

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

19 January 2017

Meeting No. 65

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

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



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta on 19 January 2017 at 9.15 am

Present:

C Woolford (Chair)

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

A Hart, Manager, Office of Local Government, M Sutton (Director, OCA),

B Gough, and B Honan (OCA staff).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Outback Communities Authority's Meeting No. 65 in Port Augusta.

An apology was received from Member Fennell.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

It is noted that there are no deputations or presentations.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Member Fort declared an interest in agenda item 6.3 relating to Acquisition of Power Transmission Assets – Innamincka. The Chair acknowledged the declaration and requested that Member Fort remain in the meeting to participate in discussion.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2016 were circulated.

Moved by Member Michelmore

Seconded by Member Fort

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 17 November 2016, meeting number 64 be adopted.

Carried.

The Chair thanked the Director for organising a teleconference on 15 December providing an informative update on the Leigh Creek transition to SA Government.

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 there has been a recent change with Dunjiba Community Council executive members. The Dir advised that over December and January and with the change of membership, projects have stalled but he is keen to visit the community in the near future with the Community Development Officer and encourage a strong working relationship between the Oodnadatta community and the OCA.

- 4.2.2 Policy Review (Ref. Agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 63)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager (Gov M) who confirmed that all OCA policies will capture information regarding the protection of vulnerable people. The Gov M confirmed that this item can be removed from the Action List.

- 4.2.3 Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Community Contribution Scheme (Ref. Agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 63)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who confirmed that the report that the Board is seeking refers to land that has been identified to be sold as a result of non-payment of the Community Contribution Scheme in Andamooka. The Gov M advised that the information does not exist at this point in time because the expectation is that the land will be able to be sold. The Gov M referred to the first round of properties that have been identified to be sold, after which consideration will be given to further parcels of land where landowners have a considerable debt through non-payment of the CCS and have not been in contact with the OCA to discuss individual circumstances. The Gov M confirmed that this matter can be removed from the Action List.

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

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that a meeting has not been organised with the Aboriginal Regional Authority as it has been very difficult to find a mutually acceptable time. The Dir confirmed that there is a meeting scheduled for later today with the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) and the Chair and the Manager of the Office of Local Government will attend with the Dir. The Chair confirmed that the Board Members will be kept informed of meeting outcomes.

- 4.2.5 SA Brands Awards (Ref. Agenda item 6.5, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that this matter has been included in agenda item 13, later in the agenda and can therefore be removed from the Action List.

- 4.2.6 2016-17 Budget Monitoring Report (Ref. Agenda item 6.6, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that this matter is included in agenda item 6.7 later in the agenda and can therefore be removed from the Action List.

- 4.2.7 Leigh Creek (Ref. Agenda item 7.1, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who referred to the newsletters prepared in November and December. The Dir confirmed that a new newsletter

is currently being prepared, therefore this item can be removed from the Action List.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Auditor General's Report and Response (Ref. N17-01/01)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that the Auditor General had recently completed the 2015-16 audit of the Outback Communities Authority and tabled the audit report and subsequent response to the Auditor General.

The Board discussed at length the Auditor General's letter regarding the audit and the matters identified as requiring attention. The Board firmly believes that it has effective financial and risk management frameworks and agreed that urgent action is required in the form of further correspondence to the Auditor General and meetings with Corporate Finance, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) (parent agency to the OCA) regarding the matters raised in the report.

**Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Booth**

That the OCA:

- *Notes the Auditor-General's report.*
- *Notes the Chair's response to the Auditor General's report.*
- *Believes it has an effective financial management framework and risk management framework and is therefore very concerned about the Auditor General's letter regarding non-compliance with these issues.*
- *Resolves urgently to have the Director investigate and provide assurance on these issues.*

Carried.

6.2 Community Insurance Cover (Ref. N17-02/01)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who recommended that the OCA approve the expenditure of funds for a revaluation of community assets to be undertaken.

The Gov M advised that there is some concern that the type of cover currently in place by community organisations may not be at optimal levels and that a revaluation of assets owned by community organisations will assist in making a considered decision regarding future insurance cover.

The Board requested to be kept informed of this matter, once the revaluation and community consultations have been completed.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA approves the expenditure of funds for:

- *The revaluation of community assets covered by insurance brokered by the OCA.*
- *One on one consultations between a Local Government Risk Services representative and relevant community groups to discuss specific insurance requirements based on the new values.*

Carried.

6.3 Acquisition of Power Transmission Assets - Innamincka (Ref. N17-03/01)

Member Fort's declared interest in this matter is noted. Member Fort participated in the discussion.

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that there is an opportunity for the OCA to accept ownership of the established network of power distribution infrastructure in Innamincka, no longer required by Geodynamics (now known as ReNu Energy). The Dir confirmed that the infrastructure was never operational and if the OCA does not accept ownership, ReNu Energy will be obliged to remove it.

The Dir confirmed that if the OCA agrees to accept the infrastructure, he is hopeful that an opportunity will be provided for innovative power solutions for Innamincka. The Dir confirmed that there is minimal risk to the OCA should the Board approve the acquisition of the infrastructure and it is not intended for the OCA to retain indefinite ownership of the infrastructure.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the OCA approve the acquisition of the power transmission infrastructure at Innamincka at no charge from ReNu Energy.

Carried.

6.4 Outback Memorial Park (Ref. N17-04/01)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who referred back to 2013 when the OCA first expressed a desire to honour those former outback residents that served and fell in the Australian armed forces over the years.

The Dir advised that preliminary planning of this project included the production of a book, 'From the Outback to the Battlefield' which was launched at Blinman in September 2016 and also a memorial park to be located at Pimba.

The Chair referred to a meeting with the Hon Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial which was also attended by the Dir where the concept of an outback memorial was discussed and received very favourable feedback.

The Board agreed that care should be taken to include specific parameters in the Expression of Interest document which will ensure that interest received is in line with the scope and budget of the project.

The Chair reiterated that the War Memorial project is a very worthy and exciting project and encouraged the Members to be involved in the project.

The Dir advised that he will be looking to commit funds from the 2017-18 budget toward this project.

**Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Fort**

That the OCA develop a design brief for consideration of the Board with the view to calling for expressions of interest for the design of an outback Memorial Park.

Carried.

6.5 Wholesale Supply of Water - Copley (Ref. N17-05/01)

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that as of 1 January 2017 SA Water assumed responsibility for the wholesale water supplied to Copley, as well as other sites. The OCA is the licensed Essential Services Commission South Australia (ESCOSA) water entity responsible for the provision of water to landholders at Copley.

The Gov M tabled a copy of the agreement that SA Water has presented to the OCA for the wholesale supply of water at Copley and confirmed that the agreement is consistent with the OCA and SA Water's ESCOSA requirements.

The Gov M confirmed that SA Water have forwarded a similar agreement to the Lyndhurst Progress Association (LPA). The LPA manage their community's water supply, although in the past the OCA has worked with the community to enable them to hand over management of their water supply to the OCA, but the community have decided to retain full management.

**Moved by Member Booth
Seconded by Member Michelmore**

That the OCA notes the agreement between the OCA and SA Water for the wholesale supply of water for Copley.

Carried.

6.6 Infrastructure Policy (Ref. N17-06/01)

The Chair referred to a workshop held on the previous day where the revised Infrastructure Policy was considered and discussed.

The Gov M tabled the draft policy including minor amendments suggested at the workshop.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Marsland

That the OCA:

- *Adopts the draft Infrastructure Policy.*
 - *Approves a consultation process to inform communities of the change in policy.*
- Carried.

6.7 2016-17 Budget Monitoring Report – December 2016 (Ref. N17-06/01)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2016 for consideration. The Board discussed the report, noting the review of the Supplies and Services expenditure information and the proposed capital equipment projects. The Dir advised that the replacement of public conveniences at Fowlers Bay initially included as a capital equipment project, will not be occurring as the Asset and Works Officer and Gov M have been successful in meeting with contractors and they are confident that the maintenance issues have been resolved. The Dir advised that the capital equipment projects will commence immediately.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA note the December 2016 Budget Monitoring Report and approves management's recommendations for spending the amount of the identified Budget improvement (ie approximately \$50,000).

Carried.

7. LEIGH CREEK UPDATE

7.1 Leigh Creek Update

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who confirmed that the transition of Leigh Creek from the management of Flinders Power to the State Government transpired without any real setback.

The Dir advised that alternative waste management arrangements have been implemented in the interim for Leigh Creek and Copley residents as there has been a delay in the issuing of a license from the Environmental Protection Authority for the operation of the Leigh Creek landfill. The Dir confirmed that he is confident that this matter will be resolved by the end of January, or early February.

The Dir advised that the Manager Leigh Creek Contracts and Services position has been filled, with Mr Rob Stack appointed to the position, commencing on 3 January. The contracted town maintenance position has also been filled.

The Dir advised that there have been teething issues with the local swimming pool as it has been difficult to find pool attendants. The Dir confirmed that a training opportunity has been organised at Leigh Creek for pool attendants to acquire their Bronze Medallion.

The Dir confirmed that upgrades to the aerodrome are planned and it is very positive to note that the 1834 group have taken over the management of the Tavern. The Dir advised that Flinders Management Services are the successful tenderer to manage waste management in Leigh Creek and are keen to implement recycling opportunities in the future.

The Dir advised that the community library is operating, the new principal for the school commences next week and the school has confirmed 52 children will be attending.

The Chair congratulated the Dir, Northern Flinders Project Officer and the OCA team on the smooth transition of Leigh Creek to SA Government management.

The OCA noted the update.

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. The Dir tabled the draft oneOutback Prospectus and advised that the consultants tried numerous times over the last month to contact identified outback residents, pastoralists and business owners hoping to obtain comments to be included in the Prospectus. Unfortunately the number of people able to be contacted is less than expected. The Dir will now consider the information collected and make a decision on whether there is sufficient material.

The Members briefly discussed the format of the media monitoring information they receive and agreed to leave the process as it is.

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:

- Working with the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association (APOMA) regarding a request to SA Government for extra funding. After a proposed meeting in February with APOMA, the Chair believes many matters concerning the future transition of the ATMC having a lesser role in Andamooka governance will be resolved and that the OCA looks forward to continuing its good working relationship with APOMA.
- The Economic Forum held in Adelaide in December where Member Michelmore also attended. The Chair advised that there was good attendance at the Forum and organisers have suggested that a similar exercise could be undertaken for the outback, noting some change will need occur.
- The Local Government Association's governance review program, which she found very valuable.



The Chair confirmed that the Far North and Outback Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been presented to the Minister and that a statewide review is underway to look at how all eight regional plans can be implemented, noting that implementation requires strong financial support from government and industry.

The Chair advised that she has been named as the inaugural South Australian Climate Leader and found the experience very humbling. She thanked the Members for their congratulatory messages.

The Chair referred to her appointment as the Community Representative of the Barndioota Consultative Committee advising that she has attended the first meeting which included an interesting process of considering expenditure on projects that would be forwarded to the Federal Minister. The Chair confirmed that her appointment is for one year and that the OCA's opinion is valued as it incorporates the broader outback. The Chair advised that she is among a small party of Committee members who will be participating in a tour of the national radioactive waste management facility in the coming week.

The Chair tabled correspondence received from the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination advising of progress on the Future Water CRC bid. The correspondence referred to the application process and the developing of the Future Water CRC concept through the preparation of a business case.

The Chair referred to when she and the Dir were part of the Goyder Institute outback water program (2013) and suggested that they would welcome being involved in the CRC process.

The Chair asked Member Ferguson for comment on associated grant opportunities which will be provided outside of the meeting.

11. MEMBERS REPORT

There were no Member reports provided.

12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

12.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee

The Chair referred discussion to the Gov M who advised that the Andamooka Town Management Committee have not met since the OCA's November meeting, however he did report that there is extra road maintenance occurring after some severe weather over the Christmas period resulted in minor flooding in the community. The Gov M confirmed that the creek that runs through Andamooka was able to be checked prior to the adverse weather and therefore there was minimal risk to houses.

The Gov M advised that he was made aware of asbestos near the Andamooka waste area late in 2016 and the area has been secured and work on how to make the site safe is being addressed.

The Gov M advised that he intends to meet with APOMA in the near future and discuss the future management model.

13. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and provided a summary of the activities that he has been involved in with the transition of Leigh Creek.

The Dir advised that he had attended Country Cabinet at Coober Pedy in November and provided a general summary of the work activities that OCA staff have been involved in, including ongoing negotiations regarding the Fowlers Bay public conveniences, preliminary planning for the Outback memorial Park, monitoring of the 2016-17 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreements and the diverse community development projects across the OCA's region.

The Dir advised that the winners of the 2016 Regional Awards 'Mayor's Choice Award' have since sold their business in Andamooka and the OCA will pursue opportunities with the new owners once they reopen in February. The Dir advised that while the original idea of an ambassador program is now not possible, other opportunities will be explored.

The Dir referred to the OCA's November 2016 meeting where approval was provided for Major Council Sponsorship (or similar) for the 2017 Regional Awards and confirmed that a meeting with Brand SA will be organised where further opportunities will be discussed.

Ms A Hart, Manager of Office Local Government departed from the meeting.

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-03)

The Chair declared that the present OCA staff could remain while discussion pertaining to CO-03 be held in camera due to the confidential nature of discussions.

The meeting moved into '*in camera*' session to review CO-03.

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

Ms A Hart, Manager of Office Local Government returned to the meeting.

15. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Members discussed at length the strategic direction of the OCA and agreed that a facilitated workshop regarding strategic planning processes would be of benefit.

The Members agreed that the topics to be covered should include:

- Board Member evaluation.
- Future communicate with outback communities in an effort to have communities and outback residents understand who and what the OCA does.
- Comparison of available resources and OCA aspirations.



- Future engagement and strategic processes
- The development of outback communities

The Members agreed that long term plans on how services such as water and power facilities could be improved would be of great benefit.

The Members noted that as of 31 December 2017, four Member's terms will be up for renewal.

The Dir noted that it would be beneficial if the workshop could be organised to coincide with the OCA's May meeting.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled as a teleconference for 16 February 2017 but is yet to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.



