

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

21 July 2016

Meeting No. 61

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

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



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at Office of Local Government, Roma Mitchell House, Adelaide
on 21 July 2016 at 10.20 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, C Harrington and B Honan (OCA staff).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Outback Communities Authority's (OCA) meeting in Adelaide and congratulated Member Fennell on his appointment to the OCA Board and also Members Booth and Ferguson on their reappointments.

An apology was received 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 16 June 2016 were circulated.

Moved by Member Michelmore

Seconded by Member Fort

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 16 June 2016, meeting number 60 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 and 4.2.5, Meeting No.57 and 4.2.2, Meeting No. 60)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director (Dir) who advised that he had recently attended a meeting with the Commonwealth where discussion included the management of the local store. The Dir confirmed that the expression of



interest regarding the management of the local store is in the process of being redrafted and that this matter is ongoing.

4.2.2 Review of Community Contribution Process (Ref. Agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 60)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager (Gov M) who confirmed that the contract with Flinders Ranges Council to collect the Community Contributions in Andamooka and Iron Knob has been extended providing an opportunity to test the market for similar providers. This matter can now be removed from the Action List.

4.2.3 Northern Flinders Region (Ref. Agenda item 6.8, Meeting No. 60)

The Chair confirmed that a workshop held earlier in the day had provided the opportunity to discuss the Northern Flinders region including 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 Financial Delegations (Ref. N16-01/07)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that financial delegations are bought before the Board annually and requested that the OCA delegate certain functions and powers of the Outback Communities (*Administration and Management*) Act 2009. The Gov M tabled financial delegation information assigned by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) to OCA staff to enable the operation of the Act.

**Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson**

That the OCA:

- *Notes the functions and powers in the tabled delegation information will be applied.*
- *Agrees to execute the attached Instrument of Delegation that outlines the functions and powers of the Act.*
- *Notes the amended financial delegation handed down by the Chief Executive of DPTI.*
- *Notes the 2015-16 Record of Actions as tabled.*

Carried.

6.2 Copley Water – Debt Write Off (Ref. N16-02/07)



The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who requested that the OCA note a billing adjustment and write off of a debt associated with the supply of water at Copley.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Michelmore

That the OCA notes that the water use for March and May 2014 will be charged at the average water use for that landholder and that the debt of \$2,778.59 will be written off by the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure.

Carried.

6.3 Brand South Australia – 2016 Regional Awards Program (Ref.N16–03/07)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who requested that the OCA give consideration to providing sponsorship to the Brand South Australia's (Brand SA) 2016 Regional Awards Program that has taken on a new format. The Northern Flinders Project Officer (NFPO) advised that the new format focuses on regions and is state encapsulating providing higher promotion. The NFPO confirmed that the Award is open to individuals, organisations or groups.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA:

- *Provides sponsorship to the value of \$800 to Brand SA in support of the 2016 Regional Awards Program.*
- *Notes the benefits of being a Program Partner, specifically the publicity aspect of the Celebration Evening through verbal name-mention, logo representation in award booklet and networking opportunities.*
- *Notes 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.*
- *Notes the opportunity to leverage sponsorship by nominating outstanding community members in Outback South Australia who will benefit from potential worldwide exposure.*

Carried.

6.4 2016-17 Budget Monitoring Report – July 2016 (Ref. N16–04/07)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who tabled the OCA's finalised 2016-17 Budget. The Dir advised that the 2016-17 budget has been submitted to the Minister and subsequently approved. The Dir confirmed that there was one material change made to the Budget prior to submitting to the Minister which was to include income and expenditure associated with the OCA's successful grant application under the State Government's Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program. The Dir acknowledged that the Budget targets an overall net deficit of \$50,000 which is planned to be financed by funding \$50,000 carried over from 2015-16 being unspent income from externally funded projects in that financial year.



Moved by Member Fennell
Seconded by Member Booth

That the OCA:

- *Note the final 2016-17 Budget submitted to and approved by the Minister.*
- *Note that adjustments will be required to cater for any additional successful grant applications and/or OCA's likely new role at Leigh Creek.*

Carried.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Northern Flinders Region

The Chair thanked the OCA staff for the comprehensive workshop material provided earlier in the day regarding the Northern Flinders Region which included options to be considered for the proposed management of the Leigh Creek township.

Member Michelmore suggested that the OCA consider a formal policy which will assist the OCA in managing Leigh Creek in the future.

Member Michelmore suggested that the OCA:

- Recognise the formal role allocated to the OCA by the State Government in managing the Leigh Creek township, including the objectives of the Government to maintain Leigh Creek as a viable township and contributor to the region.
- Review and reconsider the proposals and recommendations of the Leigh Creek Futures group and provide constructive input to the Government.
- Consider the development of policies that might arise in a number of areas from Cabinet to support and assist with the implementation in various policy as they emerge in respect to the Leigh Creek township, recognising that the OCA must at all times act within the terms and conditions of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009*

The OCA Members agreed with Member Michelmore's suggestions that a formal policy be developed and look forward to receiving the policy in the near future.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair introduced the 2016-17 Business Plan Progress Report and referred discussion to the Dir. The Dir confirmed that quite a lot of the actions refer to the Draft Economic Growth and Investment Strategy which is progressing well and that he expects to receive the document in the very near future. The Dir added that the work that the OCA staff are undertaking regarding the oneOutback questionnaires will feed into the prospectus document. The Dir advised that OCA staff had recently attended a meeting with the Australian Bureau of Statistics personnel discussing the need to access evidence based information.

The Dir referred the Members to the Communications and Media Plan 2016-17, attached to his report which provides a very good overview of the status of the OCA's various communication activities.



The Members noted the OCA 2015-16 Business Plan progress report.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair advised that she had attended Mayor Pollocks funeral which was a very respectful day.

The Chair confirmed that she has spoken with Ms Lyn Breuer, independent Chair of the Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC) who advised that she will be nominating for the mayoral role in Whyalla. The Chair confirmed that should the nomination be successful, the new role will not impact on Ms Breuers commitment to the ATMC.

The Chair advised that she had attended a positive informal meeting with the Chair of the Local Government Grants Commission, Ms Mary Patetsos which Member Marsland also attended.

The Chair advised that she has continued participating on the Spencer Gulf Transition Forum as the group work on one vision for three cities with the next meeting to be held in Whyalla in early August.

The Chair advised that the main activity that she has been involved in recently was the regional visit with the Productivity Commission – which the Director has also included in his report. The Chair added that the meeting at Marree went well and that it was very interesting to consider the two different demographics between the Marree and Blinman communities. The Chair added that the trip was very worthwhile and provided a very good opportunity for the Productivity Commission to hear the OCA's perspective regarding telecommunications in the outback.

The Chair referred to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan workshop scheduled for mid-August where the Plan will be finalised and that a forum will be held at a later date to discuss the implementation of the Plan. The Chair added that the Climate Change Adaptation Plan includes an implementation component which is very beneficial.

The Chair confirmed that along with the Director she had attended the Citizen's Jury meeting in Adelaide in the capacity of an expert witness. The Chair confirmed that the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission consultation team were encouraged to contact the OCA for local knowledge of the areas where consultation will be undertaken.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Ferguson advised that she had attended the Climate Change Adaptation forum in Port Augusta and found it useful.

Member Fort advised that widespread rain has raised optimism for those living and working in our outback region and there has been increased tourism visitation with 8,000 people attending the Big Red Bash Music Festival held at Birdsville. Member Fort confirmed that the South Australian Tourism Commission is no longer supporting the printing of the Regional Tourism Guides. In light of this the Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism (FROSAT) Board has engaged Woof Media to print the 2016-17 guide.



Member Fennell thanked the Chair and Members for the welcome extended to him, noting the good positive attitude toward all discussion matters.

11. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

11.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that the most recent Andamooka Town Management Committee's meeting was held on 7 June 2016. The minutes from that meeting remain unconfirmed and will be tabled at the next OCA meeting.

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and advised that the transition of the Leigh Creek township to government control as of 1 January 2017 continues to demand a lot of his time. The Dir confirmed that he has made two visits to Leigh Creek and attended numerous meetings regarding Leigh Creek since the OCA's meeting in June.

The Dir advised that he had been involved in a regional visit with the Productivity Commission inquiry into the Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation and attended the Far North 2016 Regions in Focus Roadshow on 13 July that was hosted by Minister Brock. The Dir confirmed that the Minister announced that the OCA had been successful in its application for a grant for 'Visitor Facilities Upgrade' under the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program receiving \$199,075 grant monies, which is matched by \$53,375 from outback communities and \$31,000 from the OCA.

The Dir provided an overview of staff activities that have occurred since the OCA's June meeting which included the finalisation of 2016-17 Community Affairs Resourcing Agreements with the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association and the Iron Knob Progress Association, the commencement of the Visitor Facilities Upgrade project, coordinating youth to start soon on community projects, securing office space in Leigh Creek, working with Brand SA on regional stories, the renewal of cleaning contracts for 2016-18 and the participation in an asset inspection with DPTI in Leigh Creek.

The Dir advised that financial issues around the implementation of an Asset Sustainability Levy (ASL) continue to make it increasingly unlikely that an ASL can be implemented commencing 1 July 2017.

The Dir finalised his report by tabling a comprehensive update regarding OCA communications and media and advised that the statistics collected regarding the media are very good confirming a large number of people are engaging with the OCA's new Facebook page.

The Dir referred to the NFPO who confirmed that the development of the new website is progressing, that Instagram is also now available and OCA newsletters will be available in the near future.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.



14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled for 14, 15 September to be held in Yunta, with the venue to be confirmed at a later date.

The meeting closed at 12.00 noon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is stylized and appears to consist of several overlapping loops and lines.