



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 28 May 2021

Moving forward on the future of the Outback

The Outback Communities Authority (OCA) is pleased to announce that the State Government has supported the further development of its 'Outback Futures Project', with funding to undertake a comprehensive strategic planning process in partnership with Outback communities over the next six months.

The Outback Futures Project is about the long term and sustainable management of South Australia's outback, and considering what it means for its communities from social, economic, environmental and cultural perspectives.

The presiding member of the OCA, Mr Bill McIntosh AM said "South Australia's Outback is a unique place, and the Board is absolutely committed to identifying those services and initiatives that will make it an even greater place to live, work and visit - in partnership with the communities we serve."

The Government has also provided funding for an additional Community Development Officer for 12 months to provide additional support to Outback communities and Progress Associations.

Minister for Planning and Local Government, the Hon Vickie Chapman MP said "In expanding the OCA's community development function the Government recognises the enormous effort made by Progress Associations and volunteers in sustaining Outback communities. We are keen to ensure that these communities are supported to manage this work, and also continue their engagement in the important work of the Outback Futures Project'.

"I thank Outback communities for their commitment to the Outback Futures Project to date, and look forward to receiving further advice from the OCA on the way forward to provide the services and support their communities need".

Next steps in the Outback Futures Project will build on key themes identified by the OCA in the community engagement process undertaken by the Outback Futures Committee in late 2020.

Information about the strategic planning process will be provided to Outback communities and Progress Associations in the coming weeks.

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