

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

7 August 2014

Meeting No. 48

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

P Allen, G Beltchev, J Booth, F Frahn, M Heylen, M Turner.



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta  
on 7 August 2014 at 2.15pm

**Present:**

Ms C Woolford (Chair)

Mr P Allen, Mr G Beltchev, Mrs F Frahn, Mrs M Heylen and Mrs M Turner

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair also welcomed the Director from the Office for Local Government to the meeting, inviting him to participate.

An apology was received from Member Booth.

### 2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

### 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2014 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Beltchev**  
**Seconded by Member Frahn**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 22 May 2014, number 45 be adopted.*

**Carried.**

4.2 The minutes of the meeting held via electronic means in accordance with section 10(5) of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* held during the month of June 2014 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Heylen  
Seconded by Member Turner**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority electronic meeting number 46, held during the month of June 2014 be adopted.*

**Carried.**

- 4.3 The minutes of the meeting held via electronic means in accordance with section 10(5) of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* held during the month of July 2014 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Allen  
Seconded by Member Frahn**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority electronic meeting number 47, held during the month of July 2014 be adopted.*

**Carried.**

4.4 Business arising from minutes.

4.4.1 Oodnadatta Project Manager (Ref. N 14 – 02/03)

The General Manager (GM) advised that this matter has been delayed due to the Machinery of Government changes and the OCA transitioning to the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI). Once the transition has been finalised the OCA will seek to have the Oodnadatta Project Manager position managed as a public sector position which will result in the position being a part of the OCA staff and structure.

4.4.2 Outback Water (Ref. Agenda item 12, Meeting No. 45)

The General Manager (GM) advised that the information he was to provide regarding the Goyder Institute is no longer current, therefore this matter is finalised. The GM confirmed that if further information becomes available, he will forward to the Members.

4.4.3 Outback Waste Management (Ref. N 13 – 05/11 and N 14 – 01/03)

The GM advised that unfortunately higher priorities throughout June and July have delayed this report. The GM confirmed that he intends to meet with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (DPC AARD) and the Office of State Development regarding outback waste management and will provide a report at the OCA's September 2014 meeting.

4.4.4 Confidential Orders (Ref. Agenda item 13, Meeting No. 45)

The GM advised that a review of Confidential Order CO-02 could not be undertaken as there has been no progress with this matter. A review will be provided to the Members in due course.

## 5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

### 5.1 Board Meeting Schedule 2014-15 (Ref. N 14 – 06/05)

The GM tabled the proposed board meeting schedule for 2014-15 which had been adjourned from the OCA meeting held on 22 May 2014.

The OCA noted the meeting schedule and requested that the GM investigate a time that is suitable for the Minister for Local Government to meet with the OCA.

**Moved by Member Allen**  
**Seconded by Member Frahn**

*That the OCA resolve to meet on the following dates, at the recommended locations, noting that if the meeting schedule is to change, notification will appear on the OCA website immediately.*

*Thursday 7 August 2014 – Port Augusta*  
*Wed, Thur, Fri 17, 18, 19 September 2014 – Oodnadatta*  
*Thursday 16 October 2014 – Teleconference (to be confirmed)*  
*Thursday 20 November 2014 – Port Augusta*  
*Thursday 18 December 2014 – Adelaide (to be confirmed).*  
*Thursday 19 February 2015 – Port Augusta*  
*Thursday 19 March 2015 – Teleconference (to be confirmed)*  
*Wednesday, Thursday 8 and 9 April 2015 – Marla*  
*Thursday 21 May 2015 – Teleconference (to be confirmed)*  
*Thursday 18 June 2015 – Port Augusta.*

**Carried.**

## 6. OCA BUSINESS

### 6.1 Delegations – Financial and Procurement Authority (Ref. N 14 – 01/08)

The GM requested that the OCA give consideration to executing its authority under Section 13 (1) of the Outback Communities (*Administration and Management*) Act 2009 to delegate financial and procurement authority to the GM which is consistent with the level of financial and procurement authority delegated to the GM by the Chief Executive of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI).

The GM also requested that the OCA note the delegations may be sub-delegated to authorised staff consistent with the level of financial and procurement authority delegated to the authorised person by the Chief Executive of DPTI.

The GM advised that a formal review of the delegations is required to ensure effective and efficient continuity of business for the OCA.

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**Moved by Member Beltchev**  
**Seconded by Member Heylen**

*That the OCA:*

- *Execute its authority under Section 13 (1) of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009 and delegate financial and procurement authority to the General Manager consistent with the level of financial and procurement authority delegated to the General Manager by the Chief Executive of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure by signing the Instrument of Delegation.*
- *Resolves to review the delegation annually.*
- *Note the Instrument of Delegation is able to be sub-delegated.*
- *Note the office of the OCA will maintain record of actions taken under delegation.*
- *Note that the delegation will remain until the Director position with the OCA is formally appointed and thereupon, the Director will resume the financial delegations as set out in the Instrument of Delegation.*

**Carried.**

6.2 Appointments to the Andamooka Town Management Committee (Ref. N 14 – 02/08)

The GM recommended to the OCA the appointment of a Chair and an OCA nominee to the Andamooka Town Management Committee.

The GM advised that Ms Lynette Breuer has expressed an interest in taking up the position of independent member and is supported by the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association as a nominee for the independent Chair of the ATMC. The GM confirmed that favourable feedback has been received from referees, confirming that Ms Breuer would be an outstanding candidate for the role.

The GM also advised that his term as OCA nominee to the ATMC expired on 30 June 2014. He advised that the Governance Manager (Gov M) has expressed an interest in becoming the OCA nominee for the 2014-15 period. The GM confirmed that he supports the Gov M's nomination.

The Gov M confirmed that financial delegations are not granted to the ATMC.

**Moved by Member Allen**  
**Seconded by Member Turner**

*That the OCA*

- *Appoints Ms Lynette Ruth Breuer as the independent Chair of the Andamooka Town Management Committee.*

- *Appoints Mr Byron Gough as the Outback Communities Authority nominee on the Andamooka Town Management Committee.*

**Carried.**

6.3 Draft Community Funding Policy (Ref. N 14 – 03/08)

Since September 2013 the OCA has held various workshops to discuss the drafting of a policy to define how the OCA will provide financial support to outback communities in the future.

The GM confirmed that the OCA has identified having communities managing their own affairs as an important goal to work toward and the draft Funding Policy seeks to meet that goal. The GM confirmed that the goal was derived from a need for community services to meet community needs and for effective local governance.

The GM advised that the draft Funding Policy represents a significant change in how the OCA has financially supported communities, therefore an extended consultation period is recommended.

The Gov M confirmed that a set of guidelines will be drafted to compliment the Draft Funding Policy and an explanatory communication with key messages will be prepared to accompany the Draft Funding Policy during the community engagement period.

**Moved by Member Frahn**  
**Seconded by Member Allen**

*That the OCA:*

- *Note the draft Community Funding Policy as amended.*
- *Approve that the policy be distributed for consultation in accordance with the Community Funding Policy community engagement strategy.*

**Carried.**

6.4 Regional Development Australia – Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Funding Assistance (Ref. N 14 – 04/08)

The GM advised the Board Members that a request has been received from Regional Development Australia – Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDA-WEP) seeking financial support toward the production of the Nullabor Brochure.

The GM advised that the Nullabor Brochure was initially developed in 2003 with funding assistance from the Outback Areas Community Development Trust and co-contributors. The brochure has continued to be re-produced indicating the popularity of the brochure.





The GM confirmed that the Gawler Ranges, Iron Knob, Penong and Fowlers Bay communities feature in the brochure, providing good exposure.

**Moved by Member Heylen**  
**Seconded by Member Turner**

*That the OCA provides funding assistance toward the production of the revised Nullabor Brochure at a total cost to the OCA of \$4,000.00.*

**Carried.**

6.5 Bad Debt Write Off (Ref. N 14 – 05/08)

The GM advised that the OCA undertakes its own stringent debt recovery for debts in arrears of 90 days. The GM confirmed that in the case of the Aroona Aboriginal Council the OCA has undertaken many courses of action to recover the debt but has not been successful in any form of contacting the Council and therefore requests approval to write off the debt. The GM confirmed that the debt relates to the provision of community insurance from 2011-12 and water connection costs at Copley. The GM confirmed that information received suggests that activity within the Aroona Aboriginal Council has ceased and therefore future insurance portfolios will not be renewed unless negotiations are undertaken by the Aroona Aboriginal Council.

**Moved by Member Allen**  
**Seconded by Member Turner**

*That the OCA:*

- *Approves the debt of \$1,097.37 (gst inclusive) from the Aroona Aboriginal Council be written off.*
- *Notifies the Aroona Aboriginal Council that community insurance will not be renewed for the 2015 year.*

**Carried.**

The Director of the Office for Local Government and the Gov M departed from the meeting.

## 7. URGENT BUSINESS

### 7.1 Auditor General's 2012-13 Audit Report

The Members noted that correspondence received from the Auditor General's Department regarding the OCA's 2012-13 audit had been provided as information for noting during July 2014. The Chair tabled the response that has been developed and forwarded to the Auditor General, from the Chair of the OCA.

**Moved by Member Beltchev  
Seconded by Member Frahn**

*That the OCA note the response from the OCA to the Auditor General's Department detailing responses to the findings identified in the OCA's 2012-13 audit.*

**Carried.**

## **8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

The GM tabled the OCA 2014-15 Business Plan progress report. . The Members noted the progress. Member Heylen suggested that in the 2015 and beyond Strategic Plan the OCA retain under the "Engagement and Collaboration" key result area:

- Objective 1 – Strategy 1:
  - Retain edited version: "Develop a Communication Strategy to ensure effective communication between OCA and those living and working in the outback, including using existing information networks."
- Objective 2 – Strategy 2:
  - "Establish and maintain links with Minister, key State and Commonwealth Government portfolios, and promote OCA as the key contact and lead coordinating agency for management of the outback."

The Members agreed with Member Heylen's suggestion.

## **9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT**

The Chair congratulated Member Frances Frahn on the attendance and successful completion of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course in Sydney and in her achieving her AICD Certificate in Governance.

The Chair also congratulated Member Joyleen Booth for successfully gaining a scholarship in Minister Gago's women's initiative and will attend a one day AICD Governance Course in Adelaide later this month.

The Chair highlighted her ongoing encouragement for all board members to be open to, and seek out initiatives they feel would be beneficial to their ongoing professional development.

The Chair reported she had met with the Minister for Local Government and that he is keen to participate in an outback trip and requested the OCA take the 'lead role' in developing the trip itinerary. The Chair advised that the Minister is keen to discuss outback matters with local business owners, development companies, industry as well as progress associations and the general outback community.





The Chair also reported that the Minister for Local Government was very pleased with the progress achieved by the Andamooka Town Management Committee, and agrees with the OCA's prospective decision for filling the position of Independent Chair of the ATMC.

The Chair had a very encouraging meeting with the then Acting Chief Executive of DPTI John Hanlon to discuss the current change in machinery of government and future directions of the Board with DTPI as the OCA's administrative home.

The Chair reported she had facilitated the co-hosted OCA/CSIRO Adaptation Flagship workshop 'Assessing the impact of climate variability and change on mining in SA' that the OCA had organised. She confirmed the workshop was well attended, with most sectors of the mining supply chain represented as well as many SA mining organisations and government departments. A final Report will be available in the near future showing how connected the supply chain is and therefore vulnerable to how climate impacts not only on their sector but all as an integrated supply chain. The Chair advised that mining companies are looking to the future with regard to climate change and in particular to issues of credit risk associated to 'stranded assets', along with the views of major financial institutions and insurers. The Chair expressed the view that the OCA should continue to participate in these discussions.

The Chair advised she had met with Lyn Breuer and discussions are now finalised with Lyn being very positive about becoming the Independent Chair of the ATMC.

The Chair advised that she had also chaired the recent Drought Task Force meeting, and with the GM attended the Unconventional Gas Roundtable workshop of which to OCA now holds two seats.

The Chair passed on to the board members and staff on behalf of Member Joyleen Booth the very positive community response to the recent Outback Mental Health Project that was supported by the OCA.

## 10. MEMBER'S REPORT

Member Heylen provided a report on her recent attendance at the National General Assembly of Local Government held in Canberra on 15-18 June 2014. Member Heylen advised that the Assembly provided a unique opportunity for OCA representatives to network with elected members and administrators who share the same challenges and emerging issues as those in the outback areas of South Australia.

Member Heylen advised that the key themes emerging from the Assembly centered around the Federal Government's announcement of funding cuts of \$925 million to local government by 2017-18, including a decision to freeze the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants for the next three years. Member Heylen confirmed that these grants are of vital importance to help ensure the

provision of equitable levels of local government services to all Australian communities.

Member Heylen advised that an urgent motion was moved from the floor of the Assembly to highlight the impact the Financial Assistance Grants decision will have on services in local communities and delegates called for indexation of Financial Assistance Grants in line with CPI and population growth to be restored immediately.

Member Heylen also advised that delegates also moved to reject the proposal from the National Commission of Audit in which the Commission recommends that tied grants to local government should cease and that the services that these funds support be left to local and state governments to prioritise and provide to the communities they service (referred to as 'cost shifting').

Member Heylen added, although the OCA does not receive tied grant funding, non-indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants as of the 2014-15 budget will have a negative impact on the OCA's overall budget and how financial support is provided to outback communities.

Member Heylen also advised that she had visited communities along the Birdsville Track and had called into several of the townships.

Member Allen commended the Chair for the many hours of work that she had undertaken on behalf of the OCA in recent times.

Member Turner advised that she had attended her first Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism (FROSAT) Steering Committee meeting. Member Turner advised that she is willing to continue to attend FROSAT meetings as the OCA's representative.

**Moved by Member Beltchev  
Seconded by Member Frahn**

*That Member Turner represent the OCA Board on the FROSAT Steering Committee.*

**Carried.**

## **11. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS**

### **11.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC)**

The GM tabled unconfirmed minutes from the most recent ATMC meeting, held on 7 May 2014.

The Community Administrator (CA) advised the Members that projects in Andamooka were progressing well and that tenders for municipal projects will be advertised in the near future. The CA confirmed that there is good

support within the general community for the ATMC and the work that it undertakes.

The CA confirmed that the implementation of street signs in Andamooka had been well received and that a similar project is underway for the Iron Knob community.

The CA advised that it had been pleasing to see community input into the ATMC's draft budget and proposed projects, which had occurred during the consultation period in June.

The CA advised that the Iron Knob community were making very good progress in collaborating and networking across the different internal working groups within the community. The GM confirmed that the OCA will support the Iron Knob community on governance matters and is able to assist with policy advice, which may in the future, be developed as generic documents to also assist other outback communities.

## **12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The GM advised that the period since the last Board meeting has been very busy with all staff directly and indirectly involved with the Machinery of Government transition to the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The GM reported that Minister Brock has formally approved the OCA's 2014-15 Business Plan and Budget along with approving the Community Contribution Scheme for Andamooka and Iron Knob for 2014-15.

The GM confirmed that the 2014-15 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreements are nearing completion for distribution to communities for consultation. The GM also confirmed that the 2014-15 CARM agreements for communities other than Andamooka and Iron Knob have had a reduction in the contribution from the OCA in the Administrative Grant, insurance subsidy and Executive Support Grant allocations. The GM advised that the reductions are necessary to accommodate the OCA's business plan priorities and are reflective of the reduced revenue from the Local Government Grants Commission the OCA is expecting to receive (the Australian Government has frozen the CPI increase on financial assistance grants provided to the States that will be passed onto all Councils including the OCA).

The GM provided an in-depth overview of activities that have been undertaken within the Office for the OCA.



### **13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS**

The GM confirmed that Confidential Order CO-02 remains in place until a further review has been undertaken, once the MOG move to DPTI has been finalised.

### **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled for 17, 18, 19 September to be held in Oodnadatta.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.