



Leigh Creek Township Transition Update - February 2017

Happy New Year.

The transition of the Leigh Creek township from Flinders Power (FP) management over to State Government management on 1 January 2017 occurred relatively smoothly. Thank you to the community for your understanding during this period.

The support of FP throughout the transition was also much appreciated and, although formal responsibility for management has been relinquished, there remains a strong desire by both FP and the Government to continue to work together on an as-needs basis to ensure transition activities occur as seamlessly as possible.

As the Government Managers of the township, the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) has worked very hard prior to transition to ensure that post transition a 'business as usual' approach would be taken to the provision of town services. The bins will still be collected, the lawns will still be mowed, and the pool will remain open. The OCA has contracted businesses and individuals to provide these services and these contracts will be overseen by Mr Robert Stack in his role as the Manager of Leigh Creek Contracts and Services who commenced on Tuesday, 3 January 2017. Mr Stack has hit the ground running and already working with the OCA's contractors across a number of projects in town, such as the removal of the parking bay at the entrance to town, in an effort to encourage tourists into Leigh Creek.

One of the only setbacks during the transition resulted in the Leigh Creek landfill being temporarily closed due to a delay in Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Licensing, all rubbish from both Leigh Creek and Copley was collected and managed by Flinders Management Services (FMS), a Northern Flinders based operator with extensive experience in the provision of waste management services, with little or no inconvenience to the community. A new license was recently issued and the landfill has now resumed normal operating hours.

The long-term plan includes the introduction of recycling, with a view to reducing the landfill component. As always, the community will be kept informed of these developments.

Now that the township has officially transitioned to government management, the focus turns to economic development activity. Leigh Creek has incredible facilities which receive positive comments by all who visit.

One such asset is the Leigh Creek aerodrome, where we hope to see increased activity in the coming weeks as we explore these opportunities, bringing new money into the region. We will keep you updated as more information comes to hand on this and other economic development opportunities.

On that note, it has been great to see a quick reopening of Leigh Creek Tavern, following a successful tender process in late 2016.

As you may be aware, the Tavern reopened on Tuesday, 24 January 2017 rebranded as the Leigh Creek Outback Resort, along with the Leigh Creek Bar & Grill for dining.

The OCA is excited to see where 1834 Hotels takes its newest venture and look forward to working with them, as we do all our community members and stakeholders, in their successful establishment into the region.

A number of locals have taken up employment with 1834 Hotels already - this has been, and will continue to be, a priority of the transition as new businesses are introduced to the region.

As always, the OCA encourages community members to make contact with a member of the OCA team, or relevant Government agency representative, to discuss any specific concerns or questions you may have relating to the township transition. You'll find a list of contact details at the end of this update.

Introducing 1834 Hotels

Leigh Creek Outback Resort

Following a successful tender process, community favourite, the Leigh Creek Tavern, reopened on Tuesday, 24 January 2017 under the management of well-known hospitality group, 1834 Hotels, with a new name and plans to re-establish the property as an iconic regional resort.

The Leigh Creek Outback Resort will cover the accommodation offering of motel rooms and cabins, while the Leigh Creek Bar & Grill is open for bar service and bottle shop sales (Monday - Thursday from 2pm, Friday - Saturday from 12pm), with a dinner service from 5.30-8.30pm.

Visit www.leighcreekresort.com.au for more information.

The gymnasium adjacent to the Leigh Creek Outback Resort will continue to operate under the management of 1834 Hotels. Existing members are able to continue to use the gym as usual.

Leigh Creek alive as locals down a few at new resort

RICHARD EVANS

SPIRITS were lifted at an iconic Outback hotel last week as almost half Leigh Creek's residents turned out for a grand reopening.

Around 80 people had dinner last Tuesday at the newly named Leigh Creek Outback Resort, said general manager Leigh Kentwell from Adelaide hospitality management group 1834 Hotels, which was appointed by the State Government to run the former Leigh Creek Tavern late last year. "The first night was hectic. We were hoping for five to 10 people but had a huge response from the local community. They were thrilled to have the local drinking hole back."

The early opening, ahead of a complete rebrand and refurbishing of the hotel's 64 bedrooms, came thanks to a flurry of unexpected bookings.

"Our aim is to re-establish the property as an iconic regional resort and Leigh Creek as a must-visit destination in the Flinders Ranges and Outback," Mr Kentwell said.

"Our intention is to market Leigh Creek and its iconic scenery to the world. We are working to establish the resort as an Outback conference venue."

Rooms will be updated at a rate of four to five per week with a completion target for April and May - the start of the prime tourist season.

"There is a network we can tap into, Leigh Creek is a gateway. We are trying to integrate town facilities into the hotel, such as the Olympic-size swimming pool," Mr Kentwell said.

There was further good news, albeit small, for a town that has endured a population decline from 500 to 170 with the closure of its coal mine.

"We have kept on a couple of existing staff, there is a full-time manager coming from Adelaide and we are looking to employ two to three staff locally," Mr Kentwell said.

Chair of Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism Jane Luckcraft applauded the reopening. Last year the State Government committed \$18.4 million to help the town stay open beyond July, 2018.



ICONIC: New resort manager Brad Carter and 1834 Hotels spokesman Leigh Kentwell are taking Leigh Creek to the world.

Evans, Richard. "Leigh Creek alive as locals down a few at new resort." *The Advertiser (Business Journal)* 31 January 2017 Page 34

Calling for information on Outback community events

We are always keen to promote information on upcoming events across our social media, website and other communication platforms.

Submit your event details via email to oca@sa.gov.au or by calling the OCA office on 8648 5970.

All events are listed on the OCA website: oca.sa.gov.au/Outback_Events



Blinman Gymkhana

Media Release: Leigh Creek Tavern Reopens



The Leigh Creek Tavern reopened on Tuesday, 24 January, with a new name and big plans for the future.

Now managed and marketed by 1834 Hotels - a leading South Australian hospitality management group, the hotel will be rebranded as the Leigh Creek Outback Resort and promoted to domestic and international tourists.

1834 Hotels general manager Leigh Kentwell said the new name and marketing push would reinvigorate the hotel and the local community, providing jobs, confidence and optimism for the future.

“1834 Hotels is delighted to have been able to reappoint several of the previous staff members, and have plans to employ more locals in the future,” Mr Kentwell said.

“Our aim is to re-establish the property as an iconic regional resort and Leigh Creek as a must-visit destination in the Flinders Ranges and Outback. With over 60 accommodation rooms, access to an Olympic-size swimming pool, gymnasium, bar and restaurant, the new name aims to more accurately reflect the potential and significance of the property.”

Mr Kentwell said 1834 Hotels was also planning to upgrade the accommodation, to develop a calendar of events and to refresh the food and beverage offering.

“Our intention is to market Leigh Creek and its iconic scenery, including the Aroona Dam and nearby Flinders Ranges, to the world, drawing on our established tourism networks and destination marketing experience in both national and international markets,” he said. “We are also working to establish the Resort as an Outback conference venue.”

Chair of Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism (FROSAT) Mrs Jane Luckcraft said the rebranding and reopening of the Leigh Creek Tavern was great news for the region.

“It will help to ensure that Leigh Creek will remain an important hub in the Flinders Ranges,” Mrs Luckcraft said.

Manager of the Leigh Creek Post Office Kirsty Nicholls said she was “very excited” about the reopening and rebranding of the hotel.

“Having somewhere to go to have a drink or a meal with friends is really important for the residents of the town,” Ms Nicholls said. “It’s also great that the hotel is going to be run differently and targeting tourists - it presents so many opportunities for Leigh Creek and will give the town a whole new lease on life.”

1834 Hotels manages a growing portfolio of hotel properties across metropolitan and regional South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory including McCracken Country Club at Victor Harbor, Clare Country Club, the Berri Hotel Group and Mayfair Hotel in Adelaide.

Manufacturing and Innovation Minister Kyam Maher said 1834 Hotels would use their considerable expertise in running regional pubs and resorts to maximise the potential of their business and provide an essential community hub for residents of Leigh Creek.

“I am heartened by 1834 Hotel’s plans to transform the tavern into regional resort, providing a tourism drawcard for Leigh Creek and its surrounds. The region has so much to offer tourists coming from both Australia and overseas and I look forward to seeing the benefits of the new resort flow through to Leigh Creek’s economy.”

Swimming pool complex

The Leigh Creek swimming pool complex is open daily from 2.15pm – 6.45pm for the remainder of the 2016-17 season.

Due to changes in staff availability, the OCA recently ran a training course in Leigh Creek for new applicants to attain their Bronze Medallion and CPR.

Five locals completed training, which will ensure that the pool can continue to operate with the appropriate number of lifeguards for each shift, for the enjoyment of the Northern Flinders Ranges community.

The OCA will continue to keep a register of expressions of interest to become a lifeguard and run additional training sessions in future as needed. Please call the Town Administration Office on 8675 2126 to register your interest.

A new pool chemical management system was installed on Wednesday, 1 February which will accommodate a safer, more modern chlorination system. This will not impact any pool operations.

Please note that as with previous management, the pool complex will not open if the temperature is below 26 degrees 30 minutes prior to the opening time.

Opening hours may vary on occasion due to weather conditions (storms). To avoid disappointment, call the Airport Weather Station on 8675 2048 to hear a recording of the current temperature before departing for the pool.

Leigh Creek aerodrome

The Leigh Creek aerodrome is now operated and managed by the OCA.

All existing services are being maintained, ensuring a continuation of 24/7 access for emergency and private use.

This also paves the way for Leigh Creek to become a base for regionally focused business opportunities. We hope to see increased activity at the aerodrome over the coming months as we work with a number of private operators.

Leigh Creek dump

Following a temporary closure, a new EPA License was recently issued and the Leigh Creek dump has now resumed operations under the management of Flinders Management Services.

The dump will operate on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.00am – 2.00pm.

Residential and commercial waste will continue to be collected from the Leigh Creek township as usual.

We appreciate the community's patience while the EPA License was being finalised.

Aroona Sanctuary and dam

Information on access to the Aroona Sanctuary and dam is being included in the development of a management plan and associated risk assessments.

This process is being managed by the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources (DEWNR). Once completed, this information will be communicated to the community.

Contact details

Leigh Creek township or municipal services:

Robert Stack
Manager of Leigh Creek
Contracts and Services, OCA
M 0428 802 623
robert.stack@sa.gov.au

Courtney Harrington
Northern Flinders Project Officer,
OCA
M 0413 090 556
courtney.harrington@
sa.gov.au

OCA Port Augusta Office:
P 8648 5970

H 1800 640 542 (free call for
unincorporated areas)

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

oca.sa.gov.au
[facebook.com/outback
communitiesauthority](https://www.facebook.com/outbackcommunitiesauthority)

Residential Tenancies:

Peter Thomas
Leigh Creek Transition Housing
Manager, DPTI Government
Housing
M 0437 729 373
peter.thomas5@sa.gov.au

Commercial Tenancies:

Claudia Trotta
Leigh Creek Leasing and
Property Management, DPTI
Commercial
M 0436 470 565
claudia.trotta3@sa.gov.au

Leigh Creek Health Service:

Ashley Parkinson
Executive Officer/Director of
Nursing & Midwifery
Leigh Creek Health Services
Country Health SA
P 8648 4007
ashley.parkinson@sa.gov.au