

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

17 November 2016

Meeting No. 64

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

J Booth, M Fennell, J Ferguson, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Office of Local Government, Roma Mitchell House, Adelaide
on 17 November 2016 at 8.30 am

Present:

C Woolford (Chair)

J Booth, M Fennell, J Ferguson, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore (OCA Members),
M Sutton (Director, OCA), B Gough, and B Honan (OCA staff).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Outback Communities Authority's Meeting No. 64 in Adelaide.

An apology was received from Ms Alex Hart, Manager, from the Office for Local Government.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The OCA acknowledged two presentations that had taken place on Tuesday 16 November, being:

- Mr Mark Bolton, General Manager, Telstra Country Wide regarding telecommunications.
- Mr Peter Triantafilou, Principal Policy Officer, Department of State Development regarding mobile telephone coverage.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It is noted that there are no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2016 were circulated.

Moved by Member Fort
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 15 September 2016, meeting number 63 be adopted.

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. 57 and 4.2.2, Meeting No. 60)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director (Dir) who advised that this project has stalled due to infrequent discussions with the community. The Dir advised that this matter will remain on the Action List while further avenues are investigated and a positive outcome is sought.

The meeting was adjourned.

The OCA acknowledged the presentation provided by Mr Nick Smith, Director, Demand Management and Energy Services, Department of State Development regarding outback power.

The meeting resumed at 9.45am.

- 4.2.2 Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Community Contribution Scheme (Ref. Agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 63)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Man (Gov M) who confirmed that the process to sell land for non-payment of CCS has commenced. The Gov M reported that payments have been received since the process was instigated, a further sale of land owned by a deregistered company has been supported and is very likely to proceed.

- 4.2.3 Fowlers Bay Public Conveniences (Ref. Agenda item 6.2, Meeting No. 63)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that closing the public conveniences at Fowlers Bay has been avoided as negotiations with the Coorabie and Districts Progress Association have been reinvigorated. The Gov M advised that it is highly likely that he will visit Fowlers Bay early in 2017 and he is confident that a resolution will be found.

- 4.2.4 Future Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) Funding (Ref. Agenda item 6.3, Meeting No. 63)

The Chair advised that in line with the Board's desire to further advocate this matter discussions have been held with Mr Rowan Ramsey MP, Federal Member for Grey and Mr Eddie Hughes MP, State Member for Giles. The Governance Manager confirmed that a letter of support was forwarded to RICE and correspondence seeking support for RICE forwarded to the Minister for Education and Training, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

- 4.2.5 Policy Review (Ref. Agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 63)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who confirmed that the review of all OCA policy has commenced, with the Community Consultation Policy provided for review during October. The Gov M confirmed that the review will continue, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

- 4.2.6 Leigh Creek Update (Ref. Agenda item 7, Meeting No. 63)

The Dir confirmed that an update regarding Leigh Creek has been included in the agenda, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.



- 4.2.7 Outback Road Conditions (Ref. Agenda item 8.1, Meeting No. 63)
The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that a meeting has been held between the Chair and the Chief Executive, Department Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) regarding the lack of signage on outback roads, after the extraordinary rain event in September. The Chair confirmed that maintenance on roads in the Yunta area was also discussed. This matter can now be removed from the Action List.
- 4.2.8 Business Plan Progress Report - Telecommunications (Ref. Agenda item 9, Meeting No. 63)
A meeting was held on 16 November 2016 with Mr Mark Bolton, General Manager -Telstra Country Wide to discuss telecommunication facts and opportunities for the future in the outback (from the Telstra perspective). This matter can be removed from the Action list.
- 4.2.9 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreements (CARM) (Ref. Agenda item 13, Meeting No. 63)
The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who confirmed that the process of contacting each Progress Association to discuss individual CARM Agreements is underway and that the new format for the Agreements has been favorably received. This matter can be removed from the Action List.
- 4.2.10 Meeting with the Minister for Regional Development (Ref. Agenda item 15, Meeting No. 63)
A meeting was held prior to the commencement of the OCA meeting with the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon. Geoff Brock MP, where discussion included the recent outback trip that the Minister participated in, management of Leigh Creek, options for electricity delivery in outback communities and the recent launch of the outback memorial book. This matter can be removed from the Action List.
- 4.2.11 Aboriginal Regional Authority (Meeting No. 63)
The Members requested that a meeting be arranged with the Aboriginal Regional Authority in the future.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Real Property Act Reforms – Client Authorisation (Ref. N16–01/11)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that recent reforms introduced with the commencement of the *Real Property (Electronic Conveyancing) Amendment Act, 2016* (the Act) came into effect on 4 July 2016, noting that the transitional period ended on 4 November 2016.

The Gov M confirmed that the Act is the outcome of a COAG initiative and in South Australia the Act creates one aligned regulatory framework for paper based and electronic transactions alike.

The Gov M advised that an important feature of the new requirements under the Act is the introduction of client authorisation where a party, such as the OCA authorises Executives from the Crown Solicitor's Officer to certify and lodge documents in the Lands Titles Office on its behalf.

The OCA noted that it is necessary for the OCA to have relevant Client Authorisations in place to ensure real property transactions in the Lands Titles Office can occur.

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

That the OCA:

- *Note the information provided.*
- *Note the verification of the Identity Declaration Form.*
- *Note the execution of a Client Authorisation Form.*

Carried.

6.2 Appointment to the Andamooka Town Management Committee (Ref. N16-02/11)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who recommended the appointment of Ms Emma McFarlane as a community member to the Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC).

The Gov M confirmed that the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association has endorsed Ms McFarlane's appointment to the ATMC as the community representative.

**Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fennell**

That the OCA appoints Ms Emma McFarlane as the community member on the Andamooka Town Management Committee for the current term of the committee.

Carried.

6.3 Trans Australian Railway Centenary (Ref. N16-03/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that a request has been received to provide financial support toward a project to replace two monuments that were erected to celebrate the completion of the Trans Australian Railway in 2017.

The Dir confirmed that the request was forwarded by the Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDA WEP) who is supporting this project. The Dir confirmed that the project will not provide benefit to communities within the OCA's region and has not been budgeted for, therefore it is not supported.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Michelmore

That the OCA does not support funding of \$10,000 to RDA WEP on the basis of non-alignment with the OCA's Strategic Management Plan, OCA legislation, is not within budget and there is no clear benefit to communities within the OCA's jurisdiction.

Carried.

6.4 Public Consultation Policy (Ref. N16-04/11)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who referred to a workshop held on the previous day to consider the draft Public Consultation Policy, currently being reviewed.

The Gov M confirmed that the recommended variation in policy does not represent significant deviation in the OCA's direction on consultation and is likely to attract little or no community interest, therefore consultation on the draft policy is not suggested.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA:

- *Notes the minor nature of changes from the existing Policy.*
- *Adopts the draft Public Consultation Policy without further public consultation.*

Carried.

6.5 SA Brands Award – September 2016 (Ref. N16-05/11)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that at the OCA's meeting held on 21 July 2016, the OCA committed to becoming a Gold Council Sponsor supporting a reinvigorated Regional Awards Program with Brand SA which focusses on highlighting regions throughout the year rather than at the annual Celebration Awards.

The Dir advised that Mr Cornelius 'Talc Alf' Alferink of Lyndhurst, the Farina Restoration Group, Andamooka Yacht Club and Gum Creek Station were acknowledged for their achievements. The Dir confirmed that a number of OCA staff members attended the Celebration Evening along with the OCA Chair where it was announced that Ms Erika Owens was awarded the People's Choice Award, the Andamooka Yacht Club was awarded the Mayor's Choice and Sundrop Farms received the Sponsor's Choice Award. However on the evening of the Awards it was disappointing that the OCA was not acknowledged appropriately for its support of the event.

The Dir advised that the OCA would benefit from the annual Silver Level Brand SA membership having access to stories written through the Regional Awards program to use in its own communications and has a membership page on the Brand SA website.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the OCA:

1. *Notes the benefits of being a Program Partner, specifically the publicity aspect of the Celebration Evening through a single verbal name-mention, logo representation in award booklet and networking opportunities;*
2. *Approves the inclusion of a 12-month Silver Level Brand SA Membership, (valued at \$550 inc. gst) and all associated benefits including access to member only events, marketing support, professional development and training and an invitation to the Brand SA New Member networking event;*
3. *Notes the opportunity to leverage sponsorship by nominating outstanding community members in Outback South Australia who will benefit from potential widespread exposure; and*
4. *Explores opportunity to leverage the winners of the Mayor's Choice Award, the Andamooka Yacht Club, potentially through an ambassador program and/or famils to other areas of outback South Australia, noting their success in innovation and entrepreneurship in the Outback.*
5. *Approves sponsorship to the value of \$1,500 to Brand SA in support of the 2017 Regional Awards Program as a Major Council Sponsor on the condition that the OCA receives the correct level of recognition during the program and at the Outback Celebration Evening.*

Carried.

6.6 2016-17 Budget Monitoring Report – November 2016 (Ref. N16–06/11)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 October 2016 for consideration. The Dir advised that subsequent to the Minister approving the OCA's 2016-17 Budget, informal advice has been received that additional funding will be allocated by the State Government to cater for the OCA's responsibilities in respect to the management of Leigh Creek in 2016-17. The Dir confirmed that once this matter is finalised an updated Budget for 2016-17 will be provided for the Authority to consider and approve.

Moved by Member Fennell
Seconded by Member Michelmore

That the OCA note the November 2016 Budget Monitoring Report.

Carried.

7. LEIGH CREEK UPDATE

7.1 Northern Flinders Region

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who summarised an extensive report provided by the Northern Flinders Project Officer including information regarding the Expression of Interest Process for the Leigh Creek Tavern, ongoing activities within the Leigh Creek Futures Project, the future of the Leigh Creek Health Service and the operations of the Leigh Creek Area School in 2017. The Dir acknowledged that the Leigh Creek community are keen to receive positive information regarding the continuance of a Health Service, but

confirmed that this can only be provided by the Department of Health. The Dir advised that he expects a decision by the Department of Health to be delivered in the near future.

The Dir advised that the Leigh Creek Progress Association has the opportunity to retain management of the Leigh Creek Caravan Park in 2017 subject to providing further information, including an expenditure plan of projects which will assist Leigh Creek to transition.

The Dir confirmed that registration of the aerodrome in the OCA's name has been applied for, enabling the management and operation of the aerodrome to proceed, this will include an Avdata service.

The Dir advised that a Town Manager has been appointed and that waste management and rubbish pickup services are being negotiated.

The Dir acknowledged that it is important to provide ongoing information to the Leigh Creek community therefore an updated frequently asked questions sheet and newsletter will be developed in the near future.

The Chair confirmed that the OCA has worked diligently throughout 2016 to have a seamless transition on 1 January 2017 for the management of Leigh Creek to the OCA.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair introduced the 2016-17 Business Plan Progress Report and referred discussion to the Dir. The Dir confirmed that the oneOutback Prospectus is progressing with a targeted consultation process underway. It is still envisaged that the Prospectus will be produced in mid-December.

The Dir confirmed that SA Government negotiations regarding the proposed Asset Sustainability Levy have stalled due to internal work pressures.

The Members noted the Business Plan Progress Report.

10. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair advised of the meetings that she has recently been involved in, including:

- The Nuclear Royal Commission where the OCA was well represented. The Chair confirmed that the Dir also participated on the expert jury.
- Mr Rohan Ramsay MP, Federal Member for Grey where discussion included Barndioota, the proposed site for the Federal Government National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. The Chair also advised that she has been invited to serve as a Community Representative of the Barndioota Consultative Committee. Further discussion included the lack of telecommunication coverage at Marree and the letter to



be sent to Senator Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training regarding the Remote Isolated Children's Exercise (R.I.C.E.).

The meeting provided for a frank, positive discussion.

- Mr Michael Deegan, Chief Executive, DPTI where the condition of the Strzelecki Track and lack of road maintenance in the Yunta area was discussed. The Chair advised that she was confident some action would be taken regarding the Yunta roads.
- The scheduled six week meeting with Minister Brock, Minister for Regional Development where an update on the Leigh Creek transition and projects planned for 2017 was discussed.
- The Leigh Creek Futures Fund. The Chair confirmed that a Cabinet Submission will be submitted to determine what projects will be funded.

The Chair advised that she has been approached on behalf of the OCA regarding the reinvigorated Upper Spencer Gulf Three Cities Group to represent the OCA. The group is the lead group for the three cities located in the upper Spencer Gulf and also includes Roxby Downs. The Chair confirmed that she declined an invitation to attend a meeting in Canberra, noting that it would be unlikely that the OCA would receive real benefit from her attendance.

The Chair confirmed that the Dir will be presenting on behalf of the OCA at the Country Cabinet held in Coober Pedy from 20-22 November.

The Chair confirmed her real disappointment that the OCA was not successful in its bid for funding through the National Stronger Regions Fund for the proposed outback water project. The Chair encouraged OCA Board and staff to re-approach the project in the near future.

The Chair advised that she has received an approach from the SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Management (SAAL NRM) Board which will see the OCA, SAAL NRM and Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) have a closer working relationship. The Chair advised that the three bodies have similar strategies and plans and this is a good opportunity for a collaboration that could benefit all.

The Chair thanked the Dir and all our Staff for their input into the recent trip to the outback with Minister Brock and the Local Government Grants Commission Chair. The Chair confirmed that the trip was well planned, well received by outback residents and provided a very good opportunity to cement stronger working relationships.

11. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fennell confirmed that the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) have confirmed his appointment to the Pastoral Board, with the first meeting scheduled for 8, 9 December 2016.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board congratulated Member Fennell on his appointment.



12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

12.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who tabled the Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC) confirmed Meeting Minutes from 30 August 2016.

The Gov M confirmed that at the last meeting of the ATMC discussions were held regarding a model of management for the Andamooka community involving the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association. The Gov M advised that a short term contract has been put in place for the town overseer to ensure business continuity while talks continue regarding future management. The Gov M added that he believed that a clearer idea of model management for Andamooka would be reached by the end of January and then the information will be provided to the Board.

13. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and advised that although Leigh Creek continues to dominate his time and that of the Northern Flinders Project Officer (NFPO), it is now considered to be a special project and part of the every day work managed by the Office for the OCA.

The Dir provided a summary of his attendance at the Melbourne Business School on Australia's Electricity System Transition to 2030 Symposium, his attendance in late October at the National Conference of Regional Development Australia and the Sustainable Economic Growth in Regional Australia Conference in Albany in Western Australia and his participation in the recent Outback Roads Action Group meeting where the management and improvements to the outback road network was discussed.

The Dir confirmed the progress of the oneOutback project, confirming that he remains confident that the oneOutback Prospectus will be delivered by the end of this year.

The Dir advised that he accompanied the Chair and met with the Commonwealth Minister for Resources in early November in Hawker to discuss the proposed radioactive waste management facility at Barndioota.

The Dir reported that the recent regional trip where the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development joined the OCA, was well received. At the conclusion of the trip at Blinman, the Minister launched the OCA's ANZAC memorial Book, '*From the Outback to the Battlefield*' by John Mannion.

The Dir summarised the projects and activities that the Office for the OCA staff have been involved in since the last OCA meeting.

The Dir advised that Mrs Julie Warde has tendered her resignation after twelve years of supporting the operations of the OCA.

The OCA note Mrs Warde's resignation and thank her for her service.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

The OCA will, from time to time at the declaration of the Chair, hold discussions 'in camera' where any issues are subject to legal advice from the Crown Solicitors office or are of a sensitive nature. (Ref. Confidential Order CO-05)

The Chair declared that the present OCA staff could remain while discussion pertaining to CO-05 be held in camera due to the confidential nature of discussions.

The meeting moved into '*in camera*' session to review CO-05.

At the declaration of the Chair the meeting resumed out of the '*in camera*' session.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled as a teleconference for 15 December 2016 but is yet to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.

