



MAYORS REPORT - February 2014

Mayor Steve Baines

Electricity Pricing

The OPAL campaign (Outback Power Action Lobby) is really heating up with media interviews being conducted to get the word out.

Letters have been sent to all candidates for the seat of Giles, Ministers, Shadow Ministers, and party leaders inviting them to visit Cooper Pedy prior to March 15th to speak to our residents and business owners about the price of electricity in Cooper Pedy.

Additional letters have been sent to third parties requesting their written support for a policy of price equalisation in South Australia.

Weekly media releases have been sent to relevant media outlets, each one reinforcing a different aspect on the effects of current power pricing to the residents and businesses in Cooper Pedy.

Council newsletter has been produced and distributed to inform residents of the efforts being made to address the issue prior to the state election on the 15th March.

The Local Government Association has been requested to include our electricity pricing issues in the LGA Regions state election launch.

Letter to the editor been sent to The Advertiser and The Australian from Robert Coro and myself.

Weekly strategy meetings with R Coro, Y Athanasiadis, S Marlow, P Cameron and I continue to progress the strategy.

Several print and radio media outlets are planning visits to Cooper Pedy to cover this story which will give other businesses and residents the opportunity to engage with the media and strengthen the message.

Australia Day

My thanks to those Councillors who attended the Australia Day celebrations. I was fortunate to be able to conduct a citizenship ceremony for two people on the day.

The Cooper Pedy citizen of the year is Damien Clark and I am sure you will join me in congratulating and thanking Damien for his achievements and the valuable contribution he makes to our community.

My thanks also to the Councillors and staff that agreed to be part of the committee that assessed the applications for Cooper Pedy Citizen of the year.



"I have also scheduled meetings with both major parties in Adelaide and will be speaking to them regarding a policy of price equalisation in the coming week.

At the time of writing I can confirm that the local Labor candidate Eddie Hughes has made the following commitment in writing on behalf of the labor party.

"I can now confirm that an incoming Labor Government will commit to the reinstatement of the electricity subsidy cuts so that the residents and businesses in Cooper Pedy will pay grid equivalent electricity prices. I have always considered this issue to be one of a fundamental commitment to a fair go. We are all South Australians and the equitable provision of basic services should be a basic commitment embodied by Labor. I am aware that beyond the reinstatement of the cuts there are a number of other issues to do with Cooper Pedy electricity prices that need to be addressed. I look forward to having an opportunity to work with the people of Cooper Pedy to address some of the other energy related issues."

Issues

The CEO, Finance and Admin Manager and I are presently working on trying to resolve the following issues:

- 1) Power Pricing (OPAL Campaign)
- 2) Widening of the airport runway
- 3) Freehold title on occupational lease land in Cooper Pedy
- 4) Implementation of the Alcohol Management Plan
- 5) Waste Management /Refuse site

These issues are over and above the day to day issues that constantly pop up and consume copious amounts of time.

Media commitments this month:

- ABC Radio 28/01/2014 re Power Pricing
- ABC Radio 07/02/2014 re Alcohol review
- The Advertiser 12/02/2014 re Power Pricing

Media Release:

Government Local Stimulus Project Saves Coober Pedy Drive-In

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The State Government has partnered with the Local Government Association to fast track the delivery of local council projects across the state.

Planning Minister John Rau today has announced \$7.5m in funding for local community projects which will be matched on a dollar for dollar basis by local councils.

The District Council of Coober Pedy has received \$77,500 for the communities "Save the Coober Pedy Drive-In" project. The total project cost is \$220,000. Members of the drive-in volunteer committee must be commended for their efforts in raising over \$65,000 in 6 months through community fundraising events and donations from local businesses and organisations including the local police and the Coober Pedy Area School.

Chairperson of the Committee, Steve Staines, made the following statement: *"This grant is a testament to the incredible commitment of the Drive-In Committee and the broader Coober Pedy community. We would not be here without the many years of support we have received from the Council. Our drive-in is saved! It is a great result for all Coober Pedians, past, present and future."*

Commendation must also go to the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation who committed \$20,000 towards the project.

Mayor Steve Baines was delighted with the announcement: *"This project will be a great social and economic benefit for locals and tourists alike"*.

The digitisation of the projection equipment will allow more regular screenings and result in the theatre becoming a marketable tourism product.

In the 1960s there were 37 operating drive-ins in South Australia. The Coober Pedy Drive-In is one of only two left in the state.

News from the Works Depot

Some good news! The Olive Orchard has abundant free edible olives. The gate is open 8am to 3pm. Hurry while stocks last.

Wheelie bins need to be put out the morning of pickup around 7am. If bins are put out the previous night, stray dogs may get to them. Workers don't have time to pick up the rubbish. Please face the handle away from the road and do not overfill the bin. Rubbish next to the bin will not be picked up.

Every house or dugout can only have two dogs per property. If your dog is caught in a cage or roams around it will be put in the pound and you will need to pay \$80 impound fee and have it registered before it is released.

A reminder to all residents and businesses that there are fees which apply to the disposal of rubbish at Councils waste depot. Vouchers need to be purchased at Council Head Office Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm and 10am to 1pm Sat and Sun. Please sort your rubbish at the dumps. Hard waste and household waste have different pits. Wood and steel have different heaps. Ask the person on duty if you are not sure. The weigh bridge at the Depot is only open week days from 8am to 3pm.

The Local Government Act and Environment Protection Act impose large penalties for illegal dumping. Illegal dumping is unsightly, causes health issues and costs the community many dollars to clean up – please ensure that as a community that we all are responsible with our unwanted waste. If a member of the public witnesses any illegal dumping, please report the incident to Council.

We are in the process of constructing and sealing a few roads that were on budget. This will take a few months, maintenance work permitting. Affected roads are: Bartrum, Brady and Grund.

Please note that the "The Water Tank Road" is not an official gazetted road. We closed off one entrance because it is unsafe to use. This is a Water Reserve and the road is for maintenance purposes only.

Now and then the construction team have to do necessary repair work on a certain road. Speed restrictions of 25 kph apply. Please be patient, we try our best to hurry. Sometimes some work continues over a few days.

District Council of Coober Pedy VACANCY WATER SUPPLY WORKER

Council has a vacancy within its Water Supply Department for a full time Water Supply Worker.

Persons interested in this position should have experience in the use of small and heavy, plant and equipment and be the holder of a current drivers licence.

A Job and Person Specification for this position can be obtained from Mrs Vonnie Ferguson on (08) 8672 4626.

Applications addressing the Job and Person Specification, including a current resumé, are to be forwarded to:

Phil Van Poorten, Water Supply Manager
District Council of Coober Pedy
PO Box 425, Coober Pedy SA 5723

by close of business on **Friday 14th March 2014.**

News from the Works Depot cont.

The amount of dog waste on the oval is alarming. **Please pick up after your pet!** Plastic bags are provided at the entrance to the oval; however, we ask that you bring your own disposal bag incase there are none left. Please remember that others use the oval as well. If the situation does not improve we may have to reconsider the permission to use the Oval as an open area.

Please don't drive on the walking and running track around the Triangle. Only Council Maintenance vehicles are permitted.

Contact Details

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