



Future closure of Mintabie

The State Government leases the Mintabie township area from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY).

As part of the Mintabie Township Lease Agreement, the State Government must conduct regular reviews. The most recent review recommended the township of Mintabie be closed.

The State Government has accepted this recommendation and will:

- end the lease
- close the township of Mintabie
- hand the land back to APY.

The government has committed that the town **will not close before February 2019.**

Why is Mintabie closing?

The State Government recently led a review of the Mintabie township.

The review was overseen by an independent Chair, Paul Case. Mr Case has significant experience in managing complex issues in mining towns in regional South Australia, as well as a strong understanding of Aboriginal affairs and the State Government.

A panel supporting the review included Traditional Owners and representatives from:

- State Government
- Commonwealth Government
- APY Executive Board.

The review panel consulted with people in the area and took all views into account. This included people in Mintabie and the nearby Anangu communities of Indulkana and Mimili.

While it was noted that most residents in Mintabie wished to remain in Mintabie, a detailed investigation uncovered significant concerns about anti-social and illegal behaviours in the area, and the review recommended the township be closed to protect the APY from these behaviours.

When will this happen and who will be affected?

All people with a current licence to live in Mintabie will be given notice in writing from the State Government advising them of the date they need to have left the township.

People living in Mintabie without permission may be asked to leave at any time. The State Government is having discussions with APY about the elderly residents.

As per the terms of the licences, all residents will be required to "make good" their site before they leave.

Can the Mintabie Precious Stone Field still be mined?

For now, opal mining in Mintabie can continue as usual.

The State Government will assess the impacts of closing the Fields. The assessment will be completed by **30 March 2018**. After that, the State Government will make a decision about the future of opal mining in Mintabie.

What's going to happen now?

The State Government will be working closely with people in Mintabie and the APY Lands to manage the closure of the township. This will include regular updates to keep everyone informed.

An appropriate police presence will be maintained to monitor and help keep the community safe.

Where can I get more information?

For any questions about the future of the Mintabie township, please call **Melissa Muller on 8226 3821**, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. For more information, visit statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mintabie