

media release

Outback Communities Authority Media Release. 22 November 2010

New agreement for Andamooka empowers the community

A new agreement will further empower the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association (APOMA) to manage local services and infrastructure for the town.

The agreement which offers continued financial support from the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) also outlines how responsibilities for delivering services such as waste management, and maintenance will be shared between the two organisations.

OCA Chair Bill McIntosh says recent meetings with APOMA's Chair Mr Peter Allen and members have resulted in the new agreement which provides the Association with more autonomy and means the OCA will take on a stronger support role.

"I am very pleased to have reached this agreement which ensures that the APOMA can be responsive to community needs and also maintain a strong relationship with the OCA," says Mr McIntosh.

"It means APOMA will take on a stronger strategic and leadership role in the delivery of services and infrastructure to the town but it will have greater access to the OCA's Community Development Officer who can assist with the preparation of grant submissions and proposals to secure further funding and support for initiatives.

Mr Peter Allen also believed the new arrangements would mean the Association would have greater flexibility to make use of its resources.

"Andamooka is a strong and self determining community – the largest in the Outback and this agreement recognises the importance of the community determining its way forward," says Mr Allen.

"We will continue to work closely with the OCA and will consult the broader community, taking advantage of this opportunity to test local ideas to solve problems such as waste disposal, noxious weeds and feral animals – issues which currently put pressure on volunteers."

Other key outcomes of the new agreement include:

- the OCA providing APOMA with funding to contract administrative support to help with day-to-day operations
- APOMA taking on responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Town Services Officer, funded by the OCA.
- the OCA's Andamooka-based Community Development Officer, will take up new responsibilities based in Port Augusta and support a broader range of Outback initiatives while APOMA will have greater access to OCA's Community Development Officer.



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