

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 2/8/2025) Solution

¹ C	A	² S	T	³ R	A	⁴ T	E		⁵ D	⁶ O	U	⁷ B	T	⁸ S
A		P		E		H		⁹ C		V		R		E
¹⁰ T	W	A	D	D	L	E		¹¹ O	V	E	R	A	G	E
A		S		R		L		N		R		I		M
¹² C	A	M	E	A	B	O	U	T		¹³ T	E	N	S	E
O				W		R		R		O		W		D
¹⁴ M	O	¹⁵ P	E			¹⁶ D	R	A	W	N	E	A	R	
B		O		¹⁷ S		S		C		E		V		¹⁸ R
	¹⁹ C	R	O	C	K	P	O	T			²⁰ C	E	D	E
²¹ U		T		A		R		B		²² M				S
²³ S	C	E	N	T		²⁴ A	E	R	I	A	L	²⁵ I	S	T
E		R		H		Y		I		R		N		O
²⁶ S	T	A	B	I	L	E		²⁷ D	A	I	M	L	E	R
U		G		N		R		G		N		E		E
²⁸ P	L	E	D	G	E		²⁹ D	E	J	E	C	T	E	D

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 CASTRATE	Company fee is cut (8)	CAST + RATE
5 DOUBTS	Questions driver originally reassigned to bus (6)	(D)river + anagram of TO BUS
10 TWADDLE	Pair nearly spoil uninteresting talk (7)	(TW)o + ADDLE
11 OVERAGE	Part of insurance policy, not including initial excess (7)	(c)OVERAGE
12 CAME ABOUT	Passed section containing mutated amoeba (4,5)	CUT outside anagram of AMOEBA
13 TENSE	A character ejected from unruly Senate is unable to relax (5)	Anagram of SENATE minus A
14 MOPE	Move around slowly and aimlessly in vehicle mostly (4)	Double Definition
16 DRAW NEAR	Approach tired auditor (4,4)	DRAWN + EAR
19 CROCKPOT	Toss quietly in bed - it makes you stew, doesn't it? (8)	(ROCK + P) inside COT
20 CEDE	Qualities of rice determined yield (4)	riCE DEtermined
23 SCENT	Perfume is going up after the first of August (5)	(a)SCENT
24 AERIALIST	High-flying performer is available finally in music catalogue (9)	availabl(E) inside (ARIA + LIST)
26 STABLE	Reserved table is fixed in position? (7)	Anagram of TABLE IS
27 DAIMLER	Object learner found in damaged red car (7)	(AIM + L) inside anagram of RED
28 PLEDGE	Guarantee place with slight advantage (6)	PL + EDGE
29 DEJECTED	Blue diamonds thrown out (8)	D + EJECTED

[illegible]