



Outback
Communities
Authority

12 Tassie Street,
Port Augusta
PO Box 2353
Port Augusta SA 5700

Tel: 08 8648 5970
Fax: 08 8648 5971
T freecall: 1800 640 542
oca@sa.gov.au
www.oca.sa.gov.au

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

16 December 2014

Meeting No. 50

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JW".

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Local Government Association, 148 Frome Street, Adelaide on
16 December 2014 at 2.40 pm

Present:

Ms C Woolford (Chair)

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

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance in Adelaide. The Chair noted that the meeting is the last formal meeting for Members Frahn, Heylen and Allen whose terms on the OCA Board will lapse on 31 December 2014. A further welcome was extended to Lyn Breuer MP, invited guest and independent Chair of the Andamooka Town Management Committee

An apology was received from Member Turner.

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 15 October were circulated.

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

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 15 October 2014, number 49 be adopted.

Carried.

4.2 Business arising from minutes.

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

The Director (Dir) advised that robust discussions have been held with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to determine a positive outcome for this project. Unfortunately the project has not

progressed as first envisaged due mainly to the machinery of government changes that the OCA has endured. The Dir advised that expressions of interest have been called for a six-month contract to undertake the works specified in the Commonwealth's funding agreement which are upgrades to the local museum, women's shed and storehouse. The Dir advised that a selection panel will be convened to consider the expressions of interests with the view that a decision is made very early in the new year.

- 4.2.2 Outback Waste Management (Ref. N13 – 05/11 and N14 – 01/03)
The Governance Manager (Gov M) advised that there is nothing further to report on this matter as stakeholders have been inaccessible over the past month. The Gov M advised that he would provide a further update at the OCA's next meeting.
- 4.2.3 Confidential Orders (Ref. Agenda item 13, Meeting No. 45)
The Dir confirmed that this matter will be addressed later in the agenda.
- 4.2.4 Draft Community Funding Policy (Ref. N14-04/08)
The Dir confirmed that this matter will be addressed later in the agenda.
- 4.2.5 Office for Youth Funding (Ref. N14-02/10)
The Dir advised that this matter will be addressed later in the agenda.
- 4.2.6 Policy Reviews (Ref. N14-05/10)
The Gov M advised that further to the OCA's meeting in October where the OCA's Member Code of Conduct and Member Conflict of Interest policies were rescinded, statements have been added to the OCA's website clearly stating the OCA's commitment to ethical conduct and high standards of behavior as serving OCA Members.
- 4.2.7 Debt Collection Process in Andamooka
Member Beltchev enquired about the progress of debt collection in Andamooka, seeking finalisation of unpaid community contribution scheme payments.
- The Gov M confirmed that Dun and Bradstreet have been requested to proceed action to the next stage which will involve the small claims court.
- The Gov M advised that he has been working closely with the Crown Solicitor and that there will be 21 days for those being served notices to lodge a defense.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Draft Community Funding Policy (Ref. N 14 – 01/12)

Further to the workshop held earlier in the day, the Gov M confirmed that an extensive process of engaging with outback communities was undertaken over the preceding four months which included written correspondence and community group forums were held in almost all outback communities.

The Gov M confirmed that submissions on the draft policy have been received from Andamooka, Blinman, Beltana, Marree and Yunta. A summary of the submissions was provided to the Members.

The Gov M advised that after considering the submissions a number of valid points has prompted amendments to the draft policy. The Gov M suggested that the amended policy be disseminated to all communities informing them of the changes.

Moved by Member Beltchev
Seconded by Member Allen

That the Outback Communities Authority:

- *Adopt the Community Funding Policy to come into operation 1 July 2015.*
- *Note that a plain English brochure will be produced to compliment the Policy and that the Policy and brochure be posted on the OCA website.*

Carried.

6.2 Community Insurance Review

The Dir referred to discussions held earlier in the day with representatives from Local Government Risk Services (LGRS). The Members noted that LGRS on behalf of the OCA has undertaken a market review of the insurance portfolios that are currently offered to outback communities.

The Dir advised that LGRS approached four insurers, including the current provider, QBE Insurance (Australia) Limited to seek expressions of interest to provide terms to deliver insurance to outback communities.

The Dir advised that LGRS has confirmed that QBE have agreed to offer the same coverage on the Progress Association's insurance portfolio with no increase to the rates, other than amendments that are specified by those Progress Associations.

The OCA Board noted the information provided by LGRS earlier in the day and the very positive response received from QBE Insurance. The OCA

directed the Director to proceed with the insurance renewals for 2015 and requested that a further review be undertaken in three years' time.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Dir tabled the OCA 2014-15 Business Plan progress report and provided a draft outlay of proposed new outback signage. The Members provided comment on the draft information. The Dir confirmed that comments will be taken on board and a further workshop will be held on the day of the OCA's meeting in February.

The Members noted the progress of the overall Business Plan.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member reported that she had recently attended meetings with Rowan Ramsey MP, Federal Member for Grey and also Mr Stuart Mosely, General Manager, Information and Strategy, DPTI and Alex Hart, Acting Manager for the Office of Local Government. The Presiding Member confirmed that both meetings were very productive providing the opportunity to discuss the OCA's 2014-15 Business Plan and impending 5-year Strategic Management Plan and also the machinery of government changes that has recently seen the OCA transition to DPTI.

The Presiding Member confirmed that she had also attended the BHP Business Awards and Brand SA regional awards, acknowledging the success of the Andamooka Town Management Committee.

10. MEMBER'S REPORT

Member Heylen reported that along with Member Frahn, she has been working on the review of the Youth Forum project regarding the brief and proposal received by the OCA.

In acknowledging that his term as an OCA Member would lapse on 31 December 2014, Member Allen raised the following matters of discussion:

- That agencies be encouraged to collaborate on the matter of outback waste to seek an efficient way to deal with the problem.
- That amendments to waste water regulations be considered to ensure that costs associated with developments in the outback are reduced and that planning applications could be considered in a shorter timeframe if a dedicated building inspector was assigned to the outback region.

- That the OCA continue to pursue improved communications for the outback regions.
- That future Community Contribution Scheme collections be reviewed to assess whether the OCA is in a position to take on the collection process.
- Encouraged the OCA to keep informed of outback mining activity and to work closely with those companies operating within the OCA's jurisdiction.
- Encouraged the OCA to take on a lead role in tourism activity in the outback regions.
- For the OCA to actively seek more federal funding which would assist the OCA with its operations.
- That the OCA review expenditure on its UHF tower network.

The Presiding Member thanked Member Allen for raising these matters and acknowledged that the expectation of the OCA to support the outback region is enormous compared to its actual resources. The Presiding Member confirmed that the OCA will continue to seek collaboration across agencies in an effort to progress the matters that Member Allen raised.

11. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

11.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC)

A copy of the confirmed meeting minutes from 2 September 2014 were provided to the Members.

Ms Breuer advised the OCA that the consultation process regarding the Andamooka community hub has been finalized and the summary report produced as a result of the consultation process would now be considered.

Ms Breuer advised that Andamooka has indeed progressed under the management of the ATMC and the Community Administrator noting the implementation of the Splashpad, street signs and the new ATMC office as only a few of the many achievements in a short amount of time.

Ms Breuer was pleased to report that the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association was working well with the ATMC on resolving issues in the town.

Ms Breuer confirmed that it is her intention to travel to Andamooka every month to make herself available to discuss local matters.

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir advised that through machinery of government changes, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) is the administrative agency

where the Office for the Outback Communities Authority now resides. The Dir advised that under the direction of the new Chief Executive, Michael Deegan, DPTI is currently in the midst of a comprehensive organisational review and this has placed pressure on the internal workings and structures of DPTI which has in turn affected the seamless efficiency and timing of the transition. The Dir advised that the transition to DPTI has not been completed but it is hoped that outstanding matters will be resolved early in the new year.

The Dir confirmed that the organisational review has resulted in a change to reporting arrangements into DPTI; the Dir will now report administratively through Alex Hart, Acting Manager Office of Local Government and to Stuart Moseley, General Manager Information and Strategy which is part of the Development Division of the DPTI that is managed by the Chief Development Officer, Andrew McKeegan.

The Dir confirmed that he has started a transition into a more 'hands off' role in the day-to-day management of the Office and has been spending more time working on business plan implementation and pursuing strategic opportunities. The Dir confirmed that he expects to spend a lot more time in Adelaide as the new role evolves.

The Dir provided a brief summary of the activities that he has been involved in, since the OCA's October meeting, which included:

- Completing the OCA's submission to the National Stronger Regions fund for funding to implement water stations in ten outback communities.
- Met with the OCA Chair and member Allen for discussions regarding a potential Economic Analysis Project.
- Engaging an external consultant to refine the initial strategy for the Outback Youth Forum.
- Attended the LG Roundtable meeting.
- Attended the Far North Zone Emergency Management risk management workshops for HAZMAT and Bushfire.
- Attended the State Emergency Management Symposium in Adelaide.
- Attended the Communicating Risk Steering Committee for SAFECOM.
- Attended a briefing session with WPG Resources re Tunkillia and Tarcoola Gold Mining prospects.

The Dir gave a brief over view of the activities that OCA staff have been involved in, since the OCA's October meeting, which included:

- Compiling feedback from communities and finalising the Draft Community Funding policy.
- Andamooka Community Contribution debt follow up.
- Aerodrome Master Planning.
- OCA Board appointment processes.
- Assisting the Blinman, Penong, Leigh Creek, Andamooka and Oodnadatta communities to apply for externally funded grants for community projects.
- Visited 10 communities to discuss the draft Community Funding Policy.

- Attended and opened the Fowlers Bay Hall renovations project.
- Assisted Yunta and the Marree Race Club with the development of concept plans and tender briefs for community projects, in readiness for possible grant opportunities.
- Completing the Andamooka Community Hub Master Plan which will be released to the Andamooka community early in 2015.
- Working on the new water storage tank and new fencing in Andamooka.
- Erecting street name signage in Iron Knob.
- Organisation of the OCA's 2015-2020 Strategic Management Plan concept.
- Assisting with the release of the OCA Sports Grants program.
- Coordination of court proceedings for water usage bad debtor.
- Maintaining the OCA's website.
- Processing invoices and purchase orders.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

13.1 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. (Ref. CO-02).

Ms Breuer, the Director and the Business Services Manager departed from the meeting.

Moved by Member Frahn
Seconded by Member Allen

That the OCA move into camera due to the confidential nature of discussions regarding CO-02.

Carried.

Moved by Member Frahn
Seconded by Member Beltchev

That the meeting resume out of camera.

Carried.

The meeting resumed out of 'in camera' session.

On closing the meeting the Chair advised that Members Heylen, Frahn and Allen's term would lapse come 31 December. The Chair advised that nominations to be a Member of OCA Board could be made up until 30 January 2015. The Chair thanked Members Heylen, Frahn and Allen for the integrity and diligence they had shown in their positions and their sincere service to the outback.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled for 19 February 2015 to be held in Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.



**Outback Communities Authority Meeting
16 December 2014 (Meeting No. 50)**

The Outback Communities Authority (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.

The Chair declared that the discussion pertaining to OCA Human Resources be held 'in camera' due to the confidential nature of discussions.

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

That the OCA move into camera due to the confidential nature of discussions regarding CO-02.

Carried.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting held on 6 April 2011, the OCA declared a Confidential Order be put in place for the forthcoming twelve months regarding human resource matters for the Office for the Outback Communities Authority.

At its meeting held on 11 August 2011, the OCA accepted and considered the 'Outback Communities Authority Independent Review, August 2011' document and adopted the recommendations of the report as received.

Further 'in camera' discussions have taken place on 12 December 2011, 27 February and 8 March 2012. At the meeting held on 8 March 2012 the OCA agreed to extend Confidential Order CO-02 for a further 6 months, with the view that the human resource matters would be resolved by September 2012. At the OCA's meeting held on 11 October 2012, the OCA resolved to extend Confidential Order CO-02 for a further six months as the human resource matter remained unresolved.

At its meeting held on 19 March 2014 the OCA reviewed four existing Confidential Orders to confirm whether the matter pertaining to each Order on balance, was contrary to the public interest and should remain in confidence, or be finalised releasing the Order as general information.. The following motion was approved:

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

That the OCA:

1. *Continue to hold discussions 'in camera' pertaining to Confidential Order CO-01, CO-03, CO-04 due to the matters being, on balance, contrary to*

the public interest and that Confidential Order CO-01, CO-03, CO-04 remain in place for a further period of 12 months, after which time the matter will be reviewed.

- 2 *Review Confidential order CO-02 at its May 2014 meeting, noting the status of CO-02 remains in place until the review has been undertaken.*

Carried.

DISCUSSION:

The OCA requested to review CO-02 upon finalisation of the OCA human resources matter, which has been resolved due to the Director's appointment.

OCA staff have not participated in Board discussions pertaining to this Confidential Order.

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

That the OCA release Confidential Order CO-02 as general information.

Carried.

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

That the meeting resume out of camera.

Carried.

The meeting resumed out of 'in camera' session.

