

# media release

Outback Communities Authority Media Release. 12 April 2011

## Have your say on the Outback's priorities for the future

People who live and work in the Outback are being encouraged to have their say about the Outback Communities Authority's (OCA's) strategies and priorities for the future.

OCA Chair Bill McIntosh says the OCA Board recently endorsed its draft Strategic Management Plan, including a business plan and budget, meaning they're ready for broad community consultation.

"This is the first opportunity for Outback residents to have their say about the OCA's proposed direction and priorities," Mr McIntosh says.

"These documents explain how we propose to allocate our resources to support communities, helping to improve quality of life in the outback."

"The drafts have been prepared using research about remote communities and local ideas so this broad consultation will help us make sure our resources are being used fairly, equitably and in the most efficient way possible," he said.

Mr McIntosh emphasized that to improve quality of life, a core part of the OCA's business will be promoting improvements in the management and standard of services and facilities in the region.

"To achieve that, importantly we will also be building and maintaining relationships with outback people, so we can make clear the views, interests and aspirations of outback communities in our dealings with others.

"The OCA is also keen to find new ways to assist outback people and is particularly interested in promoting the use of new, environmentally friendly technologies, including water quality treatment," he said.

Mr McIntosh says partnership arrangements and assistance for communities large and small will continue to be managed through the Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreement process.

A letter or email, copy of the draft Plan and details of how to respond is being sent to progress associations, as well as residents and land holders who have already indicated that they would like to be contacted directly about consultation opportunities.

People in the Outback can also provide their comments until 24 May 2011 by completing an online version of the feedback form, available on the OCA website at [www.oca.sa.gov.au](http://www.oca.sa.gov.au) or by contacting the OCA on 1800 640 542.

The OCA is also inviting people to register their details so they can keep in touch about issues relevant to them. Registration is online or by phoning the OCA office.

For further information contact Sara Polec on 0434 660 987 or email [sara.polec@sa.gov.au](mailto:sara.polec@sa.gov.au)

