

media release

Outback Communities Authority Media Release. 23 May 2011

Have your say on the new Outback Grants program

The Outback Communities Authority is seeking feed-back from the community on a new policy for granting funds for outback community development.

The new 'Outback Grants Program' proposes to accept applications from all 'Incorporated' bodies that operate within the OCA's area of operation. Previously only recognised community based associations were eligible.

OCA Chair Bill McIntosh said it was important that the OCA invests in projects that aim to improve well-being, quality of life and participation of outback people in developing and strengthening communities across the whole outback.

"By enabling any incorporated body that operates within the OCA's area to access this new funding opportunity, we will be able to invest in new and innovative projects," said Mr McIntosh.

The OCA is keen to ensure that its strategic priorities are achieved and to this end, the new Outback Grants Program specifically links approvals with OCA strategic priorities.

"Ensuring our resources are being used in the fairest, most equitable and efficient manner is important to the OCA. Equally important are the views of the outback community, so we encouraging those people to comment on the draft program," said Mr McIntosh.

The new program mirrors other State and Commonwealth grant programs, in that once funding is approved, acquittal of the funds will be the responsibility of the applicant body. The program also proposes to have only two calls for applications per year – February and August.

Community consultation on the draft new policy will close on 4 July 2011, following a six-week consultation period.

A letter or email, copy of the draft policy and details of how to respond is to be sent to progress associations, as well as residents and land holders in late May 2011.



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People in the Outback can also provide their comments until 4 July 2011 by completing an online version of the feedback form, available on the OCA website at www.oa.sa.gov.au or by contacting the OCA on 1800640542.

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.