

FREE



Coober Pedy

REGIONAL TIMES

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Newspaper

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Friday 8 August, 2025

# VANDALISM & POOR TOWN MAINTENTANCE IS PLACING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS AT RISK

The new signage for Opal Crescent erected last week by resident Jenny Gough with assistance from the Coober Pedy Community Alliance is a temporary measure, however, one member of the Alliance believes they could concrete a post in and just "get it done"!

Other suggestions from ratepayers are:

- 1.) Why not hold a Community fundraising Appeal for a \$1 donation to help with costs for this and other emergency issues, not otherwise dealt with? Form a volunteer base for fast action.
- 2.) Could the Alliance Committee consider doing an urgent audit of street signs?
- 3.) Why don't you invite the Council CEO to attend our meetings?

Chairperson for the Community Alliance John Di Donna said, "We can discuss these suggestions at our next meeting and initially ask our members to send in photographs of damaged street signs in their area. The CEO has attended one meeting. He has an open invitation to attend public or community meetings."

Local resident Jenny Gough raised her family in Coober Pedy and served this community in many ways since 1962 when she arrived here as a young bride.

Jenny recently told the Community Alliance how she had instructed Ambulance officers to find her home some years ago when the street sign at Opal Crescent was vandalised and removed.

Mrs. Gough said the street sign went missing about 3 years ago. "It appeared to be vandalism as the sign had been bent down and torn out of the ground. The post was laying on the opposite side of the road for a few days before it disappeared."

"At the time I went to the Council Works office to see if I could get the sign and post from them, and have a handy man put it back up, but was told by the lass in the office that Council was replacing the signs".

"Some time later and on two occasions when my friend needed urgent hospitalisation, I had to call an ambulance. Many of the Ambo's are not full time locals, so I had to give very detailed directions due to the missing street sign, to make sure they would get to my home promptly."

"Anyone with a missing street sign is being placed at similar risk and disadvantage.", said Mrs Gough.

DCCP Annual Business Plan 2025-26 - Page 27

YOUR RATES AT A GLANCE (Cont.)  
MUNICIPAL RATES SERVICES

Below is a detailed description of each of the services provided under municipal rates and the proportion of rates spent on each item:

LOCAL ROADS AND PATHS

We maintain 31km of sealed roads, 127km of unsealed roads and various other related assets including kerbing, footpaths, culverts, road signage and street lighting



After three years Opal Crescent finally has a street sign. Pictured are Community Alliance Committee members Teena and George Rosewarne, Jenny Gough, and John Di Donna erecting a 'new' sign. Thank you to everyone involved.



Above: Online maps show Opal Crescent sign is intact in October 2019 \*(above) and missing in Feb 2024 (below)



SERVING THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD SINCE 1982



## ABOUT US

The annual rainfall in the area is around 144.2 millimetres (5.68 in)

The CPRT newspaper first became DIGITAL/ ONLINE in 2006 as well as hardcopy. Although online is now the main trend, hard copies are still printed locally.

**Editor - Margaret Mackay**  
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### Advertising Rates

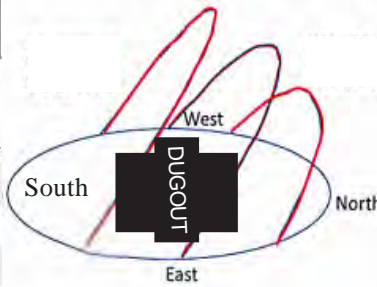
Display \$6.75 Classi \$8.35

### MAILINGLIST

Send an email to be included on emailing list

## 7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

	SAT Aug 9		SUN Aug 10		MON Aug 11		TUE Aug 12		WED Aug 13		THU Aug 14	
Summary	 Mostly cloudy		 Sunny		 Mostly sunny		 Mostly sunny		 Mostly sunny		 Mostly sunny	
Maximum	18°C		20°C		23°C		23°C		23°C		25°C	
Minimum	6°C		4°C		7°C		11°C		9°C		9°C	
Chance Of Rain	10%		5%		10%		10%		5%		5%	
Rain Amount	< 1mm		< 1mm		< 1mm		< 1mm		< 1mm		< 1mm	
UV Index	Moderate		Moderate		Moderate		Moderate		Moderate		High	
Wind Speed	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm
	14 km/h	12 km/h	12 km/h	16 km/h	21 km/h	20 km/h	19 km/h	17 km/h	19 km/h	15 km/h	21 km/h	26 km/h
Wind Direction	ENE	SE	ENE	ENE	NE	NNE	S	SSE	ESE	E	NE	NNE
Relative Humidity	59%	33%	52%	30%	69%	32%	68%	40%	66%	34%	55%	27%



Spring 2025 Sept equinox  
23 Sep 4:19 am

### Bi Monthly

**MARGARET MACKAY** News Reporter, Resident and Coober Pedy Ratepayer has been the Editor of CPRT since 2005 and a volunteer contributor since the mid 1990s, covering general news stories, photography, advertising and the coordinating of community contributions.



Margaret Mackay  
Editor

**Sgt Angus Lovelock** joins the Coober Pedy Police Station after gaining local experience on the APY Lands, and also 2 years at Marla in the Far North, West Coast and Penong. Sgt Lovelock is previously from Adelaide where he began his career in policing 12 years ago.



Sgt Angus Lovelock,  
Police Reports.

## Local Scribes

### Bi Monthly

**MIKE GILLAM** is a freelance writer/ photographer who divides his time between his Art Gallery in Alice Springs and his Dugout in Coober Pedy. Mike also writes essays for the Alice Springs News.



Mike Gillam Coober  
Pedy/Alice Springs

**JOHN DI DONNA** was raised in the South Australian Outback and is a long term resident of Coober Pedy. As a business person John is a regular, commuter along the Far North and Flinders highways and byways, covering the entire Far North & East and Outback of South Australia.



John Di Donna  
Opinion & Commentary

## WESTERN SYDNEY SOLAR TEAM CHARGING BATTERIES IN THE MORNING SUN AT COOBER PEDY SA

### The Opal Capital of the World

An Historic, Underground Town built on the back of OPAL MINING. OPAL - AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL GEM

\*Coober Pedy - situated on the LARGEST OPAL FORMATION in the world

\*Over 40 Nationalities bonded by the OPAL Industry

### Spacious Underground Living

### Coober Pedy Regional Times Newspaper"

CPRT became a FREE Newspaper in 2006 and increased its distribution to 5,000 hard copies + and at the same time provided a **Free Online Digital Newspaper**, to accommodate the new digital era. Distribution covers a vast area including nearby communities and towns, social media, website and mailing lists.

#### Next PUBLICATION DATES

Friday 22 August 2025; Friday 5 Sept 2025

... the prime value of journalism is that it imposes transparency, and thus accountability, on those who wield the greatest governmental and corporate power. ~ Glenn Greenwald, Laura Poitras and Jeremy Scahill

#### Four pillars of Democracy are

**LEGISLATIVE** : The body which makes laws for the state.

**EXECUTIVE** : Executes and enforces laws.

**JUDICIARY** : Works to protect laws. **PRESS/**

**MEDIA** : The 4th estate of democracy. It informs the public

**'Media releases'** may be submitted however there is no obligation on the newspaper to publish any part of it. Media releases are generally one sided so comments may, (or may not) be extracted and used in a related article. **CPRT does not** provide free space for political or business advertising.

**Letters to Editor** should be sent by email where possible and must be relevant to the community. Potentially defamatory comments will be edited or deleted. Letters to Editor need to be signed, but a pen name can be published.

**R.) GROUPS & SPONSORSHIP** You or your group may wish to send a News Article. Aim for a 300 - 500 word story in plain text and a suitable photo/s.

**2. If seeking an Editorial** - "Advertorial" or "Special Feature", please enquire about the cost first.

**3.) Advertisers** may be entitled to editorials

**4.) Sponsorship** for clubs or community programs is by arrangement.

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## TUNNELING MACHINE MINING AT COOBER PEDY



"We are looking  
for this", said the  
Opal Miners



### Opal Mining Act 1995

#### Part 2—Precious stones prospecting permits 8—Nature of permit

- (1) A person must not hold more than one precious stones prospecting permit.
- (2) A precious stones prospecting permit cannot be held jointly by two or more persons.
- (3) A precious stones prospecting permit is not transferable.
- (4) A person must not—
  - (a) lend a precious stones prospecting permit to another person; or
  - (b) permit another person to use, or to take the benefit, of his or her precious stones prospecting permit.

Opals Down Under has this to say about the use of tunneling machines.

*There has been a rapid increase in the use of mining machines since the 1970s. Tunneling machines with revolving cutting heads and small underground front-end loaders (boggers) have been introduced to streamline opal mining and dramatically increase productivity.* <https://www.opalsdownunder.com.au/>

## OPAL MINING TECHNIQUES & TOOLS OF THE TRADE

**Shaft sinking:** Initially, opal mining involved sinking shafts with picks and shovels, and manually removing the excavated material (mullock) using a hand-operated winch.

**Hand tools:** Picks, shovels, crowbars, and chisels are still used for precision work, especially in smaller-scale or traditional mining.

**Jackhammers:** These are used to break up harder rock formations and expose opal-bearing seams.

**Calweld drills:** These drills, with an auger bucket, are used to create prospecting shafts, typically about one meter in diameter.

**Tunneling machines:** These machines, featuring revolving cutting heads, are used for excavating tunnels, often in conjunction with boggers (small underground front-end loaders).

**Boggers:** These small, underground front-end loaders are used to remove the mullock from the tunnels created by tunneling machines.

**Bulldozers:** Bulldozers are used to remove overburden (topsoil and other layers) and expose the opal-bearing level, especially in shallow areas.

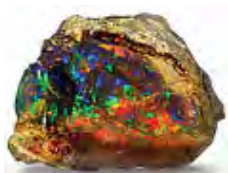
**Blowers:** These machines, similar to large vacuum cleaners, are used to suck mullock out of the tunnels and shafts.

**Automatic bucket tippers:** These self-unloading systems are used to efficiently remove mullock from shafts.

**Other Important Equipment:** Ridge cutters: These specialised tools are used to cut through opal-bearing rock layers.

**Lighting equipment:** Adequate lighting is crucial for safe and efficient underground mining.

**Sieves and tumblers:** These are used for washing and sorting the excavated material to separate opal from waste.



Active Claims as at 10-8-2025

Andamooka 173; Coober Pedy 465;

Mintabie 11; Stuart Creek 1



### IN THIS STORY --

Local Opal Miner George Likouresis and his Company are lowering a tunneling machine down into the shaft using a crane, at Coober Pedy.

The operation was successful and the tunneling machine is performing well.

We look forward to hearing good news.

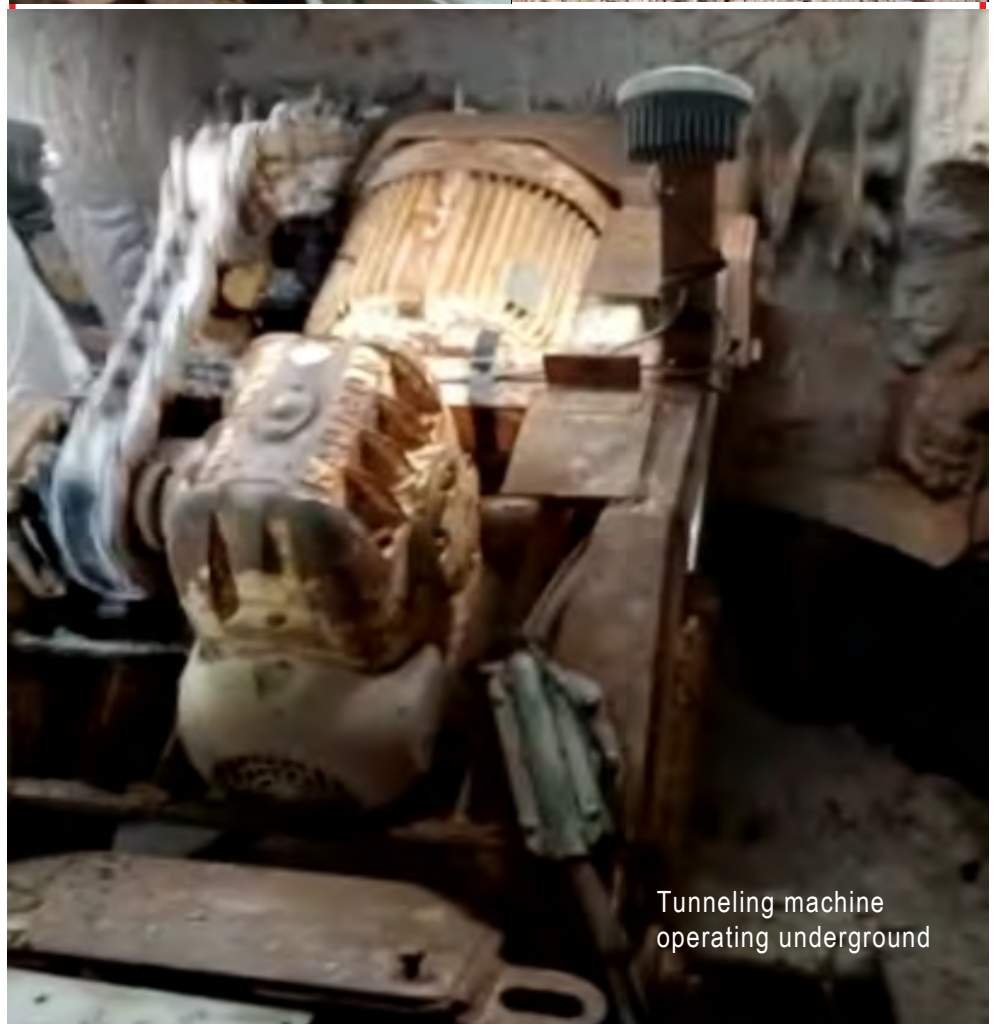
Go Lickers!



Underground,  
Patrick Kiely  
operates the  
tunneling  
machine, below



Lowering  
the  
machine



Tunneling machine  
operating underground



## 47 Y/O ROXBY DOWNS MAN FINED \$2059 and IMMEDIATE LOSS OF LICENCE. DETECTED TRAVELLING at 157 km/h at WOOMERA



Driver detected at 157 km/h at Woomera

A speeding driver has been fined after he was detected on the Olympic Dam Highway 01 Aug 2025.

Police were conducting speed detection duties on the Highway just before 1.45pm Thursday 31 July, detecting a Ford SUV travelling at 157 km/h in the 110 km/h zone.

The police patrol stopped the vehicle and issued the driver, a 47-year-old Roxy man, with an \$2059 'on the spot fine', 9 demerit points and an immediate loss of licence for six months.

## SA GOV TO BAN PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

The South Australian Government is introducing a statewide ban on personal mobile devices in South Australian childcare and preschool services to enhance child safety.

All services must implement and submit a policy aligned with the National Model Code to the Education Standards Board (ESB) by the end of September. Non-compliance could lead to fines up to \$50,000 or service suspension.

The policy mandates that only service-issued devices be used to capture images or videos of children. Personal devices or storage media are prohibited while staff are working directly with children.

South Australia, alongside Victoria, will be the first to implement this measure. The ESB will support the rollout, conduct spot-checks, and enforce compliance.

This move is part of broader efforts to improve early childhood safety standards. The state government has increased ESB funding by \$7 million, doubling staff and significantly boosting service visits.

Education Minister Blair Boyer and ESB Chief Executive Benn Gramola emphasized the importance of child safety and welcomed the proactive approach already taken by many services.



## Coober Pedy - 25/07/2025- 07/08/2025

Sgt Angus Lovelock,  
**31/07/2025** – An unlicensed drink driver has been caught by Coober Pedy Police on Thursday night. At about 7pm on Thursday 31st July 2025, Coober Pedy Police stopped a Holden Sedan on Robins Blvd.

The unlicensed driver underwent a breath test and recorded a blood alcohol reading of 0.295.

The 21-year-old Far North man was reported for drink driving and driving unlicensed. He will appear in court at a later date. The vehicle was impounded for 28 days.

Reported property crime is down significantly this fortnight.

## Syphilis emergency demands urgent action for rural and First Nations communities

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) says yesterday's declaration of syphilis as a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance (CDINS) is a sobering reminder of the health inequities facing rural, remote, and First Nations communities.

Chief Medical Officer Professor Michael Kidd AO made the declaration following record notifications of infectious syphilis and a growing number of preventable congenital syphilis cases resulting in infant deaths.

ACRRM President Dr Rod Martin says the crisis reflects long-standing gaps in access to timely testing, treatment, and antenatal care, despite syphilis being entirely preventable and treatable.

"In many rural and remote communities, the local Rural Generalist is the only doctor available," Dr Martin says.

"They provide everything from antenatal care to STI screening and treatment, and they must be supported with the workforce, training, and tools to respond effectively."

In 2024, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians had infectious syphilis rates seven times higher than non-Indigenous Australians. Since 2016, more than half of all congenital syphilis cases have occurred in First Nations babies. One in three affected infants have died.

"Every one of those deaths is a tragedy," Dr Martin says.

"We know syphilis often presents without symptoms, but with early testing and treatment, congenital syphilis is entirely preventable."

Dr Martin says ACRRM continues to work to strengthen culturally safe care and grow a skilled Rural Generalist workforce.

To help support Rural Generalists in delivering high-quality sexual health care, ACRRM has launched a new STI and HIV Care course. The course is designed to give doctors the skills and confidence to conduct evidence-based STI and HIV consultations, assess risk, and manage follow-up care, with content applicable to practice nationwide.

"We're committed to giving Rural Generalists the tools they need to care for their communities because that's what ultimately saves lives," Dr Martin says.

He urged all Australians who are sexually active, especially those planning for a baby, to get a sexual health check.

"Testing is simple, treatment is effective, and awareness is essential to preventing serious outcomes — including a perinatal death rate of up to 30 per cent."

## WATER MAIN BURST IN HUTCHISON STREET



Early morning commuters at Coober Pedy found themselves looking for alternate ways to reach the CBD on Friday after Nurich contractors for the NBN network, hit the main water pipe in Hutchison Street sending a large quantity of potable water into a nearby drain.

Council's electrical department were on standby after workers reported that there was also electrical wiring in the mix.

While the community is aware that the underground water network plans went missing several years ago, the council were still only able to provide Nurich with some old maps, but unfortunately the water mains in Hutchison St were not marked.

**NBN UPGRADES pg 7**



# Continued.... Coober Pedy locals bring colour & culture to Dialysis Clinic fence

The once-plain fence surrounding the Purple House Dialysis Clinic on Coober Pedy's main street has been transformed into a vibrant expression of local identity, thanks to the creativity and hard work of local volunteers.

Over recent months, thirteen community groups came together to design and paint 18 artworks that now brighten the clinic's perimeter. From school children to elders, artists to community workers, people of all ages contributed their time, talent, and stories to the project. Alongside the artwork, volunteers also helped plant a native garden, making the space more welcoming for everyone.

Located right in the heart of town, the clinic became a canvas for community pride. The project wasn't just about art; it was about connection, shared effort, and celebrating the unique culture of Coober Pedy.

Each group that took part received a small gift voucher as a thank you. For some, like the Mini Gems Childcare Centre, this has already made a difference; they plan to use theirs to purchase new toys for the children.

The fence was officially unveiled at a joyful community gathering, complete with a barbecue and stalls featuring traditional bush medicine. It was a night to celebrate not just the artwork, but the people behind it.

Now, when you walk past the clinic, you don't just see a fence; you see Coober Pedy, its colours, its people, its stories.



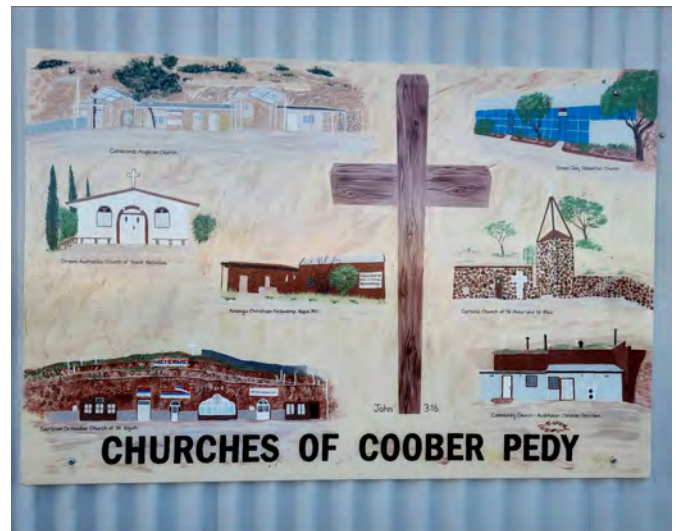
Everone Belongs, is a contribution from Coober Pedy's MiniGems Childcare Centre



Beaming artists/volunteers Linda Buckeridge CFS, Kaye Swain SAAS, and David Frost CFS proud of their contributions



The Greek School, "Our Shared Tradition".



The Christian Churches of Coober Pedy by Kaye Swain



Linda Buckeridge CFS stands with her painting of our volunteer Fire Brigade fighting fires around the town.



The opening included a barbecue and also stalls, featuring bush medicine



Representing SA Ambulance Service with her painting of Sturt Desert Peas is Kerryn Amos



Locals and visitors alike are invited to view the artwork display along the Purple House Dialysis Centre fence.

Thank you once again to everyone who volunteered for this magnificent project, and to all of those who sponsored and contributed funding or personal time.

These are the actions that make us so unique in our remote, CAN-DO town.



Volunteers Shane SAAS & David CFS proud to be part of the opening of the Artwork Display at Purple House



## ***Damning Ombudsman Report*** **ACOSS CALLS ON GOVT TO** **ABOLISH DAMAGING CENTRELINK** **COMPLIANCE SYSTEM**

The Government must immediately stop the Targeted Compliance Framework being used against people relying on income support, after the Commonwealth Ombudsman's report today found alarming systematic failings in its administration.

The Ombudsman's report found that the Government had failed to implement the law correctly and that this had "profound if not catastrophic" impacts on people living in poverty. It criticised the Government for a failure to implement a Digital Protections Framework, after three years of delay. The Ombudsman found that the Government took too long to act on advice that these decisions were unlawful and that due concern was not paid to the risks of automation in decisions to cancel people's income support payments.

"This report confirms serious, systematic and repeated failings in one of the most important functions of government – providing a safety net for people doing it toughest in our society," said ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie.

"The public cannot have confidence in the continued operation of the Targeted Compliance Framework. We call on Employment Minister Amanda Rishworth and the Secretary of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Natalie James to immediately stop the damaging Targeted Compliance Framework, including all penalties, payment suspensions and cancellations, and provide full and swift compensation to people affected by illegal and unfair payment cancellations."

Whilst payment cancellations have been largely paused due to these repeated errors, hundreds of thousands of people are still having their income support payments suspended each quarter under this system.

"Payment suspensions and cancellation have extremely harmful impacts on people, including the loss of income, potential homelessness, relationship breakdown and destitution," said Dr Goldie.

"It is unacceptable to continue operating a scheme that assumes people have done something wrong, perpetuates a culture of mistrust, and undermines human dignity."

### **ACOSS calls on the Government to immediately:**

- \* Stop all Centrelink payment penalties, including suspensions, reductions and cancellations, related to compulsory activities
- \* Commit to permanently removing the Targeted Compliance Framework – a program that has caused significant harm

In December 2024, ACOSS lodged a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman about potentially illegal cancellations of people's vital income support payments and the damaging impacts of the compliance system (the Targeted Compliance Framework) and called for its immediate suspension.

Since 2018, ACOSS has consistently opposed the Targeted Compliance Framework and warned successive Ministers about the serious harm it causes, including calling for the cessation of payment suspensions which impact nearly 240,000 people in Workforce Australia every three months.



### **The Centrelink Compliance Framework,**

**also known as the Targeted Compliance Framework (TCF), is a system designed to encourage job seekers to meet their mutual obligation requirements in exchange for Centrelink payments. It involves a system of demerits, compliance zones, and potential penalties for failing to meet these requirements without a valid reason.**

#### **Centrelink Compliance Framework:**

**Mutual Obligations:** These are the tasks and activities job seekers agree to do in return for receiving payments, such as attending appointments, participating in activities, and actively searching for work.

**Demerits:** Job seekers receive demerits when they fail to meet their obligations without a valid reason.

**Compliance Zones:** The framework uses compliance zones (e.g., Green Zone, Penalty Zone) to indicate a job seeker's current compliance status and the potential consequences.

**Penalties:** Persistent failure to meet obligations without a valid reason can lead to payment suspensions or financial penalties.

**How it works:** \* Job seekers enter into a Job Plan: outlining their mutual obligation requirements.

\* They are expected to fulfill these requirements, including attending appointments, participating in activities, and actively searching for work.

\* If a job seeker fails to meet a requirement, they may receive a demerit.

\* Repeated demerits can lead to movement into the Penalty Zone, where financial penalties may be applied. \* Job seekers can avoid penalties by addressing any failures: and meeting their requirements.

**Purpose:** The framework aims to encourage job seekers to actively engage with their employment services provider, take responsibility for their job search, and meet their mutual obligation requirements. The framework also aims to target penalties towards those who persistently fail to meet their obligations without a valid reason.

**Reviews and Integrity:** The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has been conducting reviews to ensure the integrity of the Targeted Compliance Framework and that decisions are made lawfully and robustly. These reviews include examining the IT system used to operate the framework and ensuring decision-making processes align with the law

## **GENERAL NEWS**

### **Stronger online safety laws needed to protect children; tech giants exposed for failing to meet basic standards**

International Justice Mission Australia 6 August 2025

The Australian Government must deliver on its promise to introduce digital duty of care legislation, with a new eSafety Commissioner report exposing a seemingly industry wide failure to meet basic child protection standards.

According to eSafety Commissioner findings released today from transparency notices on child exploitation and abuse for August 2025 (periodic), tech companies continue to do nothing to protect children from sexual abuse that is streamed live on their services, including in video calls.

The failure continues "despite the availability of technology to help detect child sexual exploitation and abuse in livestreams or video calls," according to the eSafety Commissioner's latest report.

"I think this is hugely concerning. This is illegal content. This is literally the rape, torture of children and they're enabling it and turning a blind eye," said Julie Inman-Grant, the eSafety Commissioner.

The Australian Institute of Criminology has identified online video calling services as "a central vector for livestreaming child sexual exploitation and abuse."

International Justice Mission's 2023 study, Scale of Harm, conducted with the UK's Nottingham Rights Lab, found that nearly half a million children in the Philippines are sexually abused to create new abuse material, especially in livestreams; and no wonder—tech companies continue to allow these live crimes scenes on their platforms.

In their submission to the 2024 review of Australia's Online Safety Act, Philippine Survivor Network leaders stated "We have experienced different forms of online sexual exploitation such as livestreamed sexual abuse and production of child sexual abuse materials in exchange for money received by facilitators from online paying customers."

"We also specifically ask that digital services be held accountable for livestreaming child sexual abuse – that such criminal activity be proactively detected and disrupted on their platforms."

"Every Australian should find it deeply disturbing that the wealthiest, most powerful tech companies in the world are doing nothing to protect children from child sexual abuse streamed live in video calls," said John Tanagho, Executive Director, IJM Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children.

"Companies can use artificial intelligence and machine learning tools, along with a range of signals and red flags, to detect and disrupt in real-time the rape of children through the services and platforms they provide freely to the world. They must be required to do so."

Online service providers are required to report, via transparency notices from the eSafety Commissioner, on how they are implementing the Basic Online Safety Expectations set out by the Australian Government.

#### **eSafety's latest report also found that many of the tech companies:**

- \* Failed to use tools to proactively detect new child sexual exploitation and abuse images and videos;
- \* Have safety deficiencies in user reporting to identify child sexual exploitation and abuse and the resulting illegal images and videos;
- \* Did not use hash-matching to proactively detect known child sexual exploitation and abuse; and
- \* Did not use language analysis tools to proactively detect sexual extortion.

IJM Australia CEO David Braga said the findings send a strong signal that stronger online safety laws are needed to protect children.

"These findings are shocking and are a powerful reminder of why digital duty of care legislation is urgently needed," Mr Braga said.



**NBN UPGRADES MAKE IT TO COOBER PEDY**

NBN Co is in the process of upgrading the remaining Fibre to the Node network across Australia, backed by an equity investment of up to \$3 billion from the Australian Government, in addition to more than \$800 million from NBN Co.

This investment will benefit around 622,000 homes and businesses across the country, with more than half located in regional Australia. It is expected that more than 95 per cent of these homes and businesses will have the option to upgrade to nbn full fibre via nbn Fibre to the Premises. The remaining five per cent require further design work to confirm the appropriate upgrade path.

Work on the upgrades will start immediately and be completed progressively. The upgrades are expected to be completed by the end of 2030.

The nbn full fibre is faster and more reliable than Fibre to the Node, which uses ageing copper to deliver broadband services, and enables access to nbn's fastest upload and download speeds.

For homes and businesses, faster broadband speeds enable more people and devices to be online at the same time with minimal disruptions. This means smoother streaming, faster downloads and uploads, and stronger connections - even with multiple devices online at the same time.

A decade ago, the average Australian home had seven internet-connected devices and consumed around 40 gigabytes per month. Today, the average household consumes more than ten times that amount across 22 internet-connected devices. Within the decade, the average monthly download usage is forecast to reach more than 1,100 gigabytes across around 40 internet-connected devices.

This investment expands the Company's existing network upgrade programs and commitments to enable more than 10 million households and businesses - or around 90 per cent of the nbn fixed line network - access to nbn's fastest wholesale speeds by the end of 2025. The Company has already enabled access to these speeds for more than 9 million households and business, including more than 4 million that can now upgrade to nbn full fibre.

Ellie Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer at NBN Co, said: "This critical investment will deliver access to better broadband to customers in the remaining part of our Fibre to the Node footprint.

"Fast and reliable broadband boosts industry, creates jobs, sparks innovation and strengthens social and economic participation. The nation relies on the nbn® network. It carries more than 80 per cent of the nation's data and is used by more than 20 million people each day.

"The upgrades will also significantly enhance Australia's economy. Independent economic modelling by Accenture estimates the economic benefit of upgrading the remaining Fibre to the Node footprint could increase GDP by \$10.4 billion, support 10,000 jobs, and create 4,000 businesses over the next decade, leading to more opportunities and growth for communities.

"With the growing number of connected devices in Australian homes and ever-increasing data usage, this upgrade investment will enable us to meet the needs of Australian homes and businesses now and into the future and continue to lift the digital participation and capability of Australia."



NBN Contractors Nurich worked efficiently and methodically across the town, somewhat disadvantaged by council's lack of up to date mapping for the underground water network



Above and Below: NBN Contractors Nurich



- The remaining five per cent of homes and businesses, which require further design work to find the best upgrade solution, may be upgraded to future next-generation technologies.
- To qualify for an nbn full fibre upgrade, customers need to order a service from their retailer based on the nbn Home Fast wholesale speed tier, which currently delivers wholesale download speeds of up to 100 Mbps.
- Earlier Government investments to upgrade the nbn network include \$2.4 billion investment commitment to enable an additional 1.5 million homes and businesses to upgrade from Fibre to the Node to Fibre to the Premises, and \$480 million to upgrade the nbn Fixed Wireless and nbn Sky Muster satellite networks.
- Additionally, funding was received from Victorian Government to expand the FTTN to FTTP program in Victoria by up to 100,000 premises under the Connecting Victoria program.
- A table below containing a breakdown of the areas that will benefit through this investment in South Australia. This is not an exhaustive list.

**SA 11,000 - 78,000 Customers**  
Adelaide - North  
Adelaide - South  
Adelaide - WestSouth East SA  
Barossa - Yorke - Mid North  
Outback SA

Nurich Pty Ltd is a company involved in the civil construction and telecommunications sector, specifically with NBN (National Broadband Network) connections for new developments.

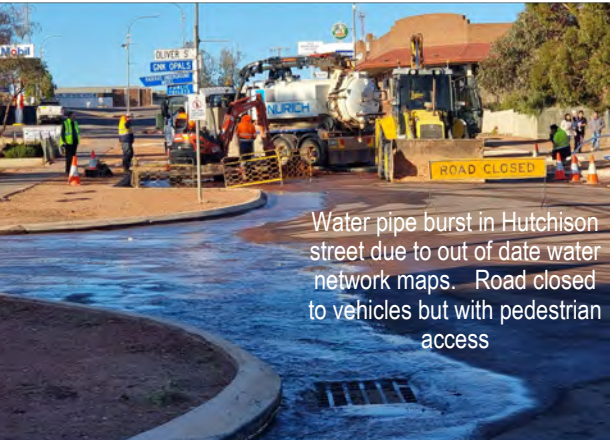
Their teams of experienced workers in the civil NBN sector, include those with NBN Enable accreditation and pit and pipe experience, locating services, and excavator operation.

Nurich partners with NBN to connect new residential and commercial developments with Internet infrastructure.

Stralis Energy - below



Stralis Energy (above) is an Australian company that provides electrical infrastructure and trenching services for NBN projects. They handle tasks like installing conduits, laying cables, and ensuring the integration of NBN infrastructure with other utilities.



Nurich workers have to deal with live electrical wiring amid the muddy mess.



# \$60.8 Million Towards Securing Water Needs & Economic Empowerment For Remote First Nations Communities including \$10,198,134 for APY Lands

Announced on the 5 August 2025, the Albanese Government, through the National Water Grid Fund, will invest \$60.8 million for six new First Nations water infrastructure projects across remote Australia.

Announced by the Prime Minister at the 25th annual Garma Festival, the projects will improve essential town supplies to support liveability and water security in remote First Nations communities, supporting a further 9,000 people on Country.

**The six projects, funded by the Albanese Government, are:**

- \* \$18 million for the Woorabinda water supply improvement (Queensland)
- \* \$14.3 million for the Galiwin'ku network upgrade and water quality planning strategy (Northern Territory)
- \* \$13.7 million for the Gove Peninsula water supply upgrade phase 2 (Northern Territory)
- \* \$6 million for the Halls Creek water security upgrade (Western Australia)
- \* \$5.1 million for the APY Lands water supply revitalisation (South Australia)
- \* \$3.7 million for Securing critical human water needs for self-supplied remote First Nations communities (South Australia)

Each project will be co-funded by state and territory governments, with the Gumatj Corporation providing a funding contribution to the Gove Peninsula project.

Several of these commitments build upon previous National Water Grid Fund construction, planning and science investments to ensure long-term and evidence-based outcomes.

These projects will enable the economic empowerment of First Nations people through employment and training opportunities, tourism initiatives and housing development, as well as support environmental protection and climate resilience.

**First Nations water security project at Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY Lands) SA, Estimated cost \$10,198,134**

The project is funded by the Australian Government (\$5,099,067) and the South Australian Government (\$5,099,067). Australian Government funding is provided through the National Water

**Project overview** { This project will improve water security in 8 Aboriginal communities in the South Australian APY Lands: Amata, Kalka, Kaltjiti (Fregon), Mimili, Pipalyatjara, Pukatja (Ernabella), Umuwa, Yunyarinyi (Kenmore).

**These communities could lose access to water if ageing infrastructure is not improved. The project will maximise the use of existing bores through upgrades. It will also support new water needs in a changing climate.**

The project includes:

- \* equipping bores and providing water and power connections in 4 communities
- \* building monitoring wells in 4 communities.
- \* ensuring communities can access water without severe restrictions
- \* helping Anangu people to stay living on Country
- \* supporting native revegetation to improve liveability.

The project supports progress towards longterm water security in the APY Lands. It also complements a National Water Grid Fund science project looking into groundwater in the area.

## Great Artesian Basin (GAB) Water Security Program Expressions of Interest

The Australian Government has made funding available for the installation and maintenance of wells and associated distribution networks. These funds are available on a cost sharing basis for landholders who are accessing water from the Great Artesian Basin.

Owners of wells completed within the Great Artesian Basin are invited to lodge an expression of interest to be involved in this program which will co-fund eligible water supply infrastructure projects that contribute to water security and drought resilience in the Great Artesian Basin.

This includes:

- \* replacement of aging wells
- \* decommissioning of wells
- \* Installation of water-tight distribution infrastructure
- \* replacement of aging water distribution infrastructure.

## Application due 31 AUG 2025

[View details & apply](#)

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water-and-river-murray/legislation-projects-plans-and-security/water-projects/great-artesian-basin-water-security-program>

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTBACK COMMUNITIES, AND FOR COUNCIL AREAS July 2025

### 1. OCA Small Projects Funding

**Purpose:** Supports small-scale projects that enhance liveability in outback communities—e.g. public infrastructure, solar lighting, toilet blocks, signage, accessibility works.

**Grant Amount:** Typically up to \$20,000–\$50,000

**Closing Date:** Next round closes 31 August 2025

**Eligible Applicants:** Local governments, incorporated community groups, Aboriginal corporations.

**Key Benefits:** Flexible project types; simple online form; great for quick-win infrastructure or town beautification.

**Contact:**

**Outback Communities Authority**

**Email:** oca@sa.gov.au

**Phone:** 08 8648 5970

**Info & applications:** outbacksa.sa.gov.au/small-projects-funding

### 2. Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI) – Phase 4 (Federal)

**Purpose:** Invests in key transport and community assets like roads, signage, airstrips, public toilets, rec centres, and solar-powered facilities.

**Grant Amount:** Varies by project; Outback SA has secured \$7 million regionally

**Closing/Completion:** Current Phase 4 projects must be delivered by 30 June 2025. Advocacy for Phase 5 now underway.

**Eligible Applicants:** Delivered via OCA and Department for Infrastructure & Transport; Potential Applicants can advocate for future phase inclusion.

**Key Benefits:** Funds larger infrastructure like road upgrades, community lighting, and airstrips. Coober Pedy access routes already prioritized.

**Contact:** SA Department for Infrastructure & Transport (DIT)

**Email:** DIT.OutbackRoads@sa.gov.au

**More info:** minister.infrastructure.gov.au

### 3. RDA Far North – Infrastructure and Economic Grants (Support & Facilitation)

**Purpose:** Helps communities access larger State and Commonwealth funding for economic diversification, energy, tourism and public infrastructure.

**Grant Amount:** Variable – often \$50,000–\$500,000+ (depending on program)

**Closing Dates:** Rolling, depending on program; RDA helps with preparation and matching.

**Eligible Applicants:** Council, incorporated bodies, Aboriginal organisations, NGOs.

**Key Benefits:** Strategic support to unlock bigger funding; tailored to regional development.

**Contact:** Regional Development Australia Far North

**Email:** admin@rdafn.com.au

**Phone:** 08 8641 1444

**Website:** rdafn.com.au



**WEDNESDAY**

**Cfs Training**

Tuesday evenings - 6pm at Station

**Mine Rescue/SES**

1st Wednesday of the month 7.30pm,  
and 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month  
9am at Mine Rescue shed

**FRIDAYS**

**CP Shooters Club**

See back page for  
latest program

**Italian Club**



Italian Club Coober Pedy  
is open April - December  
Thursday 5-10pm and  
Friday nights 5 - 1am.



**Greek Charcoal BBQ**

Friday nights at the  
Greek Hall.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

Meet Fridays 7pm at the side of the Catholic  
Church. If you have a drinking problem and  
need help. Call 1800222222, Or call Dave on  
0409349753

**SATURDAYS**

**parkrun**

8am Saturday mornings Town Oval



**GOLF 8 30am**

**MINE RESCUE/SES**

2nd & 4th Saturday of the month 9am

**CP SHOOTERS CLUB**

See BACK page for latest  
updates, or Ring John Di Donna  
on 0427 649 389



**CROATION CLUB**

Happy Hour 6-7pm

**SUNDAYS**



KIDS CHURCH/CLUB  
Catacomb  
Anglican Church

Every Sunday at 10 am  
( 40 mins) - church  
starts at 9:30 am

**CP SHOOTERS CLUB**

See BACK PAGE for latest updates  
Ring John DiDonna on 0427649389

**COOBER PEDY RSL**

Open Sunday afternoon from 4.00pm, Happy hour  
and members draw between 5.00pm and  
6.00pm

**AUGUST 2025**

**Coober Pedy Races & Gymkhana** August 9th.

**William Creek Bronco Branding** will take place at  
William Creek on August 16-17.

**Bridgestone World Solar Challenge:** This event will  
pass through Coober Pedy, with the Coober Pedy  
Oval as a stopover on August 27-28.

**William Creek Outback Fly-In:** This event is  
scheduled for August.

**Coober Pedy Speedway** event scheduled for  
August 23rd and another on September 20th

**Coober Pedy Community Alliance** - Monthly  
meeting 4pm Saturday 31st Aug 2025 Italian Club

**OTHER EVENTS**

**Landscape Group Meetings:**

The North East Pastoral Landscape Group will meet in Yunta on August 8th,.

The Marree-Innaminka and North Flinders Landscape Group will hold a joint meeting in Wilpena on August 11th,.

The Gawler Ranges Landscape Group will meet in Port Augusta on August 15th,.

The Marla-Oodnadatta and Kingoonya Landscape Groups will hold a joint meeting on August 28th,.

**Public Meetings:**

**Cattle and Sheep Industry Funds** public meeting is scheduled for August 8th.

**Wine Industry Funds** meeting is on August 11th.

**The Grain Industry Funds** will have their public meeting on August 18th.

**Riverland varroa mite management workshop** at Loxton Research Centre August 6th.

**The Royal Adelaide Show** will run from August 30th to September 7th.

**The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board** is involved in various events, including meetings  
and on-ground activities in the region.

**The Copper Coast Show** will be held in Kadina on August 16th and 17th.

**MAP OUTBACK SA INCLUDING THE SA OPAL FIELDS, LAKE  
EYRE, GREAT VICTORIA DESERT, SIMPSON DESERT**





PUBLIC NOTICE - AGM



Coober Pedy CFS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
(AGM)  
Monday 18th August 2025,  
6.30pm at the CFS Station in  
Hutchison Street

ACCOUNTANT - COOBER PEDY

Arid Areas Accounting  
Audit & Tax  
Richard Younger



These services include:

- Business Activity Statements (BAS)
- Income tax returns
- Book-keeping
- Payroll Services
- Business advice
- Audit
- Forming partnerships, trusts and companies
- Obtaining Australian Business Number (ABN)

Mob: 0422 428 850  
richard@aaaat.com.au

We specialise in providing practical,  
sound accounting, auditing & tax  
services & advice to individuals,  
families & businesses

Office: Business Centre, Hutchison  
Street (next to Centrelink)  
PO Box 711 Coober Pedy

Supporting "Shop Local at  
Coober Pedy"

Defibrillators Save Lives;  
now Mandatory in Certain  
Buildings



In South Australia, Automated  
External Defibrillators (AEDs) will  
become mandatory in certain  
buildings, facilities, and vehicles  
from January 1, 2026.

This requirement is part of the Automated  
External Defibrillators (Public Access) Act 2022  
and is being rolled out in stages. Crown-owned  
buildings, facilities, and emergency service  
vehicles were required to comply from January  
1, 2025.

Mandatory AEDs:

The legislation mandates AEDs in various  
public-access environments, including schools,  
libraries, sporting facilities, local council offices,  
theatres, swimming pools, and places of  
worship.

Phased Implementation:

The law is being implemented in phases, with  
Crown-owned entities and emergency services  
first, followed by non-Crown owned entities and  
prescribed vehicles (trains, trams, and public  
buses) on January 1, 2026.

Registration:

AEDs installed under the Act must be  
registered on the South Australian AED  
Register.

Who is responsible:

The owner of the building, facility, or vehicle is  
responsible for installing, maintaining, and  
registering the AED.

Public Access:

The legislation aims to ensure AEDs are  
accessible to the public in case of a cardiac  
arrest emergency.

Grants:

Grants are available to assist community and  
sporting organizations with the cost of  
purchasing and installing AEDs.

Emergency Response:

Anyone calling Triple Zero (000) during a  
cardiac arrest emergency will be directed to the  
nearest AED.

For more information:

[https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/  
connect/06d99cd8-89bf-4bef-8348-8c669e89b  
7da/241212+AED+Best+Practice+Guide.pdf?](https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/06d99cd8-89bf-4bef-8348-8c669e89b7da/241212+AED+Best+Practice+Guide.pdf?)

FUNDING

Great Artesian Basin  
(GAB) Water Security  
Program

Expressions of Interest

The Australian Government has made  
funding available for the installation and  
maintenance of wells and associated  
distribution networks. These funds are  
available on a cost sharing basis for  
landholders who are accessing water  
from the Great Artesian Basin.

Owners of wells completed within the  
Great Artesian Basin are invited to lodge  
an expression of interest to be involved in  
this program which will co-fund eligible  
water supply infrastructure projects that  
contribute to water security and drought  
resilience in the Great Artesian Basin.

This includes:

- \* replacement of aging wells
- \* decommissioning of wells
- \* Installation of water-tight distribution  
infrastructure
- \* replacement of aging water distribution  
infrastructure.

Funding will be provided through the  
Commonwealth Government's \$27.6m  
Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought  
Resilience (IGABDR) program. This is a  
cooperative multi-state and territory (SA,  
NSW, QLD and NT), five-year program  
that commenced on 1 July 2019.

Application due 31 AUG 2025

View details & apply

[https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/  
topics/water-and-river-murray/  
legislation-projects-plans-and-  
security/water-projects/great-artesian-  
basin-water-security-program](https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water-and-river-murray/legislation-projects-plans-and-security/water-projects/great-artesian-basin-water-security-program)



PUBLIC NOTICE

MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE SO  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
THRIVES



PROJECT OFFICER,  
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Landscape South Australia –  
Alinytjara Wilurara  
Adelaide or Ceduna  
Full-time position  
Long Term Contract (2 years)  
Ref no. 688220  
\$85,790 to \$95,413 p.a. (ASO5)

Are you passionate about nature  
conservation and the environment?

Join us in safeguarding South Australia's  
landscapes, apply today!

1 x Full-time ASO5, 2 year position  
available immediately.

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board  
is seeking a Project Officer, Sustainable  
Landscapes to lead the delivery of  
sustainable land management projects  
that support the Alinytjara Wilurara  
Landscape Board objectives and the  
Regional Landscape Plan, with a focus  
on sustainable agriculture and climate  
change adaptation. The Project Officer,  
Sustainable Landscapes will manage  
projects to meet contracted funding  
outputs and outcomes, and foster  
strong, collaborative partnerships with  
regional partners to ensure projects are  
culturally appropriate and delivered  
through a cooperative, place-based  
approach.

Enquiries to:

Damon Ezis, Manager,  
Strategy and Sustainable Landscapes,  
Phone 0457 512 769;  
Email [damon.ezis2@sa.gov.au](mailto:damon.ezis2@sa.gov.au)

To apply and for more information visit  
the I WORK FOR SA website:

[www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au](http://www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au) and search by  
vacancy number. Applications will only  
be accepted through I Work for SA.

The South Australian Public Sector  
promotes diversity and flexible ways of  
working including part time. Applicants  
are encouraged to discuss the flexible  
working arrangement for this role.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
people are strongly encouraged to  
apply.

Applications close:  
11:30pm, 10 August 2025

[IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au](http://IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au)



Triple Zero (000)

For emergencies or life threatening situations.



Police Assistance Line (131 444)

For non emergencies.



Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)

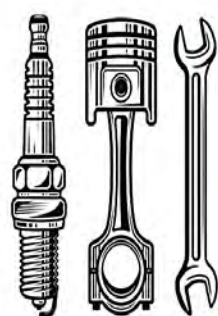
To provide crime information. It can be anonymous.

DISCLAIMER

Opinions, Letters and Public Notices  
published in the Coober Pedy  
Regional Times are not necessarily  
the views of the Editor, or Publisher.

2) The Coober Pedy Regional  
Times reserves the right to edit or  
decline copy, in accordance with  
newspaper policies.

3) Due to concerns of bureaucratic  
victimisation of whistleblowers, and  
allegations of bullying, community  
members or writers may use a 'PEN  
NAME' but must provide correct  
details for our files



RED DIRT CP PTY LTD

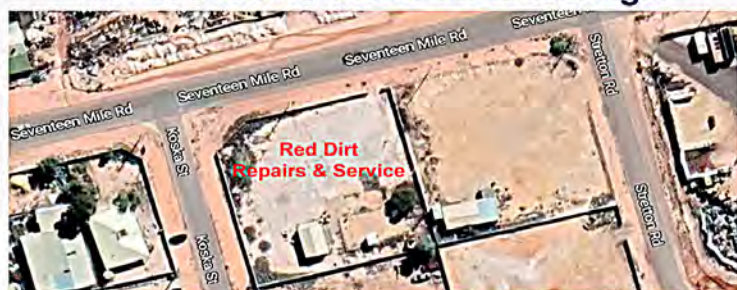
Automotive Repair Shop

Coober Pedy & Odnadatta

Lot 66 Seventeen Mile Rd (Opposite Lion's Club)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085582637596>

PHONE: 0488007450 or FB Messenger



Motor Repairs  
Servicing  
Exhaust  
Brakes  
Truck/Trailer repairs  
Steering/suspension  
Clutch/transmission  
Radios and cooling

Guardian Interlock  
Service Centre



Diagnostics  
Auto electrical  
Air conditioning  
Air-con regassing  
Diesel mechanic  
Mining Machinery  
Heavy Vehicles  
Vehicle parking



# Coober Pedy & Andamooka Opal Fields - Outback SA

## Opal Adventures

### Umoona Opal Mine & Museum:

A great starting point to learn about opal mining, Aboriginal and European settlement, and see the underground living quarters.

### Old Timers Mine:

Explore a historic opal mine dating back to 1916, including an underground home built in the 1960s.

### Tom's Opal Mine:

Offers interactive opal mining experiences, including using UV torches, and caters to both adults and children.

### Noodling:

A popular activity where visitors sift through mining leftovers for opals, often enjoyed by kids inside the town boundary at "The Jeweller Shop" off Umoona Road.

## Underground Experiences:

### Faye's Underground Home:

A specialty museum showcasing an underground home with spacious rooms and preserved memorabilia.

### Underground Churches:

Visit the Serbian Orthodox Church, St Peter and Paul Catholic Church, and the Catacomb Church, all unique examples of underground construction.

## Outback Adventures:

### Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park:

A beautiful area with dramatic, colorful landscapes, including the iconic Breakaways.

### Dog Fence:

A long fence built to keep dingoes away from livestock, offering a glimpse into the region's unique environmental challenges.

## Other Notable Attractions:

### Josephine's Gallery and Kangaroo Orphanage:

A gallery and sanctuary where visitors can see and learn about kangaroos.

### The Big Winch:

Offers panoramic views of the town and surrounding landscape, especially stunning at sunset.

### Crocodile Harry's Underground Nest & Dugout:

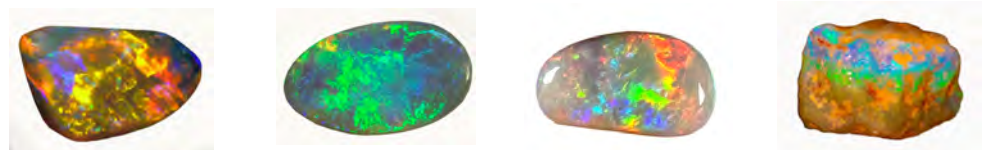
A unique and quirky underground attraction.

### Outback Mail Run

Join Bruce on his journey Mondays and Thursday leaving from Coober Pedy and visiting Oodnadatta and William Creek. Or, on Saturdays departing from Coober Pedy and visiting the stations to the west and the Painted Desert.

### Coober Pedy Tourist Information Centre:

A place to get information about tours and other activities.



## Friday to Sunday

### Coober Pedy RSL

Weekly - Sunday afternoonS from 4.00pm.

Happy hour and members draw between 5.00pm and 6.00pm

### Coober Pedy CROATION CLUB

Weekly on Saturdays - Happy Hour 6-7pm

### Coober Pedy parkrun.

Weekly, 8am Saturday mornings Town Oval

### Coober Pedy Greek Charcoal BBQ.

Most Fridays at Greek Hall.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063689523307>

## OUTBACK SA FEATURING the SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OPAL FIELDS

with easy access to Lake Eyre (Marree or William Creek)





# Rural Aid's 'Spirit of the Bush' Photo Competition Returns to Celebrate Life on the Land

Rural Aid is proud to launch the 6th annual Spirit of the Bush Photo Competition, inviting Australians to share striking images that capture the strength, resilience, and beauty of life on the land.

Running from 14 July to 31 August 2025, the much-loved competition provides a powerful platform for rural and regional Australians to tell their stories through the lens, stories of rugged beauty, resilience and community spirit in the face of hardship.

This year's competition comes after another challenging season of natural disasters, with floods, fires, and droughts once again testing the resolve of the nation's rural heartland.

"Every year, we are humbled by the entries we receive, each photo is a tribute to the unwavering spirit of our farming families and communities," said Rural Aid CEO, John Warlters.

"The Spirit of the Bush competition is more than a showcase of talent. It's a reminder of the grit and determination that keeps rural Australia going, even through the toughest of times."

Entrants are invited to submit a high-resolution, landscape photograph that represents the true Spirit of the Bush.

Photos can be submitted via Instagram or Facebook by tagging @ruralaid in the image and using the hashtag #SOTB2025.

Entries can also be submitted, and the competition terms and conditions can be reviewed via our website at <https://www.ruralaid.org.au/spirit-of-the-bush/>.

A panel of judges will select ten winning images, each of which will receive a \$250 prepaid Visa card. Winners will be announced on 15 September 2025.

"This is a celebration of the people and places that make our regions special," Mr Warlters said. "Whether it's a hardworking farmer, a storm rolling across a paddock, or a quiet moment at sunset, every image has the power to connect Australians with the bush."

Rural Aid encourages everyone with a passion for photography and the country to pick up their camera and show the world what the Spirit of the Bush means to them.

About Rural Aid:

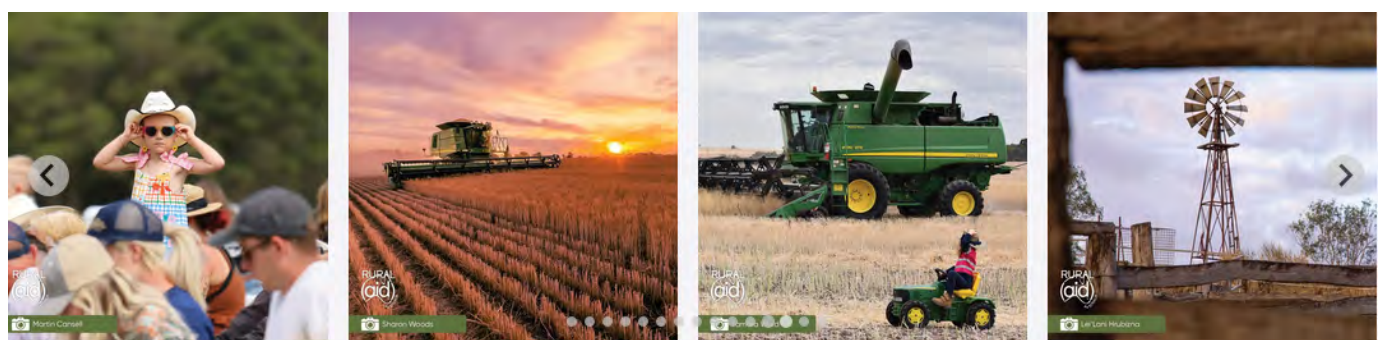
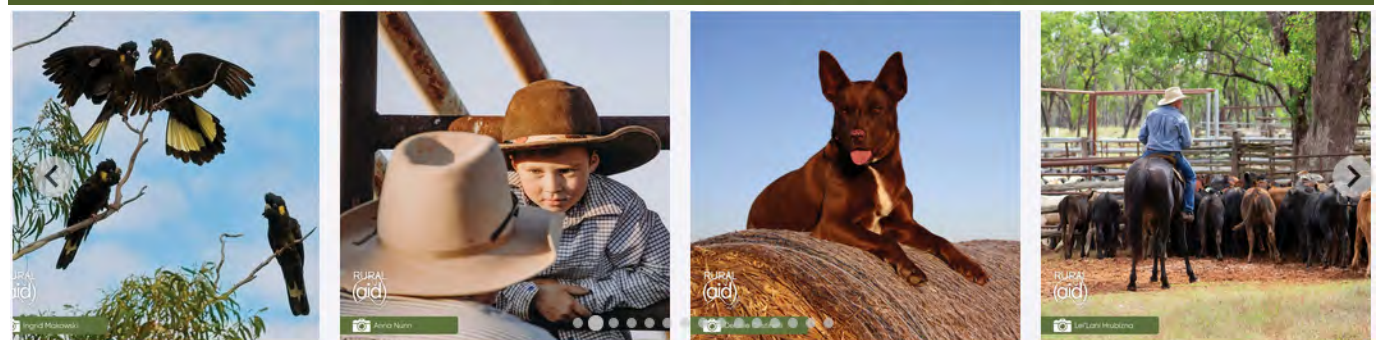
Rural Aid is Australia's leading rural charity, providing critical support to farmers and regional communities since 2015.

From mental health services to hay, water, and community resilience programs, Rural Aid stands with rural Australians through every season.

Now marking 10 years of service, the charity continues to be a trusted lifeline in times of need. Learn more or support at [ruralaid.org.au](https://www.ruralaid.org.au).



OUR *Spirit of the Bush*  
PHOTO COMPETITION IS  
CLOSING SOON







WILL YOU STEP UP  
TO PROTECT **YOUR**  
**COMMUNITY?**

We're run by volunteers (not full-time staff),  
so here is the best way to get in touch:

COOPER PEDY CFS BRIGADE

-  David Frost 0478 669 035
-  david.frost2@sacfsvolunteer.org.au
-  502 Hutchinson Street,  
Cooper Pedy SA 5723

OUR TRAINING TIMES

Every Wednesday night.  
Doors open at 6pm, training starts 6:30pm

We look forward to chatting with you soon.

**1300 364 587 | [cfs.sa.gov.au/volunteer](https://cfs.sa.gov.au/volunteer)**



A SAFE  
**COMMUNITY**  
STARTS  
WITH  
**YOU.**

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE  
IS **RECRUITING NOW.**

Please note:

All training and protective clothing is provided by the CFS. All volunteers are required to consent to a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check. We will provide consent forms for this free-of-charge service.



Government  
of South Australia



VOLUNTEER FOR  
A **LIFE-CHANGING**  
**EXPERIENCE.**

It takes a mighty team of all  
different ages, genders and abilities  
— and we welcome everyone!

WHY VOLUNTEER?

You'll be equipped to help your community when  
it's needed most. A volunteer role opens you to  
training in life-changing skills, including:

-  **Basic  
firefighting**
-  **Structural  
firefighting**
-  **Mapping**
-  **Communications**
-  **Leadership**
-  **Teamwork**
-  **First aid**
-  **Operational  
support**

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

- The desire to help protect your community as part of a dedicated team.
- Willingness to be trained in providing assistance in emergency situations and/or providing support to the team on the ground

HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE?

Cooper Pedy CFS trains on Wednesday nights each week. Doors open 6pm and training begins at 6:30pm.

We encourage you to attend training regularly to stay familiar with equipment, skills and your team.

Many CFS volunteers also work full-time or part-time. Employers often release CFS volunteers from work to respond to emergencies as they arise. If your employer is unable to release you, you can commit to volunteering outside of work hours.

ABOUT THE SOUTH  
AUSTRALIAN **COUNTRY**  
**FIRE SERVICE (CFS)**

The CFS is a volunteer-based fire and emergency service dedicated to protecting life, property and environmental assets in regional and semi-metropolitan South Australia.

We couldn't do it without people like you!  
With approximately 14,000 volunteers, the CFS cares for more than 425 communities across the state through a range of fire and emergency services.

Our volunteers are people from all walks of life, with one extraordinary difference — they step up to regularly commit their time and energy to assist their communities when it's needed most.

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNTS  
ON THE CFS FOR:

- Suppressing bushfires
- Suppressing structural fires
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Hazardous materials incidents
- Advice on building fire safety
- Risk and response planning
- Community education and awareness programs

Our volunteers can also play vital roles through:

- Administration
- Radio operations
- Finance
- Mapping
- Logistics
- Brigade and group meeting participation
- Equipment and brigade maintenance
- Organising cadet programs



# Former consultancy employee faces fraud charges

## Australian Taxation Office

This week, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), with the assistance of the Australian Federal Police (AFP), executed a search warrant at the Sydney residence of a former employee of a consultancy firm.

The man, who is not a registered tax professional, is alleged to have orchestrated a large-scale tax fraud. This was done through lodging false tax returns for clients of the consulting firm and then redirecting the refunds into his personal bank account. The consulting firm terminated his employment once this behaviour was discovered.

Up until the offending was detected, the individual was an employee at the consulting firm for 11 years. During the search of his Eastern Suburbs property, material including accounting records and text messages relating to his preparation and submission of tax returns was located.

It is alleged the individual, used his former company's credentials to access the ATO's Online Services for Agents and Online Services for Business. From there, the individual allegedly lodged tax returns on behalf of his so-called clients and redirected nearly \$1 million in refunds to bank accounts under his name.

One taxpayer contacted during the audit activity believed the bank account was his firms trust account. The other taxpayer was unaware of any ATO refunds being claimed.

Assistant Commissioner Jade Hawkins hoped the action taken against this individual served as a warning to those in the industry considering this behaviour.

'We will not tolerate the actions of individuals in trusted positions who deliberately deceive people for their own personal gain.'

'The ATO has extensive resources and capabilities specifically targeted to combatting fraud. We will continue to ensure those who seek to exploit the tax system are held to account.'

'We urge all taxpayers to protect themselves by ensuring they only engage with registered tax professionals when seeking advice or lodging their returns,' Ms Hawkins said.

The ATO is committed to ensuring taxpayers personal information is secure and safe. The ATO app has security features that notifies you in real time when key changes are made to your account such as when bank account details are changed, and tax returns are lodged.

If something doesn't look right, you can lock your account to prevent further changes being made and to prevent refunds from being issued. Once locked, contact the ATO as soon as you can so we can discuss your security concerns and put additional security measures in place if needed.

You can download the ATO app for free only from Google Play or the App Store and visit [ATO.gov.au/app](https://ATO.gov.au/app) to find out more.

The ATO reminds the community, especially at tax time, to always check a tax professional is registered with the Tax Practitioner Board (TPB). You can find a registered tax agent or check whether a person is registered by visiting the TPB Register.

TPB Chair, Peter de Cure, AM, confirmed the TPB's support for the action taken by the AFP and ATO.

'Clients and the public should be aware of unregistered preparers who might lodge false and fraudulent tax returns. Tax practitioners, exercising reasonable care and appropriate supervision, need to protect their data, systems and clients from attack. Clients and tax practitioners caught up in scams should review their affairs, if required with independent advice. Tax practitioners who respond with openness and transparency will deliver a better outcome for their clients and their firm.'

**To contact the Courts Administration Authority (CAA) for information about courts in the Far North region of South Australia, you can use the following contact details:**

Phone: +61 8 8204 2444 or Freecall 1800 571 191. Email: [enquiry@courts.sa.gov.au](mailto:enquiry@courts.sa.gov.au).

Live Chat: Available in the bottom right corner of the CourtSA website: [www.courts.sa.gov.au](https://www.courts.sa.gov.au).

The CourtSA Registry Services team is available from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

They can assist with inquiries, but cannot provide legal advice.

# Coober Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy (08) 8672 5601



**Coober Pedy Circuit dates in September 2025**

**September 15, 16, 17, 18, 19**

**Court attendees can check case lists here**

<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/caselists/copcr.pdf>  
<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/case-lists/coober-pedy-list/>



# Bully Zero Launches Campaign Amid National Bullying Crisis

**1 in 4 Workers Bullied, Most Suffer in Silence, New Data Shows**

August 2025: Bullying is no longer confined to schoolyards—it's infiltrating workplaces, contributing to widespread mental health issues, low morale, and high turnover.

A new report from Bully Zero reveals that 71% of Australians have experienced bullying, and 31% have faced it in the past year. 27% report workplace bullying, yet most suffer in silence: 74% say no one intervened, leaving them feeling "alone, powerless, and angry."

This research is released ahead of National Bullying Prevention Week (11–17 August 2025), with the campaign theme "Act On It!" Bully Zero CEO Janet Grima urges action: "To stop bullying, we must interrupt it in real-time. Unchallenged bullying harms productivity, morale, and retention. We need 'Actionists'—those who intervene and show bullying won't be tolerated."

Among working Australians:

- \* 23% of workers are unaware of anti-bullying policies.
- \* 25% say policies exist but aren't enforced.
- \* Only 42% report that bullying policies are actively enforced.

The economic cost of workplace bullying is staggering, with estimates between \$6 billion to \$36 billion annually.

Michelle Kleinert OAM, Workplace Mental Health First Aid Facilitator and former Mayor, says: "Bullying leads to anxiety, depression, and burnout. Clear policies and visible leadership are essential for employee mental health."

Actor and Bully Zero Ambassador Glenn Millanta shares his personal experience of bullying: "When I spoke up about toxic leadership, I was sidelined, ignored, and ultimately pushed out. The toll was enormous, both emotionally and physically."

As National Bullying Prevention Week approaches, Bully Zero urges both individuals and organizations to step in and Act On It. Effective reporting, mandatory training, and strong cultural leadership are essential for creating safer workplaces.



ASSOCIATIONS

COOBER PEDY MINERS ASSOC.

Coober Pedy SA 3723  
**Committee Elected for 2024/25**  
President: Matt Graham,  
Secretary:Jacqui Boland  
Treasurer: John Olsson,  
Committee Members: Rod Wells, Mish  
Blanusa, Dean Kennelly, Sebastian Crisa,  
Mike Eakins, Steve Perkins,  
Lachlan Blanchford, Shannon Blanchford,  
Bailey Stevens

Coober Pedy Opal Fields  
Golf Club Inc.

Coober Pedy SA 3723  
**Committee Elected for 2025**  
Club Captain: Stephen Borrett  
President: Chevahn Hoad  
Vice President: Miro Markovic  
Secretary: Nadine Lewis  
Treasurer: Father Paul Crotty  
Grounds Keeper: Dylan Lewis  
Bar Manager: Stephen Borrett  
Committee Members: Sue Britt, Bob Martin  
**Contact: cooberpedygolfclub@gmail.com**

Coober Pedy Area School  
Governing Council

Maurice Saah (Principal) - Ex-Officio Member  
**Elected Staff Representative**  
Veronika Witham  
Elected Parent Members  
Lisa McClure  
Chantelle Bamford- Secretary  
Sabrina Troisi- Treasurer  
Lyn Boussios  
Ariane Montminy-Roberge- **Chairperson**  
Lia Pantelis, Yuko Castles  
Marzena Mazurkiewicz  
Sarah Rethus; Donna Clements  
**Elected Community Members**  
Amber McDonald; Maria Brellas  
Gary Herdegen DCCP  
We are currently waiting on our  
representatives from the Umoona Community

Outback Open Air Cinema Inc  
(Coober Pedy Drive In )2025

Chantelle Bamford Chairperson  
Lyndal Price Deputy Chairperson  
Tanya Lauder Secretary/Treasurer  
Gemma Hoad- Committee member  
Mitchell Hoad - Committee member  
Clydine Carboni - Committee Member  
Kaysy Clet de Leon-Committee member  
Gary Herdegen (Council) Committee Member  
**http://www.cooberpedydrivein.org.au/  
documents.html**

Coober Pedy Italian Club Inc  
Committee Elected 19/10/2024

Brett Smith President,  
Nicko Farantouris Vice Pres  
Deanna Smith Secretary,  
Cat Bell (Treasurer)  
Tara Jane Smith,  
Izzy Zelenko,  
Nick Farantouris (Jr)  
Karen Harvey,  
Rosslyn Jazepczyk;  
Peter Cech,  
Brad Jeffree.

Coober Pedy GEM TRADE SHOW

**Committee Elected 19-12-2024**  
President - Corey Edwards  
Secretary - Tara-Jane Smith  
Treasurer – Emily Pennisi  
**Commitee members**  
Catherine Bell,  
Rachel Crothers,  
David Hammermeister

Coober Pedy Country Fire Service  
COMMITTEE

Captain: Captain David Frost  
2nd Lieutenant: Geoff Squires  
3rd Lieutenant: Ann Gerschwitz  
Senior Firefighter: Linda Buckeridge  
Contact: David.Frost@sacfsvolunteer.org.au

**https://www.facebook.com/groups/813853775367739**

Coober Pedy Retail, Business &  
Tourism Assoc. Inc

Committee Elected for 2025

President: George Kountouris  
Vice President: George Russell OAM  
Treasurer: Nick Brellas  
Secretary/Public Officer: Nicky Kountouris  
Committee Members: Irene Spillman, Mim  
Ward, Daniel Tsharke, Clarissa Bigelow  
**https://www.cooberpedy.com/contact-2/**

Coober Pedy Sports & Rec Assoc. Inc

Dilusha Fernando - Chairperson  
Jacqui Boland - Treasurer  
Gwen Martin - Secretary  
Jon Fatt-Clifton - Committee member  
Paul Maduro - Committee member  
**Email: cpsportsandrecreation@gmail.com**

COOBER PEDY, SA 5723  
**Committee Elected for 2024-2026**

Coober Pedy Shooters Club Inc

COOBER PEDY, SA 5723  
**Committee Elected for 2024/2025**  
President Daniel Lamb  
Senior Vice President Stephen Scott  
Junior Vice President John Mc Dermott  
Secretary John Di Donna  
Treasurer Suzanne Bunker  
Public Relations Jason Wright  
PR /MPIO Officer Tabetha Wilkes  
F/Arms Instructor Chris Warrior  
F/Arms Instructor John Di Donna  
F/Arms Instructor Dale Price  
F/Arms Instructor James Michie  
Licensee/Armourer Chris Warrior  
Licensee/Armourer Daniel Lamb  
**Contact Secretary: 0427 649 389**

Coober Pedy RSL (Sub)

President: Anthony Goodacre  
Vice President: Mick Cox  
Secretary: Kingsley Kammermann  
Treasurer: Miriam Kammermann  
Committee Members:  
Raylene Hagel  
Rebecca Adnum  
Linda Buckeridge

Coober Pedy RSL, Edward Street  
COOBER PEDY SA 5723 (08) 8672 5477

Coober Pedy Historical Society Inc

Committee Elected 20/10/2024

Chairperson: Trish Turner  
Secretary: Jenny Davison  
Treasurer: Sue Britt  
Public Officer: Judy Harper (30-3-25)  
**Contact: cooberpedyhs@gmail.com**

DUSTY RADIO INC

Committee 2025

**Chairperson**  
Secretary: Patsy Anne Noble  
Treasurer:  
Public Officer: Patsy Anne Noble  
Social Media Officer:  
Committee member:  
Committee member:  
**https://www.dustyradio.com.au/**

Updated Local Service  
Provider Listings

C.P. Police Station

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5056; Assistance 131 444;  
Emergency 000; Crime Stoppers 1800 555 677

Coober Pedy Hospital

Lot 89 Hospital Rd  
Open 24 hours · (08) 8672 5009

Coober Pedy Medical Practice

Lot 89 McDougal Road  
(08) 8678 9224

iCCnet SA (Remote Health Monitoring)

Level 1, Administration Building  
1 Tonsley Boulevard, Tonsley SA 5042, Australia  
Tel 7117 0600 (9am to 8pm seven days a week)  
Email: HEALTHFMCiCCnetSA@sa.gov.au

Coober Pedy Area School

17/18 Paxton Rd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5077

Umoona Tjutagku Health Service

Lot 8 Umoona Rd  
(08) 8672 5255

Housing SA

Lot 334 Hutchison St (Opposite Bank)  
PHONE: 131 299

Centrelink

LOT 715 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy  
13 24 68

District Council of Coober Pedy

LOT 773 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 4600

Coober Pedy Tourist Information Cen.

LOT 773 Hutchison St  
(08) 8672 4600

Umoona Community Council Inc

Umoona Rd  
(08) 8672 5246

MAP/Sobering Up Centre. Ph: 86723903

MAP BUS Tues to Sat. 4pm-12am.  
Sobering Up Centre Tues - Sat 4pm - 8am

Umoona Tjitji Tjapu Tjuta Childcare Centre

Lot 315 Robins Blvd  
(08) 8672 5644

Umoona Aged Care

Lot 89 Hospital Rd  
(08) 8672 5605

National Indigenous Australians Ag. (NIAA)

17/18 Paxton Rd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5077

Far North Health Advisory Council

C/- Coober Pedy Hospital  
(08) 8672 5009

C.P, Community Correctional Centre:

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 3091

Uniting Country SA

Paxton Rd  
1300 067 777

TAFE SA

Adult education school  
Hutchison St. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8678 9000

Coober Pedy Magistrates Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5601


Child Abuse Report Line (CARL)

131478

Aboriginal Family Support Services


Lot 1991 Aylett Street, Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 3066





Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club

Established 1974



**Cooper Pedy Shooter Club welcomes all new members, visitors and Sponsors**  
If you don't have a firearm, come along & our members will assist you with all enquiries.  
Minimum age for shooting at the club is 10 yrs (Rifles and Air Pistol)  
& 10 yrs (Pistols).

Starting Times 9:00 AM

Saturday — Pistols Military

19 July

26 July

2 August

9 August

16 August

DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:

Air Rifle/ pistol

IPSC

ISSF

Rifle Metallic Silhouette

Combine Service

Black Powder

Service pistol

Shotgun

Steel Challenge

Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club supports:

Darts

Archery

Starting Time: 10:00 AM

Sundays 50m Rapid Fire

20 July

27 July

3 August

10 August

17 August

SHOOTER'S CLUB ANNUAL FEES

MEMBERSHIP Renewal Now Due 2025



Single Membership \$ 100.00

Couple Membership \$150.00

Family Membership \$ 200.00

Affiliate Membership \$20.00



SSAA MEMBERSHIP DUE NOW

Sign-up online  
<https://ssaasa.org.au>.... Or at the club

Any Enquires regarding Membership, sponsorships, donations, or shooting, please contact  
Suzanne Bunker - - Email [cpssc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:cpssc.treasurer@gmail.com)  
John Di Donna - Mobile 0427 649 389 - Email. [jdidonna@dodo.com.au](mailto:jdidonna@dodo.com.au)



The Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club is affiliated with the  
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (South Australia) Incorporated.  
<https://ssaasa.org.au>

