

# ESCOSA HAS FOUND THAT THE DCCP IS FINANCIALLY & OPERATIONALLY UNSUSTAINABLE, IN THE PAST, PRESENT & PROJECTED FUTURE

## Summary of ESCOSA Advice on the District Council of Cooper Pedy

Main faults and failures identified by ESCOSA [Essential Services Commission of South Australia.]

**ESCOSA states the Council:** <https://lgasa-web.squid.cloud/?a=1965401>

- \* "cannot be considered to be a viable going concern" and cannot repay its debts.
- \* has "significant debt arrears" with Energy Developments Pty Ltd and faces risk of service disruption.
- \* operates essential infrastructure "beyond the community's capacity to fund and beyond the Council's technical and financial capability to manage."
- \* has "many assets in poor condition, including the town's drinking water system."
- \* has "insufficient documentation and maintenance planning" for the water network.
- \* has incomplete or outdated asset information "reducing the accuracy of depreciation, forecasting and renewal planning."
- \* has failed to maintain essential assets "to required standards for a prolonged period."
- \* has more than 70 percent of plant and equipment beyond useful life, with many items withdrawn on safety grounds.
- \* has a water system rated by Council itself as "Likely" to fail with "Catastrophic" consequences.
- \* loses large volumes of water through leaks and faulty meters, with "only about half of produced water being billed."
- \* lacks the specialist workforce and operational funding to safely manage the electricity network.
- \* has a \$5 million asset renewal backlog and cannot fund required renewals.
- \* prepared plans based on "what the Council can afford rather than what is required to maintain services at a safe and reliable standard."
- \* has not regularly revalued assets, meaning depreciation and renewal costs "may be understated."
- \* "failed to properly renew and replace its assets over the Historical Period."
- \* lacks resources "to accurately assess asset conditions or develop a comprehensive renewal program."
- \* "does not fully understand the state of its assets, or the investment required to restore them."
- \* has "no remaining staff with sufficient knowledge of the system, creating a critical knowledge gap" in the water operation.
- \* "does not prepare separate Asset Management Plans for each major asset group."
- \* relies on outdated valuations and inadequate asset management practices.
- \* is unlikely to become viable unless ownership and management of essential services are separated from Council.

### Evidence ESCOSA instructed Council about consultation

ESCOSA repeatedly directed the Council and Administrator to consult with both government and the community.

### ESCOSA advised the Council to:

- \* "Consult with the community regarding future service levels, affordability constraints and possible trade-offs."
- \* discuss "cost recovery settings, acceptable service standards, and the Council's long-term service mix."
- \* "Consult with the community on its preferences for delayed/reduced services, debt, or additional rate charges, once the essential services are stabilized."
- \* "Consult with the State Government on how best to mitigate the risk of critical asset failure for essential service provision."
- \* consult with LGFA and State Government regarding debt management.



Left: Tim Jackson, outgoing CEO from Playford SA became an administrator at Cooper Pedy from January 24, 2019, to February 2023



Right: Geoff Sherridan, outgoing CEO from Elliston was administrator at Cooper Pedy from March 2023 until November 2024.

## DISAPPOINTMENT AS 8 YEARS OF GOVT APPOINTED ADMINISTRATION TRANSLATES INTO COMMUNITY LOSSES



Current CEO at Cooper Pedy Garry Herdegen with Erika Vickery, Patrick Conlon (former Labor politician) and John Moyle. The trio of administrators operate out of Adelaide.

### Evidence regarding missing Network Plans (CPRT)

There is no direct mention in the ESCOSA advice of "missing network plans," destroyed plans, or shredded infrastructure records.

However, ESCOSA repeatedly refers to missing, inadequate or outdated documentation and asset knowledge, including:

- \* "insufficient documentation and maintenance planning" for the water system.
- \* "asset information remains incomplete or outdated."
- \* "a lack of updated technical documentation."
- \* reliance on existing asset registers because Council "lacks the resources to accurately assess asset conditions or develop a comprehensive renewal program."
- \* the Council "does not fully understand the state of its assets."

These passages strongly suggest ESCOSA was aware of major documentation and asset knowledge deficiencies, but the report does not specifically state whether Council informed ESCOSA that detailed network plans were known to be missing.

## See inside for details of next Cooper Pedy Community Alliance Meeting



## ABOUT US

**Coober Pedy Regional Times** became a FREE Newspaper in 2006 and increased its distribution to 5,000 hard copies + and simultaneously provided a **Free Online Digital Newspaper**, to accommodate the new digital era.

**Distribution** covers a vast area including World Wide Web; nearby communities and towns, social media, website and mailing lists. By 2026 the Social Media following alone totals over 20,000 and rising.

The COOBER PEDY REGIONAL TIMES is 'WORLD WIDE'

READ Newspaper FREE online at: <https://cooberpedytimes.com/>

**Editor - Margaret Mackay**

PO Box 10 Coober Pedy SA 5723

Ph: (08) 8672 5920

Email: [editor@cooberpedytimes.com](mailto:editor@cooberpedytimes.com)

<https://cooberpedytimes.com/>

**Advertising Rates**

Display \$6.85 Classi \$8.55

**MAILING LIST**

Send an email to be included on an emailing list

**Next PUBLICATION DATE**

Friday 22 May 2026

**DEMOCRACY...** *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:** Can 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.

**Groups & Sponsorships:** 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.

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

**Advertisers** may be entitled to editorials








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



## WEATHER COOBER PEDY

### Coober Pedy

Forecast issued at 9:15 am CST on Friday 22 May 2026.

	Fri. 22 May	Sat. 23 May	Sun. 24 May	Mon. 25 May	Tue. 26 May	Wed. 27 May	Thu. 28 May
	 Cloudy.	 Shower or two.	 Shower or two.	 Partly cloudy.	 Partly cloudy.	 Partly cloudy.	 Partly cloudy.
Max. Temperature	18 °C	21 °C	16 °C	17 °C	18 °C	18 °C	19 °C
Min. Temperature		12 °C	12 °C	9 °C	10 °C	10 °C	9 °C

**AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL**  
Approximately 144 mm to 175 mm  
(roughly 5.7 to 6.9 inches).

**Wettest Month:** February is typically the wettest month.

**Driest Months:** April is generally the driest, though the area experiences low, erratic rainfall throughout the year.

Winter Solstice on June 21,  
Spring Equinox on September 23



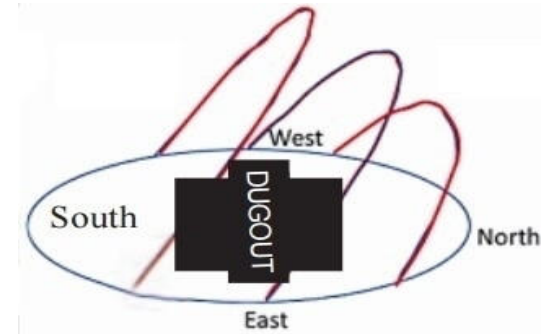
**DISCLAIMER:** Opinions and letters published in The Coober Pedy Regional Times are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or Publisher.

The Coober Pedy Regional Times reserves the right to edit or omit copy, in accordance with newspaper policies. Letters to the Editor must be attributed with a name, address and contact phone number - names and town of origin will be printed, or may be withheld at the Editor's discretion. Material is published with the agreement that the contributor takes full responsibility for their submission. During the course of any election campaign, letters to the editor dealing with election issues must contain the author's name and street address (not PO Box) for publication.

**Right of reply is always available .**

**Copyright Notice:** All of the content published by CPRT, including articles, photos, images, graphics, advertising, layout, printing plate content and related material, is owned by CPRT, or by other information providers who have licensed their content for use in this publication. Additionally, the entire content of the Coober Pedy Regional Times past and present is copyrighted as a collective work under Australian copyright laws and may not be reproduced without written authorisation. The owner of the collective work is Margaret Mackay

**INDEMNITY:** Advertising agencies, advertisers and other contributors accept full responsibility for the contents of advertisements and other submitted, signed material and agree to indemnify the publishers against any claim or proceedings out of the publication of such advertisements or material. Provision of material or copy for publication in the Coober Pedy Regional Times Newspaper constitutes acceptance by advertisers, advertising agencies and other contributors of this condition.



## LOCAL SCRIBES

**MARGARET** Reporter, Coober Pedy been the Editor 2005 and a contributor



1990s, covering general news stories, photography, advertising and the coordinating of community contributions.

**MACKAY** News Resident and Ratepayer has of CPRT since volunteer since the mid covering general news stories, photography, advertising and the coordinating of community contributions.

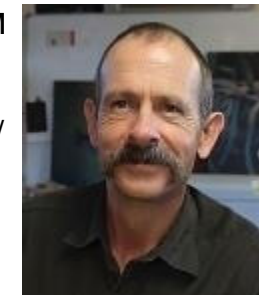
**Sgt Angus** the Coober Station after experience on Lands, and Marla in the West Coast



Sgt Lovelock is previously from Adelaide where he began his career in policing 12 years ago.

**Lovelock** joins Pedy Police gaining local the APY also 2 years at Far North, and Penong.

**MIKE GILLAM** writer- who divides his his Art Gallery and his Dugout Mike also for the Alice



is a freelance photographer time between in Alice Springs in Coober Pedy. writes essays Springs News.

**JOHN DI** raised in the Australian a long-term Coober Pedy. person John is commuter



**DONNA** was South Outback and is resident of As a business a regular, along the Far North and Flinders highways and byways, covering the entire Far North & East and Outback of South Australia.



# LICKERS

- opal industry news

## Active Claims as at

**22/05/2026**

**Andamooka – 157**

**Cooper Pedy – 433**

**Mintabie – 11**

**Stuart Creek – 1**



### Opal Mining Act 1995: Precious stones prospecting permits Part 2

#### 15—Effect of pegging an area

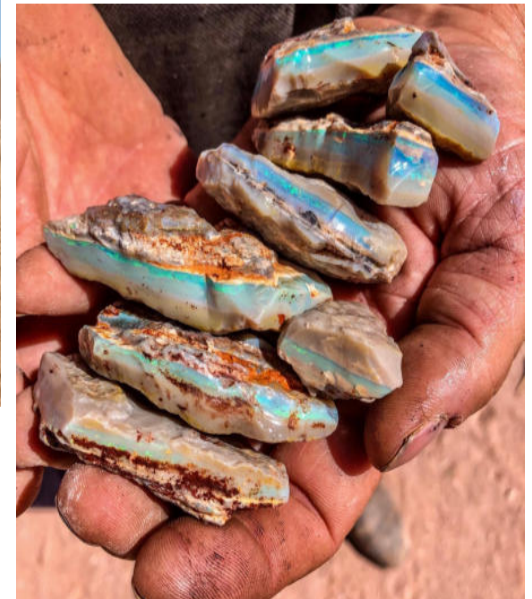
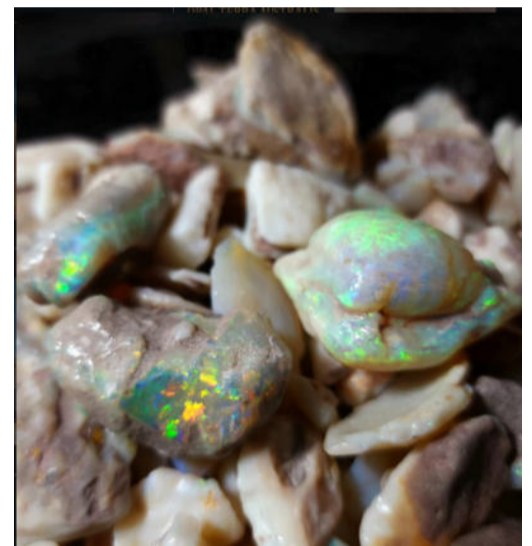
(1) The holder of a precious stones prospecting permit who pegs out an area for a precious stones claim that is wholly within a precious stones field has, subject to this Act—

(a) an exclusive right to conduct mining operations, other than by the use of declared equipment, for the recovery of precious stones from the area, and to sell, use, or dispose of precious stones recovered in the course of those operations, from the day of the pegging; and

(b) an exclusive right to apply for the registration of a precious stones claim within 14 days after the day on which the area is pegged out.



George Aslamatzis and Nick Dimitropoulos



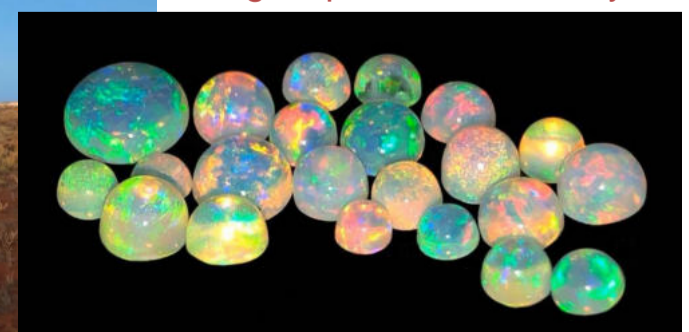
Rough Opal - Cooper Pedy



Sunrise on the Opal Fields at Cooper Pedy



DANGER, Don't Run, Don't Walk Backwards



Crystal Opal Spheres

# POLICE NEWS



## POLICE REPORT: COOBER PEDY 23/04/2026- 21/5/26

Anyone with information on the following incidents is asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. You can remain anonymous.

Anyone with information on the following incidents is asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. You can remain anonymous.

**23/04/2026** – On the evening of Thursday 23 April 2026 unknown persons entered a vehicle parked on Paxton Road and stole a small amount of property.

**25/04/2026** – A female was arrested after crashing her car into an embankment on Hutchison Street. At about 12.20am on Saturday 25 April 2026 police and ambulance crews responded to a vehicle collision on Hutchison Street. Police located a white five seat Hyundai station wagon crashed at the intersection with Flinders Street. The driver, a 36 year old female from the state's Far North, was arrested at the scene. Seven passengers present in the vehicle were not injured and were taken to Coober Pedy Hospital as a precaution. The driver was charged with dangerous driving and driving unlicensed and will appear in court at a later date. The vehicle was impounded.

**28/04/2026** – On the morning of Tuesday 28 April 2026, a residential premises on Alp Street was broken into and cash stolen.

**04/05/2026** – A male driver was stopped in Norton Lane, Coober Pedy driving with a suspended licence in an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle.

**06/05/2026** – A residential property on Henri Street was broken into and a small amount of property stolen.

**06/05/2026** – A female driver tested positive to drugs while driving on Hutchison Street, Coober Pedy. A three-month immediate loss of licence and a 24 hour driver direction notice was issued.

**07/05/2026** – A male driver tested positive to drugs while driving on Hutchison Street, Coober Pedy. A three-month immediate loss of licence and a 24 hour driver direction notice was issued.

**08/05/2026** – A speeding motorist was reported for exceeding the speed limit at 133 km/h in a 110 km/h zone on the Stuart Highway at McDouall Peak. He was also driving with a suspended licence and will receive a summons to attend court.

**10/05/2026** – Overnight, a residential property on Hutchison Street was entered and property stolen.

**11/05/2026** – Between 8 May and 11 May 2026 unknown persons entered a construction site on Hutchison Street, damaged property and stole a small amount of property and assorted tools.

**13/05/2026** – Overnight, a vehicle parked on Malliotis Boulevard was broken into by smashing a window. The vehicle was rummaged through but nothing was stolen.

**14/05/2026** – A female driver was reported for exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol while driving on Giles Street, Coober Pedy and was issued with a six month immediate loss of licence.

**15/05/2026** – A 30 year old man from the state's Far North was arrested after entering a house overnight. Police responded after reports that a male had unlawfully entered a property. Police subsequently located and arrested the man who was charged with aggravated serious criminal trespass and theft.

**15/05/2026** – A man lost his car and licence after being caught drink driving. About 8.40pm on Friday 15 May, police stopped a Holden sedan on McKenzie Road. The driver, a 33 year old man from Indulkana, ran from the car but was quickly located a short distance away. He underwent driver testing and returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.166, more than three times the legal limit. Checks showed his licence had previously been disqualified. He was arrested and charged with drink driving, driving unauthorised and driving an unregistered and uninsured car. The driver was issued with a 12 month immediate loss of licence notice and the car was impounded for 28 days. He was bailed to appear in court at a later date.

**16/05/2026** – Police and emergency services attended a crash on the Stuart Highway at McDouall Peak. About 3.30pm on Saturday 16 May, police and emergency services responded to reports of a two car crash involving a Subaru station wagon and a Toyota sedan. The drivers and two passengers were treated at the scene by emergency service officers and private ambulance crews from nearby mine sites before being conveyed to hospital with non life threatening injuries. The driver of the Subaru, a 74 year old man from the Northern Territory, was reported for driving without due care and will be summonsed to appear in court at a later date.

Sergeant Finlayson of Coober Pedy Police stated:

"All motorists are asked to take care when driving on remote highways in regional areas, taking regular breaks to avoid fatigue and stay focussed on the hazards around them.

At incidents like this in very remote areas, it is pleasing to see so many people and agencies working closely together. Police would like to acknowledge the valuable support provided by members of the public who stopped to assist, as well as the local mining companies that provided communication support and highly trained medical staff and equipment to work alongside and support the local emergency service members."

**16/05/2026** – A 30 year old man was arrested for disorderly behaviour and throwing missiles in Stuart Street, Coober Pedy.

**18/05/2026** – A 'P' plater lost his licence for drink driving at Coober Pedy. About 10.15pm on Monday 18 May, police stopped a vehicle on Williams Road for a mobile driver test. The driver, a 65 year old Coober Pedy man, recorded a blood alcohol reading of 0.092. Police checks revealed he only held a provisional licence. He was issued with a six month instant loss of licence and his vehicle was impounded for 28 days. He was reported for drink driving and breaching the conditions of his provisional licence and will be summonsed to appear in the Coober Pedy Magistrates Court at a later date.

**21/05/2026** – A vehicle was stolen from a business premises on Hutchison Street. At about 9.30pm the victim left their vehicle unattended for a short period with the engine running. An unknown male approached the vehicle and drove off heading north on the Stuart Highway. The vehicle has not been recovered.

## From the Police Association President Coober Pedy: Commissioner's challenge comprehensively rejected by SAET — report back to members

May 22, 2026: Earlier this month we updated members regarding the Coober Pedy industrial dispute and the SAPOL executive's attempt to overturn and suppress the recommendations issued by the South Australian Employment Tribunal.

As members might recall from our earlier update, lawyers representing Police Commissioner Grant Stevens sought to overturn the independent recommendations of the tribunal and prevent their publication. Those recommendations were directed toward addressing serious staffing, retention and safety concerns at Coober Pedy.

The tribunal has now comprehensively rejected Commissioner Stevens' attempt to block and suppress those recommendations. Today, PASA can report that Auxiliary Judge Hannon has "struck out" the SAPOL executive's suppression application and struck out Commissioner Stevens' review application in its entirety.

The tribunal found the SAPOL executive's application had "no prospect of success" and described key aspects of the challenge as misconceived. The tribunal also rejected the SAPOL executive's claims regarding confidentiality and publication of the recommendations, finding those arguments had no merit.

Members at Coober Pedy have continued showing exceptional professionalism throughout this dispute process, despite critical and sustained staffing pressures, excessive overtime demands and ongoing uncertainty regarding long-term operational stability.

The recommendations, permitted to be published from 3:00 PM today, are:

Recommendation 1: For a trial period of one year all Sworn Officers and Community Constables who hold a position at the Coober Pedy Police Station (including all officers who hold a position, are appointed to such a position or are seconded to such a position during the trial period), shall in addition to and without any derogation from such other entitlements as they may have, be remunerated on the basis that and receive all benefits associated with Level 2 incentives provided for by clause 40 and Schedule 3 of the South Australian Police Enterprise Agreement 2021. (without derogating from the operation of Enterprise Agreement clause 40.8.2 and with an entitlement to the Level II lifestyle payment only and not to the Level I lifestyle payment in addition to the Level II lifestyle payment).

Recommendation 2: If the benefits provided by the existing level II incentives are increased by administrative arrangements or the approval of a new enterprise agreement during the trial period, any such increases shall be taken to apply pursuant to recommendation

In practical terms, the SAET has recommended that all police officers and community constables who hold a position within Coober Pedy (whether substantive, seconded or relieving) during the trial period should receive Level 2 incentives and conditions, including but not limited to:

45% loading incorporating shift penalties, weekend penalties, overtime, on-call and recall.

- \*Rent-free housing.
- \*Water, electricity and gas usage paid by SAPOL.
- \*Payment of freight costs for foodstuffs.
- \*Remote allowance.
- \*Level 2 lifestyle allowance.
- \*An additional 40 hours of special annual leave.
- \*Access to the police aircraft for respite purposes.

The SAET also recommended that if existing Level 2 incentives are improved through the enterprise bargaining process, those improved conditions and entitlements will flow through and apply within the framework of the SAET recommendations.

PASA notes recent comments to members by Commissioner Stevens indicating he might refuse to implement the tribunal's recommendations despite the critical staffing, retention and safety issues identified and documented over a long period. Members are entitled to carefully consider that position in circumstances where SAPOL executive leadership has simultaneously continued publicly emphasizing the importance of attracting and retaining police in hard-to-fill country locations.

Importantly, PASA does not view these recommendations as creating "equity implications" between members and locations, as the police commissioner has stated. To the contrary, the recommendations provide a practical and long overdue opportunity to begin meaningfully addressing the longstanding attraction and retention problems confronting hard-to-fill country locations across SAPOL.

It's self-evident that improving incentives, conditions and operational stability for remote and regional policing should not be viewed as a threat to other members, but as a necessary and exciting foundation for broader industrial improvements across country policing generally.

PASA has already been pursuing these issues within the enterprise bargaining process, including broader discussions relating to Level 2 incentives and remote policing arrangements. However, the situation at Coober Pedy is so dire that urgent action must be taken to provide members with a safe system of work and to protect the community.

Commissioner Stevens must provide a safer workplace. Real change that delivers a safe system of work cannot and should not be delayed to await the outcome of enterprise bargaining negotiations. A safe system of work is not something SAPOL should require members to bargain for. It should be a bedrock commitment.

Rather than resisting reform through procedural opposition and litigation, members are entitled to expect the SAPOL executive to fight strongly for practical solutions and meaningful investment aimed at stabilizing country policing and improving member wellbeing.

PASA remains firmly of the view that the independent recommendations represent a practical, measured and operationally necessary step toward stabilising Coober Pedy and improving safety outcomes for both members and the community.

Yours sincerely

WADE BURNS  
PRESIDENT

# Kingoonya Hotel - Kamp oven Kook Off Saturday 6th of June



Entry fee for mains is \$70  
 Entry fee for Dessert is \$30  
 Kids entry \$15  
 No ingredients are to be brought in ,  
 Hotel supplies all ingredients for you to cook with. Foods cooked are available on the night for purchase, after judging has been finalised. So come have some fun and taste some amazing camp oven food.  
 Any inquiries, ring Kingoonya Hotel on 86721002



## DIPHTHERIA OUTBREAKS A REMINDER TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH VACCINATIONS

Wednesday, 20 April 2026: The Australian Medical Association is urging Australians to check that they and their families are up to date with their vaccinations, as diphtheria spreads to more states.

There have been 223 diphtheria notifications in 2026 at 19 May, already exceeding any full calendar year recorded since national reporting began, with public health authorities warning of increasing notifications since late 2025.

Diphtheria is a serious bacterial infection that can affect the nose, throat, airways or skin. In severe cases, respiratory diphtheria can obstruct breathing, and the toxin can cause life-threatening complications, including heart and nerve damage.

The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends routine vaccination as a primary course for infants and routine boosters for adolescents and adults in certain circumstances, because vaccination remains the strongest protection against this preventable disease. The primary course for infants is one dose at two, four and six months old.

Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen said the rise in diphtheria cases was a serious reminder of the importance of vaccines.

"Immunisation is one of the greatest achievements in modern medicine, but when vaccination rates fall, serious diseases, which we had largely eliminated, can make a come back," Dr McMullen said.

"We are seeing that risk play out with diphtheria, and it is a timely reminder for Australians to check they are up to date and to talk to their usual GP if they have questions."

"Through the federal AMA's national Have the JABCHAT campaign, we are encouraging Australians to speak with their usual GP about any questions or concerns they may have about vaccines," she said.

"We developed this campaign to encourage people to get qualified, personalised and confidential advice from their trusted doctor."

"We know many Australians are turning to AI tools and online searches for health advice. But those tools can't look at your medical history, understand your personal risks, or give you the context you deserve — and they're not always accurate or validated. AI can give you an answer, but it can't give you your answer."

"Our campaign is designed to encourage and support Australians, who feel unsure or overwhelmed, to access advice they can trust. Australians deserve advice that is trustworthy, tailored to them and delivered in a confidential setting — and that's exactly what a conversation with a doctor provides."

The AMA is encouraging parents, carers and adults to review their vaccination status, including any booster doses they may be due for, and to book an appointment with their GP to discuss the vaccinations recommended for them and their family. Catch-up vaccinations may be available for families with missed or delayed vaccinations.

More advice on Diphtheria and vaccines is available on the Australian Centre for Disease Control website. <https://www.cdc.gov.au/diseases/diphtheria>



# VACCINATION IS THE BEST PREPARATION

Influenza, COVID-19 and RSV viruses are always changing, and the risk of serious illness goes up if you're over 65. By vaccinating regularly, you can protect yourself before a new strain goes around.

**Speak to your health professional and book your vaccinations today or visit [health.gov.au/winter-vaccinations](https://health.gov.au/winter-vaccinations)**



Australian Government

# CURRENT HYPE AROUND ARKARINGA BASIN'S EXAGGERATED OIL RESERVES NEEDS REALITY CHECK

Rising fuel prices have driven premature hype around oil projects in South Australia's Arkaringa Basin, with amateur promoters reviving exaggerated 2013 claims of massive oil reserves that historical records from the Coober Pedy Regional Times show were vastly overstated, with actual exploration yielding nearly no resources.

Back in 2013 and 2014, headlines across Australia claimed there could be more than 230 billion barrels of oil beneath the Arkaringa Basin near Coober Pedy. Some media outlets even promoted the idea as a twenty trillion dollar discovery that would change Australia forever.

What many people did not understand at the time was that these figures were based on theoretical oil trapped in shale rock, not oil that could actually be economically recovered.

The Coober Pedy Regional Times reported extensively on the issue during the Linc Energy exploration period. While early reports that were clearly designed to attract investors, created excitement, later updates showed a very different reality.

Independent reports at the time classified the resource as unrisks prospective resources, which is one of the lowest levels of certainty in the petroleum industry. Even Linc Energy later admitted that after applying geological probabilities and focusing only on possible sweet spots, the figure dropped dramatically to around 3.5 billion barrels.



That may still sound large, but the basin was remote, expensive to drill, and completely dependent on large-scale fracking to even attempt extraction.

In April 2015 the Coober Pedy Regional Times on Linc Energy's Eba 1 exploration well.

"After drilling to nearly three kilometres deep, the company confirmed there were no significant hydrocarbons found other than small amounts of gas. In simple terms, the well was effectively dry."

This became the strongest proof that the earlier public hype had been badly overstated.

Soon after, global oil prices crashed, the economics collapsed, and Linc Energy itself went bankrupt in 2016 without ever producing commercial oil from the Arkaringa Basin.

The issue also created major concern within the Coober Pedy community. Many residents feared fracking could threaten underground water supplies and potentially destabilise dugout homes in a town where most people live underground.

By 2018, calls for fracking moratoriums had become a major political issue in the region.

Today, as fuel prices rise again, some people are attempting to recycle the same old claims from more than a decade ago. But history matters. The public deserves accurate information, not recycled speculation dressed up as economic certainty.

The lesson from the Arkaringa Basin is simple. Large geological estimates do not automatically equal real world oil production, especially in remote regions where the technical, environmental and financial risks are enormous.

The graphic features a stylized car silhouette composed of colorful dots (pink, yellow, green) and gears. Below the car, the text reads 'on the right track' in pink and green, followed by 'ABORIGINAL ROAD SAFETY AND DRIVER LICENSING PROGRAM' in white. At the bottom, there are six icons in colored boxes: a rainbow (Home), a car (Your licence), a winding road (Remote), a steering wheel (Driving safely), a family (Family), and a boomerang (Resources).

## Driving lessons & tests – Coober Pedy

On the Right Track is a South Australian Government initiative, delivered through the Department of Infrastructure & Transport.

This program assists people in regional & remote areas obtain their SA Drivers Licence through the provision of driving lessons and driving tests.

They visit Coober Pedy every few months & can take bookings and enquires on 1800 768 279.

Their NEXT VISIT to COOBER PEDY WILL BE 23, 24 & 25 JUNE 2026.

While their primary focus is to aboriginal communities, this service is available to all people living in Coober Pedy.

You can find more information about their service at On The Right Track - Home or search for their Facebook site – On The Right Track Remote.

# NO RESPONSE from SA GOVERNMENT re: Coober Pedy Ratepayer's urgent request for clarification & transparency for RAES subsidy governance

To: [Wed, 27 Aug 2025]  
Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA)  
GPO Box 2605  
Adelaide SA 5001  
Email: [escosa@escosa.sa.gov.au](mailto:escosa@escosa.sa.gov.au)

CC:  
Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP Minister for Energy and Mining  
[minister.koutsantonis@sa.gov.au](mailto:minister.koutsantonis@sa.gov.au)

Andrew Richardson Auditor-General of South Australia  
[auditorgeneral@audit.sa.gov.au](mailto:auditorgeneral@audit.sa.gov.au)

Subject: Urgent request for clarification and transparency regarding RAES subsidy governance in Coober Pedy

To whom it may concern,

I write on behalf of concerned residents in Coober Pedy regarding the use and oversight of the Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) subsidy by the District Council of Coober Pedy, particularly during the period of administration by government-appointed officials.

Our small community has for many years depended on the RAES subsidy to ensure the cost of electricity is equitable with that paid by metropolitan consumers. However, we now fear that the conditions, transparency, and accountability mechanisms attached to the RAES subsidy have not been met, both prior to administration and possibly continuing under administration.

The Auditor-General's 2018 Report into the District Council of Coober Pedy outlined serious breaches of the RAES agreement, including:

- Failure to submit quarterly reports and audited electricity-specific financial statements in the prescribed form and timeframe.
- Inability to reconcile RAES grants received with actual electricity costs due to unreliable or missing data.
- Reconciliation payments being calculated based on unaudited, fit-for-purpose-deficient information, with major financial consequences for the community.
- Overall failure to maintain records and reporting systems as required under the RAES Deed of Grant and Sections 8 and 124 of the Local Government Act.

While this report was instrumental in placing the council into administration, it now appears that the very same governance and compliance issues may still be occurring under administration.

Specifically:

- There is no publicly available record of quarterly RAES reports or Minister-approved budgets since administration began.
- Audited financial reports do not appear to contain disaggregated electricity operational data in the form required under the RAES agreement.
- Residents have been unable to access information clarifying how the RAES subsidy is being used, how electricity prices are being calculated, or whether Coober Pedy remains compliant with the Deed of Grant.

These omissions raise questions about whether Coober Pedy continues to qualify for the RAES subsidy in good faith, and whether ESCOSA is satisfied that the principles of transparency, accountability, and fairness are being met for electricity consumers in our town.

We respectfully request that ESCOSA:

1. Clarify whether it has received required reporting (quarterly and annual) from the administrators of Coober Pedy since the 2019 appointment;
2. Confirm whether RAES reconciliation payments and annual budget approvals have occurred in accordance with the agreement;
3. Advise whether ESCOSA has oversight or a formal review mechanism to assess RAES compliance during periods of local government administration;
4. Provide any available information regarding current RAES subsidy levels, and how they are being applied to ensure price parity for Coober Pedy consumers.

We believe these questions are not only fair but urgent, given the precedent of serious mismanagement prior to administration and the ongoing lack of transparency now affecting our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that by copying this correspondence to the Minister for Energy and the Auditor-General, these concerns may be taken seriously and acted upon with the urgency they deserve.

We attach a copy of the Auditor General's Report from 2018

Yours sincerely,  
John Di Donna

Coober Pedy Community Alliance  
On behalf of concerned Coober Pedy Residents and Ratepayers  
[cpc.a.chairperson@gmail.com](mailto:cpc.a.chairperson@gmail.com)

**RESPONSE FROM  
CEO HERDEGEN  
IS ON PAGE 12**

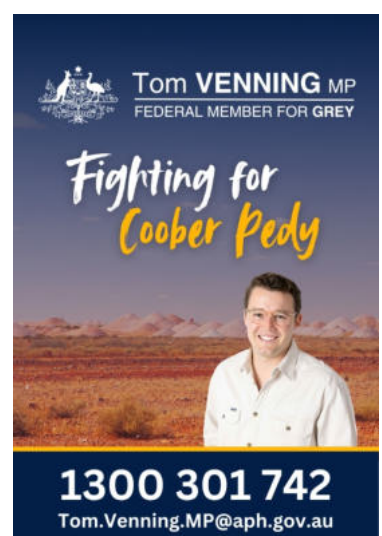
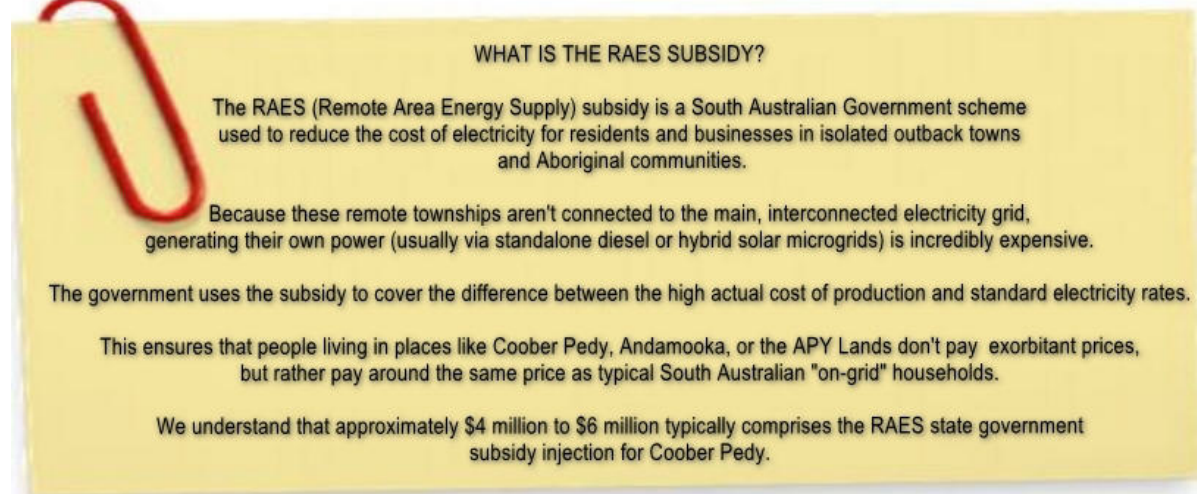
## Dear Alliance members and community members, RE: LETTERS TO GOVT DEPARTMENTS.

Despite writing formally to the Essential Services Commission of South Australia, the Auditor-General, and Tom Koutsantonis MP in August 2025 regarding our serious concerns over the management of our essential services and the spending of the RAES subsidy intended to assist remote area electricity costs, none of these offices have acknowledged or responded to our correspondence.

For a community that has successfully managed and protected its essential services assets since their inception, this silence has been both concerning and disheartening. Many residents are questioning whether government agencies and appointed administrators are more focused on protecting themselves from embarrassment and accountability than genuinely listening to the people most affected by these decisions ie those they are assigned to serve.

Coober Pedy deserves transparency, respect, and honest engagement, particularly when decisions involve the loss of local control over essential community assets built and sustained through generations of local effort and sacrifice. Concerns have also been raised by members of the community that these losses may have contributed to recent rate increases.

We remain committed to pursuing answers constructively, and in the best interests of our community.  
**Alliance Committee.**



## WHY IS LOCAL MANAGEMENT BEING PUSH ASIDE?

For generations, the people of Coober Pedy built and maintained essential services in one of the harshest environments in Australia. Through local knowledge, community effort, and practical experience, this town managed its water, power, and infrastructure in conditions many larger councils would struggle to handle.

So why does it now seem that local knowledge and community history are being pushed aside?

Many residents have been asking why unqualified consultants, administrators, and government agencies appear to have been relied upon more heavily than the people who actually built, operated, and maintained these systems over decades.

The recently completed ESCOSA advice into the District Council of Coober Pedy raises serious questions about governance, asset management, technical documentation, infrastructure renewal, and long-term sustainability. It also repeatedly refers to the importance of community consultation and transparency.

Yet many residents say they were never properly informed about the advice itself, its recommendations, or the possible long-term consequences for locally controlled services.

ESCOSA identified during the Administration period:

- \* outdated technical documentation
- \* significant asset renewal backlogs
- \* critical knowledge gaps
- \* and a risk of catastrophic failure within the water system

At the same time, our community is being told that the only realistic solution is to separate or transfer essential services away from local control.

Residents are now asking:

- Q: Were all alternatives properly explored?
- Q: Were historical upgrades and investments fully acknowledged?
- Q: Were missing or outdated infrastructure records part of the problem?
- Q: Why was the broader community not openly engaged before major decisions were made?
- Q: And why do many local people feel excluded from decisions affecting infrastructure they helped create and sustain?

The people of Coober Pedy deserve transparency, respect, and a genuine opportunity to understand what is happening to their essential services and why.

The ESCOSA advice is therefore being shared with the community in the interests of openness, accountability, and informed public discussion, we are led to believe.

Finally, many residents now believe the time has come for the South Australian Government to reconsider the current administration model in Coober Pedy.

After almost eight years of externally appointed administration, locals feel the town has declined socially, economically, and visually, while community confidence in decision-making has continued to erode. Residents increasingly question whether sufficient remote-area experience, local knowledge, and practical understanding have been applied to the management of the town and its essential services, given that "getting rid of the water plant" has been the goal of all 'administrators'.

Coober Pedy has faced genuine financial and governance challenges. However, many also believe that long-term progress cannot be achieved without restoring meaningful local involvement, accountability, and leadership.

Where findings of maladministration or governance failures have previously been identified by oversight bodies, residents are also asking why stronger legal and administrative action has not followed.

Communities cannot rebuild confidence if serious findings are repeatedly referenced publicly, yet individuals responsible for misconduct or failures are perceived to remain within the broader system without meaningful accountability.

If laws, record-keeping obligations, or governance standards have been breached, then those matters should be properly investigated and dealt with through appropriate legal and administrative processes.

For this reason, we publicly call on the State Government to:

1. review the performance and oversight of the current administration arrangements
2. establish a clear pathway back to community-led governance
3. ensure all administration contracts are capable of being concluded or transitioned by the end of this year
4. and provide the community with confidence that accountability standards apply equally to all levels of administration and government.

"ESCOSA itself identified outdated technical documentation, asset management deficiencies, and critical knowledge gaps within Coober Pedy's essential services infrastructure. Residents are now asking whether these issues were fully disclosed and properly addressed before decisions were made to transfer local water operations out of the hands of those who built, upgraded and maintained it."

## ESCOSA REVIEW OF COOBER PEDY: WHAT TO EXPECT

Coober Pedy, a remote South Australian community known for its opal mining and underground homes, is slated for an essential review by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) in 2025–2026.

This review forms part of ESCOSA's Local Government Advice Scheme, a four-year rotational process designed to assess the financial sustainability, asset management, and revenue plans of local councils.

In simple terms, ESCOSA will assess how well Coober Pedy's council is managing its money, infrastructure, and long-term planning to ensure it's financially sustainable and accountable.

What ESCOSA Does

ESCOSA's role is advisory. While it cannot enforce changes, the commission will analyse Coober Pedy's:

- Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP)
- Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans (IAMPs)
- Revenue and funding strategies

The commission will review whether the council's plans are realistic, whether its infrastructure needs are adequately funded, and whether it has properly considered financial sustainability over the long term.

Key Areas ESCOSA Will Examine

1. Asset Management and Renewal

ESCOSA often flags issues when councils fail to prioritise the maintenance and renewal of existing infrastructure. Coober Pedy will likely face scrutiny over its asset register and the adequacy of its capital renewals funding.

2. Alignment of Financial and Asset Plans

The council will need to show that its financial forecasts match its infrastructure plans. ESCOSA has previously pointed out mismatches between councils' asset management and their financial plans, which can lead to underfunded projects or unrealistic budgeting.

3. Transparency of Assumptions

ESCOSA will require Coober Pedy to clarify the assumptions underlying its financial forecasts—such as inflation rates, population growth, and asset depreciation. These assumptions must align with reality and the council's historical performance.

4. Financial Sustainability

If Coober Pedy is forecasting recurring deficits, excessive debt, or unsustainable expenditure patterns, ESCOSA is likely to point out these risks. Sustainable financial planning is a major focus in these reviews.

5. Governance and Accountability

With the District Council of Coober Pedy under administration since January 23, 2019 and previous issues with utility compliance, ESCOSA may look more closely at the council's governance, accountability practices, and reporting transparency.

6. Community Engagement

ESCOSA typically expects councils to demonstrate how they've consulted with residents and stakeholders on long-term plans. Given Coober Pedy's service and asset review consultations, the commission may require the council to show how feedback has been integrated into its financial and infrastructure strategies.

Coober Pedy's Preparations

In anticipation of ESCOSA's review, the District Council of Coober Pedy has already allocated funds in its Annual Business Plan 2025–26 to cover the costs of the review. They've also been conducting a Service and Asset Review, which includes community consultations on potential efficiencies. This suggests the council is proactively working to demonstrate its financial planning and governance are in better shape than in previous years.

What Happens After the Review?

Once ESCOSA completes its analysis, likely by March 2026, it will publish its advice. The council will then have the opportunity to respond to ESCOSA's findings, addressing any criticisms and outlining steps it will take to improve. This advice will be made public, and the council's response will also need to be published, typically as part of its annual business plan.

Why This Matters

The review is a chance for Coober Pedy [Council] to strengthen its financial position, improve asset management, and enhance transparency. While ESCOSA's recommendations are advisory, they carry significant reputational weight. For a council already under administration and facing financial challenges, ESCOSA's advice could be pivotal in shaping Coober Pedy's future governance and financial stability.

# COOPER PEDY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Saturday 30th May, 2026 at 4PM, Italian Club

## AGENDA

1.) **Discuss objections** to the requested AMYAC variations of the Determination on the Cooper Pedy area, and look at Form 5.

2.) **Council's increase to Rates.**

As Administration at Cooper Pedy draws to an end, battered residents are feeling that the failed experiment has reached a point where those chosen were not appropriately qualified to manage an independent remote town, and are not only giving away our assets, but now stacking their financial losses onto the unsuspecting community.

Residents feeling under pressure want an inquiry; others are wanting a petition to (quote) "get the failed team out of our town".

3.) **Commentary & General Items** can be raised at this time.

4.) **Senior Sgt Simon Haebich**, and/or Sgt Dave Finlayson will be with us to discuss any police matters.

### IN RESPONSE TO DCCP CEO GARRY HERDEGEN'S LETTER DATED 15 MAY 2026 CHAIRPERSON JOHN DI DONNA WRITES:

"I remain deeply concerned about the continued lack of substance, accountability, and transparency shown by this CEO.

In my opinion, the current CEO is significantly overpaid and fails to adequately address the community's concerns. Important questions continue to be ignored or dismissed, despite the serious financial and governance issues facing Cooper Pedy.

An independent internal review is essential before the following documents are adopted by Council at a General Meeting:

- Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026–27
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026–27 to 2035–36
- Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Plan 2026–27 to 2035–36

To date, the following critical questions need to be addressed

1. During 2018–2019, the District Council of Cooper Pedy's total debt reportedly reached approximately \$9–10 million. What is the current total debt position in 2026 under administration?

2. Can the council provide full transparency regarding the Council's current financial position and clearly explain the factors contributing to any budget shortfalls?

3. The Cooper Pedy Council should explain and justify the decisions and financial considerations underpinning the recent proposal of rate increases, above the CPI, particularly where municipal service levels have been reduced.

4. In the interests of full accountability and transparency, will the Cooper Pedy Council use the additional revenue generated from the proposed rate increases to reduce or repay administrative debts, or will those funds be directed towards improving and expanding municipal services? If so, please provide a detailed breakdown of how the additional revenue is intended to be allocated.

5. The Cooper Pedy Administrator has transferred responsibility for the town's water infrastructure to SA Water without any consultation with the community. In the interests of full accountability and transparency, can the Council provide the community with a detailed explanation of the outcome of this arrangement, including its financial and operational impacts?

Furthermore, will any debts incurred during the period of administration be reduced, repaid, or otherwise extinguished as a result of this transfer?

The community is entitled to a clear and comprehensive account of how this decision will affect Council finances, future ratepayers, and municipal services. The CEO of Cooper Pedy should never dismiss or ignore community questions. The community deserves honest answers to make informed decisions about Council finances and future rate increases.

Furthermore, when Geoff Brock MP, Member for Stuart, and Tom Venning, Federal Member for Grey, recently visited Cooper Pedy, it was concerning that the CEO was not in town to engage with them or to discuss matters affecting the community.

The people of Cooper Pedy are paying for leadership that should be transparent, accountable, financially responsible, and actively engaged with the community. The sooner we become an elected council, the sooner it will be time to clean out the underperformers."

JOIN US FOR A SAUSAGE SIZZLE AFTER THE MEETING  
Courtesy of the Italian Club



# Keeping vexatious litigants out of the courtroom

Courts would have greater powers to declare individuals as vexatious litigants under State Government reforms aimed at minimising the impact on those being targeted by vexatious claims and the impact on the courts.

Vexatious litigants are individuals who frequently institute legal proceedings without reasonable grounds or who do so to harass, annoy or cause delay or detriment to others.

Vexatious litigants not only divert court resources away from those who have genuine cases, they cause considerable stress and expense for individuals, families, and businesses that are forced to defend themselves against completely baseless claims.

Thousands of hours of legal resources have been lost on vexatious claims with no reasonable grounds, impacting those with legitimate matters before the courts.

The Courts Administration Authority has warned of a rise in the type of behaviour underpinning vexatious litigation, citing factors such as the rise of the so-called 'sovereign citizen' movement, along with the prevalence of generative artificial intelligence to prepare spurious court documents.

The Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence noted that vexatious complaints in the criminal and civil justice system could be used to further perpetuate domestic, family and sexual violence. In particular, it observed that systems abuses can create delays causing victim-survivors to disengage from the criminal justice system, which could in turn result in a person who uses violence never having to face a trial.

These reforms complement the findings of the Royal Commission and acknowledge the need to identify and address the potential for systems abuse in our courts.

An analysis in the Adelaide Law Review from 2021 described SA's existing laws as "rarely used, resource-intensive, costly and onerous", noting that one individual had instituted more than 60 claims without reasonable grounds, with significant resources expended over three and a half years to support a declaration that this individual was, indeed, a vexatious litigant.

Reforms introduced to Parliament by the State Government this week would:

- Broaden the criteria to allow courts to declare an individual a vexatious litigant, by enabling courts to consider proceedings brought by individuals in other jurisdictions, as well as proceedings constituting an abuse of process or that have been conducted for any other wrongful purpose

- Allow the Supreme Court to make a vexatious litigant order on its own motion
- Allow South Australian courts and tribunals to refer a matter to the Supreme Court where it believed there may be grounds for a vexatious litigant order.

The laws were developed in consultation with key stakeholders including the Courts Administration Authority, the Law Society, the Legal Services Commission and the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement.

Attorney General Kyam Maher MP said, "Achieving justice in a timely and cost-effective manner – whether we're talking about addressing various injustices through civil proceedings or holding offenders to account through criminal proceedings – is a fundamental part of our society."

"Unfortunately there are those who seek to abuse this system, by clogging up the courts with completely unmeritorious actions, often misusing the justice system as a means to harass others. This can have a devastating impact on people forced to defend themselves against baseless claims."

"Vexatious litigants are a drain on the system who make it harder for the courts to dedicate resources to those matters that do legitimately warrant their time".

These reforms are about protecting South Australians from those individuals who seek to wield the justice system like a weapon against people they wish to cause distress to.

"These laws will help courts curtail this behaviour while ensuring an individual's right to access the court is maintained."



**Farm Business Transition - Round 2**  
<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=8dfa7a62-236c-41ed-99de-f8c06ecf0f74&keyword=GO8416>  
Contact: Community Grants Hub  
E: support@communitygrants.gov.au  
<https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us>

Close Date & Time: 15-Jul-2026 9:00 pm (ACT Local Time)

Internal Reference ID: 2025-5275

Primary Category: 111002 - Business Development

Publish Date: 19-May-2026

Location: ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS

Selection Process: Open Competitive

FO Reference: Description: The Australian Government is inviting sheep producers to apply for Round 2 of the open competitive Farm Business Transition Program (the program).

Grant funding may be used for a range of activities, including planning, professional and technical advice, application of research and development innovations extension activities, and investment in on-farm infrastructure and improvements.



## 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

Admin & Finance enquires: Ann Gerschwitz 0439 325 806 or [ann.gerschwitz@sacfsvolunteer.org.au](mailto:ann.gerschwitz@sacfsvolunteer.org.au)

Recruiting enquiries: Linda Buckeridge on 0401507690 or [linda.buckeridge@sacfsvolunteer.org.au](mailto:linda.buckeridge@sacfsvolunteer.org.au)

### OUR TRAINING TIMES

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

502 Hutchinson Street, Cooper Pedy SA 5723

We look forward to chatting with you soon.

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

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

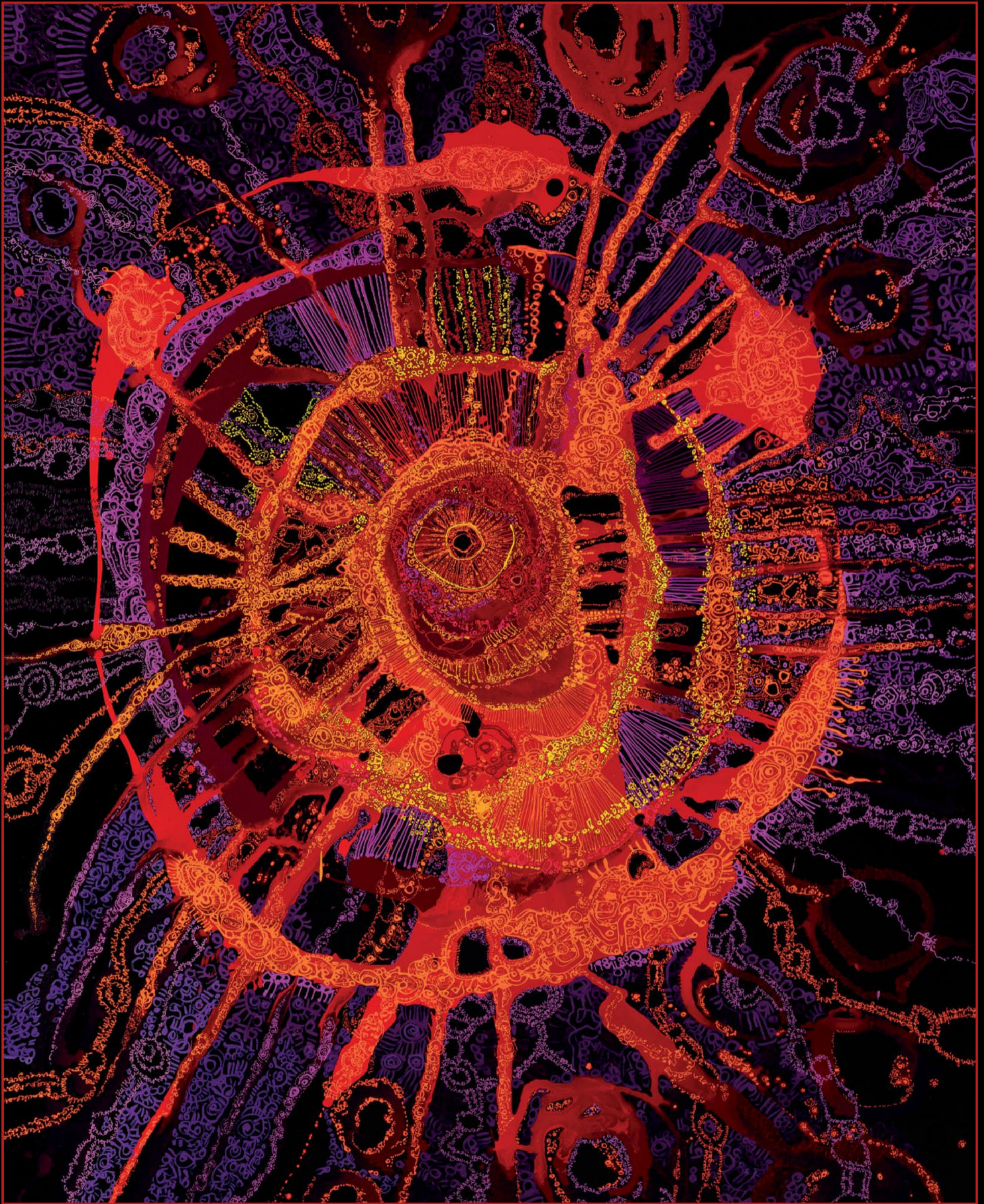
**Please note:**

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.



**A SAFE COMMUNITY STARTS WITH YOU.**





**NAIDOC WEEK**  
**50 YEARS DEADLY**  
**5-12 JULY 2026**

**Paralpi by Zaachariaha Fielding**

*Paralpi* extends Zaachariaha's acclaimed *Inma* series and reflects a deeply cultural and immersive narrative grounded in Country. The artwork depicts the sounds of *Paralpi*, a significant place just outside Mimili on the eastern APY Lands in South Australia. As Zaachariaha describes, *Paralpi* is a place where people come to embrace and celebrate children, where they are taught by Elders to move and mimic their Clan emblem – for Mimili, this being the maku (witchetty grub).

#NAIDOC2026

#FIFTYYEARSDEADLY

#NAIDOCWEEK

facebook.com/NAIDOC

@naidocweek

@naidocweek



Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas.



Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.

**DCCP RESPONSE RE RATE RISE.**

Dear Mr Di Donna  
 REQUEST FOR REVIEW – PROPOSED RATES INCREASE AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

I write in my capacity as Chief Executive Officer of the District Council of Coober Pedy (the Council).

In particular, I write regarding the request made by you on behalf of the 183 members of the Coober Pedy Community Alliance (the Alliance) for a review under section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act): in relation to recent and proposed rate increases affecting the Coober Pedy community.

Internal Review of Council decisions

Section 270(a1) of the Act provides as follows:  
 ... a council must establish procedures for the review of decisions of –  
 (a) the council;  
 (b) employees of the council;  
 (c) other persons acting on behalf of the council.  
 Having now considered your request, I write to advise the Council has determined to decline to undertake the review requested.

This determination has been made on the basis that there is no 'decision' of the Council regarding the 'proposed rate increases' as part of the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budgetary process.

'Decision' subject of the request for review  
 Rather, at the Meeting of the Administrators on 22 April 2026, and in accordance with section 123 of the Act, for public consultation purposes, the Administrators resolved to adopt the:  
 • Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-27;  
 • Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-27 to 2035-36; and  
 • Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Plan 2026-27 to 2035-36;  
 Consultation on the draft documents is currently open, closing at 5.00pm on Friday 6 June 2026.

There will also be an opportunity to make a submission to the Administrators regarding the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget, at a meeting to be set at a later date. Following which, the Administrators will consider any feedback received as part of this consultation process, and will make a decision on certain matters, including any proposed rate increase.

Information with respect to the community consultation can be found at this link: <https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/council/community-engagement/community-engagement-annual-business-plan-and-budget-2025-27>

I invite the Alliance to engage in the consultation process regarding the matters set out in its request to me of 6 May 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt, in so far as the request has also been made for a review of 'recent' rate increases, those increases were adopted as part of the Council's 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budgetary process (as well as any earlier Annual Business Plan and Budgetary process).

Section 270(2a) of the Act provides that an application for a review must be made within 6 months of the making of the decision of which review is sought, however, this may be extended where appropriate.

Any previous increase in rates was, equally, the subject of a public consultation process. I do not consider it to be in the public interest, nor appropriate for the purposes of section 270(2a) of the Act, to extend the time to review those previous decisions.

Determination  
 Consistent with its obligations to act as a responsible, accountable, public authority, it is open for the Council to determine, in accordance with the Act, to not proceed with a request for review.

It is not in the public interest to undertake a review of previous decisions regarding any increase in rates, and there is no decision capable of review at this time regarding any increase that may be occasioned on the adoption of the 2026/27 draft Annual Business Plan and Budget.

It is certainly open for the Alliance to engage in the open consultation process on the same. Irrespective of the determination of this matter, it is acknowledged that section 270(7) of the Act provides that the Alliance has recourse to the Ombudsman if it remains dissatisfied.

Kind Regards,  
 Garry Herdegen, Chief Executive Officer

**KINGOONYA KAMP  
 OVEN KOOKOFF**

Saturday 6th of June,

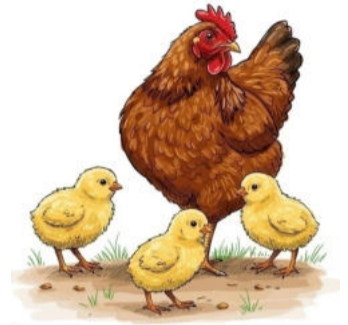
Entry fee for mains is \$70  
 Entry fee for Dessert is \$30  
 Kids entry \$15

No ingredients are to be brought in. Hotel supplies all ingredients for you to cook with, foods cooked are available on the night for purchase, after judging has been finalised. So come have some fun and taste some amazing camp oven food.

Cheers John, Julie, Dotty  
 Any inquiries ring Hotel on 86721002



**FOR SALE**  
 \* DAY OLD CHICK \$6.50,  
 \* 16 WEEKS POL PULLETS \$26.00,  
 \* 574 MAGILL ROAD  
 MAGILL,  
 \*MAGILL GRAIN STORE,  
 08 8331 8159



**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@aaaaat.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"**

EMERGENCY CONTACTS		NON-EMERGENCY CONTACTS	
<p><b>WHEN TO CALL 000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In your immediate life-threatening danger in any of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All fire, including bushfire and house fire</li> <li>• Dangerous or life-threatening situations - Police</li> <li>• Medical emergencies - Ambulance</li> <li>• Major gas leaks</li> <li>• Suspected stolen items &amp; loss or theft need for medical assistance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>WHEN TO CALL 132 500 (SES)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food or water assistance</li> <li>Severe damage to home</li> <li>Property or car blocking</li> <li>Tree fallen on car or home</li> </ul>	<p>185 Welfare                  1800 943 343</p> <p>Police                  131 444</p> <p>Non-emergency numbers                  131 444</p> <p>Crime Stoppers                  Report crime anonymously                  1800 553 460</p> <p>Local Councils                  24-hour line for road works, potholes and parks                  1300 666 666</p>	<p>Health and safety                  1300 553 460</p> <p>Accidents resulting in traffic injuries                  131 444</p> <p>Major animal health (veterinary conditions)                  1300 666 666</p> <p>Animal health and welfare                  1300 666 666</p> <p>Electricity                  Power network faults and outages                  1300 666 666</p> <p>44 Home                  Basic water mains                  1300 666 666</p> <p>Severe drought                  1300 666 666</p> <p>Car hire                  1300 CAR-LEAS                  1300 666 666</p> <p>Health &amp; medical                  Health Direct - 1800                  Healthdirect from                  national 24/7 helpline                  1800 022 233</p> <p>National health enquiries                  131 444</p> <p>Police                  131 444</p>

**Coober Pedy Amateur Race Club Inc**  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064694198407>

EMERGENCY 000 131 444 POLICE ASSISTANCE

**DISCLAIMER**

- Opinions, letters, and Public notices published in the Coober Pedy Regional Times are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or Publisher.
- The Coober Pedy Regional Times reserves the right to editor of refuse copy in accordance with newspaper Policies.
- Due to concerns of bureaucratic victimisation, and allegation of bullying, community members may use a pen name, providing full name and details are provided to the Editor.

**COOBER PEDY REGIONAL TIMES**



Display EGN \$6.75 pcm/pcol (7 col)  
 Classi \$8.35 pcm/pcol (4 col)  
 editor@cooberpedytimes.com  
 Tel: 08 86725920

**Travelling North - Stuart Highway**

**May 2026**



**ANDAMOOKA: Fuel, food, and a stop-over; PLUS:**  
 Historic Cottages (1930s homes); Opal Noodling (Fossicking);  
 Underground Museum (Opal display); Yacht Club (Cafe/Gallery);  
 Duke's Bottlehouse Museum & Motel; Stoner's Studio (Sculptures);  
 Mining Machinery (Historic); Observatory Tours (Stargazing);  
 Lake Torrens (Salt lake); Op-Shop (CWA)

**Andamooka: After Dark Stargazing (Daily)**  
 March offers incredible night sky clarity. The Andamooka Observatory runs its nightly "Nocturnal Tours" starting at 7 PM, combining high-tech telescope stargazing with UV-light opal "noodling".

**Coober Pedy: The Painted Desert Tour (Every Saturday)** with the **Outback Mail Man** who runs 4WD expeditions north to the Arckaringa Hills and the Moon Plains. It's another great way for tourists to see the colorful breakaways without navigating the remote tracks themselves

**Twice Daily Tours – Oasis Tourist Park Coober Pedy**  
 Mornings Town Tour 8.30am  
 Late Afternoon – Breakaways Sunset Tour 4.45 pm

**Twice Daily Tours – Oasis Tourist Park Coober Pedy**  
 Mornings Town Tour 8.30am  
 Late Afternoon – Breakaways Sunset Tour 3.30 pm



**37th COOBER PEDY OPAL FESTIVAL - 2026**  
 12, 13, 14 JUNE. Save the date

**Coober Pedy Drive In**  
**May Movies**

Saturday 9th : Hoppers Gates open 7pm  
 Saturday 23rd : Project Hail Mary Movie starts 7:30pm

Car (2-7 people) \$30, Adult \$15, Student/ Concession \$10, Child \$5



\*No walk ins under 15 years without parent or guardian  
 \* Children to be supervised at all times

If you've been thinking about getting involved, now's the time  
 Email: [info@opalfestival.com.au](mailto:info@opalfestival.com.au)  
 to secure your sponsorship or stall and be part of the action.

Please find a link to the sponsorship form -  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aUXVzjrUSoRTm\\_gDaHUZM-c89w6cOmF7/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aUXVzjrUSoRTm_gDaHUZM-c89w6cOmF7/view?usp=sharing)

**WEDNESDAY**

**Cfs Training**

CFS TRAINING WEDNESDAY EVENING - 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 Cooper Pedy

Thursday 5-10pm and Friday nights 5 - 1a m.

**Greek Charcoal BB**



Friday nights at the Greek Hall.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

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

**SATURDAYS**

**parkrun**

8am Saturday mornings Town Oval

**KIDS CHURCH/CLUB**  
**Catacomb Anglican Church**  
 Every Sunday at 10 am ( 40 mins) - church starts at 9:30 am



**GOLF 8.30 am**

**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

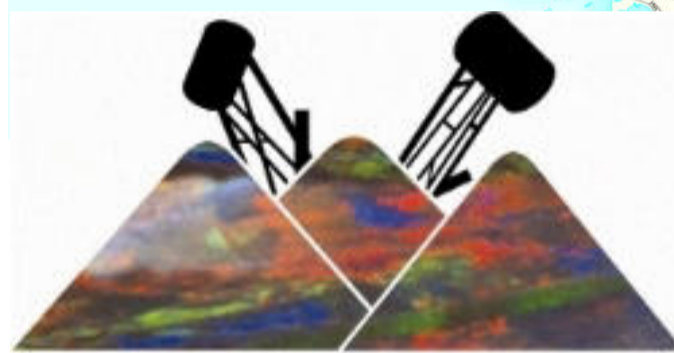
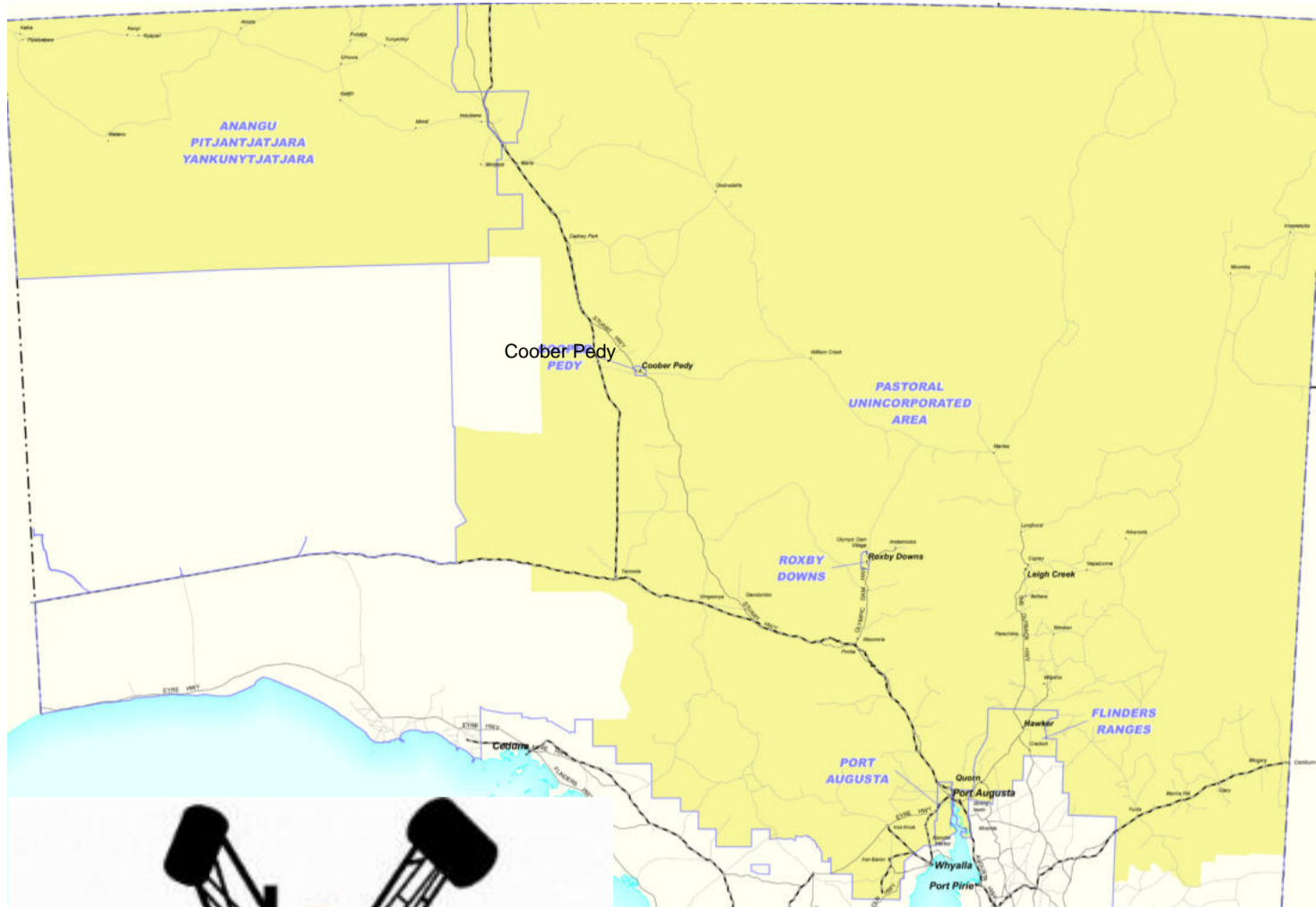
**SUNDAYS**

**CP SHOOTERS CLUB**

See BACK PAGE for latest updates Ring John DiDonna on 0427649389

**COOPER PEDY RSL**

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



**COOPER PEDY**  
 RETAIL, BUSINESS AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2026**

- JAN 1** New Year's Day
- JAN 26** Australia Day
- MAR 9** Adelaide Cup Day
- APR 3** Good Friday
- APR 4** Easter Saturday
- APR 5** Easter Sunday
- APR 6** Easter Monday
- APR 25** Anzac Day - Lest We Forget
- MAY 4** Labour Day
- JUN 8** King's Birthday - Crown, royal emblems
- OCT 5** Labour Day (SA specific) - Workplace unity, family time
- DEC 24** Christmas Eve
- DEC 25** Christmas Day
- DEC 26** Proclamation Day / Boxing Day - Beach, sports
- DEC 28** Additional Holiday for Proclamation Day - Holiday activities, family fun

**STUART HIGHWAY CORRIDOR Pit -Stop Check**

**Andamooka:** A quirky, historical gem where 'noodling' for opals is a way of life. Don't miss the world-class stargazing under some of the darkest skies on the planet Best for an overnight detour to experience underground history and the world's rarest opals.

**Kingoonya :**A slight detour off the highway, but worth it for the Outback charm and the friendly Kingoonya Hotel.

**Pimba:** A tiny, remote outback settlement in South Australia, located 441 km north of Adelaide at the junction of the Stuart Highway and the turn-off to Woomera/Roxby Downs. Primarily a key pitstop for travellers, it is renowned for Spud's Roadhouse , offering fuel, food, and accommodation. It also acts as a stop for the Ghan and Indian Pacific trains.

**Glendambo** is the crucial "halfway" point between Port Augusta and Cooper Pedy for fuel and a classic pub meal.

**Cooper Pedy: Opal Capital of the World:** Sleep underground, noodle for opal, explore the breakaways at sunset, and experience a town where the 'fairway' is dirt and the treasures are hidden beneath your feet."

**William Creek:** Australia's smallest town with a big personality. Located on the world's largest cattle station, and a gateway to scenic flights over the Painted Hills and Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre.

**Marree:** Where the Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks meet. Discover the rich Afghan cameleer history and take senic flights to witness the filling of Lake Eyre, amazing outback wildlife and the mysterious Marree Man from above.

**Oodnadatta:** Home of the iconic Pink Roadhouse. A must-stop for a 'burger and a photo' before you tackle the legendary red tracks of the deep outback.

**Cadney Park Homestead:** located 150 km north of Cooper Pedy on the Stuart Highway in South Australia, is a remote, family-friendly oasis offering motel-style rooms, cabins, and pet friendly caravan/camping sites. It features a restaurant, bar, swimming pool, and fuel services, making it a popular stop for travellers.

**Marla:** The essential rest point before the long stretch toward the NT border; great for early morning starts.

**LOCAL GROUPS**

**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

**Coober Pedy Retail, Business & Tourism Assoc. Inc**

**Committee Elected for 2026**  
 President: George Kountouris  
 Vice President: George Russell OAM  
 Treasurer: Nick Brellas  
 Secretary/Public Officer: Nicky Kountouris Committee  
 Members: Irene Spillman, Michael Farkas, Sean Harrison

<https://www.cooberpedy.com/contact-2/>

**Coober Pedy Sports & Rec Assoc. Inc**

Jordan Riessen- Chairperson  
 Gwen Martin - Treasurer  
 Gwen Martin - Secretary  
 Jon Fatt-Clifton - 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 2025/2026** President  
 Daniel Lamb  
 Senior Vice President Stephen Scott  
 Junior Vice President John McDermott Secretary  
 John Di Donna  
 Treasurer Suzanne Bunker  
 Public Relations Greg Sparrow

**Committee Members**  
 Robert Gigos; CharissaLamb; Phil Gerschwitz;  
 Jesse Manfred  
**Contact Secretary: 0427 649 389**

**Coober Pedy RSL Sub-Branch**

President: Rod Hagel  
 Vice President: Mick Cox  
 Secretary: Kingsley Kammermann  
 Treasurer: Miriam Kammermann  
 Committee Members:  
 Rayleen Hagel  
 Roz Jazepczyk  
 Michael Stocks

Edward Street COOBER PEDY SA 5723  
 Email: CooberPedy@rslsa.org.au

**Coober Pedy Community Alliance**

Chairperson: John Di Donna  
 Vice Chair: George Rosewarne  
**Committee members**  
 Teena Rosewarne (JP)  
 Margaret Mackay(Media Officer)  
 Email: cpc.a.chairperson@gmail.com  
 Meetings held monthly at Italian Club.



**Coober Pedy Historical Society Inc**

**Committee Elected 20/10/2025**  
 Chairperson: Trish Turner  
 Secretary: Jenny Davison  
 Treasurer: Sue Britt  
 Public Officer: Judy Harper  
**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/>

**COOBER PEDY MINERS ASSOC.**

Coober Pedy SA 3723  
**Committee Elected for 2025/26**  
 President: Matt Graham,  
 Secretary:  
 Treasurer: Nicko Farantouris  
**Committee Members:** Rod Wells, Mish Blanus, Mike Eakins, Steve Perkins, Lachlan 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,  
 Donna Clements, Sarah Rethus.  
 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>

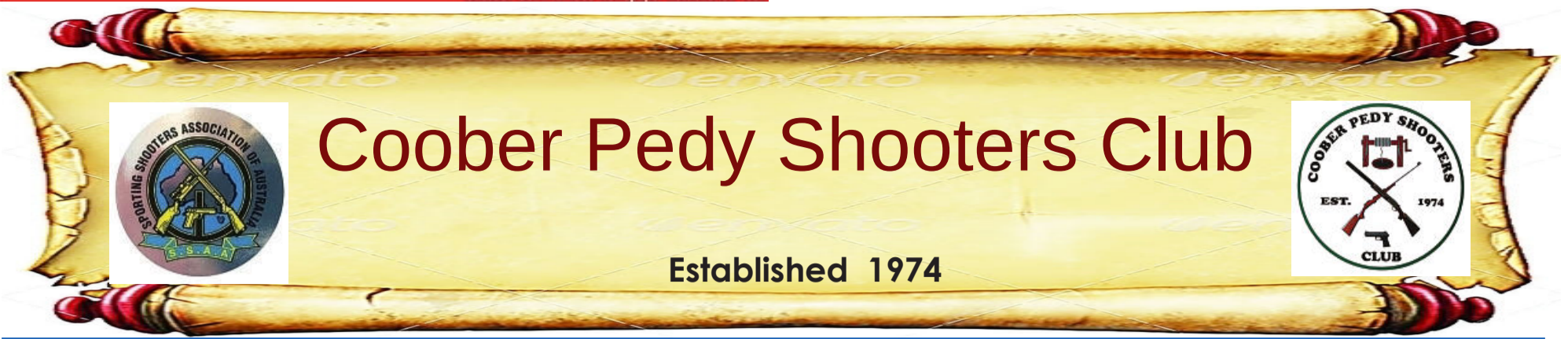
**Coober Pedy Italian Club Inc**

**Committee Elected 18/10/2025**  
 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,  
 Mitchell Rosewarne

**Coober Pedy GEM TRADE SHOW**

**Committee Elected 18-12-2024**  
 President - Corey Edwards  
 Secretary - Tara-Jane Smith  
 Treasurer – Emily Pennisi  
**Committee members**  
 Catherine Bell,  
 Rachel Crothers,  
 David Hammermeister





**Coober 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**  
**IPSC**

<b>23 May</b>
<b>30 May</b>
<b>6 June</b>
<b>13 June</b>
<b>20 June</b>

- DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:**
- ◆ Air Rifle/ pistol
  - ◆ IPSC
  - ◆ ISSF
  - ◆ Rifle Metallic Silhouette
  - ◆ Combine Service
  - ◆ Black Powder
  - ◆ Service pistol
  - ◆ Shotgun
  - ◆ Steel Challenge
- Coober Pedy Shooter's Club supports:
- ◆ Darts
  - ◆ Archery

**Starting Time: 9:00 AM**  
**Sundays**  
**50 m Benchrest**  
**Match**

<b>24 May</b>
<b>1 June</b>
<b>7 June</b>
<b>14 June</b>
<b>21 June</b>



**MEMBERSHIP Renewal Now Due 2026**

- 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 [cpsc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:cpsc.treasurer@gmail.com)

John Di Donna - Mobile 0427 649 389 - Email. [jdidonna@dodo.com.au](mailto:jdidonna@dodo.com.au)



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

