



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

12 November 2024

Meeting No. 144

Vide electronic means in accordance with section 10 (5) of the
Outback Communities (Administration & Management) Act 2009

Members:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member)

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

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Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams
12 November 2024 at 8:01am

Participating:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member), W Fennell, N Sylvanius,
A Triggs, T Vaughan ASM and R Wallace (Members)
M Howard (Director) and J Greatbatch (Executive Officer)

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

An apology has been received from Member Day.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Standing OCA Declaration of Interest 2024-25	
Member	Declaration of Interest
Presiding Member	Director, Invasive Animals Ltd Chair/Director, Nature Foundation Ltd Director, Frankenia Pty Ltd Member, Parachilna Progress Association Secretary, Beltana Progress Association
Member Day	Chair, Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association Inc Chair, SA Arid Lands – Kingoonya Landscape Group Member, Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Member, BHP Stakeholder Engagement Group
Member Fennell	Board Member, Operation Flinders Foundation Partner, Piper Alderman
Member Sylvanius	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
Member Wallace	Partner, Fowlers Bay Caravan Park Member, Fowlers Bay Progress Association



4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2024, Meeting No. 143 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 18 September 2024, meeting 143 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 A workshop will be held at a future meeting to discuss risk appetite. This item is ongoing.

4.2.3 The Dog and Cat Management Plan 2024-2029 has been approved by the Dog and Cat Management Board and is now available on the OCA's website therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.4 Small Project grant funding offers have been sent to the six approved applicants and Associations with unsuccessful submissions have been notified. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.5 2024-25 CARM agreements have been sent to the Aroona Aboriginal Council, and the Gawler Ranges, Oodnadatta and William Creek Progress Associations. This item can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

- 6.1 Dog and Cat Management – Authorised Officers (Ref. N24-01/11)

In accordance with Section 25A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act), the Outback Communities Authority (the Authority) may appoint an authorised person, with or without condition, to deal with matters of non-compliance with the Act. The appointment is for the person, not the position.

The OCA has entered into a contract with South Australian Special Operations Group to provide animal management and compliance services on behalf of the OCA for the period 4 November 2024 to 3 November 2025. It is recommended the Authority appoints John Player of SA Special Operations Group as an Authorised Officer for purposes of the Act for the duration of this contract.

It is further recommended to appoint Paul McKinnon, National Parks and Wildlife, Department for Environment and Water as an Authorised Officer for the duration of a feral cat trapping, analysis and disposal program to be undertaken at Innamincka in late November 2024.

Previously appointed Authorised Officers Guy Sadler and Philip Gibb are no longer staff members for the OCA and it is therefore recommended the Authority rescinds their status as authorised persons under the Act.

The Outback Communities Authority:

- *Appoints John Player, South Australian Special Operations Group as an authorised person for the purposes of the Act for the period 4 November 2024 to 3 November 2025.*
- *Appoints Paul McKinnon as an authorised person for the purposes of the Act for the duration of the Innamincka feral cat trapping, analysis and disposal program 2024.*
- *Rescinds the status of Guy Sadler and Philip Gibb as authorised persons under the Act.*
- *Approves a minor amendment to the Dog and Cat Management Plan 2024-2029 removing reference to the Manager Policy and Community Affairs role.*

All Agreed.
Carried.

6.2 2023-24 Annual Report (Ref. N24-02/11)

The Director tabled a copy of the 2023-24 Annual Report that was provided to the Minister for Local Government on 30 September 2024 as per legislative requirements.

The Outback Communities Authority noted the 2023-24 Annual Report.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

Member Sylvanius left the meeting at this time.

8. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

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

- Residents of Beltana, Leigh Creek, Copley and the surrounding region were heavily impacted by the storm on 17 October that caused an extensive and lengthy power outage. Beltana community members were dealing with the third power outage in a month on 12 November. Residents with solar systems are still not able to turn these back on which will have financial impacts particularly as the weather is warming up.
- Along with the Director, will be attending a meeting with Minister Koutsantonis on 15 November and a meeting with Minister Szakacs on 21 November.

9. MEMBER REPORTS

No Member Reports were given due to time restrictions.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director provided a report on the following activities:

- Attended the Zone Emergency Management Symposium on 24/10/24 which was worthwhile.
- Strategic Blueprint – an update on where we're up to, including new cover for final draft. Lots of meetings with Government Agencies and organisations that have a presence in our region which have been time consuming but worthwhile. Thanks to Kathryn Crisp for managing appointments.
- HR issues – recruitment: this has been a slower process as a result of the MOG and needing to 'educate' HR personnel in DHUD about our requirements.
- Copley CCS to pay for waste management – community meeting on November 7. The CCS will get sorted but it is unlikely that notices for payment will be sent before July 2025.
- Blinman community meeting – facilitated a good meeting about the conflict occurring between Progress and the association formed to progress the Men's Shed. Since then the OCA has been advised of correspondence between the two associations about better relationships and improved collaboration.
- Last Leigh Creek Task Force meeting happened on October 29. I have an agreement with Paul Case (Chair) that OCA will present its views about further investment required to support the OCA at Leigh Creek going forward, and also further investment required at Leigh Creek for it to deliver on the Government's vision of the town as a regional service centre.
- Meeting with the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation's A/General Manager to discuss collaboration.
- Participated in a round table about water issues in SA convened by Federal Minister Tania Plibersek and Deputy Premier / Minister Susan Close – had the opportunity to voice the concerns about water for Outback SA communities.
- Attended SATC Forum with the Presiding Member. Hopefully the OCA will be included in the development of regional destination plans (replacing visitor strategies).
- Along with the Presiding Member will be meeting with Minister Koutsantonis on Friday 15th November (outback roads) and attending a quarterly catch up with Minister Szakacs on November 21.
- Good level of interest for the Progress Association Forum (November 15/16). Thanks to many of our staff for organising this event and following up on details with communities and arrangements.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4 December 2024 to be held at the OCA office, Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 8:56am.