more information on workshops and drop-in sessions across the region



Outback Roads Consultative Forum

The Outback Communities Authority and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) have been working in partnership to establish a South Australian Outback Roads Consultative Forum.

Its purpose is to identify and prioritise critical road issues, provide input towards the development of policies and strategies for Outback SA's road network and deliver recommendations on the allocation of resources and targeted investments.

Comprising representatives from local communities, primary production, transport, tourism and mining sectors, the Forum will meet at least twice a year and provide regular updates to outback residents. At present, nominations are open for two representatives from our region - one from the west and another from the east of the Stuart Highway. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact our office on 7133 3500.

From the Chair

From May 2024, the team and I will be actively engaging with communities to develop a Strategic Blueprint for Outback SA. Initially, we intended to combine the blueprint forums with the drought resilience workshops, however, after careful consideration, we've decided to schedule separate trips. This decision will enable focused and manageable collaboration with the communities in developing a vital blueprint for the outback. We look forward to your participation.

Ongoing and consistent communication with communities and Progress Associations remains a priority. Marg Howard and I have continued regular online meetings with Progress Associations, and we are pleased with the level of participation and the quality of conversations. These meetings are open to all Progress Association members, however, if you're unable to attend, we're readily available via phone for any discussions or concerns.

Jan Ferguson OAM
 Presiding Member, Outback Communities Authority



Fun Fact



Throughout February, our team has collectively travelled more than 5,200 kilometres. Communities visited include Iron Knob, Parachilna, Beltana, Leigh Creek, Copley, Lyndhurst, Farina, Andamooka, Marree, William Creek, Oodnadatta, Glendambo and Pimba.

We will continue to provide advance notice of upcoming trips, so keep an eye out for our team in your community soon.