

News releases - Geoff Brock

Upgrades to visitor facilities at Bendleby Ranges

November 24, 2016

The Flinders Ranges is set to receive a further tourism boost thanks to an upgrade of a popular adventure tourism destination near Orroroo.

Bendleby Ranges, a working station approximately 50 kilometres north of Orroroo, has been awarded an \$85,600 State Government grant through the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program to improve its tourist facilities and infrastructure.

This will include the addition of a two bedroom unit to cater for extra visitors at the property's Shearers' Quarters, designed for older couples and the mobility impaired.

The installation of air conditioning in the existing buildings and a back-up generator to ensure uninterrupted power will provide greater comfort for guests, and extend the tourism season for the property.

Also enhancing the visitor experience will be an upgrade to the bathroom facilities at the property's Crotta Homestead, an additional shower and toilet block at the camping site, and extension to the visitor reception area.

The \$189,000 project will create two ongoing full time jobs and two jobs during construction.

Earlier this month, the iconic Pichi Richi Railway and Wilpena Pound Resort, both in the Flinders Ranges, received \$150,000 and \$200,000 respectively to upgrade infrastructure and improve the tourism experience in the region.

Background

Bendleby Ranges is an adventure tourism destination on a working sheep station in the Flinders Ranges.

The \$2 million Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program is a one-off grants program, which opened in November last year in recognition of the challenges resulting from the downturn of the resources sector and the closure of the Port Augusta power station and Leigh Creek coal mine.

The program supports the delivery of small projects contributing to the economic diversification, resilience and capacity building of Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback communities, creating sustainable economic benefits to the region and the State.

This project supports the State Government's economic priority of 'South Australia – a growing destination choice for international and domestic travellers'.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

With these upgrades, Bendleby Ranges will add to South Australia's regional tourism offerings with high appeal to the international market.

This project will allow Bendleby Ranges to attract visitors beyond its current market.

Their upgraded facilities will drive demand, attracting more independent, higher spending visitors seeking higher quality visitor amenities.

Tourism is a significant economic driver for our state's regions, and provides an important source of income for people living in regional and remote areas.

Quotes attributable to Bendleby Ranges Director Jane Luckraft

The expansion and improvements of Bendleby Ranges will not only improve our business but also grow the broader tourism income of Ororoo and our region.

The inclusion of air conditioning in the existing accommodation will extend our tourism season, reducing the impact of seasonal lows and the market vulnerability that comes with it.

We are looking to extend our target markets beyond the independent adventure traveller, to also appeal to international visitors and special interest groups.

Increasing the profile and destination desirability of the Flinders Ranges and South Australia in the international marketplace is very important to us, and we are committed to employing locally for this project.