



District Council of Cooper Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

December 2019



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AUSTRALIAN OPAL 2020 VISION 10TH NATIONAL OPAL SYMPOSIUM

8th to 9th April 2020

Cooper Pedy South Australia
register now at www.opalsymposium.org
Register now to receive your 10% early bird discount
on full registration until 31st Jan 2020

Help us Celebrate the opal mining industry and show why Australian Opals are the best in the World! Featuring World renown experts in the Opal and Opal Mining fields, along with the current hands on miners from across Australia, we will be discussing the future direction of the industry including: improvement in technology and techniques, mining practices, equipment, marketing, employment, skills, palaeontology, jewellery, tourism, sustainability & environmental issues, together we create a clear 2020 vision to the future!

Following the Symposium is the Annual Cooper Pedy Gem Trade Show where you will find the best opals miners have on offer. With displays of White, Crystal, Black, Boulder, Doublet, Triplets and Parcels of Rough Opal, there is something for everyone!

Cooper Pedy -The place to be in 2020!



COOPER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW

Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th April 2020
www.cooperpedygemtradeshow.com.au



Grant Riches Building Surveyor Visiting Cooper Pedy from
9th – 13th January 2020.

To make an appointment please contact Grant on
griches@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au or 08 8374 2211

Council Christmas Opening Hours & Contacts numbers

Council Administration Office

The Council Office will be closed from the 20th December 2019 at 12:00pm and reopen at 9:00am on 6th January 2020.

Account payments can still be made electronically.

For emergency works please see our on-call numbers below.

On Call Numbers

Water On Duty
M: 0417 811 470

Electricity On Call Officer
M: 0417 814 617

No Garbage Collection on public holidays. Your garbage collection will **only** change if it is on a public holiday.

Christmas

Wednesday, 25th December 2019

Collection Day: Friday, 27th December 2019.

Proclamation Day

Thursday, 26th December

Collection Day: Friday, 27th December 2019.

New Year's Day

Wednesday, 1st January 2020

Collection Day: Thursday, 2nd January 2020.

Australia Day

Sunday, 26th January 2020
(Monday, 27th January 2020 is the Public Holiday)

Collection Day: Tuesday, 28th January 2020.

www.cooperpedy.sa.gov.au

Dear Citizen,

Compliments of the Season

On behalf of Council and its employees I would like to wish you a safe and joyous festive season. It has been a challenging year for the Cooper Pedy community from a Local Government perspective. Having said that, I believe significant progress has been made towards ensuring Council is fulfilling its obligations to its community.

Acknowledgments

I attended the Christmas Fair recently. This was the first time the fair has been held for a few years. It was a great event. Net proceeds will go to Dusty Radio. I would like to acknowledge Sandy Williams and her team of helpers for their effort. Next year will be bigger and better I am told.

I also recently attended the Annual General Meeting of the Cooper Pedy Miners' Association. It was the first AGM for three years. A triennial report was presented included three year finances. An entirely new Committee was elected.

Forthcoming Events

Australia Day will again be celebrated in Cooper Pedy next year. Details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you are able to join us to celebrate why it is good to be an Australian.

Cooper Pedy Awards

Cooper Pedy Awards have been reintroduced to recognise the significant contribution individuals and organisations make to the Cooper Pedy community. More information is provided elsewhere in the newsletter. If you know of someone or an organisation that should be nominated please take the time to nominate them.

www.cooperpedy.sa.gov.au

Defaulting Council

The Local Government Act was recently amended to give the Minister for Local Government the power to suspend an elected council for a period longer than twelve months. As a consequence, unless the Minister decides otherwise, the District Council of Cooper Pedy is suspended until the next periodical elections scheduled for November 2022. Also as a consequence, an Administrator will take the place of an elected Council. This is consistent with the vote at the citizen poll earlier in the year.

The Act now also provides clarity regarding payment of allowances to suspended Councillors. As a consequence, payment of allowance to Cooper Pedy Councillors ceased from 5 December 2019.

Quarterly Report to the Minister

I am required to provide the Minister for Local Government with a report on a quarterly basis. A copy is available on the Council website.

Cairn Hill Mine Closure

You may have read in the Sunday Mail and the Cooper Pedy Regional Times that mining has ceased at Cairn Hill. This is an extremely disappointing outcome for the town. Discussions with the mine's owner, Cu-River Mining, have revealed the closure is due to the withdrawal of its strategic partner, Juijiang Mining, due to the uncertainty around the future of the Snaefell and Tomahawk tenements in the Woomera Prohibited Area. While there is no guarantee the existing mine will reopen, Cu-River will now seek a new strategic partner.

Water Pricing Equity

The price of water will increase significantly from 30 December 2019 unless the State Government

addresses the inequity issue in Cooper Pedy by introducing an interim subsidy which would allow the Council to reduce prices to Adelaide prices while a long term solution is found. It is highly unlikely State assistance will now occur before the operative date.

Council continues to undertake a community campaign to achieve water pricing equity. The petition calling on the State Government to address this issue was tabled in Parliament by Eddie Hughes MP recently. Thank you to the 968 people who signed it. An amazing result in two and a half weeks!

Financial Plan

Council last Tuesday adopted its draft Long Term Financial Plan for consultation with the community. Council is required to have a Long Term Financial Plan. Cooper Pedy has not had such a plan for some years. The reason for the delay in preparing this plan since the term of the Administrator began has been the delay in getting an answer from citizens and the State Government about the future of electricity and water. For the purposes of this plan it is assumed that they continue to be Council owned and operated.

The draft plan has Council returning to a balanced budget by 2021/22. This is a significant turnaround from the \$2.4 million deficit in the year immediately preceding the term of the Administrator. Municipal rate increases in the plan are restricted to the movement in the CPI. The plan includes a significant increase in capital expenditure to \$20 million over the life of the plan. Much of this would be committed to the water system. To fund this it will be necessary to increase debt levels significantly, albeit they will be within prudential limits for most of the plan.



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You are encouraged to inform yourself of what is being proposed.

Budget Review

Council is required to review its budget at least three times a year. At its meeting last Tuesday the first of these reviews occurred. Although the review predicted a negative variance of \$160k (or 1%) for the year, this is before the additional revenue from the increased water prices. When this is taken into account the budget is projected to be slightly favourable to budget. The budget will be reviewed bimonthly for the remainder of the year.

Until next time
Tim Jackson
Administrator
tjackson@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au
0417 016 161

Council wishes you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Meter Reading Changes

Meter readings and billing for water and electricity will move from a two month cycle to a quarterly cycle.

It is planned that meters will be read at the beginning of March, June, September and December each year.

The new tariffs will be applied to the March 2020 meter readings.

To implement quarterly billing please be aware Council staff will be reading ALL meters between 30th December 2019 and 3rd January 2020.

Community Consultation Long Term Financial Plan & Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan

At its meeting on 17th December 2019, Council resolved to consult the community in relation to the draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and draft Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan (IAMP).

The LTFP will help to ensure that Council can deliver its services and fund planned capital expenditure. It is a vital link between Council's Strategic Plan, its Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan and its Annual Business Plan. The LTFP shows how Council intends to fund its activities over a 10-year period.

The IAMP will help to ensure that Council manages its non-current assets to support the delivery of Council services in the most efficient and effective way possible.

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Council to consult with the community to make copies of the proposed plan available for inspection and to follow the steps set out in Council's Public Consultation Policy. Copies of this policy are available at the Council offices and Council's web site.

The closing date for submissions on both the LTFP and IAMP is Friday 31st January 2020 5:00pm.

Anyone wishing to be heard in support of their submission should mention this in their submission. All submissions will become public documents.

If you require any further information in relation to the LTFP and/or IAMP or the process of making a submission, please contact Dean Miller on 0407 178 469 or dmiller@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au

Community Land Management Plan Amendment for Lot 1 Hutchison Street

At its meeting on 5th November 2019, Council resolved to consult the community in relation to proposed changes to the Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) in respect of Lot 1 Hutchison Street, which is bounded by Hutchison St, Stuart Highway and Malliotis Boulevard, and commonly known as the Triangle. The land includes the oval, playground, youth shed and orchard.

The CLMP describes the allowable uses of the land and how other organisations can use the land under a lease or licence arrangement. The CLMP must not be inconsistent with Council's Development Plan. The CLMP updates the current plan by clarifying the land use and making provision for leasing or licencing of the land.

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Council to consult with the community, to make copies of the proposed plan available for inspection, and to follow the steps set out in Council's Public Consultation Policy. Copies of this policy are available at the Council offices and Council's web site.

The closing date for submissions on the CLMP is 31st December 2019. Anyone wishing to be heard in support of their submission should mention this in their submission. All submissions will become public documents.

If you require any further information in relation to the CLMP or the process of making a submission, please contact Colin Pitman on 0418 848 279.



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POOL PARTY!
AUSTRALIA DAY
SUNDAY
26TH JAN
2020

@ THE POOL
FREE ENTRY
FREE LUNCH
12:00PM-4:00PM

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR

To Nominate please visit:
<https://www.citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate/>
Nominations open from Tuesday 26th November 2019 until Friday 17th January 2020

Any questions please contact
Sophie Reynolds on
E sreynoldsecpcouncil.sa.gov.au or
M: 0427 264 969

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATIONS CLOSE 17TH JANUARY 2020

To nominate please visit:
<https://www.citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate/>

Kanku-Breakaways Cultural Ranger position advertised

Details available on www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au or seek.com.au.

Applications close Monday 3rd February 2020.

Employment Opportunity Executive Support Officer

Coober Pedy District Council is seeking applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the position of Executive Support Officer following the retirement of the incumbent.

The position provides executive-level support to the Chief Executive Officer and the Administrator and coordinates activities relating to human resources, public relations, and records management.

Please phone Dean Miller on 0407 178469 for further information about the role or visit Council's website to view the position description. www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au

Applications close at 5pm on 31 December 2019, and must include a cover letter, CV and a statement addressing the key selection criteria. Applications should be addressed to the CEO, Coober Pedy District Council and emailed to: dmiller@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au

KANKU-BREAKAWAYS CONSERVATION PARK

FEES WILL BE WAIVED FOR TWO WEEKS

Saturday 21st December 2019 - Sunday 5th January 2020