

Copley Economic Development Plan 2007/08



Developed by the Copley Indigenous Community
in conjunction with the Northern Regional Development Board

December 2007

Economic Development Plan : Copley Community , December 2007

The Plan

The Economic Plan has been developed by the Copley Indigenous Community with the assistance of the Northern Regional Development Board (NRDB).

The Plan sets out an Action agenda to drive a range of initiatives proposed through community consultation. These initiatives aim to grow the economic opportunities for members of the community. The core focus of this plan is economic development, which in this context refers to : trading, employment and business development.

Building the Plan

The Plan has been developed following a Community consultation process involving a facilitated workshop managed by NRDB. The Aroona Community Council representatives provided advice and support to NRDB on the running and advertising of the workshop and have acted as a conduit to ensure community members have had adequate opportunities to input into the development of this Plan through review of the various drafts of the Plan. Following this process, this Plan has been endorsed by the Community Council as the agreed pathway forward for the Community. The NRDB has also committed to supporting the Council in implementing the actions contained within this Plan. This Plan forms part of a broader Northern South Australian Indigenous Communities Economic Development Plan prepared by the Board in consultation with these communities supported by a Regional Partnership Agreement between the Board, the Communities and the Commonwealth Government.

Community

A former 'Ghan' railway town, Copley sits at the crossroads of the Strzelecki and Oodnadatta Tracks in the midst of the Northern Flinders Ranges, 6kms north of Leigh Creek township, 600kms north of Adelaide or 3 hours north of Port Augusta.

With a population of approximately 98 Indigenous persons, with 35 people falling in the 16-45 year age bracket. There are currently 15 people in Copley who are participating in CDEP.

Historically, apart from CDEP employment, employment opportunities have primarily come from nearby mine sites, in particular Beverly mine and to a much lesser extent Leigh Creek and stationhand work in pastoral properties in the north.

Workshop Outcomes

The workshop was held on the 9th of April 2007, in Copley and was attended by eight members of the Community as Aroona council members. The workshop posed four core questions, these questions and a representatives selection of the responses follows.

What are the Community's strengths?

- It's a peaceful place and a good community to raise to children in.
- Its scenic and the area has a lot of cultural significant sites and dreamtime stories.
- It's a community where people can work together.
- There are tourists that travel though the community, this can provide job and business opportunities.
- There are opportunities for jobs in the area.
- Good aspect to water.
- There are opportunities for business development in the areas of:
 - Tourism- cultural tourism/ spiritual tourism.
 - Walking trails/ Horse trails.
 - Re- Vegetation.
 - Building and maintenance.
 - Community Co-op- can be made bigger to go commercial with bush foods.

What the community should look like in 10 years time?

- Better and bigger houses, with people owning their own homes.
- A greener community.
- 2 or three new businesses.
- A more self sufficient community that isn't relying on Government funding.
- People in the community will have a broader base of skills.
- More people in jobs – more young people with jobs.
- And the town will be a bit bigger.

What's stopping us from getting there?

- Lack of training/skills in areas of: Office administration, Health, Plant operator skills, Building and maintenance.
- Need a local person that can carry out maintenance of houses.
- Issues to gaining training: Access to education/trainer's.
- Need assistance with gaining access to employment in local mining sector.
- Financial advice on money management.

How to overcome these barriers?

- Provision of training: Identification and aggregation of people with common training needs in the Northern Flinders.
- Meet with Housing S.A., and explore new ways for housing (some options are being explored with “Habitat for humanity”, and discussions are being held with Housing S.A. in regards to this)
- Have business adviser and personal financial planner visit the community.
- Conduct a feasibility study into walking trail/cultural tourism and re-vegetation as enterprises.
- Hold discussions with local mining companies to discuss business opportunities, training and employment options.
- Conduct a feasibility study in regards to the expanding Community co-op to go commercial with Bush foods.

Summary of Key Opportunities

From the above a number of core target areas have emerged that offer the most prospective potential to grow sustainable economic opportunities for the community and its members. These areas are:

- New business opportunities associated with mining development, bush foods and tourism.
- New employment opportunities in the above sectors.
- New infrastructure, including housing.

A number of other opportunities were raised at the community forums, however from subsequent analysis it has been agreed that the above target areas offer the best long term attainable prospects and that available resources should concentrate there in the first instance.

This Plan aims to achieve by December 2009 a minimum of one sustainable new business operated by community members and an additional 3 employment positions by community members.

Issue	Action	Who	When
Business opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate viability of bush food plantation. • Secure funds to conduct feasibility study in to tourism ventures: Horse trails/ walking trails cultural tourism. 	<p>NRDB, Aroona council</p> <p>NRDB, Aroona council(Health communitys,ISBF?)</p>	<p>March 2008</p> <p>June 2008</p>
Employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek commitment from local mining companies to conduct a modified Mines Access Program (MAP), with community members. 	<p>NRDB (Bungala, DEWR, ILC?).</p>	<p>February 2007</p>
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing S.A. and Habitat for Humanity are currently scoping the options to build new homes in Copley. 	<p>Community</p>	<p>August 2008</p>

