

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

15 September 2016

Meeting No. 63

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

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



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Telecentre, Yunta
on 15 September 2016 at 10.45 am

Present:

C Woolford (Chair)

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

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed the public gallery to the Outback Communities Authority's (OCA) meeting in Yunta.

Apologies were received from Members Booth and Michelmore and also from Ms Alex Hart, Manager, Office of Local Government.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

It is noted that there are no deputations or presentations.

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 21 July 2016 were circulated.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fennell

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 21 July 2016, meeting number 61 be adopted.

Carried.

4.2 The minutes of the electronic meeting held during August 2016 were circulated.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held vide electronic means in accordance with section 10(5) of the Outback Communities



(Administration and Management) Act 2009 during August 2016, meeting number 62 be adopted.

Carried.

4.3 Business arising from minutes.

- 4.3.1 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 there have been ongoing strained negotiations within the Oodnadatta community although recent information has indicated that the community are again keen to engage on a positive basis. The Dir confirmed that some investigation is occurring regarding improving future funding models.
- 4.3.2 Declaration of Community Contribution Scheme (Ref. Agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 60)
The Governance Man (Gov M) confirmed that declaration of the Community Contribution Schemes for Andamooka and Iron Knob have been gazetted. The Gov M advised that an assessment is currently underway in response to the Expression of Interest called for the collection of both levies. This matter can be removed from the Action List
- 4.3.3 Northern Flinders Region (Ref. Agenda item 6.8, Meeting No. 60)
The Chair confirmed that a workshop had been held the day before regarding the future management of Leigh Creek. This matter can therefore be removed from the Action List.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Community Contribution (Ref. N16-01/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that there remains a number of properties in Andamooka where the proprietor has not been able to be contacted regarding the payment of the community contribution which has been in place for the past four years and continues in 2016-17. The Gov M confirmed that the sale of land for non-payment of levies should always be an option of last resort, however initially 10 properties in Andamooka have been identified as being apparently abandoned resulting in debts that require some attention. The Gov M confirmed that every attempt will be made to contact the respective landowners prior to committing a property for sale.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson



That the OCA:

- *Recognises that the primary focus of this process is to have the outstanding Community Contributions paid.*
- *Commits to a process of selling land for non-payment of Community Contributions.*
- *Notes that individual cases may be terminated prior to land sale in the event outstanding Community Contributions are paid.*
- *Provide a briefing to the Minister for Local Government advising of the intention to sell land for non-payment of Community Contributions.*

Carried.

6.2 Fowlers Bay Public Conveniences (Ref. N16-02/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that since May 2015 there have been ongoing maintenance issues with the public conveniences located at Fowlers Bay and that the extensive maintenance attention to the septic tank cannot be sustained by the OCA. The Gov M confirmed that ongoing negotiations with the Coorabie Progress Association (who own the land where the public conveniences are located) and the Coorabie Caravan Park (who occupy the adjoining land) have not been resolved. The Gov M also confirmed that although it is proposed that the Fowlers Bay public conveniences be closed, negotiations will continue with all parties, including Health SA and that the OCA Members will be kept informed on this matter.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA notes the information provided on the Fowlers Bay public conveniences.

Carried.

6.3 Proposed Funding Changes for Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (Ref. N16-03/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that concerns had been raised with the OCA regarding proposed funding changes to the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) and the impact that this would have on outback communities and families.

The Chair recognised that although the current President of R.I.C.E. is the wife of Member Fennell there is no conflict of interest for Member Fennell to declare.

The Chair summarised the funding model that R.I.C.E. has been receiving and the impact to R.I.C.E. if the funding is reduced or ceases completely. The services currently provided by R.I.C.E. include the only Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) recognised correspondence kindergarten program in South Australia, Child, Adolescent and Family Health Services (CAFHS) nursing for pre and post natal check ups, a toy library, an accredited social worker for mental health support and on-site play and activity days in outback communities or on pastoral stations.

Member Fennell confirmed that the impact of the proposed funding cut would be far reaching, not only would outback families be affected but also permanent employment at the R.I.C.E. office located in Port Augusta will be impacted.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the OCA:

- *Provides a letter of support to the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise in their endeavours to secure ongoing funding.*
- *Nominate Senator Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training to make representation to advance the cause of ongoing funding needs for the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise.*

Carried.

6.4 Policy Review (Ref. N16-04/09)

The Gov M advised that a review of all OCA policies is being undertaken. The Gov M confirmed that current OCA policies are a combination of policy and procedure and that the review is intended to separate the two concepts. The Gov M tabled a proposed list of policies.

The Gov M confirmed that the OCA is recognised as a Council for the purposes of dog and cat management in the unincorporated areas of South Australia and that a policy regarding this will be developed at a later stage.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA:

- *Notes the review of its policies.*
- *Approves the proposal to separate policy and procedure.*
- *Approves the list of proposed policies.*

Carried.

6.5 2016-17 Budget Monitoring Report – September 2016 (Ref. N16-05/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who tabled the OCA's Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2016. The Dir confirmed that subsequent to the Minister approving the OCA's 2016-17 Budget, advice has been received that additional funding will be allocated by the State Government to cater for the OCA's responsibilities in respect of Leigh Creek in 2016-17.

The Dir advised that once the State Government funding has been received there will be a substantial change to the OCA's 2016-17 budget and the Office for the OCA will undertake an engagement process to inform stakeholders of the budget change.

Moved by Member Fennell
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the OCA note and endorse the updated 2016-17 Budget set out in the tabled report.

Carried.

6.6 Financial Result for 2016-17 (Ref. N16-06/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that he is now in a position to confirm the likely aggregate outcome of financial activities for the OCA in 2015-16, compared with the annual Budget.

The Dir confirmed that the 2015-16 Budget adopted by the Board and approved by the Minister targeted a zero net surplus/(deficit). The Dir advised that preliminary data provided by DPTI, which is currently unaudited has revealed that the actual Budget result is a net deficit of \$904,000 and if confirmed, can be explained by:

- Early receipt in June 2015 of two quarterly instalments of income from the Federal Financial Assistance Grants, recorded as income in 2014-15.
- Carry-over approval from 2014-15 to the 2015-16 budget of \$259,000 being for externally funded programs which resulted in additional expenditure beyond what was provided in the approved Budget.
- The underspend of \$50,000 of income received in 2015-16 for externally funded projects, offset against the above two dot points. The Dir confirmed that this amount has been included in the OCA's 2016-17 budget to finance the OCA's budgeted net deficit.
- After taking into consideration the above information there remains a Budget deterioration of \$16,000 which represents a wide range of variations being positive and negative in actual outcomes compared with the 2015-16 Budget.

The Dir confirmed that as expected the 2015-16 deterioration in the Budget has reduced the level of the OCA's cash balances. The Dir highlighted that it is likely that the effect of the approved 2016-17 Budget would be to further reduce OCA's cash balances, mainly by \$50,000 as discussed above.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the OCA note the likely financial result for 2015-16 and explanations of the budget deterioration.

Carried.

7. LEIGH CREEK UPDATE

7.1 Northern Flinders Region

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who confirmed that the transition of the Leigh Creek township to SA Government is progressing as expected and although the transition date has been set as 1 January 2017, a 'soft launch' will occur early December as the OCA takes over management.

The Dir confirmed that it is envisaged that it will take approximately 12 months to 'open up' the township and that there are approximately 200 people currently residing in Leigh Creek with 40 being Alinta employees. It is also anticipated that more residents may move at the completion of the fourth school term although it is clear that residents are waiting on confirmation of possible employment opportunities. The Dir added that it is very likely that employment will be managed under contracts.

The Dir added that existing residential tenancy agreements have been extended through until 31 December 2016, with an option of a further 12 month extension.

The Dir advised that health services are currently being reviewed acknowledging that the current level of service is for a much higher populated community.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

8.1 Outback Road Conditions

The Chair referred discussion to a workshop held the day before the OCA meeting where the condition of outback roads due to the unprecedented rain event was discussed. The Chair summarised discussion with the Member's agreeing that the OCA is keen to play a proactive role and investigate how communication systems and processes can be improved to ensure that up to date information can be provided to the travelling public.

**Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fort**

That the OCA raise the matter of recent outback road closures with the Chief Executive, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and also the Outback Roads Action Group

Carried.

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 OCA has agreed to commence consultation immediately to collect further information for the oneOutback Prospectus with the intent to finalise the project by the end of 2016. The Dir also confirmed that the Outback Growth and Economic Investment Strategy has been completed.

The Dir advised that initial meetings had been deferred with the Minister for Local Government, DPTI and Local Government Grants Commission to discuss the proposed Asset Sustainability Levy – planning for these meetings will recommence during September and October.

The Dir advised that due to internal work commitments the State of the Outback report has not progressed although he envisages that the work will still be undertaken by OCA staff.

The Dri referred to an internal DPTI social media report and advised that the OCA is receiving very favourable feedback on Facebook which is consistently being accessed.



The Dir advised that the Trainee is about to initiate ongoing contact with outback community associations to collect local stories that can be shared via the OCA's Facebook page and also included in the new quarterly electronic newsletter.

The Members acknowledged that most of the residents in the outback cannot access dependable internet and that the OCA is in a good position to lobby support for an improvement with outback telecommunications.

The Members noted the Business Plan Progress Report.

10. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair congratulated Member Fennell being nominated by Livestock SA to serve on the Pastoral Board.

The Chair confirmed her ongoing involvement on the Upper Spencer Gulf Transition Forum and advised that she will review this over the next six months to determine whether she will continue.

The Chair confirmed that she has been sitting on the Leigh Creek Futures Committee, reviewing and progressing the 30 recommendations as documented in the Leigh Creek Futures Report.

The Chair was pleased to confirm that the new policy regarding the future management of Leigh Creek has been forwarded to Minister Brock MP and also to Minister Maher MLC. Similar correspondence will be forwarded to Progress Associations ensuring that they are kept informed of the Leigh Creek township transition to SA Government.

The Chair tabled correspondence received from Minister Brock MP advising that the funding that the OCA receives from the Local Government Grants Commission will remain the same in 2016-17 as was received in 2015-16, (being \$1,437,498).

The Chair advised that the Dir has been working on developing an itinerary for an outback trip which Minister Brock MP is keen to participate in. The Chair confirmed that the trip is planned for 7, 8, 9, and 10 November and that Commissioners from the Local Government Grants Commission are also very likely to attend. At the completion of the trip on 10 November, the Minister will be available to launch the OCA's War Memorial book while in Blinman.

The Chair also confirmed that whilst she and the Dir have served on the Nuclear Citizen's Jury they have now been asked to participate on the Steering Group which will meet in early October. The Chair advised that queries being raised about the nuclear fuel cycle by outback residents seem to be similar across communities.

The Dir added that he is pleased to see that the nuclear fuel cycle organisers have broadened the locations for consultation meetings across the outback and advised that the OCA has been working hard to ensure that outback people have the opportunity and are encouraged to be involved in the consultation process that is currently occurring.



11. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Marsland advised that since the last OCA meeting she has attended a meeting with Mr Justin Stephens, Leigh Creek Transition Manager and Ms Alex Hart, Manager, Office for Local Government to discuss housing options for Leigh Creek. Member Marsland advised that the meeting was very productive and provided an opportunity for her to share her own background of housing policy and the management of housing. Member Marsland confirmed that DPTI are exploring various options of how housing tenancy might be offered in Leigh Creek.

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 7 June 2016.

The Gov M confirmed that there has been a lot of work occurring in Andamooka such as cleaning out local creeks and road maintenance. The Gov M confirmed that the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association had recently held their Annual General Meeting, noting that there has been some changes to executive member positions. The Dir advised that the Gov M would remain on the ATMC as the OCA nominee.

The Gov M confirmed that a full review of the ATMC will be undertaken early next year and a comprehensive report will be provided to the Members.

The Chair confirmed that she has contacted Ms Lyn Breuer regarding recently being elected as Mayor of Whyalla. Ms Breuer confirmed that the recent appointment will not affect her capacity as Chair of the ATMC.

13. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and advised that although the transition of the Leigh Creek township to government control continues to demand a lot of his time, further priorities such as the implementation of the Outback Parks and Gardens project and the development of the oneOutback Prospectus are also progressing well.

The Dir confirmed that the Economic Growth and Investment Strategy has been finalised and subject to the Member's approval is ready to now move to the next phase of preparing the oneOutback Prospectus.

The Dir referred to the new format of the 2016-17 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreements which communities can expect to receive in the forthcoming weeks.

The Dir tabled an extensive list of projects that the Community Development Officer is involved in and commended the Asset and Works Officer for his management of the damage caused by a fire at the Andamooka Hall.

The Dir advised that he had recently been advised that one of the remote outback communities has been assisted by the Gov M to commence negotiations with the Australian Taxation Office regarding overdue BAS reporting and associated imposed charges. The Dir thanked the Gov M for his support with this matter, acknowledging that it is difficult for volunteers serving as Progress Association executive members and having a legal responsibility.

The Dir also gave a summary of meetings that he had recently attended.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled as a teleconference for 20 October 2016 but is yet to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.