

COOBER PEDY

The Far North Regional Hub of SA

The Opal Capital of the World

An Oasis in the Desert



Our Story, Our Next Steps, Our Potential

www.facebook.com/cooberpedytogether

Acknowledgement

We pay our respects to all Aboriginal people who call Coober Pedy home.

We acknowledge elders past, present and emerging, and the thousands of years of Aboriginal culture and knowledge. Together, we seek to make Coober Pedy a place for all.

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Coober Pedy Today

Coober Pedy was founded in 1915 when a 14-year-old boy called William Hutchison discovered opal. Initially named the Stuart Range Opal Field after the explorer John McDouall Stuart, the name Coober Pedy is thought to derive from the Aboriginal term kupa-piti.

In 1975 the Coober Pedy Aboriginal Community adopted the name Umoona, meaning "long life" – the name also of the umoona or mulga tree, a common tree in this area.

By the 1980s, Coober Pedy was the largest producer of opals in the world, providing 75% of the world market and famous for its many underground dwellings, or dugouts.

Tourism has since become a major industry in Coober Pedy. Given its unique position, halfway between Adelaide and Alice Springs, it has long been a stop off point for travellers, many spending a day or two exploring the town's attractions.



Until now, tourism has developed organically, led by the Coober Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Association (CPRBTA). As a volunteer organisation, its resources are limited and because of the town's distance from Adelaide it often misses out on the support the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia (TiCSA) provides to other, closer destinations.

Coober Pedy is an essential regional hub for outback services. Many government departments, social support agencies and health services have offices there. The community also provide services to neighbouring cattle and sheep stations. However, with a currently declining population, the ongoing provision of these services is not guaranteed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on tourism in Coober Pedy, though that is now showing signs of recovery (2022). Together with the reduction in the number of opal miners, the town's reduced population and the challenges facing local government, it would be easy to see Coober Pedy's future under threat.

Except...

Coober Pedy is still the world's largest opal bearing region and produces more than 80% of Australia's opal. Accurate estimates of the opal mining industry's value are difficult to obtain, but between 2000 and 2005 South Australia's Department for Energy and Mining estimated the value of uncut gems ranged from \$100 million to \$200 million. It would be no less, quite probably more, than that today. It is a valuable industry for SA.

The South Australian Department of Mines and Energy reported a 22% increase in mining activity across the fields in 2021. One major opal trading company reports that the pandemic has boosted online opal sales worldwide, with sales up 115% per month over the same period in 2020, with average monthly sales up by 53.56%.



In addition...

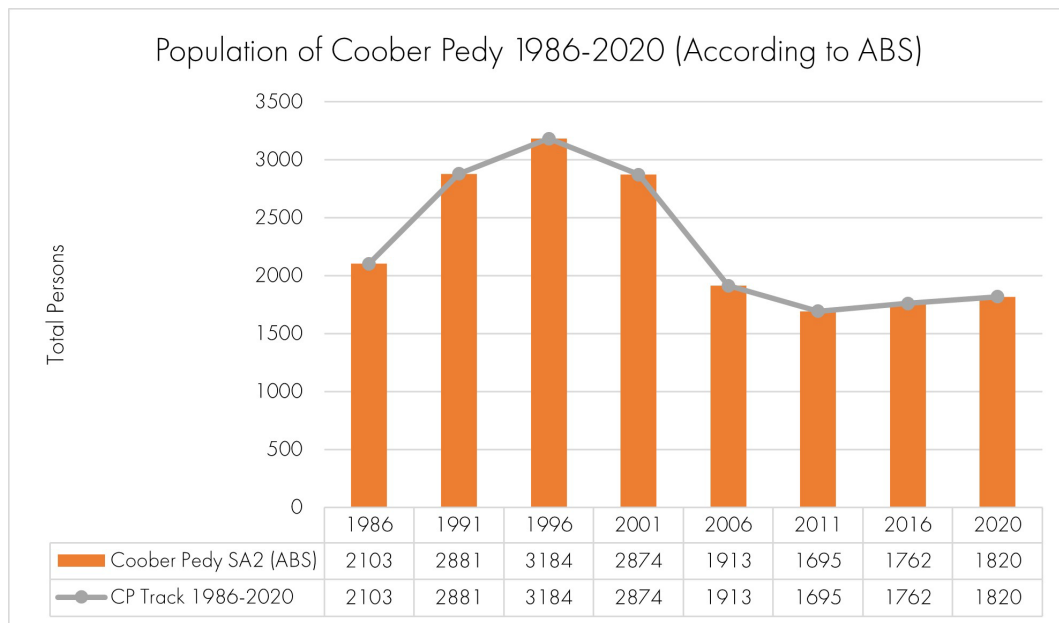
Coober Pedy has an increasingly vital role as a regional hub for Far North South Australia, as well as contributing to the state's visitor economy as a must-visit destination. It can also be an inspiring model for sustainable development in remote regional Australia – in energy generation, water provision and conservation, economic development, the delivery of integrated health services, social integration, and education and training. It is a community with a diverse range of talents and abilities, from opal miners, to outside the box thinkers, to incredible artists and story tellers.

This is the true potential of Coober Pedy and it's what we, the community, seek to achieve. It is a process that has already started and now needs your support. We are the heart and regional focus of South Australia's Outback.

Far North South Australia is a recognised district/region by Regional Development Australia (RDA)

Location: On the Stuart Highway 846km from Adelaide and 538km from Port Augusta to the south, and 685km from Alice Springs to the north. It is, geographically, at the very centre of South Australia's remote Outback.

Population: The population is estimated at 1820 (ABS – 2020). It reached a high of 3184 in 1996 and has stabilised over the past decade, with a mild growth of 0.93% per annum. In 2016 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised 23% (ABS) of Coober Pedy's population. This compares with around 2% for South Australia as a whole and 4.1% for Australia. Aboriginal people from many language groups and nations call Coober Pedy home.



ABS figures are possibly unreliable and low due to the number of people not reached by the Census. It has been suggested by several sources that the population was as high as 3500+ (based on property, water, electricity, and postal records) at its peak, and is very likely higher than current ABS data suggests in 2022. The population is fluid, due to the seasonal and changing nature of the community. Its main population group is aged 15-64 years (around 60%). Outback South Australia has a total population of 85,132 (2016 Census). It reached a maximum of 91,001 in 1995.

Ethnicity: With more than 45 nationalities, Coober Pedy has become one of Australia's most ethnically diverse communities. New groups, including Sri Lankan, Indian and Filipino communities, are making a significant positive impact.

Employment: Opal mining, tourism, and hospitality are the main interrelated industries in Coober Pedy. They are seasonal opportunities, providing different benefits at various times. The health and social services sector provide over 20% of ongoing jobs in Coober Pedy. It can be a forming ground for professionals across multiple disciplines including teachers, health professionals, and police officers. Opportunities to diversify the economy are possible and need further support to be explored and developed. As at June 2018, the unemployment rate was sitting at 11.3% (DESE).

Workforce: It is difficult to attract long-term skilled staff across many parts of the community. The community sees an opportunity to better understand the needs of new graduates and arrivals, and to find new ways to meaningfully connect individuals and families into the wider community. Diversification of the economy and improvements in accessibility to the community from Adelaide (e.g., reduced travel costs, expanded travel options), could work to provide some solutions. The added benefit of retaining a skilled workforce, is increased capacity in community leadership and activities.

Education: Coober Pedy Area School provides education for preschool to year 12 students. It is a diverse school community, with students from many cultural backgrounds, and a high enrolment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Although enrolments in the VET in Schools Program have increased, the number of students gaining a qualification has fallen. Likewise, the number of students completing Year 12 and/or gaining a Senior Secondary Certificate is falling. Very few students are participating in local education and those that do are not achieving qualifications. There is an opportunity to develop, resource, and promote diverse educational pathways for current and future students. TAFE SA have a campus in the community, which offers a limited range of courses and workshops for individuals. There is an opportunity to develop the campus in a shining light of remote learning and development. Opal cutting courses could be reinstated, and boosted by offering other introductory courses for the opal industry.



Sustainability: Coober Pedy aims to be the most sustainable town in Australia. It has long-been a leader in renewable energies and was the second town in Australia (after Esperance, WA) to install its own wind turbine. In 2017 the Coober Pedy Hybrid Renewable Power Station (consisting of two wind turbines, a solar farm, and a diesel generator) was installed. Since then, the town has sustained approximately 73% renewable power generation (SA 51%, Australia 19%), avoiding 6000 tonnes CO2 emissions per annum.

The town is unique in South Australia because it's Council (one of two in SA) manages the provision of water and electricity services to its community of around 1800 people. It is a particularly large energy consumer given that it operates a high-pressure desalination plant, treating local artesian water with a high salt content, that requires a significant amount of energy. The Council also runs a sewage treatment plant that recycles wastewater as grey water for community recreation areas and tree plantings.

Water: Coober Pedy lies in the heart of South Australia's arid lands and is supplied by bore water delivered via 200mm pipeline from 60m deep artesian bores located 23 km north-east of the town. Water is treated locally at the town's reverse osmosis desalination plant, established in 1985. Up to 50% of potentially available wastewater is captured along the main street and some other areas and, where possible, is recycled and used to water the town's oval and community orchard and garden. There is an opportunity to be innovative and find ways to capture and recycle higher levels of wastewater, to provide further greening and beautification opportunities.

Health: Coober Pedy has a hospital and two health services, the Coober Pedy Community Health Centre (Eastern Eyre and Far North Health Service) and Umoona Tjtagku Health Service, with all members of the community able to access all services as needed. There is a need to identify gaps in available services, improve service delivery across the board, bolster collaborative efforts, work to attract and retain long-term medical professionals, and upgrade the hospital, which can handle only basic emergencies/stabilisation before flying patients to Adelaide or Port Augusta. Given the number of ageing residents, there is a need for an all-inclusive aged care facility.

Social Activity (Volunteering): As a remote outback town which cannot compete with social and cultural activities available in large cities, local clubs and events play a major role in engaging existing residents, attracting new ones and providing a sense of community and social vitality. Coober Pedy benefits from many clubs, events and activities. To support these, 279 (18.8%) of the population volunteer. These activities do come and go with key people. Without the support of this large number of volunteers, Coober Pedy would not enjoy the level of social opportunities it does.

Crime: There is an opportunity to work in partnership with SA Police and other key stakeholders to develop innovative new ways to grow and retain a sense of community safety and belonging. The community is a dry zone, but has continually faced challenges in alcohol management and misuse. Property-related offences, different forms of assault and theft form most of the unlawful offences in the town. Coober Pedy has one of the highest rates per capita of domestic and family violence in South Australia, a real concern for the community, that needs to be addressed in new ways.

Waste Management: The Council provides a weekly domestic waste collection service which is deposited into the Council's landfill site. No Council recycling service is offered, though there is an opportunity for the Council to create a comprehensive waste transfer and recycling facility in partnership with surrounding mines and community organisations.

Data from various sources, including ABS, DESE, DFE, DHS, and the District Council of Coober Pedy was accessed to inform this document and to provide the most accurate story possible



A New Way of Working Together

Typically, communities in need rely on – and wait for – government intervention and action, be it from State or Commonwealth sources. There is a mentality that says someone else will provide the initiative and fix things. This is a hit or miss approach at best. And it does not work in Coober Pedy.

In a rare, if not unique, approach in Australia, Coober Pedy is taking the initiative in seeking to transform its community and town into a model of remote regional development.

It is a brave initiative that seeks to benefit not just Coober Pedy and its Outback region, but South Australia as a whole. In time, there is no reason why Coober Pedy should not be recognised as one of Australia's most sought-after Outback destinations.

To achieve this, Coober Pedy is drawing on its unique DNA of self-reliance, independence, multi-faceted skill base, ingenuity and generosity. These were the qualities required to build a town from nothing in the middle of the desert. It gave Coober Pedy a sense of community, pride and respect that endures today in the **Coober Pedy Together** initiative.

Coober Pedy Together is about bringing change, community spirit, community pride and a sense of purpose for the community of Coober Pedy. It's about creating a common plan and vision. It is about resourcing the community to be able to create the place in which they would like to live.

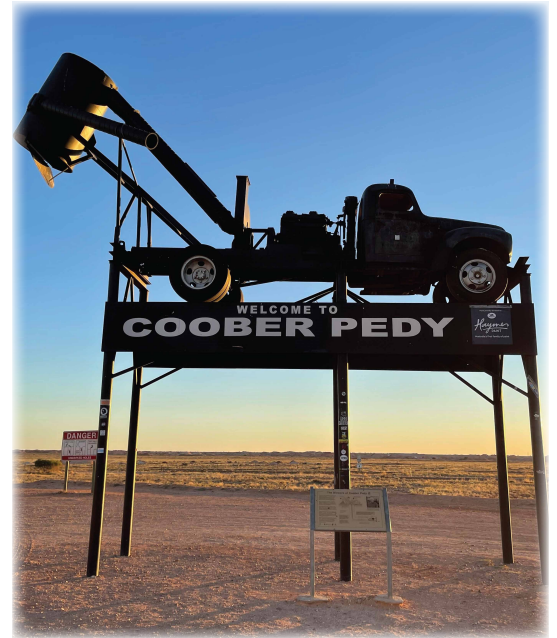
Coober Pedy Together recognises that over the years, many people have provided many hours of time and incredible efforts to bring together several different plans to move the community forward. We value and respect these plans and seek to build on them. We acknowledge that these plans and conversations have explored a whole range of strategies and activities designed to help Coober Pedy take the next step. We know that we are standing on this strong foundation with immense gratitude.

Initial community planning workshops were held towards the end of 2021. It was agreed that a representative Facilitation Group be brought together - with nominations for membership invited from the community - to guide the work and that it should include a range of ages, skill sets and experience. Specialist skills and support would be found as needed.

The group would value and promote a unified town, committed to celebrating diversity, actively encouraging reconciliation, and seeking to unlock the potential of individuals. Training and development would be provided to the group when required.

While the work would be led by a Facilitation Group, specific actions would be taken by dedicated action teams, drawing on the skills, interest and passions of individuals.

It is intended that meetings be open and transparent, and able to be attended by the community. The group is seen as a roundtable, with many others involved in the work. There will be multiple opportunities and ways in which community members can and will be involved. This is a community-led initiative, and it will be the community that determines the priorities of Coober Pedy Together and that makes the big decisions.



While this may seem just a little revolutionary, this community-led approach has its basis in the concept of direct democracy first practised in ancient Athens two millennia ago.

It was reinforced recently by an OECD report on innovative citizen participation (OECD: Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions 2020) saying it supported the idea that citizen participation in public decision making could deliver better policies, strengthen democracy, and build trust.

“The increasing complexity of policy making and the failure to find solutions to some of the most pressing policy problems have prompted politicians, policy makers, civil society organisations and citizens to reflect on how collective public decisions should be taken in the twenty-first century,” the report began.

“There is a need for new ways to find common ground and take action. This is particularly true for issues that are values-based, require trade-offs, and demand long-term solutions.”

What is proposed now in Coober Pedy is a very humble reflection of this need to change the way we do things and address what have seemed to be intractable problems.

Coober Pedy is stepping up to help itself because it believes in itself and knows it has significant potential as it moves forward. It cannot do it on its own.

It will work in partnership with government – as a first priority with the District Council of Coober Pedy, and with State and Commonwealth government departments and agencies. It will build relationships with the private sector and the business community. It will be seen as a credible investment for the future by all those involved. There are many questions yet to be resolved.

The District Council of Coober Pedy, given its levels of debt and current income, is in no position to provide any substantial financial support. This is an issue that must be resolved in concert with the South Australian Government in a way that will enable the Coober Pedy community to get back on its feet, while developing a long-term strategy to deal with that debt. This is a potential game changer that, if resolved, would enable the community to move forward as it is determined to do. It would allow us to refocus on building community capacity and skills.

The nature of governance of the township must also be resolved. Until 1986 Coober Pedy was essentially run by Its Progress Association. Should a new model of local government be devised here that leaves basic service provision in the hands of local government, and hands everything else to the community - represented now by Coober Pedy Together?

The Coober Pedy community can't wait for these important considerations to be sorted out, urgent and essential though they are. Coober Pedy Together is already under way.



Coober Pedy Together - First Moves

Following a series of community workshops, the Coober Pedy Together Facilitation Group was elected and hit the ground running with a long list of what could be done to help achieve Coober Pedy's future potential as a regional hub for Far North South Australia. The inaugural Facilitation Group, comprising Jacqui Boland, Isabella Jones, Julie O'Toole, Des Roffey, Nick Troisi, Sabrina Troisi and Sandy Williams, met for the first time in March 2022 to work out what immediate tasks lay ahead and start prioritising the group's most urgent projects, based on the information provided by the wider community through the community workshops. These were divided into short term, high impact projects, things that could be done to get the ball rolling, then the big-ticket, longer-term projects that would require careful planning, more money, and almost certainly liaison with local, state and federal governments and the private sector to achieve.

The short-term project list included:

- a new look/beautification of the main street, triangle and other prominent areas;
- support Umoona Community to continue developing the Umoona Arts Centre in partnership with APY Arts Collective;
- develop a strategy to support the opal industry;
- develop support strategies/incentives for new business;
- invite a delegation of key allies, connections, partners and politicians to visit Coober Pedy;
- hold regular monthly community events
- advocate for a limited Uber licence or another alternative to provide passenger transport services for locals and tourists.

The longer-term list included:

- a Coober Pedy Community, Sport, and Cultural Centre
- significant investment in further education and training, ensuring education pathways
- improved/new/upgraded playground area
- improve ability to use water in sustainable ways in partnership with water crew
- advocate for, support and find funds to make the Breakaways Master Plan a reality
- plus a range of long-standing and widely-held concerns about issues such as alcohol management and enforcing the dry zone, gaps in the delivery of health services in Coober Pedy, and the lack of development of meaningful development of educational pathways for our children.

(Expanded detail on both these lists is available in the appendices.)

One of the key functional relationships to be developed will be with the Government of South Australia to address areas of concern including educational pathways and outcomes, health services provision, community safety and crime prevention, and development of a local community governance model for Coober Pedy.

The Facilitation Group plans to start at the top with a greening of the triangle and painting as many light poles as possible.

An action plan has been prepared to:

- plant new native trees throughout already watered areas of the triangle, or in areas where water is easily accessible, to provide a greening of the triangle, shade and an action statement.
- paint as many light poles as possible from the Stuart Highway all the way down Hutchison Street in a way that celebrates Coober Pedy, especially the colours of opal
- achieve a highly visible quick win strategy to help gain momentum in the community
- make a statement that demonstrates Coober Pedy Together is ready to deliver real change to Coober Pedy
- make long-standing community dreams and plans a reality

The Facilitation Group has sought the cooperation of the Council in rehabilitating the playground and surrounding area within the triangle, with the actual clean-up work undertaken by community volunteers, and repairs and ongoing maintenance undertaken by Council. In all projects, we will partner with all appropriate groups across the community.

Join Us In This Movement For Change

Coober Pedy has unique advantages that set it apart from nearly all communities and destinations around the world.

It is already known globally as the opal capital of the world and for its unique underground dwellings called dugouts. It stands on the story and history of all the individuals and groups who have made it what it is today.

It is geographically in the centre of South Australia's Outback and the only substantial community between Port Augusta and Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway.

It has the opportunity to become a model of remote regional development - sustainable, self-reliant, a showcase for the innovative use of its resources.

It has the opportunity to be recognised as a regional hub– a centre for healthcare, education and skills development, business and industrial services, community facilities – and a must-visit tourist destination. Imagine it as an oasis in the South Australian Outback.

Above all, it can draw on its unique multi-cultural community, its extraordinary landscapes that have provided a background for more than 100 movies, documentaries and advertisements – the Hollywood of the Outback, and its wild frontier history. It is an extraordinary place.

The Coober Pedy community, through Coober Pedy Together and its Facilitation Group, will take the lead. It will show the way. We will need partners, both from the private sector and from all levels of government.

We are making Coober Pedy an asset not just for our community, but for South Australia and the nation. We have a unique starting point and we plan to use it.

We ask you to join us in this movement for change.



APPENDICES

COOBER PEDY TOGETHER

Moving Forward As ONE Community

www.facebook.com/cooberpedytogether

Our Vision

Coober Pedy is a vibrant, empowered, inspired community of people working together with pride and respect to honour their heritage and seek opportunities for all.

Our Story

Our community is built from many different components, where we have created our own culture based on past knowledge and experience, of Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and with a mix of new nationalities who were drawn by the allure of precious opals. Today we are a welcoming regional hub of the far north, with a focus on business, tourism, and opal mining, with great opportunities for future development and employment.

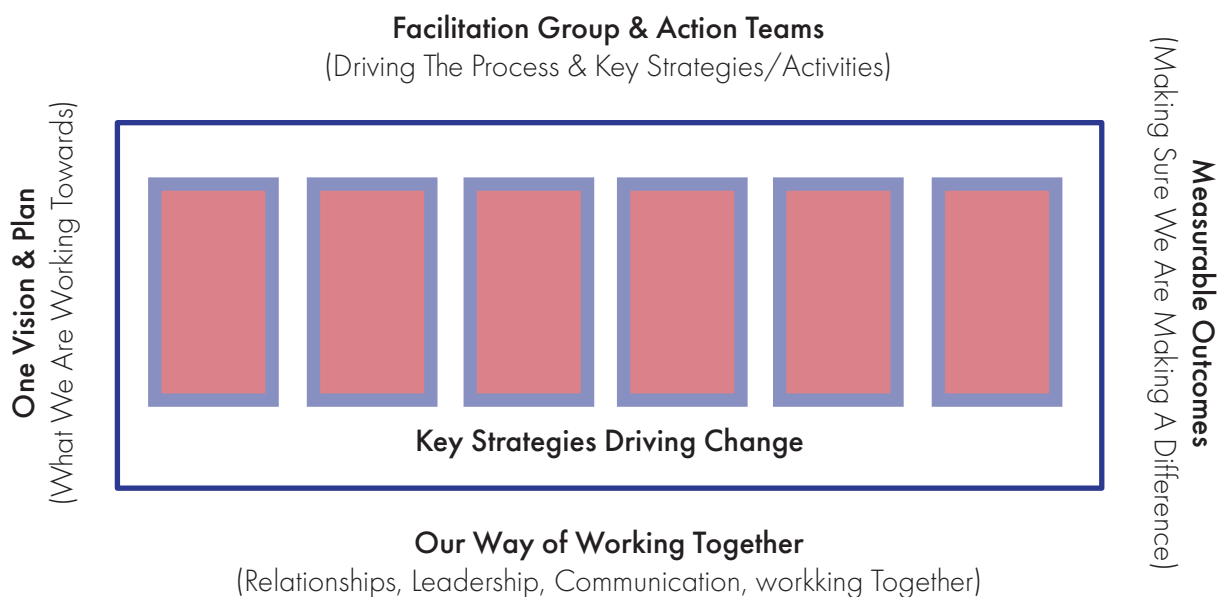
Our focus for the future is for the needs of individuals to be recognized, and to develop and continually improve Coober Pedy to be a happy, healthy, safe, prosperous, harmonious, and united community for all ages.

Creating A Container for Change

Coober Pedy Together is about working together to find a way forward together. It recognizes that over the years, many people have provided many hours of time and incredible efforts to bring together several different plans to move the community forward. We value and respect these plans and seek to build on them.

Coober Pedy Together is about bringing about change, community spirit, community pride, and sense of purpose for the community of Coober Pedy. It's about creating a common plan and vision. It is about resourcing the community to be able to create the place in which they would like to live.

Initial community planning workshops were held during September to November 2021.



COOPER PEDY TOGETHER

Our Agreed Way of Working Together

It is important that as we work together to create change, to drive action, to build community, that we have an agreed way of working together. This way of working ensures a unified approach and lays out clear expectations and understandings of how we work and behave together

Relationships

- We are respectful of all people in every interaction
- We are honest and transparent with each other
- We celebrate and encourage diversity
- We regularly get together to build and grow relationships
- Everyone is on the same level, with no one higher than another
- We let go of all past grudges to move forward together
- Use restorative practices to work through disagreements

Leadership

- The work is led by a facilitation group, with actions taken by action teams
- Meetings are open and transparent, and able to be attended by the community
- This group is seen as a roundtable, with many others involved in the work
- This group is brought together through an expression of interest process
- This group will start as an interim group for a set time
- Look to resource action teams through skills, interest, and passions of individuals
- Provide multiple opportunities and ways in which individuals can get involved
- Priorities for the work, and big decisions are taken to the community
- Look to resource action teams through skills, interest, and passions of individuals

Communication

- Intentional and respectful communication that is open and transparent
- Communication that takes place through multiple means
- Communication needs to be constructive and respectful
- We will regularly let the wider community know what is happening, and always provide opportunities for those who would like to get involved to do so
- Different opinions are ok, but we must find a way forward together

Working Together

- We will work towards a shared vision that sees all people thrive, and deliver on agreed directions together
- We will not be driven by hidden or personal agendas
- Be innovative and creative in finding ways forward
- This work always values and honours traditional knowledge
- Regularly gain input and ideas from the wider community
- Work in collaboration, always encouraging and building each other up
- Looking forward together, creating a new future
- Work to empower all members of the community
- Honour the efforts and time given by all involved
- Acting with the highest integrity
- Embrace mistakes and learn together
- Look for ways to make sure the work is well resourced
- Develop a neutral, community space where the work can be based
- Committed and dedicated to seeing things through
- Action and solution focused, with measurable outcomes (possible + practical)
- Don't reinvent the wheel, where there is no need to
- Recognise and celebrate the history of Coober Pedy, and both past and new contributions
- Listen deeply to all members of the community, supporting all generations

COOBER PEDY TOGETHER

Facilitation Group - Position Statement

The Vision

Coober Pedy is a vibrant, empowered, inspired community of people working together with pride and respect to honour their heritage and seek opportunities for all

Background

Coober Pedy Together is about working together to find a way forward together. It recognizes that over the years, many people have provided many hours of time and incredible efforts to bring together several different plans to move the community forward. We value and respect these plans and seek to build on them.

Coober Pedy Together is about bringing about change, community spirit, community pride, and sense of purpose for the community of Coober Pedy. It's about creating a common plan and vision. It is about resourcing the community to be able to create the place in which they would like to live.

Initial community planning workshops were held during September to November 2021. It was agreed that a facilitation group would be brought together to guide the work. This position statement outlines what the workshop participants believed important when considering who the facilitators of the work should be.

Participants agreed that a broad range of people need to be brought together. This group should include a range of ages, skill sets, and experience. Specialist skills and support can be found as needed. The group will value and promote a unified town, committed to celebrating diversity, actively encouraging reconciliation, and seeking to unlock the potential of individuals. Training and development will be provided to the group.

Our Agreed Way of Working Together

This position statement should be read in conjunction with the Our Agreed Way of Working Together document. All appointed leaders should agree to and be able to adhere to the agreed way of working for the initiative.

Tasks & Expectations of the Role

The roles of the leadership-facilitation group, and its members, include:

- To actively listen to, guide, and canvas ideas from the wider community (co-opters)
- Represent the wide range of community members in Coober Pedy across all areas including sport, business, tourism, opal mining, families, Aboriginal people, and multiple generations
- To always remain neutral, supporting all members of the Coober Pedy community, being open and transparent if a conflict of interest arises in the work
- Lead and facilitate multiple projects based on the ideas of the Coober Pedy community
- To facilitate community events with the support of action teams as needed
- Actively listening and bringing together a wide range of ideas from the community
- Work together to find appropriate resourcing (financial and in-kind) for key projects
- To facilitate grow and investment opportunities where possible for Coober Pedy
- To actively work to break down silos and barriers that prevent moving forward together
- Develop an ongoing understanding for the work, including the role of the group, and the wider project, that can be shared and understood by all involved (terms of reference)
- Work with the wider community to develop an ongoing structure for the work, including governance arrangements, joint decision-making processes, conflict and appeal processes, a communications plan, and road map for seasons of the work as appropriate
- To connect with and develop working partnerships with other groups, services, and agencies across Coober Pedy to achieve outcomes for the good of the wider community
- To be a central group for people across the community to bring ideas to, to talk to
- To model and encourage innovation, creativity, and collaboration

COOPER PEDY TOGETHER

Facilitation Group - Position Statement

Criteria for Appointment

Participants of the workshops agreed that the following criteria were essential for appointed members to the facilitation group:

- Community focussed
- Demonstrate trustworthiness
- Flexible, open-minded, and creative
- Open, transparent, and honest communicator
- Passionate and enthusiastic
- Be motivated, committed, and able to give the necessary time needed for the work
- Be able to encourage, support and work with people from a wide range of backgrounds
- Encouragers of all people, seeing each person and group for who they could become
- Be open and approachable
- Have a good understanding of all the groups and activities across Coober Pedy
- Bring a variety of skills and knowledge to the work
- Able to navigate conflict well and in helpful ways
- No personal agendas or favouritism
- Sees the value in mistakes and learning from them together
- Able to hold responsibility and accountability for the work together
- Able to see, understand and value the view of others in the community

The Process, Nominations, and Next Steps

Coober Pedy Together is seeking to have the initial members of the facilitation group in place by February 2022. Nominations are sought from interested people within the community of Coober Pedy. Individuals can also be nominated by others.

Nominations need to be in the form of an Expression of Interest. This can be a one or two page letter, that includes information about the nominated person or yourself, including a little bit of your story, telling us who you are, contact details, how you see yourself or the person working as part of the Coober Pedy Together initiative, and what you or they can bring to the table.

Nominations must be received to cooberpedytogether@gmail.com by Friday 21 January 2022.

Each applicant will then be contacted and invited to attend a Coober Pedy Together workshop in early February 2022 to give a five minute presentation to the community. All present at the workshop will then have a chance to vote. The presentations will be recorded and uploaded so that people unable to attend the workshop, will have time to vote as well.

Once voting is completed, successful applicants will be named inducted.

Notes From Facilitation Group Workshops March - April 2022 (Page 1)

Short Term Projects/Wins/Things We Can Do Now

Green – High Priority:

- All stakeholders acknowledging Coober Pedy as the Far North Regional Hub of SA
- New look/beautification of main street, triangle, other prominent areas
 - plant trees at triangle, paint light posts, rubbish removal, artwork, town signage, windows, functional and clean public toilets (oval especially), shade, new entrances
- Regular community events, held monthly, simple with focus on connection
 - reclaiming a culture/identity of a strong community working together
- Changing culture, reclaiming town mojo, becoming resilient again, stepping up
 - potential multimedia or story project/campaign that highlights who we are as Coober Pedy, our history, our story, what makes us unique
 - activities/strategies that build unity within the community
- Invite a delegation of key allies, connections, partners to visit Coober Pedy
 - show them what is possible within the town
 - excite them to want to see more or and show more of Coober Pedy
 - pitch Coober Pedy as just as significant as Kangaroo Island, Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale in terms of tourism and events – Coober Pedy is UNIQUE
 - put Coober Pedy on the radar for key conversations moving forward
- Advocate for a limited Uber licence or alternative to provide passenger transport services for local and tourists alike (need can be demonstrated)

Orange – Support Other Groups If Possible:

- Umoona Arts Centre in partnership with APY Arts Collective
 - help advocate and obtain funds needed to commence project
- Department for Mines and Energy, Miner's Association, opal miners
 - develop strategy to support opal industry moving forward in Coober Pedy
- Business and tourism association
 - developing support strategies/incentives for new business, also considering supporting entrepreneurs and innovative ideas
- Coober Pedy needs to make itself known to the rest of the state
 - Royal Show 2022 presence? With other partners?

Yellow – When Possible, But Important:

- Regular large events for tourists and locals, with a focus on new money into town
 - connect with Events SA and other key personnel through delegation above
 - consider Underground Music Festival, Kite Festival, Orchestra in the Outback, sporting events, food events, etc
- Market Coober Pedy as a/the place to live – unique, affordable underground accommodation, more attractive for families with improved facilities and services, alternative base for fly in/fly out workers in mining industry.

Notes From Facilitation Group Workshops

March - April 2022 (Page 2)

Big Ticket Items, Require More \$\$, Make a Big Difference

Green – High Priority:

- Coober Pedy Community, Sport, and Cultural Centre
 - a place that could host indoor sport and recreation activities, redeveloped gym
 - a place that could host activities for children and families
 - meeting place for the community
 - a place that tells and celebrates the story of Coober Pedy
 - could host a brand-new tourist/visitor entry point
 - could host conferences/events/conversations
- Significant investment in further education and training, ensuring education pathways
 - develop whole of community strategies that develop and support educational pathways from the early years all the way through to adulthood
 - ensuring early childhood opportunities are available for families
 - community partnerships with local school, that encourages and celebrates local industries, as well as potential employment pathways
 - traineeships and apprenticeships
 - active work placement for secondary students
 - focus on opal, hospitality, tourism, trades
 - advocate for the return of the opal cutting course
- Improved/new/upgraded playground area
 - including areas for families
 - increasing shade through native greening
 - pump track, upgrades to skate park
 - play café, or ability to access coffee
 - water Park – is it possible?
 - could link with Coober Pedy Community Centre above?
- Improve ability to use water in sustainable ways in partnership with water crew
 - purchase and install smart meters to enable accurate reading of water
 - complete GIS mapping, to have a digitised map of the water network
 - advocate for funds for a hydro truck to enable quick repairs and the use of modern technologies to make the water system more efficient
 - get an understanding of what is available and how it can be used

Orange – Support Others If Possible:

- Drive-In Committee
 - advocate for, support and help to implement a significant upgrade of the drive-in, recognising that it is a really important piece of the Coober Pedy story and the only remaining drive-in in South Australia
- Breakaways Board
 - advocate for, support and find funds to make the Breakaways Master Plan a reality
 - the master plan is complete, but funds need to be found to make it happen
 - the Breakaways are a part of what Coober Pedy is, and need to be supported

Yellow – When Possible, But Important:

- Healthy Ageing strategy and support, including a new aged care facility for all people

Notes From Facilitation Group Workshops

March - April 2022 (Page 3)

Everyday Needs and Conversations: The Facilitation Group wants good relationships with key personnel, departments and agencies, across Government and non-Government, to ensure outcomes are provided for the community in essential sectors including health, education, safety, policing, etc

Green – High Priority Conversations with Ministers ASAP:

- Safety, Transient Community, Dry Zone, Alcohol Management
 - the community is very concerned about this area of need and would like to have initial and ongoing conversations started as soon as possible
 - ensuring the enforcing of the dry zone
 - ensuring other supports are available for people as needed
 - ensuring safety and cleanliness of community resources
- Health and associated supports
 - the community is concerned that there are significant gaps in the delivery of health services within Coober Pedy, including lack of outcomes, lack of permanent staff, lack of local GP, and some services that just can't be accessed
 - will involve other partners including Health Advisory Council (HAC) in talks
- Education, Further Skills
 - the community is concerned about a lack of funding or investment in the development of meaningful educational pathways for children and young people across Coober Pedy
 - the community is concerned about the lack of openness with the school, and ability to partner with the school in the development of children and young people
 - TAFE is a significant conversation that needs to happen as soon as possible

Green – Other Important Conversations to Have:

- Upgrade and maintenance of local roads and infrastructure
 - this conversation needs to involve council and state government
- Look for ways to support other community groups, for example community garden

Service Gaps Identified:

- Veterinary services
- Local live-in GPs and medical supports
- Ongoing dental services (noted there is a fly in/fly out support)

Investigate:

- Increasing accessibility to Coober Pedy
 - upgrades to both the airport and bus terminal
 - talking with competitor or new airline opportunities (charter flights are charging approximately \$400-450 return compared to \$1200 for REX)
- Understanding current accommodation capacity and numbers available across the community
 - creating a strategy to enable large events to take place
- Explore new enterprise or social enterprise to create new jobs/employment
 - Desert Gin, Outback Ale, Coober Pedy Olive Oil, etc
- Association with other clubs around Australia for partnerships/events

