

# AFR Cryptic (Saturday 22/8/2026) Solution

|                 |   |                 |   |                 |   |                 |   |                 |   |                 |   |                 |   |                 |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| <sup>1</sup> C  | R | <sup>2</sup> A  | M | <sup>3</sup> P  |   | <sup>4</sup> D  | E | <sup>5</sup> A  | D | <sup>6</sup> L  | O | <sup>7</sup> C  | K | <sup>8</sup> S  |
| H               |   | G               |   | O               |   | A               |   | D               |   | I               |   | O               |   | I               |
| <sup>9</sup> R  | E | A               | L | I               | S | M               |   | <sup>10</sup> A | D | M               | I | R               | E | R               |
| Y               |   | I               |   | S               |   |                 |   | M               |   | B               |   | D               |   | E               |
| <sup>11</sup> S | E | N               | S | E               |   | <sup>12</sup> T | A | S               | W | E               | G | I               | A | N               |
| A               |   | S               |   |                 |   | R               |   | P               |   | R               |   | A               |   |                 |
| <sup>13</sup> L | O | T               | U | <sup>14</sup> S | E | A               | T | E               | R | S               |   | <sup>15</sup> L | A | <sup>16</sup> B |
| I               |   |                 |   | U               |   | N               |   | N               |   | U               |   |                 |   | A               |
| <sup>17</sup> S | O | <sup>18</sup> P |   | <sup>19</sup> R | I | S               | K | C               | A | P               | I | <sup>20</sup> T | A | L               |
|                 |   | U               |   | R               |   | F               |   | E               |   |                 |   | R               |   | D               |
| <sup>21</sup> D | I | S               | H | O               | N | O               | U | R               |   | <sup>22</sup> E | R | A               | S | E               |
| A               |   | H               |   | G               |   | R               |   |                 |   | C               |   | D               |   | A               |
| <sup>23</sup> T | A | K               | E | A               | I | M               |   | <sup>24</sup> T | E | L               | L | I               | N | G               |
| E               |   | I               |   | T               |   | E               |   | O               |   | A               |   | E               |   | L               |
| <sup>25</sup> S | A | N               | H | E               | D | R               | I | N               |   | <sup>26</sup> T | A | S               | T | E               |

| Across          | Clue                                                                | Explanation                              |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 CRAMP         | Confine resistance operating in military base (5)                   | R inside CAMP                            |
| 4 DEADLOCKS     | Load shifted in sections of a vessel with security arrangements (9) | Anagram of LOAD inside DECKS             |
| 9 REALISM       | Practical view of things is accepted by monarchy (7)                | IS inside REALM                          |
| 10 ADMIRER      | Person who appreciates a drive around marshy area (7)               | (A + DR) outside MIRE                    |
| 11 SENSE        | Be aware of auditor's assessment of working capital (5)             | Sounds like CENTS                        |
| 12 TASWEGIAN    | Southerner was not normally, for example, one sporting tan (9)      | (Anagram of WAS + EG + I) inside TAN     |
| 13 LOTUS-EATERS | Indolent people group had food pinched by junkies (5-6)             | LOT + (ATE inside USERS)                 |
| 15 LAB          | Site that tests small piece taken from concrete section (3)         | SLAB minus S                             |
| 17 SOP          | Weak person is first to schedule surgical procedure (3)             | (S)chedule + OP                          |
| 19 RISK CAPITAL | Group backed in trial is wrongly given gambling money (4,7)         | PACK reversed inside anagram of TRIAL IS |
| 21 DISHONOUR    | Is sweetheart taken in by severe insult? (9)                        | (IS + HON) inside DOOR                   |
| 22 ERASE        | Get rid of material penned by setter. A setter? (5)                 | settER A SETter                          |
| 23 TAKE AIM     | Prepare to fire Tim holding a flyer from NZ (4,3)                   | TIM outside (A + KEA)                    |
| 24 TELLING      | New sort of gill net is impressive (7)                              | Anagram of GILL NET                      |
| 25 SANHEDRIN    | Jewish council has dinner rescheduled (9)                           | Anagram of HAS DINNER                    |
| 26 TASTE        | Small serving of polenta steamed, perhaps? (5)                      | poleTA STEamed                           |

| <b>Down</b>    | <b>Clue</b>                                                                | <b>Explanation</b>                           |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 CHRYSALIS    | Developer in case has lyrics revised (9)                                   | Anagram of HAS LYRICS                        |
| 2 AGAINST      | Stove enclosed by stone is on (7)                                          | AGA + IN + ST                                |
| 3 POISE        | Composure shown by one in a modelling position (5)                         | I inside POSE                                |
| 4 DAM          | Nuts knocked back with a container of water (3)                            | MAD reversed                                 |
| 5 ADAM SPENCER | Aussie AI expert mad about scientist's initial draft adopted by Acer (4,7) | [MAD reversed (S)cientist + PEN] inside ACER |
| 6 LIMBERS UP   | Is plumber prepared for exercises before hard work begins? (7,2)           | Anagram of IS PLUMBER                        |
| 7 CORDIAL      | Warm core reduced by selector switch (7)                                   | COR(e) + DIAL                                |
| 8 SIREN        | Attractive woman is returning with rent shortly (5)                        | IS reverse + REN(t)                          |
| 12 TRANSFORMER | Track runners not needing one old innovator (11)                           | TRAINS minus I + FORMER                      |
| 14 SURROGATE   | Substitute is certain about run out call being reversed (9)                | SURE outside [RO + (TAG reversed)]           |
| 16 BALD EAGLE  | American bird dog drilled by excited lad (4,5)                             | BEAGLE outside anagram of LAD                |
| 18 PUSHKIN     | Promote family poet known throughout Russia (7)                            | PUSH + KIN                                   |
| 20 TRADIES     | Tests interrupted by commercial workers (7)                                | AD inside TRIES                              |
| 21 DATES       | Members of band ate some fruit (5)                                         | banD ATE Some                                |
| 22 ECLAT       | Clubs implicated in story brought up social distinction (5)                | C inside (TALE reversed)                     |
| 24 TON         | Opener from the batting side scored runs (3)                               | (T) + ON                                     |
|                |                                                                            |                                              |
|                |                                                                            |                                              |
|                |                                                                            |                                              |