
Thursday, 2 February 2012

TOWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR ANDAMOOKA

Minister for State/Local Government Relations Russell Wortley and Outback Communities Authority chair Bill McIntosh today announced the Andamooka Town Management Committee has been formed to guide the future growth of this unique community.

Mr Wortley said Andamooka has evolved from a collection of miners searching for opal into a community that supports the mining industry, tourism, local businesses, a school and other services.

“Andamooka has been forced to evolve with changing circumstances and now the way the local community manages its own affairs also needs to adapt as well,” Mr Wortley says.

“A fast growing and diversified population is placing increasing pressure on the volunteers who make up the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association to deliver local management and services.

“The proposed expansion of the Olympic Dam mining project has also created an expectation that the township will attract new residents seeking accommodation and work outside of Roxby Downs.

“To assist the future growth of this regional community, the Outback Communities’ Authority with my full support has established the Andamooka Town Management Committee.”

OCA chair Mr McIntosh says the new committee held its first meeting in January and resolved to build on the excellent contribution of volunteers and work with APOMA to advance the interests of the town.

“Andamooka is the largest community in the Outback with a population that is keen to determine its own way forward,” Mr McIntosh says.

“The establishment of this management committee ensures there is a capacity to run local affairs without an over reliance on volunteers while maintaining a close relationship with the OCA to address issues such as waste disposal and town maintenance.”

The new committee comprises representatives of the OCA, the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association and will be independently chaired by Cecilia Woolford.

Mr Wortley says one of the pressing tasks of the new management committee will be to draft a proposal for introducing a Community Contribution Scheme by 1 July 2012.

“The contribution scheme will provide a much-needed source of revenue to support the level of management, infrastructure and services required by a regional township in the 21st Century,” he says.