



Role Statement

Position title: Manager Strategic Policy

Position no: TBA

Classification: SM1

Review date: October 2026

Directorate: Statutory Functions

Business unit: Outback Communities Authority

About us

The Outback Communities Authority is a South Australian Government statutory body which provides municipal services and community support to residents, associations, and townships across Outback SA - which is approximately 63% of the state. The Outback Communities Authority's goals include improving liveability and sustaining our communities, growing the outback economy and advocating for the interests of outback people.

The Outback Communities Authority aspires to be an agile organization with a strong culture of teamwork and collaboration evident between colleagues and in our relationships with partners and stakeholders. The Strategic Policy Manager will directly contribute to the prosperity, sustainability, and resilience of Outback South Australia by delivering policies that address the unique challenges of the region, supporting local communities, and fostering responsible development.

Further information about the Outback Communities Authority can be found at <https://www.oca.sa.gov.au>

The Outback Communities Authority is currently administratively aligned with the Department for Housing and Urban Development, whose primary objective is the delivery of homes and housing options for South Australians.

OUR VALUES: Professionalism | Service | Respect | Courage and Tenacity | Collaboration and engagement | Trust | Sustainability | Honesty and Integrity |

About this role

The Manager Strategic Policy provides high-level strategic leadership, advice and management across the Outback Communities Authority (OCA), supporting the Director and Board to achieve the Authority's statutory responsibilities, strategic priorities and outcomes for the communities of Outback SA.

The position leads complex, high-priority initiatives that have organisation-wide or regional significance and provides authoritative advice on strategy, policy, governance, programs, community development and organisational performance. The Manager Strategic Policy builds effective relationships across government, industry, community and other stakeholders and ensures the Authority's activities are evidence-based, strategically aligned, appropriately governed and focused on delivering tangible outcomes for Outback communities.

The position is also responsible for working with the Director on the implementation plan for the Strategic Blueprint for Outback SA.

Who will you work with

The role works closely with the Director, Board and staff, business units within the Department for Housing and Urban Development and relevant Government Agencies. Excellent relationships with community members and organisations, representative bodies, and other stakeholders across Outback SA are also required.

Conditions

- Some out of hours' work will be required.
- Some intra state travel will be required.
- Flexible working arrangements are available.
- A current driver's license and willingness to undergo 4WD training is required.
- Required to maintain a safe working environment by adopting appropriate hazard management practices consistent with the role.
- Compliance with Government legislation, Code of Ethics for the SA Public Sector, Departmental policies and procedures, including information management, WHS and injury management, risk management, and the access / equity / diversity strategies of the public sector.
- Required to obtain a National Police Check and a Working with Children Check prior to employment. Renewals will be required every 3 years.

What you will do

Key responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

Specified duties

- Provide strategic leadership and advice to the Director and Board on matters affecting Outback communities and the Authority's strategic direction.

Performance indicator/ measurement

Achievement of agreed strategic and organisational outcomes.

Executive and Governance
Support

- Lead the development, implementation, monitoring and review of strategic plans, policies, programs and initiatives.
 - Translate the Authority's strategic objectives into practical priorities, programs and measurable outcomes.
 - Identify emerging issues, opportunities, risks and trends that may affect Outback South Australia and provide timely strategic advice.
 - Lead cross-organisational initiatives that require coordination across multiple functions, communities or government agencies.
 - Promote an outcomes-focused, innovative and forward-looking approach to the Authority's work.
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- Provide high-quality advice, analysis and recommendations to the Director and Board.
 - Prepare and oversee the preparation of complex reports, briefing papers, submissions, business cases and strategic advice.
 - Support the Director in fulfilling statutory, governance and accountability responsibilities.
 - Contribute to effective Board governance and implementation of Board decisions.
 - Ensure advice and recommendations are supported by sound evidence, appropriate analysis and consideration of risk.
 - Represent the Authority at senior forums, committees, meetings and stakeholder engagements as required.

The Outback Communities Authority is assisted in its strategic and operational efforts by initiatives in legislation, regulations and high level documents provided to Government and senior executives.

Annual reporting demonstrates substantial progress on key issues identified in the Blueprint

Quality, timeliness and impact of advice provided to the Director and Board.

Program and project leadership

- Act for the Director or other senior executives when formally delegated to do
- Lead major strategic programs and projects that support the OCA's priorities and benefit Outback communities.
- Establish appropriate project governance, objectives, milestones, performance measures and reporting arrangements.
- Coordinate multidisciplinary teams and external partners to deliver complex initiatives.
- Monitor project performance, risks, resources and benefits realisation.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration, investment and innovation.
- Ensure programs and projects are responsive to the diverse circumstances of remote and isolated communities.

Successful delivery of major programs and projects.

Policy and strategic advice

- Lead the development and review of policies, strategies and frameworks relevant to the Authority's functions.
- Provide authoritative advice on complex and sensitive policy issues.
- Analyse legislative, regulatory, economic, social, environmental and technological developments relevant to Outback South Australia.
- Develop policy responses that balance community needs, government priorities, statutory obligations and available resources.

Quality and implementation of strategic policies and initiatives.

Government and Interagency Relationships

- Coordinate consultation with communities, government agencies, industry, Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.
- Promote evidence-based policy development and continuous improvement.
- Develop strong working relationships with South Australian Government agencies, Commonwealth agencies, local government bodies, regional organisations and other partners.
- Lead or contribute to interagency initiatives addressing issues affecting remote communities.
- Identify opportunities for joint investment, partnerships and coordinated service delivery.
- Represent the OCA in senior-level government and regional forums.
- Support the Director in engagement with Ministers, Chief Executives, senior government officers and other decision-makers as required, particularly in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Blueprint for Outback SA.

Demonstrated leadership consistent with South Australian Public Sector values.

The ambitions of the Strategic Blueprint for Outback SA are realized over time.

Financial and Resource Management

- Contribute to the development and management of organisational budgets and financial priorities.
- Ensure resources are allocated effectively to achieve strategic and operational outcomes.
- Monitor expenditure and financial performance within delegated responsibilities.
- Develop and assess business cases, funding proposals and investment opportunities.
- Identify external funding, partnership and investment

Effective management of risks, resources and governance obligations.

The organization has access to increased financial resources.

Communication and Representation

opportunities that support OCA priorities.

- Communicate complex strategic and policy matters clearly to the Board, Director, staff, government and community stakeholders.
- Prepare high-quality written material, including reports, submissions, briefings, correspondence and public information.
- Represent the OCA with integrity and professionalism.
- Ensure communications appropriately reflect the Authority's statutory role and responsibilities.
- Support transparent and effective communication between the Authority and Outback communities.

Communication with the Minister and senior executives is timely, clear and concise.

Outback communities are well informed about matters that affect them.

The capabilities you will bring

Technical expertise

- Leadership and strategic thinking skills with the ability to balance competing priorities in a complex policy environment
- In-depth understanding of regional development, Indigenous affairs, natural resource management, and social policy in rural or remote areas.
- Exceptional communication (written and verbal) and negotiation skills to engage effectively with a broad range of stakeholder.
- Analytical mindset with the ability to interpret data, forecast trends, and develop innovative policy solutions.
- Expert knowledge to work in policy, regulatory and legislative environments in Government and Local Government

Personal abilities

- Tertiary qualifications in public policy, management, business, community development, regional development or a related discipline will be well regarded.
- Highly developed written, verbal, negotiation and interpersonal communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex issues to different audiences.
- Demonstrates cultural sensitivity through the recognition of barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Demonstrated ability to lead teams, build capability, manage performance and create a collaborative and accountable organisational culture.
- Demonstrated capacity to exercise sound judgement, manage competing priorities and make decisions in circumstances involving ambiguity, complexity and limited information.
- Able to grasp the 'big picture' and the detail required to realise a vision.

Experience

- Demonstrated experience providing strategic leadership and high-level advice on complex issues within a government, statutory authority, regional or similarly complex environment.
- Highly developed analytical, conceptual and judgement skills, with demonstrated ability to provide clear, evidence-based advice on complex and sensitive matters to senior executives, boards or governing bodies.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and implement strategies, policies, programs and projects that deliver significant organisational or community outcomes preferably within government and local government organisations focused on rural, remote, or Indigenous issues.
- Experience working in or with communities in regional or Outback Australia is highly desirable.