AFR Cryptic (Saturday 2/8/2025) Solution

¹ C	Α	² S	Т	³ R	Α	⁴ T	Е		⁵ D	⁶ O	U	⁷ B	Т	⁸ S
Α		Р		Е		Н		⁹ C		٧		R		Е
¹⁰ T	W	Α	D	D	L	Ε		¹Ъ	٧	Е	R	Α	G	Е
Α		S		R		L		N		R		I		М
¹² C	Α	М	Ε	Α	В	0	U	T		¹³ T	Е	N	S	Ε
0				W		R		R		0		W		D
¹⁴ M	0	¹⁵ P	Ε			¹⁶ D	R	Α	V	Ν	Е	Α	R	
В		0		¹⁷ S		S		С		Е		V		¹⁸ R
	¹⁹ C	R	0	С	K	Р	0	Т			²⁰ C	Е	D	Е
² 1		Т		Α		R		В		²² M				S
²³ S	С	Е	N	Т		²⁴ A	Ε	R	_	Α	L	²⁵	S	Т
E		R		Н		Υ		-		R		N		0
²⁶ S	Т	Α	В	I	L	Е		²⁷ D	Α	I	М	L	Е	R
U		G		N		R		G		Ν		Е		Е
²⁸ P	L	Ε	D	G	Ε		²⁹ D	Ε	J	Ε	С	T	Ε	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 STABILE	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

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 CATACOMB	Vessel leading a search in tunnel network (8)	CAT + A + COMB
2 SPASM	Sudden burst of activity is reduced by 50% in electronic junk mail (5)	(i)S inside SPAM
3 REDRAW	Paint a new picture a primary colour and green (6)	RED + RAW
4 THE LORDS PRAYER	Devotion reportedly has changed mourner's heart? (3,5,6)	Anagram of REPORTEDLY HAS + mou(R)ner
6 OVERTONE	Open person's suggestion (8)	OVERT + ONE
7 BRAIN- WAVE	Bright idea in WA demonstrated during challenge (5-4)	(IN + WA) inside BRAVE
8 SEEMED	Witness with medicine appeared (6)	SEE + MED
9 CONTRACT BRIDGE	Call about right to join card game (8,6)	CONTACT outside R + BRIDGE
15 PORTERAGE	Post Office reviewed greater charge paid to carriers? (9)	PO + anagram of GREATER
17 SCATHING	A fine imposed inside SCG is harsh (8)	(A +THIN) inside SCG
18 RESTORED	Broken stereo dumped in road should be fixed (8)	Anagram of STEREO inside RD
21 USES UP	Goes through items in clause supposedly (4,2)	claUSE SUPposedly
22 MARINE	Sea horse manoeuvred across current (6)	MARE outside IN
25 INLET	Opening line spoilt start of talk (5)	Anagram of LINE + (T)alk