

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

25 July 2013

Meeting No. 36

Present:

C Woolford (Chairperson)

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

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta
on 25 July 2013 at 1.30 pm

Present:

Ms C Woolford (Chair)

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

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting at 1.45 pm and welcomed all in attendance to the first meeting of the newly appointed Outback Communities Authority (OCA). The Chair also welcomed Mr Trent Mader, Executive Director, Directorate, Regions Strategy and People, Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) as an observer to the OCA's meeting and encouraged Mr Mader to participate in the meeting conversation. The Chair congratulated newly appointed Members, Mrs Joyleen Booth, Mrs Marilyn Turner and Mr Peter Allen and welcomed the return of reappointed Members, Mr George Beltchev, Mrs Frances Frahn and Mrs Margaret Heylen, who is a noted apology for this meeting.

Mr Mader confirmed that the Chief Executive of PIRSA is interested in attending a future OCA meeting and looks forward to working with the OCA toward a smooth transition from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Chair introduced Mr Mader to the meeting.

Mr Mader advised the OCA that he had been in contact with the Minister for State/Local Government Relations (SLGR), Minister Gago who had recently returned from an extensive outback trip, which included the formal opening of the refurbished Oodnadatta Aerodrome, now known as the Adam Plate Aerodrome.

Mr Mader passed on Minister Gago's congratulations to the newly appointed and reappointed OCA Members.

Mr Mader confirmed that through the Machinery of Government Changes, the OCA is highly likely to move to PIRSA once a Cabinet Submission has been approved. Mr Mader confirmed that PIRSA takes the reference of 'regions' in its title, very seriously and looks forward to building a strong working relationship

whilst supporting and strengthening the role of the OCA in the outback areas of South Australia.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2013 were circulated.

Moved by Member Beltchev
Seconded by Member Frahn

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 13 June 2013 be adopted.

Carried.

4.2 Business arising from minutes.

4.2.1 Airstrip Policy (Ref. Urgent Business – June 2011)

The Governance Manager (Gov M) advised that the Crown Solicitor's Office will prepare a template Aerodrome Management Agreement based on a set of terms and conditions supplied by the OCA. This matter is now finalised.

4.2.2 Oodnadatta Water Supply (Ref. N 11 – 02/08)

The General Manager (GM) advised that the matter of the Oodnadatta water supply has been raised with the Minister for SLGR, therefore this matter has been finalised.

4.2.3 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) Agreement Policy (Ref. Urgent Business – 8 August 2011)

The GM confirmed that the CARM Policy is currently under review and that a draft will be provided to the OCA at its September meeting, therefore this matter is finalised.

4.2.4 ANZAC Day Commemoration (Ref. N13 – 02/02)

The GM advised that he is pleased to report that the Gov M has been working on land tenure issues and solutions for this project, where Pimba will be the central location for a whole of outback Anzac memorial, with the intention that the project will be opened on the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. The matter is finalised.

4.2.5 Outback Community Meetings (Ref. Item 13.3, March 2013 Agenda)

The GM advised that this matter was raised with the Minister for State/Local Government Relations recently when she visited Oodnadatta, therefore this matter is finalised.

4.2.6 Come out Festival 2013 Report (Ref. N13 – 07/06)

The Business Services Manager advised that she is still following up on this matter with the Andamooka school.

5. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The OCA noted the Business Plan progress report and look forward to further updates on key performance indicators achieved.

6. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Addendum 1)

The Chair tabled a report as provided by Mr W McIntosh AM, previous Chairman of the OCA regarding his attendance at the National General Assembly of Local Government held in Canberra on 16-19 June 2013. The report gave an insight into the presentations provided covering a diverse range of subjects across local government.

The Chair welcomed new OCA Members and the reappointment of existing OCA Members stating that she considers it an honor to be appointed as Chair of the OCA and is looking forward to working with the Members to further increase the OCA's status in the outback regions of South Australia

The Chair acknowledged the long standing legacy that Mr Bill McIntosh has left and his unfaltering dedication to the outback and in leading the OCA in strong principles and best practice governance. The OCA agreed that Mr McIntosh be invited to continue to be involved with the *oneOutback* project and in new initiatives for the outback.

8. MEMBERS REPORT

Nil.

9. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

9.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC)

The GM advised that a teleconference was held on 24 July 2013 being the final meeting for the Andamooka Town Management Committee in its first term and that the formal Minutes are still being prepared.

The GM advised that at previous OCA meetings, Member Cleary who was a Member of the ATMC and also the OCA, would deliver ATMC updates. Due to the new formation of the ATMC and also that Member Cleary is no longer serving on the OCA, the GM confirmed that he would be providing future reports at OCA meetings.

The GM advised that the teleconference was formalising the conclusion of ATMC for its first term and the commencement of the ATMC in its new form. Currently the ATMC is operating as three people and will call for a further nomination from an Andamooka community resident in the near future. The position of independent Chair will be addressed as soon as possible.

Member Beltchev confirmed that historically, the OCA considered ATMC business as a high priority and acknowledged the tireless work and effort as provided by the ATMC Members during its first term of implementation.

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The GM provided his report to the OCA Board advising that he had attended several meetings during June and July including the Regional Development Australia National Forum in Canberra, meetings regarding outback waste, Emergency Management meetings and a meeting regarding essential service delivery into Aboriginal communities. The GM advised that he had also been involved in the recent information sessions held at Andamooka regarding the Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreement for 2013/14 which were well attended.

The GM advised the OCA Members that the Minister for SLGR had travelled through the OCA region in early July visiting the Andamooka, Marree, William Creek and Oodnadatta communities. The Minister formerly dedicated the Oodnadatta Aerodrome to the memory of Adam Plate when in Oodnadatta.

The GM summarised the projects that the OCA staff had been working on which include:

- Project managing the installation of the new public conveniences at Blinman.
- Managing the development of a parking area at Pimba.
- Submitting a funding application to the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.
- Attending to the end of the financial year processes.

- Providing administrative support for the Andamooka CARM Agreement 2013/14 consultation.
- Attending to general administration including policy review and contract renewals for 2013/14.

The Chair congratulated the efforts of the staff for the preparation of the meeting information and the extensive induction material.

11. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

12. OCA BUSINESS

12.1 Delegations – Financial and Procurement Authority (Ref. N 13 – 01/07)

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 the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

The GM confirmed that the financial and procurement delegations are necessary for the Office of the OCA to transact business. The GM advised the OCA that his current delegations within DPC did not include a disposal delegation which has caused inefficiencies in business transactions.

Moved by Member Allen
Seconded by Member Turner

That the OCA:

1. *Execute its authority under Section 13 (1) of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009 to 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 the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).*
2. *In executing their authority under Section 13 (1) of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009, the OCA agree to execute a formal instrument of delegation.*
3. *Approve that the General Manager be granted approval to sub-delegate authority to authorised personnel consistent with the level of financial and procurement authority delegated to those authorised officers by the Chief Executive of DPC.*

4. *Require that a 'Delegations Register' be kept by the General Manager.*
5. *Resolve that all delegations will be reviewed annually at the first meeting after the commencement of a new financial year.*

Member Beltchev suggested that the OCA include a disposal delegation as the OCA is a Statutory Authority and owns real property and must have business continuity for the operations of the OCA.

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

1. *Execute its authority under Section 13 (1) of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009 to 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 the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and notes that the specific authority for disposal is required for the Board to properly exercise its responsibility.*

Carried.

12.2 Community Audited Financial Returns (Ref. N 13 – 02/07)

At its meeting held on 13 June 2013, the OCA considered audited financial statements received from the Iron Knob, Marree, Copley and Districts, Gawler Ranges, and Lyndhurst Progress Associations and requested that further information be provided from those Progress Associations.

The Iron Knob and Marree Progress Association's responded to the OCA's request and provided supporting information to their audit reports.

The OCA discussed the current process on how the OCA's Administration Grant is made available to incorporated Progress Associations in outback communities, noting that volunteers in the communities are time poor and that future processes need to take this into consideration. The GM advised that this process would be reviewed as part of the CARM review and that recommendations will be brought to the OCA once the review has been finalised.

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

That the OCA noted receiving the information in support of the 2010/11 audited financial statements and resolve that the Administrative Grant be made available through the Community Support Package 2013/14 to the:

- *Iron Knob Progress Association at a total cost to the OCA of \$3,500.00.*

- *Marree Progress Association at a total cost to the OCA of \$3,500.00.*
Carried.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

13.1 Execution of Standard Funding Agreement from Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Ref. Urgent Business)

The GM tabled a funding agreement as provided by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for the OCA to manage the delivery of municipal and essential services for the Oodnadatta community.

The GM confirmed that the execution of the agreement will not result in any budget implications for the OCA in the 2013/14 year.

Moved by Member Turner
Seconded by Member Allen

That the OCA agrees to execute the funding agreement for the amount of \$101,700 plus gst for 2013/14 with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to undertake Municipal and Essential Services for Dunjiba Community in Oodnadatta.

Carried

13.2 OCA 2013/14 Meeting Schedule (Ref. Urgent Business)

Further to a workshop held earlier in the day, the OCA agreed to a meeting schedule for the forthcoming 2013/14 year.

Moved by Member Booth
Seconded by Member Beltchev

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.

- September 12, 2013 – Port Augusta
- October 17, 2013 – Teleconference (to be confirmed)
- November 21, 2013 – Iron Knob
- December 19, 2013 – Teleconference (to be confirmed)
- January 2014 – no meeting
- February 20, 2014 – Port Augusta
- March 20, 2014 – Teleconference (to be confirmed)
- April 17, 2014 – West Coast (itinerary to be confirmed)
- May 15, 2014 – Port Augusta
- June 19, 2014 – Teleconference (to be confirmed).

The Chair asked Mr Mader to depart from the meeting as there was an item of a confidential nature to be discussed.

Mr Mader departed from the meeting.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDER

- 14.1 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.

Moved by Member Frahn
Seconded by Member Turner

That the OCA move into camera due to the confidential nature of discussions regarding Confidential Order CO 04.

Carried.

The OCA staff remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Moved by Member Turner
Seconded by Member Frahn

That the OCA meeting resume out of camera.

Carried.

The meeting resumed out of 'in camera' session.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled to be held in Port Augusta on Thursday 12 September 2013.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm.