

# LEIGH CREEK NEWS



## THE GRASS IS GREENER!

In response to the current drought conditions reducing vegetation for native animals which have eaten the majority of the grass and roots at the Leigh Creek oval, the Outback Communities Authority has recently fenced off and plugged new lawn into the oval.

It is hoped that the oval will re-open for community use in the New Year once the plugs have had a chance to establish a good ground cover. The new boundary fence will ensure no native animals will get onto the oval to graze.

Thanks to Leigh Creek local Brad Alcorn from SA Water and Outback Communities Authority (OCA) contractors, Tim Hage and Will Ferguson for their management of the watering schedule and grass maintenance during this rejuvenation project. Thanks also to local business, Gary Fuchs Contracting for installing the new fence. A great team effort!

*In this edition:*

Property Management

OCA Staff update

A Message from SAPOL

Aroona Dam update

Task Force update

Pool opening

## LEIGH CREEK TASKFORCE UPDATE

Local Member for Stuart and Minister for Energy and Mining, Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP, has the ministerial responsibility for advising the Government on Leigh Creek's future. The Minister (Dan) has re-established through his Department for Energy and Mining, a multi-agency Leigh Creek Task Force to provide him with advice on key issues relating to the township and to assist the Government to develop a strategy to continue its transition to a sustainable, open and self-sufficient regional town. It is intended to give every opportunity for Leigh Creek to establish itself as a service and tourism centre for the Outback and key to that success is the ability to leverage existing infrastructure assets such as the airport, the potential upgrading of the Strzelecki Track, upgraded Aroona Dam tourist facilities and the proposed World Heritage listing of the nearby Ediacara Fossil sites.

*(continued on last page)*

# PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

## Leasing Arrangements

DPTI Property Directorate is currently approved to provide commercial leases and residential tenancy agreements on a periodic basis or fixed term up to 30 June 2021.

DPTI continues to provide new residential tenancy agreements to people who meet one or more of the following conditions and meet the government's assessment criteria:

- Supporting new/increased economic activity in the region
  - Employed by Leigh Creek businesses or service providers (minimum of 7.5 hours per week)
  - Have children enrolled at Leigh Creek Area School
- Please continue to support the community by ensuring your child's regular attendance at school.

## Building Inspections

DPTI continues its program of inspecting properties on a regular basis. The next inspections are planned to take place early in the New Year and the department provides adequate written notice if access is required to your home or business premises.

## Maintenance

DPTI has arranged for a number of houses and flats to have necessary repairs undertaken. This work is being completed to get them ready for the next person or family to live in and to rectify any known safety issues.

The department has also implemented a scheduled maintenance program. This involves electrical safety checks to RCD's, smoke detector and evaporative air conditioners.

A number of vacant shops and offices in the town centre have also had works completed to make them suitable for occupation, therefore enabling them to be leased in the future.

## Reporting Property Issues

Please report any property related maintenance issues or damage to DPTI. If you are aware a vacant property may have been damaged, broken into or notice a water leak, please let us know.

Please note, any damage to an occupied property that is deemed negligent will be repaired by DPTI contractors and an invoice will be issued to the tenant to recover costs.

## Demolition

DPTI Building Projects is responsible for managing the demolition program of unrequired houses and other surplus buildings. The anticipated demolition program is currently under review with a further investigation to be undertaken by independent consultants early in the New Year. Before any consultant attends the township DPTI will advise the community, and local residents will be advised of any subsequent determined demolition works well in advance.

In the event that an occupied house is to be demolished, the DPTI Transition Team will liaise with the resident(s) on an individual basis regarding their future requirements. People who are required to relocate by DPTI due to the demolition work will be given plenty of time to consider their position and will definitely get offered an alternative house in the Township.

## Tree Management

If you have any concerns about trees in your yard or a neighbour's yard please let the DPTI Transition Team know. Please report any other concerns that you may have regarding trees to the Outback Communities Authority.

## Contact

Please don't hesitate to contact DPTI staff should you wish to discuss any issue or concern:

DPTI Transition Team - Property  
Peter Thomas - Phone (08) 8343 2605  
Simon Muecke - Phone (08) 8343 2613  
Claudia Trotta - Phone (08) 7109 7325

Email: [DPTI.LeighCreekProperty@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPTI.LeighCreekProperty@sa.gov.au)

# OCA STAFF UPDATE

The OCA will shortly announce it has filled the roles of Community Development Officer and Business Support Officer which were recently advertised.

The new staff members, based in Leigh Creek at the OCA office on Acacia Road, will support the management of services and facilities in Leigh Creek along with working with the greater northern Flinders Ranges Community to better access and utilise the wonderful facilities Leigh Creek has to offer.

## A MESSAGE FROM SAPOL

The Leigh Creek Police station Officer-in-Charge position (OIC) has recently been filled with the new OIC taking over duties as of 1 November 2019. Brevet Sergeant Dennis GERAGHTY comes with much enthusiasm and recent remote area policing from the APY Lands.

Dennis is keen to take ownership of the role and provide some much needed continuity to the policing presence at Leigh Creek. Dennis has already made contacts within the community and if you haven't met him already you no doubt will soon. The second-in-charge (2IC) position is very close to being filled so hopefully by the end of the year Leigh Creek will be fully staffed with permanent members located in the town.

Once the 2IC is in place, the Leigh Creek members will be able to patrol and visit the more remote or isolated parts of their area more often, providing a much needed and appreciated service to those places. The township of Leigh Creek and surrounding areas have been busy of late with the presence of a film crew.

There have been a few other events and incidents to manage but overall it has been a relatively quiet time from a policing perspective. With the warmer weather and school holidays just around the corner hopefully we can maintain the status quo. Please enjoy your holiday period and remember to stay safe on the roads, plan your trip, rest regularly, obey the road rules and arrive alive.



## AROONA DAM UPDATE

The Department of Environment and Water (DEW), National Parks and Wildlife Service SA (NP&WSSA) will be working with the Leigh Creek Progress Association for the potential upgrading and re-opening of the walking trail that leads up onto the western hills above the dam, as well as a project to beautify the area surrounding the main car park toilets.



DEW is also working with Leigh Creek Progress Association, Leigh Creek School, University of Adelaide and Bikes SA to plan for a walking and bike trail from the back of Leigh Creek to Aroona Dam, including Adnyamathanha cultural signs on the walking trail.

Leigh Creek Progress Association will be providing NP&WSSA a proposal on a potential arid garden near the main car park. February 2020 will see one year since 30,000 Murray Cod and Golden Perch were released by RecFish SA and DEW. Hopefully in 2 years' time the fish will be a good size to catch!

# LEIGH CREEK TASKFORCE UPDATE

*(continued from first page)*

The Leigh Creek Task Force is independently chaired and has senior representatives from the following Departments: Energy and Mining, Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Outback Communities Authority, Education, SA Health, Premier and Cabinet (Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation), Primary Industries and Regions SA, SA Police, Office of the Industry Advocate, Trade, Tourism and Industry, South Australian Tourism Commission and SA Water.

The Task Force is working with business and representative groups to understand their needs and to put in place leasing arrangements or other agreements. For example, to provide more certainty to residential and commercial tenants, the Government implemented the Task Force's recommendation to extend lease terms through to June 2021 for all residential and commercial leases.

The Task Force is completing a review of the first two years of the transition of the town, including an examination of government service provision for the community.

The task Force will soon announce details of a targeted consultation with the Leigh Creek community and stakeholders that will commence shortly.



## POOL OPENING

The swimming pool opened recently for the 2019-20 season. Operated by the Leigh Creek Outback Resort, the pool will be open from 2.25 pm to 6.45 pm each day when the temperature exceeds 26 degrees (determined 30 minutes prior to the opening time).

Access fees for the season are:

- \$5.50 per person
- \$50.00 one person season pass
- \$16.50 family pass  
(2 adults/up to 3 children)
- \$125.00 family season pass  
(2 adults/up to 3 children)
- Children under 5 are free.

For information or if you are wishing to purchase a season ticket, please speak to staff at the pool.



### Contact us

Outback Communities Authority

P: 1800 640 542

E: [oca@sa.gov.au](mailto:oca@sa.gov.au)

Phone: (08) 8648 5970

Fax: (08) 8648 5971