

OCA: FUTURE OF LEIGH CREEK: STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JUNE 2021

Executive Summary

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Innovative Influences



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BACKGROUND

In late 2020 the Government approved a process for the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) to work with the Leigh Creek and northern Flinders Ranges Community to identify options for an improved Governance arrangement for Leigh Creek.

From February – May 2022, Innovative Influences undertook comprehensive and genuine engagement process with the Leigh Creek and northern Flinders Ranges Community on what a future Leigh Creek will look like, how it is governed or managed and the desired levels of service required to support Leigh Creek. Included within the deliverables was a conversation on how these services will be paid for through the introduction of a Community Contribution Scheme (CCS).

This engagement included three community workshops (face-to-face and online), individual interviews with community members, two sessions with Leigh Cree Area School students, two online survey tools and two community drop in events.

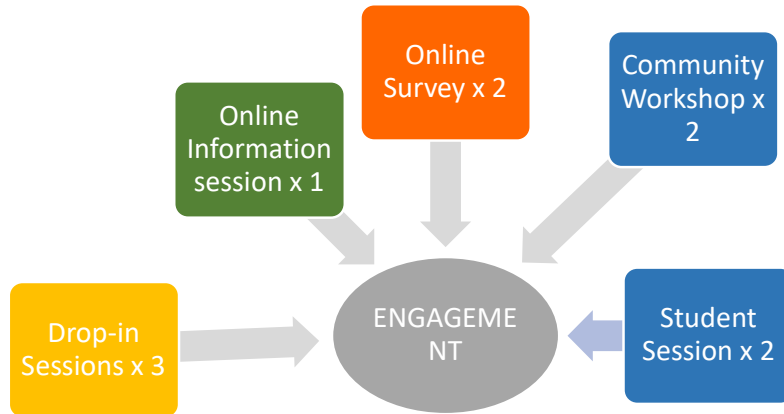
The sessions focused on bringing people together, sharing of information and creating genuine opportunities for stakeholder input on:

- What a future Leigh Creek will look like
- What services and levels of services are a priority?
- The desired future of community assets
- How Leigh Creek is governed or managed in the future

This report provides a high-level summary of the results and key findings arising from the consultation process.

The following table outlines the activities delivered through the engagement process.

Date	Activity	Audience	timing	Number of people
Wednesday 2 March	Drop-in Sessions – Leigh Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Office (inside) • IGA Supermarket (outside) • Visitor Information Centre (outside) 	Open	Morning Afternoon Evening	9
Wednesday 23 March	Online Workshop	Open	Evening	1
Wednesday 6 April	Community Workshop	Open	Evening	10
March - April	Online survey tools open	Open	Ongoing	20
March - April	Individual interviews	As requested	As required	1
Wednesday 11 May	Community Workshop	Open	Evening	12
Thursday 12 May	Student Meetings Leigh Creek Area School	2 x student groups (junior + senior)	Afternoon	13



KEY

FINDINGS

VISION for the FUTURE of LEIGH CREEK

There is incredible passion within the community for the future of Leigh Creek. Common aspirations emerged across the various engagement activities that included an engaged, self-sustaining community that celebrates diversity and acknowledges its history, maintains a vibrant retail precinct and flourishing tourism sector that brings increased employment and business opportunities, and supports a quality of life that embraces wellbeing and creates a sense of belonging. Population growth was consistently identified as a key contributing factor to the achievement of these aspirations. It was also recognised that some members of the community retain a sense of grief and pessimism over the changes to the township and community. Community attitude and motivation will play a significant role in the activation of this Vision.

Create a town that has the momentum to reach its full potential

Growing together, embracing diversity, and showcasing our heritage, fostering vibrancy and wellness, as we move towards a shared future.

Leigh Creek is a vibrant, self-sustaining community and hub of the Far North, that acknowledges its past, and actively seeks new opportunities for the future.

SERVICE PRIORITIES

Across the consultation, community members identified the following service priorities. These were reinforced at the final community workshop.

- Supermarket
- Post office
- Medical & Health services
- Waste management
- School
- Public Library
- Fuel station
- Retail services

💡 Additional services desired by respondents included:

- Reliable power and communications
- Water & sewage
- Wellbeing, nutrition, drug & alcohol services
- Aged care services e.g., in home care
- Parks and gardens maintenance
- Visitor information & management
- Education & training
- Sporting & Youth activities
- Improved freight services

COMMUNITY ASSETS

- 💡 The consultation highlighted the community's views around existing and desired community assets. There was general acceptance that some of the existing community infrastructure is no longer fit for purpose and would impose significant ongoing maintenance and holding costs to the community.
- 💡 Assets where there was consistent indication from the community that they can be let go:
- Existing swimming pool (a decision around the swimming pool has already been made)
 - Current stadium/theatre complex
 - Golf club house
- 💡 Assets that are important to the community and need to be retained and/or repurposed as part of a transition to newly developed purpose-built infrastructure.
- Oval (reduced size to save maintenance and upkeep costs)
 - BBQs near oval
 - Public toilets
 - Business/retail hub including VIO
 - Town depot
 - Outside Sports/Recreational precinct – courts, pump track
 - Golf Course
 - Old caravan park to be transformed into Light industrial area
 - Church building (can serve as community space during transition)
 - Leigh Creek Area School - The importance of the Leigh Creek Area School to the community was strongly emphasised throughout the consultation process. Concerns were raised that any reductions in student numbers could threaten the viability of the school and therefore any future strategies that may inadvertently jeopardise the school or lead to its closure must be closely monitored.
- 💡 To support the community's shared vision a range of new community assets and infrastructure were identified. Young people were particularly keen to see a swimming pool and sports facilities in the town along with improved internet connectivity.
- Purpose built multifunction recreation/community centre
 - Smaller swimming pool
 - Signage
 - Visitor infrastructure – picnic tables/shelters – both in the township and at Aroona Dam
 - Bike/walking trails
 - Housing to support population growth

- 👤 In addition to existing and proposed infrastructure and assets, the community identified the need to ensure there was sufficient vacant land allotments retained to make provision for future developments including.
 - Accommodation
 - Commercial activity
 - Industrial activity

FUTURE GOVERNANCE

- 👤 There was consensus that the community currently lacks the capacity and skills to take on the sole governance and management of Leigh Creek township.
- 👤 Whilst the Progress Association in its current form is limited in its capacity it was felt that it could play a key role in the future in amplifying community voice and taking a lead role as a Community Advisory Body.
- 👤 Information sharing and communication with the community is a critical success factor in delivering sound governance.
- 👤 There are aspirations for the community to be self-sustaining and managing in the future however it is recognised that this will be an ongoing transition process.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION SCHEME - RATES

- 👤 People are accepting of the need for community contributions to be made by property owners – rates
- 👤 The rate calculation process needs to be transparent and shared with the community
- 👤 Accountability around the expenditure of rates revenue is essential

COMMUNITY DIRECTIONS KEY POINTS

- 👤 Community Centre – The existing Community Centre (stadium/theatre etc) is seen as too large for the community needs and too great a maintenance burden for the community’s rate base.
- 👤 Leigh Creek Area School - The importance of the Leigh Creek Area School to the community was strongly emphasised throughout the consultation process and its future needs to be secured.
- 👤 To support the community’s shared vision a range of new community assets and infrastructure are needed.
 - Purpose built multifunction recreation/community centre
 - Swimming pool
- 👤 Reliable Telecommunications – the lack of fast, consistent internet services was identified as a limiting factor in the town’s future growth
- 👤 Adequate provision for future housing growth needs to be made
- 👤 Rate calculations need to be transparent and accountability around the expenditure of rates revenue is essential

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

This engagement process has focused attention on the future aspirations of the community of Leigh Creek. Overwhelming, the feedback has been enthusiastic, determined, and positive. The engagement process has unearthed a willingness and openness to new opportunities and a growing sense that any plans developed need to get this ‘right’ for future generations. The challenge now is to identify and articulate the next steps on what needs to be a strategic and shared direction.

Many ideas were generated and discussed with some consistently being supported. The following strategies and actions fall logically out of these findings but sit outside the scope of the consultation objectives. They are shared to generate further discussion.

- ❖ Development of a Governance Transition Plan for Leigh Creek that identifies a desired future Governance Framework and articulates a transition pathway from current OCA management to a more Community centred model.
- ❖ Support leadership and governance capacity building across the community to increase community involvement and skills in community governance and representation.
- ❖ Development of a Town Strategy to guide action and investment in Leigh Creek.
- ❖ Development of Leigh Creek Tourism Strategy & associated Infrastructure Plan to bring together existing projects and ideas and deliver a structured approach to sector improvement.

CONSULTATION RESULTS

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Hopes	Concerns
<p>More affordable housing availability</p> <p>To tap into the potential of the future for this area</p> <p>An Arts Centre such as the former Marlka Arts Centre – support to establish</p> <p>To see the town grow and thrive</p> <p>An Adnyamathanha Language Centre</p> <p>Get an idea of what the community may need/want</p> <p>Work out a vision for the town</p> <p>To get an idea of the community’s vision</p> <p>Town growth</p> <p>Working together for the future</p> <p>To inspire and be inspired by others. Create a unified vision of the future</p> <p>Information regarding what the majority of town residents would like to try and retain in the town</p> <p>Community united for future services and town vision</p>	<p>Demolition fence will be removed one works are completed.</p> <p>Somehow have the swimming pool, the gym, the stadium functioning without costing ratepayers too much</p> <p>Low community participation</p> <p>What we need to keep in the town</p> <p>The community will only look at the short term not the big picture</p> <p>Polarising opinions</p> <p>Decisions are made for the future of the town without complete consultation with All the residents and also surrounding communities and station owners</p> <p>Too much housing demolition when there is a lack of affordable housing</p> <p>That the energy we put into our ideas gets thwarted by red tape</p> <p>Insufficient people to achieve potential</p> <p>Wellbeing of the residents plus ways to encourage community vision joint orientation and harmony</p>

Vision Ideas	Vision Statements
<p>Working together</p> <p>Community spirit</p> <p>Growth</p> <p>Wellness</p> <p>Momentum</p> <p>Potential growth</p> <p>Togetherness and diversity</p> <p>heritage</p>	<p>Create a town that has the momentum to reach its full potential.</p> <p>Growing together, embracing diversity, and showcasing our heritage, fostering vibrancy and wellness, as we move towards a shared future.</p>
<p>New beginnings</p> <p>Rebirth</p> <p>Acknowledging the past</p> <p>Brighter future</p> <p>Self-sustainability</p> <p>New industry opportunity</p> <p>Acknowledgement of costing</p> <p>Creating opportunities to evolve</p>	<p>Our Leigh Creek future involves creating new opportunities to evolve into a vibrant, self-sustaining new community and hub of the far North that acknowledges our past, but actively seek new opportunities for future growth.</p>

What is needed to support vision**Purpose built multipurpose recreation area**

- Events
- Bands
- Sporting club
- Markets
- Playground
- Oval
- 8 ball/Darts
- Meeting/conference area
- Social club
- Art
- Energy Efficient
- BBQ
- Pool

Aroona Dam – make more user friendly – access to water (e.g. jetty, boat ramp etc), picnic shelters, BBQ

Build on VIO

- Evolve
- Update
- Tourism – natural
- Secret Native Garden

Vacant land for:

- Accommodation
- Commercial allotments
- Industrial/shedding

Internet**Aged care facility**

- Supported care
- Allow ageing residents to stay in the community

Community space

- Space for 150 people
- Small meeting space
- Room to serve as wider community hub
- Social clubs

Wellness spaces

- Outdoor/green space/nature play space
- Outdoor exercise (walking/cycling/swimming)
- Medical services

Tourism

- Art and cultural space
- Walking trails
- Nature based
- History and heritage
- Wildlife corridors
- Bike trails

Community Assets**Fit for purpose/repurpose**

Oval – reduced size
 BBQs near oval
 Public toilets
 Business/retail hub including VIO
 Town depot
 Outside Sports/Recreational precinct – courts, pump track
 Golf Course
 Useful in transition – Church building

New Assets required

Smaller swimming pool
 Signage
 Purpose built multifunction recreation/community centre
 Bike/walking trails
 Visitor infrastructure – picnic tables/shelters
 Light industrial area – old caravan park

Let go

Old swimming pool
 Current stadium/theatre complex
 Golf club house

COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS ... WHAT HAS BEEN EMPHASISED

VISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant, still existing, larger town, increased population • An oasis in the outback, build it up, lots of potential for tourism and increased retail, strong sense of community, economic/employment opportunities • Reimagine Leigh Creek • Build vibrancy around cultural assets • Leigh Creek to act as a hub • Delivers a good quality of life, sustainable, high community participation • Sense of community, attractive town, vibrant retail precinct and tourism sector • Whole of life experience supported
SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting for kids, youth activities • Wellbeing, nutrition, health, drug & alcohol services • Servicing aged care needs, in home care, • Community services • Parks and gardens maintenance • District people want shops, school, health and police • Key services – servo, supermarket, post office, school, VIO, medical, town oval is important • Training opportunities for you people • Aboriginal elder care • Meals on Wheels • Visitor management • Other services – waste, parks and gardens, bore/water, shopping precinct, lights/safety, signage, visitor info, tourism infrastructure • Faster internet • Reliable power and communications • Improved freight services • Waste management • Water & sewage • School, library • Diverse employment and business opportunities – education, training
COMMUNITY ASSETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community garden • Tourism hub • Housing • Current Rec Centre is a money pit, not well utilised, business development opportunity for events, need good marketing/promotion • Rec Centre – all or nothing • Would like to see cinema stay • Accommodation/housing will be limiting factor • Potential for Aroona dam • Need infrastructure to support tourism opportunities

GOVERNANCE/ LEADERSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agency is better equipped and more sustainable staffed • Town able to function without outside assistance • Community Leadership Progress – informal networks – community voice • Future leadership – community council • Community capacity will need to be driver • Would still like it to be a third party – independently run by government • Would need increased population to support local council structure • Lack of capacity for progress association to manage town • Led by OCA, council not an option • Community voice through Progress Association – Consultative Committee • OCA stay as managers • Capacity of community is limited which impacts on their interactions with government agencies • Concern about lack of information and transparency • Council like in the future but need capacity building to get there – transition • Progress Association – lack of clarity around role – lack of strategic direction – lacking in skills • Community voice • Access to skilled leaders
RATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People will need to see where money is spent • Accepting of community contribution – rates • Recognise need for rates • Need to be fully costed – understand comparison rates with Maree, Lyndhurst, Andamooka • Rates go to OCA • Work towards being a sustainable town – priorities for rates – streetscape, waste, power and water
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New fertiliser plant (South Korean) may provide opportunities • Lots of confusion and anxiety waiting for demolition, lots of waste • Ageing population, need to attract young people • Don't want to lose community spirit • As an open town, potential for change in demographic • Create employment • Certainty of ownership & tenure • Community has already accepted loss of some services • Pessimism – people need jobs, jobs they enjoy • Community involvement – holiday base – contribute to town • Relocation of refugees to Leigh Creek to boost population • Communication – sharing of information isn't happening, lack of ownership around projects, need opportunities for community to come together • Tourism strategy development

'WHAT WE HEARD' WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Vision

- Needs to be activated
- Requires a shift in community energy
- Need to check in with people who aren't in the room
- Understand some people's experience is still pessimistic – struggling
- Need to emphasise that the school is staying
- Needs to be more aspirational.

Community Centre

- Community doesn't want the ongoing costs and maintenance responsibilities
- If community ownership is to be the future then the Government need to consider what this might look like.
- Options are private/commercial ownership OR demolition

Light Industry - Highlighting potential for future use

Oval

- Reduce 'watered' green space
- How can other sections be used

Housing and vacant serviceable blocks are needed

Signage

- Interpretive
- Parking
- Directional

Critical Success factor – role of school in and connection to community

Community

- Demographic and makeup
- Administration of services
- Governance

Rates – principals & guidelines

Transition budget - information






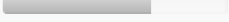
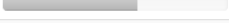
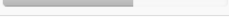
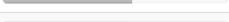


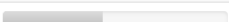
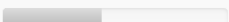
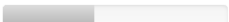
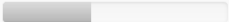
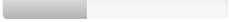
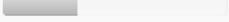
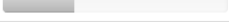
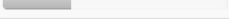

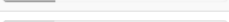


Service Priorities

Service	Priority rating
Aged care services e.g., in home care	11
Medical & Health services	10
Supermarket	9
Visitor information & management	9
Post office	9
Waste management	8
Fuel station	8
Public Library	8
Reliable power and communications	8
Water & sewage	8
Education & training	8
Wellbeing, nutrition, drug & alcohol services	4
Parks and gardens maintenance	4
Sporting & Youth activities	4
Retail services	3
Improved freight services	2

ALL OUR IDEAS – ONLINE SURVEY

The score of an idea is the estimated chance that it will win against a randomly chosen idea. For example, a score of 100 means the idea is predicted to win every time and a score of 0 means the idea is predicted to lose every time.

What would make Leigh Creek vibrant and sustainable in the future?

Ideas	Score (0 - 100) 
Supermarket	 84
Employment opportunities	 81
Medical services	 80
Waste collection and management	 71
Business opportunities	 66
Tourism businesses	 60
Public library	 58
School	 57
Recreational facilities	 56
Retail shops	 53
Community spaces	 50
Local parks and gardens	 44
RV friendly	 44
Footpaths	 41
Volunteers	 40
Playground	 37
Progress Association	 33
Nature	 32
Landcare	 30
Recycling	 30
Water management	 23
Road maintenance	 23

SURVEY MONKEY RESULTS

Q1 Do you (more than one option can be selected)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own property in Leigh Creek or surrounding district	42.86%	3
Own a business in Leigh Creek or surrounding district	14.29%	1
Live in Leigh Creek or surrounding district	71.43%	5
Work in Leigh Creek or surrounding district	57.14%	4
Visit Leigh Creek	71.43%	5
Total Respondents: 7		

Q2 Infrastructure (buildings, civil assets such as footpaths and roads, parks and gardens) : Please provide your thoughts, ideas and suggestions around the management and development of community infrastructure.

RESPONSES

The trees of Leigh Creek are a wonderful asset. Also it would be good to have the option of expanding the town to include blocks or acreages made of newly cleared areas. Therefore, some roads and water lines and electrical lines to outer areas could be future assets.

The community is small in size, therefore assets should be multi-purpose. Maybe the church could be used as a meeting space, cinema, table tennis venue etc Footpaths must be clean and tidy, bushes trimmed and well lit. Roads and parking: maybe Black Oak Drive is one way, with a 40km speed limit. Enter the shopping precinct near the school and depart near the hospital. New parking lines. more caravan parking spaces (possibly fixed to a degree if Black Oak Drive was one way).

There is World's Best Practice in the design of the infrastructure which if maintained and built on is worthy of promotion as a tourism product in conjunction with World Heritage Listing of the Northern Flinders Ranges environment and how to live in it sustainably. Much of it is under utilised and there is enough to support high levels of visitation warranted when World Heritage Listing is achieved. Planning and preparation for WHL should be done now with the use of Leigh Creek infrastructure to support the increased numbers of visitors as well as provide full year accommodation/tourism

A small workforce to maintain these areas would be great. This increases employment opportunities and encourages visitors to come and stay

As I am not a Leigh Creek resident but resident of nearby town, so I am not concerned about Leigh Creek's civil assets or buildings. Regarding Community Infrastructure, it is important that not everything is centred in Leigh Creek. Maybe something could be built in Copley instead? Leigh Creek residents used to frown on others using 'their' swimming pool, golf club etc. However, the region needs a new swimming pool, either stand-alone or in conjunction with a caravan park. The surrounding communities should be invited to a project team to develop and plan this.

Leigh Creek once had thriving gardens full of fruit trees, palm trees and loved and nurtured green spaces. It would be great to see some through go in to creating these again. Bringing the caravan park closer in to town and in proximity to the oval (which is a really outstanding asset and will be utilised by visitors staying nearby) is a great idea. Developing walks and bike trails to local sites of interest is key - a bike trail to the retention dam, or even Copley dam, where bird life is outstanding. A bike trail to Copley for day trips to the bakery. And even creating more ephemeral waterholes in between Copley and Leigh Creek would create a wildlife corridor between the two towns, bringing shady respite for walkers and bikers - I would even ride my bike to work from Copley to Leigh Creek!

footpaths and roads should be maintained and it would be nice for sustainable parks and gardens to be established

Q3 Environment: Please provide your thoughts, ideas and suggestions around the management and care of your environment.

Move Cannon Park to an area near the oval (possibly near the cricket nets). Develop an arid lands garden on the small school oval and move the high fence closer to the school buildings. This would greatly enhance the entrance to the community and provide an opportunity for tourists to learn about local vegetation etc while buying fuel. Develop the entrance to the community by the grid - use local products to do this. Recognise our cultural heritage/mining/new directions at the entrance. The environment is quite run down with dead trees etc as well as so much rubbish in the back streets from former selling of houses. The community really needs several people to be employed to freshen up/redevelop the environment. LCAS has started a nursery. The students could be tasked with growing tree and shrub seedlings. They could also be involved in environmental improvements within the school curriculum.

the township is perfect for welcoming visitors to appreciate the environment

Increase the amount of solar power in the town. whether is is for street lighting/businesses or private homes

Reduce the fire hazard around Leigh Creek - lots of dead wood. Leigh Creek is pretty unsightly with so many dead trees. Remove and plant trees that will survive in this area.

Nature has an amazing self propagating capacity which, out here, evolves on its own given a little bit of water. Creating water catchments around the town, swales and shallow dams etc, with a little bit of planning, could harness the moisture many endemic native flora species need to thrive. We have witnessed a couple of these ephemeral waterholes in between Leigh Creek and Copley turn into dense ecologies of larger, shade and wildlife-wealthy habitats. I imagine a number of these linking the two townships would create a corridor of interest for humans and wildlife. These areas would require little management, only initial layout and earthworks to encompass drainage planning for the roads and a system of linking ponds.

not enough community members are involved in managing or seem to care for the environment, in particular public and opens spaces. Perhaps this will change once there are more members of the community that are finally able to own their home or business for that matter.

Q4 Economy: Please provide your thoughts, ideas and suggestions around improving the district's economy.

RESPONSES

Support the VIO to continually develop so that tourists visit (from north and south and east) and are encouraged to stop for several days. The new developments seem to be taking forever to materialise. When will the pump track be in use, the pontoon and BBQ facility at Aroona Dam be constructed, the Aroona Dam walk revitalised, a new caravan park developed in the community centre, a new swimming pool ready for 2022/3 summer season??? These developments will have a positive impact on the local economy. A World Heritage feature in the LC community will also enhance tourism. How can the redeveloped airport be utilised??

some districts are a burden on the State - KI, ...; some districts feed the State - farming, mining; some districts hold there own. this district has the potential to be a State jewel and the State can hope that happens or make it happen, that is let World Heritage Listing happen or prepare for the best World Heritage Listing ever. Focusing regional development and tourism development on the WHL and centred on the existing resources of Leigh Creek sets up generational movement patterns for the widest range of tourists that will enhance numbers throughout the whole State all year round (unlike KI)

Encourage and support small business

Don't concentrate all the economy in Leigh Creek. Develop a whole of region view. Involve other communities and their residents.

Our community experiences a lack of tradesman. This is a glaring niche that we could make attractive to young tradies and their families - there is so much work up here for electricians, plumbers and builders. But they all require housing. I hope that in the coming property ownership potential that people will be able to move here and provide these much needed services. What happens in terms of home ownership will dictate the future of these communities, so we are all waiting to see how the dice falls. Plus we need services for the elderly. An aged care system - a custom built facility - would be a game-changer. We want our elderly population to stay. They are a critical part of the overall human ecosystem.

I would like to see the business operators and Progress work together to realise opportunities for the town for the benefit of all the community members. Hopefully this may lead to more jobs, new ideas and pop up shops

Q5 Community: Please provide your thoughts, ideas and suggestions around the services, programs and opportunities available for your Community.

RESPONSES

The Leigh Creek Library is an important community hub which should be ongoing for the benefit of the population it serves from Parachilna to the north of the state.

The community seems fractured. In part this is due to the time it has taken since the mine closed to finally moving forward. A program like Community Builders might have a positive impact on bring everyone together.

health service and a manageable pool are essential asap Some realistic support for the School in helping more families to come to or stay in Leigh Creek - biggest hurdle is the Rental Process thru DIT I would be good if courses like tour guiding, first aid, were offered locally soon

Leigh Creek need to work out themselves what they want for their residents.

Care for the elderly and health services for women's health are needed here. Developing infrastructure to include these needs would be so great.

We are a small community with only a few of us volunteering for the betterment of the town. We need more (all) of the community bringing ideas and suggestions and helpinh to implement them .i.e. sunset tours in tourist season, local highlights (walk and pick-up arrona dam), safer kayak launch/jetty at the dam, mountain bikes rentals for the new trail etc

Q6 Leadership/Governance: Please provide your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions around the future leadership, governance and management of Leigh Creek.

RESPONSES

Whoever manages Leigh Creek (be it Progress, OCA or ???) must have the community on board to move forward. Again a Community Builders Program might be a starting place.

There are some Tourism Development opportunities in Leigh Creek that benefit the whole State and should have some leadership shown at that level. A Progress Assoc is a viable vehicle until the above is effected.

The Progress Association is a great way to help to govern the town, although the current progress is not functioning as it should be. There needs to be a lot more governance training and support to teach people how a progress association works

Can't comment on how Leigh Creek should be governed as I don't live or work in Leigh Creek. However, external parties incl. OCA must involve surrounding towns better when it affects us. Great example is the bike/ walking trail to Copley - the project was not once discussed with Copley Progress Association. We heard about it when it got underway. That's what should not be done.

A local governance system working in tangent with the OCA is what we have and seems to be going ok.

The OCA collects our rubbish and some other services (exactly what is debatable) They should stop telling us what we can and can't do. Perhaps they could listen and be more supportive rather than trying to change our minds. Also once we no longer have to rent everything from DIT people may become happier and finally feel a sense of ownership. This may be the tipping point for Progress to develop and grow.

Q7 Are there any services that are currently provided in Leigh Creek that you believe shouldn't be in the future?

RESPONSES

The rec centre is too large for the size of community, however because of the extreme summer heat some sort of indoor/undercover centre would provide a recreational space for exercise.

The school does not need its oval - make this a walk through Yura Muda (Dreaming Story) Garden created by the school and the Adnyamathanha Community filled with ngarapanha (Sturt Desert Pea) and other bush foods / wild flowers for visitors.

The continuance of a health service and more support for the aged care.

no

It's actually unclear what services are delivered and by whom. Yes we have a weekly rubbish collection and the oval is looked after well. The town center and our streets looks messy more often that not with all the bark and leaves not being cleared up. We need the school, clinic, water and police. We need more rental housing to be made available for families to support the school and the town.

Q8 Are there any additional services that you would like to see provided in Leigh Creek that currently aren't?

RESPONSES

Covered in Q4. More walking trails. Camping at Aroona Dam. Better management of Aroona Sanctuary.

The Visitor Info Outlet should be funded by the State Government and they should show leadership in training in Small Business Management, Overcoming Red Tape, Business Incubation, Marketing of region

Aged care

We need another swimming pool, discussed and planned by all surrounding towns.

An Aged care facility, women's health facility, Chemist.

We need better phone coverage and internet for a start.

Q9 Taking a long term view, what do you consider to be the 3 most important things for the Leigh Creek community to focus on over the next 10 years?

RESPONSES

1. New Aboriginal Housing established on newly cleared blocks in Leigh Creek. There is not enough housing in the area for Adnyamathanha families, many of whom would like to raise their children away from the perils of nearby cities. Families are what will bring growth to Leigh Creek in the future. 2. Make use of the excellent Leigh Creek Area School. This is a wonderful facility and the number of students has been very low due to the lack of housing for families. There is capacity for a lot more students. 3. Open Leigh Creek properties for development - advertise cheap properties in national newspapers. There is a housing crisis and there are many people moving to country areas but Leigh Creek properties were not even made saleable before demolition commenced. As far as we know, Leigh Creek properties were never even advertised publicly and it wasn't much more than word of mouth sales. Many people missed out on the opportunity to buy houses and land, hearing about it too late. Others missed out due to being outbid. I think there could be another round of offers after demolition for empty blocks created by demolition, which could be promoted in the national press. This is a town with few businesses, which means many opportunities. If anyone is really serious about expanding the town, there needs to be more property for sale, including substantially sized blocks on the periphery of town.

A united, vibrant community. A holiday destination in its own right as well as on selling to the greater Flinders Ranges. Employment opportunities.

Getting shared funding responsibility for Leigh Creek VIO's staffing Establish an "all bells and whistles" display on the creation of the Flinders Ranges / of Edicacaran Fossil beds move the Caravan Park to the southern end of the oval (and flat area where some SPA's used to be) and make the pool part of the attraction of staying at the Park - to bring visitors closer into the shops / pub area

Community governance Small business support (for new and existing business) Tourism

Available housing and property development and/or restoration of demolished housing zones to allow for increase in population, enhancement of the natural areas around the township using low resource-impact design principles (like those already successfully utilised in other desert regenerative areas), health services.

1) for all community members to become active community members by joining, growing and strengthening the Progress Association and contributing to its success. 2) settle on a realistic strategies that are achievable for the benefit of the town and our community now and into the future. 3) Create and grow opportunities for the town and us individually to flourish and prosper (although this may be difficult when one family has so much)

Q10 Are there any further comments you would like to provide?

RESPONSES

While Leigh Creek went to ruin over the past five years, there have been refugees and asylum seekers desperately in need of housing. This was a squandered opportunity to revitalise the town and offer people in need a safe and quiet place to recover from trauma.

South Australia would benefit from an icon destination like the rock or the reef. KI is not it (every where else has an island which is too small and too expensive to go to). World Heritage Listing simply brings 7 to 12 such icons into one visitable area at whatever price point you can afford. Leigh Creek has Yulara type resources and much of it is under utilised and there is enough to support high levels of visitation warranted when World Heritage Listing is achieved. Planning and preparation for WHL should be done now with the use of Leigh Creek infrastructure to support the increased numbers of visitors as well as provide for full year accommodation/tourism - airconditioned during the day, activities at night when the animals are out.

Progress cannot evolve with just two people doing everything. It is time for our community to step up or pack up.

FUTURE OF LEIGH CREEK PRESENTATION



COMMUNITY ASSETS - KEEP

- Oval (reduced size)
- BBQs near oval
- Business/retail hub including VIO
- Church building (interim community space)
- Public toilets
- Outside courts
- Pump track
- Old caravan park (transformed into Light industrial area)
- Town depot
- Golf Course

COMMUNITY ASSETS – LET GO

- Existing swimming pool
- Current stadium/theatre complex
- Golf club house

COMMUNITY ASSETS - BUILD

- Multi-function Community Centre
- Smaller swimming pool
- Signage
- Visitor infrastructure – picnic tables/shelters
- Bike/walking trails
- Housing

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS (RATES)

- People are accepting of the need for community contributions to be made by property owners i.e. rates.
- The rate calculation process needs to be transparent and shared with the community.
- Accountability around the expenditure of rates revenue is essential.
- WHAT WOULD YOU WANT YOUR RATES SPENT ON?

FUTURE GOVERNANCE

- There was consensus that the community currently lacks the capacity and skills to take on the sole governance and management of Leigh Creek township.
- There are aspirations for the community to be self-sustaining and managing in the future however it is recognised that this will be an ongoing transition process.
- Whilst the Progress Association in its current form is limited in its capacity it was felt that it could play a key role in the future in amplifying community voice and taking a lead role as a Community Advisory Body.
- Information sharing and communication with the community is a critical success factor in delivering sound governance..

NEXT STEPS

Many ideas were generated and discussed with some consistently being supported. These actions reflect those ideas.

- Leadership and governance capacity building across the community
- Development of an overarching Town Strategy to guide action and investment
- Development of Tourism Strategy & associated Infrastructure Plan

STUDENT RESPONSES

Leigh Creek School Students – Junior School	Leigh Creek School Students – Senior School
What do you like about living where you live?	
Pet dog Love connection with culture, cultural activities, quiet of the bush Riding horses, motorbikes, netball, sports opportunity Looking for lizards, plants, frogs Gymkhana Nepabunna – vies, motorbikes, cultural, water holes Trampoline	Relaxing, fresh air, no pollution Play with kids Isolated Quiet Live how everyone knows everyone School – don't want to move away Not many people
When do you visit Leigh Creek?	
In for school Shopping/for supplies Meetings Check mail	
What would you like to be able to do in Leigh Creek?	
Playground Swimming Pool Netball games Tennis courts Video games Creek – Sandy, Windy	
What would you like to do when you are an adult?	
Work at a shop, be a worker in Leigh Creek Work with animals – zoo – Glenelg Work on motors – will travel Palaeontologist Motorbikes/muster goats/station hand Station worker/manager	
What do you like about school?	
Learning Being with friends Play 44 at recess Exploring Excursions/camps to Adelaide	
What would you like Leigh Creek to have in the future?	
Pool Pony club People coming in Gym/sports club Town to stay Creek to stay	What would you like to have in Leigh Creek? Good internet Food outlets – take away and restaurants Future – jobs/new houses/more people technical