

media release

Outback Communities Authority Media Release. 10 August 2010

Authority commits to schedule of meetings in Outback communities

One of the first commitments of the newly appointed members of the Outback Communities Authority, has been to schedule regular meetings to take place in different Outback communities.

The decision was made unanimously by members at their first meeting in Port Augusta on 3 August and will enable every member to strengthen relationships with communities across the Outback.

Chairman Bill McIntosh said he looked forward to the Authority getting more exposure amongst Outback residents.

"Our September meeting will be held in Andamooka and we intend to hold meetings in at least three more townships during our first 12 months," Mr McIntosh said.

"All of our members have strong connections to the Outback but this will enable us to build on our relationships with residents, reinforcing our commitment to support volunteers and ensure access to essential services such as water and waste management.

"We are also preparing to maximise opportunities to work with other government and non-government organisations to benefit Outback communities and are developing a register of members' commitments on boards and committees.

"We will be regularly briefing the Minister to ensure she is kept informed on all issues affecting the Outback.

"These connections will tie in with the draft community engagement strategy that the Authority is preparing for discussion at our September meeting, before releasing it for public consultation."



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At its first meeting the Authority asked its officers to:

- provide a report on the demographic profile of the unincorporated areas
- develop a position description for a new Far North Community Development Officer role which will be co-funded by the Authority
- provide a report on the status of the draft Andamooka Master Plan, developed during 2007, with a view to re-engaging the community about planning issues
- provide a report about funding to the Isolated Children's Parent's Association State Conference, and providing an opportunity to engage with the Association on an ongoing basis.

The Authority approved the 2010/11 interim budget, thus enabling the Authority to continue its operations whilst it develops and consults on its Strategic Management Plan.

The Authority plans to meet on a monthly basis, with the intention to hold meetings on the second Thursday of each month.

The Authority's meeting minutes will be published on it's website at www.oca.sa.gov.au in coming days.

Please note, as the Chairman works in the Outback, he is not always within good telephone or mobile reception range. If you would like to interview the Chairman about the outcomes of the first meeting, please contact me as soon as possible so I can endeavour to get in contact with him to arrange a suitable opportunity inside the next two days.