



Leigh Creek Township Transition Update - December 2016

Leigh Creek Futures: A note from Jane Lomax-Smith

With only a few days until Leigh Creek moves back into Government management, I am delighted to have the chance to say a few words in the latest Outback Communities Authority (OCA) update.

A few months ago, my Report, entitled Leigh Creek Futures, was given to the State Government with 30 recommendations, including opening the town and measures to develop a sustainable social and economic future. Importantly, several recommendations specifically identified opportunities that could support the Adnyamathanha Traditional Owners. Work on all of the recommendations is already being advanced within Government and I expect that shortly, some key announcements will be made concerning the operation of the town and employment opportunities.

Throughout this year, a massive amount of work has gone into every aspect of the life of the town, from organising the utilities, to developing management structures, as well as assembling all of the licenses and approvals for a smooth transfer. This has been underpinned by \$18.4m of funding to support this important regional centre in the next 5 years.

In addition, in the past year, a large film crew and a university study tour showed the economic impact that better marketing would deliver and there has been progress with several new activities being investigated on the mine site.

Whilst this period of change is unsettling, I think there are reasons to be optimistic for 2017 and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Jane Lomax-Smith

Result of Expressions of Interest – Leigh Creek contracts

Following an Expression of Interest process which closed on Monday, 5 December, the OCA is currently negotiating a contract and are confident that a Town Maintenance Officer will be in place for 1 January 2017.

As there were no suitable applicants for the cleaning contract, an Expression of Interest will be called again post-transition.

The OCA has also finalised targeted contracts for the Aerodrome Reporting Officer and aerodrome refuelling.

These contracts have been targeted due to the expertise required to fulfil the role and comply with relevant legal obligations.

The Manager of Leigh Creek Contracts and Services, Mr Robert Stack, will commence in his new role on Tuesday, 3 January 2017.

Mr Stack will be responsible for the management of these contracts, among others, across building maintenance, trades and administration for the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and OCA owned assets including the aerodrome, waste dump, parks and gardens, recreational facilities and general amenity.

Contact details over the Christmas/New Year period

Flinders Power Town Services will operate until Tuesday, 20 December 2016 as normal. In the case of an emergency from Wednesday, 21 December - Saturday, 31 December, please contact Will Ferguson on 0417 219 754.

The OCA's Port Augusta office will close on Friday, 23 December at 5.00pm, reopening on Tuesday, 3 January 2017.

Should you need to contact the OCA during this time, please call the OCA 1800 640 542 or 8648 5970 to leave a message, or follow the instructions for emergency contact.

Health service

Country Health SA is committed to providing a health service in Leigh Creek and will continue to consult with communities on how an ongoing service will be delivered.

The Leigh Creek Hospital and SA Ambulance Service will continue to operate as usual until further notice. Should you have any queries, please contact Country Health SA's dedicated Leigh Creek Project Manager, Ms Leeanne Stringer, on 8638 4711.

Gymnasium

The gymnasium adjacent to the Leigh Creek Tavern will continue to operate from 1 January 2017 under the OCA's management.

Existing members will be able to continue to use the gym as usual. For any enquiries relating to membership, please contact the OCA on 8648 5970.

Swimming pool complex

Flinders Power have recently confirmed that the pool complex will open on Thursday, 22 December 2016. The pool will continue to operate as usual for the 2016-17 season when the operational management of the pool transfers to the OCA from 1 January 2017.

As previously communicated, the pool chemical management system will be updated in the new year to accommodate a safer, more modern chlorination dosing system. This work will not result in any lengthy pool closures; the OCA will inform the community of any minor adjustments to pool opening times well in advance.

Please note that the pool will be closed on Christmas Day, as with previous years.

Aroona Sanctuary and Dam

Information on access to the Aroona Sanctuary and Dam will be provided in the near future, however, this facility will not be managed by the OCA as part of its town management responsibilities.

Water supply

From 14 December 2016, SA Water is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Leigh Creek's Reverse Osmosis plant, sewerage treatment site, bores and related pipework. As per the existing arrangement with Flinders Power, water and sewerage services will be provided rate-free up until 1 January 2018.

Leigh Creek Tavern

The Leigh Creek Tavern will be closing for the Christmas period on Friday, 23 December 2016, which is the last day the Tavern will be operated by Flinders Power.

Negotiations for the future operation of the Tavern, and associated accommodation, are continuing. These negotiations will continue to be managed by Renewal SA.

A reminder regarding electricity:

Please note that residents are responsible for arranging their own power supply through their preferred retailer. As the lessee is changing to the State Government, it is recommended that you contact your energy retailer to notify them and ensure power supply to your premises from 1 January 2017.

Further information**Contact details**

Community members are encouraged to make contact with a member of the OCA team, or relevant Government agency representative, to discuss any specific concerns or questions they may have relating to the township transition.

Leigh Creek township or municipal services:

Courtney Harrington - Northern Flinders Project Officer, OCA

M 0413 090 556

P 8648 5970

H 1800 640 542 (free call for unincorporated areas)

courtney.harrington@sa.gov.au

Residential Tenancy Agreements:

Peter Thomas - Leigh Creek Transition Housing Manager, DPTI

M 0437 729 373

peter.thomas5@sa.gov.au

Commercial Tenancy Agreements:

Claudia Trotta - Leigh Creek Leasing and Property Management, DPTI

M 0436 470 565

claudia.trotta3@sa.gov.au

Leigh Creek Health Service:

Leeanne Stringer - Leigh Creek Project Manager

Country Health SA

P 8638 4711

Health.CHSAPMO@sa.gov.au

You can also view the OCA website or Facebook page for latest news:

oca.sa.gov.au

[facebook.com/outbackcommunitiesauthority](https://www.facebook.com/outbackcommunitiesauthority)

From all at the OCA, wishing you a warm and safe festive season. Thank you for your understanding during this period of uncertainty.

We look forward to working with you again in 2017 toward a bright and prosperous future for Leigh Creek and the Northern Flinders Ranges region.