

Australian-first Virtual Emergency Centre

Later this month, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) will open a state-of-the-art Virtual Emergency Centre in William Creek. The Centre will enable locals and travellers hundreds of kilometres from help to access 24/7 emergency medical care without health professionals physically in the room.

The Outback Communities Authority (OCA), through the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, kickstarted the project with a \$1 million funding injection matched by RFDS fundraising to offset the total cost.

The OCA, along with the Hon Mark Butler MP, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, and Arabana Traditional Owners, gathered in William Creek to announce the opening of the Centre. "The OCA is committed to supporting remote residents and the essential services needed to live and work in the bush", said Jan Ferguson OAM, Presiding Member of the OCA. "Together with the RFDS, we continue to work to meet the needs of remote communities such as William Creek."



Outback SA Drought Resilience Plan

Various meetings have been held throughout the region to collect feedback and input for the Outback SA Drought Resilience Plan. Thank you to all participants who dedicated their time to attend and share their experiences and ideas.

If you were unable to join a meeting, there is still time to have your say by completing the online survey [here](#)

The next steps in developing the plan are outlined in the table below.

April – May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write the draft Outback SA regional Drought Resilience Plan
June – July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather feedback on the draft from our communities, State Government, CSIRO and the Federal Government• Adjust the Plan to ensure it meets the needs of all community members and stakeholders
Late 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once endorsed by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, implement the Plan and enhance drought resilience in our region

For more information, please visit www.droughtresilienceoutbacksa.com.au

Veterinary Clinic in the Northern Flinders Region

The Outback Communities Authority is hosting a complimentary Veterinary Clinic at the **Copley Community Hall on Thursday, 18 April 2024**.

The Clinic is available to residents of Copley, Leigh Creek and surrounding communities. The clinic will offer the following services:

- General health check for cats and dogs
- Desexing of male and female cats and dogs
- Treatment for worms, fleas and mange
- Vaccinations for hepatitis, distemper and parvo
- Chip implantation and registration exclusively for cats

Depending on the success of the clinic, we hope to extend this program to other communities in the future.



SCAN THE CODE
for more information



An Environmental First for Outback SA

We are proud to announce the opening of Outback SA's first of its kind recycling drop-off point!

The Leigh Creek Resource Recovery Centre will be officially opened by the Hon Geoff Brock MP on Tuesday, 23 April 2024, offering the Northern Flinders Region an opportunity to actively participate in recycling efforts and embrace a circular economy.

Remarkably, the Centre has been constructed using mostly recycled materials, and has been designed to receive waste that would otherwise end up in landfill, including plastic containers, plastic bottles, plastic wrap, cardboard, steel cans, aluminium packaging and more.



The Centre focuses on reducing landfill waste through recycling, remanufacturing, repairing, and selling second-hand goods.

Community involvement is incredibly important to the Centre's success. To learn how you can contribute to its success, please click [here](#)

Managing Waste across the Outback

Outback communities face numerous challenges when it comes to waste management, ranging from limited access to adequate facilities, vast distances to facilities, poor road conditions, and more. Alongside these challenges is the substantial amount of rubbish generated by tourists and travellers, and the significant number of waste tyres throughout the outback, posing serious environmental and health risks in the event of a fire.

Due to the complexities involved in managing waste in remote and regional locations, we have engaged Rawtec, an independent specialist in waste and recycling management and sustainability, to help us develop a waste management strategy for Outback SA.

During the first phase, Rawtec and a representative from the Outback Communities Authority will visit Oodnadatta and the Northern Flinders Ranges and Far West regions to gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges associated with waste management in the Outback. Once the dates for these visits are confirmed, we will notify communities of the proposed schedule.