

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

21 February 2018

Meeting No. 74

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

J Booth, M Fennell, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore, T Roach



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta

21 February 2018 at 9.00am

### Present:

C Woolford (Chair), J Booth, M Fennell, J Fort, C Michelmore, M Marsland and T Roach (OCA Members), A Hart (Manager, Office of Local Government), M Sutton (Director, OCA), B Gough and B Honan (OCA staff).

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting 74 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA), acknowledging that this is the first meeting for newly appointed OCA Member, Ms Tammy Roach. The Chair also welcomed Ms A Hart, Manager, Office of Local Government.

The Chair thanked outgoing Member, Ms Jan Ferguson for her contribution to the Outback Communities Authority and wished her well with her future endeavors.

### 2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Chair acknowledged the very informative Deputation provided on 20 February by Regional Development Australia Far North.

### 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Member Fort declared an interest in agenda item 8.2.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2017 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Fort**  
**Seconded by Member Michelmore**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 13 December 2017, meeting number 73 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

**Carried.**

4.2 Business arising from minutes.

4.2.1 Oodnadatta Development Project (Ref. agenda item 3.1, Meeting No. 55; agenda item 4.2.5, Meeting No. 5; agenda item 4.2.2, Meeting No. 60)  
The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that this matter is ongoing; he confirmed that a visit to Oodnadatta to meet with the community,

Progress Association and Dunjiba Council has been organised for the very near future seeking clarification on how governance arrangements are progressing.

4.2.2 Outback Memorial Park (Ref. agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 65, agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 71, agenda item 6.4)

The Chair referred to the workshop held earlier in the day where actions agreed to included; the working group participants, development of a brief and subsequent expression of interest process and targeting a 'champion'. This project is ongoing.

4.2.3 Asset Sustainability Levy (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No. 73)

The Chair referred to a workshop held on the previous day and confirmed that although work will not proceed with the Asset Sustainability Levy until after the election, some amendments are recommended to be incorporated in the document, including the preamble and service delivery explanations.

## 5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

## 6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Farina Restoration Group (Ref. N18-01/02)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that a request for funding and assistance has been received from the Farina Restoration Group (FRG) to help with the completion of the multi-use Visitor and Interpretive Information Centre. The Director confirmed that the FRG has been successful in receiving a Commonwealth Government grant for the Visitor and Interpretive Information Centre but this project remains incomplete.

The Director advised that direct funding was provided to the FRG in their early start up period but due to budget pressure on the OCA's resources, funding was not available for the past three years.

**Moved by Member Marsland  
Seconded by Member Michelmore**

*That the Outback Communities Authority resolves to:*

- *Advise the Farina Restoration Group of the support provided through the OCA's Community Development Officer to assist them in sourcing new investment into their project.*
- *Provide an allocation of \$5,000 in the 2018-19 financial year.*

Carried.



6.2 Dog and Cat Management Audit Reports (Ref. N18-02/02)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Financial Audit and Dog and Cat Management Audit recently undertaken.

The Director confirmed that during the audit processes the Dog and Cat Management Officer suggested some minor amendments be incorporated with information keeping processes, which were implemented immediately.

The Director confirmed that he is pleased to report that the OCA is compliant with the Dog and Cat Management Act.

The OCA noted the Dog and Cat Management Audit Reports.

6.3 Regional Development Australia Far North Local Government Funding Update (Ref. N18-03/02)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the quarterly report received from Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) for the period 1 October to 31 December 2017, noting the achievements to date.

The Chair referred to the very informative deputation on the previous day by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer from RDA FN advising of the broad activities and support that RDA FN are involved in, in the outback region.

The Board noted the quarterly Local Government Core Funding Agreement report provided by Regional Development Australia for the period 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017.

The Board discussed the OCA's contribution toward the Local Government Funding agreement, noting that the OCA is the biggest local government contributor.

The Board agreed that the strong working relationship with RDA FN resulted in very good outcomes for the outback region and ensures that the OCA is kept informed of strategic projects that often provide the opportunity for the OCA to partner with RDA FN.

The Board acknowledged the Director's position with RDA FN as Deputy Chair and noted that the relationship between the position held with RDA FN and the OCA requires careful management.

The Board requested an investment analysis report that discusses the reasoning behind the quantum in the OCA's local government investment, comparison with other local government partners along with an outline of the internal processes in place that address any actual or perceived conflict of interest financial approvals.

**Moved by Member Michelmore**

**Seconded by Member Fennell**

*The OCA resolves to:*



- *Note the quarterly report.*
- *Reaffirm its support for Regional Development Australia Far North and the level of the OCA's financial contribution to that organisation.*

Carried.

6.4 2017-18 Budget Monitoring Report – January 2018 (Ref. N18–04/102)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Budget Monitoring report as at 31 January 2018.

The Director advised that a recent review of the 2017-18 Budget had revealed that the public convenience and Board Members travel and allowances budget lines were tracking unfavourably as the OCA enters the second half of the financial year. This has prompted a review of expenditure that will ensure the OCA's budget will be delivered in accordance with Ministerial and Department of Treasury and Finance approvals.

The Director advised that ongoing reviews are in place with the Community Affairs Resourcing and Management funding to ensure that outback communities are aware of milestones to be met, ensuring that funding can be received.

**Moved by Member Fennel**  
**Seconded by Member Roach**

*That the Outback Communities Authority note the January 2018 Budget Monitoring Report.*

Carried.

## 7. LEIGH CREEK UPDATE

### Leigh Creek Transition Update

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who summarised achievements to date regarding Leigh Creek, including:

- Refurbishment of the Leigh Creek Airport and organising a contractor to undertake a general tidy of the area and refresh signage.
- The completion of the installation of WiFi hotspot to the Leigh Creek Airport Terminal.
- Supporting the creation of the Leigh Creek tourism map and itinerary working with South Australian Tourism Commission.
- Updating the entrance and signage to Leigh Creek.

The Director confirmed that the expression of interest to manage the Leigh Creek Caravan Park has been won by a local business owner and that it is envisaged that the Park will be open as of 1 March 2018. The Director advised that the Northern Flinders Project Officer is providing support to the new operator to ensure business is ready for the onset of the tourist season.

Member Booth enquired about the availability of housing. The Manager, Office of Local Government, explained that there is a criteria requirement if the public are interested in renting a house in Leigh Creek, that being current employment of at least one day per week



and/or having children attend the Leigh Creek School, noting that it is likely that the rental capability will expand in the future.

The Director confirmed that the OCA is not involved with the decision making processes at Leigh Creek around housing allocations, commercial building allocations, water provision and billing and street management and maintenance.

The Manager, Office of Local Government, advised that Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) is now managing some buildings in the center of Leigh Creek.

The Director referred to a number of ongoing initiatives that the OCA will continue to be involved in including the ongoing participation in the Leigh Creek Futures and DPTI Transition Working groups, survey works to be undertaken at the Leigh Creek landfill, upgrades to the Leigh Creek airport including improvements to navigation aids and streamlining town operations to ensure maximum cost efficiency. He also advised that SA Power Networks are investigating opportunities to ensure surety for future power interruptions in the future.

The OCA noted the continued work relating to the Leigh Creek transition and successes to date.

## 8. URGENT BUSINESS

### 8.1 Multi Species Livestock Transshipping Hub Report

The Chair tabled the draft Multi Species Livestock Transshipping Hub report – a project partnered with RDA FN - and requested comments be forwarded to her within one week.

Member Fort declared an interest in agenda item 8.2. Member Fort was asked to remain in the meeting and was encouraged to participate in the discussion.

### 8.2 Innamincka Water Update

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who confirmed that recently the Innamincka community had been experiencing problems with a low water supply. The Director explained that the Innamincka community derived its water from the Cooper Creek distributed via a reticulation system which is owned and operated by the Innamincka Progress Association (IPA). The Director advised that as the Cooper Creek has not flowed for several months and alternative take off point located at Policeman's Waterhole is being used. Unfortunately the Policeman's Waterhole source is becoming low and there is community concern that the water quality may deteriorate and subsequently be unusable.

The Governance Manager advised that Lisbeth Bore had been recently gifted to the Innamincka community by ReNu Energy (previously Geodynamics) to be used as an emergency back-up source of water. Due to the location of Lisbeth Bore, some nine kilometres from Innamincka, transporting water is not practical.

The Governance Manager advised that Beach Energy has donated a generator, pump and pipe to enable Lisbeth Bore to be connected to the reticulation system.



The Director advised that the OCA has facilitated the acquisition of the necessary agreements/licenses, which will be held by the IPA and required to operate the system, which include:

- Approval under the Yandruwandha/Yawarrawarrka Indigenous Land Use Agreement;
- Approval to access Innamincka Station land (S Kidman & Co);
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) license to use Crown land;
- DEWNR license to take water from Lisbeth Bore; and
- A water entity license (or exemption) from the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (pending).

The Director also advised that although S Kidman & Co has agreed to grant a license to access its land, it has insisted the OCA be a party to the agreement, along with the IPA.

The Governance Manager confirmed that a Water Management Plan is to be prepared and will be consulted on. The Plan will identify Lisbeth Bore as a source of last resort only to be accessed in extreme circumstances.

The Members requested that the Water Management Plan be provided for their consideration.

Member Fort thanked the Office for the OCA for its support, commending the positive outcome.

**Moved by Member Marsland**  
**Seconded by Member Michelmore**

*That the Outback Communities Authority:*

- *Notes the update provided on the water shortage at Innamincka; and*
- *Agrees for the OCA to become a party to the agreement between the Innamincka Progress Association Inc, S Kidman & Co Pty Ltd and the OCA for access to Lisbeth Bore on Innamincka Station in good faith prior to an Innamincka Community Water Management Plan being adopted by the Innamincka Community that contains consumer pays principles to ensure long term water conservation is in place.*

**Carried.**

## 9. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2017-18 Business Plan Action Plan.

The Director reported that the oneOutback Prospectus was finalised earlier this financial year and has been distributed extensively at targeted engagements.

The Director confirmed that unfortunately the State of the Outback Report has not progressed due to competing priorities although a snapshot of the region regarding population numbers is available via id Consulting, which is a very useful tool. The Director



agreed that there is very little more work to be done to finalise this project, confirming that a media release will be developed and information will be made available on the OCA's website.

The Members discussed the Strategic Direction document with the view of reproducing it and having it available as part of the OCA's suite of resources.  
The Members noted the Business plan action plan.

## 10. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair advised that she had spoken at the launch of the Economic and Community Benefits of Sealing the Strzelecki Track report at Quorn on 22 January. The Premier, the Hon. Rob Kerin, other dignitaries and Members Fort and Roach also attended the successful event. The Chair advised that the media follow up was also very positive after the event.

The Chair reported that she had also attended meetings with the Hon. David Ridgeway MLC, Mr Sam Johnson (SA Best party candidate) and Mr Eddie Hughes MP – all meetings were very positive providing the opportunity to discuss matters affecting the outback and provide copies of the Strategic Direction document.

The Chair confirmed that she had also attended the Innovation Showcase on 9 February which was quite fascinating providing an insight into diverse new businesses being created.

The Chair advised that a solution for improved telecommunications for the Hawker and Leigh Creek area is being worked on in partnership between Telstra, RDA FN and the Hawker Community Development Board. The Chair confirmed that the bid has been completed although it should be noted that stage one of the project cannot commence unless the whole project is funded. Further funding opportunities are being investigated.

## 11. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fennell raised concerns regarding a risk impact to the OCA due to the recent announcement that the Mintabie community will close within 12 months. Member Fennell explained that there has been suggestions that the closure may impact on outback communities such as Maria and Oodnadatta and also Andamooka (due to the strong mining link) regarding the movement of population.

Member Fennell also enquired about the management of new developments in the outback. The Governance Manager confirmed that there are definitely planning processes in force, managed by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Member Fort reported that she had attended an informative Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism (FROSAT) meeting on 28 January. Member Fort reported that the FROSAT circle is small, is under resourced and not backed by large financial resources; so for that reason FROSAT will travel light and look to other stakeholders such as RDA FN and OCA to help work on the profile of Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism.

Member Fort advised that FROSAT has agreed to partner with the SA Tourism Industry Council to deliver a 2 day forum in the region with a training focus. The timing of the forum is likely to be October 2018.





Member Fort reported that FROSAT believes it has purpose in being the voice for tourism in the outback region and will be the tourism industry advocate (for the region).

## 12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 There are no Section 11 Committees operating, therefore no matters to consider.

## 13. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled his report and advised that since the OCA's December meeting the Office has been working with the Innamincka community regarding their local water supply and also with the Oodnadatta community regarding the local landing strip.

The Director reported that the Community Development Trainee, Mr Benjamin Simes completes the traineeship on 9 March and unfortunately the OCA is not in a position to offer ongoing work.

The Members wished Mr Simes success in his future endeavours.

The Director tabled the OCA Conduct of Business Procedural Guidelines which have recently been updated regarding the internal management of correspondence.

The Director advised that along with the Chair he attended meetings with the Minister for Local Government, Opposition's Leader in the Legislative Council, Member for Stuart and Member for Flinders and with the SA Best party to introduce the OCA Strategic Direction document.

Other matters of interest that have occurred were:

- The launch of the Economic and Community Benefits Sealing the Strzelecki Track report which occurred on 22 January.
- The opening of the Solar Reserve Office on 23 January.
- Visits to Leigh Creek on 30, 31 January

The Director tabled an extensive list of operational activities that have occurred since the December meeting.

The Members noted the Director's report.

## 14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

There were no Confidential Orders discussed.

## 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Members noted that the next scheduled meeting is a teleconference to be held on 15 March, if required, or a formal meeting scheduled for 18, 19 April to be held in Andamooka.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

