October 2026

Coober Pedy water transition update

Coober Pedy's water supply services will transfer from the District Council of Coober Pedy to SA Water by the end of this year. We are working closely with the council to make this transition as smooth as possible. This update is to provide you with some information on what is changing and what it means for you.

What to expect in the coming months

To support the transition and ensure the long-term sustainability of essential water services, a program of infrastructure upgrades will be rolled out across Coober Pedy's water network and water treatment facilities.

We have begun working on a range of priority projects, including the replacement of key infrastructure and critical improvements to the water treatment plant, borefield, booster pump station and water storage tank. We will also be developing a new depot facility next to the existing water treatment plant on Hutchison Street.

These initial upgrades will help bring the system into line with the safety and operational standards applied to our infrastructure across South Australia.

This marks the first stage of a long-term investment program. Future upgrades are planned to extend across the town's entire water supply system. Together, these improvements will strengthen the reliability and resilience of Coober Pedy's water services, helping to ensure a secure and sustainable water future for the community.

Why upgrades are needed

Most of Coober Pedy's existing water infrastructure was built in the 1970's and 1980's and has received limited upgrades since that time. Recent investigations have identified this infrastructure is at or near the end of its useful life and needs replacing or upgrading.

The infrastructure is ageing and has experienced operational and reliability challenges over time. Equipment failures, maintenance issues and ageing assets can affect the performance of the network and treatment plant, and pose safety risks for the people who operate them.

To address these challenges, we have developed a program of upgrades and improvements across the water supply network. Our focus will be on improving safety and reliability, replacing ageing infrastructure over time and ensuring the system can support the community's needs into the future.

Coober Pedy's water source: the Great Artesian Basin

Water for the town comes from two bores that draw groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin, one of the world's largest underground water systems. Water from the aquifer contains naturally high levels of dissolved salts and minerals, so it is treated before being supplied to customers as drinking water.

At the desalination plant, water is treated using reverse osmosis technology, which removes salts and other impurities. This is a common treatment process used across Australia, including at 14 of SA Water's existing desalination plants. The water then undergoes additional treatment and testing to ensure it complies with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines before being delivered to customers.

Benefits to customers

Water currently supplied to Coober Pedy customers meets the requirements of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and is safe to drink. However, our upgrades to the water treatment infrastructure are planned to improve water quality.

Once your water services transition to us, you will also benefit from:

- access to our 24-hour customer support services
- dedicated assistance for account and bill payment enquiries
- expanded operational and maintenance resources
- a continued locally-based operations and maintenance presence in Coober Pedy
- support from our broader field operations teams, who manage water and wastewater infrastructure for South Australia.

Local knowledge and experience will remain central to the delivery of Coober Pedy's water services, with a locally-based team continuing to support day-to-day operations, backed by our broader expertise and statewide operational capability.

This transition represents a significant investment in the long-term sustainability of Coober Pedy's water services and will help secure the community's water future for generations to come.

Come chat with us

We'll be holding a community drop-in session for Coober Pedy residents to discuss the upcoming billing changes and the transition to SA Water. This will be a chance to ask questions, understand what to expect, and speak directly with our people.

You're welcome to drop in at a time that suits you to have a conversation with our team.

Event details

Location: Coober Pedy Outback Bar & Grill and Pizza

Date: Thursday 5 November 2026

Time: 11am-2pm

Stay informed

If you'd like to receive future updates directly to your inbox, scan our QR code and subscribe via our Water Talks website. Or you can email us at **Coober_Pedy_Transition@sawater.com.au** or contact us on **1300 SA WATER** (1300 729 283).