

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

16 March 2017

Meeting No. 66

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

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



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Aroona Room, Leigh Creek on 16 March 2017 at 8.30 am

Present:

C Woolford (Chair)

J Booth, M Fennell, J Ferguson, J Fort, C Michelmore (OCA Members),

M Sutton (Director, OCA), M Brown, and B Honan (OCA staff).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed the public gallery and the Manager, Leigh Creek Contracts and Services, and the Members to the Outback Communities Authority's Meeting No. 66 in Leigh Creek.

An apology was received from Member Marsland, Ms A Hart, Manager, Office of Local Government and the Governance Manager (Gov M).

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Chair acknowledged the presentation that occurred on the previous afternoon at Leigh Creek by Mr Tony Lawry, Manager, External Relations, Leigh Creek Energy.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Member Fennell declared an interest with regard to agenda item 14.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 were circulated.

Moved by Member Fort

Seconded by Member Michelmore

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 19 January 2017, meeting number 65 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, Agenda item 4.2.2, Meeting No. 60 and 64 Agenda item 4.2.1)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director (Dir) who advised that this matter has been included in agenda item 6.3. It is noted that this Action item has been updated.

4.2.2 Aboriginal Regional Authority (Ref. Agenda item 4.2.10, Meeting No. 64)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that this matter is deferred until a meeting date that suits both parties can be confirmed.

4.2.3 Auditor General's Report 2015-16 (Ref. Agenda item 6.5, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that a letter has been forwarded to the Auditor General's Department and a preliminary meeting has been held with Corporate Finance personnel, Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Planning (DPTI).

The Dir confirmed that a further meeting where general finance matters will be discussed is scheduled for Monday 20 March.

4.2.4 Community Insurance Cover (Ref. Agenda item 6.2, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that the Governance Manager has been working with Local Government Risk Services regarding the revaluation of community owned assets, with the view that this will be completed before the end of the financial year. This matter can be removed from the Action List.

4.2.5 Acquisition of Power Transmission Assets - Innamincka (Ref. Agenda item 6.3, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that the Agreement with ReNu Energy has been executed. The Dir advised that the procurement process for the energy project to be located in Marree will be reviewed and that if that is successful a similar process will be followed for Innamincka. This matter can be removed from the Action List.

4.2.6 Outback Memorial Park (Ref. Agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who confirmed that due to competing demands the Expression of Interest has been delayed. This matter is deferred to the OCA May meeting.

4.2.7 Infrastructure Policy (Ref. Agenda item 6.6, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who confirmed that the 'inform' process with outback community organisations has been completed and the updated policy is available from the OCA website, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action list.

4.2.8 Presiding Member's Report (Ref. Agenda item 10, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair advised that a link to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan will be provided to the Members and made available as a permanent link from the OCA website.

4.2.9 General Business – OCA Strategic Planning Process (Ref. Agenda item 16, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair confirmed that prospective Facilitators will be explored later this week with the view that their attendance will be confirmed for the OCA's May meeting. This matter can therefore be removed from the Action List.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Public Toilet Facilities on the Barrier Highway (Ref. N17-01/03)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that a review of public toilets located on the Barrier Highway confirmed that the toilets at Olary and Manna Hill are in excess of 20 and 25 years old respectively. The Dir confirmed that the public toilets located at Yunta are 16 years old and of a much more solid construction than those at Olary and Manna Hill.

The Dir acknowledged that the Olary facility is in poor condition and that it is not economically viable to consider repairing, a better option being to replace with a new Colorbond unit.

The Dir confirmed that the public toilets at Yunta, Manna Hill and Olary are located within a short distance of each other on the Barrier Highway and this has resulted in an economic and needs analysis of the three facilities being undertaken. The result of the analysis suggests that the Manna Hill public toilets be closed, although the Dir confirmed that public consultation should be undertaken which will assist the OCA in its final decision.

The Asset and Works Officer (AWO) advised that the OCA is continually reviewing the cost of operating the OCA owned public toilet network with the view to confirming efficiencies that will assist the OCA to manage its budgets going forward.

Moved by Member Fennell
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA:

- *Notes the replacement of the public toilets at Olary.*
- *Approves consultation on the future of the public toilets at Manna Hill.*

Carried.

6.2 Safe Drinking Water Risk Management Plan (Ref. N17-02/03)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that the OCA is a registered drinking water provider under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2001* and is therefore required to adopt a Risk Management Plan. The Dir advised that the Risk Management Plans are considered to be an essential feature for assuring water quality.

The Dir advised that the tabled draft Risk Management Plan has been adapted from the standard to suit the specific circumstances of the water supply at Andamooka, that public consultation is not required and that SA Health have confirmed in principal approval of the Risk Management Plan.

The AWO confirmed that the water testing at Andamooka is managed locally and the samples are freighted to accredited testing laboratories to ensure testing occurs within 24 hours of the water being collected.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Booth

That the OCA acknowledges its requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act 2001 and adopts the Safe Drinking Water Risk Management Plan as tabled.

Carried.

6.3 Oodnadatta Governance (Ref. N17-03/03)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who provided information relating to the governance and administration difficulties experienced within the Oodnadatta community.

The Dir confirmed that in January 2017 an AGM was held by the Dunjiba Community Council where a new Chair and community members were elected.

The Dir advised that although the hotel in Oodnadatta and community store owned by the Dunjiba Community Council are currently closed, there are plans in place to reopen these businesses along with new ventures including a camp ground and park.

Also planned by the Dunjiba Community Council is a forum of State and Commonwealth government agencies to be held in late March to discuss how projects can be achieved along with the engagement of a Town Manager who will work closely with stakeholders, including the Oodnadatta Progress Association.

The Dir confirmed that OCA staff will continue to support and monitor the situation in Oodnadatta.

The Board requested that they be kept informed of all progress on this matter.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Fennell

That the OCA note the information provided regarding the Oodnadatta community.

Carried.

6.4 Tread Lightly Initiative (Ref. N17-04/03)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who referred back to mid-2015 when the OCA first considered the Tread Lightly initiative and that unfortunately due to conflicting demands, the project had not progressed as expected.

The Dir advised that the Northern Flinders Project Officer (NFPO) has progressed the project as part of her communication's function.

The NFPO advised that Tread Lightly will be used as an education tool for visitors to the outback with the primary objectives being to generate awareness, promote

responsible travel messages and ensure that the human footprint on the environment is minor.

The NFPO confirmed that the OCA would seek collaboration with other relevant SA Government and non-government organisations.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA:

1. *Notes the continued planning of the Tread Lightly initiative in preparation of launch and implementation.*
2. *Notes the benefits of launching the Tread Lightly initiative at the OCA Board West Coast regional trip, scheduled for 19-21 September 2017.*

Carried.

6.5 Budget Monitoring Report – March 2017 (Ref. N17-05/03)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 28 February 2017. The Board discussed the report, noting the further review of the supplies and services revised expenditure and that at this point in time, the report identifies a Budget improvement of approximately \$54,000.

The Dir advised that a media statement will be released informing stakeholders of changes to the OCA's 2016-17 budget which is predominantly due to funding and expenditure relating to the Leigh Creek transition. The Dir confirmed that the Minister for Local Government has been informed of the budget changes.

The Dir also confirmed that the funding provided for the Leigh Creek transition can only be used for this purpose and that he is pleased to advise that the Office for the OCA has continued to financially support the remaining outback communities without any reduction to community funding.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Fennell

That the OCA note the March 2017 Budget Monitoring Report.

Carried.

7. LEIGH CREEK UPDATE

7.1 Leigh Creek Update

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who introduced Mr Rob Stack, Manager of Leigh Creek Contracts and Services (M, LCCS) and Ms Courtney Harrington, Northern Flinders Project Officer (NFPO) who provided an update on the Leigh Creek transition.

The M, LCCS, commenced his position on January 3 and has been well supported by the Dir, NFPO and staff at the Office for the OCA in Port Augusta. He advised that he and the

maintenance contractor have been receiving positive comments and provided the following summary:

- A maintenance contractor has been employed who manages the local oval, parks, swimming pool, waste area and general town maintenance while also assisting with DPTI housing and road structure.
- Although a casual position to manage the housing key system for Leigh Creek, Marree and Balcanoona has been advertised, there has not been an appointment, therefore the M, LCCS has taken on this role.
- The M, LCC&S confirmed that air traffic at the airport has decreased by 24% compared with the same time last year.
- The local waste area was opened in April. Flinders Waste Management were the successful tenderer for rubbish collection and a recycling operation is being considered for the future. The waste area at Leigh Creek is open to the general public every Monday and Saturday.
- The Leigh Creek swimming pool is running efficiently with good attendance, although there has been some issues with the pool filtration system, having said this, it remains a very good asset to the town and employs locals to manage the facility.
- SA Water are responsible for the irrigation of the local oval and town centre. Monitoring of the irrigation is taking place and it is envisaged that the irrigation may be reduced.
- SA Water have initiated an education process for the residents of Leigh Creek regarding household water usage.
- Overall, the M, LCCS and maintenance contractor are receiving positive comments.

The NFPO advised that:

- quite a lot of time has been spent in communication work ensuring that the northern flinders region is aware of the operating hours for the waste area and providing general information confirming contacts for Leigh Creek issues.
- she has been involved in working through the complexity of electricity connections and has continued to work with the 1834 group regarding the marketing of the Leigh Creek Outback Resort.
- the swimming pool is getting good use and that she continues to work closely with the SA Tourism Commission.
- work has commenced upgrading the terminal and training rooms at the Leigh Creek airport.

The Chair, on behalf of the Members thanked the Dir, the M, LCCS, the NFPO and the entire OCA team acknowledging the extensive work underpinning the Leigh Creek transition and the effort by all to ensure that the transition continues to progress quite smoothly.

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 who advised that the Gov Man had recently met with the Australian Bureau of Statistics regarding the statistical information for the State of the Outback Report. The Dir

suggested that an annual publication is being considered where statistical information could be included and evaluated.

The Chair suggested that the OCA share the statistical information with Regional Development Australia which will assist with the evaluation of economic movements.

The Dir confirmed that the draft oneOutback prospectus should be available by the end of March and that consideration is being given to the finalised document being available from the OCA website in the future.

The Members noted the Business Plan Progress Report.

10. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair summarised the activities and meetings that she has been involved in, including:

- A meeting held with ATLA on 19 January where the Dir also attended. The Chair and Dir agreed that positive discussion occurred regarding the Leigh Creek transition.
- A visit to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) at Lucas Heights as part of the Barndioota Consultative Committee and that it was very enlightening to see handling processes and the capacity of the facility. The Chair referred to the level of medical research undertaken at the facility resulting in the export of medical products from Australia each year.
- A delegation from France which included representatives from the French radioactive waste management agency and community members from the Champagne region. The Chair and Dir agreed that the delegation was very informative and that although initially the Champagne region were against hosting the facility, acceptance of the facility is now widespread with locals realising that land prices and businesses have not been inadvertently affected.
- A Leigh Creek Futures meeting in Adelaide where progress was made on the 30 recommendations received regarding business and activity ideas for the Northern Flinders region. The Chair confirmed that it is good for the OCA to be at the table when these types of discussions are occurring.
- A meeting held on 13 February that she, the Dir and Gov M attended where the future of Andamooka governance being a self-determining model was discussed. The Chair and Dir agreed that it was a good meeting and she is confident that the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association are making very good progress.
- The Optus small cell mobile coverage launch at William Creek which the Dir also attended. The Chair confirmed that Optus coverage can be accessed within three kilometres of the facility and that there was good representation at the event. The event provided an opportunity for the Chair to have a conversation with the Minister, discussing OCA activities.
- Attendance as a guest of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and the SA Arid Land Natural Resource Management (SAAL NRM) Board at field days held at Mount Barry and Coober Pedy. The Chair confirmed that the OCA sponsored the field day at Coober Pedy where as a guest speaker, she spoke about the Climate Change and Adaptation Plan.

The Dir confirmed that APOMA have indicated that a public meeting to discuss the 2017-18 Community Contribution Scheme (CCS) is not required and that they are very confident the Andamooka community will confirm the continuation of a CCS for 2017-18.

The chair referred to the 'From the Outback to the Battlefront' book produced late last year and advised that a condensed version is now being developed. The Chair confirmed that the launch of this second book will occur later in the year.

11. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Ferguson advised that she had attended a meeting in Leigh Creek regarding the local health centre converting to a clinic and its partnership with Country Health. Member Ferguson confirmed that:

- the discussion at the meeting was well received by the local community although there was some thought that this information had been delayed in being provided.
 - there was an undertaking by Country Health to continue to provide forthright information to the region although it was acknowledged that there had been some teething issues.
 - people living in the region should be aware of changes relating to ambulance transportation which is now very different to what has been delivered in the past.
- Member Ferguson confirmed that she believed these changes have been reasonably well communicated to the region.

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and provided a summary of the activities that he has been involved in including ongoing meetings regarding the ongoing management and transition management of Leigh Creek. The Dir attended various meetings representing the OCA, including the Far North Zone Emergency Management Committee, Outback Bushfire Management Committee, Flinders Ranges World Heritage Project key stakeholder briefing, Far North Local Government round table and the visit to ANSTO and William Creek.

The Dir also confirmed that he had attended several meetings not representing the OCA, however they are strategically beneficial to the OCA, including the SAAL NRM Board meeting and the Regional Development Australia Far North Board meeting.

The Dir tabled a summary of operational activities undertaken by the Office for the OCA staff and acknowledged the effort made by all staff to continue to meet competing deadlines.

The Dir advised that the AWO has managed to submit a comprehensive application to the new Commonwealth Building Better Regions fund, with some assistance from the Gov M and Community Development Officer. The Dir confirmed that should the application be successful it will enable the OCA to implement eight new Remote Area Water Treatment Plants and two solar systems on the new water treatment plants at Marla and Oodnadatta.

The Dir advised that the Office for the OCA welcomed a new Business Support Officer, replacing Mrs Julie Warde who retired last year and acknowledged the effort of the Community Development Trainee, Mr Benjamin Simes in successfully completing the first year of his two-year traineeship.

13. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

13.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that the Andamooka Town Management Committee have not met since October 2016 and therefore confirmed minutes from that meeting are not available.

The Chair referred to a meeting held on 13 February that she, the Dir and Gov M attended where the future of Andamooka governance being a self-determining model was discussed. The Chair also advised that the current Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association members have a different skill set to positions held on this Association in the past.

The Members noted the update.

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-01).

The Chair declared that the Dir and Business Services Manager remain in the meeting but requested that the remaining OCA staff and public gallery leave the meeting while discussion pertaining to CO-01 be held in camera due to the confidential nature of discussions.

It is noted that Member Fennell declared an interest in this matter but at the request of the Chair, remained in the meeting.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Michelmore

That the OCA move into 'in camera' session to review CO-01.

Carried.

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

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair declared that the next OCA meeting has been scheduled for 20 April in the format of a teleconference but at this point in time it is unlikely that a teleconference will be required, therefore the next OCA meeting is very likely to be held on 17, 18 May to be held at Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 10.20 am.