



MEDIA RELEASE

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OCA commissions Outback Water Stations

The Outback Communities Authority (OCA) today announced that two Outback Water Stations dispensing clean and safe drinking water have been commissioned in the State's far north.

Through investment of \$53,000 from the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program administered by Regions SA along with \$173,200 of OCA investment these Outback Water Stations provide a high quality water solution for the very remote communities of Marla and Oodnadatta when water for critical human use is most required and for the travelling public who want clean water for their camping needs.

Ms Cecilia Woolford, Chair of the OCA, said the coin operated dispensers provide high quality water to the travelling public and in times of need to the local community. These Outback Water Stations are 'self-contained' water treatment plants utilizing reverse osmosis filtering technology powered entirely by renewable solar energy. They have a zero carbon footprint.

"The OCA is delighted to be able to provide this low cost high tech technology into Marla and Oodnadatta. Surety around clean, safe drinking water is a critical issue for these communities when rain water supplies have been exhausted."

Water is dispensed via a coin operated tap on the side of the Outback Water Station unit. It costs \$4 for 20 litres of water. Proceeds from the sale of water to the travelling public will generate enough income to fully cover all life cycle and capital replacement costs associated with each Outback Water Station. In times of need, water can be restricted to local community use to ensure there is adequate water supply for essential needs.

"Supporting even the basics like clean and safe drinking water in Outback Communities is a challenge in a region so remote from the rest of Australia. The OCA rises to this challenge and will continue to seek new and innovative solutions for Outback Communities to ensure their sustainability and reduce their disadvantage without the exorbitant cost."

Depending on the success of the two Outback Water Stations, the OCA will continue to investigate opportunities for locating more units in other Outback communities.

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