

media release

Copley & Districts Progress Association Incorporated and
Outback Communities Authority Media Release.

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Copley community to vote on how to manage the town's water supply

The Copley community will soon have the opportunity to vote on three options for long-term management of the town's water supply, following an agreement between the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) and the Copley & Districts Progress Association (C&DPA).

OCA Chair Bill McIntosh says the agreement to reconsider management options follows a request from the recently elected members of the C&DPA.

"The OCA is committed to liaising with communities through and with local progress associations," Mr McIntosh says.

"Therefore, having met with the newly elected members of the C&DPA, and hearing their views, the OCA is keen to work in partnership with the C&DPA to undertake further consultation on models for management of Copley's water supply.

C&DPA Chairperson David Pinkerton says the new Executive, together with the OCA is committed to ensuring water consumers in Copley have the opportunity to say how they want their water supply managed into the future.

"For this reason, we see a confidential ballot on three potential water supply management alternatives as a very positive way forward," he says.

The joint decision made at a meeting last week essentially rescinds the agreement made with the previous C&DPA Executive, operational from 14 January 2011, that meant the OCA would own and manage the town's water supply.

The three options to be put to water consumers in a confidential poll, in coming weeks include:

- o the C&DPA owning and managing the town's water supply; or
- o the OCA managing the town's water supply (while the C&DPA owns the infrastructure); or
- o the C&DPA retaining ownership of the infrastructure and the OCA managing the water supply under a lease arrangement.

A letter and discussion paper on the three options will be posted to Copley water consumers before the end of this month and a whole of community meeting, fully explaining the options, will also be held during the consultation period.



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