



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

22 May 2024

Meeting No. 140

Members:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member)

L Day, W Fennell, N Sylvanius, A Triggs, A Vaughan ASM



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the OCA Boardroom, Port Augusta
22 May 2024 at 9:34am

Participating:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member), W Fennell, N Sylvania and T Vaughan ASM (Members)
M Howard (Director) and J Greatbatch (Executive Officer)

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

An apology has been received from Member Day and Member Triggs.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Standing OCA Declaration of Interest 2023-24	
Member	Declaration of Interest
Presiding Member	Director, Invasive Animals Ltd Chair/Director, Nature Foundation Ltd Director, Frankenia Pty Ltd Member of the Parachilna Progress Association Secretary of the Beltana Progress Association
Member Day	Chair, Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association Inc Chair, SA Arid Lands – Kingoonya Landscape Group Chair, Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism Member, Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Member, BHP Stakeholder Engagement Group
Member Fennell	Board Member, Operation Flinders Foundation Partner, Piper Alderman
Member Sylvania	President, Beltana Progress Association Treasurer, Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association Executive
Member Triggs	Director, Mental Health, Eyre and Far North Local Health Network
Member Vaughan	CE, Royal Flying Doctor Service Central Operations Board Member, Regional Development Australia Far North



4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2024, Meeting No. 139 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 17 April 2024, meeting 139 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

4.2 Business arising from minutes.

4.2.1 The Director continues to partner with the Royal Flying Doctor Service to deliver high speed public WiFi across Outback SA. This item is ongoing.

4.2.2 CARM and CCS consultation continues with Andamooka, Iron Knob and Leigh Creek until 1 June 2024.

4.2.3 The Director confirmed consultation on the 2024-25 Business Plan and Budget concluded 20 May 2024 therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.4 The OCA Business Conduct Policy and OCA Business Conduct – Member Induction and Procedures documents will be finalised and uploaded to the OCA's website. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.5 The Director confirmed consultation on the CCS Policy and Procedures concluded 20 May 2024 therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.6 The Sponsorship Policy and Procedures has been amended to allow Associations and individuals to apply for funding twice each year. Priority will be given to eligible Progress Association applications for Small Projects Funding under the Small Projects Policy and Procedures. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.7 Project funding offers have been issued to the five successful submissions. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.8 Dog registration fees have been made free for the period 18 April to 30 June 2024 and the 2024-25 fees have been entered into DACO therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 (Ref. N24-01/05)

The draft Business Plan and Budget 2024-25 document was made available for consultation from 19 April to 20 May 2024. The only feedback received during this time acknowledged receipt of the document and made no further comment.

The document must be provided to the Minister for Local Government by 31 May 2024 in accordance with the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009*.

The Outback Communities Authority approves submission of the draft Business Plan and Budget 2024-25 to the Minister for Local Government.

All Agreed.
Carried.

6.2 Community Contribution Scheme – Policy and Procedures (Ref. N24-02/05)

The Director tabled the Community Contribution Scheme – Policy and Procedures that was distributed to Progress Associations for consultation from 19 April to 20 May 2024. No feedback was received during the consultation period and therefore no changes have been made to the document.

The Outback Communities Authority approve the new Community Contribution Scheme Policy and Procedures.

All Agreed.
Carried.

6.3 State Bushfire Coordination Committee (Ref. N24-03/05)

The Director tabled correspondence received from the State Bushfire Coordination Committee requesting nominations for both a Member and a Deputy for the Flinders and Outback Bushfire Management Committee.

The Outback Communities Authority:

- *Notes the request from the State Bushfire Coordination Committee for nomination of representatives on the Flinders and Outback Bushfire Management Committee; and*
- *Approves the participation of the Authority as a Member of that Committee nominating the Director, Margaret Howard as the Member and the Field Officer Standards Risk and Compliance as Deputy.*

All Agreed.
Carried.

6.4 Additional Projects Funding (Ref. N24-04/05)

The Director tabled a list of community project submissions previously evaluated by the Authority and staff as having merit but were unsuccessful for Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 due to funding constraints. The Director proposed funding these projects if resources are available this financial year with a deadline of December 2025 under the Small Projects Funding.

The Outback Communities Authority provides its approval for the Director to allocate funding to the projects listed this financial year depending on available resources noting the projects were approved in accordance with Section 9 of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009.

All Agreed.
Carried.

6.5 Leigh Creek Update (Ref. N24-05/05)

The Director provided an update on Leigh Creek including the following:

- An update will be requested from the Taskforce regarding a detailed report on what will become the responsibility of the Outback Communities Authority as of 1 July 2024
- Investigations have commenced into the re-introduction of irrigation to the public areas of Leigh Creek
- Transfer of assets is ongoing – both to the Outback Communities Authority and to the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayers Association
- No feedback has been received to date on the proposed increase to the Leigh Creek Community Contribution Scheme
- The Leigh Creek Outback Resort and Leigh Creek South Motors are on the market
- Consumer and Business Services working with members to dissolve the Leigh Creek Community Progress Association

6.6 Finance Report (Ref. N24-06/05)

The Director is seeking clarity on the finance report on 24 May 2024. An update will be provided to the Authority at the June meeting.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

The Director continues to progress the lease for the William Creek Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) clinic. Under Crown advice, the RFDS has been given permission to operate the William Creek clinic in the meantime.

8. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member reported on activities since the April 2024 meeting which included the following:

- Attending a Vice-Regal visit to Andamooka with the Governor on 14 May 2024, also attended by the Director.
- Meeting with the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association also on 14 May 2024.
- Attending the opening of the Leigh Creek Resource Recovery Centre on 23 April that was officially opened by the Member for Stuart.
- Continues to be in contact with the Minister's Office in order to brief the new Minister for Local Government on the Authority.

9. MEMBERS REPORT

No Members reports were provided.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director provided a report on the following activities that have occurred since the April meeting:

- Receiving approval for the Regional & Community Identity, subject to one condition.
- Receiving approval for LRCI Program Phase 4 projects. Communities will be notified once the Minister has issued a media release.
- Development of a waste management strategy for Outback SA. Staff and RAWTEC have visited West Coast and Northern Flinders communities.
- Collection of waste tyres from the Northern Flinders region soon to be undertaken.
- LRCI Phase 1, 2 and 3 project support to communities to ensure projects are acquitted by the deadline of June 2024.
- Recruitment of Rachael Schmerl as Community Partnerships Coordinator and Grayson Cooke as Communications and Content Lead, both to commence in the coming weeks.
- Some internal reporting arrangement changes.
- Instigation of projects for:
 - A current suite of images of our communities
 - Northern Flinders Ranges region tourism infrastructure requirements
- Regional Precincts Partnerships funding application submitted on 3 May. The Manger Corporate and Strategic Projects has done an excellent job of the submission and if the application is unsuccessful it won't be due to the quality of the application.
- Attending the Vice-Regal visit to Andamooka with the Presiding Member.
- Progressing the Leigh Creeks assets transfer.
- Attending the Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association meeting at Cradock on 23 May 2024.
- Undertaking fire extinguisher training with other staff
- Meeting with the Department for Energy and Mining to better understand environmental reports from mining companies.
- Solar eclipse preparations.
- Staff strategic issues meeting attended by Alex Hart, Director and David Whiterod, Team Lead – Local Government Policy Unit, Office of Local Government who provided information on OCA regulations.
- Attending the official opening of the Leigh Creek Resource Recovery Centre on 23 April 2024.
- Attending a special General Meeting of the Iron Knob Progress Association.



- Dealing with cats in Marree.
- Partnering with Adelaide University for vet services and the possibility of placements for 5th / 6th year students.
- Attending the opening of the new Port Augusta office for the National Indigenous Australian Agency.
- Organising a staff retreat for the end of May.
- Meeting with the Aroona, Iron Knob and Oodnadatta Progress Associations.
- Organising for the SA Local Government Grants Commission to meet with the Authority at the June 2024 meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Members noted the Correspondence Register.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 June 2024 and will be held at the OCA office, Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 11:12 am.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. G. J.', located at the bottom right of the page.